



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI  
STATE CONVENTION  
29 April 2017

From: Adjutant State of Mississippi  
To: Dept. Commandant, State Officers, and Detachment Commandants of Dept. Of Mississippi  
Subject: State Convention 2017

Opening Ceremony

Commandant Polk directed the ritual opening ceremony with Jim Aust acting as Sgt at Arms and Jim Yarbrough acting as Chaplain.

Business Meeting

Commandant Polk introduced National Jr. Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin, Dept. of Alabama Commandant Jerry Cherne, Dept. of Louisiana Commandant Dave Martin and past Commandants from the Dept. of Mississippi.

Commandant Polk recognized Southeast Division Marine of the Year and Carter Award recipient, the first from the State of Mississippi, Department Jr. Vice Commandant Clifton Addison from the Commiskey-Wheat Detachment 1073.

Harry Sharpe was recognized as the Chairman of the Convention, and welcomed everyone to the Convention hosted by the Gulf Coast Detachment 715.

Roll Call of Officers was conducted by the Adjutant and noted Sr. Vice Commandant Richard Wills, Sgt at Arms and Det 1101 Commandant Virgil Cole, Chaplain Ed Jones, and Det 175 Commandant Jerry Blaylock were absent from the proceedings.

Commandant Polk introduced National Jr. Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin and asked if he would care to make any comment at this time. Jr. Vice Commandant Tobin spoke on recruiting, term limits for officers and proper transmittals.

Adjutants Report:

Reading of Minutes from January 21, 2017, Statye Meeting in Pearl, Ms. Motion by Jr. Vice Clifton Addison to dispense with the reading of the minutes was seconded by Jim Yarbrough and passed by majority vote.

Correspondence:

None

Paymaster Report

Paymasters Report: Presented by Patrick Tutor Audited by Harry Sharpe and Jerry Daum approved and excepted as presented.

Chaplains Report

Virgil Cole, Commandant of the Jerry Wentworth Det. 1101, in Meridian has an illness and request prayers. Tests are being run to determine treatment. W.C. Maples, Commandant of the Commiskey-Wheat Det. 1073, Hattiesburg has an illness and request prayers. Tests are being run to determine treatment.

Reports of other State Officers

Senior Vice:

Absent; No report.

Junior Vice:

Jr. Vice Clifton Addison gave a power point presentation on recruiting, which was well excepted and praised as one of the best presentations every given.

Judge Advocate:

Judge Advocate Robert Hall spoke on the restructuring of the Dept. Commandant Polk pointed out that National is restructuring the existing Bylaws into two separate categories for legal concerns. Bylaws will be reduced to about 15-20 pages. Most of the content will be moved to the Administrative Procedures. The Dept. will readdress the Dept. Bylaws after this is completed at National. Dennis Tobin explained how this was being accomplished and would be presented for vote at the National Convention in Aug. Robert also mentioned a case of stolen Valor that was investigated and the individual decided to resign from the Marine Corps League.

Past Department Commandant:

No report.

Webmaster:

Bill Lamar requested that everyone submit data to him, so he can get it on the website and keep it current and updated.

Trail of Honor:

Commandant Polk brought attention to a flyer which had been placed at each seat and went over the Trail of Honor/ Aviation Trail of Honor and how Det. 173 will have two exhibits at the trail. Dates are May 20-21, 2017.

### Young Marines:

Virgil Young gave a power point presentation on Young Marines. The power point is in the hands of Commandant Polk. Anyone interested contact Commandant Polk.

### Unfinished Business:

#### Mississippi Marine Corps League Car Tags

Jim Williamson, from Det. 1101, was introduced to explain how and why the MS. Marine car tag was established to assist Marine and FMF Corpsman's families the ability to visit sick and wounded family members by working thru the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society.

### New Business:

A new Detachment is being form in Diamondhead, MS. And has 20 new members.

Harry Sharpe is working with a group in the Gulfport/Biloxi area and Jr. Vice and Commandant Polk will be assisting on this new Detachment.

Motion was made by Bill Lamar to hold the next State Officers meeting 26 Aug in Pearl, MS. Seconded by Tom Drumm and passed by majority vote.

Tupelo will host the 2018 State Convention the last week of April 2018.

Motion by Tom Drumm to hold the 2019 Convention in Horn Lake, MS. Hosted by Horn Lake Det. 1078 and Oxford Det. 1431. Seconded by Gene Hayes and passed by majority vote.

Video by University of South Carolina about the USMC film repository was shown. A video on the Shepard's Men and how they help with suicide prevention among veterans was also presented.

Motion by Commandant Polk to support the Boy Scouts of America and seconded by W.C. Maples. Discussion followed and the motion was rescinded. This is a MCL National Program. There will be discussion at the August State Meeting on how to fund this program. Ron Polk will be the Dept. of Miss. Chairman for this program. There are six Boy Scout Councils in Mississippi. We have a Detachment in each of the Council areas.

### Good of the League:

Rex Moody from Det.1220 said that the Vietnam War memorial in Tupelo is near completion and should be opening around October 2017. Pins provided by the DOD were passed out to all members.

Clifton Addison shared information about an Honor Cord which Det.1073 has purchased to present to graduating veterans and graduates going in the service as 1<sup>st</sup> LTs and Ensigns.

Announcements:

Paymaster training was held from 1330-1430

MODD Growl was from 1445 -1545

Dept. of LA. Convention June 3-4 Baton Rouge, LA.

Dept. of AL. Convention June 10-12 Dothan AL.

Dept. of TN. Convention June 22-25 Memphis, TN.

MCL National Convention 13-18 Aug. Overland Park KS.

Closing Ceremony

Ritual closing ceremonies were held during the Banquet after presenting Harry Sharpe with the Department of Mississippi Marine of the Year award.

**At the Banquet Harry Sharpe was honored as the 2017 Department of Mississippi Marine of the Year.**

Respectfully Submitted

Semper Fi

Robert Robertson

Adjutant Dept. of MS.