

# **Marine Corps League**

## **Department of North Carolina**



### **Fall Membership Meeting Minutes**

#### **28 October 2023**

**Hosted by: Catawba Valley Detachment 1163**

**Host Detachment Commandant: Thomas Lail II**

**Presided by: Commandant Ric Ledford**  
**Department of North Carolina**  
**Marine Corps League**

**Meeting start time: 0930**

**Meeting Location: Crowne Plaza Hickory**

**Host Contact: Karen Sequin**

**E-mail: [karensb.mcla@gmail.com](mailto:karensb.mcla@gmail.com)**

**Phone Number: 828-640-8977**

**A. Colors – outside at flag pole – 0750 muster**

**B. Training – 0815**

1. ROI / Transmittal training – Laura Hamilton presented

**C. Opening Remarks by Dept. Commandant Ric Ledford – 0930**

1. Meeting called to order
2. Post Colors – Sgt-at-Arms – Steve Tracy
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Sgt-at-Arms – Steve Tracy
4. Open Bible and Invocation – Lisa Ciesielski
5. This Meeting is 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.

**Opening session attendance – 86**

**D. Recognition of other Guests by the Host Detachment**

1. Thanks, and remarks by Host Commandant Thomas Lail II – Welcome to Hickory. Hopefully has had a good time. Thank you to the committee members who put this together. There are several things for auction.
2. Commandant Ledford commented on the ability to play golf at the country club who comp'd the cost to them.

**E. Guest Speaker – up to 10 minutes each**

1. LtCol Scott Benfield retired.
  - a) Showed an inspirational combat video.
  - b) Things that make us Marines.... Esprit de corps
  - c) Marine Corps Publication 1 – Warfighting
  - d) Courage – the ability to overcome fear.
  - e) .07% of the population do or have worn the uniform. With their family and close friends, it is about 33%.
  - f) The further we get from war the less appreciative the population is for those who volunteer.
  - g) This group (MCL) needs to perpetuate the knowledge we have to the 66% of the population who do know of the service sacrifice.
  - h) 70% of today's youth are incapable of meeting service standards.

- i) Sharing of our stories will help encourage the youth.
- j) Next to California and Texas, the Carolinas produce the most service members.

**F. Recognition of National Officers & National Marines of the Year**

1. NVC Mid East Division & MODD Deputy Police Dog – Rick Thomason
2. National & MED Boy Scouts Committee & MED Sgt at Arms - Charles Minton
3. National MOY Society & National Uniform Committee & Mideast Division Sgt at Arms & MODD Senior Vice Chief Devil Dog – Jeffrey Jones
4. Mideast Division Compliance Officer – Kenny Joyner
5. National MCL Foundation & National Youth Physical Fitness Committee & National Protocol Officer- Devell (Bull) Durham (absent)
6. National Historian – Greg Ciesielski
7. MODD Dog Trainer – Lisa Ciesielski
8. National Girl Scout Committee Chair of the MCLA and DoNC MCLA President – Karen Sequin
9. MED Asst – Craig Reeling
10. Ask all past National and Division officers to stand.

**G. Recognition of the Department MOY/AOY (WOY)**

1. Doug Ross - 2023 Department Marine of the Year. (absent)
2. Kevin Ashton - 2023 Department Associate of the Year.
3. Ask all past MOY & AOY (WOY) Recipients to stand and be recognized

**H. Recognition of Past Department Commandants**

1. Jr. Past Department Commandant Rick Thomason
2. Ask all the Past Department Commandants to stand and be recognized.

**I. Recognition of Guests with Invitation to address the membership**

1. MODD NC Pack Worthy Pack Leader - Keith Shearin

- a) Good Growl last night.
- b) MODD recruiting posters around the hotel.
- 2. NC MCL Auxiliary President – Karen Seguin
  - a) There was information in the program about trying to hold a meeting.
  - b) We are here to assist the League.
  - c) We have our own goals to help on the national level just as the League and Dogs do.
  - d) Any female can join. It takes 7 ladies to create a unit.

**J. Chapel of Four Chaplains Presentation**

- 1. None.

15-minute break to excuse any guests, Honor Guard, Auxiliary or non-members that may need to leave at this time 1003

Meeting called to order 1019

**Reconvening session attendance – 82**

**K. Roll Call of Department Officers**

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

- 1. Commandant – Ric Ledford
- 2. Sr. Vice Commandant – Robert Hare
- 3. Jr. Vice Commandant – AJ Pitts
- 4. Judge Advocate – Bill Brown
- 5. Jr. Past Commandant – Rick Thomason
- 6. Chief of Staff – John Dilday
- 7. Chaplain – Lisa Ciesielski
- 8. Assistant Chaplain – Marilyn Bower (absent)
- 9. Sgt.-at-Arms – Steve Tracy
- 10. Assistant Sgt-at-Arms – (vacant)
- 11. Paymaster – Scott Shermeyer (absent)
- 12. Young Marines Service Officer – Bruce Goeden
- 13. Toys For Tots Coordinator– Kevin Ashton
- 14. VAVS Service Officer – Al Pasquale
- 15. Legislative Officer – Tom Bates (absent)
- 16. Compliance Officer – Phil Randall

17. Bylaws Committee Chairman – Lisa Ciesielski
18. Eagle Scout Coordinator – Charles Minton
19. Marine For Life Liaison – Mark Munger (absent)
20. Adjutant – Laura Hamilton
21. Web Sergeant – Kenny Joyner
22. Public Relations – Marilyn Bower (absent)
23. Historian - Greg Ciesielski
24. Chapel of Four Chaplains – Robert Hare

**L. District Vice Commandants**

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

1. NC West DVC’s
  - a) West District – Denver Grant
  - b) Northwest District – David Anderson
  - c) Midwest District – Todd Carpenter
  - d) Northcentral District – Mike Clark
  - e) Central District – John Dilday
  - f) Southcentral – Denny Mathias
2. NC East DVC’s
  - a) North District – James Mitchell
  - b) Northeast District – Leotha Forte
  - c) South District – Howard Boyd
  - d) East District – Ray Randall
  - e) Southeast District – Ray Randall

**M. 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 (Cary)
5. Charlotte Detachment #750 (Charlotte)
6. Blue Ridge Detachment #848 (Asheville)

7. PFC Charles D. Hare Detachment #914 (Monroe) (absent)
8. Shawn Knisley Detachment #983 (Fayetteville)
9. Sand Hills Area Detachment #1001 (Aberdeen)
10. Paul Ray Purgason Detachment #1005 (Shallotte)
11. Cherokee County Detachment #1011 (Murphy)
12. Stanly County Detachment #1021 (Albemarle) (absent)
13. Carolina Borders Detachment #1036 (Calabash) (absent)
14. Cherry Point Detachment #1067 (Havelock) (absent)
15. Cape Fear Detachment #1070 (Wilmington) (absent)
16. Percy John Fulton Detachment #1075 (Winston-Salem)
17. Gen. A Hal Turnage Detachment #1096 (Salisbury) (absent)
18. Iredell County Detachment #1097 (Troutman)
19. Gen. Raymond G. Davis Detachment #1162 (Gastonia)
20. Catawba Valley Detachment #1163 (Hickory)
21. NC Foothills Detachment #1164 (Shelby)
22. Cpl. Johnny A. Williamson Detachment #1165 (Asheboro) (absent)
23. Cabarrus Detachment #1175 (Concord)
24. Sgt WE Plueddemann Detachment #1186 (Greenville)
25. Williams/Canter Detachment #1187 (North Wilkesboro)
26. PFC. Terry C. Smith Detachment #1193 (High Point) (absent)
27. Table Rock Detachment #1197 (Morganton)
28. LCpl. Alan D. Lam Detachment #1209 (Burlington) (absent)
29. Cpl. Chris S. Ebert Detachment #1221 (Forest City) (absent)
30. Sanford Detachment #1223 (Sanford)
31. PFC. Jerry L. McKinney Detachment #1232 (Wentworth)
32. Carry-On Detachment #1236 (Clayton)
33. PFC. Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 (Huntersville)
34. Richmond Leathernecks Detachment #1252 (Rockingham) (absent)
35. Air, Land, NC Detachment #1257 (Wake Forest)
36. Cpl. Suzi Sannes Detachment #1262 (Rocky Mount)
37. Outer Banks Detachment #1264 (Kitty Hawk) (absent)
38. Mt. Mitchell Detachment #1266 (Spruce Pines)
39. Gold Leaf Detachment #1276 (Wilson)
40. Walter Frank Osborne Jr. Detachment #1298 (Sparta) (absent)
41. Mountaineer Detachment #1320 (Watauga) (absent)
42. Hampstead Detachment #1321 (Pender)
43. Surry County Detachment #1322 (Surry)
44. Crossed Rifles Detachment #1346 (Harnett) (absent)

45. Waynesborough Detachment #1350 (Wayne) (absent)
46. High Country Detachment #1389 (Ashe)
47. Swansboro Detachment #1407 (Swansboro)
48. Oriental Dragon Detachment #1413 (Oriental)
49. Asheville Detachment #1417 (Asheville)
50. RDU Detachment #1482 (Durham)

**N. Adjutant's Report**

1. The minutes are posted on the website and were emailed out.
2. Please make sure a copy of your latest ROI is sent to the Adjutant as well as the Paymaster (who gets the original signed copy).
3. An Excel spreadsheet titled "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.
4. It is imperative that the Detachment Commandant and Paymaster have emails. There is some data which is only sent to them.
5. When data is sent out and a response is requested to be sent to a specific person, please send it to that person. You may always copy me but please do respond to the requested person.
6. I am looking for a person who is willing to take on the position of Department Adjutant. If you have organizational skills, you can be a candidate. Let's talk!

*Commandant Ledford asks for a motion to waive reading of the minutes.*

David Anderson made the motion to waive reading. Second by Alex Nevglowski. Approved by members present.

**O. Paymaster's Report – Scott Shermeyer (Laura Hamilton presented)**

1. Give financial update [Current Budget and Current Expenditures DoNC]

## Statement Period Activity Summary

Business Platinum Savings		
Beginning Balance on	June 1, 2023	\$ 9,206.28
Deposit & Credits		
	June	\$ 1.89
	July	\$ 1.95
	August	\$ 1.96
	September	\$ 1.89
	October	\$ -
<b>Total Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		<b>\$7.69</b>
Withdrawals & Debits		
	June	\$ -
	July	
	August	\$ -
	September	\$ -
	October	\$ -
<b>Total Withdrawals &amp; Debits</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
Ending Balance on	October 27, 2023	\$ 9,213.97

We opened with \$9,206.28 in our savings account on June 1, 2023 (based on May 31<sup>st</sup> statement), earned a little bit of interest each month \$7.69 total, and ended up with a balance of \$9,213.97 as of yesterday (Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023)



Navigate Business Checking		
Beginning Balance on	June 1, 2023	<b>66,497.70</b>
Deposit & Credits		
	June	2,181.30
	July	74.53
	August	1,295.01
	September	1,870.24
	October (up until 27 <sup>th</sup> )	1,228.33
<b>Total Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		<b>6,649.41</b>
Withdrawals & Debits		
	June	-286.01
	July	-72.52
	August	-493.04
	September	-101.00
	October (up until 27 <sup>th</sup> )	-15.94
<b>Total Withdrawals &amp; Debits</b>		<b>968.51</b>
Ending Balance on	October 27, 2023	<b>72,178.60</b>

## Statement Period Activity Summary

Here is a look at monthly activity on the checking account.

# Balance Sheet

▼ Checking/Savings	
Business Platinum Savings	9,213.97
▼ Navigate Business Checking	
Disaster Relief Fund	4,024.89
Membership Dues - 2023-06-01	4,550.00
PLM Distribution - 2022-06-01	2,705.78
PLM Distribution - 2023-06-01	3,234.72
PLM Distribution - 2024-06-01	3,404.66
Restricted - Toys for Tots	200.00
Restricted - Trailer Donations	1,261.37
Restricted - Young Marines	800.00
Trust - Det #1265 - 2023-03-07	1,653.77
Trust - Det #1314	965.18
Navigate Business Checking - Other	49,378.23
<b>Total Navigate Business Checking</b>	<b>72,178.60</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>81,392.57</b>

Here is the breakdown of what's in the bank.  
As you can see, out of \$72,178.60 in the checking account, not all of it is available to be spent without taking into consideration where the money came from, when we received it, and what our rules of engagement require us to do.

# P&L Income

Income	
<b>Direct Public Support</b>	
Detachment Contributions	1,450.00
<b>Total Direct Public Support</b>	<b>1,450.00</b>
<b>Fundraising Income</b>	
2022-23 DoNC Raffle	715.00
2023-24 DoNC Raffles	908.89
Challenge Coins	30.00
<b>Total Fundraising Income</b>	<b>1,653.89</b>
<b>Investments</b>	
Business Checking Interest	11.45
Business Savings Interest	7.69
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>19.14</b>
<b>Program Income</b>	
Membership Dues	3,030.00
<b>Total Program Income</b>	<b>3,030.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,153.03</b>

Here's a look at our income for the past few months.

## Detachment Donations Rec'd

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Original Amount
<b>Donations</b>				
06/12/2023	346	Det. 1417 - Asheville Det. of Buncombe Co	Toys for Tots Foundation	100.00
06/12/2023	346	Det. 1417 - Asheville Det. of Buncombe Co	Young Marines Foundation	100.00
06/20/2023	358	Det. 1242 - PFC Bruce Larson	Young Marines	500.00
09/21/2023	1716	Det. 1075 - Percy John Fulton	Donation	750.00

Here is a list of the Detachments that provided donations and their specified purposes.

## P&L Expense

Expense	
Fundraising Expense	250.00
Operations	
Free Conference Call / One Numb	19.75
Postage, Mailing Service	58.63
Square Inc. Fee	0.62
Web Site Expenses	81.12
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>160.12</b>
Other Types of Expenses	
Awards	75.49
Memberships and Dues	0.00
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>75.49</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>485.61</b>

Here are expenses

## Profit & Loss

- Income
- Expense

Ordinary Income	\$ 6,153.03
Ordinary Expense	\$ (485.61)
Net	\$ 5,667.42

There was also a \$469.69 purchase by Commandant's card in amount of \$469.69 on August 24, 2023 which was then returned on August 30, 2023

Although it nets out to zero amount, you would see it as a debit and then as a credit on the bank statement for that month, which means it is also included in the monthly amounts from the checking account a few slides back.

## Membership Report

September 30, 2023 Rosters						
	PLM	Paid	Total Paid	Unpaid	Total Paying	% unpaid
Regular	1,189	234	1,423	350	584	59.93%
Associate	141	122	263	100	222	45.05%
Multiple	23	2	25	3	5	60.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>55.86%</b>
Voting		1,423				
		\$1,790.00		\$2,265.00	\$4,055.00	

The quarterly roster for September 30, 2023 was sent via email by JD Foster on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

We are probably about halfway there for getting memberships renewed.

## Membership Rosters

Team MCL,

The Roster is due out on the 2nd Friday at the end of each quarter, in this case, July 14th.

At HQ, we received a (how shall I quantify) "massive" amount of mail that was sent by departments to HQ on 6/30/2023 with life memberships. Our folks are working diligently to process and get them into the system.

I believe these are important for the roster and we would like it to be as correct as possible.

Our team will not generate a roster on 7/14. Our target is not later than 7/21 to give our folks some extra time to get the data in.

Departments are welcome to generate a roster for detachments, please note that info will still be in process, but some may not have pending changes.

S/F

Bob Borka

National Executive Director/COO

Marine Corps League

As per my approval by Bob Borka, we postmarked our last Life Membership envelope to national on Friday June 30<sup>th</sup>

One detachment mistakenly sent to incorrect snail mail address which resulted in their envelopes being returned. They were subsequently returned to sender as undeliverable. It took a while for the dust to settle from 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention before we were able to obtain approval by Bob Borka to submit. Which they have since accepted and processed at the previous reduced life member rates.

We submitted 38 life members since June 1<sup>st</sup>.





Please, use this address or else risk delays or getting your mail returned by the Postal Service. We are sending from a business to another business, but care of individuals who live at their own respective residential addresses.

An assistant paymaster could be helpful to get paperwork processed faster. Details could be worked out if someone wants to step up.

Jeffrey Jones asked why we have \$75K in the checking account when it could make more money in another account. Commandant Ledford stated he would ask.

Kenny Joyner made the motion to accept the financial report subject to audit. Second by Bill Brown. Approved by members present.

**P. Chaplain's Report –Lisa Ciesielski .**

1. Report of any member or member's family known to be sick or in distress.
2. Report of any deceased MCL member since our last meeting. (names were read).
3. Please pause for a moment of silence for our fallen Marines.

**Q. D.V.C.'s - Report of Officers – *Commandant Ledford asks for a motion to waive the reading of the DVC reports.***

Todd Carpenter made a motion to waive the reading of the reports. Second by Dave Ward. Approved by members present.

1. NC West DVC's

- a) West District – Denver Grant (no report)
- b) Northwest District – David Anderson (no report)
- c) Midwest District – Todd Carpenter

What percentage of your District Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting (The Department goal is 70% or better)? 3

What Detachments in your District have 19, or less, total members? (Detachments must maintain a minimum of 15 members in 'good standing' in order to be considered an active Detachment) None

What are you doing to assist these Detachments to gain a total membership of 20 or more members?

What Detachments in your District have 14, or less, total members? (These Detachments are a PRIORITY to get back to a level of 'good standing' or their Charters may be pulled) None

Are there currently any Detachment Charters in your District being held by the Department due to inactivity? NO

Date prepared: 20 Sept 2023

Reporting Period (Highlight the period below):

- Third quarter - 1 December to 28/29 February
- Convention/Fourth quarter - 1 March to 31 May
- **First quarter - 1 June to 31 August**
- Second quarter - 1 September to 30 November

Detachments visited/contacted during this reporting period: 4

Detachment unpaid member status:

For each of your Detachments, list their Detachment number, total regular and Associate members, total unpaid members and their percent of unpaid members. The Department goal is 3%, or less):

<u>Detachment #</u>	<u>Total Reg &amp; Assoc mbrs</u>	<u>Total unpaid mbrs</u>	<u>Total % unpaid</u>
#1097	61	1	1.61%
#1162	56	3	5.36%
#1163	46	12	20.69%
#1164	54	6	11.11%
#1197	48	0	0.0%

Total unpaid member percentage for this District:

(Add up all of the Total unpaid members and divide that number by all of the above Total Reg. & Assoc. members, to get the total unpaid percentage for your District)

Total 8.3%

How many Detachments are in your District? 5

How many of these Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting?

3

d) Northcentral District – Mike Clark

Date prepared: 18 OCT 2023

Reporting Period (Highlight the period below):

- Third quarter - 1 December to 28/29 February
- Convention/Fourth quarter - 1 March to 31 May
- **First quarter - 1 June to 31 August**
- Second quarter - 1 September to 30 November

Detachments visited/contacted during this reporting period: **FIVE (5) OF SIX (6)**

Detachment unpaid member status:

For each of your Detachments, list their Detachment number, total regular and Associate members, total unpaid members and their percent of unpaid members. The Department goal is 3%, or less):

<u>Detachment #</u>	<u>Total Reg &amp; Assoc mbrs</u>	<u>Total unpaid mbrs</u>	<u>Total % unpaid</u>
260	158	16	12.12%
1075	78	24	31.17%
1096	32	2	3.57%
1165	42	0	0%
1193	24	0	0%
1322	41	5	12.20%

Total unpaid member percentage for this District:

(Add up all of the unpaid % and divide that number by all of the above 390, to get the total unpaid percentage for your District) **15.14%**

How many Detachments are in your District? **SIX (6)**

How many of these Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting? **Three (3) of six (6) attended the Department Convention JUN 9-11, 2023**

What percentage of your District Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting (The Department goal is 70% or better)? 50%

What Detachments in your District have 19, or less, total members? (Detachments must maintain a minimum of 15 members in 'good standing' in order to be considered an active Detachment) NONE

What are you doing to assist these Detachments to gain a total membership of 20 or more members? N/A

What Detachments in your District have 14, or less, total members? (These Detachments are a PRIORITY to get back to a level of 'good standing' or their Charters may be pulled). NONE

Are there currently any Detachment Charters in your District being held by the Department due to inactivity?

If so, what Detachment names and numbers are they?

Per the National By-Laws, do these Charters need to be surrendered and the Detachments dissolved? NORTHWEST TRIAD DET 1314, DVC STILL HAS POSSESSION OF THE DET. PROPERTIES, WITH A CATEGORIZED LIST HAVING BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE ACCOUNT MONIES ARE BEING HELD BY DONC PAYMASTER. ADEQUATE STORAGE FOR THIS PROPERTY OUTSIDE OF RESIDENCE IS STILL BEING SEARCHED FOR.

Special District projects you are involved in at this time: DVC/DET SR VICE COORDINATED THE EFFORT FOR GREATER GREENSBORO DET 260 IN FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY FLAG RAISING AT FRIENDLY CENTE AND ATTENDED EVENTS AT CAROLINA FIELD OF HONOR. REQUESTED AND HAD APPROVED A DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN SILVER FOR MEMBER TOM GIBBS 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, WHICH THE DETACHMENT HELPED CELEBRATE ON JUN 29<sup>TH</sup>.

New Detachment Recruiting Efforts: OTHER THAN THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE AND SHARING WHAT HAS WORKED WITH OTHER DISTRICT DETACHMENTS, NOTHING FURTHER. DET 1075 HAS HAD GOOD SUCCESS WITH THEIR RECRUITING CARDS, MOST DETS HAVE ADDED MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES AND DECREASED NUMBER OF NON-PAID DUES

Suggestions for the 'Good of the League' as a result of your DVC activities:

ALTHOUGH I HAVE VISITED MOST ALL OF THE DETACHMENTS IN THIS TIME PERIOD, THERE ARE STILL SOME ISSUES. ONE DETACHMENT HAD NOT ELECTED AND INSTALLED OFFICERS PRIOR TO THE CONVENTION.

THAT DETACHMENT CONTINUES TO HAVE ISSUES WITH MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Detachments deserving special recognition in your District and reasons why:

GREATER GREENSBORO DETACHMENT 260, GUILFORD COUNTY. CONTINUES TO DISBURSE SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS TO LOCAL ENTITIES THAT SUPPORT MARINE AND VETERAN NEEDS. THE DETACHMENT COMMANDANT, CHAPLAIN AND OTHERS WORKED TO HELP RELOCATE A MEMBER FROM A TERRIBLE REHAB FACILITY INTO ONE THAT HAS ALLOWED HIM TO RECOVER AND THRIVE. THREE (3) MERITORIOUS INDIVIDUAL COMMENDATIONS WERE AWARDED TO THE MEMBERS WHO MADE THIS HAPPEN. A LETTER OF APPRECIATION WAS PRESENTED TO THE FACILITY FOR THE STAFF WHO ASSISTED. THE DETACHMENT HELD A FOURTH OF JULY FLAG RAISING AT A LOCAL SHOPPING CENTER. THEN SUPPORTED THE EVENT AT THE CAROLINA FIELD OF HONOR ON THE SAME DAY. ATTENDED THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR MONTFORD POINT MARINES AT THE CAROLINA FIELD OF HONOR ON AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>. DVC ATTENDED ALL AND HELPED WITH FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR THEIR 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MILITARY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER. ATTENDED THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, MID-EAST DIVISION, SPRING NATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES/CONVENTION. DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER WAS SUBMITTED FOR THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER COMPETITION AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. DETACHMENT HAD A RECORD YEAR OF CASH AND IN-KIND DONATIONS INTO THE COMMUNITY.

PERCY JOHN FULTON DETACHMENT 1075, FORSYTH COUNTY. HELD THEIR MUD RUN ON JUN 3<sup>RD</sup>, DVC WAS A VOLUNTEER FOR THE EVENT AND SEVERAL DEPARTMENT/NATIONAL OFFICERS RAN IN IT. IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER AND PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED THE EVENT. THE DETACHMENT IS PLANNING TO WORK THE CAROLINA CLASSIC FAIR AND RAMP UP FOR 2023 TOYS FOR TOTS.

GENERAL ALLEN HAL TURNAGE DETACHMENT 1096, ROWAN COUNTY. WERE PART OF THE LOCAL FOURTH OF JULY PARADE. WORK CONTINUES TO HAVE A FLAG INSTALLED AT A LOCAL PARK. DETACHMENT IS WORKING ON A FUNDRAISER THAT WILL BE THEIR BIGGEST TO DATE, DVC IS ASSISTING IN FUNDRAISING EFFORTS. THE DETACHMENT DONATED FUNDS TO ASSIST THE MOTHER OF A MEMBER FOR TRAVEL TO HIS MEDICAL FACILITY IN VIRGINIA. THEY HAVE PLANS TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR WREATHS FOR VETERANS THAT DOES THE SAME THING AS WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA FOR A LESSER PRICE. THIS NON-PROFIT IS GAINING TRACTION IN THE SOUTHEAST AS THE

PROVIDER IS LOCAL. A VOLUNTEER EVENT AT THE CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY IS PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER, FUNDS RAISED WILL BE DOUBLED BY A SPONSOR.

CORPORAL JOHNNY A. WILLIAMSON DET 1165, RANDOLPH COUNTY. PUT OUT FLAGS AT LOCAL CEMETARIES FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY AND PARTICIPATED IN THE PARADE. PREPERATION IS UNDERWAY FOR THE CRUISE-IN IN SEPTEMBER THAT RAISES FUNDS AND POTENTIAL MEMBERSHIP. PLANS ARE NEARLY COMPLETE FOR THEIR MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL.

SURRY COUNTY DET 1322, SURRY COUNTY. PARTICIPATED IN A FUNDRAISER AT FIBERFEST, COORDINATING WITH DET 1298 FOR TOYS FOR TOTS; FOURTH OF JULY PARADE. A SOCIAL WAS HELD WITH DETACHMENT MEMBERS FOR A WINSTON-SALEM DASH GAME, AND WAS WELL RECEIVED. THE DETACHMENT CONTIUNES TO DO TRASH PICK UP ON COUNTY ROADS AND HAS RESUMED THE PROGRAM "FRIENDS FEEDING FRIENDS" WITH THE CHURCH AT WHICH THEY HOLD MEETINGS. THE PROGRAM TAKES ON THE REPSONSIBILITY OF COOKING AND SERVING COMMUNITY NEEDS ON A ROTATING SCHEDULE. A DONATION WAS MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE YOUNG MARINES. PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO DONATE TO SUPPORT THE USO AT LOCAL AIRPORTS. TOYS FOR TOTS IS UNDERWAY WITH THE KICK-OFF AT THE FESTIVAL, HOWEVER THEIR COORDINATOR HAS HAD FAMILY HEALTHE ISSUES LATELY.

TWO (2) DETACHMENTS IN THE DISTRICT NOW HAVE 100% PAID MEMBERSHIP.

e) Central District – John Dilday

As I have said many times in the past, it is an honor to represent the five Detachments that I am DVC. Each Detachment has its own strengths but since some of them are very small in numbers they are still very active in their respective communities.

The Sanford Detachment, Sandhills Detachment and the Shawn Knisley Detachment have each had membership growth this quarter and the entire year. Lillington and Richmond County are very handicapped since very few Marines are relocating in their respected community.

Each of the Five are very busy preparing for the upcoming Toys For Tots Drive and have had great success in bringing community volunteers in to assist in the drive. They have had Great Success in past years and their goals are even higher this campaign.

Several Detachments are planning to participate in local parades this holiday season.

A big shout out to the Sanford Detachment as they are doing fund raisers for the first time since they were chartered. It is with the help of new members who have been brought into the Detachment. They are younger and excited to help in the community.

It is also exciting to have the Detachments working together on some events. That is what it is all about, Marines Helping Marines!!!!

It is my goal to visit each Detachment at their scheduled monthly meetings and as many of their organized events as possible. As for me, it is a pleasure to be associated with each of them.

Respectfully Submitted,

f) Southcentral – Denny Mathias (no report)  
 2. NC East DVC's  
 a) North District – James Mitchell

**Reporting Period (Highlight the period below):**

- Third quarter - 1 December to 28 February
- Convention/Fourth quarter - 1 March to 31 May
- **First quarter - 1 June to 31 August**
- Second quarter - 1 September to 30 November

**Detachments visited/contacted during this reporting period:** Visited five of six during the Quarter. Unable to visit PFC McKinney Det #1232 due to illness of Commandant.

Dept JA installed officers in PFC McKinney Detachment.

**Detachment unpaid member status:**

For each of your Detachments, list their Detachment number, total regular and Associate members, total unpaid members and their percent of unpaid members. The Department goal is 3%, or less):

Detachment #	Total Reg & Assoc mbrs	Total unpaid mbrs	Total % unpaid
733	56	5	8.2
1209	43	1	2027
1232	NO RPT		0.00
1238	40	2	4.76
1257	47	5	8
1482	NO RPT	0	00
Totals		1	1

UNK

(Add up all of the Total unpaid members and divide that number by all of the above Total Reg. & Assoc. members, to get the total unpaid percentage for your District)

How many Detachments are in your District? Presently, six.

How many of these Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting? 2. All six Detachments   

What percentage of your District Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting (The Department goal is 70% or better)? 100% at the Department Convention.

What Detachments in your District have 19, or less, total members? (Detachments must maintain a minimum of 15 members in 'good standing' in order to be considered an active Detachment). None

What are you doing to assist these Detachments to gain a total membership of 20 or more members?

What Detachments in your District have 14, or less, total members? None at this time.  
 (These Detachments are a **PRIORITY** to get back to a level of 'good standing' or their Charters may be pulled)

Are there currently any Detachment Charters in your District being held by the Department due to inactivity? Yes.

If so, what Detachment names and numbers are they? Orange County Regulators #1292 surrendered their Charter on 18 Jan 2022 and we are presently working to get remaining members relocated to new Detachments per NBL/NAP.

Per the National By-Laws, do these Charters need to be surrendered and the Detachments dissolved? On 18Jan2022 the Orange County Regulators surrendered their Charter.

Special District projects you are involved in at this time: none  
 New Detachment Recruiting Efforts: Contacting local veteran's organizations, VA Hospital and employers of Marine Corps veterans to identify new candidates by expanding my efforts to include Granville and Person counties. Hope to eventually reach out to every county within the North District seeking Marines.



## b) Northeast District – Leotha Forte

**Reporting Period (Highlight the period below):**

- First quarter – 1 June to August 31
- Second quarter - 1 September to 30 November
- Third quarter - 1 December to 28/29 February
- Fourth quarter - 1 March to 31 May

**Detachments visited/contacted during this reporting period: five**

**Detachment unpaid member status:**

For each of your Detachments, list their Detachment number, total regular and Associate members, total unpaid members and their percent of unpaid members. The Department goal is 3%, or less):

Detachment #	Reg & Assoc members	Total unpaid members	Total % unpaid
John V. Berg 257	35	0	
Plueddemann 1186	29	0	
Suzi Sannes 1262	36	3	
Gold Leaf 1276	22	1	
Waynesboro1350	11	1	

**Total unpaid member percentage for this District:**

(Add up all of the Total unpaid members and divide that number by all of the above Total Reg. & Assoc. members, to get the total unpaid percentage for your District)

**How many Detachments are in your District? Five**

**How many of these Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting? Three**

What percentage of your District Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting (The Department goal is 70% or better)? **60%**

What Detachments in your District have 19, or less, total members? (Detachments must maintain a minimum of 15 members in 'good standing' in order to be considered an active Detachment) **Waynesboro**

What are you doing to assist these Detachments to gain a total membership of 20 or more members **Waynesboro doesn't have the members for an election now, will meet with them in Oct.**

What Detachments in your District have 14, or less, total members? (These Detachments are a **PRIORITY** to get back to a level of 'good standing' or their Charters may be pulled) **one has a small membership, but has a heart for the Corps. A good possibility is to have them combined with another detachment.**

Are there currently any Detachment Charters in your District being held by the Department due to inactivity? **Yes, but they are very active in their community, John V. Berg Det. #257**

If so, what Detachment names and numbers are they? **John V. Berg Det. #257**

Per the National By-Laws, do these Charters need to be surrendered and the Detachments dissolved? **No, they're striving to meet the National SOP, transmittal, and detachment By-laws updates!**

Special District projects you are involved in at this time: **Bring all the detachments together Sr. Vice Hare, Bill Brown, Keith Shearin and DVC Leotha Forte is planning on meeting with the detachment this month 9/28/23.**

New Detachment Recruiting Efforts: **N/A**

Suggestions for the 'Good of the League' as a result of your DVC activities: **Not only being seen in the community, working on setting up a American Red Cross CPR/First Aid/ AED class for detachment members**

Detachments deserving special recognition in your District and reasons why: **Sgt. W. E. Plueddemann Det. 1186 is looking to host the 2026 NCMCL under the leadership of John Dilday and Jeff Jones**

### c) South District – Howard Boyd



What percentage of your District Detachments were represented at the last Quarterly meeting (The Department goal is 70% or better)? ..... 50%

What Detachments in your District have 19, or less, total members? ..... 0  
(Detachments must maintain a minimum of 15 members in 'good standing' in order to be considered an active Detachment)

What are you doing to assist these Detachments to gain a total membership of 20 or more members?  
N/A

What Detachments in your District have 14, or less, total members? ..... 0  
(These Detachments are a PRIORITY to get back to a level of 'good standing' or their Charters may be pulled)

Are there currently any Detachment Charters in your District being held by the Department due to inactivity? ..... NO

If so, what Detachment names and numbers are they? Per the National By-Laws, do these Charters need to be surrendered and the Detachments dissolved?

**Special District projects you are involved in at this time:**  
Working to get all South Detachments to attend Quarterly Conferences. Working with Detachments 1070 and 1321 on efforts to host North Carolina Fall Quarterly Conference in Wrightsville Beach.

**New Detachment Recruiting Efforts:**  
All four Detachments have experienced a decline in membership since the offset of the Pandemic. From one year ago the South District has declined in membership by 30 members or 8.56%. The good news is that new members have joined over this reporting period and the delinquent list has stabilized.

**Suggestions for the 'Good of the League' as a result of your DVC activities:**  
All four Detachments are working actively in their communities. Their quarterly reports have all been submitted and contain many worthy activities. (Please reference their reports). I am pleased with each Detachment's efforts during the last quarter and the energetic Commandants who lead them.

**Detachments deserving special recognition in your District and reasons why:**  
None

- d) East District – Ray Randall (no report)
- e) Southeast District – Ray Randall (no report)

**R. Commandant's Report – Ric Ledford**

1. Thank you to all of the hard work done at the detachment level.
2. Full report:  
It has been a strange few months since our Department convention in June. I am humbled and honored to be serving the Department for a third and final term. I thank all of you who have supported me and helped me since 2021. I has truly been a pleasure in spite of some issues we have experienced along the way.

Following our Dept convention I traveled to Baltimore, MD to attend the Mid East Division conference. I was very honored to be asked to sing the National Anthem for the opening ceremony.

Following the Mid East Conference the month of July was a flurry of activity and coordination across multiple Departments. The Departments of GA, NC, TN, VA, MD, PA and NY worked with each other to coordinate and escort route to carry the remains of Marine Lcpl Sean Willey from GA to his family in NY. Marine Willey's remains were discovered along the Appalachian Trail in April. Once his family was notified DoGA Judge Advocate Alton Coleman started working with local law enforcement to get Marine Willey's remains home. Within the DoNC , Asheville Detachment 1417 set up a checkpoint along I 26 near Weaverville. DoNC Assistant Chaplain and PR officer Marilyn Bower and Catawba Valley Detachment Commandant Tom Lail attended the memorial service for Marine Willey in Clay Co NC. Marilyn was at the Asheville checkpoint and took photos of all the motorcycles assisting with the escort. Tom also rode with the escort from Clay Co up to the Virginia checkpoint. I rode from our checkpoint up to TN and returned home. Multiple law enforcement agencies assisted with this effort. I am working to recognize all of those officers who participated and will be presenting them all with a certificate of appreciation within the next few weeks.

The day following this activity I was involved in a motorcycle accident myself. I am truly blessed that it wasn't worse than it was. I sustained 4 broken ribs (2 with multiple fractures) and a fractured pelvis. I was just released by the doctor 2 weeks ago to drive and return to my normal activities.

Needless to say, due to the accident, I was unable to attend the National Convention in OKC. Sr. Vice Commandant Robert Hare attended in my absence on behalf of the DoNC. Thank you for representing the Department Robert.

I was not incapacitated due to the accident, I just couldn't travel. I have continued to work with Staff to address the affairs of the Department with MANY phone conversations with our Department Judge Advocate discussing all manner of policy, procedure, SOP's and bylaw proposals and

changes. In the coming months, now that I can travel, you are likely to see me at a Detachment meeting.

Last month I was appointed to the position of Mid East Division Vice Chief Devil Dog and I am very honored to be given the opportunity.

The National Mid Winter conference will be held in Arlington, VA this year, February 22<sup>nd</sup> through February 24<sup>th</sup>. I am registered and have my reservations made at the hotel.

Always remember, I am a phone call, text or email away if you need my assistance with anything in your Detachment. The elected officers are also available.

## **S. Report of Staff Officers**

### **1. Sr. Vice Commandant – Robert Hare**

- a) I want to first say thank you for electing me as your Department Sr. Vice-Commandant. It has been a humbling and rewarding experience so far. I attended both the Mid-East Division Conference in Maryland and the National Convention in Oklahoma City. Due to Commandant Ledford not being able to attend, I proudly represented the Department of North Carolina in every session and class that was scheduled, to include the future Department Commandant's class. In addition, I was asked to lead the Mid-East Division caucus for our next National Judge Advocate. It was a great experience and I want to thank you for trusting me to represent the Department.

Before I started visiting Detachments, I sent out an email to all the Detachment Commandants. I used the quick reference guide that our Department Adjutant sends out. I was quick shocked to find 9 emails undeliverable. That tells me that the Detachments are not updating their information when it changes. I encourage all of you to submit an updated ROI to the Department Paymaster and Adjutant ASAP. You don't have to wait until your elections to update.

I conducted my first Commandant's Council last month. During our session, we decided to not call it a "meeting" but an informal gathering so we can talk about issues, ideas, solutions, etc., that will help your detachments become stronger. We also decided to hold them just prior to the Department meetings, so they will no longer be monthly. I encourage all Commandants to attend because the Council is ran by you. It is not recorded, because I want to hear what is truly going on in our Detachments and I feel that recording it prevents you from speaking freely.

So far, I have visited 8 Detachments. I have been pleased by the warm welcome you all have given me and excited about what each Detachment is doing for their respective communities. I learned something from each visit that can strengthen not only my Detachment, but the Department as well. I look forward to visiting more before the Department Convention in Greensboro.

My first fundraiser is now in the history books. It didn't do as well as I would have hoped, but it did show a profit. I did conduct this one a little different by giving the Detachments an opportunity to make a little money for themselves. I was a little disappointed that not all of your participated in the fundraiser. The next fundraiser is a trip to the 2024 National Convention in Palm Springs, California. Right now, it is hotel for the week and \$500 spending money. If ticket sales are real good, I'll increase it to \$1,000 spending money. In January 2024, I will have another trip set up. This will be a cruise in November 2025, celebrating the 250th anniversary of our beloved Marine Corps. I will send out more information as I get it. I am also searching for another vacation package for the general public. If I am unable to, then I create a different fundraiser. If anyone has any ideas for a fundraiser, please feel free to get with me.

Finally, as your Department Sr. Vice-Commandant, I am here for you. If there is any Detachment that needs assistance with anything,

want to vent, present ideas, or conduct your Installation of Officers, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

b) ROI are now due within 14 days of the installation. This is a change from the National Convention.

2. Jr. Vice Commandant – AJ Pitts

a) Thank you for electing him as Jr Vice.

b) Trying to make the meetings more comfortable and hope to be more appealing to younger members, who feel they may not be able to buy the summer undress or other uniforms.

c) The department Instagram is up and running for the last 3 months. It has 497 page views (a page view is more than 30 seconds and 112 followers). DONCMCL is the name.

d) Instagram and Facebook pages are important.

e) Hi Hello is a mobile business card app. It has a mobile QR code. This is more appealing to the younger generation Marines. Most younger adults do not carry a wallet or paper. They do carry their smart phone.

f) Scholarships can be used for high school or college age kids.

g) Make a local bar your Tun Taven. This is where we meet for staff meetings and after regular meetings. The bar also promotes us.

h) Billboard advertising companies are only giving 1 month use free to 501c3 organizations. Lamar billboards have some local ownerships who may work with MCL.

i) Recruitment Drive

i. DONC to improve membership we are going to host a Recruitment Drive will kick off at the conclusion of the Fall membership meeting October 28th through May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Detachment Commandants/ Jr. Vice commandants once a new member is sworn in and the letter of transmittal is sent in, send a record of the Membership agreement to [jvc.donc@gmail.com](mailto:jvc.donc@gmail.com) and the member will be verified through the most up to date roster during the 2024 convention.



Idea is for members to benefit their local detachments and to use creative ideas to implement themselves into the community, this also allows for the leadership in the detachment to better utilize the reports sent per quarter to keep a more accurate record of members (Counts, Non-paid v paid, etc.). Finally, it allows for friendly competition between Detachments.

ii. Prizes

1) 1<sup>st</sup> Place: The detachment that recruits the most new regular members

- \$300
- Exempt from department dues for 2024
- MUC award

2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

- \$100
- Exempt from department dues for 2024

3) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

- Exempt from department dues 2024

iii. Reasoning behind the exemption from the Department dues stands as the department would not exist without the detachment members and 3 detachments being exempt from their department dues should not affect the treasury of the department in a matter that is detrimental. I would like to give the \$400 in prizes back to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place detachments from the department as a show of gratitude for their hard work during the drive, and because the department's treasury is built off the hard work of the detachments anyways. This money will come from the Junior Vice.

3. Judge Advocate –Bill Brown

- a) Associate Members – detachments can grant voting rights to your associates but it must be in the bylaws.
- b) Social gatherings – get together often for just having comradery.

- c) Bylaw Status - The Department Bylaws have been updated with all of the approved changes from the Department Convention. Because we had five issues from the 2022 Bylaws submitted to National deemed to be not in agreement with National Bylaw or National Administrative Procedures (NBL/NAP) we are still awaiting release of the 2023 NBL/NAP. National Headquarters has indicated that they would prefer to only have to review Department Bylaws every 3-5 years given the sheer numbers and depth of reviews required. As such, I am seeking to include the newly approved 2023 National changes in our submission for review
- d) Detachment Bylaws and Sample Bylaws Updates - I continue to work with several detachments that wish to update their bylaws and am simultaneously identifying needed changes to the Sample Bylaws. I am not pressing detachments hard on updating their bylaws until I have the Department's fully in compliance with National. I will begin contacting Detachments to update theirs as soon as that happens.
- e) Grievance & Charges - For the current fiscal year there have been no departmental grievance hearings. When information comes to light of a situation I am quick to work with the Detachment to suggest means to mitigate the crisis and come to an amicable solution; sometimes that means identifying a neutral outsider from another Detachment to investigate and/or serve as a mediator. As a reminder, before any grievance or disciplinary of charges come before the department, they need to be adjudicated at the detachment level. This has been reiterated by the National Commandant Baker and National Judge Advocate Porter on numerous occasions.
- f) National Bylaw and AP Amendments for 2023 - There were 49 proposed changes, 4 NBLs, 43 NAP 2 combined. Of those, 24 were approved; 29 were rejected; and six were withdrawn. I personally submitted a total of nine, six were approved, two were rejected and the other is to be reworked as part of a larger re-write of NAP Chapter IX. Denny Mathias also submitted a number of proposals that were approved including a new formatting guidelines for future amendments. Unfortunately, the proposals were all deleted from the National website when the National Convention started, so we must await release of the 2023 NBL/NAP to actually see them.

- g) Need for Training - I am looking forward to setting up some training hopefully in the next few months, possibly in Raleigh on a Saturday where the training could be between 1000 and 1500 or 1600 allowing for more travel time and a break for lunch. More information will be worked out once we determine the priority of training to be conducted based on need.
- 4. Bylaws Committee Chairman – Lisa Ciesielski / Bill Brown
    - a) Any submission of By-Laws – They are due 60 days prior to the convention. April 9, 2024 is the deadline.
    - b) No submittals received at this time.
    - c) Her contact has been updated in the QRF since they have now moved.
    - d) Bill Brown is starting to go through the bylaws and making notes.
  - 5. Sgt.-at-Arms – Steve Tracy
    - a) We are all still serving Marines when we join the League.
    - b) We help the shelters because of one Marine who had an idea.
    - c) We make a difference. This is our recruitment reason.
  - 6. Web sergeant – Kenny Joyner
    - a) Due to family issues he got a little behind on the website.
    - b) He will get with AJ Pitts
    - c) Detachment newsletters – he will only keep one year going forward. These can be sent to the historian also.
    - d) Someone else needs to consider stepping up to take over the web sergeant.
  - 7. Chief of Staff – John Dilday
    - a) Discuss upcoming Membership meetings and host Detachments for them.
      - i. **Spring 2024** - Alan D Lam Det #1209, Best Western Plus, 770 Huffman Mill Rd, Burlington, March 15-16 (room rates \$85 per night)
      - ii. **Convention 2024** –Greater Greensboro Det #260, Wyndam Garden Inn, June 7-9
      - iii. **Fall 2024** –Hampstead Det #1321 and Cape Fear Det #1070, Wilmington.

- iv. **Spring 2025** – Swansboro Det #1407
  - v. **Convention 2025** – Air Land NC Det #1257, Double Tree by Hilton RDU Airport 4810 Page Creek Ln, Durham
  - vi. **Fall 2025** – Shawn Knisely Det #983, Fayette, considering in conjunction with a Birthday Ball.
  - vii. **Spring 2026** – need a volunteer detachment.
  - viii. **Convention 2026** – need a volunteer detachment.
  - ix. **Fall 2026** - need a volunteer detachment.
- b) He recommends raising the 2025 convention to \$2500 since this is the 250<sup>th</sup> USMC anniversary and 2026 is the 250<sup>th</sup> USA anniversary. Only for these two times.
  - c) In view of the fact that the department got rid of the A/V equipment, he would like the department to pick up the cost instead of the detachment.

**T. Recess of the DoNC Membership Meeting morning session**

- 1. Chaplain to close Bible
- 2. Sgt-at-Arms to announce that the meeting will reconvene 1 hour from now.

**Recess for lunch - Reconvene in 1 hour**

Recessed at 1155. Reconvene at 1301.

**U. Reconvene the DoNC Membership Meeting afternoon session**

- 1. Sgt-at-Arms to bring meeting to order
- 2. Chaplain to open the Bible

**V. Adjutant Laura Hamilton**

- 1. Showed and went over the information in the Department Summary Spreadsheet from the Quarterly Reports.

**W. Report of Project Leaders**

(3-5 minutes)

- 1. Toys For Tots – Kevin Ashton

The 2023 Toys For Tots training in DC had some great information along with Oklahoma National convention. What an amazing year the Toys for Tots Program had in 2022 in its 75th year! Just within North Carolina we have 46 Coordinators in 92 out of 100 counties statewide. Collected 674,127 toys, books and games were distributed to 260,650 children in need.

As you know, at the Oklahoma National Convention announced the Toys for Tots Program will expand to provide year-round support to children in need experiencing challenges and exceptional circumstances, thus sending a message of hope beyond the holiday season. The Foundation's year-round distributions reassure families who face adversity and exceptional circumstances throughout the year, that Toys for Tots stands ready to assist when emotional support is needed most. This support includes initiatives like our focus on assisting foster children. The Foundation may reach out to a select group of Coordinators for some of the year-round initiatives so we can have a greater impact on those children in need. They also looking to expand into assisting the children on Indian reservation. All of the new information will be in the 2023 SOP to guide you.

The Supplemental Toy Program and speaks to campaign sizes. The foundation made the decision to increase the number of campaign sizes from four to six. I believe this will provide better support to you with both the Supplemental Toy Program and Promotional Materials and Boxes.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Local Toys for Tots Campaigns

<https://www.toysfortots.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-TFT-SOP.pdf>

If have any questions reach out to Jennifer Campeau (regional support) or me.

[jennifer.r.campeau@toysfortots.org](mailto:jennifer.r.campeau@toysfortots.org)

Kevin Ashton

[tft.donc@gmail.com](mailto:tft.donc@gmail.com)

Department of North Carolina Marine Corps League Toys For Tots Coordinator

2. Eagle Scout Program – Charles Minton
  - a) Eagle scouts are just as rare as Marines in a group of veterans.
  - b) Email him the reports of numbers given out.
  - c) Has heard that the scout masters and family are not reaching out. They think we are recruiting. Make sure they know we are not.
  - d) He had 36 sent in this quarter. We are number 1 in MED. We had 164 last year.
  - e) We can give a certificate to a person of any age. We can count the eagles for the past 4 years in our numbers.
  - f) We get requests from across the country to National, who pass them along to the local detachments.
  - g) We are working on making a standardized script / packet so anyone can present.

- h) We are working with the BSA to get us on the list on their website for recognition certificates.
  - i) Some districts are good, and some are not good to work with us.
  - j) Separate the numbers for female vs male scout.
3. Marine For Life Liaison –Mark Munger (absent)
4. Young Marines Program – Bruce Goeden
- a) Wilmington unit is in need of assistance help.
  - b) I have just taken over the position of Liaison for the Young Marines program for the Department of North Carolina for a number of reasons which I wish to share with you:
    - i. Young Marines is a national, non-profit 501c (3) youth education and service program for both boys and girls, aged eight through high school graduation which started in 1950.
    - ii. The purpose of the Young Marines is to promote mental, moral and physical development of its members.
    - iii. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline, with emphasis on the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.
  - c) Initially, after accepting the Liaison position, I was informed we have **only 7** active units with a total Number of **68** Young Marines in The State. North Carolina currently has a Regimental Commander and a District 2 Commander over the Units.
  - d) My goal is for the Young Marines program to grow from the current 7 Units to a **minimum** of 20 Young Marine Units in North Carolina in order to reach as many of our youth as possible. And they need your help!
  - e) They need your help to start new Young Marine units, if there is not one already in your area of the State. Why you may ask? Because we want to give kids between 8 yrs and 18 a sense of family. A sense of purpose. A chance to make a difference in this crazy world.
  - f) They need your help financially. Please note, *there is no current Congressional Funding for the Young Marine programs*. Congress in their infinite wisdom decided this is no longer a needed program. Perhaps it's because they fear it might teach morals and accountability to our youth!

- g) We ask for you to become mentors to these Young Marines. How? By arranging with the Operational Units in your area to spend that most precious of commodities, **Time**, with these Young Marines where you can sit down with them to talk about your time in the Corps and what inspired you so you can inspire them.
  - h) Our future is predicated on the teaching of our children. In spite of the current state of affairs in the World today, **YOU. CAN. MAKE. A. DIFFERENCE.**
5. VAVS Program – Al Pasquale
- a) [www.GoRoger.org](http://www.GoRoger.org) for suicide assistance provided by Stop Soldier Suicide.
  - b) This is also a concept to help with veteran suicide. Veteran Firearm Safety Team:

### **Why a VFST?**

Veterans are 53% more likely to die by suicide than their civilian counterparts

From 2016-2020 the NC veteran death by suicide rate was 2.5 times higher than the general population

76% of deaths by suicide in NC are by firearm and this percentage is even higher for the veteran population

Veterans have unique training, experience and cultural affinity for firearms, requiring a veteran-generated solution to increasing safety during times crisis

### **Who Should Participate?**

Although anyone with an interest in preventing veteran suicide is welcome, the following are highly encouraged to join:

- Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) such as local VFWs, American Legions **[WHO ELSE?]**
- Pawnshops, gun stores, firing ranges, sporting clubs and other entities who interact with veteran firearm owners
- Non-profit organizations and other social service agencies who routinely assist veterans and their families who may be struggling
- Mental health professionals involved in providing behavioral-health care to veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI or suicidal thoughts
- ER staff, primary care doctors and other medical practices who provide veteran healthcare
- Law enforcement officers and first responders who routinely come into contact with potentially suicidal veterans

### **What a VFST Is\Does**

An apolitical coalition of community stakeholders with particular knowledge of military culture and experience in enhancing the safety and wellbeing of veterans at-risk of firearm suicide and self-harm

Through a consensus-based strategic planning process, develops and facilitates best practices around safe storage policies and safety planning for at-risk veterans, including:

- Community outreach and education about the importance of providing safety alternatives to veterans during periods of suicidal crisis
- Validated messaging developed to effect desired behavioral outcomes
- Strategically distributes/provides options for acquiring gunlocks and other safe storage devices
- Helps establish peer support systems and safety planning practices for at-risk veterans

Relies on research and evidence to ensure strategies are implemented with fidelity and outcomes are measured to ensure effectiveness

### **What a VFST is NOT**

A government entity or initiative that drives "top down" solutions

A gun control program that espouses "red flag" policies, background checks, or firearms bans

An advocate for or against any national, state, or local firearm laws, statutes, or regulations

6. Fund-Raising – Robert Hare
  - a) This was a different kind of fundraising. This was shared 188 times across the country. It was viewed over 30,000 times. Sold 450 tickets sold. It was strictly word of mouth / social media sharing.
  - b) The weapon winner is Anthony Sharp from Detachment 260.
  - c) Only allowed 4 raffle per calendar year. The trips have less restrictions across state lines.
7. Compliance Officer – Phil Randall (absent)
8. Scholarship – Ric Ledford
  - a) No applicants currently.
  - b) This was set up to help the trade school options.
  - c) This is open to any member in good standing and their immediate family.
9. A/V Equipment – Denny Mathias / Patrick Melton (no update on liquidation)

*Commandant Ledford "At this time I ask for a motion from the Floor to accept the Officer and Committee reports as given or submitted."*

Ray Randall made the motion to accept the reports as given. Second by Todd Carpenter. Approved by members present.



**X. Awards and Recognition**

1. National Junior Vice Commandant Awards – Robert Hare / AJ Pitts.
  - a) 17 detachments represented and 43 members at National.
  - b) 100% renewal retention awards were presented.

**Y. Unfinished Business**

1. Convention 2025 – Air, Land, NC Det #1257 bids to host.
  - a) Bill Brown made the motion to accept the bid. Second by Jeffrey Jones. Approved by members present.
2. Bylaw update
  - a) National bylaws have been updated, but not posted on website.
3. Jeffrey Jones on A/V equipment – we voted to get rid of the purchased stuff. We still have the self-contained boxed unit. We may have the few items needed in the items for sale that we can keep. Considering the issues, we have had today, we need to do something.
  - a) Kenny Joyner stated that if some of the cables are not sold, then we should already have enough available to set up a couple of speakers.
  - b) Commandant Ledford will talk to Patrick Melton about this.
4. John Dilday – proposes that until the A/V can be determined that we reimburse the detachments for the A/V costs (to include this meeting).
  - a) Jeffrey Jones made the motion to pay for the A/V cost of this meeting \$75. Seconded by Alex Novgloski. Approved by members present.
5. Ask the Floor if there is anything. - none

**Z. New Business**

1. John Dilday – We lose a lot of attendance to American Legion convention which is normally the same weekend.
  - a) Discussion - We have a window in our bylaws. The host detachments must look at the other events on both sides of the proposed dates.
2. John Dilday 2025 and 2026 are special years for the USMC and USA. He proposes that the department raises the stipend to \$2,500 for each year for these two years.
  - a) Daniel? – this is a budget item and cannot be voted on at this time.
  - b) This is a consideration for the next budget discussion and voting.
  - c) John Dilday Corporations usually are looking 2 to 3 years ahead for donations or grants. He has several corporations already lined up to request money from.

3. David Anderson made the motion to put in our letter of intent for the 2027 national convention. Second by Alex Novgloski.
  - a) Must 1<sup>st</sup> put in our letter of intent. It is not an obligation. We must vote as a department to put in the letter of intent.
  - b) Should the detachments have input before deciding on location?
  - c) It can be a department hosting and a detachment can co-host. A detachment must get the DoNC commandant approval.
  - d) David Anderson - He is here to make money for the department and not lose it to national.
  - e) There is an outside agency which national uses and they do a lot of the leg work.
  - f) Once we put in a letter of intent, Helms Bisco (57.00) handles the hotel. We work with items for activities. We have no input on the hotel.
  - g) The EBOT and David talked about this before this was brought up.
  - h) There is a publication on hosting of the national convention. It can be found on national website.
  - i) Approved by members present.
4. David Anderson made the motion for the department budget for 2024 be presented at the spring meeting to be voted on at the convention. Second by Jeffrey Jones.
  - a) A lot of folks want the budget ahead of time. We need to be able to discuss with our detachment members.
  - b) Approved by member present.
5. David Anderson made the motion that DoNC hire outside financial firm with no MCL association to audit going back to January 2021. Second by Alex Novgloski.
  - a) David Anderson – Spring of 2021 department meeting, the members approved \$10K for A/V. In February 2022 BOT approved \$10,668.38 for A/V. He has asked for receipts for this money. A lot of money was spent on A/V and no receipts provided. He was provided with an inventory list. Things were bought and returned. If you were reimbursed then the money should be showing up.
  - b) Denny Mathias – the invoices and receipts were submitted to the paymaster. The items bought and returned were shown on those submissions. A lot of the returns were not even on the submitted receipts. He welcomes this.

- c) Rick Thomas – one detachment had an audit for 3 years it was \$5500 to do this.
  - d) Bill brown – these things were brought to the department for the last 2 years. We are operating for two fiscal years since.
  - e) Keith Shearin – time frame should not be an issue as we are required to keep records.
  - f) Jim Mitchell – on a zoom meeting we had asked the paymaster for a copy of the receipts over a year ago.
  - g) Laura Hamilton – The amount charged for the audit could be more since we are larger than a detachment. The \$72K in the checking account does have restrictions on how much could be spent. We would need to verify how much money is available to pay for such an audit.
  - h) Kenny Joyner – do we want to pay \$7,000 or more to find say \$500.
  - i) Bill Brown - a different paymaster was involved when this started.
  - j) Denny Mathias will put together an expense report for anyone.
  - k) Rick we will need to get an estimate for the cost of an audit. He stated the preliminary audit estimate was \$5K to \$10K. That detachment found out where the money went. There was no wrong doing found.
  - l) John Dilday – With past financial experience you must give in writing to the paymaster a deadline for the data.
  - m) Tom Lail – we should get the receipts / invoices. Then go forward.
  - n) Vote on David Anderson motion – 19 in favor of the audit to 25+ not in favor of the audit.
  - o) Jeffrey Jones – we still need to get the receipts from Scott.
6. Kenny Joyner made the motion to give the paymaster 30 days to get the receipts to the EBOT. The letter will be from the EBOT. It will then be sent to the BOT. Second by Luke Winters. Approved by members present.
  7. Todd Abbott asked about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary ribbon. It was explained that those who attended the National Convention received their ribbon. Everyone else can purchase their ribbon from the ship store.
  8. Is there any other New Business to be brought up at this time? None.

**AA. Good of the League**

1. Dave Ward – food for active-duty service members. Ground troops are being positioned now for possible support. Hope to have a date soon, of when we will be passing out the food at Camp Lejune.
  - a) Kenny Joyner – Shawn Knisley detachment presented Det #1242 \$1000 for this cause.
  - b) Robert Hare – Greater Greensboro detachment presented Det #1242 \$5000 for this cause.
  - c) Bob Click – High Country detachment presented Det #1242 \$1000 for this cause.
2. Bill Brown – as a DVC he listens to the paymaster reports. We are a nonprofit. Our purpose is not to hold onto every dollar we earn. Look at your books and see what you earn and what have you given out.
3. Gen A Hal Turnage #1096 gave a check for \$100 for YM programs.
4. Craig Reeling MED ANVC –
  - a) Name tags / embroidery on shirts so folks know your name. This helps folks who don't remember names and for the new folks.
  - b) ROI is what national uses to update the league locator. A detachment website can be added to the locator.
  - c) Ribbon chart updates will come out with the updated bylaws.
  - d) Dues for membership should never be too high to price out members. They should not be a source of income for the detachment. Fundraising should be done.
5. Jr Vice AJ Pitts – attendance ribbons – he is waiting on the streams from his predecessor. He will have them at the next meeting or get with the DVCs.

**BB. Announcements**

1. Commandant Ledford – are you comfortable? The idea of a slightly relaxed uniform came from Jr Vice Pitts. This will be for Fall and Spring Meetings.
2. Thank you to the host detachment and all members here.
3. Howard Boyd – has a flag which was flown over Camp Fallujah in 2007.

**CC. Closing of the Meeting per Ritual**

1. Remarks by Cmdt. Ledford
2. Singing of the Marines Hymn

3. “Good night Chesty, wherever you are!”
4. Retire the Colors
5. Sr. Vice Commandant’s last duty – Robert Hare
6. Chaplain – Prayer and close the Bible – Lisa Ciesielski.
7. Meeting adjourned 1455