

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



Department Officers

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1ST QUARTER 2026

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Continued

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Worthy Past Pack Leader

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Americanism

Deborah Stone

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3rd Trustee

Dan Hoffman

2nd Trustee

Kevin Patton

1st Trustee

Shawn Neal

Upcoming Department Meetings

04/18/2026

10:00am

American Legion Post 6

200 Pickens St

Columbia, SC 29205

Polos and Cover

Coffee & Donuts available at 0900

6/11/26 - 6/14/26

2026 Convention, June 11-14, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn - Columbia/NE

8910 Farrow Rd

Columbia, SC 29203

Single: \$139/night + tax (Parking Free)

Will need your Profile ID from your paymaster for
online registration

See Department website of online registration

Upcoming National Events

8/10/26 - 8/14/26

National Convention, August 10-14, 2026

Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel

2544 Executive Drive Indianapolis, IN 46241

Single: \$132.50/night + tax

See Department website of online registration



Commandant

JIM BREEN

COMMANDANT@MCLEAGUESC.ORG

Embracing Change While Honoring Tradition

A Message from the Commandant, Department of South Carolina
Marine Corps League

As we move forward together in the Department of South Carolina Marine Corps League, it's important to remember that nothing stays the same. Change is a constant—sometimes welcomed, sometimes resisted, but always necessary for growth and progress. While we deeply value our traditions and strive to honor them wherever possible, there are moments when change demands a new course, even if it means stepping beyond the familiar. This spirit of adaptation is reflected not only in our local detachments but throughout our entire organization. On the national level, the Marine Corps League is also actively embracing change. The introduction and expansion of the National Veteran Service Officer program demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to serving our members and veterans. Additionally, the national leadership is working diligently to modernize internal processes, critically evaluating their effectiveness and continually seeking ways to enhance the quality of our membership experience. To ensure we remain vibrant and relevant, it is essential that each of our detachments and the Department as a whole regularly examine what we do and how we do it. We must ask ourselves: Who does it attract and who does it alienate? Are there better ways to accomplish our mission? By reflecting honestly on these questions, we can adapt our practices with purpose and ensure our efforts are inclusive, impactful, and in line with the evolving needs of our members and communities. I understand that adapting to change can be challenging. It's natural to want to preserve the customs and practices that have defined us for generations. However, we're seeing that detachments willing to embrace new ideas and try innovative approaches are thriving. These detachments are not just surviving; they're flourishing, finding fresh ways to connect with their communities and strengthen their membership. In contrast, those who cling strictly to tradition are encountering more difficulties, often struggling to maintain engagement and momentum.

Let us continue to respect our heritage, but also be courageous enough to evolve. By balancing tradition with flexibility, we ensure that the Marine Corps League—both here in South Carolina and across the nation—remains strong and relevant for years to come. Together, let's welcome change as a pathway to a brighter future for our League and all who serve within it.



Commandant

JIM BREEN

Continued

Many of your officers, myself included, are in new positions this year. That means we will be learning and growing together as we test fresh ideas. Some will succeed, and some may not—but we will never be afraid to innovate. What didn't work 20 years ago may very well succeed in today's environment. Our mission is too important to stand still.

Most importantly, I want to challenge each of you to get involved, share your ideas, and encourage our younger members to step into leadership roles. By doing so, we ensure that the Marine Corps League remains a strong, vital force for veterans, their families, and our communities—not just today, but for generations to come.

Together, we will honor tradition while embracing innovation. Together, we will strengthen our Department. And together, we will continue to serve with pride, purpose, and an unwavering commitment to our fellow Marines and Associates.

Semper Fidelis,
Jim Breen
Commandant



Sr. Vice Commandant

JIMMY FOGLE

JIMMY.FOGLE.JF@GMAIL.COM

Marines FMF Corpsman and Associates,

This report outlines the fundraising activities, revenue generation efforts, and support initiatives conducted during Quarter 1. The primary focuses this quarter was strengthening financial readiness, expanding donor engagement, and supporting detachments in developing sustainable fundraising practices across the Department of South Carolina.

1. Summary of Fundraising Activity

Coordinated with detachments to assess ongoing and planned fundraising events. Encouraged early year planning to ensure compliance with Department and National guidelines. Promoted standardized reporting to improve transparency and accountability. Supported detachments in identifying new revenue opportunities for 2026.

2. Department Level Fundraising Initiatives

Reviewed statewide fundraising opportunities suitable for Departmentwide participation. Evaluated potential partnerships with veteran supporting organizations and local businesses. Began preliminary planning for major annual events (e.g., conventions, raffles, community drives). Provided guidance on best practices for event promotion, volunteer coordination, and financial tracking.

3. Detachment Engagement & Support

Conducted outreach to detachments to assess fundraising readiness and needs.

Offered assistance with:

Event planning and logistics

Compliance with Marine Corps League fundraising policies

Donor engagement strategies

Public relations and community outreach

Identified detachments requiring additional mentoring to strengthen their fundraising capabilities.

4. Financial Impact & Observations

Early year fundraising activity was consistent with prior years, with several detachments reporting strong community participation. Increased interest in digital fundraising methods, including online raffles and donation portals. Noted opportunities to improve coordination between detachments to avoid overlapping events and maximize turnout.

5. Challenges

Some detachments reported difficulty securing venues or sponsors due to early year scheduling conflicts. Limited volunteer availability impacted event execution in certain areas. Need for improved communication regarding Department level fundraising expectations and timelines.



6. Goals for Q2

Strengthen coordination between detachments to support joint fundraising opportunities. Provide updated fundraising guidance and templates to standardize reporting. Encourage detachments to diversify fundraising methods, including digital platforms. Increase Department level visibility through community partnerships and veteran focused events.

Conduct follow-up mentoring sessions with detachments requiring additional support.

7. Recommendations

Establish a quarterly fundraising coordination call with detachment leadership. Develop a Departmentwide fundraising calendar to improve planning and reduce conflicts. Expand training on donor engagement, event promotion, and financial accountability. Encourage detachments to submit after-action reports for all fundraising events to support Department level analysis and improvement.

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmy Fogle
Sr. Vice Commandant
Department of South Carolina
Marine Corps League



Jr. Vice Commandant

BARETTA SPLAWN

JR_VICE@MCLEAGUESC.ORG

Marines and Associates,

Recruiting and retention are not optional – they are our responsibility. Every member of the Marine Corps League should be actively bringing in new members and staying engaged within their department.

Opportunities to recruit are everywhere – community events, veteran networks, and everyday conversations. If you're not asking, you're missing the mission

Retention is just as critical. Get new members involved immediately, give them purpose, and make them feel valued. Strong detachments don't happen by accident – they are built through leadership and participation.

Bottom line: Grow the League, Strengthen the League. Stay engaged.

Semper Fidelis,

Junior Vice Commandant

Baretta Splawn

splawnjb@gmail.com 864-787-6227



Judge Advocate

CLAUDE H. DAVIS III
JUDGE_ADVOCATE@MCLEAGUESC.ORG



Hello Marines and Associates,
I hope this message finds you in the best of health and spirits. It is not too early to begin thinking about the upcoming Department Convention. Thank you, Speedy Wilson Detachment, for stepping up and hosting this year's convention. Now is the time to begin thinking about Department and National bylaw change suggestions. If your detachment hasn't yet, please send me a copy of your most current bylaws and we can get them updated in Dept. JA files. Please feel free to reach out to me by phone or email with any questions or concerns. Thank you all for everything that you do for Dept. of South Carolina MCL. Stay safe and see you soon.



Paymaster

JERRY HOLT

JERRYHOLT813@GMAIL.COM

Discounted Dues

Paymasters, remember that between March 1 and June 30 dues for New Members (and Associates) is only \$15. The catch is that their dues payment will become due again in August. Since they have their wallet out, ask them to pre-pay their dues for 2027 so you won't need to bug them again in a few months.

Delinquent Members

Paymaster and Commandants of each Detachment now have the capability to print their Detachment's current roster. The rosters should be pulled regularly to ensure that new members have been properly added to your roster, and to track the dues status of all members. Follow up on those who are delinquent. If they don't often attend your meetings, call them or mail a dues reminder letter. If they haven't paid by the end of August they will become inactive shortly afterward and they will drop from your roster entirely. Delinquent members are not entitled to vote on any League matters and they may not hold any elected or appointed office.

Semper Fi,

Jerry Holt

Paymaster, Dept of SC



SC Pack Leader

Michael Cortright

cmrcortright@gmail.com

From the SC Pack Leader PDD Michael Cortright
South Carolina Devil Dogs,

It is time to prepare for our upcoming events. Please ensure you have your credentials ready for our next Department Meeting and Growl, which will be held on April 18th at the American Legion Post 6 in Columbia. Thank you to everyone who attended on January 17th and contributed to our collection of donations for our furry friends. The Department Convention and Pack Growl are also rapidly approaching. The convention will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn, 8910 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC, from June 11th through June 14th. If you plan to advance to Devil Dog, please submit your advancement paperwork to the Pack Dog Robber no later than May 1, 2026.

For those seeking to advance to Pedigreed Devil Dog, you must attend the Supreme Growl August 10-14, 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The deadline for that advancement paperwork is July 1, 2026.

The League continues to offer training for the online Dues Transmittal and Payment System. The Kennel Management Application (KMA) is designed to expedite and lower the cost of dues submissions. If you need scratching and biting yourself, assistance in using the KMA, please review the tutorial here: https://scribeshow.com/shared/How_To_Create_A_Dues_Transmittal_Online_HJmAPml6QpWM514r6R8nXQ

We look forward to a successful Department Conference and Growl. Elections will be held during the Growl; all current officers, with the exception of myself, have expressed a desire to seek re-election.

Nominations for any office will be accepted from the floor.

Additionally, please consider bringing a bag of dog food or treats to the conference to support Operation Chowhound, which assists animal shelters nationwide.

Thank you for continuing to represent the Marine Corps League Devil Dogs with fun and honor.

WOOF WOOF,

PDD Michael R. Cortright

SC Pack Leader



The Marine Corps League recognizes Eagle Scouts through the "Good Citizenship Award" to honor their commitment to leadership, service, and traditional values that align with the values of the Marine Corps. The award serves to celebrate a Scout's dedication to achieving the highest rank in Scouting and to reinforce the importance of the skills they've mastered. This recognition also promotes the Marine Corps League within communities, supports Scouting's mission, and strengthens the mutual support agreement between the League and the Boy Scouts of America. If your Detachment is interested in participating in the program, please contact Claude Davis, Department Scouting Coordinator.

Claude Davis III
tarheelmarine1@gmail.com
808-722-6247



To: Members MCL Det#1219 - The Great Pee Dee
Devil Dogs of Bennettsville SC

See the link below for a front-page article in the Herald-Advocate newspaper today about our trip the SC State Vietnam War Memorial in Columbia to honor Vietnam war veterans ahead of the upcoming March 29th National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The article continues on page 3. KUDOS to Marine Frank Faulkner for his caring prayer during our ceremony in Columbia.

s/ John Harlow JVC/PIO MCL Det#1219
Bennettsville SC :-)

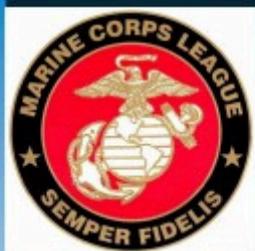
Click [LINK](#) for the Hearld online news



Heightened security measures at all entry gates

USNORTHCOM directed all installations to implement heightened security measures at all entry gates until further notice. These measures include 100% ID checks, random vehicle inspections, and the suspension of the Trusted Traveler Program until further notice.

“These enhanced security measures are being implemented to safeguard our service members, civilians, and families, while ensuring our continued ability to generate and project combat power at the time and place of our Nation’s choosing,” wrote MCAS Beaufort SC. Officials said drivers should expect delays and possible random inspections at all entry gates.



YELLOW FOOTPRINTS
DETACHMENT #1154



16th ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
GOLF
FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026

MORGAN RIVER GOLF LINKS DATAW ISLAND

REGISTRATION 8 AM | SHOTGUN START 9 AM

\$125 PER GOLFER

INCLUDES GOLF, CART, LUNCH,
SWAG, PRIZES AND MORE

Sponsorship Packages

SILVER STAR \$2,500
4 GOLFERS, SWAG & MARKETING

BRONZE STAR \$1,500
4 GOLFERS, SWAG & MARKETING

GOLF CART SPONSOR \$1,750
RECOGNITION MARKETING SIGN ON EVERY CART

HOLE SPONSOR \$300
RECOGNITION MARKETING SIGN ON A HOLE

INDIVIDUAL FOURSOME \$500
FOUR GOLFERS, TEAM FOURSOME

Play & Win

**COURSE CONTESTS, RAFFLE
PRIZES & SILENT AUCTION**

We will have a lot of great raffle prizes and tickets will be available throughout the day. On the course we will have following contests:

- First Place Foursome**
- Second Place Foursome**
- Third Place Foursome**

There will also be adult beverages and treats throughout the course that can be purchased.

COME OUT AND ENJOY DAY OF GOLF, GIVING AND MORE!

FOR DONATIONS AND/OR REGISTRATION FOR THE TOURNAMENT CONTACT: Daniel Ellis @ 612-961-4358
Email: ellisdanielpatrick@gmail.com

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE YELLOW FOOTPRINTS DETACHMENT #1154 IS A 501 (C)3 NON-PROFIT



Support the Marine Corps League Foundation

A Marine family doesn't plan for the moment everything goes sideways—a medical emergency, a sudden loss of income, or a natural disaster. But when it happens, they need help immediately... not weeks or months later. That's where the Marine Corps League Foundation steps in. The Marine Corps League Foundation (distinct from the Marine Corps League Foundation of South Carolina) exists for a clear and critical mission: to support

Marines, Marine veterans, and their families when they need it most. Through scholarships, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief, the Foundation provides real help in real time—often when there is nowhere else to turn. This work only happens because of support from the Marine Corps League community.

Departments and Detachments have previously been asked to contribute at least \$100 annually, and many have answered that call. But the reality is clear: the need continues to grow—and so must our response. That's why we are now asking individual League members to step forward through recurring monthly donations. This is the most reliable way to ensure that we can fully fund our meaningful scholarship and when a Marine or their family needs help, the Foundation is ready to act without hesitation.

Getting started is simple. Visit www.mclfoundation.org and click the Donate button. You can make a one-time gift—but a recurring monthly donation is where the real impact happens.

Just \$10 or \$15 a month—less than many spend on coffee—multiplied across our membership can fully fund our scholarship program and significantly expand our ability to respond to emergencies.

No one member carries the load alone—but together, we make sure no Marine family is left without support. Coming Soon: Vehicle Donation Program In the next few weeks, the Foundation will launch a vehicle donation program. Whether your vehicle is running or not, a nationwide partner will handle pickup, repairs if needed, and sale—with proceeds going directly to support our mission. This will be one of the simplest ways to make a meaningful contribution. Details will be available soon on our website.

The Foundation exists to take care of our own—but it only works if we all take part. If you've been meaning to contribute, now is the time. To contribute to the Scholarship Fund, scan the QR code, or click on the following link. (Zeffy will default to an additional donation amount. To avoid that charge, just click on the dropdown box, select "Other", then enter "0").

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/marine-corps-league-scholarship-program>

For more information, please contact:
Jerry Holt, President
Marine Corps League Foundation





Marine Corps League Foundation of South Carolina

The Marine Corps League is a federally chartered Veterans Service Organization. The League's National organization, the Departments and all Detachments are incorporated as 501(c)(4) corporations, unlike The American Legion and the VFW which are incorporated as 501(c)(19)'s. We all share something in common: the general public and most businesses only recognize 501(c)(3)'s as non-profit, charitable organizations. Although we have Letters of Determination from the IRS declaring that contributions to the League and the other VSO's are tax deductible, it's still a stumbling block to receiving donations, grants, or approvals that would easily be given to other 'legitimate' non-profits.

The Department of South Carolina has recently created a new Foundation which is registered with the IRS and the State of South Carolina as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with a separate EIN (the tax ID number for businesses and corporations).

Here's what it can mean to your Detachment

Detachments participating in the Foundation can not only solicit funds as a 501(c)(3), but they can also share in the credit for funds that are donated through the Foundation.

How many times have you been asked "What does your Detachment do?". While the camaraderie with other Marines, and carrying on the Marine Corps traditions and heritage are among the most important reasons we exist, we also carry an obligation to support veterans and to be good citizens within our communities. Many of us would like to do more, but quite often the lack of available funds gets in the way.

As a participating Detachment in the Foundation, you'll be able to report, for instance, that you've contributed \$3,000 to the Young Marines organizations; to a scholarship program that provides annual scholarships to veterans, their spouses and their dependents, and to Toys for Tots. In the future, nearly all the Department and participating Detachment contributions for charitable purposes will funnel through the Foundation. Member Detachments will be able to report these contributions as part of their accomplishments.

As a participating Detachment in the Foundation, your Detachment will also be entitled to vote for the two at-large trustees, who are part of the five-member board that oversees the operation of the Foundation. The initial election of these Board members will be held at the September 2025 Quarterly Department meeting.

How can your Detachment participate?

Contribute \$50 in unrestricted funds each calendar year to the Foundation. Send your check to the Department Paymaster - payable to MCL Foundation of SC.



Tradition is Our Compass, Not an Anchor

A Message to the Department of South Carolina 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 Department of South Carolina, 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?

Cont. P. 15



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.

Submitted by Department Commandant Jim Breen



If you are not familiar with the OPFOB in Ridgeland SC, please click the Logo above to be taken to their website to learn more about this outdoor retreat for veterans, active duty military, first responders, and their families.



U.S. Department of War

Marines Forge New Role for Collective Arctic Defense During NATO Exercise

March 23, 2026 | By Marine Corps 1st Lt. Stephen Sewell,
2nd Marine Division

Department Extends Invitation to Bring Back Troops Separated for Refusing COVID-19 Vaccine

March 20, 2026 | By C. Todd Lopez, Pentagon News

Blue Angels Mark 80 Years, Certified for 2026 Airshow Season

March 11, 2026 | By Morgan Galvin, Chief of Naval Air Training

To see all DOW news click the logo at the top of the page.



For those interested in contributing an article or sharing information for the newsletter, please reach out to the editor at newsletter@mcleaguesc.org.

**Thank you,
Heather Jo Jones**

I would greatly appreciate receiving bios from anyone willing to share theirs, along with a headshot!



Yellow Pages

HQMC Records Correspondence1-(314)-801-0800	Marine Corps League (Nat). 1-(703)-207-9588
TRICARE South. 1-888-777-8343	Military Records, DD-214's. 1-(314) 592-1150 .
VA Benefits and Assistance 1-800 827 1000	Social Security. 1-800 772 1213 . .

CONTACTS FOR YOUR FEDERAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES:

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The Honorable Tim Scott United
States Senate 520 Hart Senate
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