

The AMLA Times

August 2019

Teach-Coach-Mentor-Lead



AMLA Values, by Jim Steddum

See: amla-tcml.org/values

Over the next several months, the AMLA will be highlighting the values that this organization was founded upon. We say, “Teach, coach, Mentor, Lead!” And, yes, they are the core of our growing enterprise. However, they are also nested in Fellowship and Service. These principles are the ying and yang of AMLA—rekindling and sustaining relationships developed over time and the goal of increasing the effectiveness of our current public servants and the organizations they serve.

Speaking of fellowship, we have two notable Legends that have joined #AMLA this month—Let’s welcome Gib Gahan and Kevin Kelly! Gib is featured in [the Judge Advocate Warrant Officer Chronicles, Volume I](#) (ISBN: 9780160949913); and Kevin in [Volume II](#) (ISBN: 9780160950162). We are also starting to get some US Marines to join. Please welcome them and invite more to join over the next few exciting months.

Why, exciting you ask? The Board of Directors is working on some great new projects as well as refining some of the recurring programs. We NEED YOUR HELP! This is YOUR organization, so please ask any of the Board members what you can do to help!

This month we focus on #Teach. Our first value—and first for an important reason. “We aim to instill both expertise and values consistent with honorable and selfless service.”

Next month is all about #Coach. We would like EVERY member of AMLA to email editor@amla-tcml.org one sentence about how they have been “coached” in 2019. What were the encouraging words that helped you professionally. I know you can do it!!



AMLA
Achieved 107 Members in
August!

Next
AMLA Board Meeting
September 19, 2019
7pm!

515-604-9300
Code 294964

In This Issue:

AMLA Values

[#Teach](#)

[AMLA Awards](#)

#Teach**By Tammy Richmond**

“Any genuine teaching will result, if successful, in someone’s knowing how to bring about a better condition of things than existed earlier.” — John Dewey

I started and stopped writing this article too many times to count because there are so many things I think of when it comes to teaching. Most of us probably spend a fair amount of time teaching others without even thinking about it. Go back and read the description of teaching in AMLA’s core principles. It states, “We are teachers first!”

When I think of the best teachers I’ve encountered, whether in an academic or non-traditional setting, they all had a few things in common:

They cared more about the student than the topic.

I’ve watched instructors teach classes they had zero interest in with the same care and enthusiasm as if they were talking about their favorite hobby. Likewise, I’ve watched people teach something they were truly passionate about and only cover a quarter of the material they wanted to cover. In both situations, they truly focused on the student and what they needed rather than their own interest level.

They were relatable.

They shared their experiences, good and bad, rather than their accomplishments. They talked about their challenges and failures, and made me feel comfortable sharing my fears and concerns.

They loved learning.

They never stopped studying and learning things to help them be a better teacher. They welcomed feedback and critiques so they could improve. They loved being challenged with hard questions that made them think and forced them outside of their comfort zone. And, of course, they loved sharing what they learned with others.

Spend some time reflecting on those formal or informal teachers that have impacted you throughout your career. What made them stand out to you? Give some thought to how you can improve as a teacher whether it’s during more formal instruction, or in the way you share knowledge with others.

AMLA Awards Program (part 2)

by Jim Steddum, Executive Director



At the end of August, another round of AMLA Awards were presented. This round to the 2019 Judge Advocate Warrant Officer Advanced Course, Charlottesville, Virginia on August 23, 2019.

Two officers, of reportedly one of the largest Advanced Courses in history JAG School history, were recognized for their achievements with AMLA Awards. CW2 Qunnette McCoy was recognized as the CWO4 Derwin McGriff Leadership Award winner. CW2 Latoya Cooper was recognized as the CW3 (Retired) Carl Rickert Distinguished Honor Graduate.

CW2 McCoy is the third recipient of the CWO4 Derwin McGriff Leadership Award presented in honor of Derwin McGriff, United State Marine Corps, who died suddenly while working at the Pentagon in 2010. Derwin was widely known as respected by both Marines and Soldiers as a steadfast and loyal leader, mentor, and friend. CWO4 Timothy Dechicchis, Legal Administrative Officer to the Commandant of the Marine Corps presented the award to CW2 McCoy.

Also earning the prestigious award are: 2018-CW2 Jessica Marisette and 2017-CW2 AJ VanCannon.

CW2 Cooper was presented the Carl Rickert DHG award by CW3 (Retired) Gib Gahan, the newest Life Member of AMLA. The award named for Carl Rickert recognizes academic excellence. CW3 (Retired) Rickert died at Fort Rucker Alabama where he served as a senior instructor and deputy director, Communications and Management Systems, U.S. Warrant Officer Career College.

Also earning this prestigious award are: 2017-CW2 Raphael Johnson; and 2018-CW2 Brent Vestering.

Congratulations to all of the 2019 Judge Advocate Warrant Officer Basic Course graduates!

Pictured above: COL Jerry Dunlap (Dean, TJAGLCS); CW2 McCoy; CW2 Cooper, CW3(R) Gahan, and CW04 Dechicchis