

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



## Department Officers

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## 3RD QUARTER 2025



**It's time to start gearing up for  
our Toys For Tots Campaign  
next quarter.**

## Department Officers

Continued

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3rd Trustee

Dan Hoffman

2nd Trustee

Kevin Patton

1st Trustee

Shawn Neal

## Upcoming Department Meetings

**09/20/2025**

10:00am

American Legion Post 6

200 Pickens St

Columbia, SC 29205

Polos and Cover

Coffee & Donuts available at 0900

**01/17/2026**

10:00am

American Legion Post 6

200 Pickens St

Columbia, SC 29205

Polos and Cover

Coffee & Donuts available at 0900

## Upcoming National Events

**2/26/26 - 2/28/26**

National Midwinter Conference, February 26-28,  
2026

Sheraton Pentagon City

900 South Orme St

Arlington, VA 22204

Click [HERE](#) for conference information.

**8/10/26 - 8/14/26**

National Convention, August 10-14, 2026

Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel

2544 Executive Drive Indianapolis, IN 46241

Click [HERE](#) for conference information.



To purchase this  
beautiful 250<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary coin  
[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)



Click the logo above for more information



**The South Carolina State House will be hosting a cake cutting ceremony on 10 November in celebration of the Marine Corps 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

Closer to the date, check the South Carolina Legislature's official website ([scstatehouse.gov](http://scstatehouse.gov)) for specific event details, including the exact time.





Good morning to all Adult Volunteers, Parents, Family and Friends of our Young Marines program,

Many may not be aware but Congressional funding the Young Marines receives support different levels of administrative and operational costs to include support for Leadership Schools and our summer programs. We are ***NOW*** at a critical point. Our FY26 funding was not in the House and we have a very small window with the Senate. With a fee previous gap years that were not funded many know the challenges we faced. We cannot do this alone and we need your help.

Today we need our Young Marine family to contact your local Congressional and Senate representatives via phone and email to remind him of who we are, what we do, how it impacts you and make all efforts to have our program included and funded for FY 26.

Additionally please share with all your partners, officials, stakeholders, Unit Commanders Adult Volunteers and Parents.

Find your Congressional Representative: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Find your United States Senator: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

Thank you in advance and Semper Fidelis

Wilson Lee, Deputy Director



# Commandant

JIM BREEN

COMMANDANT@MCLEAGUESC.ORG

Good Day Marines and Associates,

It is a true honor to have your trust as we begin this new chapter together. Our Department has a proud legacy of service, leadership, and camaraderie, and I am humbled to continue that tradition with you. Helen's outstanding leadership has left us strong, and now it is our time to build on that foundation with renewed energy and a fresh perspective.

You'll notice quickly that I am not a "status quo" leader. My goal is to make our time together meaningful, efficient, and impactful. At our upcoming Quarterly Meeting in September, you will see some changes designed to strengthen how we operate as a Department. For example, I have asked all Department Officers and Committee Chairs to submit their reports two weeks before the meeting so they can be posted on our Linktr.ee for your review. This will allow us to focus meeting time on discussions, updates, and solutions—not paperwork. By streamlining this process, we create space for something many of you have requested: a "Lunch and Learn" session at each Quarterly Meeting.

You'll also see a shift in how we present ourselves. At Quarterly Meetings, Department Officers will wear Department polos and covers. These meetings are working opportunities, and I believe we should be in working uniform—ready to collaborate, share ideas, and connect. We will, of course, reserve our Undress Uniforms for the annual convention, which I view as a time to celebrate achievements, honor service, and recognize the outstanding work of our Marines and Associates.

These changes are not made for the sake of change, but to ensure we remain relevant, efficient, and welcoming to all who attend. If you have ideas that can help us attract more members to our meetings and conventions, I want to hear them. This Department belongs to all of us, and your voice matters.



# 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

This year instead of the same raffles. And yes, we will keep the 50/50 in place.

We are planning a car show in Columbia. Date, time, location TBD. I am looking for help with a fund raising ideas and the car show. Please feel free to call me.

And thru talking to people, some don't know where the funds are used at State level.

I have to say that Jerry has always had the reports. If anyone still has questions please contact me and we will get the answer .

I would like every detachment in the Department to raise \$250.00 this year. If we have 100% from each detachment, that would be monumental.

Department of South Carolina  
Sr Vice Commandant  
Jimmy Fogle





# Jr. Vice Commandant

BARETTA SPLAWN

JR\_VICE@MCLEAGUESC.ORG

Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and Associate Members,

It's my honor to bring greetings to each of you as your Department of S.C. Jr. Vice Commandant.

First and foremost, thank you for your continued dedication to our League, to our Corps, and to one another. Whether it's through community outreach, supporting veterans in need, or simply being present for a fellow Marine, your efforts embody the very spirit of Semper Fidelis.

**Membership and Recruiting:** One of my primary responsibilities is membership. I challenge every Detachment to continue to grow by reaching out, extending the hand of fellowship, and reminding our brothers and sisters that the League is here for them. The strength of our Department depends in the strength of our Detachments.

**Membership Fees Due** All members are reminded that annual membership dues are now due. To remain in good standing with the Marine Corps League, dues must be kept current. \*Important Note: You must be current in your Marine Corps League membership to be eligible and remain active in the Military Order of Devil Dogs. If your dues lapse, you cannot participate in the M.O.D.D. until reinstated.

## Closing Thoughts

I look forward to visiting with many of you at upcoming Detachment meetings and Department events. Please remember – the League is only as strong as the Marines who make it up. Stay engaged, bring in new members, keep your dues current, and continue to uphold the proud traditions of our Corps. Together, we will ensure that the Department of S.C. remains one of the strongest and most active in the nation.

Semper Fidelis

Baretta Splawn

Jr. Vice Commandant Department of South Carolina



# Judge Advocate

CLAUDE H. DAVIS III

JUDGE\_ADVOCATE@MCLEAGUESC.ORG

Greetings, during this time of political campaigning and rallies in support of political parties or specific candidates for public office, League Members are reminded that the Constitution and Bylaws of the Marine Corps League specifically prohibits the endorsement of a particular political party or candidate, or attendance at political events in any manner that might suggest such an endorsement, including the wearing of the uniform, or part of the uniform, of the Marine Corps League. You, as an individual veteran, wearing apparel showing your service or medals earned is completely acceptable as long as none of what you are wearing contains the name and/or logo of the Marine Corps League. Nor should you be listed as "representing" the Marine Corps League, or "speaking on behalf of" the League. You speak for you, and represent yourself as an individual veteran.

Nothing in the preceding subsection shall prohibit a member from participating in political issues affecting the welfare of the United States Marine Corps, the national security of our Nation, or any Veterans' claims for justice arising from service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. No part of the MCL uniform shall be worn to a meeting, rally, gathering, etc., thereby showing support for a candidate for election and/or reelection. The Marine Corps League wants and strongly encourages ALL its members and families to exercise their Constitutional right and duty to vote. With that said, our membership cannot give the impression that the League supports or opposes ANY one candidate or political party.





# Paymaster

JERRY HOLT

JERRYHOLT813@GMAIL.COM

The dues period for all annual members (both Regular and Associate) ends August 31. If the dues have not been paid and submitted, the member is delinquent. Delinquent members may not hold any elected or appointed office, are not entitled to vote on any League matters, and may not apply, or sponsor applications for Marine Corps League scholarships.

Each Detachment has two members, (usually the Commandant and the Paymaster), who are automatically registered to access the Member Portal from the Member Library ([www.mcleaguelibrary.org](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org)) on the MCL website. The password to access this library is dd4.

The member library contains a section on Training, and in this section, there is document "101 Detachment Database Procedures" and a video "101 Video – Detachment Database Portal". These sections provide training which will allow the authorized users to make changes in addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for their members using the Database Portal.

The training also provides instructions for users to pull their Detachment roster. The rosters can be pulled and printed as often as you desire. The rosters are a primary tool for managing your membership.

After submitting a Transmittal form, it usually takes about 2 – 3 weeks for it to be processed by National, and for the transaction to show up on your roster. If after three weeks, you don't see the new member on your roster, or see an existing member go from 'unpaid' to 'paid', you should contact the Department Paymaster.

This is especially the time of year that the roster should be printed and distributed to all Detachment officers. Since the Junior Vices are responsible for managing recruiting and retention, they should be contacting those who are unpaid, and working with the Paymaster, ensure dues are collected and submitted. If the unpaid member doesn't regularly attend your meetings, call them or mail them a letter with instructions on how to mail in a payment. This is also a good opportunity to perform your Buddy Checks for those members you don't regularly see at your meetings.



# SC Pack Leader

Michael Cortright

cmrcortright@gmail.com

From the SC Pack Leader PDD Michael Cortright

WOOF WOOF Devil Dogs. I'm proud to be a Devil Dog and have the privilege of accepting the award for the most bones donated from all the Packs in the Kennel. I accepted the award at the National Convention in Ft Worth, TX. Each and every one of you should be proud to call yourselves Worthy Donation Dogs.

We should be prepared for fun and a little serious shenanigan as we advance two pups to the degree of Devil Dog.

There were a few new changes to bylaws and administrative procedures at National. All of the changes are posted on the National website.

Dues Transmittal and Payment System. "Dues are due" and we have a new process to make the lives of Pound Keepers and Dog Robbers a little easier. Our Pack has been selected as one of the test Packs. The Kennel Management Application (KMA) will expedite and lower the cost of dues submissions. If you are still scratching yourself review the tutorial at: [Add a little bit of body text](#)

Upcoming events: Gathering of the Dogs, October 9, 2025– October 11, 2025 Ramada by Windham 2301 E Main St. Albert Lea, MN 56007. All Dogs, all pedigrees are invited. Followed by Mid-Winter Arlington, VA, 2/26/2026 – 2/28/2026. Can you say bring some extra bones and a warm coat. And of course, the SE Division Conference and Growl scheduled for the first week of March in Savannah, GA.

Of course we can't forget our furry four-legged friends. If you can, please snatch up a bag of your favorite dog food and or treats and bring it to the Conference. Operation Chowhound continues to support shelters all over the nation.

May the Pack be with you.

PDD Michael R. Cortright  
Your 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](mailto:tarheelmarine1@gmail.com)  
808-722-6247





## 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.



**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.**



## THE TUN LEGACY FOUNDATION HONORING TRADITION. INSPIRING LEGACY.

Please click the image above to visit their website.

One of Earliest Known Uses of "Marines" by Continental Congress  
On October 5, 1775, the Second Continental Congress held a meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in which they used the word "Marines" on one of the earliest known occasions. The word was used in direction to General George Washington when it directed him to secure two vessels on "Continental risk and pay", and to give orders for the "proper encouragement to the Marines and seamen" to serve on the two armed ships.

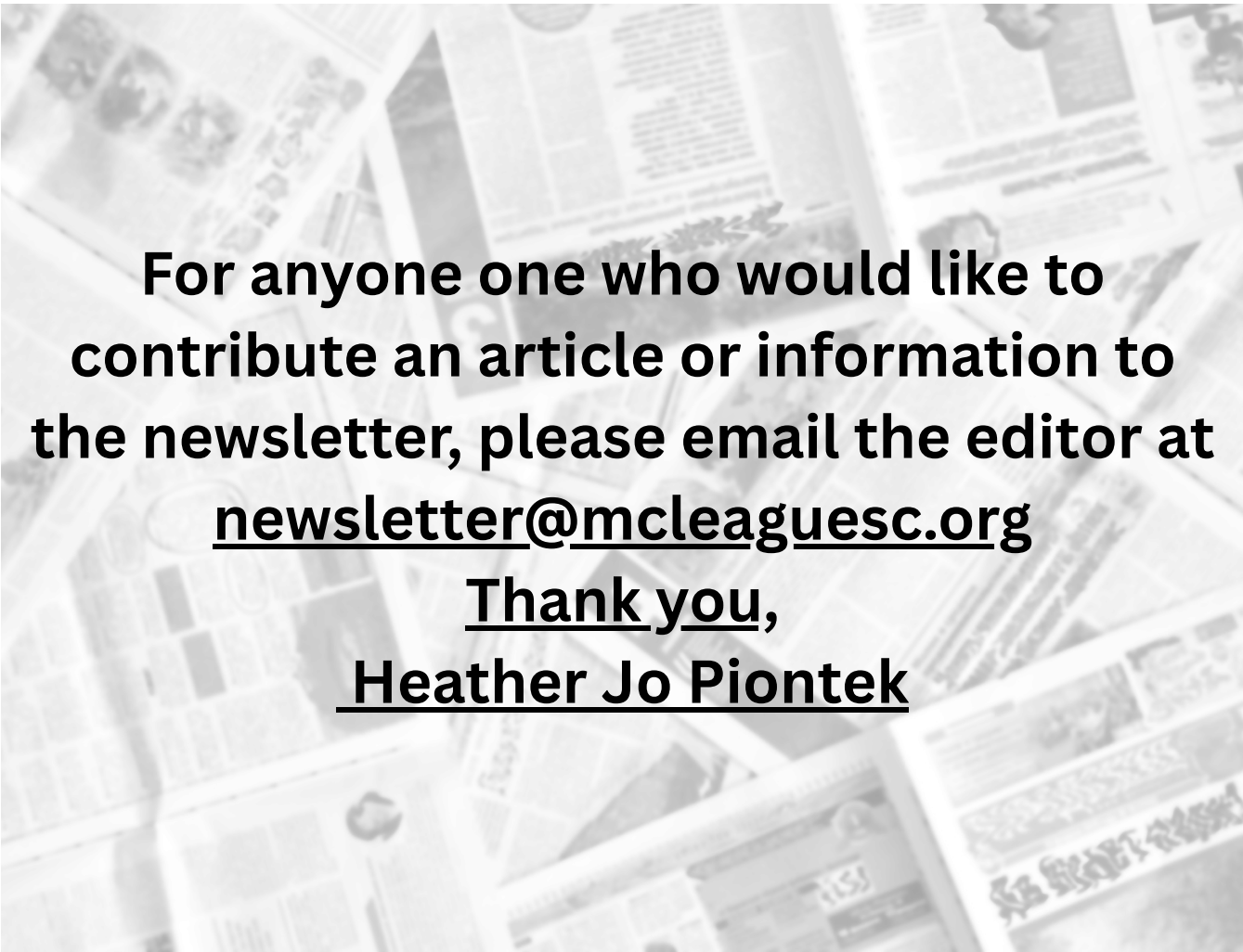


An artist's sketch of Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the United States Marine Corps.

Courtesy of  
<https://www.marineparents.com/marinecorps/history-october.asp>

The Marine Corps League is the only congressionally chartered United States Marine Corps-related veterans organization in the United States. Its congressional charter was approved by the 75th U.S. Congress and signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. The organization credits Major General John A. Lejeune, the 13th Marine Corps commandant, as one of its founding members. The League holds a congressional charter under Title 36 of the United States Code.





**For anyone one who would like to  
contribute an article or information to  
the newsletter, please email the editor at  
[newsletter@mcleaguesc.org](mailto:newsletter@mcleaguesc.org)  
Thank you,  
Heather Jo Piontek**



### Yellow Pages

HQMC Records Correspondence . . .	1-(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  
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