



# Marine Corps League

Chartered by Congress – 7 August 1937

Minutes 78<sup>th</sup> Annual SOUTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE 2025

Lafayette, Louisiana 20 – 22 March 2025

Conference Host:

Department of Louisiana, Past Department Commandant Glenn Suire

## SED DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order at 1600 by SEDIV ANDVC Ronnie Broussard on Thursday 20, March 2025.

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 Jr. National Vice Commandant David Porter, Jr. Past National Commandant Johnny Baker, Bob Borka COO, Jeffrey Jones Chief Devil Dog, and Alan Sanning Past Chief Devil Dog, and welcomed them all.

Adjutant Donald Beck conducted a roll call of Department Commandants. All Commandants were Present (Florida's Sr. Vice John Gionet and Tennessee past Jr. Vice Commandant Bryce West will fill in as the Commandant's for their states this weekend) with a total of 42 guests also present.

ANDVC Ronnie Broussard called for reports from each of the Department Commandants. Focus on the **POSITIVE** things you are doing in your state.

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.

## **Marine of the Year and Associate of the Year**

The new program is set up 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 13 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 or 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 16 Detachments / We now have a Detachment of the year award. New Members is growing throughout the State.
- Department of Florida Sr. Vice Commandant John Gionet reported: Department has 48 Detachments / Scholarships have a big fund now / We are also doing a Detachment of the year / PDP 101 Commandants only basic training.
- Department of Georgia Commandant Rex Delk reported: Department has 22 Detachments with 2 detachments being closed out / 5 young marine units / 6 Boy Scout units we help / Department has new web site / new EFT site /

everything is now done by electronic communications (transmittals , payments) etc / we are closing down our physical address / we are setting up a QR code so everyone can use it at the different meetings and no longer print paper.

- Department of Louisiana Commandant James Roy reported: Department has 12 Detachments and 3 Fire Teams / We are working on a department fund raiser / working on EFT now using the same as National uses (it cost \$.25 per transaction) / compliance officer working with all units.
- Department of Mississippi Commandant Gerald Daum reported: Department has 10 Detachments 9 are in compliance and working on 1 with the IRS / Working hard on our conferences and training / we are doing everything electronic now / we are now working EFT for all Detachments now / we are doing a state wide Marine Corps Ball 250 years for all Marines on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, the Governor is going to be there and the Attorney General and several Senators, SGTMAJ Green the 18<sup>th</sup> SGTMAJ of the Marine Corps, Major GENERAL Livingston will be the Guest of Honor. Everyone is invited.
- Department of South Carolina Commandant Helen Breen reported: Department has 23 Detachments / the Department now has a 501 (3) c for fund raising / We did our first leadership training and had 27 individuals at this training / We are going to have a cake cutting ceremony with the Governor / EFT we are using Duffy as our finance because there is no finance fee / We are removing all email addresses from the web site due to scrubbers getting them and sending spam all the time.
- Department of Tennessee Jr Past Commandant Bryce West Reported: Department has 18 Detachments / 836 paid life members, 16% are associate members, 70% are life members, and we had a 9% growth in members last year / compliance is working very well.

Ronnie Broussard:

Went around the room and had all the Commandants state where their state convention is. This is also on the web site SEDiv.org.

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

2 - Please have your Detachments send \$100.00 each to the general fund and earmark 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 21 March 2025. We have a Guest count of 121 people, and we have 146 registered for this conference.

NDVC Jerry Holt recognized the following VIP and Guest:

David Porter – National Jr. Vice Commandant

Johnny Baker - Jr. Past National Marine Corps League Commandant

Bob Borka – COO

Jeffrey Jones – Chief Devil Dog MODD

Alan Sanning – Past Chief Devil Dog MODD

Dottie Sanning – Auxiliary National President

Becky Marcel – SE Div Auxiliary

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

### **Dignitaries:**

***Dotty Sanning*** - MCLA National President, PMBF (Past National Madam Big Flea), Past Flea of the Year

***Lynn Cortright*** - MCLA National Judge Advocate

***Deborah Evans*** - MCLA PNP (Past National President), PMBF (Past National Madam Big Flea), Past Regent, Past Flea of the Year

### **Staff of SE Division**

***Rebecca “Becky” Marcel*** - SE Division Vice President

***Christy Ellis*** - Assistant SE Division Vice President

I also have to add Angie Pitts; she is the National MCLA Girl Scouts Committee Chairperson.

Glenn Suire Jr Past Commandant from Louisiana: Welcomed everyone for attending the SE Division Conference and introduced Paul Smith representing the Lt. Governor's office of Louisiana.

Paul Smith talked to everyone and thanked everyone for attending.

Color Guard presented by Truck Company, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve out of Baton Rouge.

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

	Members	Auxiliary
Alabama -	15	0
Florida -	24	2
Georgia -	23	0
Louisiana -	11	0
Mississippi -	22	0
South Carolina -	21	0
Tennessee -	20	3

Chapel of The Four Chaplains ceremony was held:

Glenn Suire received the Chapel of The Four Chaplains' Humanitarian Award

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.

Jeffrey Jones – Chief Devil Dog: Thanked everyone for coming and looked forward to the Growl.

Johnny Baker – Past National Commandant: Thanked everyone for coming.

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

# **SOUTHEAST DIVISION MCL BUSINESS MEETING**

Jerry Holt NDVC - 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.

Jerry Holt – Talked about the ship store and visit it because he does this on his own time.

Ronnie Broussard ANDVC talked about the Commandants' Council meeting last night. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. We had 42 people attend.

Billy Lamar Compliance Officer: Has now been in the Job for one year. There are 4 areas of compliance: ROI / PLM / 990 / Secretary of State, He has made a spread sheet for all states to use and see where they are. He has listed all Detachments in each state. Here is where we stand after one year: 2 states 100% compliant / 3 states 90% compliant / 2 states 70% compliant

The PLM audits were down: 40% failed to submit. Submitting this audit back to National gives them an update on individuals and National sends a check to each detachment that returns this audit.

Diana Branson Chairman of the National Newsletter: she has been doing this for the past 10 years. She is stepping down and looking for a replacement. They select the top 3 Newsletter submitted from across the nation. The Department of Alabama took home top honors last year.

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.

Clifton Addison - made a motion to accept the financial report with an audit. Penny Weston 2nd it. Discussion on the floor, None. All in Favor of the Motion say I, oppose None. The motion is carried.

Jerry Blaylock Marine for Life: talked about how this can help your state and Detachments. Jerry is also now a certified VAVS officer.

Michael Cortright Veteran Service Officer: I am now a certified Veteran Service Officer for the Marine Corps League. We are looking to get a certified officer in each state within the Department. We do a lot of help with all veterans with claims no matter what branch of service they were in.

Clifton Addison Disaster Relief: talked about the program and how it works. We did send a check to North Carolina for their disaster.

David Porter National Jr Vice Commandant: Please update all individuals with their email address. This will help us at National. Working with all Jr Vice Commandants in all Departments on Recruiting and taking care of our Marines.

Jerry Holt NDVC: Nomination for Elections

NDVC – Glenn Suire Nominates Ronnie Broussard

ANDVC – Helen Breen Nominates Jim Stone

ANDVC – Bill Reecer Nominates Billy Lamar

No other Nomination. The Nomination is closed at this time.

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 at 0900. With 95 people present.

Helen Breen Commandant South Carolina and Dog Robber for the Kennel – Talked about EFT and online transfer. She talked about the \$.25 of sending money to National instead of doing it by mail and a stamp cost a lot more now. National gets forms and updates your rosters in the National database.

Jim Breen – Talked about making a new Kennel management app. and data base. The new application is available as of the Spring conference at National. If you have questions and want help, please let me know. I am also working with John Gionet and the young marines with their database.

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) / 26 USC 170 c6 congressionally approved (PL) Public Law 118-146

The Marine Corps League is a 501 c 4. To be tax exempt the MCL must comply with 501 c 19 regulations IRS PUB 3386. This pertains to Tax deductibility. The requirements are:

75% of members must be past or present members of the US Armed Forces

97.5% must be present or former members US Armed Forces, Cadets, University ROTC programs, Naval Academy, Spouses, Widows

Only 2.5% of members can be associate members

We must follow these rules now. This is why National is now putting a V by the member's number. Associate members will have a VX in front of the member number unless they were a veteran also then they will have a V beside their name. We are only concerned about the actual member right now and getting that V put in front of the member's number.

He also talked about the (VSO) Veterans Service Officer program. We are looking to hire a National Director of Veterans Services. Right now, I am the acting Director until we get a National Director. A new SOP has been written. To be a VSO, you must have been a member of the MC League for 1 year. Currently 5 Divisions have an accredited VSO's. 3 Divisions are pending. VSO goals are to have all 10 Divisions with a certified VSO by August of 2026 and 35 VSO's by August 2029 and 60 VSO's by August 2032. The class is \$169.00.

Database Portal:

It is now updated and new effective February 2025: Commandant and Paymaster are the only 2 people in each detachment who have authority for this program. You can View member profiles / update members address / update members phone number /101 video for paymasters (same password as the MC library)

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)**

Semper Fi store:

Red Satin Jackets – we have a new vendor now and we ordered 600 jackets

White Uniform Shirt aviator – we have a new vendor now.



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.

James Roy Commandant of Louisiana, has the final count for registered Delegates:

Alabama: 340

Florida: 216

Georgia: 111

Louisiana: 475

Mississippi: 124

South Carolina: 234

Tennessee: 320

Total: 1820 / need 911 votes for majority

John Gionet Young Marines: Fiscal Year is 1 October to 30 September. The Young Marines were Chartered in the Marine Corps League in 1965. We have 40 units, 900 young Marines. For last year they put in 1.1 million hours of community service. Next week the young marines are going to Iwo Jima, this is their annual trip.

Ronnie Broussard ANDVC and National Chairman for the Scholarship program:

The individual must have a 3.3 GPA or better to apply. This is for undergraduates only. 194 individuals applied and 191 approved. The last step only 141 filled out the school form. Each child received around \$600.00. The application is in the MC Library, it is a 2-step application. This is for your kids, grand kids, great-grand kids.

Johnny Baker Jr Past National Commandant: Thank you John Gionet and the Young Marines. What a Great program Young Marines is. Youth Physical Fitness Program is sponsored by the MC League, in the bylaws. Commandant TJ Morgan wanted to pass along that they are rewriting the Ritual Manual and the Color Guard Manual and the Honor Guard Manual. The Color Guard and Honor Guard will be 2 separate manuals.

Jerry Holt NDVC: asked for 2026 nominations for the SEDIV conference. Please go back to your states and see if you can put on a conference in your State.

## **New Business:**

NDVC Jerry Holt:

## **Elections:**

ANDVC Ronnie Broussard is the only nominee running for NDVC. I call on the Adjutant to cast 1 vote for the nomination of Ronnie Broussard for NDVC.

I, Donald Beck SE Div. Adjutant cast 1 vote for Ronnie Broussard as the NDVC for the SE Div.

For ANDVC nominees are Jim Stone and Billy Lamar. Sgt of Arms please escort them outside for the vote. Sgt at Arms please bring them back in. Jim Stone has been voted as the new ANDVC.

NDVC Ronnie Broussard

ANDVC Jim Stone

They will both be sworn in at the National Convention.

Put In Recess until the Banquet

Jerry Holt – NDVC welcomed everyone to the 2025 Conference Banquet

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

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

SE Division MCLA Becky Marcel introduced:

***Beatrice Liner Broussard*** - PNC Linwood Liner's Daughter and presenter of the **Frances R. Watt, PNP / Norma A. Liner, PNP Memorial Award for SE Division Auxiliary Member of the Year** which was presented to **Helen Breen, Holy City Unit MCLA, South Carolina**

The following SE Division Awards were presented:



## Awards Presented by ANDVC Ronnie Broussard SEDIV 2025

### **SEDIV Marine of the Year**

Jim Stone SC Owens Kennemore 1105

### **SEDIV MARINE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES**

Craig Berry TN Walter K. Singleton 476

Helen Breen SC Low Country 803

Luis Cambal FL Cpl. Larry E. Smedley 064

Rex Delk GA Maj Stephen W. Pless 1196

Robert Green LA Southwest LA 535

Keith Kregel TN Lt alexander Bonnyman 924

Ricky Leonard TN Sgt Morgan W Strader 1467

Sammy Marcel LA Houma Terrebonne 475

Todd Messina LA Choctaw 778

Charlie Myers FL Gen Roy S. Geiger 1047

Bill Reeser AL Allan Ray Chaffin 1329

Ricky Segura LA Gen Walter S. McIlhenny 811

Jim Stone SC Owens Kennemore 1105

### **SEDIV Associate Member of the Year**

Courtney Elkins LA Acadiana 488

### **SEDIV ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES**

William Baney LA Houma Terrebonne 475

Eugenia Buckel LA Choctaw 775

Courtney Elkins LA Acadiana 488

Doug Freeman TN Lt. Alexander Bonnyman 924

Michelle Paul AL Cpl. Joseph Whitehead 1370

Jerry Vaughn FL Cpl. Larry E. Smedley 064

Lisa Vinson TN Walter K. Singleton 476

### **CHAPEL OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS' HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

Glenn Suire LA Lt. Brandon Dronet 1304

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

Department of TN 1 New Detachment & 1 New Fire Team

### **Milton Ockman Award (Most New Detachments)**

Department of TN 7.11% Increase Over 2023

Here is a summary of the results of the coin raffle:

69 People bought a total of 164 chances.

The winner of the 3-coin set was: Ken Deboer

The winner of the silver dollar coin was: John Evans

The winner of the half-dollar coin was: Thomas Bruce, Sr.

The Conference was concluded in accordance with the MCL ritual and adjourned until the 2026 Conference in Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Beck, SED Adjutant