



THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

NEWS

MARCH-APRIL 2026



Newsletter Editor

Deborah Stone

sedivnewsletter@gmail.com

Let me introduce myself for those that do not know me. I am Deborah Stone. Yes, the wife of Jim Stone! We reside in South Carolina right outside Greenville. We have a dog named Gracie and 3 fur grandchildren who currently live with us. We also have 2 granddaughters graduating from high school, another 12- year old granddaughter in the 6th grade who plays trombone and her little brother will turn 3 in May. Our youngest daughter graduating with her Associates from Greenville Technical College and our youngest son transferring to Clemson University in the Fall as a Junior ! He just received his acceptance letter. He will be living on campus. How exciting!! And last but not least we have a great grandson finishing up the 2nd grade.

I had the Dept of South Carolina's newsletter for 7 years and received many awards from the National Newsletter Competition and I missed it. Eventually Jim and Ronnie asked me if I wanted to take on a new one for the Division. I jumped at it and said, Yes!

So here we are. The first few newsletters will be a little small as everyone will get in to the swing of writing articles and sending them to me. We plan to do it on the odd months. This date will not effect that next one.

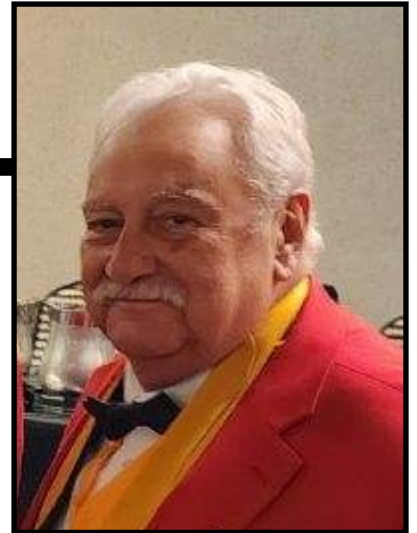
So, Commandants of Departments or Detachments too, even your Pounds and Packs, get ready to send in your articles! Send photos from Family Picnics, Awards & Installation Banquets, etc...



Continued on Page 4

National Vice Commandant....

Ronnie Brouard
rbrouard@mcleaguesc.org



I am super excited about our first edition of the Division Newsletter.

However, I am disappointed some of our Department Commandants didn't send in anything! We even have a Detachment that has sent something in!

The Newsletter is yours and you should submit something you are doing, how your recruiting is going, whatever you are doing that will benefit other Detachments and/or Departments.

I look forward to Jim and I attending all the Conventions that we can, so I can see you and answer any questions you have about the League. If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, you can contact me.

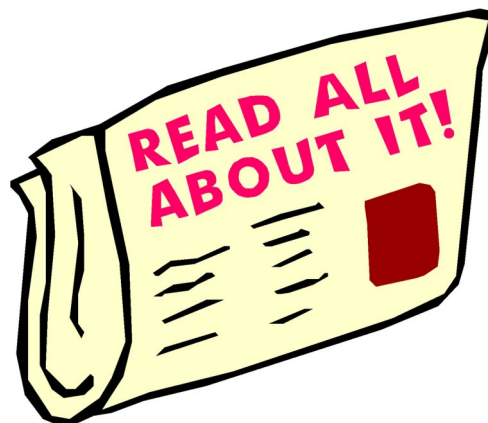
I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Semper Fi,

Ronnie Brouard

337-344-718

rbrouard@mcleague.org





Assistant Vice Commandant

Jim Stone

Jimsn4@yahoo.com

Happy Days!! This is the 1st Division Newsletter and it is exciting!

The downside right now is that not all of our Department Commandants are participating in the this edition. I sincerely hope that ALL Department Commandants will participate in the next one!

This newsletter is to allow the Departments and Detachments of the Southeast Division to share your success like great recruiting numbers, Detachment's good compliances, activities, local community awards with pictures when available, comments about leadership, National awards received, Honor Guards/Color Guards, etc. This is your newsletter and a great way to boast about these aforementioned activities. Also a great way to let others know about your conventions.

Now on to some information from National Headquarters.

First it has been suggested that we not wear our undress uniform (white shirt, blue trousers) to our local activities. The reason is because of the County's heightened terror alert.

The Marines Corps has told active duty Marines not to wear their uniforms off base.

Our suggestion is that we wear our red jacket with black pants and white shirt. The reason is the red jacket is not as easily identifiable as the undress uniform. This is a suggestion to keep our members safe.

The second thing is Headquarters is buying a building for the new Headquarters. The Marine Shop will no longer be making and selling uniforms. The name of the new organization will be The Marine Book Store and you can still order your birthday items from them. Another company will be making the uniforms articles. More in that in the near future.

I hope all Department Commandants will send in articles for future editions of this newsletter. Let us know how and what you are doing. I, also hope that Commandant will send out this newsletter to the numbers. We need everyone involved in order to make it a successful and beneficial to all our members.

Thank you and see you soon!

Semper Fi,

Jim Stone

864.775.6538

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I will be adding items from Jim and Ronnie, MCL National, the . Gov website, MCL and US History, etc. If you have a funny comic related to service or if your Detachment is named for someone! Send it in!!! We want participation!!!

As you can see, I have used a lot of exclamation signs! I am excited for us to start this journey of the SE Division Newsletter. And YES, we can participate in the Newsletter Competition as a Division. SO get your pens ready to write and send pictures too! I look forward to working with everyone.

I have created a new email address : sedivnewsletter@gmail.com

I prefer jpegs, but I can deal with a PDF as well! Please use this one for all submissions so they do not get lost in my personal emails.

Please email or call me if you have any questions or comments .

Semper Fi ,



Deborah Stone

864.884.6856

sedivnewsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter Dates for the coming year

March-April 2026

May-June 2026

** deadline 6.15.2026*

July-August 2026

September-October 2026

** deadline 8.15.2026*

** deadline 10.15.2026*

Nov. -December 2026

Jan.-February 2027

** deadline 12.15.2026*

** deadline 2.15.2027*

**Deadlines are 15 days before the end of the 2nd month*

Louisiana Commandant

Tim Neal



Cross-Pollination of Ideas Strengthens the Marine Corps League

The strength of the Marine Corps League lies in the sharing of ideas from the Detachment level through the district structure and up to the Department level. This cross-pollination ensures that successful programs, leadership approaches, and community outreach efforts can benefit the entire organization.

Detachments serve on the front lines of service to veterans and communities, often developing effective fundraising efforts, membership initiatives, and youth programs. When these successes are shared at district meetings and department events, they provide proven models that other units can adapt and implement.

Through my involvement in the Southeast Division Marine of the Year Society, I have seen firsthand the outstanding work being done across our division. By encouraging open communication and collaboration, department leadership can help spread these best practices, strengthening unity, camaraderie, and mission effectiveness throughout the League.

Working together and learning from one another ensures the Marine Corps League remains strong, responsive, and committed to those we serve.

Semper Fidelis.



South Carolina Commandant

Jim Breen

Tradition is Our Compass, Not an Anchor

A Message to the Marine Corps League

Marines are famous for many things, but perhaps nothing defines our mindset more than the ability to "**Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome.**" It is the mantra that has carried us from the island hopping of the Pacific to the urban terrain of the Middle East. Yet, there exists a paradox within our ranks. While we pride ourselves on our adaptability in the face of the enemy, we often find ourselves digging in our heels when it comes to changes within our own organization.

We are guardians of tradition, and rightly so. Our history is sacred, and our customs set us apart. But as we look to the future of the Marine Corps League, we must ask ourselves a critical question: Are we using tradition as a compass, or as an anchor?

The Difference Matters

A compass uses a fixed point—our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment—to guide us through new and unfamiliar terrain. It allows for movement, for exploration, and for progress, ensuring we never lose our way even as the landscape around us shifts.

An anchor, however, is designed to stop movement entirely. It holds a ship in one place, preventing it from drifting, but also preventing it from sailing forward. When we resist change simply because "that's how we've always done it," or because a new idea feels uncomfortable, we are dropping an anchor. We are choosing stagnation over survival.

A Retrospective on Change

If you doubt the necessity of change, simply look back at our own time in the Corps. Posit for a moment where the Marine Corps would be today without the many changes that were made during our careers—changes that were often met with grumbling and resistance at the time.

Where would we be if the Corps had refused to evolve its weaponry, clinging to the M1 Garand instead of adopting the M16 and eventually the M4/M27? We would have been outgunned.

Where would we be if we had resisted the integration of digital communications and satellite technology, insisting that radios and wire were "good enough"? We would have been deaf and blind on the modern battlefield.

- **Where would we be** if we had not adapted our tactics from the linear warfare of the past to the maneuver warfare and combined arms coordination of today?

Without those changes, the Marine Corps would not be the lethal, premier fighting force it is today. It would be a relic. The leadership of the past understood that to preserve the spirit of the Corps, the methods had to evolve.

Moving the League Forward

The Marine Corps League faces a similar battlefield today. Our mission is to preserve the traditions and promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps, but we cannot do that if we refuse to modernize how we operate, how we communicate, and how we recruit.

Embracing inevitable changes—whether it be digital outreach, new meeting formats, or welcoming the fresh perspectives of younger veterans—does not mean we are abandoning our identity. It means we are securing it for the future.



Let us use our traditions as our compass to ensure we never deviate from our principles. But let us weigh anchor, catch the winds of change, and sail this organization forward.

Semper Fidelis.

USMC HISTORY

Information from USMCHangout.com by Bridget Carlson.

17 March 1967: The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. MSgt Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon. Most worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section providing administrative support to Marines assigned as far north as the DMZ, but two Lieutenant Colonels, Ruth Reinholz and Ruth O'Holleran, served as historians with the Military History Branch, Secretary Joint Staff, MACV.

10 April 1959: Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr. was named as one of the original seven Project Mercury astronauts selected for space training. The seven astronauts, all volunteers, were selected by NASA from an initial group of 110 leading military test pilots. Three years later, on 20 February 1962, Col. Glenn would become the first American to orbit the Earth.

Florida Commandant



John Gionet
meldofofcommandant@gmail.com

How Can We Help You; Help Us

John Gionet, Commandant, Department of Florida



One of the greatest truths we learned in the Marine Corps, and one we must continue to live in the Marine Corps League; is this:

leadership is a shared responsibility.

Leadership does not rest solely with officers, Commandants, or Detachment leaders. It rests with every Marine who wears the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor and continues to serve through this League. Our organization succeeds the same way the Marine Corps always has—through teamwork, accountability, and execution. I often think of it like a football team. One person may call the play, but success only comes when **every position does its job**. The line holds. Routes are run. The defense stands fast. When one part fails, the whole team feels it.

The Marine Corps League is no different. Leadership begins with two simple words: “**I can.**”

I can show up; I can do my part; and I can help.

But leadership is not meant to be carried alone. A question I encourage every member to ask—not just of leadership, but of themselves—is this:

How can we help you help us?

Leaders can set direction, establish goals, and provide guidance—but they cannot succeed without participation and support. Helping leaders help the organization succeed does not require a title. It requires commitment, follow-through, and willingness to step forward.

In practical terms, helping leadership help the League means:

- Executing responsibilities at the Detachment level
- Supporting fellow Detachments when they need assistance.
- Mentoring future leaders rather than waiting for replacements
- Communicating clearly and following through on commitments

As Marines, we have never waited for perfect conditions. We have overcome challenges and adapted each time. That happens because Marines understand teamwork, and because they understand that **standing together matters**.

As a leader my commitment is to lead with purpose, consistency, and transparency. My expectation, in return, is that every Marine continues to lead from wherever they stand. Because *when each of us takes responsibility*, when we help our leaders help us, and *when we remain faithful to one another and the mission*, the Marine Corps League remains strong, relevant, and worthy of the title we proudly carry.

Still leading. Still serving; and Still Marines.



Vice Chief Devil Dog

Ricky Pitts



Fun and Honor Society



Alabama Commandant

no report given

Georgia Commandant

no report given



Tennessee Commandant

no report given

Marine Corps League Foundation Raffle

Fiddle Autographed by Charlie Daniels



One chance of Winning \$15
Three Chances of Winning \$40
Scan the Code today to enter

Drawing August 15, 2026 Need not be present to win

Best known for his fiery fiddle playing and the timeless hit “The Devil Went Down to Georgia,” Charlie Daniels left an unforgettable mark on American music—and now you have the chance to own a piece of that legacy. This isn’t just an instrument; it’s a collector’s treasure, a conversation starter, and a tribute to a true musical patriot.

Why enter?

- Own a signed violin from a music legend
- Support the mission of the Marine Corps League Foundation
- Make a meaningful impact. Every ticket purchased helps support veterans, Marines, and their families—so you’re not just entering to win, you’re giving back to those who have given so much.

Don’t miss your chance to bring home a piece of American music history.

Get your tickets today—and let the music play in your favor!

THE LOST ART WITH ANDREW COX

VETERAN STORIES TOLD IN THEIR OWN WORDS



AMBASSADOR

STAY MOTIVATED & CHANGE YOUR SOCKS!

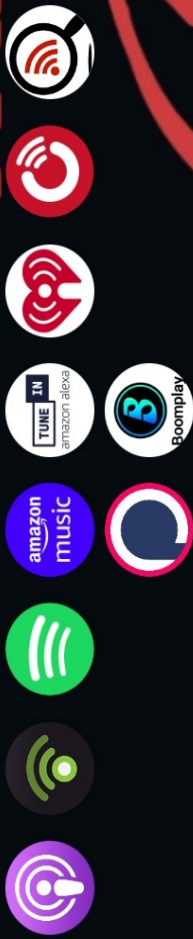
NO MORE



SAME TEAM NEW MISSION

Preserve Traditions • Young Marines
Veteran Support • Marine For Life • Toys for Tots
Support for the transition from Active Duty to Civilian

Listen where you get your podcasts



YOUR STORY WILL LIVE ON FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!!

AJ Has been working with Marine Corps History Division to get all the veteran stories archived in Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA. The Marine Corps History Division keeps records, photos, videos etc. on behalf of the Marine Corps. This means that when you record your story on this podcast, AJ will ensure that it is sent to Marine Corps History Division where your individual story of service and sacrifice will become a part of Marine Corps History.

Don't worry, If you are in a different branch of service AJ will be forwarding your story along to them as well.

AJ hopes this inspires more podcasters to work with historical organizations like the Marine Corps History Division to document and preserve our stories for generations to come. You are now a part of history and when family, generations from now, want to hear about your service they can contact Marine Corps History Division to get a copy of your individual story and hear from you personally about your military service.

EVERY VETERAN DESERVES THEIR STORY TO BE TOLD, RECORDED, AND ARCHIVED.

Don't miss the opportunity to get your individual story recorded and archived at one of the greatest historical organizations, The Marine Corps History Division.

SCHEDULE YOUR RECORDING!!

<https://calendly.com/thelostartwithandrewcox/the-lost-art-with-andrew-cox-podcast-recording>



National Vice President

Becky Marcel
Southeastdivisionup@gmail.com



Assistant Vice President

Christy Ellis
cellismcla@gmail.com



79TH SE DIVISION CONFERENCE

Savannah, Georgia ~ April 2-5, 2026

Congratulations

Southeast Division Marine of the Year

Jerry Holt

SC ~ Lancaster County Leathernecks #1169

Jerry Vaughn

FL ~ Cpl. Larry E Smedley # 064

Year Southeast Division Auxiliary Member

Of the year

Becky Marcel

Houma, Louisiana ~ PHP Norma A Liner Unit

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION

WYNDHAM INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT HOTEL

2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241

Phone 317.248.2481

Dates: Monday August 10, 2026 to Friday, August 14, 2026

Book room using MCL National link

& register online for events/banquet



Please only reserve 2 rooms!!



Scan code to download the Convention
Schedule for the week.

Schedule

2027 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

The Founders Inn and Spa Tapestry Collection by Hilton

5641 Indian River Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Phone 757-424-5511

2/25/2027 – 2/27/2027

DEADLINE TO BOOK HOTEL IS:

JANUARY 25, 2007



FREE PARKING ~ PETS WELCOME~ 2 DOG PARKS

IN DOOR & OUT DOOR POOLS

AIRPORT SHUTTLE ~ RESTAURANT

MCL Scholarship 2026

IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. All decisions by the Scholarship Committee are final and will not be subject to review.
2. The Scholarship Committee will strictly observe all eligibility criteria and requirements, to ensure compliance throughout.
3. Incomplete applications will not be considered by the committee, nor will they be returned for corrections.
4. **Preliminary Approved Applicants** will not receive notification. **The list will be posted** to the MCL National Website by **August 31, 2026.**
5. If you have a change of mailing address or email, notify the National Scholarship Committee at Scholarship@MCLeague.org.
Photocopies of official transcripts are acceptable. Applications and transcripts must be emailed to Scholarship@MCLeague.org. Documents are not to be mailed. The transcripts requested must be sent directly to you to avoid confusion or being lost.
6. Documents downloaded from a school website(s) will be accepted if authenticated by that Institution's Registrar's Office.
7. Official Transcripts and Proof of Enrollment should be sent directly to you. Some Institutions may charge a processing fee for 'Official Documents' and/or require that the requested documents be emailed by that Institution directly to the MCL National Scholarship Committee. **WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSCRIPTS DELAYED BY THE INSTITUTION.**
8. Should you have any questions send email directly to the Scholarship Committee Chairman at Scholarship@MCLeague.org.

Send All Applications And Transcripts By **Email Only** To:

MCL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
JOE HUGHES, CHAIRPERSON
Scholarship@MCLeague.org

DEADLINE IS JULY 21, 2026
FORMS MUST BE PDF or SCANNED
– NO PICTURES WILL BE ACCEPTED

IF YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THE PRELIMINARY LIST

Send Student Data Sheet And Proof Of Enrollment By **Email Only** To:

MCL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
JOE HUGHES, CHAIRMAN
Scholarship@MCLeague.org

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
FORMS MUST BE PPDF or SCANNED
– NO PICTURES WILL BE ACCEPTED



STUDENT DATA SHEET




2026 Marine Corps League National Scholarship
(Submission Deadline To Email Is September 21, 2026)
FORM MUST BE SCANNED – NO PICTURES WILL BE ACCEPTED

STUDENT LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

STUDENT CONTACT PHONE	STUDENT CONTACT EMAIL
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>


MAILING ADDRESS OF STUDENT (Where you will receive "Award Letter" from MCL Foundation)

STREET / PO BOX	<input type="text"/>	
CITY	<input type="text"/>	
STATE	<input type="text"/>	 TO FIND ZIP CODE + 4 (REQUIRED) https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction_input
ZIP + 4	<input type="text"/>	

STUDENT ID NO. ASSIGNED BY SCHOOL

COMPLETE NAME OF COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY (That you are enrolled for 2026 Fall Semester)

COMPLETE / EXACT MAILING ADDRESS OF COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL OFFICE

OFFICE or DEPT	<input type="text"/>	
STREET or PO BOX	<input type="text"/>	
CITY	<input type="text"/>	
STATE	<input type="text"/>	 Verify with your School Administrator to determine which "Office" or "Dept" should receive Scholarship Funds
ZIP + 4	<input type="text"/>	

<p>EMAIL FORM AND ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION TO: Scholarship@MCLeague.org</p>	<p>DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 PDF OR SCANNED FORMS ONLY – NO PICTURES WILL BE ACCEPTED</p>
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2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS

ALABAMA

JUNE 18-21

FLORIDA

JUNE 4-6

GEORGIA

MAY 7-10

LOUISIANA

JUNE 5-6

MISSISSIPPI

APRIL 7-9

SOUTH CAROLINA

JUNE 11-14

TENNESSEE

JUNE 19-20