



# THE MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan

## FALL STAFF MEETING

**October 12, 2024 1000 hours at the  
at the American Legion Post 106, 106 S James St., Grayling**



### Department Commandant Ray Rayl

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The 2024 Department of Michigan Convention is now history, and I wish to thank the members of the planning committee and especially the Auxiliary for their effort in putting on the meals and hospitality room. Without them, this would've just been a series of meetings without any socializing or fun. Thank you so very much, ladies.

We have three new Zone Vice Commandants now in place. Randall Clemons has replaced Eugene Owens in the Southeastern Zone, Steven Kelley has replaced Troy Stewart in the Central Zone, and Tracey Tippett has replaced Tracy Berg in the Upper Peninsula. Congratulations to all, and I wish them well in the coming years. In addition, I want to congratulate Marine of the Year Tim McGee from the Cpl Stanley L. Moore Detachment. Tim is a well-deserving Marine who has made the Foundation what it is today.

A new event at the Convention this year was the Card Draw. This event brought in a sizeable amount of dollars in a small amount of time, \$240.00. It was fun, and I'm sure everyone who participated had a ball. In addition to this game, the "Pie in the Face" returned. The Jr. Vice, Sr. Vice, and I were the recipients of the pie facial. I'm sure these two events will be on the agenda next year. Only next year, "Butterscotch".

This year's guest speaker was Sgt Major Adan Moreno from the Kalamazoo Detachment. The Sgt Major

began his career at MCRD San Diego and will be officially retired on 1 July of this year. Moreno had a very informative and entertaining talk.

And last but not least, a BIG THANK YOU to the Delta Hotels and Conference Center staff for making this weekend the success it was.

Semper Fi



### Department Adjutant Report Tracey Ann Tippett

Adjutant Department of Michigan

Greetings. The 2024 Summer Convention was a wonderful time had by all. It was great seeing you all again and seeing new Marines for the first time as well. Now, just because the Convention has ended, doesn't mean that the work has stopped at all, either. There are Detachments that still need to work on getting Officer Installation Reports, Bank and Charter Forms, 990s, and Lara Corp filings done before we all start new in the fall.

If you have questions or need assistance, please let me know. I am there to help where needed. Also, remember to make sure you are using the latest updated forms found on our website ([michiganmarines.org](http://michiganmarines.org)) or National's ([mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)). A little cooperation and a little work make everyone's job duties go smoother and easier.

On a side note, at the Convention, I had the pleasure of filling in for Tracy Berg, who won the raffle drawing for putting a pie in the face of our Commandant Ray Rayl. Some said I

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## Military Women’s Memorial Honors U.P. Veterans.

Four Women Veterans from the Upper Peninsula will have their stories preserved for future generations. A special ceremony was held at the Military Women's Memorial for four Women Veterans, which took place May 2nd, 2024, during the UP Honor Flight Mission XXIII. They learned the news in Washington DC when the tour buses stopped at the Military Women's Memorial. Honor Flight organizers arranged for the women's induction into the Memorials National Register. The Women's Memorial honors women who have served in the US Military since the American Revolution. The volunteer coordinator who gave out the awards said they want to ensure that the women who have served get their due recognition because sometimes their stories fall through the cracks.

(Pictured (L-R) Tracey Tippett-Marine Corps, Annie Patten--Army, Cynthia Mann-Army and Fran Smith--Navy)



## Department Adjutant Report – continued

was overly excited to do this and quite evil, too. But it all went well, and it was a great event to raise funds for the foundation.



Thank you all, and remember that I am only a phone call, email, or text away if you need anything.

Semper Fi

If you need any assistance, please let me know. I can be reached at 9687 US Highway 41  
 Champion, MI 49814  
 906-250-3189  
 Email-tracerduck@aol.com



## UP Zone Commandant Tracey Ann Tippett

I have resumed my position as UP Zone Vice Commandant for us "Yoopers." I am looking forward to meeting more of you and seeing if there are any problems or issues that need fixing. I also want to make sure

all of our Detachments are in compliance and well informed about what is going on with the Department and on the National Level.

We will soon be having our own UP Zone and Devil Dog Growl on September 21st, and we hope lots of you plan on attending this meeting. Our meetings are now being rotated to the different Detachments, and the September meeting will be held at the Purple Hearts Building in Escanaba.

Also, Christina Faymonville is my assistant in learning the ropes and, hopefully, one day take over as UP Zone Vice.

Thank you all.

Semper Fi

## **Military Order of Devil Dogs— Michigan Pack Dog of the Year Award for the Pack**

Recently, PDD Art Menard and PDD Tracey Tippet (Worthy Pack Jr. Vice), also UP Zone Vice Commandant, took a trip to attend the Keweenaw Detachment 1016 meeting to present DD Tim Smigowski his Military Order of Devil Dogs—Michigan Pack Dog of the Year Award for the Pack. Tim was quite surprised to be receiving this award but is truly honored and grateful to be the recipient of such a distinguished award. Woof...Woof...



## **Department Judge Advocate Report**

**Scott Hellman**

Dept. Judge Advocate



Good day, Marines and Associates,

For this edition of MMN I think I will let you know what my objectives are this upcoming year. I realize I could be setting myself up for ridicule but, I want you to know what's in the works. As champion of the Bylaws again this year I thought it would be nice to work on the way ours are structured. Nationals did a great job of separating the bylaws from the administrative procedures. So, I think we should do the same thing.

Why do you ask does it make a difference?

The bylaws require the body of the department and a majority vote to change, delete, add, or even suspend any part of them. While administrative procedures (AP) only require the Board of Trustees to vote on them to make any sort of changes. For example, if something like how paperwork is filed, or when deadlines are set those would be AP's. Something like the requirements to become an MCL member in our department would be a bylaw change.

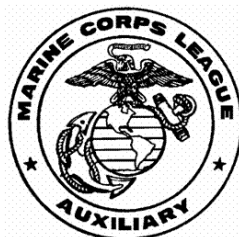
This will take most of the year, even with a few people to advise and help us through it. When completed it will be made available to all members, that wish to do so, read and decide whether to accept the updates. During the next convention, the detachments will bring their collective votes to voice their decision. Overall, it would help streamline what is important and make things more convenient to find and understand what is possible to do.

I will also be needed to handle verify that the detachments that have clubhouses are getting compliant with the laws required by the MCL and United States. I truly don't want to see anyone, or detachment brought under charges for illegal beer or alcohol sales. The IRS doesn't play when it comes to taxes owed. So please do it correctly.

Lastly, I would like to thank those who took time to sell the department's raffle tickets. The four people who won were excited and happy, obviously. I want to say one of the winners broke down and cried. She was so happy and overwhelmed. She was having a tremendously down week, and it helped her see that sometimes things happen for a reason and at the correct time. WE raised over \$13,500 for the Department, so thank you for your efforts and dedication to continuing the purpose and principles of our Marine Corps League!



At the 2024 Summer Convention, Commandant Ray Rayl presented to Tracey Tippett the Distinguished Citizen Medal (Gold) awarded by the National Commandant Warren Griffin.



## Department Auxiliary President

Cathy Rayl  
Catray5@hotmail.com

Greetings from the Michigan Marine Corps Auxiliary. Let me introduce myself. I am Cathy Rayl, the newly installed President of the Michigan MCLA, and yes, I am the wife of Commandant Ray. I want to thank our Past President, Maureen Ailor, for her selfless service to our organization.

I am honored to represent the membership of **your** Auxiliary. We proudly provide support and promote the interest of our Marines.

I look forward to visiting and working with all Units in the State.

I wish to thank our newly elected and installed officers, Sr. Vice President Kimberly Clemmons, Jr. Vice President Lonita Love, and Judge Advocate Judy Blackmer.

To the staff members who stepped up to accept their positions, I extend a sincere Thank You! Without each and every position/person, this organization could not continue to function. Thank you for doing your part.

I hope to meet you at our next event, Fall Staff – Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> or Mid-Winter Rally – Jan. 17-19, 2025.

I'll close by wishing you a blessed fall.

Respectfully, Semper Fi

**Happy 249th Birthday**  
**of the**  
**United States Marine Corps**  
**November 10, 1775**

## Official Call to the 2024 Fall Staff Rally

The Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League's Annual Fall Staff Meeting will convene at 10:00 on Saturday, 12 October 2024 at the **American Legion Post 106, 106 S James St., Grayling MI 49738.**

Uniform of the Day is Civilian Casual and written reports are not required. You will be responsible for your own lunch. There are several restaurants close to the American Legion Post and you will have 1 1/2 hours to enjoy your meal.

Anyone needing to arrive the day prior or staying after the event may make reservations online to the Grayling Ramada Inn by Wyndham (989-710-2399). The rate is \$85.00 + taxes. Includes a free continental breakfast, free WiFi and parking. Be sure to mention you are attending the Marine Corps Fall Staff Rally for discount.

All Department Staff are expected to attend this meeting, unless excused by the Department Commandant *prior* to the meeting. Detachment Commandants are encouraged to attend this meeting.

If you feel a need to contact other members about this meeting, please feel free to do so.