



Marine Corps League Department of Georgia

120 Habitat Dr
Savannah, GA 31419



Minutes

Business Session – Dept. of Georgia Annual
8 May 2026

Meeting called to order at 905 hours by SAA Brandy Creel

Roll call Officers:

Judge Advocate: G. Lamar – late excused

Roll Call of Detachments w/no. of new members

564 – 1
647 – 1
665 – abs
783 – 4
921 – abs 2
970 – 0
1020 – 2
1040 – abs 0
1083 – abs 0
1188 – 2
1196 – 0
1260 – abs 0
1280 – 1
1303 – abs
1309 – abs
1311 – 1
1325 – 4
1326 – abs 1
1333 – 0
1373 – 2
1402 – 1
1438 – abs 0

Department has 1201 members, up from 1128 last year. 63 members are delinquent.

Intro of guests: PNC Johnny Baker, SEvice Ronnie Broussard, Dept of SC CMDT Jim Breen, Dept of AL CMDT Nancy Burtron, Chapel of the Four Chaplains Director Kathy Shepherd, Kathleen Pothoff, MCLA AVP Christy Ellis and Angie Pitts, SE Div ADJ Don Beck

Reading of minutes: Minutes posted on website. Motion to accept minutes as posted by R. Barnes (1196), 2nd by D. Epps. Motion passed.

Correspondence: CMDT received email from Dept of Mississippi thanking Rex (CMDT) and Lisa (SVC) Delk for attending their annual convention.

R. Broussard noted that Mississippi had suffered quite a bit of damage from recent storms.

Paymaster report: See printout

Biggest expenses were SE Div Conference at approx. \$22,000 and also the annual convention. Report shows a great deal of money coming in and then going back out.

Motion made by J. Baker (1373) to accept the paymaster report, 2nd by C. Gray (1311). Motion passed, subject to financial review.

Note: a lot of expenses are for technology, including a change from One Drive to Google and added security.

E. Gizara: If CMDTs/Pymstrs are getting a 404 error it is because of malware for forms. EFT is secure. Should be back up this weekend.

Sick and Distressed: R. Griffin, Chaplain

Carol Barnett's husband Glenn passed away. Note: Please tell your spouses factual information re: financial matters

H. McCann – surgery

R. George – pancreatic cancer

Those affected by tornados/wildfires

J. Berres – son passed away

B. Crawley – mother passed away

R. Winn – father passed away

B. Craig (1280) – is now on Home hospice. Prognosis is not good.

D. Haag (783) – lung cancer, C. diff

Donna Tindall – very weak

Ann Lariscy – pancreatic cancer

Pat Pass?? – Doug passed away

? Hamrick – kidney

M. Tucker – CMDT of 564 passed away

E. Gizara – Mother-in-law passed away

John Burks (SEDiv Chap) – hospitalized

M. Harbecker (1373) – brother, Michael, on hospice

Good News

S. Barwick – James and Debra Whitman had to evacuate due to wildfires but their home survived.

Officers' Reports

JA – G. Lamar

Thanks to Rex and Lisa for all their help

By-laws for detachments 921, 647 and 1196 have been signed and approved. If your detachment wasn't mentioned, the signature page needs to be fixed or needs to be signed.

Department ByLaws and Administrative Procedures submitted 5 Oct 2025

JVC: A. Coleman

In the Commandants' Council, detachments were challenged to think outside the box. For example, "Grab a Goodie" – detachments set up outside a business and offer baked goods to customers along with information about the detachment. JVC challenged each detachment to conduct a "Grab a Goodie" event during June. It's an opportunity to meet potential new members or spouses of potential members. Suggest 50% of proceeds be given to MCLA Georgia Peaches. VCI is donating \$100 to MCLA to get things started.

SVC: L. Delk

Last night, ten out of 23 detachments were represented at Commandants' Council. We changed up the Council. Instead of talking about recruiting/retention, we discussed finding your spark to build your legacy/detachment/department reputation.

For example, Operation Cake Walk is the legacy of R. Brand and 1373. VCI is the legacy of A. and T. Coleman (783). Lisa wanted to find a way to honor Girl Scouts (spark) which led to her first becoming a member of the MCLA Bama Belles and then to organizing MCLA Georgia Peaches. The Georgia Peaches will receive their charter Saturday with 17 charter members.

CMDT: R. Delk shared a spark he had concerning the mentorship he received from members in his detachment, who he considers to be fathers and brothers. He shared that sparks were unique, little things. Seven years ago, the Department Board started visiting detachments which was intimidating so, since then, they have attempted to change that culture by visiting detachments solo. Also, we are entering the Electronic Age. We've had to drag some people into it to help grow the league. It now takes 5 minutes to do paperwork, pay dues. He mentioned the "Analog Guy in a digital world" and reiterated that the Board is available to help at any time. Jim Breen (Dept of SC) has stepped up to help one of our new cmdts, J. McGuire who said "it's a quantum leap." Jim is helping with technology at the National level. Rex also mentioned that our Vietnam veterans are our backbone but for how much longer?

VSO: R. Griffin

New VetTech 2.0 program. Electronic training is available during the month of June through the VA. The program is just now rolling out. It is a \$60 million program.

The average cost of an ER visit is between \$1500 and \$3000. If you go to the ER, you have 72 hours to check in with the VA. They may or may not cover costs. The number to notify them is (844)724-7842. Make sure your family knows in case you aren't able to contact them yourself.

Try to call Ronnie on Tuesday or Thursday. He is currently booked 2-3 weeks out. Good things are happening in the VA – claims are being processed quicker now. Ronnie checks his cases every day. Be patient!

Ronnie requested that his budget be reduced from \$500 to \$200 as the VA is now paying for some costs.

Don Beck (SE Div Adj) stated that appeals are down to 1.5 years from 5 years. Teams are being sent to every state to hear cases. Decisions are sometimes made within 3 months.

Rex added that Ronnie started as a VSO a little more than a year ago and has helped at least 60 veterans as well as answered numerous inquiries. Please reach out to him if you need help. Ronnie stated to call him before you pay a company.

Newsletter: Candie Brand

Candie asks that detachments please participate, post on their Facebook. This is free advertising for your detachment. The public can see what you're doing and where donations are going. Send newsletter items to Candie at newsletter@mcldeptofga.org. The next newsletter will have tips on submitting articles. If you have questions, contact Candie.

Rex: If you use Facebook, you've got to post! If you don't post or send info in to Candie, you won't be in the newsletter. The newsletter will give you ideas for your detachment.

Candie: If you send something, it will go in minus photo infractions, political content, or crude content. A. Coleman added that you need to pay attention to what you are photographing. J. Baker urged detachments to do a newsletter.

Web Sgt: E. Gizara

We have transitioned to a new host. We are in the process of getting emails moved. Google Workspace allows for 1:1 meetings to be set up without having to go through the SVC. Ed stated that even if he is not at home, he still has his laptop and is still working. Lots of changes are coming but the purpose of the changes is to make things easier. Finally, if you have any great ideas you want to share, type them up and send them to Ed to put on the website.

Rex: Google Drive – records back to 2013 will need to be downloaded and reloaded to transition. Google Workspace should be easier and less expensive. Detachments can use digital database instead of paper "Box of Doom"

A question was asked concerning security. The department is paying for SiteLock which secures the website. When you log on, scroll down and you should see SiteLock. If not, notify the Board. C. Griffin mentioned that when she had attempted to log on she got a message "Not a safe site." Ed explained that was with the old host and we just switched to the new one which is more secure.

Disaster Relief: L. Heard absent.

R. Broussard indicated that the state of Mississippi is not currently in need of help. CMDT said that we need to work on building up our disaster relief fund. He informed us that Dept. of Illinois had sent cash to Det. 921 when they suffered a disaster. R. Broussard said that money can be sent to the SE Div so that it could be used for any of the seven states in the division. Doc asked how a decision was made when a request for relief was received. Rex said that a zoom call for Dept CMDTs was made and a vote is taken.

Young Marines: J. Berres

Thanks to all detachments for their help. Letters are being sent now asking for donations.

Someone is needed in the Marietta area to head up a Young Marines unit.

YM require a 3 hour drug training program every quarter. Young Marines are between the ages of 8 and 18. Some of the events they are involved in are providing color guards, greeting honor flights, laying wreaths, and encampments.

J. Baker is the liaison for the entire organization. He asks that we read his recent article in Semper Fi. He encourages YM units to get the local sheriff's office involved as well as the courts.

If you can't start a unit, then support one. Uniforms cost between \$275 and \$300. Money donated through the department will be used for all state units.

Rex said that \$2000 was recently donated and will be split equally between units.

C. Ellis (MCLA Bama Belles) shared a personal anecdote about how Young Marines helped her grandson.

G. Lamar spoke about the closing of the Metro Atlanta Unit. With no leader, the members were absorbed by her unit which has relocated to Hiram and has tripled in size. They attend Vet Fairs to recruit. One is coming up in Columbus. The Regiment support officer wants to double the number of units. Units are being considered in Columbus, Athens and Unicoi. She is available to do a "Start a Unit" presentation for your detachment. Getzie also has a newsletter "Attention On Deck" for her unit. She

gave us information on her next graduating class of recruits. The graduation will be at Liberty Plaza on May 29. A limited number of tickets are available.

Rex reminded us that everyone is a Subject Matter Expert in something. Reach out to a YM Unit Commander to see how you can be of service. Rex does Color Guard training, for example. Share your knowledge.

Youth Physical Fitness: J. Baker

Program is in a bad way because of lack of volunteers. It was brought back into the MCL when Johnny was NatCmdt and ran for 5 years. We may be turning it over to the Marine Corps Youth Foundation due to lack of involvement.

Rusty noted that the Presidential Physical Fitness program is being reinstated. It's possible that may be rolled into YFP. He said that the volunteer service hours through scouting can get awards that can be worn. Rex asked that he send him information that he can share.

Compliance Officer: L. Delk

Georgia was the first of seven stated in SE Division to be fully compliant. Bob Borka sent out an email with detachments and departments that were not compliant. The Department of Georgia wasn't on the list nor were any Georgia detachments. Remember that IRS, SoS need to be done – all detachments are currently done except 1260. R. Broussard stated that "Georgia is pristine" when it comes to compliance and offered congratulations. If you have questions about compliance, see the board.

Break: In Recess at 1043 hours

Back in Session at 1103 hours

District Vice Reports:

DVC 1: G. Lamar (will continue in this position)

Last detachment visited was 1020. Needs to see other 2.

DVC 2: Absent

DVC 3: J. Maxwell

All three of District 3 detachments are in attendance at annual. He has visited 647, will visit 1311 next week and 1325 at their next meeting.

DVC 4: C. Griffin

No visits this quarter. Two of the detachments are in attendance.

DVC 5: M. Edwards (abs)

Rex visited 1402 with Mickey.

DVC 6: R. Brand

Det. 1333 has lost their paymaster. He visited 970 last month and is in regular attendance at 1373. They are trying to arrange some joint events.

DVC 7: E. Gizara

He's visited 564 and helped them make adjustments to uniform (cover/EGA). He has been to one meeting of 1326 but hasn't met with the last detachment. All three are present at annual.

CMDT: The "Big Al" Meade Award is being brought back to be given to the district with the greatest growth. We quit giving it in 2020 because the closing of several detachments messed up the districts but now that's been straightened out so we will resume.

Standing Committees

By-Laws: G. Lamar

She attended the Dept of SC Leadership school recently. She learned that you should always have a report. She hasn't had access to all detachment by-laws. She has worked on a template to use for by-laws to help with new one and with updates. Rex mentioned that National would be requesting By-Laws to be submitted to them annually. J. Breen explained that that was a by-law up for consideration at National this year. He said that in submitting annually, it gives you an opportunity to let National know you've updated your by-laws as required. Rex stated that as a department, we will be requiring that detachments submit by-laws yearly to make sure changes are made. We will be able to submit through the website.

Finance: L. Delk

Lisa expressed her appreciation to the Finance Committee. Since we had more members than projected, our actual income was slightly higher than anticipated. Income comes from member dues, 50/50 and PLMs. Biggest hit to the budget was technology, largely due to security issues. However, it was balanced out due to being under budget in other areas. Overall, we came in under budget. She recommends carrying over the same budget from last year. Motion was made by C. Gray (1311) to accept and carry over the budget. 2nd by C. Griffin (1196). Motion passed.

Convention: Made up of last 3 years hosts

Need host for 2027. Det. 1311 had offered to host but the original date wouldn't work for them. Lisa advised that there was a time frame in by-laws. Det. 1311 (C. Gray) said he would try to get agreement from detachment to host the 3rd weekend in May. We need to start thinking about 2028.

Unfinished Business

Rex related that Candie Brand had approached him about the Department newsletter. She presented him with a spread to show him how improvements could be made. Then in the last two months, she approached him about doing an Americanism Project for the Department. To print the book, it will cost about \$120. If anyone is interested in getting a copy of their own, talk to Candie. Candie also said that she has pulled material from the newsletter submissions as well as from Facebook posts. The book is about 70 pages so far. T. Coleman reminded members to get names of members in photos as well as dates and locations. Also make sure members in the photo are attired correctly.

L. Heard (1196) made a motion to purchase a book for R. Delk as outgoing CMDT. F. Goalen 2nd the motion. Motion passed. A. Coleman suggested that we get signatures from members in the book.

Good of the League:

Getzie and the NWGaYM have roses for mothers in the hallway.

Silent Auction and raffle is going on – go check it out.

If you google VetTech 2.0 it will give you all the information about it.

R. Broussard congratulated the Dept. of GA for a great SE Div Conference. Next year, Alabama has passed on hosting but Florida has agreed to do so.

He also reminded all that Commandants can't swear in themselves – it must be a past commandant. Also a member cannot hold two positions on the Board. Elections must be done correctly. Keep the traditions. Make swearing in/installation a big deal. It's a red flag when the past commandant swears in new commandant who then swears in the rest of the officers.

Ronnie also wanted to thank the MCLA who sent cards and made phone calls to him after his bad car accident last year. It really made a difference.

He commended the leadership in the state of Georgia. Said it's fantastic but hasn't always been that way. If you're struggling, go to a past commandant. If you're in the dark, they know where the light switches are. He also mentioned that a newsletter documents the history and tradition of detachments. Electronically, it can be as big as you want. Make sure if you wear a uniform, you wear it the right way. Finally, he expressed his appreciation for two of his mentors: Jerry Holt and Johnny Baker.

B. Easton announced that we had 78 logged in to the live stream.

Meeting recessed at 1158 hours.

Will resume on 9 May at 0900 hours.



Marine Corps League
Department of Georgia
120 Habitat Dr
Savannah, GA, 31419



Annual Convention
9 May 2026
Business Session

Meeting called to order at 0900 hours.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains was led by Kathy Stephens and Kathleen Pothoff. James Landemere was honored. Former honorees were also recognized.

Meeting was recessed at 0915. Was called back in session at 0927.

The Marine Corps League Auxiliary has started a new unit in Georgia and will receive their charter this morning with 17 charter members. During this convention, their membership has grown by 4 new members. Angie Pitts, Asst. National Chaplain and President of the MCLA Bama Belles and Christy Ellis, title????, initiated the charter members of MCLA Georgia Peaches and installed the officers: Michelle Lundy, President; Tammy Coleman, Senior Vice President; Christy Owen, Junior Vice President; Candie Brand, Judge Advocate; Colleen Barnes, Secretary; Lisa Delk, Treasurer; Kelly Hockett, Chaplain; Carol Griffin, Captain of the Guard.

Angie Pitts presented the Distinguished Service Award to Lisa Delk for all of her work in getting the unit organized and chartered in such a short time.

Lisa Delk recognized and thanked the charter members and officers. She reminded MCL members that donations are needed and appreciated.

Johnny Baker (PNC) spoke on the importance of the MCLA to both the detachments and to the Department of Georgia. He urged that they be used to benefit the community. As a detachment, support your auxiliary. Hopefully, other areas in the state will form units.

Johnny related that as PNC, he has traveled and visited detachments all over the country. Georgia is way above others largely due to leadership. He encouraged members to continue to support the leadership. The strength of the department really comes down to the detachments. Take the same ability, charisma, motivation of staff back to your detachment. He stated that the cream of the crop of the MCL in Georgia was present in that meeting room. He is very proud of Rex and the staff, of the MCLA, which was driven by a member of that staff. Johnny expressed his pleasure with his detachment CMDT Reggie Brand, and his detachment. He said that he is even more proud of the Department because he has seen departments across the nation and

knows how good the Department of Georgia is. He exhorted the detachments to follow the ritual and to remember that the MCL is not about individual but about the organization as a whole.

CMDT Rex Delk thanked Johnny Baker and thanked his staff.

Ronnie Broussard (SEDiv Vice CMDT) apologized for being late due to problems he had encountered this morning with other departments in the division. He said that he never had those types of problems with the Department of Georgia. We didn't have those types of problems here and had zero compliance issues. We were doing a fantastic job.

At this point, Detachment 1311 Ceremonial Rifle Team was recognized. They were formed in 2017 and are Department of Defense trained and certified. They have conducted more than 1000 funeral honors. National Unit Commendation ribbons were awarded to Russ Johnson???, Quincy ???, Harry Delaney, Charles Gray, Karen Lawrence, Tony ????, Dale Myer, Phil Mosse, Tom Sissel, John Newport and Rich Sabo. Funeral honors are important. No veteran should leave this earth without proper recognition. No Marine should be forgotten. It is our obligation.

Nancy Burtron (Dept of AL CMDT) announced that the Dept. of Alabama will be having their annual in June in Mobile and invited all to attend.

Meeting recessed at 1012, reconvened at 1028.

Ronnie Broussard (SEDiv VC) gave accolades for the new program developed by Jim Breen (Dept of SC CMDT). Jim asked that if we had any suggestions for improvements to let him know. His hope is that we will be able to run our detachments using the new system. There will be a link to send feedback. He urged that before we bash the program, we give it a try. Lisa Delk (SVC) stated that Georgia is 100% electronic. MCLeague Link will make it better. Use it – we are beta testing it. If it breaks, that's what Jim needs to know. If you have questions, contact Lisa. Jim stated that he will talk to Bob Borka at National about doing a Zoom training. It is already on the National website. The goal of MCLeague Link is to make running a detachment easier. Remember that National tracks by profile ID number, not member number. He also recommended that putting in a deputy paymaster be considered.

Ronnie Griffin (Chaplain) informed us that JR Millhorn had just received word that his brother had been involved in an accident last night in Ohio and had a possible brain bleed. He requested that we pray for him and his family. (Note: prior to the banquet Saturday evening, JR was notified that a brain bleed was not found and his brother was allowed to go home).

At this point, the board was asked to vacate the front table and Johnny Baker was given control of the meeting for nominations and election of officers. He stressed that this would be a major decision for the department and that the same emphasis should be placed on detachment elections as well. The floor was then opened for nominations.

Larry Heard (Det. 1196) nominated Lisa Delk for Department of Georgia Commandant. Lisa was asked if she would serve if elected to which she replied in the affirmative. Johnny asked the required three times if there were any other nominations. With no other nominations, one unanimous vote was cast by acting adjutant Ed Gizara.

Rex Delk (Det. 1196) nominated Alton "Doc" Coleman for the office of Senior Vice Commandant. Doc indicated that he was willing to serve in that position. Again, other nominations were requested three times. With no other nominations, one unanimous vote was cast by Ed Gizara.

Lisa Delk (Det. 1196) nominated Reginald "Reggie" Brand for the office of Junior Vice Commandant. Reggie indicated that he was willing to serve. Other nominations were requested three times. With no other nominations, one unanimous vote was cast by Ed.

Alton "Doc" Coleman (Det. 783) nominated Charles Gray for the position of Judge Advocated. Charles answered in the affirmative that he was willing to serve. Other nominations were requested. Getzie Lamar nominated Trevor Wood. Trevor also indicated that he would be willing to serve. Again, other nominations were requested. With no further nominations, each candidate was given three minutes to address the room. Charles Gray stated that he had been a member since 2015. He felt that Judge Advocate was the most important job other than that of paymaster. The Judge Advocate allows the other members to do their job because he sees to it that the bylaws/policies are followed. Trevor Wood said the he would like to help further the Department as well as grow himself as a member.

Nominees were asked to leave the room. Johnny Baker instructed the assembled that the senior person present for each detachment would vote for that detachment. After being informed of number of delegated, your members present can decide to vote all for one candidate or to split the votes. The paymaster announced the voting strength of each detachment and members were given five minutes to caucus.

The results of the vote were Charles Gray 276 votes and Trevor Wood 100 votes. Because some detachments didn't register their delegates, only the members present were allowed to vote. Johnny expressed the importance of registering the delegates and urged the detachment to continue to motivate the young members. He spoke directly to the nominees and told them it was an honor for them to have been nominated, to not give up and to continue to work hard. Charles Gray was announced as Judge Advocate. Johnny encourages Charles to put Trevor on his Bylaws committee to which Charles stated that he had already done so.

At this point, appointed officers were asked if they were willing to serve in their current positions. All answered in the affirmative: Ronnie Griffin (Chaplain), Tammy Coleman (Adjutant), Ed Gizara (Paymaster), JR Millhorn (SAA), **Brandy Creel (SAA)**.

Johnny Baker (PNC) stated that it is an honor to install officers and with the assistance of SAA JR Millhorn, he proceeded with the installation. He then passed the gavel to CMDT Lisa Delk.

Lisa thanked all for being at the annual convention and participating. She asked that any questions or concerns be brought to the board and stressed that the board was a resource to be used by the members. She announced that Johnny Baker would be conducting a Leadership Training at 1330 hours and stated that she would love to see all the attending SVCs in it. She urged members to introduce themselves to the members of the Board.

Meeting was recessed at 1147 hours.

Detachment	Charles Gray	Trever Wood
564	37	
647		41
665		
783	34	
921		
970	15	
1020	66	
1040		
1083		
1188		
1196	68	
1260		
1280		
1303		
1309		
1311	15	
1325		
1326		15
1333		
1373	36	
1402		42
1438		
Individual	5	2
Total	276	100