

# Marine Corps League Department of North Carolina



## Spring Membership Meeting Minutes 21 April 2018

**Hosted by: Sgt WE Plueddemann #1186**  
**Host Commandant: Ralph Dalton**

**Presided by: Commandant Jeffrey Jones**  
**Department of North Carolina**  
**Marine Corps League**

**Meeting start time: 0930**  
**Meeting Location: American Legion, Post 93**  
**Host Contact: Bryan Balow**  
**E-mail: [missingmontana12@gmail.com](mailto:missingmontana12@gmail.com)**  
**Phone Number: (252) 375-6619**

## **09:30 – 12:00 Business Session**

### **Opening Remarks by Department Commandant Jeffrey Jones**

- Meeting called to order
- Post Colors – Sgt-at-Arms – Ralph Farthing
- Pledge of Allegiance – Sgt-at-Arms – Ralph Farthing
- Open Bible and Invocation – Chaplain Bill Boyd [Uncover]
- This Meeting dedicated to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains, and Associates that have received PCS Orders to stand guard at the entrance to the Supreme Commandants residence
- A huge thank you to the color guard and band.

### **Welcome remarks-**

- Thanks, and remarks to Host Detachment: Sgt WE Plueddemann Detachment #1186 Commandants – Ralph Dalton

### **Guest Speaker**

- Mark Munger (MSgt Retired) is the South East region coordinator for the "Marine for Life" network. He has a flyer available about the program. It is not a job board program. It is a tool to help make connections for jobs and education. They have a LinkedIn profile which is a good source for jobs. You can be a resource to help the young Marine as a contact in helping to find a job. Mentorship is coming back into style. [www.MarineForLife.org](http://www.MarineForLife.org)
- Commandant Jones stated that National is pushing out having a M4L representative in each detachment.

### ***10 minute break to excuse our Guests/Guest Speaker***

### **Recognition of National Officer's & National Marines of the Year**

- National Marine of the Year 2006 & Navy Cross recipient - Joe Blick (absent)
- Mideast Division Vice Commandant – Bruce Rakfeldt (absent)
- National & MED Boy Scouts Committee & MED Sgt at Arms - Charles Minton
- National Youth Physical Fitness Chairman - Devell (Bull) Durham (absent)
- 56th Chief Devil Dog - PCDD Leanna Dietrich
- National Assistant Sgt At Arms – Ken Parker
- National Assistant Sgt At Arms – Rick Thomason
- National Historian – Greg Ciesielski

### **Recognition of the Department Marine/Woman of the Year**

- 2017 Department Marine of the Year – Scott Shermeyer (Cherry Point Det #1067)

- 2017 Department Woman of the Year – Ann Clark (PFC Jerry L. McKinney Det #1232) (absent)
- Ask all past MOY & WOY Recipients to stand and be recognized

### **Recognition of Past Department Commandants**

- Jr. Past Department Commandant Charles Minton
- Ask all the remaining Past Department Commandants to stand and be recognized.
  - Dennis Brockman stated he is proud to be here.

### **Recognition of Guests and Invitation to address the membership**

- Mideast Division Vice Commandant – Bruce Rakfeldt (absent)
- MODD NC Pack Worthy Pack Leader – PDD Charles Minton
  - PDD Charles Minton stated we need to encourage dogs to attend pounds and pack meeting. We have 6 pounds in North Carolina (of which 3 are thriving) with 210 members in the Pack.

### **Roll Call of the Department Officers (By the Adjutant – “When called, each Officer shall rise and salute the Commandant.”)**

- Commandant – Jeffrey Jones
- Sr. Vice Commandant – Rick Thomason
- Jr. Vice Commandant – Scott Shermeyer
- Judge Advocate – Denny Mathias
- Jr. Past Commandant – Charles Minton
- Aide-De-Camp- John Dilday
- Chaplain – Bill Boyd
- Assistant Chaplain – Jason Hall
- Sgt.-at-Arms - Ralph Farthing
- Paymaster – Lori King (absent)
- Assistant Paymaster – Randal Rempfer
- Young Marines Service Officer – Jeff Petway (absent)
- Assistant Young Marines Service Officer – Ralph Farthing
- Toys For Tots Coordinator– Larry Hill (absent)
- VAVS Service Officer – Ken Parker
- Legislative Officer – Keith Shearin
- Assistant Legislative Officer – Phil Randall
- Bylaws Committee Chairman – Lisa Ciesielski
- Eagle Scout Coordinator – Charles Minton
- Adjutant – Laura Hamilton
- Web Sergeant – Robbie Savage
- Public Relations – Tim Manchester
- Assistant Adjutant– VACANT

- Historian - Greg Ciesielski

**District Vice Commandants (By the Adjutant – “When called, each DVC shall rise and salute the Commandant.”)**

NC West DVC’s

1. West District – Ric Ledford (absent)
2. Northwest District – Chuck Wright
3. Midwest District – Glenn Perkins
4. Northcentral District – Chuck Stotz
5. Central District – John Dilday
6. Southcentral – Denny Mathias

NC East DVC’s

7. North District – John Staley
8. Northeast District – Mike Black
9. South District – Howard Boyd (absent)
10. Southeast District – Lee Walker
11. East District – Steve Tracy

- Department of North Carolina MCL Auxiliary – Pat Walker

**Roll Call of Detachments (By the Adjutant – “The senior member of each Detachment shall rise, salute the Commandant, state their Detachment position and the number of members present to ensure a quorum is met.”)**

1. John V. Berg Detachment #257 (Kinston)
2. Greater Greensboro Detachment #260 (Greensboro)
3. Onslow County Detachment #262 (Jacksonville)
4. Tar Heel Detachment #733 (Raleigh)
5. Charlotte Detachment #750 (Charlotte)
6. Blue Ridge Detachment #848 (Asheville)
7. Eno River Detachment #872 (Durham) (absent)
8. PFC Charles D. Hare Detachment #914 (Monroe) (absent)
9. Smoky Mountain Detachment #973 (Franklin) (absent)
10. Shawn Knisley Detachment #983 (Fayetteville) (absent)
11. Sand Hills Area Detachment #1001 (Aberdeen) (absent)
12. Paul Ray Purgason Detachment #1005 (Shallotte) (absent)
13. Cherokee County Detachment #1011 (Murphy) (absent)
14. Stanly County Detachment #1021 (Albemarle) (absent)
15. Carolina Borders Detachment #1036 (Calabash) (absent)
16. Cherry Point Detachment #1067 (Havelock)
17. Cape Fear Detachment #1070 (Wilmington) (absent)

18. Percy John Fulton Detachment #1075 (Winston-Salem)
19. Gen. A Hal Turnage Detachment #1096 (Salisbury) (absent)
20. Iredell County Detachment #1097 (Troutman)
21. Gen. Raymond G. Davis Detachment #1162 (Gastonia)
22. Catawba Valley Detachment #1163 (Hickory) (absent)
23. NC Foothills Detachment #1164 (Shelby) (absent)
24. Cpl. Johnny A. Williamson Detachment #1165 (Asheboro) (absent)
25. Cabarrus Detachment #1175 (Concord) (absent)
26. Sgt WE Plueddemann Detachment #1186 (Greenville)
27. Brushy Mountain Detachment #1187 (North Wilkesboro) (absent)
28. PFC. Terry C. Smith Detachment #1193 (High Point) (absent)
29. Tablerock Detachment #1197 (Morganton)
30. John E. Ferguson Detachment #1208 (Lenoir) (absent)
31. LCpl. Alan D. Lam Detachment #1209 (Burlington)
32. Cpl. Chris S. Ebert Detachment #1221 (Spindale) (absent)
33. Sgt. Doug Myers Detachment #1222 (Sylvia) (absent)
34. Sanford Detachment #1223 (Sanford) (absent)
35. PFC. Jerry L. McKinney Detachment #1232 (Wentworth)
36. Carry-On Detachment #1236 (Clayton)
37. PFC. Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 (Huntersville)
38. Richmond Leathernecks Detachment #1252 (Rockingham) (absent)
39. Air, Land, NC Detachment #1257 (Wake Forest)
40. Cpl. Suzi Sannes Detachment #1262 (Rocky Mount)
41. Outer Banks Detachment #1264 (Kitty Hawk)
42. Capt. Jeb F. Seagle Detachment #1265 (Lincolnton) (absent)
43. Mt. Mitchell Detachment #1266 (Spruce Pines) (absent)
44. Gold Leaf Detachment #1276 (Wilson)
45. Orange County Regulators Detachment #1292 (Hillsboro) (absent)
46. Walter Frank Osborne Jr. Detachment #1298 (Sparta)
47. Northwest Triad Detachment #1314 (Stokesdale) (absent)
48. Mountaineer Detachment #1320 (Watauga)
49. Hampstead Detachment #1321 (Pender)
50. Surry County Detachment #1322 (Surry)
51. Crossed Rifles Detachment #1346 (Harnett) (absent)
52. Waynesborough Detachment #1350 (Wayne)
53. High Country Detachment #1389 (Ashe)
54. Swansboro Detachment #1407 (Swansboro)
55. Oriental Dragon Detachment #1413 (Oriental)
56. Asheville Detachment #1417 (Asheville)

**Adjutant's Report ("The minutes from the Department Fall Membership Meeting. These were sent out via email to all Detachments. In the interest of time, I would like to request waiving the reading of the minutes and will gladly accept any corrections you may have concerning them.") Remember, the Minutes don't require a motion and a vote to accept them. The only time a motion and vote is required is if something needs to be changed.**

- The most current version of the minutes is posted on the website.
- The Detachment Quarterly Reports attached to the email announcements for the Quarterly meetings are the most up-to-date versions to be completed. Please do not use older versions as information may have changed from the last version sent.
- If you would like to emails from me directly, besides through your detachment commandant or adjutant, please get me your Name, Email, Detachment #, and Phone # so I can add you to my email group.
- Detachment commandants and adjutants – if you are not getting my emails please check your spam filter and make sure the addresses are in your contact list to come through. The alternative email address has changed to [doncmcla@gmail.com](mailto:doncmcla@gmail.com) with the primary remaining as [adjutant@ncmcl.org](mailto:adjutant@ncmcl.org) .

Charles Minton made the motion to accept the minutes as posted. Second by John Irwin. Motion approved by membership present.

**Paymaster’s Report – (Randal Rempfer and Scott Shermeyer gave paymaster’s report from Lorena King)**

1. Report

**10/1/2017 - 12/31/2017**

▪ <b>Cash brought forward 9/30/2017</b>	
○ Checking .....	\$29,407.50
○ Money Market .....	\$9,184.37
○ <b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$38,591.87</b>
▪ <b>Cash paid out for the time period</b>	
○ Checking .....	\$10,241.59
○ Money Market .....	\$0
○ <b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$10,241.59</b>
▪ <b>Deposits made for the time period</b>	
○ Checking .....	\$7987.28
○ Money Market .....	\$0.69
○ <b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$7,987.97</b>
▪ <b>Balance as of 12/31/2017</b>	
○ Checking .....	\$27,153.19
○ Money Market .....	\$9,185.06
○ <b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$36,338.25</b>

- **Cash brought forward 12/31/2017**
  - Checking ..... \$27,153.19
  - Money Market ..... \$9,185.06
  - **Total** ..... **\$36,338.25**
  
- **Cash paid out for the time period**
  - Checking ..... \$2,537.16
  - Money Market ..... \$0
  - **Total** ..... **\$2,537.16**
  
- **Deposits made for the time period**
  - Checking ..... \$6289.11
  - Money Market ..... \$0.68
  - **Total** ..... **\$6,289.79**
  
- **Balance as of 3/31/2018**
  - Checking ..... \$30,905.14
  - Money Market ..... \$9,185.74
  - **Total** ..... **\$40,090.88**

**Current Balance as of 4/20/2018**

- Checking ..... \$31,058.47
- Money Market ..... \$9,185.74
- **Total** ..... **\$40,244.21**

5:00 PM  
04/20/18  
Cash Basis

MCL, Department of North Carolina  
Profit & Loss  
June 2017 through March 2018

	<u>Jun '17 - Mar 18</u>
<b>Income</b>	
Investments	
Money Market	2.29
<b>Total Investments</b>	<u>2.29</u>
Mid-East Convention	
Mid-East Banquet	480.00
Mid-East Lunch Buffet	225.00
Mid-East Registration	843.02
Mid-East Convention - Other	1,935.00
<b>Total Mid-East Convention</b>	<u>3,483.02</u>
Other Types of Income	
Challenge Coins	149.72
Combat Wounded Veteran Sign	-1,420.00
Gun Raffle - Springfield "Saint"	5,224.19
Gun Raffle - M-1 Grand	880.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	
Humanitarian	
Disaster Relief Fnd Hur. Harvey	0.00
Sophia Bettancourt Donation	0.00
Humanitarian - Other	75.00
Total Humanitarian	<u>75.00</u>
Miscellaneous Revenue - Other	2,078.52
Total Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>2,153.52</u>
Trailer Donations	1,281.37
Unassigned Income	1,975.69
<b>Total Other Types of Income</b>	<u>10,224.49</u>
Program Income	
Life Member Interest Rebate	2,325.05
Membership Dues	6,735.00
<b>Total Program Income</b>	<u>9,060.05</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>22,770.75</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
Department Officer's Expenses	
Chaplain Expenses	200.00
Commandant's Expenses	2,357.88
DVC Expenses	
North Central	331.82
South	253.29
South East	45.64
Total DVC Expenses	<u>630.55</u>
Judge Advocate Expenses	500.00
Paymaster Expenses	
Postage, Mailing Service	170.63
Supplies	157.71
Total Paymaster Expenses	<u>328.34</u>
Sr. Vice Commandant's Expenses	137.46
<b>Total Department Officer's Expenses</b>	<u>4,154.23</u>



	<u>Jun '17 - Mar 18</u>
Meetings Expenses	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	4,297.32
Host Detachment Allowance	200.00
<b>Total Meetings Expenses</b>	<b>4,497.32</b>
Operations	
Bank Fees - NSF Charges	-12.00
Bank Fees - Reversal For NSF Ck	130.00
Bank Fees - Service Charges	33.00
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	75.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>226.00</b>
Other Types of Expenses	
Awards	5.00
Dues (Loan to Det.)	25.00
Multi-Media Expense	278.37
Other Costs	1,073.16
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>1,381.53</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>10,250.08</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12,511.67</b>

Scott Shermeyer explained the combat signs negative income money because it is an expense but not a line item in the budget. The monies have been paid but may not have the repayment from the detachment for this report.

Jeffrey Jones explained that the department is not really making any money on the signs. The detachments can make the money when they sell the sign.

2. Jeffrey Jones asked for motion to accept the Paymaster's report as given, subject to audit.
  - o Cornelius Tindal made the motion to accept subject to audit. Second by Ralph Farthing. Approved by members present.

### **Chaplain's Report – Bill Boyd**

#### **A. Sick or Distressed Members:**

- 1) Your Chaplain, Bill Boyd, has been diagnosed with Parkinson's' last fall.
- 2) Howard Boyd's wife, Chris, had a stroke on Wednesday morning.
- 3) Alfred Peavy had a stroke last Friday.

#### **B. The reading of the names by the Chaplain and by the chiming of the bell by the Sgt. at Arms for each was followed by a moment of silence and a prayer.**

Chaplains Oral Report  
April 21, 2018

Those reported to be ill or otherwise suffering:

The following Marine Corps League Members in the Department of North Carolina have been reported to have answered their final roll call since our last meeting.

The Outer Banks Det.	Donald W. Murphy	3/5/2017
The Crossed Rifles Det.	Jonathan B. Overby	4/28/2017
Tar Heel Det.	Frank Mansfield	8/1/2017
The Mt. Mitchell Det.	Mike Queen	10/16/2017
The Blue Ridge Det.	Charles W. Tierney	11/9/2017
The Onslow county Det.	Frank P. Durbino	11/19/2017
The Blue Ridge Det.	George C. Butler	11/29/2017
The Hampstead Det.	Michael W. Adams	12/9/2017
The Pfc Charles D. Hare Det.	Wallace L. Higgins	12/11/2017
The Sandhills Area Det.	Henry s. Hallett	12/17/2017
The Cherry Point Der.	David F. Britt	12/18/2017
The Mt. Mitchell Det.	Dan Gurley	1/7/2018
The Capt. Jeb Seagle	Aubrey G. Sherrill	1/14/2018
The Cape Fear Det.	Victor E. Sizemore	1/23/2018
The Greater Greensboro Det.	Stanley E. Uplinger	1/25/2018
The Brushy Mountain Det.	Dominic Pante	1/31/2018
The Carolina Borders Det.	John M. Russo	2/4/2018
The Waynesborough Det.	Gerry N. Phelps Sr.	2/10/2018
The Sandhills Area Det.	Grady S. McCullum	2/12/2018
The Tablerock Det.	David W. Stowell	2/16/2018
The Greater Greensboro Det.	Albert M. Johnson	2/20/2018
The Tablerock Det.	John W. Grindel Sr.	2/21/2018
The Blue Ridge Det.	Robert Cheadle	2/21/2018
The Sandhills Area Det.	Albert J. Haebe	3/6/2018
The Air, Land, NC Det.	Tullio N. Zanon	3/12/2018
The Cherokee Det.	Roger W. Hathaway	3/13/2018
The Hampstead Det.	Robert W. Kilroy	3/28/2018
The Oriental Dragon Det.	John I. Hudson	3/29/2018
The High Country Det.	James G. Prim	4/1/2018
<i>The Blue Ridge Det.</i>	<i>Lawrence Rice</i>	<i>4/17/2018</i>

**D.V.C.'s - Report of Officers** – Each DVC will be given 3 minutes to give their reports on events and happenings within their District during the quarter.

- West District – Ric Ledford – Absent
- Northwest District - Chuck Wright – Has an assistant to help him John Erwin. Recommends the charter for 1208 be pulled as they have not met in over 3 years. The other six are averaging 6% unpaid. Four detachments send in reports. There were 83% of the detachments attending the last membership meeting.

- Midwest - District Glenn Perkins – gave his report.
- Northcentral District - Chuck Stotz – I have visited all the Detachments in the North Central District this past 4 months. With all 9 Detachments reporting we have installed 53 new members. Funds were presented to enable a family to visit their son graduating from Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Two detachments Funded and volunteered for Wreaths Across America. A detachment twice served a meal to those in the community the less fortunate averaging 175 meals each time. Another held a monthly bingo at State Veterans home Salisbury and donated a six passenger golf cart to State Veterans home Salisbury. One detachment raised \$1300.00 that was sent to the Semper Fi Fund East Coast that supports the Marines & Sailors and Their Families as needed at Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville.
- Central District – John Dilday – He is working on recruiting and Toys for Tots in his district.
- Southcentral District - Denny Mathias – The district is averaging 12% unpaid. Although all 5 detachments participated in the Toys for Tots program, the Charles D Hare Detachment in Monroe with only 16 active members had an outstanding year, collecting over 30,000 toys. Their toys collected per member ratio far exceeds any department detachment. This small detachment begins their active program in September and finished their program in January, but they work all year making inroads in businesses in the community with commitments to continue or begin their active participation.
- North District - John Staley – The district is averaging 11% unpaid. Detachments could publish an item in local newspaper or TV each month to publicize MCL and local detachment and its accomplishments. All detachments continue to do noteworthy accomplishments; one is working with members to become more active both in MCL and local community All detachments have supported Toys For Tots campaign by providing numerous hours collecting toys and funding and by attending special events. All detachments are providing numerous VAVS hours.
- Northeast District - Mike Black – gave his report.
- South District – Howard Boyd – absent.
- Southeast District – Lee Walker – gave his report.
- East District - Steve Tracy – gave his report.

- Commandant Jones stated that there will be a proposal to redistrict the east districts at the June convention.

### **Commandant's Report:**

#### 1. Good morning Marines.

It has been forever since we last met as a Department. October was a long time ago. I realize I am the one who proposed the bylaw change last June; I guess I did not put enough forethought into my proposal. That being said I am submitting a change again this year. I will be proposing to tighten the scheduling window for membership meetings. Please remember that any member in good standing can propose a bylaw change to be voted upon at the Department convention in June. Proposed changes must be submitted by April 29<sup>th</sup> this year.

As most of you know last October my mother-in-law passed away. Leigh Ann & I appreciate all the support and sympathy we received from across the State. Her passing has changed my agenda for what I wanted to accomplish this year as Commandant. As most of you know I have been on a mission trying to attend every Detachment of the Department during the fiscal year. Leigh Ann and I were left a house that I am trying to remodel. My travel schedule has gotten me in some trouble at home. Remember we have always said families come first. So until I get the house completed where we can move in, I am only going to be able to attend one Detachment meeting a week. Hopefully this won't take too long.

Since we met in October, I have attended 24 Detachment meetings, 11 of which being first time visits for the year. Making my total of 31 different Detachment so far. I have traveled a total of 21,142 miles since last June and have made a total of 95 appearances representing the Department.

Some of the more memorable appearances have been:

- 5 Officer Installations.
- Veterans Day Parade in Jacksonville with the Onslow County Detachment.
- 5 different Birthday Balls being the guest speaker at two of them.
- Rick Thomason and I traveled to China Grove to do an Eagle Scout Ceremony.
- Visited Chapter 10 & 34 Montford Point Marine Association
- 6 Gunny Claus appearances seeing more than 1,400 children.
- High Country Detachment during Wreaths Across America in Salisbury.
- Officer Installation in Greenville, IL.

- Visited NC-2 of the Women's Marine Association
- Mid-Winter Conference in Fredricksburg, VA.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade in Nags Head with the Outer Banks Detachment.
- Presented the opening remarks for the Vietnam Veteran's Commemorative Ceremony on the steps of the State Capitol.
- Spent 3 days at Marine South aboard Camp Lejeune, seeing all the new wears the Marine Corps has available to them.

It has been my honor to serve you as your Commandant & I hope to take the Department to a new level next year. Semper Fi,

### **Report of Staff Officers**

Sr. Vice Commandant – Rick Thomason

- The winter months have been an active time for me this year. Since we last met in October at Ocean Isle, I have represented the Department of North Carolina Marine Corps League at multiple venues.
- Participated in four flag raising events honoring veterans.
- Attended Marine Corps Balls in Oriental, Jacksonville, Burlington and Rocky Mount.
- Attended twenty Detachment Meetings at seventeen different Detachments.
- Officiated at three Officer installations.
- Attended five "Growls" of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs.
- Attended Montford Point Marine Day in Burlington.
- Retrieved the assets of the failed Edenton Detachment 1258.
- Attended an Eagle Scout presentation in China Grove, N.C.
- Attended the NC 2 Women Marines Assoc. Meeting in Havelock.
- Attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony in Raleigh, N.C.
- Attended the Midwinter Conference in Fredericksburg, Va.
- Participated two days at Marine South Expo on base at Camp LeJeune.
- Completed the sale of raffle tickets for the Springfield Armory "Saint".
- Designed, had produced and distributed over 250 Veteran parking signs.
- On April 14th, I attended the funeral for Capt. Samuel Phillips in Pinehurst, N.C. with other members of the League. The show of support for the family by the Corps, community and League was impressive, as was the rendering of military honors and a helicopter "Fly over" during the folding of the flag.
- Since taking office in June of 2017, I have covered 20,823 miles representing the DoNC MCL as I visited 29 Detachments, officiated at seven officer installation ceremonies and attended thirteen Growls of the MODD. The legacy of the Marine Corps League is that

of service to the Marine and his family. You are my Marine Family. I am here to serve you.

Jr. Vice Commandant – Scott Shermeyer

- Marine South Expo
  - I had the opportunity to assist with hospitality for our MCL staff & volunteers during Marine South Expo last week at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. We stuffed at least 1,150 bags with Semper Fi magazines and the newest MCL coffee mugs (which have red lids and handles, instead of brown as in past years\_). Unfortunately, due to logistics issue, we weren't able to track down the driver delivering the pallets & boxes of new mugs until 1400 on the last day of the show. Guess, we'll have to go to Modern Day Marine at MCB Quantico in September to get our mugs. We staffed a recruiting booth during the expo, much to the efforts of Jack Jackson from Onslow County Detachment, but my assessment after the fact is that we aren't really going about it quite right. Watching the other vendors, I realized that what they are doing is building interest, building bridges, and establishing a long-term relationship based on just getting contact info. If we apply that approach, we can spoon-feed information to keep reeling them in. When we took time to make the whole pitch and try to close the sale, we took too long and lost a lot of other prospects in the meantime. We'll regroup for next year.
- Membership Rosters
  - Over the past few days, we have rec'd the entire MidEast Division roster from National HQ MCL, from which I split out Department of North Carolina's report, then from there split into separate detachment files. It's tedious and takes a bit of concentration to avoid dorking it up, so hopefully all went well. I'll let you all be the judge of that, so let me know if you encounter anything out of order.
  - Once I split the files out, I upload them to shared folder via Google Docs and send those links to our DoNC Adjutant, which she then disseminates out to Department staff and detachment commandants and paymasters based on the list of email addresses that she has on file.
  - If you have not yet rec'd your March 31st, 2018 membership roster, check the lines of communication and make sure that the Department has your current contact information.
- Recruiting & Retention
  - Overall, we are still losing members. We're down 50 members since last roster in December. As our Chaplain reported, we lost 29 members who reported to the Supreme Commandant.
- Honorary Active Duty (HAD) Members
  - According to my tally, based on March roster, we currently have 156 active duty honorary members. Although the names are listed, the rosters do not show totals. Top 4 Detachments: Onslow (50), Swansboro (29), Cherry Point (27), & Greater Greensboro (21). Some HAD's are prominent and promoters of the Marine Corps League, such as Col Todd Ferry, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station

Cherry Point, who just announced that his orders have been extended for a third year.

- Transmittals

- The DoNC Paymaster, Lorena King reports that she has been receiving an alarming number of transmittals with discrepancies, making her job quite a challenge. Remember to fill-in all of the blanks and double-check your information. If you are still using multiple-part forms, consider using fill-in .pdf forms for transfers & transmittals, instead.

- Pro-rated New Member Dues Reminder

- Remember, now that we're into the second half of the membership season, after March 1st, new members – associate or regular only need to pay \$15 for National and Department membership dues. But, that amount may be more depending on how much your detachment charges and whether or not they pro-rate for mid-year new joins.

- Life Membership

- A great way to tackle retention is to promote the paid life membership program. Member must already be in good standing (i.e. current on dues). Rates are based on age and range from:

Ages	Amount
18-35	\$500
36-50	\$400
51-64	\$300
65-over	\$200

- Detachment Dues Analysis

- In our detachment, we maintain a zero sum net gain on memberships, new or renewal. Detachment dues from DoNC, range from \$25.00 (“Onslow County” and “Cherry Point”) to \$45.00 (“Asheville”), with most values at the low end. The median is \$32.00. 22 detachments charge \$30 renewal rate, while 19 detachments charge annual renewal rate of \$35. Is this a possible factor when it comes to members non-renewing? Maybe!

- Challenges

- Admittedly, there are some challenges with the membership database. According to conversation with National Commandant, they got just so far down the path and encountered an issue with managing dual members. In the meantime, I know that based on my experience, it's hit or miss as to what order and how long it will take transmittals to make it round trip when I send them in as Paymaster of Cherry Point Detachment. Just keep on it, ensure accuracy to avoid any complications that might slow up the process...and most importantly, be patient. They are called growing pains for a reason.

- Dues Renewals

- Remember, National is no longer sending out MCL dues renewal notices, which makes your Detachment Paymaster's job a bit more challenging. You'll need to keep

up with members who for whatever reason did not get caught up on the new consolidated renewal.

- Going Forward
  - We have 57 detachments on the membership roster, however 1 of them has surrendered their charter: Davidson County detachment #1258. Along with Albemarle Detachment #1103, both charters were turned into National at the Mid-Winter Conference. Davidson County still has about 17 Life Members. I prepared the Transfer Request Forms for those remaining members in order to transfer them to neighboring detachment(s). By the time the June 30 roster comes out, we will be down to 56 detachments.
- Detachment Recruiters
  - Members at the detachment level are obviously on the front lines and the best source of recruiting, although everything that we do helps to build the brand (or break it down). Keep track of your recruiting efforts and submit national Jr. Vice Award nomination for any member who recruits 5 or more regular members.
- Other Awards
  - Detachment Staff, take time to acknowledge the work that your detachment members are doing and encourage nomination, selection, and presentation of various detachment Marine Corps League awards. Submit someone from your detachment for Department Marine of the Year, Mideast Division Marine of the Year, and any other awards that are fitting based on the merits of those individuals who are hard at work day after day to ensure that your programs, events, and fundraisers are going according to plan.
- Retention Letter
  - When all else fails, the Marines don't leave Marines behind approach leaves a lasting impression. We aren't perfect, but we care, and we noticed that you weren't on board anymore. I'm crafting a retention letter based on the best of other letters that I've authored or gotten my hands on.
- NC MAL list
  - I've requested and rec'd a member at large list from National, which I will be converting to Excel spreadsheet and using as basis for mail merge campaign. There are 155 current paid members on the most recent NC Member at large list, with 32 PLM's.
- Unpaid Members – Mail Campaign
  - Similar to my Member at Large strategy, I am going to target our unpaid members based on latest roster. Before I blast out, I will cross-check the list with our Department Paymaster to reduce the cost for postage by eliminating names if we determine that there are members who we've rec'd dues renewals for, but maybe hadn't hit the March roster.
- Reinstatements and Exit Survey
  - Once I've targeted our unpaid members, I am going to attempt to obtain or compile a list of inactive members that we've dropped. Based on what we've been able to get before, that list contains all of the members whose membership has lapsed and thus have fallen off of your detachment roster. We'd like to reach out to these members to try to bring them back into the League.



- Remember, when you want to reinstate use, code RI on the transmittal.  
When I reach out to dropped members, maybe we can try to find out what factors prevented them from renewing or remaining active with the League. I will offer them options to provide feedback via snail mail, email, or online survey which I will report back to DVC's, Detachment staff, & Department Staff.
- At the end of the day, each member has the ability to influence – positively or negatively, existing or prospective members. Delegate, mentor, socialize, listen, engage.
- Department Meeting Attendance
- There are currently 20 detachments on track to receive red “Perfect Attendance” streamers.

There was a question as to the national pro-rated dues.  
This information was presented:

current due date	national dues	DoNC dues
1-Dec-16	40	10
1-Jan-17	30	10
1-Feb-17	30	10
1-Mar-17	30	10
1-Apr-17	30	10
1-May-17	30	10
1-Jun-17	30	10
1-Jul-17	20	10
1-Aug-17	20	10
1-Sep-17	20	5
1-Oct-17	20	5
1-Nov-17	20	5
1-Dec-17	20	5

This will bring each month to a 1Sept18 due date

Renewals have no discounted amount after 1Sept17.

New members have 2 different amounts for National depending on join months:  
31Aug-29Feb = 25 National / 5 DoNC and expire 1Sept  
1Mar-30Aug = 15 National / 5 DoNC and expire 1Sept

This does not include any amount for the detachment, only DoNC and National amounts.

Commandant Jones brought up a couple other items.

- The Marine Corps has come to the Marine Corps League for help with funerals. Last fall you were asked for a contact for this purpose. They would like an Honor Guard contact for each detachment. I&I would like one MCL member to attend with two of the Marines (in blues) to help so they can maintain readiness. They are also looking into the uniform for every MCL member will look the same and there will be a formal training for persons assisting. This is being discussed. They are also looking into getting a stipend for the support of their staff. The Commandant is making this a

nationwide usage. Please get any POC contact for your county go the Adjutant to help create the spreadsheet for the I&I staff to use when this is implemented.

- Recruiting new membership thought is to start a Rifle Team. As we all were shooters at one time, this could be a good way of recruiting new members.
- Last week at Marine South, I was able to get a couple new members. They knew nothing about the Marine Corps League.

## **Recess of the meeting and blessing of the lunch meal by Chaplain Bill Boyd**

**11:41 – 13:00: Lunch Break**

**1300: Business Session continued....**

Judge Advocate – Denny Mathias

- In addition to the required duties of the Judge Advocate as defined in the Department bylaws, I have been working on getting the department and your detachments' bylaws updated. My action items include:
  - **Bylaws Hard & Soft Copy** – This goal is to have in the JA files an approved hard copy of the bylaws for every detachment and a matching soft copy (the editable file used to create the hard copy). Every detachment commandant and judge advocate has had several reminders to make that happen for their detachment. To date Phil Randall and I have only nine detachments' approved and soft copy of their bylaws. This year after the National Convention in August, every detachment will have to review their bylaws to ensure they are still compliant with the National Bylaws. Most detachments will have to revise their bylaws. I encourage each detachment to put their hands on their bylaws soft copy. Waiting to the time you need revisions made, is the situation I am warning the detachments to avoid.
  - **Department Bylaws Rewrite** – The 2012 version of the bylaws, prepared after the 2012 Convention with approved amendments, were distributed with most of the subsection no longer numbered; Article Five, Section 560 is a good example with 13 paragraphs at the same level. I received approval from the National Judge Advocate, Warren Griffin, to reformat our Department Bylaws to reflect the 2011 structure with properly formatted subsections. This has been accomplished and is now posted on the Department website.
  - **Amendments** – I have received two amendments to the bylaws. You can propose any amendment, but they must be received by me by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 9 days from now and 60 days prior to the Department Convention. **Any submitted amendment must reference the revised bylaws article/section/subsection as presented on the website.** All approved amendments will be posted on the Department website by May 30. I encourage that delegates to the Department Convention print out any amendments in which there is an interest.

- **Secretary of State** – Each detachment registered with the NC Secretary of State to incorporate. Among other information this registration includes the legal name and address of your detachment and the name and address of the Principal and Registered Agent. If any of this information changes, go to the Business Registration/Forms page and select the desired form. Your bylaws section that identifies your detachment name should be the same name on file with the SoS.
- **National Scholarship** – The deadline for submitting an application for a National Scholarship is 11 September. All details on the application process are located in the National Website at <https://www.mclnational.org/marine-corps-league-programs.html>. Be sure to fill out the forms completely. Of the 250 applications received in 2017, 92 were rejected for various reasons, the most prevalent reason for 62 being rejected was “blank blocks/missing required information.”
- To date, there have been no departmental grievance hearings this fiscal year. It is admirable to see that the detachments are handling the issues that arise within their own detachments. Keep up the good work.
- There was some good discussion about tax deduction status and filing for grants through companies such as Walmart. The Marine Corps League is a 501(C)4. If you as a detachment change your status from a 501(C)4 to a 501(C)3, you will lose your association with the Marine Corps League National. Walmart has changed their policy that only 501(C)3 and 19 qualify for their community grants starting this year.
- When you fill out ROI for officer installation, the address listed on it must legally be the personal mailing address for each person, not the general PO Box for your detachment. This follows the guidelines of the Secretary of State requirements.

Bylaws Committee Chairman – Lisa Ciesielski

- All submission of By-Laws due by 29 April 2018
- She has not received any proposed changes yet.

Sgt.-at-Arms – Ralph Farthing

- Commandant Jones stated the department is in possession of 2 popup tents (10x10) from a former detachment. We need to do something with them. He suggested a raffle at the convention for them. There also is 1 nice 2-sided frame for a charter and a good number of miscellaneous medals and ribbons.
  - Charles Minton made the motion to raffle 1 tent and door prize the other tent and sell the medals / ribbons at the convention. Second by Grant Thrayer. Approved by members present.

Aide-De-Camp – John Dilday

- Convention 2018 – Percy J Fulton Detachment #1075, Winston-Salem, The Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center, June 29 to July 1.
- Fall 2018 – North West District, Boone, October 5 – 6
- Spring 2019 – LCpl Alan D Lam #1209, Burlington
- Convention 2019 – Onslow County Detachment #262, Jacksonville

- Fall 2019 – Greater Greensboro Detachment #260, Greensboro
- Spring 2020 – available

### **Report of Project Leaders:**

- Eagle Scout Program – Charles Minton – read through the detachments who participate. He does not get reports from all detachments. The adjutant sends me the reports she gets, but that is still not from everyone. The MCL Auxiliary is authorized to present the Gold Award to the Girl Scouts.
- Toys For Tots – Larry Hill (absent) – Jeffrey Jones presented the numbers from the report submitted by Larry Hill from 31 detachments.
- Young Marine Program – Jeff Petway (absent)
- VAVS Program – Ken Parker – stated there were 982 hours reported from 40 detachments.
- Fund-Raising – Rick Thomason – stated the rifle tickets have all been sold we have made just over \$4,000. The wounded warrior signs profit \$1.50 for the department per sign. There are still some challenge coins available.

Commandant Jones asked for a motion from the Floor to accept the Officer and Committee reports as given or submitted.

John Irwin made the motion to accept the reports. Second by Ralph Farthing. Approved by members present.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Rifle raffle – SVC Rick Thomason – All tickets have been sold. We can draw for the winner. It was decided to draw the winning ticket. The Bible was closed. The winner is Omar Walle. The winner was contacted by phone. The bible was opened at 1407.
- Adjutant Laura Hamilton
  - Any member who wants to receive an email needs to get her their contact information and they will be put into a group.
  - Please send a copy of the ROI to her so the contact information can be kept up to date.
  - Briefly went over the department quarterly report summary. Please get them turned in!

## **New Business**

- SVC Rick Thomason went over options of a new raffle for a long rifle.
  - Krueger Creedmore 6.5. He has 3 vendor estimates (he presented the estimates). 1000 tickets will be printed.
  - There was some discussion about the 3 estimates and the weapon.
  - John Irwin made the motion to accept the estimate of vendor #3. Second by Charles Minton. Approved by members present.
  - Tickets will be available starting at the convention in June.
  - The drawing will probably be at the convention next year.
  - We need to spread out the tickets for detachments to help sell. This is too many tickets for one person (Sr Vice) to sell by himself.
  
- Commandant Jones went over a fundraiser of a calendar and how it would work.
  - The cost is \$2 each for printing of 1000 calendars. 910 are sold for \$30 each. Approximately \$13,000 to \$20,000 income.
  - Each calendar is numbered 0 to 999. There is a postcard which would have to be sent back to register your calendar. Each calendar has a chance to win 365 times.
  - Each day is an opportunity to win a prize. The daily winner number is the same number drawn at the first NC Pick3 drawing at 2321 hours.
  - Daily winners receive \$35, Saturdays receive \$40, and Sundays receive \$50. Holidays have a different amount.
  - It is desired to use these fundraiser monies to better help the charities we support. It would be good to raise the DVC stipend amount as they also drive a lot of miles.
  - The legal side is this is a raffle of guaranteeing a prize. We are just using the lottery to draw the number for us.
  - The calendars will be 2019 calendars, so there will be six months to sell the calendars. If approved, we will have the calendars ready for the convention.
  - Jeffrey Jones made the motion to proceed with the calendar fundraiser. Second by Greg Ciesielski. Approved by members present.
  
- Greg Ciesielski announced he is now the National Historian.
  - The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marine Corps League is 2023.
  - He and his team is preparing for it now. He needs old data on the detachments and departments.
  
- Sound system – is going defunct. We need to look into a system.
  - We will look into the pricing for a new system to present at the convention.
  - Ralph Farthing made the motion to look into a new sound system. Second by Denny Mathias. Approved by members present.

### **Good of the League**

- PCDD Leanna Dietrich – stated Pennsylvania MCL Foundation is selling an M1 Garand as a fundraiser to help an Auxiliary member who needs a kidney transplant. The person has to raise \$30,000 just to be put on the transplant list.
- Dalton Ault – stated his detachment will be hosting the convention in Winston-Salem.
  - The hotel rate is \$64/night range.
  - Lunch will be \$10 and the banquet is \$40.
  - June 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the hotel rate.
- Tom Northrop – stated their detachment is selling raffle tickets to help the Prim family for a custom made wormy chestnut cabinet.
- Lewis Pleasants – Mud Run on June 9<sup>th</sup> which helps the 9 charities they support. Commandant Jones stated that there will be a DoNC officer team in the Mud Walk: himself, Rick Thomason, Lori King and Laura Hamilton.
- Charles Minton – His wife has been cancer free for just over a year now. He and Donna are hosting a kayak float down the Tar River to help women related cancer research. Teal Yacking About It is their Facebook page.

### **Announcements**

- Mideast convention – June 15 -17 in Maryland
- DoNC convention – June 29-30 in Winston-Salem
- Jeffrey Jones – he will run for Commandant again.
- Rick Thomason – he will run for Sr Vice Commandant again.
- Scott Shermeyer – he will run for Jr Vice Commandant again.
- Denny Mathias – he will run for Judge Advocate again.
- YANKY72 Plane Crash Memorial dedication ceremony is July 14 in Leflore County Mississippi. Hosted by MCL Department of Mississippi. We have a pamphlet on it.

### **Closing of the Meeting per Ritual**

- Closing remarks by Cmdt. Jones
- Singing of the Marines Hymn
- “Good Night Chesty, wherever you are!”
- Retire the Colors
- Sr. Vice Cmdt.’s last duty – Rick Thomason
- Chaplain – Prayer and close the Bible – Bill Boyd
- Meeting adjourned at 1512