

Department of Mississippi Marine Corps League
Convention Meeting Minutes
20 Apr 2024

Meeting was called to order at 0831 by Department Commandant. There were a total of 33 members present, including Department of Mississippi members and guests.

Commandant led members in Pledge of Allegiance. Opening ceremony was conducted.

A memorial service was conducted honoring fallen members. Each fallen member's name was read and candles were lit in their memory.

Commandant introduced visiting dignitaries from National, Division, and neighboring Departments.

Roll call of Department Officers and Detachment Commandants was conducted.

Department Officers

Commandant	Jerry Daum	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Sharpe	Present
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jerry Blaylock	Present
Judge Advocate	Robert Hall	Present
Jr. Past Commandant	Cliff Addison	Present
Aide-de-Camp	Rex Moody	Absent, excused
Adjutant	Ric Polleck	Present
Paymaster	Chuck Junek	Present
Chaplain	Anick Wallace	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Sam Phillips	Present
Web Sergeant	Vacant	

Detachment Commandants

Det. 173, Ric Polleck	Present
Det. 175, Jerry Blaylock	Present
Det. 715, Karl Aderer	Absent, Represented
Det. 1073, Hugh Robinson	Present
Det. 1078, Anick Wallace	Present
Det. 1101, Virgil Cole	Absent, Not excused, no Det members present
Det. 1220, Scott Burns	Present
Det. 1331, Al Newman	Absent, Represented
Det. 1431, Jason Pardoe	Absent, Represented
Det. 1454, Darryl Davis	Present
Det. 1460, Harry Sharpe	Present

A quorum, as defined by Section 420, Department of Mississippi bylaws, was present.

Officer Reports

Adjutant: Motion was made and seconded to waive reading of minutes from last Department meeting since the 13 Jan 2024 meeting minutes have been posted to the Department website. Motion passed without objection.

Paymaster: Reported that as of 31 Mar 2024 the Department had a total of \$12,593.25: \$3,070.16 in the regular account, \$1,361.12 in the gift card raffle account; \$146.00 in the children's hospital account, \$600.00 in the disaster relief account, \$400 in the scholarship account, and \$7,015.97 in the YANKY 72 account. A

motion was made and seconded to accept the Paymaster Report as presented. Motion passed without objection.

Updated members on lack of interest in the Department's gift card raffle.

Advised members on creation of first ever proposed Department budget with projected revenues and expenditures. Motion was made and seconded to accept proposed budget. Motion passed without objection. Following vote a discussion ensued regarding the lack of ability to account for funds spent in support of veterans. A decision was made to alter the current Department Quarterly Report form to add a line item reporting on and accounting on funds spent in support of veterans.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the Adjutant have copies of the last four Department meeting minutes available at each Department quarterly meeting. Motion passed without objection.

Sr. Vice Commandant: No report.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Reported 36 new members. Presented membership recruitment awards:

1. Larry Sullivan, Det. 1454 - 9 member
2. John Potts, Det. 1331 - 7 members
3. Mark Retcho, Det. 1073 - 5 members
4. Robert Hall, Det. 1073 - 3 members

Judge Advocate: No Report

Sergeant at Arms: No Report

Chaplain: No report.

Adjutant: No report but advised members that he had been appointed to the SECNAV Navy/Marine Corps Retiree Council and would be interested in hearing about any issues encountered by retirees.

Warren Griffin, MCL National Commandant

Encouraged members to reach out to Marines in need.

Encouraged members to visit the MCL National Library.

Advised members on briefings/meeting with Marine Corps leadership, Department of Veterans Affairs, and members of Congress.

Jerry Holt, SE Division National Vice Commandant

Discussed Pledge of Allegiance flag protocol and the different protocols currently being used at MCL meeting and MODD growls. Advised that issue would be voted on at the 2024 MCL national convention.

Encouraged members to download MCL application to their phones and other devices.

Discussed fund raising and suggested that Detachment/Department fund sharing be considered.

Discussed MCL Growth and encouraged detachments to have events beyond monthly meetings.

Advised members that the Marine Corps is focusing more on retention and less on recruitment.

Warned members not to let personal conflicts get in the way of MCL business.

Discussed compliance issues at the detachment level and how costly it can be to fix once falling out of compliance. Should ensure that the Secretary of State filing process include keeping officer (Corporate Officer) information up to date.

Discussed the detachment suspension/revocation process.

Jr Past Commandant Cliff Addison discussed the Young Marine Program and ongoing efforts to get it going in Mississippi and briefed members on ongoing legislative efforts.

Department Commandant

Discussed the MCL Scholarship Program and reminded members that program was available for all members and their families, and that applications could be found online at the MCL national website.

Encouraged members to attend Division and National Conventions if possible.

Informed members that the MCL uniform SOP was being revised and would likely be voted on and approved at the forthcoming MCL National Convention in August.

Ronnie Hood of 5th Squad, a Mississippi -based veterans service/support organization briefed members on their organization and the fundraising they do to provide support to veterans. Additional information can be found, including contact information at their website: <https://5thsquad.com/>

Attorney Josh Hill of the Military Justice Attorneys Law Firm, updated members on status of Camp Lejeune water claims and lawsuits. Trial dates are currently pending, and the move is toward bench trials rather than jury trials. The list of presumptive conditions has been expanded and the Department of Justice is making settlement offers to the strongest claims. Out of 175,000 claims they have made 56 offers and settled 26 claims. Payouts are capped based on medical conditions and time spent at Camp Lejeune. Reminded members that the two-year filing deadline is 10 August 2024, and that families of deceased Marines can file claims if the Marine was stationed at Camp Lejeune. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Josh at josh@mja.law or calling him at 843-473-3665.

Old Business

None

New Business

Election of Department Officers chaired by SE Division National Vice Commandant Jerry Holt. The below were previously nominated for the position's indicated:

- Commandant: Jerry Daum
- Senior Vice Commandant: Harry Sharpe
- Junior Vice Commandant: Jerry Blaylock
- Judge Advocate: Robert Hall

No additional nominations were forthcoming, and a motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Motion passed without objection. As there were no additional nominations, the above officers were elected by a single unanimous vote cast by the Department Adjutant.

In addition to the elected officers, the following officers were appointed:

- Jr. Past Commandant: Cliff Addison
- Adjutant: Ric Polleck
- Paymaster: Chuck Junek
- Chaplain: Anick Wallace
- Sgt at Arms: Sam Phillips
- Marine 4 Life: Harry Sharpe

Warren Griffin, MCL National Commandant, installed those elected and appointed officers present.

Marine of the Year nominations were submitted by Detachments 173, 175, 715, 1073, 1078, and 1460.

Associate of the Year nominations were submitted by Detachments 173 and 1073.

Detachment 1220 to host the 2025 Department Convention, location and date to be determined.

Good of the League

Marine Scott Burns informed members of his effort with *7 Days for the Troops* and that he raised \$177,000.00 last year.

National Commandant spoke on the Roses fund raising program; information available at the MCL national website.

The next Department of Mississippi Quarterly meeting will be at 0900 on Saturday, 13 Jul 2024, at the Pearl Community Center, 2414 Old Brandon RD, Pearl, MS.

Closing ceremony was conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 1215 until 1900, at which time the banquet will commence.

Banquet

Colors were presented and opening ceremony conducted.

Guest speaker was MCL National Commandant Waren Griffin

PDD Cliff Addison was named 2024 Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Mississippi Pack Dog of the Year

PDD Chuck Junick was presented with award for being selected as Kennel Pack Dog Robber of the Year at last year's National Convention.

Chuck Junek was named 2024 Department of Mississippi Marine of the Year.

Cynthia Junek was named 2024 Department of Mississippi Associate of the Year.

Mary Draughn and Lyn Franklin were presented with the Chapel of the Four Chaplains award for their efforts in locating and identifying graves of veterans in Hattiesburg Cemetery for Wreaths Across America recognition.

Closing ceremony was conducted and convention was closed.