



# Marine Corps League

Chartered by Congress – 7 August 1937

Minutes 77<sup>th</sup> Annual SOUTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE 2024

Chattanooga, Tennessee 14 – 17 March 2024

Conference Host:

SgtMaj Ernest Seagle Detachment 518, MCL

## **SED DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order at 1600 by SEDIV ANDVC Ronnie Broussard on Thursday 14 March 2024.

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 guess Jr Past National Commandant Johnny Baker, and Bob Borka COO, and welcomed them both.

Adjutant Donald Beck conducted a roll call of Department Commandants. All Commandants were Present (Florida's Sr Vice John Gionet and Georgia's Sr Vice Rex Delk will fill in as the Commandant's for there States this weekend) with a total of 18 guests also present.

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

Bob Borka is available all weekend for your help with pay rosters, PLM rosters, and anything you need of him, so don't be bashful.

A few questions for each department before we get started.

What are you doing to get your detachments to go to your Conventions?

Marine of the Year Award for the SE Division.

## Start with Marine of the Year Award

The new program is setup for Three Years looking back at what the individual has done for the Detachment / Department / Outside adventures (volunteering at the VA Hospital and number of hours the person has put in / Toys for Tots / The Church he goes to / Volunteering for youth programs (basketball, football, baseball coaching) / Scouting programs) The possibilities are endless.

We are looking for consistency.

Last year we had 19 nominations and this year we have 15 nominations.

This is the most prestigious award we can give.

The new forms are on the web site. Jr. Past National Commandant Johnny Baker stated these forms and writeup's are some of the bests he has seen.

Find someone who knows how to write, in your Detachment and Department to do the write up. The forms are a lot easier. You no longer are writing 4, 6, 10 pages of the individual. Write bullet points when you are doing these. It goes a long way.

### Membership:

How are you retaining your members?

Are you as Department Commandants going out and visiting your Detachments?

- Department of Alabama Commandant Bill Reecer reported: Department has 15 Detachments / We have changed our Devil Dog Growl from Saturday to Friday night / We have made up trifold handouts / Working with local recruiters for recruits that are being shipped out and work with the families of those recruits.
- Department of Florida Sr. Vice Commandant John Gionet reported: Department has 49 Detachments / Communications / Training Classes are now being done on the road by each District.
- Department of Georgia Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk reported: Department has 25 Detachments / our quarterly meetings have a training session during the meeting.

- Department of Louisiana Commandant James Roy reported: Department has 12 Detachments and 2 Fire Teams / Encourage everyone to go to other State conventions / Recruitment is big in the State and working with the District Vice Commandants
- Department of Mississippi Commandant Gerald Daum reported: Department has 11 Detachments / Working hard on our conferences / New Detachment Commandants must come to the State Convention or they need to appoint the Sr Vice or Jr Vice
- Department of South Carolina Commandant Helen Breen reported: Department has 23 Detachments / Officer training on Friday mornings at the Convention / Quarterly meetings are picking up with more Detachments attending / We now have District Vice's, and they are working really well.
- Department of Tennessee Commandant Bryce West Reported: Department has 18 Detachments / The Department has District Vices because the State is so long to drive from one end to the other / We are putting the rule out and as I talk to each Detachment Commandant, your job and you are expected to be at the State Convention, the Sr Vice and Jr Vice because you are elected officers, you are highly encouraged to be there / Our web site is a work in process, we now have a new web master

Went around the room and had everyone introduce themselves.

Jr Past National Commandant Johnny Baker Talked about the Marine Corps Association and is also on the board for Young Marines / A new SOP for the Color Guard and proper uniform is being written up.

Bob Borka talked about the MAL (Members at Large) report. The SE Div has 298 members on this report. Bob just broke it down for each state and emailed each Department Commandant while sitting here.

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.

1 – Respond in a timely manner and be proactive to the emails Jerry and I are sending

2 – Scholarships – we a streamlined the process and made it better. Your children, Grandchildren, Stepchildren, Grand Stepchildren can apply. Please have your Detachments send \$100.00 each to the general fund and ear mark it for Scholarship.

3 – Disaster Relief is big in the SE Div and all Detachments and Departments should

contribute to this. Please send a contribution to the SE Div paymaster and mark it for Disaster Relief. This helps all of our States out.

## **JOINT OPENING CEREMONY AND MEMORIAL SERVICE**

### **SOUTHEAST DIVISION MCL AND MCLA**

National Division Vice Commandant Jerry Holt called the meeting to order at 0900 on 15 March 2024. We have a Guest count of 70 people.

NDVC Jerry Holt recognized the following VIP and Guest:

Johnny Baker - Jr. Past National Marine Corps League Commandant

Bob Borka - COO

Becky Marcel – SE Div Auxiliary

SE Division MCLA Becky Marcel introduced the following Marine Corps League Auxiliary members:

Debbie Evans – Past National President Marine Corps League Auxiliary, MCLA Past Department President, Tennessee, Past National Madam Big Flea

Christy Ellis – MCLA Southeast Division Assistant Vice President

Bryce West Commandant from Tennessee: Welcomed everyone for attending the SE Division Conference and introduced Elis Smith Guest of Honor.

Color Guard presented by Mike Battery 314 from the Marine Corps Reserve.

Elis Smith welcomed everyone to the Chattanooga area and Tennessee and presented us with the Proclamation.

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

	Members	Auxiliary
Alabama -	22	1
Florida -	75	2
Georgia -	33	0
Louisiana -	17	0
Mississippi -	10	0

South Carolina – 17 1

Tennessee - 29 1

Becky Marcel SE Division Auxiliary Vice President – Talked about the Auxiliary and they were chartered in 1937. She talked about what they do and their role within the Marine Corps League.

Ronnie Broussard ANDVC – Talked about compliance – 990's / 955 Letters, all this information is on the National Website in the Library

Fiscal Year is from July 1 to June 30, all ROIs are done on the fiscal year.

Bob Borka COO talked about each state has a website for nonprofits organizations and you can look up each Detachment. There is a letter you can submit to change your Fiscal Year to what National is.

Jerry Holt NDVC talked about the Pact Act, and we have two guest speakers to talk about the Pact Act.

10 August is the deadline to file a claim.

16 different Medical Issues.

Also Fire Fighting Foam that they used to put out fires.

Johnny Baker Jr Past National Commandant talked about Young Marines and is on the Board of Directors

Youth Physical Fitness – Look at the National website for this information.

We need to support the Marine Corps Auxiliary.

## **SOUTHEAST DIVISION MCL 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.

Minutes accepted as read.

Bryce West, the SE Division Paymaster, gave his report on all the finances. If you need to know the finances, please contact the SE Div Paymaster. Bryce stated to

check all your Departments and Detachments paymasters and make sure you are checking the Bank Statement. Don't rely on a word document.

Jerry Holt NDVC added always look at the Bank Statements and Verify often and regularly.

Jr Past National Commandant Johnny Baker made a motion to accept the Financial report with an audit. Helen Breem 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Discussion on the floor, None. All in Favor of the Motion say I, oppose None. The motion is carried.

Ronnie Broussard ANDVC talked about Conferences and Conventions / Fund raising / Recruit and Retention, also received 15 Marine of the Year Applications and 9 Associate of the year applications.

Jerry Holt NDVC introduced Marvin Marks, he joined the Marine Corps at 15 and went to Korea and Vietnam, Inchon, he is over 90 years old. His job was Track Vehicles and Bull Dozers.

Jerry Holt NDVC talked about the South Carolina website and for all to look at. Transmittal forms / Dues summary. Same as Nationals web site. Going EFT for all Documents. If you have questions, then email JD Foster at National Headquarters.

This is the end of the Business Meeting on Friday.

Put in Recess

The Growl for the Devil Dogs was held.

## **SOUTHEAST DIVISION MCL BUSINESS MEETING**

Saturday 16 March 2024

Jerry Holt NDVC opened the Business session.

Adam Harris, who is the District 1 Vice Commandant in Florida, talked about Lowes and Home Depot and the help they will give you just for asking. They will donate supplies for your projects.

Bob Borka COO – Talked about the Marine Corps Library.org / MC Families.org / MBR Library and password to get into the Library / MBR profile ID # and Last Name (you will need the profile ID # to register for all events) / The 100 Year Ribbon is for sale now in the ships store.

He also talked about their address. Do not send anything to the physical address as it will sit outside in the rain or in the street and get run over by-passing cars. **Please us the (PO Box 1990, Stafford, VA 22555-1990)**

Membership – Profile ID # and Last Name will be on the Rosters. As of July 1, 2024, Quarterly rosters will be generated by the Departments Paymaster for the Detachments of their State.

Talked about the 100 Anniversary Ribbon – If you are in the Marine Corps 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. It is now on sale at the ships store.

New membership cards are being sent to the Detachment paymaster where you are a voting member of. The font is bigger and your profile # is on the new cards. New Life member cards are being sent to all life members. The profile ID # is the members # now.

Over 1200 Detachments in the MCL. Detachment Paymaster can print a roster every (week / month/ year) of their Detachments. Detachment paymasters can go into the system and change a member's address, phone #, email address. Detachment paymasters please keep these items updated. Make sure the email address is in the system, only about 10% of the MCL is in the system.

Death notice – Please send a Transmittal and the Death Certificate. Make sure you are emailing it to the National Chaplain and Jfoster at National Headquarters. Make sure you are sending it to the Department Chaplain and Paymaster.

Talked about the PLM Roster is sent to all Detachments in mid-July and needs to be completed and returned to National by December 31. Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it to National Headquarters. Please do not wait until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Make sure you send your Bank Information with the PLM Roster. Headquarters will send you funds electronically to your Bank account. Headquarters no longer sends checks to Detachments or Departments for your PLM rosters.

Johnny Baker Jr Past National Commandant Talked about Youth Physical Fitness / Young Marines / MC Association is putting on Modern Day Marine and it is going on for the 44<sup>th</sup> Year and the Marine Corps League is a co-sponsor now. Last year the MC League made almost ½ a Million dollars from this event.

Johnny Baker is challenging each Detachment / Department / Division to donate \$100.00 for the MCL Foundation

Johnny talked about the Honor Guard and the SOP is done. The Color Guard SOP is in progress. The Marine Corps Commandant talked to Johnny and his staff and thanked them for their help with Funeral details and all the help they give.

Johnny asked that everyone visit another Department Convention. It gives you other ideas for your Department Conventions.

Jim Breen talked about the website to Build and Design a new site. He talked about Department web sites and how useful they can be for their members. Jim is offering to help Departments and Detachments with their websites if you need it.

ANDVC Ronnie Broussard talked about the legacy program / scholarship program / New Detachments / Membership / help with the scholarship program and donate \$100.00 to the MCL foundation and ear mark it for the scholarship program.

Jerry asked if any Department wanted to put on the SE Division Conference in 2025 and Clifton Addison made a motion for Louisiana, Lafayette, Jim Stone 2<sup>nd</sup> it, Discussion None, All in Favor, I, Motion Carried.

A motion for the 2026 SE Division conference for Alabama and Georgia. A motion was made to defer until the next SE Division Conference for both States to come back and give us a presentation. Motion Carried.

New Business:

NDVC Jerry Holt:

We are switching Websites. Jim Breen is taking over as the Webmaster for the SE Division.

Billy Lamar was Awarded the Distinguished Citizen Silver Award. He is also taking over as the Compliance Officer for the SE Division.

ANDVC Ronnie Broussard was Awarded the Distinguished Citizen Silver Award.

Put In Recess until the Banquet

Jerry Holt – NDVC welcomed everyone to the 2024 Conference Banquet

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

POW Ceremony

Johnny Baker was the Guest of Honor – He talked about his time in the service.

The following SE Division Awards were presented:





# Awards Presented by ANDVC Ronnie Broussard SEDIV 2024

## SEDIV Marine of the Year

Scott Westervelt FL Gen. Roy S. Gieger 1047

## SEDIV Marine of the Year Posthumously

Dick Brandt LA Choctaw 778

## SEDIV Marine of the Year Nominees

Dallas	Bookenberger	LA	Lafourche Chien Diable 1494
Dick	Brandt	LA	Choctaw 778
Jim	Breen	SC	Low Country 803
Ronald	Darden	FL	Desoto 588
Edward	Gizara	GA	Dog Company 564
Martin	Habecker	GA	Central GA 1373
William	Hudgins	TN	Sgt Morgan W. Strader 1464
Ann	Larson	TN	Tri-Cities 969
Allen	LeBlanc	LA	Houma Terrebonne 475
Kathleen	Potthoff	FL	Marion 061
Chris	Sabie	TN	Walter K. Singleton 476
Michael	Segura	FL	Cpl Larry E. Smedley 064
Jim	Stone	SC	Owens Kennemore 1105
Jeffrey	Tegzes	TN	Lt. Alexander Bonneyman 924
Annick	Wallace	MS	Anderson-Jordan 1078

## SEDIV Associate Member of the Year

Claude Thomas LA Houma Terrebonne 475

## SEDIV Associate of the Member Nominees

Jack	Campbell	FL	Gen. Roy S. Gieger 1047
Courtney	Elkins	LA	Acadiana 488
James	Freeman	TN	Lt. Alexander Bonneyman 924
Dawn	Hunter	TN	Walter K. Singleton 476
Joseph	Intoppa	FL	Desoto 588
Margie	Spry	TN	Sgt Morgan W. Strader 1464
Lydia	Szar	LA	Choctaw 778
Jerry	Vaughan	FL	Cpl Larry E. Smedley 064

## Milton Ockman Award (Most New Detachments)

Depart of Louisiana 1 New Detachment & 2 New Fire Teams

## Tom Perrone Award (Largest Percentage Increase of Membership)

Department of Mississippi Increase of 9.94%

The Conference was concluded in accordance with the MCL ritual and adjourned until the 2025 Conference in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Beck, SED Adjutant