



Detachment Meeting Minutes
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049
Marine Corps League
February 16, 2026

OPENING BY RITUAL:

Meeting called to order by Commandant Burt Helmka at 1900 hours.
The Pledge of Allegiance recited, followed by prayer
Members in attendance: 14

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Commandant	Burt Helmka	p
Sr. Vice Commandant	John Dunker	P
Jr. Vice Commandant	Joe Peacy	P
Judge Advocate	Ray Sturm	E
Jr. Past Commandant	Ben Wells	P
Adjutant	Debbie Deene	P
By-Laws Committee Chairman	Danny Fischio	E
Chaplain	James Sanchez	E
Color Guard Commander	Woody Bowman	E
Historian	Joe Wright	E
Newsletter Editor	Ray Sturm	E
Paymaster	Ben Wells	P
Public Information Officer	Vacant	
Quartermaster	Dan Ryan	P
Rifle Pistol Team Captain	Ray Sturm	E
Sgt-at-Arms	James Galvin	P
Web Sergeant	Joe Wright	E
Young Marine Commander	Ray Sturm	E

GUEST/VISITOR: Retired Marine Matthew Lookfong possible new member to our league.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Yes, application for new member Matthew Lookfong.
Verification and vote to take place after initial business is finished.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT: Minutes from February meeting are noted that the minutes will be posted on the detachment website along with the newsletter. Copies available on table, pending review for any changes.

CORRESPONDENCE: No report

PAYMASTER: The financial report was given by. This amount is as follows as to date

Checking Account:	\$ 6618.48
Investment Account	<u>\$ 10,537.84</u>
	\$ 17,156.32

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CHAPLAIN REPORT: - No report. However, Nila Caulder shared that one of our lifetime members, Earl Parker, is ill and has had lung biopsy done. His health progress is not good, please keep him in our prayers. Nila Caulder has provided his address if we would like to mail him a card. Oscar Earl Parker, 7638 Fairbanks Court, Hanover, Md.

The commandant also shared our condolences as a whole for Norm and Jane Huffman in the recent passing of their son.

COMMANDANT: As the commandant I attended the monthly meeting here at Post 175. It was reported that our dinner that was done in January coordinated by Joe Peacy was good he did a great job. I volunteered MCL to host dinners every other month. Then their board then asked whether we would take on every month for the remainder of the year; I took it upon myself to say yes. So, we will be hosting dinners every second Friday of the month for the remainder of the year. I was willing to give back to the post money on these dinners however they declined and told us to build up our funds. This post is sitting very well financially at 1.5 million, which is amazing.

The post will be having a game night on February 22nd, 2026 part of a collaboration with the American Legion gaming, Channel 2 news will be here to do a spotlight on this event. It was also shared that there are several bills being addressed with the senate at the state house right now regarding veterans. On that note the legion will have an event on Saturday, March 21, 2026 to help anyone file any VA claims to any that may be interested.

The second item I brought up with the commander of the legion was securing the hall for our annual bull and oyster roast. Credit is to be given to our member Brian Wasson as he helped us get the hall as a donation from the legion for our event. Also, Brian is looking at his schedule to see if he can be our bartender that day, so we do not have to pay a bar tender for this event. The bull and oyster roast will be on Saturday April 11, 2026, which our second vice will discuss on this event in more detail.

I've arranged and was approved with Bass Pro to hold our annual recruitment drive again, but the date is not yet confirmed. I also received an email from the Glen Burnie Improvement association about their spring vendor event on Saturday May 8, 2026. We did have a table set up in the spring for recruitment and sold a little swag. The date of the event is when we are at our state convention in May in Ocean City. I would like to ask if anyone is not attending the convention and can set up a table and volunteer for this event, it would be great, please just let me know.

Our pistol shoot is scheduled for Thursday February 19, 2026, at Cyndi's Hot Shots at 18:00-20:00, for anyone wanting to attend. No need to have a gun we have plenty to go around as Ben Wells shared. Lastly, I hope no one is upset that I took the initiative upon myself for these monthly dinners. I will get with the house committee here at the legion when they meet on the last Tuesday of each month.

SENIOR VICE: We are all set for April 11, 2026, for our annual bull and oyster roast. The caterer is secure. Our menu will be the same as last year along with raw and fried oysters. There will be draft beer, Miller Lite draft and a cash bar, soda and water will be included with the ticket price. The price of the tickets will be the same as last year at \$60.00 each. We will have 50/50 raffle auction items and pull tabs; any raffle tickets we have not sold for our May lottery calendar will also be sold that day. Should there be any beer left over in the keg we will donate it back to the post. We are looking for donations for our basket raffles and volunteers to go out and try and obtain some donations; we will provide a donation letter for anyone that can help. Please let me know who needs one and who can help. I also have some 250 anniversary shirts available and coins. I will bring the coins to have Dan put in the footlocker in the shed.



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JUNIOR VICE: Thanks to all who helped with our January legion dinner, it was a great success and we received good feedback. The only thing I learned for the next one is to have more meat I mis judged vs uncooked weight and cooked weight and possibly use smaller rolls next time. We will offer our dinners basically for around \$12.00 each month tis is what the legion has suggested and based on our cost of the food. It was proposed by Jeff Glover to go to Groesbeck's. grocery with a donation letter and several places do donate to these types of organizations as they did for him with the girl scouts when he would cook for them. We simply need a donation letter updated.

We have a new member to vote on and swear in. All his credentials are in order, and he is more than qualified to be part of this Marine Corps league. Please welcome Matthew Lookfong as he shares a little bit of information about himself, we will proceed with voting him in and his initiation after our regular business is finished.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: No report.

JR. PAST COMMANDANT: Reminder that we have our Mid-Winter conference in Pentagon City at the Sheraton February 25, 2026, through February 28, 2026. There is also a growl scheduled.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: No report.

QUARTERMASTER: No report.

BY LAWS: No report.

HISTORIAN/ WEB SERGEANT: No report.

MARINE FOR LIFE: No report

COLOR GUARD: No report.

TOYS FOR TOTS: No report

YOUNG MARINES: No report

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Jane Huffman shared that the American Legion Post is looking to do care packages to send out to 4 military groups. This information is on their website they are looking for donations for items such as snacks, candy games such as cards socks for both men and women. Visit their website or order directly on Amazon to have sent to the post. They are looking at people do assist with packing these up once everything has arrived on Sunday, March 1,2026.

A motion was made by Nila Caulder to donate \$200.00 toward this on behalf of the league and it was seconded by Jeff Glover. Nila will order the items on her Amazon account and bring them to the legion for packaging that day. The league will re-imburse Nila for the order not to exceed the \$200.00 motion. Commandant Helmka has announced its time for nominations to begin for officers at the league this is first round of nominations and we will have another at our next meeting in March and again in April where we will vote.

Burt Helmka was nominated as commandant again by Ben Wells – Burt declined

Ben Wells then nominated John Dunker for commandant

John Dunker accepted the nomination as commandant

Joe Peacy accepted the nomination as Senior Vice

Jeff Glover was nominated as Junior Vice but before accepting he wanted to know what the details of the position entailed. He was explained and then accepted the nomination as junior vice.

Burt Helmka accepted the nomination as Junior Past

Ray Sturm was not present by proxy and accepted the nomination as Judge Advocate. Ray will accept verbally at our March meeting.

Nominations will open again next month at our regular meeting.

We then proceeded to vote him in and was sworn in as a new member of the league. The detachment members then welcomed Matthew Lookfong to our league.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Jim Galvin shared that the Boy Scout Troop attended a Pinewood Derby event at the Glen Burnie Elks Lodge this past Saturday. The Pinewood Derby is an event in which scouts construct and decorate their own race cars, then compete against one another in organized races. We then followed up for lunch at Casa Dela Nona for pizza. Last week they attended Severna Park bowling and bowled with duckpins, the scouts realized that duckpins were much harder to bowl with than ten pin balls.

Joe Peacy shared there will be an additional dinner at the legion on Friday May 29,2026. Joe will have the same menu he had in January. We are asked any months where there are five weeks that we cover dinner throughout this year.

Jane Huffman has turned in a total of \$630.00 for raffle tickets for our May fundraiser. If anyone wants any additional raffle tickets to sell see Ms. Jane. We will promote these at our dinners and at the Bull and Oyster Roast if they don't sell out beforehand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 16, 2026

CLOSING CEREMONIES: Sgt at Arms Jim Galvin closed the meeting IAWCL rituals.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Deene, Adjutant

Marine Corps League - A. A. County Detachment 1049