

August 2023 — September 2023

SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



Department of Connecticut Commandant's Corner



Thank You & and Remembering

I was honored at our recent Dept of CT convention to be elected to a second term as your Dept of CT Commandant, and as such want to publicly thank those in attendance who made that happen. We had a great turn out, lots of NE Division staff as well as the newly elected Dept of MA Commandant and the incoming NE Division V/Commandant.

As we MCLeaguers continue to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our beloved League, we reflect upon and recognize General LeJeune for establishing this exceptional organization. Membership, recruitment, retention



and active involvement are all needed to continue to make this League a success; and to make the Dept of CT stand out.

I recently had the privilege of attending the rededication of the Samuel K Beamon Sr Memorial Bridge in Waterbury. This bridge now has a mural depicting significant portions of Sam's life. On this same day, I got to meet up with and speak to 100 yr. old Marine Cpl. Dottie Dee. I presented her with a one hundredth anniversary MCL coin commissioned for this year's National Convention. Dottie attended RDPI and trained as a quartermaster at Camp LeJeune.

What a trailblazer she is.

In closing, let me just say what a humbling honor it was for me to be recognized at this year's CT Convention as the Dept of CT Marine of the Year. I will continue to work



tirelessly to make CT one of the six gems that comprise the New England Division.

Semper Fi
Patrick T. McMahon
Commandant
Department of Connecticut
Marine Corps League

IMPORTANT DATES

Department of Connecticut Officers 2021-2022

Detachment Meetings

Brass City Detachment 31 —	First Wednesday 19:00
Hat City Detachment 36—	3rd Tuesday 20:00
Mahakemo Detachment 37—	First Wednesday 20:00
Peter P. Monaco Jr. 40 —	First Monday 19:00
Northwest Detachment 42—	First Tuesday 19:00
Ridgefield Detachment 44—	Third Wednesday 19:00
Silver City Detachment 45—	Third Tuesday 19:00
Southington Memorial 46—	Third Tuesday 19:00
Valley Detachment 48—	Second Sunday 19:00
Bridgeport Detachment 654—	First Tuesday 19:00
Paul C. Houghton 681—	Third Thursday 19:00
Hardware City Detachment 781	First Wednesday 19:00
Lock City Detachment 910—	Third Wednesday 19:30
Housatonic Detachment 1129—	Second Monday 19:30
Thames River Detachment 1334	Second Tuesday 19:00

Growls

**Glawackus Pound Growls are held prior to the
Pack Growls Pound 11 AM Pack at 1PM**

**The next Growl will be September 10 2023 at
Rocky Hill**

**Hooch Pooch Pound Growls are held sepa-
rately at Valley Detachment.
Schedules to follow**



Commandant	Pat McMahon 860-222-5024 ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
Sr. Vice Commandant.....	Rich Daigle 203-506-8786 PopPop.Daigle@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant.....	Walt Benson 203-768-8435 walt.benson5@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	George Gutmann Jr. 203-446-6072 ggutmann@preferredtool.com
Sgt. At Arms	Ray Burrington 860-918-6880 rayuconn@cox.net
Adjutant.....	Doug Fisk 860-774-0378 the49thcdd@hotmail.com
Paymaster	Walt Benson 203-768-8435 walt.benson5@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	
Jr. Past Commandant	Dave Rosa 475-224-6885 coyotyhunter1@yahoo.com
Funeral Honors	John Reek 860-329-2419 dad7051@gmail.com
Chaplain	Jack Dougherty 203-390-1962 usmc1000@comcast.net
The Worthy Pack Leader.....	Rich Daigle 203-506-8786 PopPop.Daigle@gmail.com
Young Marines Liaison ...	Pat McMahon 860-222-5024 ptm78usmc@sbcglobal.com
Web Sergeant	Skip Hamel 203-527-8137 hamels52@att.net
Public Relations	Sal Sena 860-614-6188 4mermarine69@gmail.com
Historian	



CONNECTICUT



THE BIG C “CONVENTION 2023”



2023 Pack Dog of The Year Rivers McCallop



Some well needed laughs from Larry Herrmann



Elections conducted by PCDD Doug Fisk, assisted by PDD Bill-Schmidt. *Deputy Executive Director*, (That's all I can Remember).

Rich Daigle—Worthy Pack Leader
Walt Benson—Worthy SR. Vice PL
Jim Lauber –Worthy JR. Vice PL
Pat McMahon—Worthy Smart Dog
Bill Lamb—Worthy Mad Dog
Jack Dougherty—Worthy Dog Trainer
Bill Lee—Worthy Police Dog
TBA— Worthy Barking Dog

May the BONES Be With You



The Department of Connecticut and Honored Guests Our Commandant Has Our Back



CONNECTICUT



THE BIG C "CONVENTION 2023"



Dept Commandant Pat McMahon, 2023 YMOY Mason Steele, National Young Marine Liaison Angela Maness

YM UC Russell Grant, 2023 YMOY Mason Steele, YM Division 1 Commander Joe Couture.

Guest Speaker, National Young Marine Liaison Angela Maness, NE Division Table

2023 CONNECTICUT MARINE OF THE YEAR PAT MCMAHON WITH PRIOR MARINES OF THE YEAR



Center in front of the Flag Pat McMahon Department Marine of The Year 2023

From the left, **Mike Monaco, Department Marine of The Year 2018, Rivers McCallop, Department Marine of The Year 2000 , Gregg Timms, Department Marine of The Year 2014 , Jack Dougherty, Department Marine of The Year 2008, 45th National Marine of The Year 2009, James Soder, Department Marine of The Year 2019, Rich Michaud, Department Marine of The Year 2022, Walt Benson, Department Marine of The Year 2021, Division Marine of The year 2023, and to all those who couldn't make it you were missed, and remembered.**

John Lynch, 1998, Jim Lord, 1999, **Chester Strachel, 2002**, Ray Carrier, 2003, Mike Bolash, 2005, Peter Galgano, 2006, **Duanne Knowles, 2007, James Alexander, 2009**, Ron Collins, 2010, John Clark, 2011, Sal Sena, 2012, Greg Forbush, 2013, Don Ostertag, 2015, Lou Verrette, 2016, Fred McGoldrick, 2017.



CONNECTICUT



ARE WE FINALLY MOVING FORWARD?

As we look back at the 2023 Convention I am both wondering and hoping that we have turned the corner and are starting to move forward. Since COVID we as well as many other Departments have been struggling to get members back to our meetings and our activities. That being said we have sparks of life coming from our Convention. Registrations started off slow, but then we started to get interest and the signups commenced. We tried new things, we introduced a Friday night dinner where over thirty people attended. We had some people from the Department of Massachusetts attend and quite a few Division officers as well and some of them came despite a grueling schedule. Some came by way of the Department of Maryland Convention, Modern Day Marine and here, Pat Maguire got back to Rhode Island from Gitmo on Saturday Afternoon and made it to the Banquet Saturday evening, thank you all.

Our guest speaker who was not only an excellent choice but an excellent speaker came all the way from Oklahoma, we can't thank her enough, but if you want to try, you could pack up the wagon and go to Oklahoma City, the more the merrier. If you can't do that then let's start small, come back to a Department meeting. We feed you, we have door prizes, 50/50 raffle, and you get to spend some time with some of the best people on the planet. There is a wealth of knowledge in that room that you could not find anywhere else. Do you have a bylaw question we have someone with the answer. Do you want to set something up in your detachment you can get help here. Do you need any type of help, someone here will help you.

Recently I found a post in Facebook which was the Eagle Globe and Anchor, with the quote, "Love us or Hate us, There is a reason that this is the most recognized symbol in the world". It is true. Tell me why or how the smallest branch of the military is the most recognized. Drive down any street in America and you will have no problem finding out where the Marines live. Go into any parking lot and you will know which cars belong to Marines. We personify

and live our motto, Semper Fidelis. We all do the things we do because we care and still want to serve, but human nature is hard to overcome, you miss one meeting then two then three and all of a sudden you are no longer coming. We have to change this and come back.

If you were at the convention, at the business meeting I spoke about membership and going after lost members. It is the job of the Jr. Vice to track and follow up on membership. I as the department Jr. Vice am going to contact all the delinquent members to see if I can get them back. Once I contact them I will turn over the list to the detachments to follow up. Please follow up as we need all of our members to be successful, and move forward.

Find something you like to do and take it on, it doesn't matter if someone else is doing it now, you can help or take it over. If someone wants one of my jobs you can take it I'll find something else. The next department meeting is August 6th, come down ask questions, be an active part of the process. Do you want us to do something, bring it up at the meeting. I have seen a lot of things being done elsewhere such as, softball, shooting, golf, family outings, Friday morning Coffee meetings. All of these are easy enough to set up all we need is you.

We also have several open positions available at the department level and some new ones we would like to explore. Would you like to organize a sporting event? Do you have a connection to Boy Scouts? Would you like to explore starting a new Young Marines Detachment? I would love to see us have someone interested in being the Department Photographer so we don't have to chase down pictures. There are a lot of things we can do and each one of them will make us better. I know if we build on what we have done here now we will be bigger, better, and stronger next year at this time, because we have the drive and the talent. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Walt Benson



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FRIENDS BUT ALSO FAMILY BIG C 2023



2023 Installation of Officers Department of Connecticut & Installing Officer Angela Maness



**On the left
Jamie DePaola
Adele Hodges
Guest Speaker
Angela Maness**



**YMOY Mason Stelle & parents with Angela Maness
Below Ilyina & Mike Hinds
NENVC David Porter, Liz
Anderson & Dave Rosa
with Flag Coin Holder created
by Dave Rosa**



These 5 pictures where no one is named nor titles listed represent us all as friends & family. The laughter, smiles and handshakes we all share each time we come together create a feeling that cannot be duplicated. So in these 5 pictures put yourself, whether you were there or not, you are part of this, FEEL IT!



CONNECTICUT



Hike To Remember XI

South Glastonbury, CT

[About](#) [Participants](#) [Teams](#) [Results](#) [Awards](#) [Contact](#)

[Register Now](#)



When & Where

Sep 16, 2023

Saturday

4:00 AM

[Add to Calendar](#)

[Event Schedule](#)

South

Glastonbury, CT

[Courses & Maps](#)

[See if you're registered](#)

Share Your Results

We'll automatically post your results for you on race day. Just connect your Twitter account.

[Connect with Twitter](#)



Veterans of Peter P Monaco Jr Detachment 40, Marine Corps League - MCL
19 hours ago

Hike to Remember XI
Registration is now open!
UNITING VETERANS TO
BUILD AWARENESS, BUILD
COMRADERY AND PREVENT
SUICIDE

On September 16th, we will
unite with 300+ veterans in
Glastonbury, Connecticut to
hike a 22k. Why 22k? As a
reminder that 22 veterans take
their own lives every day

UNITING VETERANS TO BUILD AWARENESS, BUILD COMRADERY AND PREVENT SUICIDE

On September 16th 2023, we will unite with 300+ veterans in Glastonbury, Connecticut to hike a 22k.

Why 22 kilometers? In the hearts and minds of these military veterans, it is simply a reminder that they lose 22 veteran and/or active duty brothers and sisters from suicide every day.

MCL Det. 40's mission is to unite veterans and service members from all branches and walks of life to enjoy the camaraderie they had shared while serving. Together, they integrate their passion with purpose to combat suicide in the veteran community. Each year's hike is designed to join these forces to support the fight to end veteran suicide and to support veterans and their families as they transition back to civilian life.

We hope you'll give it a share to help spread awareness about this important cause. God bless America!

PLEASE NOTE: The Hike portion of this event is open to Veterans and Active Duty Service Members only.

Registration is currently **OPEN**



HUMOR

A man and his wife decided to go on vacation and they picked the Holy land as a destination. He then decided to take his mother In law with them. While in the Holy Land his mother in law died and he had to decide what to do with the body. He was told he could bury her in the Holy Land for \$150 or he could ship her home for burial at a cost of \$5000.00. The man said he would ship her home. The gentleman asked him why he would opt to send the body home at \$5000.00 rather than have her buried there for \$150? The husband replied that you did this once before and the person came back in three days, I'm not willing to take that chance she will come back.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Bunnell	Roy	E.	8	11
Davis	Donald		8	7
Gilleran	Kevin	M.	8	3
Hamilton	William	F.	8	1
Havelevitch	Dennis	E.	8	20
Kudrycki	Roman	P.	8	9
Maestrini, Sr	David	J.	8	23
Marine	Joseph	A.	8	7
McGoldrick	Frederick	J.	8	8
Miano	Joseph	A.	8	23
Morris	James	W.	8	14
O'Connell, Jr.	Kenneth	F.	8	17
Pelegano	Robert		8	15
Sena	David		8	19
Sena, Sr.	Salvatore	V.	8	3
Spencer	Michael	A.	8	15
Sztaba	Michael	T.	8	21
Yepes	Arthur	L.	8	8
Brasile	James		9	11
Cop, Jr.	Richard	J.	9	17
Cotter	James	M.	9	21
Dec	Brian	A.	9	8
DeConti	John	D.	9	9
Dydyn	Victor	R.	9	19
Fiori	James		9	4
Fleming, Jr	William	J.	9	22
Graham	Harold		9	26
Kowalker	Richard	A.	9	21
Leonard	Robert	J.	9	29
Levandowsky	Ronald		9	11
Milalyo	Marianne		9	23
Ouellette	Robert	J.	9	9
Polaske	Eugene	P.	9	16
Renner	Ethan		9	19
Sniadack, Jr.	Bernard	F.	9	24
Truhan	John	E.	9	12
Villaggio	Anthony		9	13
Wennberg	Harry	O.	9	26





THE YOUNG MARINES



My year as Marine Corps League Young Marine of the Year

Mason Steele

My name is Gunnery Sergeant Mason Steele. I joined the Young Marines program in April 2019 and have been active with the program since. Recently I was awarded the Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League Samuel L. Beamon Young Marine of the Year at the Connecticut Marine Corps League banquet.

The first part of the banquet happened in the morning hours where I was introduced to the members of the league and was introduced to give a small speech on the relationship that the Young

Marines program has with the Marine Corps League. After this, I was dismissed for the day while the business meeting took place.

When I returned later that evening I got dressed in my Charlies and headed to the gallery. While in

the gallery I walked around introducing myself to the Marine Corps League Members and others attending the banquet. It was here that all the people that would be attending the dinner banquet gathered and chatted before Evening Mess began. I met several amazing people and learned copious amounts of things pertaining to different activities that they were working on, whether that be in or out of the league. Once the festivities began, we were briefed on the agenda of the ceremony and introduced to the folks at the head table. We were seated shortly after we had done the Pledge of Allegiance and the prayer was given. Once seated the tables we were called up one by one to receive chow for the evening which consisted of chicken parmesan, garlic bread, Italian wedding soup, and a plethora of other savory

foods.

After the plates had been cleared away and everyone was full we were treated with the pleasure of listening to several incredible people give speeches about various topics. Among the people who gave speeches one was done by retired Sergeant Major Maness, retired, where she spoke of not only the Young Marines program but also the future of the Marine Corps League. We heard a few more speeches from



other outstanding people about different topics. At the conclusion of Sergeant Major Maness's speech, I was introduced and presented with not only a framed plaque for the award, but I also received a challenge coin among other items which I was incredibly grateful for. We took pictures with several people before I returned to my seat. Prior to the start of the dinner

banquet, we were all given the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to put into a drawing for a multitude of items. When we commenced with the raffle drawings which was incredible to see the sense of camaraderie that everyone had with each other as they joked and laughed together. After the raffle drawing was concluded we were dismissed for the evening. But before everyone left I had a chance to walk around once more and talked to other people to discuss and schedule future endeavors. All in all, it was an incredible day and an unbelievable experience.

YM GySgt Steele.



2023

AUGUST

2023



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
MCL 100TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OKLAHOMA CITY						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



2023

SEPTEMBER

2023



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



CONNECTICUT



PICNIC WITH FRIENDS NEAR AND FAR

Before we can show the picnic!!!

Breaking News!!

49th Past Chief Devil Dog, Past Department Commandant, Wisest of the Wise in Marine Corps League



information, Mentor to many, loved and respected by all, Doug Fisk, **"HAS TRADED IN HIS FLIP PHONE FOR A SMART PHONE"** I

have seen this myself and he is a competent operator of such. So going forward feel free to text him and send him pictures. He has the same number. I apologize to Doug for this but every Marine is a bit of an ASS, I just happen to be a bit more of an ASS than Most. WTTTWB!

I attended the Paul C. Houghton Annual Picnic and it was a great time and fun for all. The guest list was form not only Connecticut but from Massachusetts as well. Sandy and JR attended, Myself and My wife attended Bill Schmidt for Massachusetts, and Pat and Lynn Maguire were going to attend but were detained elsewhere. It is refreshing to see Marines

cross State lines to mix and celebrate with other Marines. It was evident here today as well as in Rhode Island the Day before. We could use more of this not only because we have fun doing it but if we don't support each other who will?



Group shot of those in attendance but if you look in the left corner there is Bill Schmidt hiding in plain sight



The Winners of a \$500 Scholarship Andrew Hadfield Jr., Lindsay Houghton, and Marquis Whyte with Detachment Commandant Bill Lee wearing the appropriate Marine Apron



Our Leader and MC
Bill Lee



My Good Friend and Honored Guest JR Rutovich, inspiring the scholarship winners on the importance of education



CONNECTICUT



PICNIC WITH FRIENDS NEAR AND FAR



JR Rutovich Division Paymaster
49th Chief Devil Dog Doug Fisk



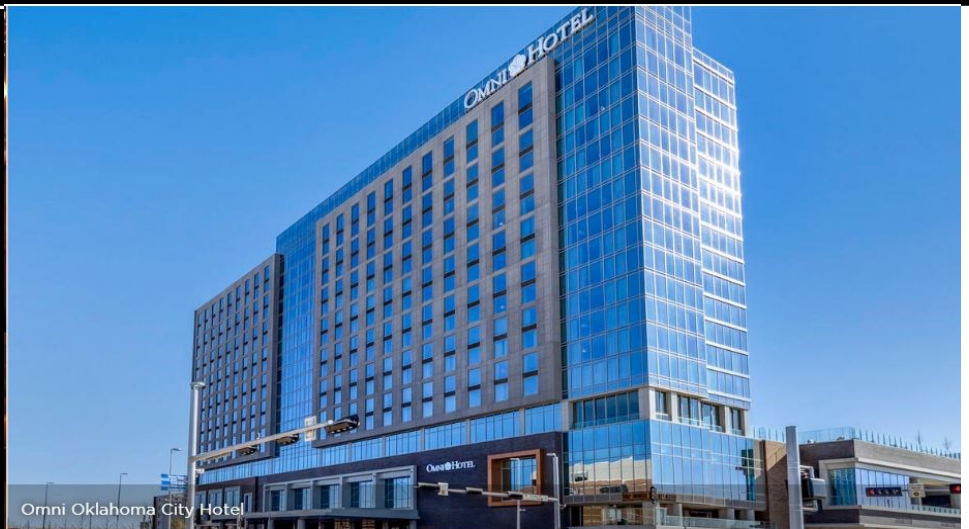
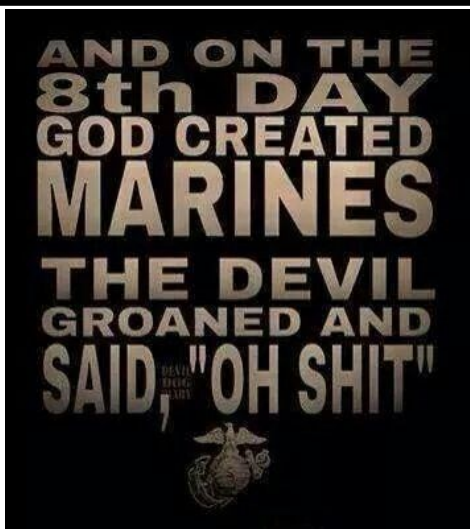
Past Department Commandant, Commandant
Bridgeport Detachment Adele Hodges



S
andy Rutovich Division

Below: No better end to a day of fun food and
great friends than to chill with a book a little con-
versation and of course a stogie





Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

A Marines Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

Marine Corps League National Convention 2023 100th Anniversary MCL, Oklahoma City

August 14th through August 19th
Banquet is Friday August 19th
OMNI HOTEL
100 West Oklahoma City Blvd.,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73109
Phone: (405) 438-6500

NOW RECRUITING

Become active in the Marine Corps League and you can make a difference.



Attention To Orders

THE NEXT DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT MEETING
CT Veterans Home and Hospital
287 West St Rocky Hill CT 06067 Building 50
AUGUST 6, 2023 Lunch at 12:00 Meeting at 13:00



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

