



Southeast Division
Marine Corps League
Chartered by Congress – 7 August 1937



MINUTES 76TH ANNUAL SOUTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE 2023

Charleston, South Carolina 16 – 19 March 2023

Conference Host:

Low Country Detachment 803, MCL
Holy city Unit 522, MCLA

SE DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order at 1630 by SEDIV ANDVC Ronnie Broussard on Thursday 16 March 2023.

Present at the meeting were officers and staff of the Southeast Division, Commandants from each of the Departments and many other members of the Marine Corps League.

ANDVC Ronnie Broussard introduced special guest National Commandant Johnny Baker and Jim Powell - Chief of Staff for the National Commandant and welcomed them both.

Adjutant Donald Beck conducted a roll call of Department Commandants. All Commandants were Present with a total of 18 guests present also.

ANDVC Ronnie Broussard called for reports from each of the Department Commandants.

- Department of Alabama Jr Vice Commandant Ricky Pitts reported: Department has 15 Detachments / Doing training / Motor Vehicles Tags has raised money for the state and the Marine Corps League has given out over \$72,000 to veterans / Recruitment is big issue / MC Reserve units helped a lot this year.

- Department of Florida Commandant Scott Westervelt reported: Department has 50 Detachments / Scholarship Fund / Injured warriors vet combat injured / youth fitness is a big part of the National program.
- Department of Georgia Commandant William Miller reported: Department has 27 Detachments / Membership Training / Paymaster Training, this is being done at the Department meetings and financial reviews / The training is now on the department's website.
- Department of Louisiana Commandant Glenn Suire reported: Department has 12 Detachments / Golf Tournament raised over \$20,000 / Over 80 Eagle Scouts this past year / Bill Davis for young Marines to start 1st unit in the state.
- Department of Mississippi Commandant Clifton Addison reported: Department has 11 Detachments / Started their first Young Marine Unit / Held their annual Golf Tournament
- Department of South Carolina Commandant Helen Breen reported: Department has 23 Detachments / Started their 4th Young Marine Unit / Talked about (Canva.com)
- Department of Tennessee Commandant Bryce West Reported: Department has 18 Detachments / The Department has a new State Logo

National Commandant Johnny Baker Talked about the Marine Corps foundation and (1) challenged all Detachments, Departments, Divisions, and the MCLA to donate \$100.00 to the foundation.

Talked about E-Ride – Cream of the Crop

1 – Elevate – To a higher level

2 – Educate – To share knowledge and educate our people

3 - Energizer – Our People

4 – Expedition – Raise everyone up

A new Life Membership Card was approved and everyone who is a Life member will receive one.

Ronnie Broussard: Reminded everyone about how important the ROI's and 990's are, and to be submitted on time. These reports need to be submitted to the SE Division paymaster and the Adjutant.

JOINT OPENING CEREMONY AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

National Division Vice Commandant Jerry Holt called the meeting to order on 17 March 2023.

NDVC Jerry Holt recognized the following VIP and Guest:

Kenny Skipper - Mayor from North Charleston

Johnny Baker – National Marine Corps League Commandant

Bill Davis – CEO Young Marines

David Porter – NDVC for the New England Division

Bruce Rakfeldt – Department of North Carolina

Alan Sanning – Kennel Chief Devil Dog

Chuck Covert – Aide-De-Kamp to Kennel Chief Devil Dog

Jim Powell – Chief of Staff to the National Commandant

Linda Chamberlain - National President Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Evelynn Joppa – Past National President Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Helen Breen Commandant from South Carolina: Welcomed everyone for attending the SE Division Conference and introduced Mayor Kenny Skipper.

Mayor Kenny Skipper welcomed everyone to the North Charleston area and South Carolina.

John Burks SE Division Chaplin and Becky Marcel from MCL Auxiliary conducted the memorial service for all members:

Alabama - 19

Florida - 83

Georgia - 16

Louisiana - 17

Mississippi - 13

South Carolina – 20

Tennessee - 6

The numbers for the MCLA were not available:

SOUTHEAST DIVISION MCL AND MCLA BUSINESS MEETING

Jerry Holt called for a roll call of officers.

Adjutant Donald Beck did the Roll Call, all Department Commandants present. We do have a Quorum.

Adjutant Donald Beck read the minutes from the last meeting.

Jerry Holt had Dave Martin come up and talked about your ROI's / 990's / secretary of state. Each Department needs to appoint a **compliance officer** who will work with each Detachment and Devil Dog Pound and MCL Auxiliary and is responsible for ROI's / 990's / secretary of state.

Bill Davis - Young Marines – Young Marines are a 501 (C) 3 – He talked about the young kids and the great service we provide to them.

Johnny Baker – National Commandant - (2) Challenged the SE Division to create 10 new units of young Marines.

William (Bill) Miller – MCL Foundation – Talked about the Foundation and what it does for the Marine Corps League.

Linda Chamberlin – National Marine Corps League Auxiliary President Talked about the Auxiliary and what they do.

Johnny Baker – National Commandant – Has 4 challenges for the SE DIVISION:

1 – Challenge SE Division to create 10 new units of Young Marines

2 – Challenge Each Division / Department / Detachment / MCL Auxiliary to donate \$100.00 to the MCL Foundation

3 – Challenge the SE Division to create 10 new Auxiliary units

4 – Challenge each Division / Department / Detachment / MCL Auxiliary to improve our units

Talked about the 100 Anniversary Ribbon – If you are in the Marine Corps League from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 you will be eligible to purchase the ribbon. If you attend the National Convention, you will receive a Brown Boarder to go around the ribbon.

When you send **MAIL** to the National Office, only use the PO BOX to mail it.

Over 1200 Detachments in the MCL. Paymaster can print a roster every (week / month/ year).

MCL Membership is over 45,000 right now. We have a little over 7,000 not paid.

Death notice – Please send a Transmittal and the Death Certificate.

Training for Marine for Life

Jerry Holt NDVC called Marilyn Tharp to give us the Voting Strength of each State:

2023 SED Conference Voting Strength Report
Friday, March 17, Noon

Department	Voting Strength	Delegates	Votes
Alabama	724	12	174
Georgia	906	6	89
Florida	2637	9	124
Louisiana	524	12	159
Mississippi	297	9	125
South Carolina	849	20	267
Tennessee	689	16	247
Total	6626	84	1185

Thank you, Marilyn Tharp, for all your hard work in putting the numbers together for the SE Division.

Jerry Holt NDVC called Jim Powell Chief – of – Staff for the National Commandant to run the Nominations for the SE Division. Jim Powell called for nomination for the ANDVC – Ronnie Broussard was nominated, and asked if he would accept the nomination, he answered YES. Any other nominations NO.

Jim Powell called for nominations for the NDVC – Jerry Holt was nominated, and asked if he would accept the nomination, he answered YES. Any other nominations NO.

Put in Recess until tomorrow.

Devil dog Meeting tonight:

Alan Sanning – Kennel Chief Devil handed out 4 Meritorious Commendation Awards

PDD Robert “Buddy” Ferguson

PDD Helen Breen

PDD Tom Newton

PDD Clifton Addison

Back in Session on March 18, 2023

Color Guard by the Parris Island Young Marines

Guest Speaker- Danny Garcia – He has been walking across America and 7 continents and over 26,000 miles and counting. He is walking for Children and World Peace.

Jerry Holt – NDVC – Talked about compliance with regulatory agencies / 990's / ROI's / 501 (c) 4 / every Department needs a compliance office.

Ronnie Broussard – ANDVC – talked about the SE Division of the Marine of the Year process electronically. This year we had 19 Marine of the Year nominations submitted. This year we had 13 Associate of the Year.

Scott Westervelt – Commandant of Florida – Talked about the Marine for Life program and what it can do for each Department and the Detachments.

Jerry Holt – NDVC – ask for a motion from the floor for \$100.00 each for the Young and the Marine Corps League Foundation.

Jimmy Hackbarth made a motion for the Division to spend \$100.00 to the Young Marines Program and the MCL Foundation.

Clifton Addison 2nd. Discussion - None / All in Favor / Motion Carried and Approved.

Jerry Holt – NDVC – Introduced the 4 candidates running for National Judge Advocate. 3 Candidates were on hand and talked to the MCL on why they want to be the next Nation Judge Advocate.

They are:

Scott Westervelt – Department Commandant of Florida

David Porter – NDVC for the New England Division

Bruce Rakfeldt – Department of North Carolina

Robert Ziltz – Chairman of the National Budget and Finance Committee

Clifton Addison – Talked about Disaster Recovery for the Division. Please send all funds for Disaster Relief to the Department Paymaster to keep track of all funds.

Talked about Legislative succession. Know who your Legislative staff are, county supervisor, county VSO's, State House Representative, State Senator, your local Mayor. Invite them to the MC Ball so they can see who you are.

Jerry Holt – NDVC called Jim Powell – Chief of Staff for the National Commandant

Jim Powell – reminded everyone that Ronnie Broussard for ANDVC and Jerry Holt for NDVC - opened the Floor for Nomination of ANDVC – None. Open the Floor for NDVC – None. There being no nominations I ask the adjutant to cast one vote for the slate of officers.

Donald Beck – Adjutant – I cast 1 unanimous vote for the slate of Officers.

Jerry Holt and Ronnie Broussard will be sworn in at the National Convention.

Put in Recess until the Banquet:

Back in Session:

Jerry Holt – NDVC welcomed everyone to the 2023 Conference Banquet

Chaplain Burks led us in prayer and blessing of the meal.

POW Ceremony

Dan Hoffman was the Guest of Honor – He talked about his time in the service and was presented with an American Flag that was new and folded in front of all to see.

The following SE Division Awards were presented:

SEDIV Marine of the Year

- John Gionet – Dept of FL – CPL Larry E. Smedley 604

SEDIV Associate Member of the Year

- Aaron Triche – Dept of LA – Houma Terrebonne 475

The Milton Ockman Award (Most New Detachments)

- 2021 – Dept of LA – 1 (Jan 1 to Dec 31 of 2021)
- 2022 – Dept of TN – 1 (Jan 1 to Dec 31 of 2022)

The Tom Perrone Award (Greatest Increase in Membership)

- 2021 – Dept of SC – 3.51% (Jan 1 to Dec 31 of 2021)
- 2022 – Dept of AL – 3.88% (Jan 1 to Dec 31 of 2022)

The Conference was concluded in accordance with the MCL ritual and adjourned until the 2024 Conference in Chattanooga, TN.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Beck, SED Adjutant