

Marine Corps League

Department of North Carolina



Spring Membership Meeting Minutes

6 April 2019

Hosted by: LCpl Alan D Lam Detachment 1209
Host Commandant: Robbie Savage

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

Meeting start time: 0930

Meeting Location: The Best Western Burlington

Host Contact: Robbie Savage

E-mail: rsavage5114@gmail.com

Phone Number: 336-266-3411

1. Opening Remarks by Dept. Commandant Jeffrey Jones

- Meeting called to order at 0930
- Post Colors – West Alamance High School NJRoTC
- Pledge of Allegiance – Sgt-at-Arms – Ralph Farthing
- Open Bible and Invocation – Chaplain Jason Hall
- 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
- COA for color guard – West Alamance High School NJRoTC

2. Recognition of other Guests by the Host Detachment

- Thanks and remarks to Host Detachment Commandant: LCpl Alan D Lam
Detachment #1209 – Robbie Savage welcomed everyone.

3. Recognition of National Officers & National Marines of the Year

- Mideast Division Vice Commandant – Bruce Rakfeldt
- Mideast Division Marine of the Year 2018 – Rick Thomason
- National & MED Boy Scouts Committee & MED Sgt at Arms - Charles Minton
- National Youth Physical Fitness Chairman - Devell (Bull) Durham
- M.O.D.D. Kennel Dog of the Year 2018 – Rick Thomason
- National Assistant Sgt At Arms – Ken Parker
- National Assistant Sgt At Arms – Rick Thomason
- National Historian – Greg Ciesielski
- National Marine 4 Life – Mark Munger (absent)

4. Recognition of the Department Marine/Woman of the Year

- 2018 Department Marine of the Year – Glenn Perkins (Gen Raymond G Davis Det #1162)

- 2018 Department Woman of the Year – Gwen Perkins (Gen Raymond G Davis Det #1162) (absent)
- Ask all past MOY & WOY Recipients to stand and be recognized

5. Recognition of Past Department Commandants

- Jr. Past Department Commandant Charles Minton
- Ask all the Past Department Commandants to stand and be recognized.

6. Recognition of Guests with Invitation to address the membership

- Mideast Division National Vice Commandant – Bruce Rakfeldt
 - Red blazers, men's, will not be carried in the ships store. It has been found online at JCPenny for \$80 to \$100. It is a 4-button sleeve jacket; there is a by-law proposal to allow for 3-button or 4-button jackets.
 - There were 3 bids for the 2020 National Convention brought back to the Mid-Winter Conference– Charleston, Tulsa, and Daytona Beach. The Board of Trustees chose Daytona Beach. August 6-15, 2020.
 - Marine For Life is growing. David Ossian, National M4L Coordinator is very happy with North Carolina and the Mideast Division.
 - The 2020 Midwinter conference will be in Norfolk, VA.
 - The Mideast Conference will be June 21-23 in WV. We will be able to vote for the new National District Vice Commandant at this conference.
- MODD NC Pack Worthy Pack Leader – PDD Charles Minton
 - Explained what is the Military Order of the Devil Dog – the fun and honor society of the League. We help raise funds for children's hospitals and North Carolina has started the trend of collecting food for local animal shelters.
 - Explained why there is a MODD – originally created to help blow off steam at the national convention during the middle of the week.
 - Explained how to join the MODD – must be a regular MCL member for 1 year. Can advance in rank after 1 year in each collar color; must go to national for Supreme Growl to advance to yellow collar. There are annual dues just like the League.
- MCL Auxiliary Mideast Vice President – Pat Walker
- MCL Department of South Carolina Commandant – Jim Stone
 - DoSC still has quarterly meetings. Their next is April 20th.
 - DoSC convention is same weekend as DoNC.
 - Deborah Stone, wife, is the DoSC PR Officer.

7. Chapel of Four Chaplains Presentation

- Jeremy Barton read through the presentation ceremony.

- Presentations to:
 - Bill Boyd – Legion of Honor Award
 - Hank Robson – Legion of Honor Award
 - Don F Bennett Jr – Legion of Honor Award

10-minute break to excuse any guests, Honor Guard or non-members that may need to leave at this time - 1026

Meeting called to order - 1037

8. Roll Call of 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 – Keith Shearin
- Judge Advocate – Denny Mathias (absent)
- Jr. Past Commandant – Charles Minton
- Aide-De-Camp- John Dilday
- Chaplain – Bill Boyd
- Assistant Chaplain – Jason Hall
- Sgt.-at-Arms - Ralph Farthing
- Paymaster – Randal Rempfer
- Young Marines Service Officer – Jeff Petway (absent)
- Assistant Young Marines Service Officer – Ryan Siemer (absent)
- Toys For Tots Coordinator– Larry Hill (absent)
- VAVS Service Officer – Ken Parker
- Legislative Officer – Phil Randall (absent)
- Assistant Legislative Officer – Thomas Bates
- Bylaws Committee Chairman – Lisa Ciesielski
- Eagle Scout Coordinator – Charles Minton
- Assistant Eagle Scout Coordinator – Karen Barton
- Marine For Life Liaison – Todd Abbott
- Adjutant – Laura Hamilton
- Web Sergeant – Robbie Savage
- Public Relations – Tim Manchester
- Assistant Adjutant– VACANT
- Historian - Greg Ciesielski
- Chapel of Four Chaplains – Jeremy Barton

9. District Vice Commandants

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

A. NC West DVC’s

- West District – Ric Ledford
- Northwest District – Chuck Wright
- Midwest District – Glenn Perkins
- Northcentral District –Chuck Stotz
- Central District – John Dilday
- Southcentral – Denny Mathias (absent)

B. NC East DVC’s

- North District – John Staley
- Northeast District – Mike Black (absent)
- South District – Howard Boyd
- Southeast District – Lee Walker
- East District – Steve Tracy (absent)

10. 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) (absent)
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. PFC Charles D. Hare Detachment #914 (Monroe) (absent)
8. Smoky Mountain Detachment #973 (Franklin) (absent)
9. Shawn Knisley Detachment #983 (Fayetteville) (absent)
10. Sand Hills Area Detachment #1001 (Aberdeen)
11. Paul Ray Purgason Detachment #1005 (Shallotte)
12. Cherokee County Detachment #1011 (Murphy)
13. Stanly County Detachment #1021 (Albemarle)
14. Carolina Borders Detachment #1036 (Calabash) (absent)
15. Cherry Point Detachment #1067 (Havelock)
16. Cape Fear Detachment #1070 (Wilmington) (absent)

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

11. Adjutant's Report

The minutes from the Fall Membership meeting are 18 pages long. These were sent out via email to all Detachments. These are available for downloading from the Department Website. 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.

- 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.
- Quarterly Reports now have a question about the number of funerals your detachment has participated in some form.
- 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 with the primary remaining as adjutant@ncmcl.org .
- Please make sure a copy of your latest ROI is sent to the Adjutant as well as the Paymaster (who gets the original signed hardcopy).
- An Excel spreadsheet titled “2019 DoNC Quick Reference DDDD” has been sent out to all detachments. Please make sure this is shared with all of your detachment members. It will be updated on occasion with a new dated version to be sent out.

Commandant Jones, asks for a motion to waive reading of the minutes

John Irwin mad the motion to waive the reading and to approve the minutes.

Second by Ralph Farthing. Approved by members present.

12. Paymaster's Report – Randal Rempfer

- Give financial update [Current Budget and Current Expenditures DoNC]

Paymaster Report

06/01/2018 – 04/04/2018

- Cash brought forward 09/01/2018
 - Checking\$ 25,340.31
 - Money Market\$ 9,186.90
 - Total\$34,527.21

- Deposits made for the time period
 - Checking\$ 50,672.18
 - Money Market \$ 1.60
 - Total \$ 50,673.78

- Cash disbursed for the time period
 - Checking \$ 17,968.31
 - Money Market \$ 0.00
 - Total\$ 17,968.31

- Balance as of 09/01/2018
 - Checking \$ 58,044.18
 - Money Market \$ 9,188.50
 - Total \$ 67,232.68

MCL, Department of North Carolina
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
 Fiscal Year 2018/2019

	Jun '18 - May 19	Actual '18-'19	
Income			
Investments			
Money Market	2.00	2.06	
Total Investments	<u>2.00</u>	<u>2.06</u>	
Other Types of Income			
Fundraising Revenue	20000	27312.08	
2019 Calendar Raffle			14,995.00
Challenge Coins			40.00
Compat Wounded Vet Signs			559.45
Gun Raffle - Ruger Rifle			11,717.61
Total Other Types of Income	<u>20000.00</u>	<u>27312.08</u>	
Program Income			
Humanitarian/Disaster Relief		20808.78	
Cmdt Overage Reimbursement			
Life Member Interest Rebate			
Membership Dues	5250	5100.00	Based on amount received last year
Total Program Income	<u>5250.00</u>	<u>25908.78</u>	Based on 1050 paid memberships
Total Income	<u>25252.00</u>	<u>53222.90</u>	\$ 27,970.90 Above Budget
Expense			
Advertising	500		
Department Officer's Expenses			
Adjutant Expenses	600	139.37	
Chaplain Expenses	500		
Commandant's Expenses	3540.25	252.35	
DVC Expenses			
Central	400		
East	400		
Mid West	400		
North	400		
North Central	400	222.36	
North East	400		
Northwest	400		
South	400	135.01	
South Central	400	175.26	
South East	400	39.48	
West	400	229.88	
Total DVC Expenses	<u>4400.00</u>	<u>801.99</u>	

Total DVC Expenses	4400.00	601.88		
Jr. Vice Commandant's Expenses	600.00	342.18		
Judge Advocate Expenses	600.00	600.00		
Paymaster Expenses				
Postage, Mailing Service	400.00	123.65		
Printing and Copying	25.00	25.00		
Supplies	100.00	48.98		
Paymaster Expenses - Other	300.00	283.38		
Total Paymaster Expenses	825.00	488.99		
Sr. Vice Commandant's Expenses	600.00	357.84		
Total Department Officer's Expenses	11865.25	2952.70		
Meetings Expenses				
Mid-East Divison Host	100.00			
Miscellaneous Meetings	100.00			
Mid-East Divison Conference	0.00			
Host Detachment Allowance	600.00	600.00		*NOTE: \$200 Allowance for Onslow Det. Disbursed
Total Meetings Expenses	800.00	600.00		
Operations				
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	100.00			
Web Site Expenses	100.00			
Total Operations	200.00			
Other Types of Expenses				
Humanitarian Fund/Disaster Relief	0.00	11919.39	\$ 8,889.39	Balance Available
2019 Calendar Winners	8500.00	1770.00	\$ 13,225.00	Balance to Date
Awards	400.00	110.50		
Convention Expense	0.00	242.88		
Mideast Conference Expense	0.00	100.00		
Combat Veteran Sign Purchase	0.00	450.00	\$ 109.45	Balance to Date
Fundraiser Expense	0.00	1945.00		
Wreaths Across America	1000.00	1000.00		
Gunny Clause	1000.00	0.00		
Multi-Media Expense	100.00	0.00		
New Detachment Allowance	200.00	0.00		
NC Veterans Council	150.00	0.00		
Total Other Types of Expenses	11350.00	17537.55		
Total Expense	24515.25	21090.25		
Net Income	736.75	32132.65		

John Irwin made the motion to accept the financial report subject to audit.
Charles Minton seconded the motion. Approved by members present.

- Re-Instatement (RI) process versus Payment of delinquent membership in full.
 - Re-Instatement is forgiving back dues owed and having a new Time In Grade.
 - Payment of delinquent is getting current and keeping Time In Grade.

13. Chaplain's Report – Jason Hall

- Report of any member or member's family known to be sick or in distress.

At this time, I would like to ask for prayers for the following members who have been reported to be in Sickness or Distress at this time:

Marine Phil Randal of the PFC Jerry L McKinney Detachment. He is currently in the Hospital with an undiagnosed illness.

Chuck Wright of the Mountaineer Detachment has recently undergone hip replacement surgery.

I would also ask that you keep those members of your Detachments who have been reported to be in sickness or distress.

- Report of any deceased MCL member within the last quarter.

General Raymond E. Davis Det. 1162	Franklin D. Boothe	9/23/2018
Stanley County Det 1021	Rickey J. Thompson	10/23/2018
Eno River Det 872	Merle J. Minor	10/5/2018
Greater Greensboro Det 260	Earnesto Karoly	Jun-18
Greater Greensboro Det 260	William C. Harris Jr.	5/24/2018
High Country Det 1389	Wyvonna T. Ring	11/16/2018
General Raymond E. Davis Det. 1162	Charles Painter	11/21/2018
Greater Greensboro Det 260	William L. Wood Jr.	11/17/2018
Johnny Williamson Det 1165	John R. Coletrane	12/5/2018
Outer Banks Det 1264	Dennis R. Thompson	12/6/2018
High Country Det 1389	Thomas W. Ring Sr.	12/6/2018
Onslow County Det 262	Conrad W. Hemingway	12/26/2018
Brushy Mountain Det 1187	Edwin J. Canter	12/4/2018
Cape Fear Det 1070	Paul M. Slebodnik	1/4/2019
Sandhills Area Det 1001	Louis M. DiGregorio	12/18/2018
Iredell County Det 1097	Donald B. Coffey	1/22/2019
Cpl Chris S Ebert 1221	Delbert J. Ligon	11/8/2018
Cpl Chris S Ebert 1221	Roland E. Conrad Jr.	2/2/2018
Carolina Borders Det 1036	John Robert Shea	1/18/2019
Cherry Point Det 1067	Thomas F. Martynowski	1/18/2019
High Country Det 1389	Ernest J. O'Banion	2/16/2019
Charlotte Det 750	James M. Stio	2/6/2019

Onslow County Det 262	David E Meacom	2/15/2019
Charlotte Det 750	Edward W. McLuskie	3/10/2019
Iredell County Det 1097	Stanley A. Thompson	3/18/2019
Blue Ridge Det 848	WM Thomas Bullard II	3/19/2019
Hampstead Det 1321	Brian Anthony Matthews	3/27/2019
Outer Banks Det 1264	Gary L. Felder	3/15/2019
Davidson County Det 1103	Bobbie B. White	
Davidson County Det 1103	Brenda K Hepler	
Davidson County Det 1103	Frances H. Eller	
Davidson County Det 1103	Hubert M. Leonard	
Davidson County Det 1103	Michael G. Smith	
Cherokee Detachment 1011	William Q. Key	
Cherokee Detachment 1011	Carl Speigel	
Cherokee Detachment 1011	John M. Schell	
Cherokee Detachment 1011	Jack J. Rhodes	

- Please pause for a moment of silence for our fallen Marines.

14. 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.

A. NC West DVC's

- West District – Ric Ledford
 - Since September 2018, due to shoulder surgery, I was only able to communicate with the West District Detachments via email and phone. Once I was released I did visit with the Cherokee Detachment and the Franklin Detachment.
 - The Sylva Detachment is still struggling to get membership information squared away. The paymaster has not returned any phone calls and has no email address for written correspondence. I have tasked the Commandant with getting this matter resolved. I am afraid the we will be asking them to surrender their charter very soon.
 - Franklin Detachment has someone in place now working to get their membership information corrected. They do have members who are participating. However, their roster is inaccurate and will take time to be corrected.
 - Cherokee Detachment is still doing a lot of cross boarders outreach with the GA Blueridge Detachment. They have had some membership issues and are working through them. Two past members have been notified that they will not be allowed to reinstate/renew their membership. This has been discussed at the DoNC and National level and all parties are aware.

- The Asheville and Blueridge Detachments are still thriving and growing. I performed the officer installation for the Asheville Detachment in March just prior to the Dept membership meeting.
- I have informed all 5 Detachments that an audit of their membership records needs to be performed with the next quarter so we can get all the records in order and back on track.
- Northwest District – Chuck Wright (absent)
- Midwest District – Glenn Perkins
 - District average of unpaid is 51%. Two detachments are low percentages.
 - All detachments are in good standing.
 - Trying to get all detachments to send in their reports.
 - Telling them to just speak to a Marine when you meet them, not twist their arms.
 - The Shriners Club was competing with us on the calendars, though \$40 each.
- Northcentral District –Chuck Stotz
 - Though I have not visited the Detachment in the Northcentral District in the past 3 months because of illness I am pleased to announce that all of the detachments are continuing their community and veterans services as prescribed by our mission
 - The following numbers were presented through Detachment Quarterly Reports and newsletters.
 - Volunteer Hours: 2111
 - Scout Awards: 58
 - Veteran Service Hours: 27
 - Toys For Tots Toys Collected: 85876 (Reported by two Detachments-1075/1322
 - Fund Raising: \$7150 (Bowling Tournament & Belk Coupon Sales)
 - Funeral Participation 34
- Central District – John Dilday
 - Report given.
- Southcentral – Denny Mathias (absent – Jeffrey Jones read report)
 - District Total members 242, unpaid 10, unpaid 4.1 %
 - The PFC Charles D Hare Detachment 914 in Monroe still maintains at 16 life members with 5-7 members attending the monthly meetings. Most of the non-attending are ageing out. I am seeking out Marines in the county working for the police/sheriff departments, fire department, and as EMTs, These people have demonstrated their desires to serve and I hope to bring out the Marine spirit that still is in them.
 - For this fiscal year the Charlotte Detachment awarded 15 scholarships among League members’ grandchildren, MCJROTC and NJROTC students totaling over \$11,000 as well as 21 Eagle Scout awards. Their gun raffle, BBQ fund raisers, annual golf tournament, and significant

- corporate donations have enabled them to provide support to these programs and help members' families, area Marines and veterans.
- The PFC Charles D Hare Detachment in Monroe had an impressive Toys for Tots program by collecting over 53,000 toys including 550 bicycles and turning them in to the Union County Christmas Bureau. An additional 5,000 toys were received after the 2018 campaign and are being stored for the 2019 campaign. The five active members of this detachment accomplished this feat by promoting Toys for Tots all year and obtaining commitments for participation when the campaign commences. In addition, the 20 funerals they participated in, underscores these active members' commitment to their community and fallen Marines. As small as their detachment is in numbers (16), the hearts of these active members have demonstrated their greatness in attitude.
 - When honoring our Marine comrades when called by the Supreme Commandant, the Cabarrus Detachment shows the Concord community that Marines care about all veterans and especially Marines, showing their respects at the funeral homes and at the funerals.
 - The Stanly County Detachment has been steady in their exposure to the county. The Toys for Tots campaign has increased each year. A major contributing organization commented that prior to their involvement toys and monies they contributed were not accurately reported and confidence in the program had diminished. Since the detachment's involvement, not only their support but many local organizations have increased their commitments.
 - PFC Bruce Larson Detachment always has the most activities going on of all the districts detachments. Sprinkling their meetings with guest speakers, keeps the members involved in other events around the community. With members involved in unique activities such as Special Olympics, Bucket Brigades, and the USO, as well as the popular fund raisers of golf tournaments, scholarships, and Marine Corps Ball celebrations, their membership continues to grow with younger members joining.
 - As you can see, these Southcentral District detachments all excel in various activities and are leaders in their own right. They all participate in community events and have found their niches, building on their own successes. I am proud to represent the Department when attending their meetings and am always warmly welcomed.
 - The 5.8% decrease in Southcentral district membership this quarter is a sign that our detachments need to actively step up their recruitment. Detachment leadership should be about growing the numbers and growing the involvement. Increased involvement increases local awareness, which is the battle we continually fight.

B. NC East DVC's

- North District – John Staley
 - Total unpaid member percentage for this District: 19.6%

- Suggestions for the ‘Good of the League’ as a result of your DVC activities: Detachments could publish an item in local newspaper or tv each month to publicize MCL and local detachment and its accomplishments.
- Detachments deserving special recognition in your District and reasons why: 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 (absent)
- South District – Howard Boyd
 - District Total members 232, total unpaid 17, unpaid 7.3%
 - While all four Detachments are active in their communities, only two are having growth. Detachment 10005 is having internal strife of which all State Officers are aware. Detachment 1036 having growth problems and lack of commitment of members to meetings.
- Southeast District – Lee Walker
 - Have 2 detachments and both are represented today.
 - Total unpaid member percentage for this District: 23.79%
 - We have people at the Azalea Festival representing the MCL.
- East District – Steve Tracy (absent)

15. Commandant’s Report – Jeffrey Jones

- Well, this will sound like a broken record; I am still not finished with the house. It is taking a lot longer than I expected. One of these years I will be finished with it. I have continued to make my way around the Department. Since our Fall Membership meeting I have attended 21 different Detachments making my total for the year 26. I have come to the realization that I will not make it to every Detachment, but I will continue to go to as many as possible. I have represented the Department at 65 different events traveling a total of 13,825 miles so far this year.
- Since our Fall membership meeting the Department has taken possession of 2 detachment charters (Eno River # 872 & John E. Ferguson # 1208) bringing our total number of detachment to 54. We still have a few detachments that are in jeopardy of having their charter revoked. I truly believe that detachments that are active in their community and active with the Department will not have these issues.
- Since our last membership meeting we had a little storm called Florence that impacted 10 of our detachments, I have visited 9 of these so far. These detachments are still performing much needed support to our Active Duty and Veterans from the area affected by the storms. I am going to read you a letter that

I have sent out to departments and detachments across the country who supported us during the aftermath of the storm.

Marines,

- *I as the Department of North Carolina Commandant would like to send you my sincere Thank You for the Support you have shown to the Marines of North Carolina. Your donations have made life changing differences in the lives of many Marines affected by Hurricane Florence. The storm was devastating to the Eastern part of North Carolina, and affected 10 of the Departments 55 Detachments.*
- *Before the storm hit the Department Staff decided that with our limited Humanitarian Fund that we would help Marine Corps Leaguers first then help what Maines we could. After the storm finally moved on, it was apparent that the damage was far greater than expected and far exceeded the Departments resources. A call for help was sent out to the Marine Corps League and the help poured in.*
- *With your donations the Department was able to help multiple Marine Corps Leaguers that did not have any flood insurance. One Leaguer got 3 feet of water in his 1st floor which destroyed all of his down stairs walls and furniture. A couple of Life Leaguers were affected by a flash flood that destroyed their Heat and A/C Duct work. We helped a Retired 1st Sergeant that lost 30 years' worth of memories, a Retired Gunny that has since joined the local Detachment and he employed 6 Marines that he is bringing in to join as well. A newly married PFC that they were left homeless by the flood. We arranged for him to acquire a new residence by paying his security deposit for the apartment, and utilities. These are just some of the particulars that your donations helped.*
- *Your generosity was both heart-warming and greatly appreciated. You are true examples of what it means to say "Marines Helping Marines".*
- The first weekend of June I will again be part of Team Turtle. We will be participating in the Percy John Fulton Detachment's 10th annual Mud Run. The event last year was something to remember. If you are willing and able, we would like to see you come and WALK the course with us. If nothing else we would love to see a nice Department presence in the spectator section. If you come please wear your cover. I will be wearing mine through the entire course.
- Let me speak on a touchy subject. I know some of you in this room are not familiar with events that happened back in 2010. I also know that a lot of you are. I have written a letter to the National Commandant and the Board of Trustees in support of reinstatement of Marine Danny Bracken. We are not asking for a new trial and also not asking for a reversal of the decision. Basically we are just asking that Danny's Life Membership to be reactivated. Danny has admitted his faults, and has paid his sentence, 8 years is long enough. Remember, NONE of us are perfect and Marines never leave another Marine behind. Just so you know, I signed my letter as Marine Jones not as the Department Commandant.

- Keith Shearin will be giving a report on the Calendar program later this afternoon. I must tell you I am very disappointed in how this program was supported by the Department. We had the ability to make a lot of money with this program. Unfortunately, some detachments did not participate in selling the calendars so the program will not be as profitable as we had hoped.
- Next week I will be in Jacksonville aboard Camp Lejeune Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at Marine South. If you have the opportunity to come it would not be a wasted trip. It is nice to see the new High Speed Low Drag gear that today's Marines are using to protect our freedom.
- In nine weeks, we will be meeting in Jacksonville to decide on the new leadership for the Department. Please make your arrangements to attend.
- It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your Department Commandant.

16. Report of Staff Officers

- Sr. Vice Commandant – Rick Thomason
 - Throughout my tenure as the Department's Senior Vice Commandant, I have traveled across North Carolina in the company of staff officers and occasionally a non-staff League member. The visits to your Detachments were times I looked forward to with anticipation. I looked forward to meeting the detachment and learning how you, as individual detachments, were accomplishing the ethos of the Marine Corps League. Seldom was I disappointed with the outcome of my visits. Occasionally we found there to be issues within the detachment that were reversible and could be overcome. But what was discovered in almost every incidence where there was a problem was that there was a lack of communication or a failure to follow the Bylaws and Rituals of the MCL. When the Department sends out an email, it should be forwarded to all detachment members unless it was directed to a particular staff position such as Paymaster or Commandant. Although the original recipient may think it is not important, there may be a member out there who finds it very enlightening. It may also be going to the next person who has your position in the detachment. Keep your membership informed. Read the new Bylaws as published by National. A great deal of time has been put into these documents. They are not suggested guidelines but the rules by which we must operate. No matter how well you think you know what they say, don't trust your memory and wing it though a Q & A session when decisions must be made. The Ritual manual was produced by the MCL as a standard by which all League meetings should be held. Whether you have five members in the audience or fifty, it still applies. As per the Ritual, create an agenda and follow it. It creates a flow of material that keeps the meeting in order. We are Marines. We thrive on structure and discipline. It was drilled into us as Marines that we must act as a part of a larger force and not allow ourselves to become focused

on self-serving accomplishments and empowerment. Do not diminish the camaraderie of your detachment through negativity or behavior unbecoming a Marine. If you are in a leadership position, led by inspiration, not intimidation. If you are a member and see a problem, let it be known as soon as you are aware of it. But, at the same time you report it, have a possible solution for the problem ready. Your input is critical and no less important than the most senior staff officer in your detachment.

- Thank you for the trust you have placed in me this past year in our fundraising effort. But let me assure you, it was not all my effort that made this a success. The DVCs and individual detachments were critical in seeing that all 1000 raffle tickets and calendars were sold. The tracking of the calendars is handled by the Junior Vice Commandant and payouts by our Paymaster. For that I commend you all.
 - As I look to the future, I can only see greatness for the Department of North Carolina Marine Corps League. I assure you, my passion for the League and the commitment we all share will only grow stronger. For, as our Commandant likes to say, “I have drunk the Kool Aid”. I am totally committed.
- Jr. Vice Commandant – Keith Shearin
 - Since the Fall Membership Meeting, I have been traveling across the state visiting detachments and learning of the struggles and successes the League is having. I have visited since our Fall meeting 12 detachments and drove nearly 3000 miles. Unfortunately, I have also been task with taking possession of 2 Detachments charters and we are currently watching other detachments that are struggling; trying to give them advice and assistance to help them grow and become active within their area. Which in return benefits the community, the department, and the League. The struggles that most the detachments are having is connecting with the younger generation of Marines and teaching them the importance of becoming part of the Marine Corps League family. The Detachments that relinquished their charters were not lacking the esprit-de-Corps they simple have aged out and were unable to physically accomplish the mission. With the introduction of the Marine 4 Life program we now have an asset to contact those younger Marines separating from their active duty tour.
 - I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our new members, being asked to give several of them their initiation oath. It is always a great feeling to arrive at a Detachment and the Commandant informs you that they are swearing in a new member to the Detachment. It is great to see the bond that Marines share during meetings. It inspires me, motivates me, and makes the many miles of travel enjoyable and worthwhile.
 - Please, know that I truly believe that the Department of North Carolina is one of the strongest departments in the Marine Corps League. We have a

membership presents that is growing at each conference and convention. The challenge I place in front of you today is this, we need to get more of our members attending state meetings, Mideast division convention, and Mid-Winter National conference and National Convention when able. I know that some of our membership is unable to travel due to numbers of very valid reasons, but the members that are able will learn that the Marine Corps League is so much more when you step outside your detachment. There is a wealth of knowledge to be shared and gained when you attend these other events. You never know who is going to hold that missing piece that your detachment may be looking for to begin growing and showing a viable present in your city, towns, and county throughout the State of North Carolina.

- When this meeting ends it is my goal to continue visiting the Detachments that I have not been able to make it to yet. I would like to get to every Detachment before the Convention this year, but unfortunately, I do not believe that mission is achievable. I am trying to visit those detachments that are the farthest from the center of the state. I have visited the Northwestern corner, Southeastern corner, and the Northeastern corner of the state. I have not been able to get to our Southwestern corner yet, (yes Cherokee Detachment I am talking about ya'll) but I have been to Detachments near that area. I try and imagine each time I go to a detachment that I am not familiar with in a part of our state that I do not travel to often, that I am a potential new league member that has visited our department website and found the detachment through that portal. Some of our locations are easily found, while others are a slightly more difficult to find. Fortunately, I have access to the DVC's phone number and the Detachment staff's numbers also. So far, I have only been unable to locate one location. Some of the others have been difficult, but I was able. You need to ensure that the information on the Department website is correct, if not go through the correct channels and get the changes made. These younger Marines are tech savvy and you must have a correct and clear web presents.
 - I look forward to seeing all of you at our Department Convention in Jacksonville, along with many others from your detachment. Semper Fi Marines.
- Judge Advocate – Denny Mathias (read by Jeffrey Jones)
 - In addition to the required duties of the Judge Advocate as defined in the Department bylaws, I have been working on getting the bylaws updated. My action items include:
 - Department Bylaws Rewrite – The updated Department bylaws are now posted on the website.
 - Bylaws Hard & Soft Copy – Any detachment not having updated their bylaws since August 2018, should review them for compliance with National and Department bylaws. I recommend sending me a copy of

your proposed changes/rewrites prior to final approval in order to eliminate the need for correction at a subsequent meeting. These changes will take time on each detachment's part and my part in reviewing up to 54 detachment's changes. I will be as expeditious as possible.

- Grievances – For fiscal year 2019 there have been no departmental grievance hearings. With district vice commandants maintaining contacts with their detachments, obtaining department assistance where needed, all potential grievances have been addressed. I commend our detachments' leadership in immediately addressing and resolving issues before elevating them to the grievance stage.
- Bylaws Committee Chairman – Lisa Ciesielski
 - All submission of By-Laws were due by March 8th
 - No report.
- Sgt.-at-Arms – Ralph Farthing
 - No report.
- Aide-De-Camp – John Dilday
 - Convention 2019 – Onslow County Detachment #262, Jacksonville, Hilton Garden Inn, June 7-9
 - Fall 2019 – Greater Greensboro Detachment #260, Greensboro, Best Western, September 13-14
 - Spring 2020 – joint host Pfc Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 and Charlotte Detachment #750, Hilton Charlotte University Hotel, April 17-18
 - Convention 2020 - Detachments Pfc Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 and Charlotte Detachment #750, Hilton Charlotte University Hotel, June 12-13
 - Fall 2020 – Shawn Knisley Detachment #983, Fayetteville

17. Report of Project Leaders
(3-5 minutes)

- Toys For Tots – Larry Hill (absent – report provided)

Detachments conducted or supported a Detachment Member's Tots for Tots Campaign	12
Detachments supporting a Marine Corps Reserve Unit's Toys for Tots Campaign.	3
Detachment supported a Toys for Tots Campaign other than a USMC Unit or a MCL Det.	0
Total detachments participating in Toys for Tots program.	15
Detachment not participating in Toys for Tots	5
Total detachments reports received	20
Reports not received	36
Number of DoNC Detachments	56

- Eagle Scout Program – Charles Minton & Karen Barton
 - I want to welcome aboard Karen Barton to the Eagle Scout Coordinator team, Karen's son is in Scouting and she is very active with the program. Karen has been working on making contact with the different Scouting Councils in the state and has some great ideas to help our Department program grow.
 - Reach out to the district round table. A lot of the scout masters think if you turn in the paperwork, it is a contest to win the award.
 - Karen is in the Western District; Charles is in the Eastern District.
 - As of today the Detachments within the Department of North Carolina have presented a total of 196 Good Citizenship Awards for Achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout.
 - The top 5 participating Detachments are:
 - 1st place Greater Greensboro #260 with 64 year to date
 - 2nd place Tar Heel #733 with 35 year to date
 - 3rd place Cabarrus #1175 with 21 year to date
 - 4th place Percy John Fulton # 1075 with 19 year to date
 - 5th place is a tie Gen. Raymond G. Davis #1162 and Carry On #1236 with 9 year to date.
 - I can only report what has been submitted so please if you're doing presentations please get your numbers turned into me so I can record them.
 - The department of North Carolina is 4th in the Nation as of the Mid-Winter Conference with 140 certificates presented. The Mideast Division is 3rd out of 10 Divisions.
 - If your Detachment wants to participate or if you need assistance with your program please contact myself or Karen Barton
- Marine For Life Liaison – Todd Abbott
 - Report given
- Young Marine Program – Jeff Petway (absent)
- VAVS Program – Ken Parker
 - Sir Commandant I have two quarters to report since last meeting. Winter quarter for months October through December 2018 we have 39 Detachments reporting 969 total hours of VAVS Service. The Spring Quarter for Months January through March 2019 we have 42 Detachments reporting 754 total hours of VAVS Service.
 - This gives us a total since last meeting of 1723 hours of VAVS volunteering.

18. Recess of the DoNC Membership Meeting morning session

- Chaplain to close Bible (1207)
- Sgt-at-Arms to announce that the meeting will reconvene 1 hour from now.
- 50/50 drawing took place.
- Rifle drawing took place – Kevin Griffin winner.

Recess for lunch - Reconvene in 1 hour

19. Reconvene the DoNC Membership Meeting afternoon session

- Sgt-at-Arms to bring meeting to order (1315)
- Chaplain to open the Bible

20. Report of Project Leaders (continued)

(3-5 minutes)

- Fund-Raising – Keith Shearin
 - Calendar Program
 - It is a good program.
 - Participation was mediocre.
 - He received a good number of calendars back today.
 - If you buy a calendar today, it will be registered back to January 1st.
 - A listing of the winning numbers and monies will be put together, but not the names. I will put this list together each quarter.

Commandant Jones “At this time I ask for a motion from the Floor to accept the Officer and Committee reports as given or submitted.”

Charles Minton made the motion to accept the reports given.
Second by John Irwin. Approved by members present.

21. Unfinished Business

- Ask the Floor if there is anything.- none.

22. New Business

- Calendar program
 - Jeffrey Jones spoke about having the calendar fundraiser again this year.
 - Tom Northrop made the motion to do the calendar program again. Second by Todd Abbott.
 - Discussion took place about how to better present the program.
 - Approved by members present.
- Weapon
 - Rick Thomason spoke a couple of weapon options.
 - Best candidate is an M1A with a carrying case, 7.62, SOCOM
 - There would be 1000 tickets.
 - Rick Ledford made the motion to go with this weapon.

- Second by John Irwin. Approved by members present.

23. Good of the League

- Charles Minton – Him and his wife are holding a kayak float fundraiser for ovarian cancer research. June 1st. 0900 sign up. Facebook is TealYakingAboutIt.
- Pat Walker
 - DoNC Convention
 - Friday will be a base tour with lunch at the O Club.
 - Saturday will be a shopping trip for the spouses in Swansboro.
 - May 15th is the registration deadline.
 - May 1st is the ad book deadline.
 - There will be 2 raffles – a gun case and a gun.
 - Base passes are required for all not retired; please get me the form as quickly as possible so I can get the passes issued.
 - Auxiliary
 - There are 2 units in the state.
 - They help build the League.
 - Pam, Tarheel Unit #733 Auxiliary is serving at Wake County schools and nursing / rehabilitation centers in Raleigh. It is a win-win for the Auxiliary and the League.
 - Hickory area is working on a unit.
- John Irwin – he was honored to be a speaker to the graduating recruits through the Legacy Program, since 1996, you could participate in.
- Lewis Pleasants – Marine Corps League Mud Run, June 1st, 10th annual one. Come on out to support whether running or watching. We do a lot of good with the funds we raise; this supports our donations to other causes.
- Bull Durham - read the bio and refreshed everyone on PFC Joseph Blick, Navy Cross recipient for fight on 8 Dec 1950.
- Jeffrey Jones – He talked to the family. Joe Blick should be at the Convention.
- Dennis Brockland – Semper Fidelis! He is proud of being a Marine and of the Marine Corps League. He is in full support of getting Danny Bracket's life membership re-instated.
- Craig Reiling – He is the National Toys For Tots Liaison.
 - He knows every detachment who was a T4T coordinator (LCO). He wants to find out how many detachments assisted Reserve Units who are not LCO's.
 - There is a Leadership class in Maryland; 1 day long. April 27th this year.
 - Recruitment – young folks have families – you must be accommodating.
- Laura Hamilton – If any members want to be on the email list to receive notices please get me your name, email, detachment number.
- Kim Gaines, Adjutant & Jr V Det #1096– She appreciates the leadership team and the communication.

24. Announcements

- There will be a short meeting for ALL Department Officers starting 45 minutes from NOW
- Officer Intentions
 - Rick Thomason – Commandant
 - Keith Shearin – Senior Vice
 - Ric Ledford – Junior Vice
 - Jeremy Barton – Junior Vice
 - Denny Mathias – Judge Advocate

25. Closing of the Meeting per Ritual

- 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 – Jason Hall
- Meeting adjourned (1428)