Warriors Connected
The Official Newsletter of the Marine for Life Network
July - September 2019
CONNECTING MARINES WITH OPPORTUNITIES

www.marineforlife.org
TABLE of contents

3 Good News Story
4 Marine Corps League/Marine for Life Partnership
6 M4L Network Representatives of the Year
7 Get to Know Your Regional Network Coordinator
8 Marine for Life Regional Map
9 Upcoming Hiring & Network Events
13 RNC Corner
14 Resources of the Quarter
17 Reading Recommendation
18 Connect with the Marine for Life Network

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How the Marine for Life Network and our Representatives can work with Transitioning Marines to Achieve Their Career Goals.

In January 2019, Major Fermin Sanchez, Austin Marine for Life (M4L) Representative was contacted via LinkedIn by former Marine Sergeant Sultan Meherzad for assistance. Working in the Administrative Occupational Field while on active duty, Sergeant Meherzad had just finished his MBA in December 2018 and had been actively searching for a job without success. Located in Los Angeles, Sergeant Meherzad was looking for positions in multiple geographical locations and noticed Major Sanchez’s LinkedIn profile, due to his high level of activity focused on veteran employment. Major Sanchez encouraged Sergeant Meherzad to submit for assistance via the M4L website and began to work with him. He reviewed Sergeant Meherzad’s resume, recommending numerous changes to make it more competitive, and executed multiple interview preparation sessions with him prior to his interviews.

Major Sanchez introduced Sergeant Meherzad to several key points of contact, including the Director of Corporate Finance at Whole Foods Corporation and a Military Consultant Recruiter at Oracle, both located in Austin, Texas. While working alongside Major Sanchez, Sergeant Meherzad overcame the misconception that his perceived lack of relevant experience was the major obstacle he initially feared it was. With Major Sanchez’s mentoring, he began to pursue more opportunities in a wider variety of career fields. Major Sanchez coached Sergeant Meherzad in how to best adopt appropriate business language and attitudes while retaining the drive and cultural excellence that distinguishes Marines.

In early April, Sergeant Meherzad contacted Major Sanchez thanking him for the resume revision and interview preparation assistance. Sergeant Meherzad informed him that he secured a position as a consultant with a local Fortune Global 500 company, with an impressive annual salary and bonus options.

Sergeant Meherzad expressed his appreciation for the assistance Major Sanchez and the Marine for Life Program provided him in getting a new position. Based upon personal experience, he knew how vital networking is and explained that with the Marine for Life Program, a transitioning Marine plugs into a ready-made network; greatly improving their likelihood of finding a well-paying job.
Marine Corps League – Marine for Life Network Partnership!

On October 19, 2018, the Marine Corps League (MCL) and the Marine for Life (M4L) Network signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to enhance the ability of both organizations to accomplish their respective missions more effectively.

Skip Crawley, Central Region Network Coordinator, had a chance to speak with Mr. David Ossian about how the successful Marine Corps League (MCL) – Marine for Life (M4L) Network partnership came about, the benefits of it and where it goes from here!

What is the background of the partnership? Why was it established?

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Neller, and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt.Maj Green, are great advocates for the M4L Program, viewing it as a forward thinking and amazing program with great potential, but also recognizing that the Program could use the assistance of the League to expand M4L’s footprint and impact.

The League is a great fit to grow with the M4L Program. With over 65,000 members and MCL Detachments in over 1,000 cities and towns across the country, we greatly expand and enhance the M4L Network.

Gen Neller has always had an excellent relationship with Wendell Webb, the CEO of the League, and the Commandant has spoken to the MCL’s leadership about this relationship and its potential on several occasions. At the Commandant’s direction, SgtMaj Green talked to MCL Chief Operating Officer Bob Borka, to discuss how we could grow this MCL-M4L relationship.

How has the partnership matured over the last 8 months?

The League developed our operational plan to mimic the M4L chain of command in order to have a synergetic relationship. We started at the National level and worked down the hierarchy. For example: Each M4L Region Network Coordinator, such as yourself, is a single and direct point of contact (POC). Then each of your Reps have a state-level POC. As can be expected in a project of this magnitude and complexity there have been some growing pains.

We continue to build the League’s infrastructure to reflect yours and strive to have the best possible communication for the sake of both organizations and their missions. But everyone in both organizations are professionals and it’s always about the individual Marine and their family.
What resources can the MCL provide?

Members range in age from early 20s to Marines who served in Korea; and even some who served in World War II. Our members have been in these communities for decades and have long established relationships that we leverage to assist the Marine or family member in finding gainful employment. In short, “We know people and we know things” that assist transitioning Marines (TMs) and their families. For example: The five-day Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS) given on all Marine Corps installations and required for all TMs, doesn’t really go into detail about how to file a VA disability claim or to access your VA benefits. In contrast, each Detachment has connections with the local VA offices and various Veterans’ Service Organization (VSOs) that can provide more area specific information.

Our relationships with the local communities are invaluable. Different states have different benefits for veterans. For example: some states have monetary compensation for veterans returning to their home state; some have educational benefits, and some have internships to be First Responders. TRS, naturally focused at the national level, doesn’t cover this.

Some local detachments have scholarships for veterans going to school and others have grants for veterans struggling to reintegrate into civilian society. Our detachments provide a wide range of resources for TMs, veteran Marines and their families.

Tell us about the fellowship within league detachments.

One of the biggest things that hit me this year is this whole team concept and I really want to emphasize this. Whether you start your Marine Corps career at one of the recruit depots or at Quantico, you were taught as a Marine that you cannot possibly succeed in the Marine Corps without teamwork. Likewise, a TM cannot succeed in the real world on their own. The League provides an infrastructure to support TMs, providing all TMs the support they need and the team they need for a successful transition. My first job out of the Marine Corps was a bartender. I would not even have that job if the Vietnam veteran who ran the bar had not hired me. In addition, he led me to understand that you cannot do it by yourself. You must have a team.

How does the partnership assist the M4L Program in more effectively accomplishing its mission?

Some League detachments support M4L network events by providing fiscal and marketing support. Networking events happen during the work week and in the early evening as potential attendees are leaving work or school. People need to have dinner, so, by providing attendees something to eat and drink you take away that hurdle to attending the event.

A couple of observations I’d like to make based upon the last 2 MCL-M4L Networking Events GySgt Abby Wheeler, your Omaha Rep, and I conducted.

First, Veteran employers and some veterans attending seem to have forgotten what it’s like to be in a room full of fellow Marines, to be part of the tribe again. While not the primary consideration of networking events, the reconnection is very positive. Just to see the comradery for those that had been away for a while was outstanding.

Second, during our Omaha networking event, there was a veteran Marine who was neither looking for work nor looking for employees. He had recently lost a family member and just wanted to be around other Marines. As I talked to him, I realized that he had been on the same MEU and on the same ship that I had been on during Desert Storm. This connection helped him to open up about struggles he was having and about jobs available where he worked at Offutt AFB. I really thought this was kind of a cool moment.
What concluding insights and “lessons learned” would you like to end with?

For those of us who have successfully transitioned back to civilian life, we need to be the person to the TMs that we needed when we left the Marine Corps. We need to mentor these Warriors.

The civilian world doesn’t come with a “check-in” sheet but connecting with the M4L/MCL Team can provide the TM with everything they need to be successful.

Congratulations to our Marine for Life Network Representatives of the Year!

Congratulations to Major Stephanie Drake (Houston, TX), MSgt Heydo Zando (Chicago, IL), Major Paul Pintek (San Diego, CA), and Major Jason Kemp (Raleigh, NC) - our incredible M4L Representatives of the year!

Over the last year, these four Marines have served the veteran population within their respected communities with extraordinary professionalism and world class customer service. Whether helping transitioning service members network to discover their next career, or working with community partners to coordinate M4L Networking events, these four M4L Representatives have proven to perform their duties to the highest caliber, reflecting great credit upon themselves, while strengthening the overall mission of the M4L Network. As such, M4L is proud to recognize these warriors, and we thank them for their exceptional service. Well done!
Get to Know

Your Regional Network Coordinator (RNC)

Regional Network Coordinators work to support transitioning Marines/Sailors and assist with connecting you to opportunities throughout the Marine for Life Network. In some cases, the RNC may be able to put you in touch with a Marine for Life Representative, local to your area! Feel free to contact an RNC nearest to you for more information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RNC Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southeast RNC:</td>
<td>Mr. Mark D. Munger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mark.munger@usmc.mil">mark.munger@usmc.mil</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast RNC:</td>
<td>Mr. Ricky &quot;Rick&quot; Butler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ricky.butler@usmc.mil">ricky.butler@usmc.mil</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central RNC:</td>
<td>Mr. Timothy “Skip” Crawley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:timothy.crawley@usmc.mil">timothy.crawley@usmc.mil</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West RNC:</td>
<td>Mr. Jamal A. Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jamal.brown@usmc.mil">jamal.brown@usmc.mil</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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UPCOMING
Hiring & Networking Events, July - September 2019

Below are dates of professional hiring and networking events taking place throughout the country (listed by region), in which you can attend free of charge. *Dates/times are subject to change.

Northeast Region

- July 11, 2019: Pittsburgh Veterans Job Fair, 1100 – 1500, Heinz Field Pittsburgh, PA 15212
- July 16, 2019: Brooklyn National Career Fair, 1100 – 1400, Hilton Brooklyn 140 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201
- July 23, 2019: Washington DC Career Fair 1100 – 1400, DoubleTree Crystal City 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202
- July 31, 2019: New Jersey National Career Fair 1100 – 1400, Holiday Inn Cherry Hill 2175 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002
- August 1, 2019: Hampton Veterans Job Fair 1100 – 1500, Hampton Roads Convention Center Hampton, VA 23666
- August 15, 2019: Philadelphia Veterans Job Fair 1100 – 1500, Lincoln Financial Field Philadelphia, PA 19148
- August 22, 2019: Cleveland Veterans Job Fair 1100 – 1500, FirstEnergy Stadium Cleveland, OH 44114
- August 28, 2019: Greater Boston Veterans Job Fair 1100 – 1500, Gillette Stadium Foxborough, MA 02035
- September 5, 2019: New York Veterans Job Fair 1100 – 1500, Metropolitan Pavilion New York, NY 10011
- September 12, 2019: Milwaukee Veterans Job Fair 1100 – 1500, Miller Park Milwaukee, WI 53214
- September 12, 2019: Cincinnati Veterans Job Fair 1100 - 1500 Great American Ballpark Cincinnati, OH 45202
- September 26, 2019: Richmond Veterans Job Fair 1100 – 1500, Richmond International Raceway Richmond, VA 23222
- September 27, 2019: Corporate Gray Military Friendly Job Fair, 0900 – 1200, Waterford At Springfield - Springfield, VA 22150
UPCOMING Hiring & Networking Events

Southeast Region

- July 18, 2019: DAV Recruit Military Job Fair, Camp Lejeune, NC, 1100 – 1500, Marston Pavilion
- July 18, 2019: Tampa Veterans Job Fair, 1100 – 1500, 401 Channelside Drive, Tampa, FL
- August 15, 2019: Raleigh Veterans Job Fair, 1100 – 1500, Vaughn Towers, Carter Finley Stadium, NCST, Raleigh, NC
- September 11, 2019: 0900 – 1600, Hiring our Heroes Summit, Charlotte, NC
- September 19, 2019: 1100 – 1500, Columbia Veterans Job Fair, USC Alumni Center
- September 24 – 25, 2019: Amplify Tampa, All Day for Military Spouses (Registration Required), Tampa, FL
UPCOMING Hiring & Networking Events

Central Region

- July 11, 2019: Job Fair at Fort Hood, 1100 – 1500, Club Hood @ Ft Hood, 28218 Wainwright Dr, Ft. Hood, TX
- July 18, 2019: Austin Job Fair, 1100 – 1400, Holiday Inn Austin Town Lake, Austin TX 78701
- July 22, 2019: Job Fair of Minneapolis, 1000 – 1300, Embassy Suites by Hilton Minneapolis Airport, 7901 34th Ave S, Bloomington, MN
- July 25, 2019: Denver Job Fair/Interview Event, 0900 – 1300, Embassy Suites Tech Center, 10250 East Costilla Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112
- August 1, 2019: Austin Center Career Fair, 1100 – 1400, Holiday Inn, 6000 Middle Fiskville Rd, Austin, TX
- August 6, 2019: Denver 19th Annual Career/Job Fair, 1100 – 1300, 3801 Quebec street, Denver, CO 80207
- August 8, 2019: DAV RecruitMilitary Dallas Veterans Job Fair, 1100 – 1500, AT&T Stadium, 1 AT&T Way, Arlington, TX
- August 8, 2019: Minneapolis Veterans Job Fair, 1100 – 1500, TCF Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, MN 55455
- August 14, 2019: St. Louis Career Fair, 1100 – 1400, 1973 Craigshire Road, St. Louis, MO
- August 14, 2019: Houston Job Fair, 1100 – 1400, 2400 W Loop S, Houston, TX
- September 10, 2019: Denver Job Fair, 1100 – 1400, 4040 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80216
- September 12, 2019: Kansas City Career Fair, 1100 – 1400, 9103 E 39th Street, Kansas City, MO
- September 18, 2019: JOBNEWSUSA.COM Job Fair, 1000 – 1400, 1 Arrowhead Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64129
- September 19, 2019: San Antonio Job Fair, 1100 – 1400, 7750 Briaridge Drive, San Antonio TX
UPCOMING Hiring & Networking Events

West Region

• July 24, 2019: Spouse Transition and Readiness Seminar, 0800 – 1130, The HUB, Bldg. 5305 (classroom 8), MCAS Miramar, CA

• July 26, 2019: Career Fair, 1000 – 1300, The HUB, Bldg. 5305, MCAS Miramar, CA

• August 8, 2019: MilSpouse Healthcare Industry Networking Lunch Hiring Event, 1100 – 1500, Pacific Views Center, Camp Pendleton, CA

• August 9, 2019: MCCS Sponsorship Golf Tournament, 0700 – 1300, Miramar Golf Course

• August 23, 2019: Ballgown Giveaway, 1800 – 2200, Officer’s Club, MCAS Miramar, CA

• September 5, 2019: MilSpouse Family Member Networking Hiring Event, 1630 – 1830, Bldg. 202860 (L.I.N.K.S House, next to Blinder Memorial Chapel) Camp Pendleton, CA

• September 5, 2019: Travis Air Force Base Career Summit, 0900 – 1400, Fairfield, CA

• September 18, 2019: Career and Education Fair, 1000 – 1300, Jerry Coleman Center, Bldg. 650, MCRD, San Diego, CA 92140

• September 21, 2019: CDC SAC Hiring Event, 0900 – 1300, Leatherneck Lanes Bowling Center, Camp Pendleton, CA

• September 24 - 25, 2019: Joint Base Lewis-McCord Career Summit, 1700 – until completion, 8085 NCO Beach Rd, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, 98438

• September 27 – 29, 2019: Miramar Air Show, 0800 – 1630, MCAS Miramar Flight Line

• September 26, 2019: CALTAP-California Transition Assistance Program, 0730 – 1600, Personal & Professional Development Bldg. 14, MCRD, San Diego, CA 92140
Beef Up Your Resume with the Marine Corps SkillBridge Program

As Marines approach the transition to civilian life, they have a lot to consider. Not only do they have to determine what to do in their civilian careers, but also how to get on the path to that career. One of the programs that can help do that is the Marine Corps SkillBridge program!

What is the SkillBridge Program?

SkillBridge is a program that connects Marines with available training, apprenticeships, and internship opportunities that offer a high probability of employment. Most SkillBridge programs are provided at no cost to Marines.

Why should Marines care?

Marines can use the SkillBridge program to gain additional work experiences and help beef up or close any training gaps on their resume. For example, a Marine who is interested in IT but had little experience in IT during his/her service can participate in one of the Microsoft SkillBridge programs. The resume would then not only reflect the leadership and discipline of a Marine, but also some real world computer experience. Often, these training opportunities are meant to lead to employment with the training provider, giving Marines another advantage during their job search.

Who can participate?

To participate, Marines must:
✓ Have completed 180 days of active duty
✓ Be discharged from active duty with an honorable discharge (or general discharge under honorable conditions) within 180 days of beginning participation in the program
✓ Have sufficient time remaining on their Marine Corps contract to complete the program
✓ Attend and complete the requirements of the Transition Readiness Seminar
✓ Attend an ethics brief or completed a DoD-approved ethics training presentation within the last 12 months from the start date of the SkillBridge Program
✓ Receive command approval to participate in the program

For more information about the SkillBridge Program, contact your Installation’s Transition Readiness Office and check out MARADMIN 350/18.
Employment

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA), in coordination with the Department of Education, has established the American Job Center network, a unifying name and brand that identifies online and in-person workforce development services as part of a single network.

The American Job Center (AJC) system is a partnership of organizations, working as a team, to promote a universal approach to providing effective workforce assistance to job seekers and businesses. This collaboration of state, regional and local organization is designed to provide a seamless delivery system of programs and services. Comprehensive and Affiliate AJC’s are located throughout the state and offer walk-in and other job seeker resources. AJC services are available to anyone, regardless of employment status, and are free.

American Job Centers are designed to provide a full range of assistance to job seekers under one roof, offering training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and similar employment-related services. **AJCs are one of the best resources for Veterans seeking employment.**

All employment and job training programs funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Labor are entitled to give precedence to Veterans and eligible spouses. When you call an American Job Center tell them you are a Veteran and they will make your employment needs a priority.

Each American Job Center has varied services, but most include:

- One-on-one resume writing, interview skills, and other job preparation assistance
- Workshops with topics that range from resume writing to employer expectations
- Training and education, as many AJCs have connections to local community colleges and training centers

Visit https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx to find an AJC nearest to you, or call toll-free at 1-877-US-2JOBS (1-877-889-5267)
Community

It’s been more than 10 years since its official launch, but the National Resource Directory (www.nrd.gov) continues to serve as an online solution for providing valuable resources and information to veterans, service members and caregivers.

The Directory is one of the largest online collections of government and nongovernment resources specifically cultivated for veterans, service members, their families and caregivers. With a unique collection of more than 16,000 organized and vetted resources, the Directory provides information covering a variety of topics, including benefits and compensation, education and training, family and military caregiver support, health, homeless assistance, housing, and other services and programs.

"The ability to provide a wide range of vetted resources to help veterans with PTSD and wounded warriors with traumatic brain injuries, is one of the best functions of the website, among many other great features we work to provide," said Jonathan Morris, Program Manager for the Directory.

The Directory is managed through a tri-agency partnership between the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Labor. Resources included in the Directory are verified through a rigorous vetting process to ensure users are getting trustworthy and accurate information. This vetting process, performed annually, confirms resources listed on the site meet the standards outlined in the Directory’s participation policy.

To submit information to the Directory, and join a network of organizations who will always support those who sacrifice and serve for this nation, visit www.nrd.gov.
United States Military Educators Association (USMEA) is a one-stop organization with experience volunteers ready to assist you in all areas of identifying and selecting a college of your specific educational goals.

MISSION
As a combined group of military educators, from vocational schools, community colleges and universities, provide a quality education in a structured military & veterans environment with emphasis on:

✓ Promoting and supporting ongoing quality educational programs delivered by accredited post-secondary educational institutions to military/veterans

✓ Identifying, studying and seeking solutions to issues that jointly affect member educational institutions which impact off-duty voluntary post-secondary education programs of the Department of Defense and Coast Guard, family members, civilians, and retirees

✓ Submitting findings to identified institutions and/or governmental agencies, individual state veterans’ services office in support of the purposes of United States Military Educators Association

Areas of assistance includes: How to prepare for college, preparing for college placement test, SAT Prep, MCAT Prep, GRE Prep, CLEP, DSST, State Educational Benefits, Scholarships, Post 9/11, Montgomery GI BILL, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR&E), FAFSA, searching for a college which is best for you with the correct accreditation, understanding accreditation, understanding which schools accept national, regional or specialized transfer credits, how to select a major and/or degree which best serves your professional goals.

The specific purpose of the USMEA is to form a coalition of educational institutions exchanging and/or providing best practices, information, and mutual support to improve the United States educational opportunities while certifying them as a military/veteran supportive campus/institution. This is to include vocational schools, community colleges, universities, organizations and corporations. USMEA also conducts public discussion groups, forums, panels, lectures, and certification workshops.

For more information about USMEA or their services, visit www.USMEA.org, or connect via email at information@usmea.org

No Federal or Marine Corps Endorsement Applied
I found John Maxwell’s work to be an inspiring book. One interesting part of this book was how Maxwell provided various sections of the work to be viewed by the public, and he allowed for reader input and suggestions. Maxwell recognized these contributors by name and provided photos on the dust jacket and inside the covers, which made for a very personal touch.

A specific quote from the book truly impacted me: “If you can learn to care about others, you can connect with them. You can help them. And you can make both your life and their lives better.” Maxwell creates a common theme throughout, connecting is all about others.

In chapter three, Maxwell discusses why two people presenting the same information in the same format get completely different results. I found his point to really hit home for me, and I believe the section will provide reflection for any reader.

Maxwell states, “Any message you try to convey must contain a piece of you”. He recommends to have an unselfish attitude, this will lead to the ability to put others first.

The concept of connecting is vital to networking. Relating how connecting can impact a transitioning Marine: every connection request through LinkedIn should begin with a piece of you. Conveying why you feel connecting will be beneficial for not only you, but also the person you are connecting with.

I believe “Everyone Communicates, Few Connect” will assist someone having trouble with reaching out to someone they might not know. Maxwell provides easy to understand ways to make meaningful connections and his style provides for an easy read. I highly recommend this book.
CONNECTING MARINES WITH OPPORTUNITIES

BENEFITS OF JOINING

Gain access to our LinkedIn networks with the ability to access discussions, job openings, and other opportunities to transitioning Marines and their family members.

Get added to our resource repository that we use to connect transitioning and Veteran Marines to employers and resources.

Be introduced to your closest Marine For Life Representative who can connect you to the M4L Network community on a local level.

About Us

Marine For Life Network (M4L) connects transitioning Marines and their family members to employment, education, and community service resources that aid in their career and life goals when they transition from military service. To expand our network, the Marine For Life Network continually seeks to connect and collaborate with Veteran-friendly employers and other services.

Eligibility Requirements

Do you think your organization is a good fit for the Marine For Life Network?

- Provide resources at no cost
- Feedback on hiring/selection process of Marines we connect you with
- Keep the Marine For Life Network updated on current contact information

How to Get Started

Visit our website and complete our Military Friendly Resource form:

A Marine For Life Network staff member will contact you and introduce you to the network.

Join your respective M4L LinkedIn group:

1. Create a new post on the group and introduce yourself and your organization
2. Post your job openings in the group
3. Network with group members
Connect
With Marine for Life!

Follow M4L on social media to keep up-to-date with the latest military-friendly employment, education, and other veteran and community resources:

- LinkedIn: Company/marine-for-life-network
- Facebook: MarineforLifeNetwork
- Twitter: M4L_Network
- Phone: 866.645.8762
- Website: Marineforlife.org