



Marine Corps League Department of South Carolina SC Leathernecks



MAY 2023

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See pg for more.



Flags at Arlington on Memorial Day

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NOTE: Please submit items in jpeg or png.





Department Commandant

Helen Breen *commandant@mcleaguesc.org*

Leadership is hard sometimes. Never is that a truer statement as when proposed changes come down the pipeline. Leadership gets to bear the brunt of the negative feedback, but also gets the positive feedback. I have learned over this past year serving as your Department Commandant that thick skin should be listed as a job requirement! There is always going to be a small portion of the membership in any organization that is going to see ill intent or a “power grab” in any proposed change brought to the membership. I have yet to meet a true leader in our League that has a “power grab” mindset when proposing any change they feel will improve our organization.

Our National Board of Trustees recently announced the increase of our Life Member Dues, which will go into effect July 1, 2023, the start of our new fiscal year. Those of you who have been League members a while have probably heard scuttlebutt over the years about the increase. Past BOTs have tossed around various amounts of increase, but no decision was made. The current BOT finally pulled the trigger on it and set the new amounts to double what they currently are. This created a good amount of debate across the League. There were a lot of negative comments made about the League’s leadership, but they knew it was a decision that needed to be made now. They couldn’t, as Johnny Baker said on the Commandant’s Call a few weeks ago, “keep kicking the can down the road.” That is the reason that the National Leadership finally put their foot down and made the decision. This is what we have entrusted them to do – evaluate the information and make decisions to benefit the corporation that is The Marine Corps League.

Our proposed Bylaw Amendments have been published and will be voted on at our Department Convention in June. The Leadership has brought forward some proposals to help continue to move our Department forward. Just as with National, some of the proposals may be concerning to the membership, but no decision is made in a vacuum. This is the reason the Bylaw Amendment process is structured the way it is. The proposed amendments are submitted, shared with the membership (you can find the proposed changes at https://mcleaguesc.org/bylaw_notifications), and at the specified time in the Business Session, discussion and a vote will be cast to approve or reject the proposed changes.

As I said at the beginning of my article, Leadership is hard. True leadership takes a willingness to take the criticism that is sometimes be thrown your way. It takes the intestinal fortitude to propose changing the status quo. It’s understanding that not everyone will like you or the choices you make. However, at the end of the day, if you are leading based on the honest opinion that the changes are the best thing for the whole, then you are serving as a leader.

Dept. Sr. Vice Commandant

Buddy Ferguson *sr_vice@mcleaguesc.org*



Our Department's 30th Annual Convention is only a few weeks away. Low Country Detachment 803 has been busy preparing for this event and I hope a lot of you have made plans to attend. If you haven't and wish to be a part of what I know will be an outstanding Convention you should get your registration done asap on the Department website at mcleaguesc.org.

In addition to catching up with old Marine friends from across our state the opportunity to interact with Delegates from other Detachments and National Officers in attendance is a great way to get ideas for improving you own Detachment.

On the agenda we will have proposed Bylaw changes to consider and election of Department Officers for the 2023-2024 term. As I have stated at our Department Quarterlies, I am running for a second term as your Sr. Vice Commandant. If elected, I pledge to serve the membership of our Department to the best of my ability.





Jr. Vice Commandant

Frank Faulkner *jr_vice@mcleaguesc.org*

I am looking forward to the Department convention next month. I will be running again for Department Junior Vice Commandant. Thank you for all your support in making a difference in our Marine Corps League. Now is the time to get your life membership before the deadline. See the information below:

Section 7050. Life Members. ... Effective 1 September 2021 the Life Membership fee shall be as established by the National Board of Trustees and shall be posted on the National Website."

The National Board of Trustees has the fiduciary responsibility for the operation and budget requirements of the Marine Corps League. The last time fees were adjusted was 19 years ago. The National Board of Trustees voted and approved the following:

Effective 1 July 2023, the Life Membership Fees will increase as per the following chart:

- \$1000.00 – 35 years of age and lower
- \$ 800.00 – 36-50 years of age
- \$ 600.00 – 51-64 years of age
- \$ 400.00 – 65-84 years of age
- \$ 100.00 – 85 years of age and higher

The above Fees are only available if the member's annual dues have been paid and the member is in good standing. Any member desiring to pay their Life Membership Fees at the current rate, must do so and be post-marked no later than 30 June 2023. Any Life Membership payments after that date are listed above.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP as of June 1, 2023

	PLM	PAID	TOTAL PD	UNPAID
REGULAR	693	197	890	89
ASSOCIATE	70	77	147	21
MULTI	13	0	13	0
TOTAL	776	274	1050	110

Voting strength 890

Dept. Judge Advocate

Claude Davis, III *judge_advocate@mcleaguesc.org*



Greetings all, spring is in the air and our Annual Department Convention is near. Multiple members of the Department Staff under the direction of our Commandant have been very busy perusing our by-laws and recommending many changes and updates. There are 13 proposed by-law changes. If you are attending the convention and plan to vote on these changes, you will need to educate yourself by reading the changes in advance. The process is quick and little time is afforded to discussion. Your Detachment Commandant or their designee should have made them available to you already. If not, the proposed changes may be found on the Department website. During our upcoming convention there will be several by-law changes and updates voted on. Please take the time to review these articles and discuss them in your detachments prior to the convention. Later this summer after the Department and National Conventions, take the time to review your Detachment by-laws to insure they are synchronized. I look forward to seeing you at the Department Convention in Charleston!!



Dept. Paymaster

Jerry Holt jerryholt813@gmail.com

Important!

Life Members dues will double as of July 1. Transmittals received by the Department Paymaster after June 30 will not be processed in time to avoid the increase. **Don't delay.** Some other points:

A new member may apply for Life Membership at the same time he/she joins. The must submit an application form as a new member; pay the new member dues; and pay the Life Member dues at the same time.

Members must be current in their annual dues in order to apply for Life Membership. If they are delinquent, the Life Member application will be rejected.

Date of birth must be included on the transmittal for the member applying for Life Membership.

If the Life Member applicant is already current on his/her dues, do not include the \$3 Department dues. If they are not current, you must include the renewal code on a separate transmittal line and their current annual dues (including the \$3 for the Department, along with the Life Member dues – again on a separate line.

Delinquent Members. We currently have 115 delinquent members in the Department. Members who are delinquent on your current roster, and whose dues are not processed prior to August 31, will be dropped from the rolls of the Marine Corps League. Unlike the old days when delinquent members would stay on the Detachment roster for up to three years, members will be dropped when they are more than 380 days delinquent. That means that if they are delinquent now, and they don't pay their dues before the end of August, they will no longer be members in good standing.

Members who are not in good standing may not hold any elected or appointed positions in the League. Also, they may not vote in any election or on any Marine Corps League issue.

Delinquent members who are dropped from the rolls must submit a new member application if they want to rejoin the League. That application must be submitted along with the transmittal with their dues payments.

If you have delinquent members on your current roster – **mail them a letter requesting that they mail in their payment.**

Even if they don't regularly attend meetings, it's a way to keep in touch and to ensure that they are still OK and in your neighborhood.

Paymasters.

When submitting transmittals with dues payments, only submit one check for the combined amount due to National and the Department. That check should be payable to the Department of South Carolina.

Be sure to use the current transmittal form, which can be downloaded from www.mcleaguelibrary.org – under Detachment Document Links. *(Please use the Short Form of the Transmittal instead of the Long Form. The long form is a nuisance).*

For new members joining between March 1 – June 30, be sure to use the appropriate code (the one with an *) and section in the lower left portion of the transmittal. Members joining in that timeframe pay a fee that is reduced by \$10. The catch is that their regular dues are payable before August 31 again. (Even with the reduced fee for National, the \$3 Department fee remains the same).

Chaplain's Corner

Jeremiah Palmer jeremiahepalmer32@gmail.com



Fallen Marines From July 2022 To June 2023

1. Larry Heaton
2. Richard Gordon
3. Herman Bailey
4. Alfred Dancho
5. William Moore
6. Danny Williams
7. Denver Hoffman
8. Argle Wakeman
9. Jack Vicory
10. Dennis Brennan
11. Robert Heacock
12. George Ziegler
13. Harold Schumacher
14. Hack Hill
15. Clarence Williams
16. Michael Pollard
17. Dewey Jones
18. William Brown
19. Robert Sweet
20. Thomas Ballard
21. Ronald Drake

USMC HISTORY

- 23 June 1938 President Roosevelt signs legislation that enables the Marine Corps' active duty strength to be 20 percent of the active duty enlisted strength of the US Navy.
- 25 June 1938 The Naval Reserve Act organizes the Marine Corps Reserve into the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve (active-duty retirees subject to recall), Organized Marine Corps Reserve—units and Volunteer Marine Corps Reserve—individuals.
- 30 June 1938 The Marine Corps active duty strength is 16,997 enlisted and 1,359 officers.

* Info from USMC A Complete History— © 2002 Beaux Arts Editions

Young Marines

James Roberts *trainingyoungmarines@ymail.com*

Our Upstate Young Marines have been doing great things in the past month. Not only as a unit but individually as well. YM Sgt Owens received an award from the DAR chapter for her outstanding leadership and being selected as the Upstate Young Marine of the Year.

YM Lcpl Lupu has enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and will leave for recruit training on the 5th of Jul 2023. He has been a very positive and hard working Young Marine over the past 3 years.

YM Sgt Lawton has received many awards for his leadership, not only in the Young Marines but for his dedication and team work at his school. He placed 1st ever SCISA middle school government state president. He earned Headmaster's Honor Roll by maintaining a 95% all year in every class.

He was also chosen as the SCISA scholar for scoring 90% on the National Standardized test in reading and math.

All the Young Marines have shown how hard work can open doors to bigger things in life.



DETACHMENT ROLL CALL

DETACHMENT #803 Low Country

On February 19, 2023 MCL Low Country Detachment 803 members Cherri' Sterling and Bob Doshier were presented with a check for \$1,000.00 for the detachments service dog program, from the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club. Marine and CVM member, Bill Niera, presented the need to the non-profit veterans group during a regular meeting and it was quickly decided and approved.

Most veterans know and experience first hand, the need for service dogs. Some people think it is a farce, or a means to just bring a dog with you any and everywhere, but that is not so. Service dogs not only help the blind, deaf and lame, but also provide a much needed security , protection and comfort for those with unseen disabilities such as PTSD.



To acquire a service dog, there are thousands of hoops to jump through, appointments to go to, applications and documents to sign, plus the added expensive of paying for a trained service dog, vet care , etc. MCL 803 Service dog program was developed after one of our own joined the "22" . Had this Marine had his needed service dog, he would probably still be with us today. Our mission with this service, is to cut the length of time and expense for a veteran in need, to acquire a service dog.

We have partnered with a no kill dog shelter who will donate k-9s for free who are up to date on their shots, neutered and ready to be trained. Much research on training dogs for this duty has been done. Hours of studying , tests , training etc have been taken and certifications received . The Marines of the service dog program at the 803, want to make service dogs available for FREE to Vets in need. With this in mind , it comes down to training. To take the college courses and reach the skill level needed to train these dogs, attendance in an accredited school for at least one year. We created a special fund just for this cause. We set up donation boxes at various events , and come up with various ways to raise the needed funds..

Cherri' Sterling has given of her time, effort and income to get this program going. The first certification has been acquired and the first dog has been certified through the program. "Gracie" , Cherri's certified service dog for PTSD, has already helped numerous times, and is doing her job well. (Cherri' did not want to start off with a dog for someone else, incase she was not successful at the training.)

A trained service dog can cost a Veteran up to \$10,000.00. This is what is stopping veterans from getting the dogs they need. Most Veterans are surviving off a small VA check just to pay for housing and food and do not have the funds to purchase a service dog. Our Goal, in the Marine Corps League 803 Low Country Detachment, is to obtain trainable dogs from the local

NO KILL RESCUE, training them and GIVING them to Vets in need. Marines , Cherri' Sterling, Bob Doshier and Bill Millette hope to provide the next veteran with a trained, certified dog soon.

The Goal is help reduce the numbers of 22 a day.... and help Veterans in need.

Semper Fidelis,

Donations can be made out to: LOW COUNTRY DET. MARINE CORPS SERVICE DOG PROJECT

2512 Palmetto Hall Blvd.

Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

DETACHMENT #939 James L. Hammons



Top— Memorial Day Ceremony.

Above—Toys for Tots David Wise

Right—Matt Dillion Scholarship Recipients



DETACHMENT #1105 Owens-Kennemore



Det. 1105 was invited by the VVA Chapter to do a Honor Guard and Bugle for their Memorial Day Ceremony and Flag Retirement.



DETACHMENT #1106 Upstate Marines



MCL Detachment 1106 Commandant and Rifle Team at Memorial Day services on May 29, 2023 at Dolly Cooper Veterans Cemetery near Anderson, SC. Left to right: Tommy Burdette, Commandant Julie Harper, Roger Briggs, Warren Lutz, and Acting Honor Guard Captain Lloyd Cornelius.

DETACHMENT #1134 Hutchings-Caldwells

HUTCHINGS-CALDWELLS DET 1134

The 2023-2024 Detachment officers were sworn in on May 09th 2023. They are as follows:

Commandant: Chuck Davis

Sr. Vice Commandant: Rick Renna

Jr. Vice Commandant: Gary Swistak

Judge Advocate: Degrant Stevenson, III

Jr. Past Commandant: Rick Renna

Chaplain: Dale Fox

Sgt-At-Arms: Mike Owensby

Marine 4 Life: Chuck Davis

Web Sgt: Felice Vigil



Detachment 1141—Speedy Wilson



On May 30, Speedy Wilson put flags on Veteran graves. They also visited Harold "Speedy" Wilson's grave.

DETACHMENT #1219 Gret Pee Dee Devil Dogs



our June 9th trip to the Veterans Café and Grille at Myrtle Beach to attend the Quilt of Valor Ceremony. Quilts of Valor were presented by the QOV Myrtle Beach Shore Birds to MCL 1219 members David Gilbert, Lex Henry, Larry Pouncey, Russ Miller, and Bruce Stott by the QOVF Myrtle Beach Shore Birds. MCL Frank Faulkner and John Harlow participated in the ceremony by wrapping the QOV recipients in their respective quilts. It was our honor to serve in this special way during the ceremony for our fellow Marines.

Frank drove us to the beach in style in his luxurious RV. We loudly and proudly sang all 3 verses of the Marines Hymn during the trip and told stories of our days at MCRD and other duty assignments as Marines. We made quite an impression pulling up to the front of the Veterans Café and Grill in Frank's RV and disembarking in a loose formation making a commanding entrance in our MCL covers and MCL shirts. The café staff quickly put together a VIP table for us and our waitress Wendy gave us the outstanding service deserving of all Marines. The QOV Myrtle Beach Shore Birds all visited with us at our table and were sufficiently impressed that in addition to Dave and Russ, they added Lex, Bruce, and Larry to also receive Quilts of Valor that morning. WOW!

This will be a special memory for us all and a special thank you goes to our Detachment Commandant Lex Henry and our Convoy Commander Frank Faulkner for honchoing this GREAT day for us. CONGRATS to our QOV recipients. This is an honor you have earned and deserve. Thank you for your service as Marines and for your continued service as members of the Marine Corps League. God bless you all and your families. Semper Fidelis Marines.

AROUND THE MARINE CORPS

Deactivation Ceremony of the 4th Battalion at Parris Island, Friday June 17th



Lt.Col. Aixa Dones, the last CO of 4th Recruit Battalion.



Bgen. Fields, CG of MCRD Parris Island, after the ceremony with Cmdt. Helen Breen.

2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omni Hotel

100 W Oklahoma City, OK 73109

Monday, 8/14– Friday 8/18

Alternate Hotel info

Fairfield Inn & Suites

404-604-5050 (Code MCL)

\$149 includes complimentary breakfast

Make sure to fill out your personal registration and also, the Delegate sheet for your Detachment.

2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa

71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Monday, 8/12– Friday 8/16

\$159 Single includes taxes, resort fee and parking

\$169 Double includes taxes, resort fees and parking

Reservations open up the day after the 2023 concludes

NATIONAL & DEPT. OFFICERS

National Commandant	Johnny Baker	jbaker@mcleague.org
Natl Sr Vice Commandant	Warren Griffin	wgriffin@mcleague.org
Natl Jr Vice Commandant	TJ Morgan	tjmorgan@mcleague.org
National Judge Advocate	Phil Zamora	pzamora@mcleague.org
Natl Jr Past Commandant	Dennis Tobin	dtobin@mcleague.org
National Young Marines	Bill Davis	natdirector@aol.com
Natl Vice Comm SE Division	Jerry Holt	jerryholt813@gmail.com
Asst Ntl. Vice Cmdt, SE Division	Ronnie Broussard	MCL-Acadiana@outlook.com
SE Div. Aide-de-Camp	Jim Stone	jimsn4@yahoo.com
Vice Chief Devil Dog, SE Division	Jim Stone	jimsn4@yahoo.com
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Protocol Officer	Bob Burns	difrompi@aol.com
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Americanism	Cherri Sterling	csterling1212@hotmail.com
Historian	Frank Faulkner	Faulkf@aol.com
Web Sergeant	Jim Breen	jbreen.mcl@gmail.com
Chief of Staff	Jim Powell	usmc80@comcast.net
Toys for Tots	Tim Callahan	callahan.timothy@yahoo.com
Young Marines Coordinator	James Roberts	hardcharger49@yahoo.com
Marine for Life Program	Kevin Patton	Kevin.patton78@gmail.com
Awards Committee Chair	Frank Faulkner	jr_vice@mcleaguesc.org
Newsletter Chair	John & Cathy Stump	jcstump@hargray.net

For a complete list of National Officers visit: mclnational.org

For a complete list of Department Officers visit: mcleaguesc.org

DATES TO REMEMBER



June 22-25

**Department Convention
Hilton Garden Inn North Charleston
5265 International Blvd
North Charleston, SC 29418
843-308-9330
\$139/ + tax a night
Visit mcleaguesc.org to register.**

Aug. 14-18

**100th National Convention
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
See Page 24 for details**

Jan. 20, 2024

**Quarterly Meeting at 1000
American Legion #6 at 200 Pickens St/Columbia
Coffee and donuts served at 0900
Growl to follow
A limited number of meals will be available for purchase.**

Feb. 22-24

**Mid-Winter Conference
Sheraton Pentagon City
900S Orme Street 22204
Arlington, VA
\$129/ + tax a night**

August 2024

**Palm Springs, California
See page for details**