

Department of Mississippi Marine Corps League
Convention Meeting Minutes
26 Apr 2025

Meeting was called to order at 0830 by Department Commandant. There were a total of 28 members present, including Department of Mississippi members and guests.

Commandant led members in Pledge of Allegiance. Opening ceremony was conducted.

A memorial service was conducted honoring fallen members. Each fallen member's name was read and candles were lit in their memory.

Commandant introduced visiting dignitaries from National, Division, and neighboring Departments.

Roll call of Department Officers and Detachment Commandants was conducted.

Department Officers

Commandant	Jerry Daum	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Sharpe	Present
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jerry Blaylock	Present
Judge Advocate	Robert Hall	Excused
Jr. Past Commandant	Cliff Addison	Present
Aide-de-Camp	Rex Moody	Present
Adjutant	Ric Polleck	Present
Paymaster	Chuck Junek	Present
Chaplain	Anick Wallace	Excused
Sergeant-At-Arms	Sam Phillips	Present
Web Sergeant	Vacant	

Detachment Commandants

Det. 173, Ric Polleck	Present
Det. 175, Casey Weathers	Present
Det. 715, Karl Aderer	Absent, Represented
Det. 1073, Jeff Davis	Present
Det. 1078, Anick Wallace	Excused
Det. 1220, Scott Burns	Present
Det. 1331, Al Newman	Present
Det. 1431, Jason Pardoe	Present
Det. 1454, Darryl Davis	Absent, Represented
Det. 1460, Harry Sharpe	Present

A quorum, as defined by Section 420, Department of Mississippi bylaws, was present.

Officer Reports

Adjutant: Motion was made and seconded to waive reading of minutes from last Department meeting since the 13 Jan 2024 meeting minutes have been posted to the Department website. Motion passed without objection.

Paymaster

Reported that as of 21 Apr 2025 the Department had a total of \$30,159.48: \$2,009.56 in the regular account, \$452.89 in the veterans service account; \$21,864.36 in the 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball account; \$225.00

in the disaster relief account; \$146.00 in the children's hospital account, \$600.00 in the disaster relief account, \$400 in the scholarship account, and \$5,861.97 in the YANKY 72 account. There is also a negative \$800.40 balance in the foundation fund. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Paymaster Report as presented. Motion passed without objection.

Advised members regarding the establishment of the Department of MS Foundation Account, a 5013c which would allow corporations who won't or can't donate to the League's 5014c status to donate money to the Foundation. Advised that there would be a 3-person Foundation board of trustees comprised of the Department Commandant, Department Paymaster, and one elected member to be voted on later in the meeting.

Encouraged Detachments to ensure they are following the rules and guidance established by their Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and to rely on the Bord of Trustees/Directors for guidance.

Reminded all that elected and appointed officers must be current in the dues in order to be eligible to serve in the elected/appointed positions.

Commandant: Gave a short farewell message as his term in office was expiring today.

Sr. Vice Commandant: No report.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Reported on his visits to the Department's Detachments

Judge Advocate: No Report

Sergeant at Arms: No Report

Chaplain: No report.

Jerry Holt, SE Division National Vice Commandant

Discussed ongoing issues and efforts to address membership issues. Encouraged Detachments to elevate problems/issue to National via the Department.

Advised that Detachments can now pull their own rosters from the National website database portal. There are training videos at the MCL National website in the Member Library: https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/101_Detachment-Database-Procedures.pdf and <https://vimeo.com/1059702591?share=copy#t=0>. To access the video you may need to enter a password. Use the Member Library password.

Stressed the importance of protecting Department/Detachment funds and recommended that someone other than the check signers have access to their organizational account to monitor funds. Discussed the difference between audits and financial reviews and encouraged the Department and Detachments to conduct regular reviews.

Johnny Baker MCL Past National Commandant

Informed members of the new MCL Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Program. The plan is that each Department have a trained and certified VSO. Training is available through online classes. Department VSOs will be volunteer positions. National has already hired a paid VSO to set up and administer the Program.

Advised members that a new Color Guard SOP is available at the National Web Site and encouraged all detachment to review it. Further advised that the Honor Guard SOP is being updated.

Jr Past Department Commandant Cliff Addison

Encouraged members to seek out homeless veterans and help get them into the VA system.

Gave a presentation on preventing veterans' suicide. Noted that in one year 3,962 veterans between ages 18-34 committed suicide. Noted that 54% of veterans suffer from chronic pain and 33% suffer from PTSD-related substances and alcohol abuse. Also advised that veterans who do not seek VA care have a higher suicide rate. Encourage members to get involved and to offer help; noted that anyone can help prevent suicide.

Gave a presentation on the Department's planned 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, scheduled for 1 Nov 2025 in Jackson. Advised that registration is now open and encouraged member to register and to share information about the Ball as widely as possible.

Dept Vice Commandant

Presented Detachment Recruiting Awards to Detachments 173, 1073, and 1450.

Presented individual Recruiting Awards to Larry Sullivan (1st Place), Ric Polleck (2nd Place), and to multiple, tied 3rd place award winners.

Department Commandant presented a Distinguished Service Award to outgoing Dept Judge Advocate Robert Hall for his service as Judge Advocate.

Old Business

None

New Business

Paymaster briefed members on the proposed budget for FY 2026. Motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed budget. Motion passed without objection.

Following a discussion on the matter, a motion to allocate \$250.00 toward the purchase of a full-page ad in the National Convention Booklet was made and seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Member Ron Polk briefed members on state-wide Eagle Scout Awards. Detachments were encouraged to donate funds to the Department to help defray the costs associated with buying patches, certificates, and presentation folders. Further, he advised that he's seeking someone to assist and eventually take over the Department's Eagle Scout Awards program.

Past National Commandant Johnny Baker noted that National is looking to expand the Young Marine Program into south MS and that he was available to assist.

Election of Department Officers chaired by SE Division National Vice Commandant Jerry Holt. The below were previously nominated for the position's indicated:

- Commandant: Harry Sharpe
- Senior Vice Commandant: Jerry Blaylock and Cliff Addison
- Junior Vice Commandant: Jerry Blaylock
- Judge Advocate: Anick Wallace

No additional nominations were forthcoming, and a motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Motion passed without objection.

The two nominees for Senior Vice Commandant left the room and the members voted, electing Cliff Addison as Sr VC.

As there were no additional nominations, the remaining nominees were elected by a single unanimous vote cast by the Department Adjutant.

In addition to the elected officers, the following officers were appointed:

- Jr. Past Commandant: Jerry Daum
- Adjutant: Ric Polleck
- Paymaster: Chuck Junek
- Chaplain: Anick Wallace
- Sgt at Arms: John Potts
- Marine 4 Life: Harry Sharpe

Johnny Baker, MCL Past National Commandant, installed those elected and appointed officers present.

Marine of the Year nominations were submitted by Detachments 173, 1073, 1078, 1331, and 1460.

Associate of the Year nominations were submitted by Detachments 173.

Cliff Addison was elected to serve on the Department's Foundation board of trustees.

Good of the League

Detachment 1073 to host the 2025 Department Convention, location and date to be determined.

Marine Scott Burns informed members that he would be staging a 7 Days for the Troops event in Pearl MS, 8-13 November 2025 and would be soliciting help from the local Detachment to set up for the event and to help feed veterans on Veterans Day.

The next Department of Mississippi Quarterly meeting will be at 0900 on Saturday, 19 Jul 2025, at the Pearl Community Center, 2414 Old Brandon RD, Pearl, MS.

Closing ceremony was conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 1130 until 1900, at which time the banquet will commence.

Banquet

Colors were presented and opening ceremony conducted.

Guest speaker was MCL Past National Commandant Johnny Baker

Chuck Junick and Ric Polleck were presented with Distinguished Citizen Awards (Silver) by the SE Division National Vice Commandant.

Anick Wallace was named 2025 Department of Mississippi Marine of the Year.

Amy Alexander was named 2025 Department of Mississippi Associate of the Year.

PDD Ric Polleck was named 2025 Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Mississippi Pack Dog of the Year

Dept Commandant Jerry Daum made several presentations to the Dept Officers with whom he served over the past two years.

Outgoing Dept Commandant Jerry Daum introduced newly elected Dept Commandant Harry Sharp and surrendered the office.

Closing ceremony was conducted and convention was closed.