

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



## Department Officers

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## 2ND QUARTER 2025

### State Convention

### June 19 - 22

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
670 Verdae Blvd  
Greenville, SC 29607

## CLICK HERE

To register online now!

## Department Officers

Continued

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# ***National Convention***

## **August 11-15, 2025.**

MCL National Convention,  
Hyatt Regency DFW Airport  
2334 N. International Pkwy, DFW  
Airport, TX 75261

# **CLICK HERE**

For convention  
information and links.



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anniversary coin  
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# **South Carolina General**

## **Assembly**

### **126th Session, 2025-2026**

#### **Bill 630**

##### **A senate RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE the United States Marine Corps UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS two hundred fiftieth ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND the United States Marine Corps FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO the State of South Carolina and the United States of America.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize the United States Marine Corps as it celebrates this important milestone; and

Whereas, the United States Marine Corps is a branch of the Armed Forces that acts as the premier crisis response force. For two hundred-fifty years, the Corps has fought to defend the American nation with honor, courage, and selflessness; and

Whereas, since 1775, the United States Marine Corps has embodied the American spirit, fighting to preserve America's future with every victory; and

Whereas, throughout 2025, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation will celebrate The Few with a year-long tribute commemorating two hundred fifty years of honor, courage, and commitment to our country; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the United States Marine Corps to serving the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate the United States Marine Corps upon the occasion of its two hundred fiftieth anniversary and commend the United States Marine Corps for its many years of dedicated service to State of South Carolina and the United States of America.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Eric M. Smith.

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# Department of South Carolina Quarterly Meeting Minutes June 2024

**Please click here to view the**  
**June 2024 minutes**



# Commandant

HELEN BREEN

COMMANDANT@MCLEAGUESC.ORG

Commandant's Corner

May 2025

Helen Breen

As I sit down to write my final article as your Department Commandant, I find myself reflecting deeply on the journey we've shared. Normally, putting my thoughts into words comes easily, but this one feels different. It's not just the end of a term; it's the close of a significant chapter for me.

Over the past three years, I've had the privilege of representing our Department at events across South Carolina, throughout our Division, and beyond. I've visited numerous Detachments and Departments, each one offering new insights into the strength and diversity of our League. These experiences have been exciting, at times frustrating, always motivating, and deeply enlightening.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. We've modernized our Convention policies, introduced impactful training sessions and our new Leadership School, and seen a growing number of new leaders rise to serve as Department Officers. These steps forward speak volumes about our collective commitment to growth and progress. I hope you feel the same sense of pride in how far we've come.

While our camaraderie and service are at the heart of what we do, it's essential to remember that our Detachments and Departments are also functioning corporations. That means fulfilling responsibilities such as maintaining a quorum, updating bylaws, submitting required reports, and reviewing finances. These aren't just bureaucratic checkboxes—they're the foundations of our credibility and continuity.

We need members—leaders—to step up. Too often, it's not a lack of membership that causes a Detachment to falter, but a lack of those willing to lead. Some Detachments rely on the same individuals year after year simply because "no one else will do it." That's not sustainability—it's stagnation. Leadership rotation brings fresh perspectives, renewed energy, and a vibrant future.

We all lead busy lives—jobs, families, businesses, caregiving, commitments—but each of us plays a crucial role in the success of the Department of South Carolina. You are a vital piece of this puzzle. I encourage you to reflect on how your contributions shape our shared future.

It has been my deepest honor to serve as your Commandant. Thank you for placing your trust in me these past three years. I'm proud of what we've done together and excited to see where this journey leads next as our new slate of officers come on board.



# Sr. Vice Commandant

JIM POWELL

USMC80@COMCAST.NET

This will be my last article as Department Senior Vice Commandant, I will not be seeking any office at our upcoming Annual Convention. I want to thank you all for the privilege to serve in this capacity for the past 2 years. I hope I was able to uphold the high standards of the Department of South Carolina expected from me.

Please keep in mind that the Department Raffle is the main fundraiser for our Department and is necessary to support Department activities. It is critical so that the Department can function properly and I'm hoping that we get better participation than last year. I look forward to getting your Detachment ticket returns. We have received a few returns already and would like to thank those Detachments that participate with the Department in their fundraising endeavors.

Additionally, we held our first annual Leadership School this year and I venture to say that it was a successful first year. The critiques of the school were very positive and seems that the training was very well received. I hope that we can sustain the Leadership School and encourage anyone interested in learning how the League and Department functions to participate in the next session.

As Department Awards Committee Chair I would also like to remind everyone that it is that time of year to think about recognition at the Department or even National levels.

Don't hesitate to recognize League members doing good things and submitting them for awards. Anyone can recommend members for awards. If you need help with this or have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I also serve as National Awards Chair and hope you will reach out to me for any help or guidance you may need to submit proper recommendations for Department or National Awards.

Semper Fi

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read "Jim Powell".

PNVC Jim Powell  
Senior Vice Commandant  
Department of South Carolina





# Jr. Vice Commandant

JIMMY FOGLE

JR\_VICE@MCLEAGUESC.ORG

Marines and FMF Corpsman,

I would like to say that my time as JV Commandant, was if anything a learning experience. I had some programs that just could not get going. Purely because of the price put on organizations that are trying to get seen. Recruiting and retention is something all have to do and be a part of.

Did you bring someone to the fold? If you're saying YES, and your name was put on the new application, I should be calling you to the front table during our convention.

Big prizes for our top recruiters. Hope I get to call a lot of you up.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of you for the support given to me in my time of need. Being a sole caregiver is an extremely hard job to do. So to my Brothers and Sisters in that role, my heart and prayers go out to you all. Keep up the good fight, and if at any time you need help, reach out and call your Marine Corps League Family.

No one can help if you don't say anything.

In closing, The League can not grow or sustain if all of us are not talking to our fellow Brothers and Sisters in arms about the League and what it means to you. So let go get them!

Semper Fi!  
Jimmy Fogle





# Judge Advocate

JIM BREEN

JUDGE\_ADVOCATE@MCLEAGUESC.ORG

Good day Marines and Associates!

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your Department Judge Advocate and welcoming me to your detachments during my travels with Commandant Helen Breen. I truly hope I have met or exceeded your expectations.

At the Department Convention this June, we will be voting on five Bylaw changes. These changes have been posted to the Department website on the Convention page. A brief summary is as follows:

- #1 - Change to reference the correct section in our bylaws
- #2 - Change to correspond with the changes to the Convention SOP.
- #3 - Add the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee to the Department Officer Election section
- #4 - Update Quorum sections to correct an omission when the Department Officer structure was changed in 2023.
- #5 - Remove the need for a second when nominating officers to correspond with Robert's Rules

My hope is that all of the discussions can be had before the convention and voting will go smoothly.

The next issue has been making sure the Department Judge Advocate has the current version of the Bylaws of each detachment on file. We have started using Google Workspaces and I will be uploading the current versions there for the turnover to the next Judge Advocate. If your bylaws haven't been updated in the last few years, they probably conflict with National in the Membership section and should be updated and sent to the Department Judge Advocate for approval. I appreciate all of the detachments that have already complied with my requests for copies and changes!

I hope everyone has a fabulous summer and I look forward to seeing you at the Department Convention!

Jim Breen  
Judge Advocate  
Department of South Carolina  
Marine Corps League



# Paymaster

JERRY HOLT

JERRYHOLT813@GMAIL.COM

## Paymaster's Report

Now is the time to start looking at your Detachment roster, especially focus on those members with unpaid dues. If not paid (and processed) before September, they will drop off your roster. To re-join, they will need to not only pay their dues, they will need to complete and submit a new application.

Detachment Commandants and Paymasters now have the ability to pull the Detachment roster. To learn the process, go to the Member Library – enter the password (if you don't know it by now, email me); scroll down to TRAINING; and select the 101 Detachment Database Procedures and the 101 Video – Detachment Database Portal.

Authorized users can pull the roster as frequently as you like. While you're in the database, it's a good time to add email addresses for members who don't theirs listed. You can also update addresses and phone numbers in the application.(You no longer use the Change of Address codes on the Transmittal forms since these changes are now processed online).

Semper Fi  
Jerry Holt  
Dept Paymaster



# SC Pack Leader

Michael Cortright

cmrcortright@gmail.com

From the SC Pack Leader PDD Michael Cortright

WOOF WOOF Devil Dogs. It's time to pack up your Bones, grab your collars and snatch up your credentials. The Grand Growl is just around the corner. The Grand Growl will be held at the Embassy Suites, on 670

Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, South Carolina on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 1700. If you are planning on advancing to Devil Dog, this is the place. Be sure to complete and submit your advancement paperwork to the Pack Dog

Robber NLT 1 June, 2025.

If you want to advance to Pedigreed Devil Dog you must attend the Supreme Growl in Dallas, Texas. The deadline for advancement paperwork is 1 July, 2025.

The "Breen Team" has barked and barked, and we now have an on-line Dues Transmittal and Payment System. 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. Please review the email from our Pack Dog Robber from May 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are still scratching yourself review the tutorial at:

[https://scribehov.com/shared/How\\_To\\_Create\\_A\\_Dues\\_Transmittal\\_On\\_line\\_HJmAPmI6QpW\\_M514r6R8nXQ](https://scribehov.com/shared/How_To_Create_A_Dues_Transmittal_On_line_HJmAPmI6QpW_M514r6R8nXQ)

We are all looking for a successful and financially sound Department Conference and Grand Growl. We are suggesting each Pound to contribute a small amount of 50 Big Bones to the Department to support the Conference and Growl.

Elections will be held at the Growl; all current Officers have indicated their desire to be re-elected. If you desire to run for any office, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

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 you continue to represent with Fun and Honor.





# VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR OUR SC RESIDENTS

## State Benefits & Resources



### Property Tax Exemption (SCDOR)

Disabled veterans can now obtain a South Carolina Property Tax exemption on real estate from the year in which they became disabled. The exemption was expanded by legislation signed by the governor in March and retroactive to 2022.

#### Under the new legislation

- A South Carolina military veteran who is totally and permanently disabled may immediately claim a Property Tax exemption on real estate the veteran owns beginning with the year in which the disability occurs.
- The exemption is retroactive to 2022 and is based on the date that the veteran acquires the property.
- Surviving spouses of totally and permanently disabled Veterans, if eligible, can immediately claim the exemption in the same manner as the veteran, regardless of whether the disabled Veteran applied for or claimed the exemption (applicable on a primary residence and up to five (5) adjoining acres).
- The change does not apply to Medal of Honor recipients or former prisoners of war.
- If a Veteran or a surviving spouse owns real estate for less than a year, any other owner not a disabled Veteran or otherwise entitled to an exemption is responsible for the Property Tax for the time they owned the property.

#### The new law also provides for new benefits involving disabled Veterans' vehicles

- Surviving spouses who move to South Carolina after the totally and permanently disabled Veteran has passed away now qualify for a Property Tax exemption on one vehicle, if eligible.
- Vehicles can qualify if titled to a trustee, but only if the Veteran or the surviving spouse is the income beneficiary of the trust, satisfies all other criteria, and uses the vehicle.
- Vehicles solely in the spouse's name can qualify if...
  - The spouse resides with the disabled Veteran
  - The vehicle is registered at the same address
  - Vehicles will count toward the limit of two vehicles allowed per disabled Veteran.



For more information visit the [DOR website](#).

### Income Tax Exemption (SCDOR)

All military retirement pay is exempt from South Carolina Individual Income Tax beginning in tax year 2022, one of many tax breaks offered to veterans and military in South Carolina.

#### Tax Deductions & Exclusions

- Governor Henry McMaster signed the [Workforce Enhancement and Military Recognition Act](#), which exempts all military retirement pay that is included in South Carolina taxable income from the state's Income Tax, no matter the taxpayer's age.
- Can be claimed by a surviving spouse receiving military retirement income from their deceased spouse.
- Retirees can start, stop or change State Income Tax Withholding (SITW) by using [myPay](#), filling out a [DD Form 2866 Retiree Change of Address/State Tax Withholding Request](#), or sending a written request that includes all of the necessary information.
- If you choose to send a DD Form 2866 or a written request, mail it to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retirement Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200. Do not send either document to the SCDOR.

#### Other Income Tax Exclusions

- Any federal tax-exempt pension or compensation provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Combat pay and certain benefits not included in federal taxable income
- Retirement income paid by the U.S. government for service in the Reserves or National Guard
- Income received for service in the National Guard or the Reserves for customary annual training, weekend drills, and other inactive duty training is generally exempt
- Service pay for non-resident military personnel on active duty in South Carolina who are legal residents of other states

For more information visit the [DOR website](#).





## State Benefits & Resources



### Hunting and Fishing Licenses (SCDNR)



Provides for free hunting/fishing license to disabled Veterans. License must be applied for directly from SC Department of Natural Resources showing proof of disability. Licenses must be renewed every three (3) years.

For more information, call SC DNR at 803.734.3838 or visit the [DNR website](#).

### Special License Plates (SCDMV)

Upon establishing proof of eligibility to entitlement, the S.C. Department of Public Safety, 803.737.4000, may issue special motor vehicle license plates to the following:

- National Guard
- National Guard Retirees
- Purple Heart Recipients
- Disabled Veterans
- U.S. Armed Forces Retirees
- Ex-Prisoners of War
- Medal of Honor Recipients
- Pearl Harbor Survivors
- Normandy Invasion Survivors
- Marine Corps League



Contact the DMV to inquire about more specialty plates. \*Certain registration fees may apply. For more information, visit the [Department of Motor Vehicles website](#) or call 803.896.5000.

### State Employment (ADMIN)



The State of South Carolina offers careers with a purpose in more than 70 state agencies.

Join the nearly 60,000 state employees who strive daily to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

South Carolina state employees enjoy meaningful careers that allow them to use what they are passionate about to give back to their community and provide for them and their families. For more information visit the [SC Careers website](#).

### State Park Benefit for Totally Disabled Persons (SCPRT)

Provides that any South Carolina resident who is a permanently and totally disabled Veteran may enter any state park at a reduced rate upon presentation of supporting disability documentation. The veteran may also apply for a reduced fee "Palmetto Passport". Certain services may require an additional fee.

For more information, call South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at 803.734.0156 or visit the [PRT website](#).





# CAROLINA MUSEUM OF THE MARINE

## Meet the Marine. Be Inspired.



Opening Spring of 2026. Click [here](#) for a tour of the museum at 68% completion.

## You can be a part of history...

The Carolina Museum of the Marine is rising—stone by stone, story by story. As we prepare to open our doors in 2026, we invite you to join a remarkable group of early supporters: our Plank Owners.

I am honored to reach out to you as the President and CEO of the Carolina Museum of the Marine with an extraordinary opportunity to become a Plank Owner Member—a distinction rooted in naval and Marine Corps tradition that carries profound significance. This exclusive invitation is available for a limited time, from now until June 30, 2025, and I invite you to join us in making history.

## What is a Plank Owner?

The term “Plank Owner” originates from the proud maritime heritage of the Navy and Marine Corps, where it was bestowed upon the inaugural crew members of a newly commissioned ship. These individuals were the first to breathe life into a vessel, shaping its legacy from the very beginning. As a Plank Owner, they were entitled to a piece of the ship’s deck—a “plank”—as an enduring symbol of their foundational role. This tradition embodies honor, commitment, and the privilege of being part of something greater than oneself.

Today, we extend this revered status to you, inviting you to become a Plank Owner of the Carolina Museum of the Marine, a beacon of Marine Corps history and values in North Carolina.



# Our Mission and Your Role

The Carolina Museum of the Marine is dedicated to preserving the storied legacy of our Carolina Marines and Sailors, inspiring future generations, and teaching the core values of honor, courage, and commitment that define the Marine Corps. As a Plank Owner Member, you will play a pivotal role in bringing this vision to life, ensuring that the contributions of our Carolina Marines and Sailors to our nation's freedom are never forgotten. Your support will help us create a forward-thinking museum that educates, inspires, and prepares young patriots to lead and embrace future challenges, as envisioned by General Al Gray, 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps and founder of our Al Gray Marine Leadership Forum.

## Membership Options

Choose the membership that fits your mission:

1-Year Individual Membership - \$35

3-Year Individual Membership - \$95

1-Year Family Membership - \$60

3-Year Family Membership - \$165

Lifetime Individual Membership - \$500

*Family Membership includes benefits for two adults and all children under 18 in the household.*

## Exclusive Benefits

Free admission for the duration of your membership

10% discount at the Carolina MAGTF Café

10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop

Personalized Plank Owner Membership Card

Exclusive Plank Owner Challenge Coin (only for those who join by July 1, 2025)

**Become a PLANK owner**

## Gratitude to our Partners

We are deeply grateful to the Marine Corps League Department of North Carolina for their steadfast support in launching this Plank Owner Membership initiative. Their dedication to preserving Marine Corps traditions and fostering camaraderie among Marines and veterans has been instrumental in bringing this vision to fruition. Together, we honor the legacy of the Marine Corps and ensure its stories endure for generations to come. Semper Fidelis!

**Major General, USMC (Ret)**  
**President and CEO**





**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.

## Base access to require Real ID

Marine Corps installations, including Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, Parris Island and MCAS Beaufort will be looking for Real ID cards. If you have not updated your State identification card to the REAL ID with the little star on the upper right hand corner you best get to the DMV soon.

If you have a CAC/government-issued ID, you are covered for base access, but you will still need that little gold star to fly domestically and internationally. Check to see if your local DMV takes appointments or if you can walk in.



Greetings friends!

I'm delighted to take a moment to introduce myself as the new editor for our now quarterly newsletter for the Department of South Carolina Marine Corps League. My journey began in the football town of Green Bay, WI, ( you may have heard of it) where I was born and raised.

In a serendipitous twist of fate, I met my husband, Anthony, on the sun kissed shores of Folly Beach in Charleston back in 2011. Though he ventured north to Wisconsin for a few years, the cold and the chore of shoveling were not to his liking, much like myself.

In 2017, I bid farewell to my industrial metal shop and my home in Green Bay, embarking on a new chapter in Beaufort, the place of my husband's roots. I am a proud mother of two adult daughters; my elder served in the Army, while my younger embraced the Marine Corps. Luckily, they reside not too far away— in Augusta, GA, and Jacksonville, NC —allowing me to visit often, especially since my first granddaughter is in Augusta!

My younger daughter has since transitioned out of the Marine Corps after her first enlistment and has married a Marine she met at Camp Pendleton.

My husband, Anthony Jones, also proudly serves in the United States Marine Corps.

Nearly four years ago, I crossed paths with Cathy and John Stump at the Wreaths Across America event in Beaufort at the National Cemetery. Cathy graciously shared her card, inviting me to a meeting. A few months later, I attended with my husband, and we became members of the Yellow Footprints Detachment in Beaufort. Shortly thereafter, I was honored to be asked to take over the newsletter as the previous editor was moving out of state.

It was a privilege when Commandant Helen Breen recently reached out to see if I would be interested in publishing the newsletter for the department. I sincerely hope you enjoy the newsletter filled with valuable information, and I warmly welcome your thoughts.

Please do not hesitate to email me with any suggestions you'd like to see included.



Thank you, Heather Jo Piontek  
[newsletter@MCleaguesc.org](mailto:newsletter@MCleaguesc.org)