

Department of Mississippi Marine Corps League
Convention Meeting Minutes
29 Apr 2023

Meeting was called to order at 0835 by Department Commandant. There were a total of 28 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	Clifton Addison	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Sharpe	Present
Jr. Vice Commandant	Wanda Magers	Present
Judge Advocate	Robert Hall	Present
Jr. Past Commandant	Ron Polk	Present
Aide-de-Camp	Rex Moody	Present
Adjutant	Ric Polleck	Present
Paymaster	Chuck Junek	Present
Chaplain	Jerry Blaylock	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Pat Tutor	Present
Web Sergeant	Chris Woxen	Absent(Excused)

Detachment Commandants

Det. 173, Ric Polleck	Present
Det. 175, Jerry Blaylock	Present
Det. 715, Karl Aderer	Absent, Represented
Det. 1073, Andrew Baggott	Present
Det. 1078, Anick Wallace	Present
Det. 1101, Virgil Cole	Absent, Not excused, no Det members present
Det. 1220, Scott Burns	Absent, Represented
Det. 1331, Al Newman	Absent, Not excused, no Det members present
Det. 1431, Edward Sanders	Absent, Represented
Det. 1454, Darryl Davis	Present
Det. 1460, Rex Rogers	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 28 Jan 2023 meeting minutes have been posted to the Department website. Motion passed without objection.

Paymaster: Reported that as of 25 Apr 2023 the Department had a total of \$9,792.55: \$1,673.80 in the regular account, \$200.00 in the disaster relief account, and \$7,918.75 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 Detachment Compliance regarding submission of forms and filing with the IRS and MS Secretary of State.

Discussed pending increase in Life membership rates effective 1 July 2023. Advised members of the need to have any Life membership transmittal at current rates in the mail, postmarked no later than 30 June 2023.

Sr. Vice Commandant: No report.

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

First Place: \$100.00, Jerry Blaylock, Det 175

Second Place: \$50.00, Sam Phillips, Det 1431

Drawing from among each Det top recruiter: \$25.00, Billy Lamar, Det 1078

Drawing from among all member who recruited a new member: \$25.00, Sem Phillip, det 1431

Judge Advocate: Advised that he still needs updated Detachment Bylaws from Detachment 1331.

Sergeant at Arms: Reminded member of proper procedure for leaving/returning when meeting is in session.

Chaplain: No report.

Adjutant: Informed member of letter of appreciation received from U. S. Marines Youth Foundation, Inc., for \$100.00 contribution.

Aide-de-camp: No report.

Jerry Holt, SE Division Vice Commandant

Discussed the need to document that a quorum is present at detachment/department business meetings.

Discussed issues related to detachments located near state lines that had members who lived in different state, and that conducted fund raising in other than home state.

Discussed reason behind decision to raise Life membership rates and that Life dues must be submitted through the Detachment Paymaster.

Advised that some states provide a stipend for Honor Guards.

Discussed eligibility for the MCL Scholarship Program and advised that 2023 Scholarship application was available at the League website. Asked that each detachment/department donate \$100.00 to support the program. A motion was made and seconded that the Department donate \$100.00 to the MCL Scholarship Program. Motion passed without objection. Additionally, the Department Commandant challenged all members present to make whatever cash donations they could to the program. \$580.00 was donated.

Teddy Reed and Anora Ruth from Mississippi Veterans Assistance Program

Discussed the recently signed law that effective 1 July 70% or greater disabled veteran would be able to register two cars and one motorcycle for \$1.00 each, and that if those eligible took their current tags to the DMV after 1 Jul they could re-register those vehicles and receive a credit for the old tags to used again another vehicle not eligible for the credit, such as a RV or trailer.

Discussed the new \$56m, 100 bed Veterans Home expected to open in Tradition, MS in the summer of 2024.

Advised that \$2m was being spent to upgrade each of the current Veterans Homes.

Discussed eligibility for 20-year reserve/national guard retirees for interment at the two state veteran cemeteries, which are rated as among the highest in the nation. Noted that efforts were ongoing to open a third state veterans cemetery south of Hattiesburg near Camp Shelby. Encouraged members to ensure that their

spouse/significant other, or other family members know where veteran's paperwork is located, and know that they can contact a state Veterans Service Office for assistance.

Advised that in addition to the regional offices there are Veterans Services Officers in most counties and on state college campuses.

Encouraged participation in Wreaths Across America at veterans cemeteries in December.

Advised that here is Aid/Attendance available for veterans who need in-home assistance.

Discussed the VA Missions Act, which expanded the old Community Care Program.

Advised that if veterans are enrolled in both Medicare and Tricare for life they do not need to purchase separate Medicare Supplement coverage.

PDD Jeff Jones, Sr Vice Chief Devil Dog

Discussed the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, the fun and honor society of the MCL.

Encourged participation in Operation Chow Hound, the effort to raise money to buy dog food for pet shelters.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Commandant encouraged member/detachment to get involved in the Young Marines Program.
- Designated Ron Polk as the Department Boy Scout Coordinator.
- Raised the issue of the Department purchasing a full page ad in the 2023 National Convention booklet. A motion was made and seconded to buy an ad in the 2023 National Convention Booklet. No monetary amount was mentioned. Motion passed without objection.
- Commandant introduced Josh Hall and Jerry Healy from the MJA Law Firm. They discussed the Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Law and the need file/participate before the filing window closes in August 2024.

Election of Department Officers. Jerry Daum was nominated for the office of Department Commandant. Previously nominated Clifton Addison withdrew his name from consideration for the office of Department Commandant. No additional nominations were made and a motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Motion passed without objection. As there were no additional nominations, the below officers were elected by a single vote:

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

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
- Marine 4 Life: Harry Sharpe
- Web Sergeant: Kelsey McCarty
- Aide-de-Camp: Rex Moody

Jerry Holt, SE Division National Vice Commandant, installed those elected and appointed officers present.

Marine of the Year nominations were submitted by Detachments 173, 175, 715, 1220, and 1460.

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

The next Department of Mississippi Quarterly meeting will be at 0900 on Saturday, 22 Jul 2023, at the Pearl Community Center, 2414 Old Brandon RD, Pearl, MS.

Closing ceremony was conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 1205 until 1900, at which time the banquet will commence.

Banquet

Colors were presented and opening ceremony conducted.

Guest speaker Col Ken Hopper, USMC, Retired, spoke about his Marine Corps experiences

PDD Chuck Junek was named 2023 Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Mississippi Pack Dog of the Year

Ben Inman was named 2023 Department of Mississippi Marine of the Year.

Kelsey McCart was named 2023 Department of Mississippi Associate of the Year.

Outstanding Service Awards were presented to:

Harry Sharpe

Wanda Magers

Robert Hall

Ron Polk

Ric Polleck

Chuck Junek

Jerry Blaylock

Pat Tutor

L.P. Mcelveen, Jr. Detachment 1454

The Distinguished Citizen Award was presented to Clifton Addison by Southeast Division National Vice Commandant Jerry Holt

Outgoing Department Commandant, Cliff Addison, introduced and surrendered his office to, newly-elected Department Commandant, Jerry Daum.

Closing ceremony was conducted and convention was closed.