



2025 SUMMER CONVENTION

June 6th – 8th, 2025

**Wyndham Hotel Gateway Centre
Grand Blanc/Flint**



JOINT OPENING CEREMONY

Opening at 13:30

Opening Ceremony commenced by Chief-Of-Staff PDC Phil Zamora.

Recognition of Dignitaries:

PDD Wendy Zamora—Michigan Worthy Pack Dog Leader

Cathy Rayl—Auxiliary President

Ray Rayl—Department of Michigan Commandant

PDC Tony Wade

PDC Gerald Alcorn

Colors were posted.

Welcome to the 85th Convention hosted by Flint Detachment 155, Flint Auxiliary and Flint Dogs.

PDD Wendy Zamora—Worthy Pack Dog Leader—Welcomed everyone to the 2025 Summer Convention, hoped our meetings are fruitful, learning and that we can take something back to our Detachments. Bring lots of bones to the growl because there will be a good time to be had. Hopes everyone has a great time this weekend.

Cathy Rayl—Auxiliary President—Welcome to the 2025 Department Summer Convention, during this years 250th celebration of the Marine Corps. Wishing everything is productive and you have successful meetings. The Auxiliary will be hosting a deco bingo and it will be lots of fun to please join them. Thank you.

Ray Rayl—Department Commandant—Welcome to all Marines, Associate Members, Auxiliary Members and guests to the 85th Department Convention. Expressed appreciation to the Flint Detachment, Flint Auxiliary and Flint Dogs for hosting this convention. Hopes everyone has a good time and makes new acquaintances. Also for fundraising will be doing a poker run, and a pie in the face contest. Have a great weekend.

Session was adjourned at 13:50.

JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS CONDUCTED

Reading of the passing of 51 Marine Corps League Members and 1 Marine Corps League Auxiliary Member.

NO CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY WAS CONDUCTED (no nominees were submitted)

Session was adjourned at 14:15 hours.

OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE DEPARTMENT

At 14:35 hours

Opening Prayer by Department Chaplain, Fred Green

ROLL-CALL OF OFFICERS BY DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT (Tracey Tippet)

Elected and Appointed Department Staff absent:

Judge Advocate—Scott Hellman (excused)
Northern Zone Vice Commandant-- Frank Rosinski (absent)
Assistant Sergeant at Arms—Tracy Berg (excused)
Assistant Sergeant at Arms—Jeremiah Skutt (absent)
VAWS Director-- Jon Dewitt (absent)
Department Emler --Emil A Franz, III (excused)
Fort Custer National Cemetery Liaison-- Michael Hornev (absent)
Great Lakes National Cemetery Liaison-- William Brown (absent)
Marine For Life Coordinator—Daniel Guerrero (absent)

The following Detachments were not represented:

Belcher-Lane-Williams #146	Fred Cochran #151	Monroe County #157
Yagle Brothers #165	Washtenaw Count #414	George St. Martin #550
North Oakland Co #570	Corporal Davenport #684	Northern Michigan #690
Muskegon #703	Wolverine #722	Keweenaw #1016
Shoreline #1027	Irish Hills #1182	Staff Sgt Burgess #1337
St. Joseph County #1401	UP Devil Dogs #1478	

RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES

The Commandant recognized Past National Commandants, Past Department Commandants and Dignitaries:

PNC/PDC John Tuohy	Past Dept. Commandant Tony Wade
PNC/PDC Jim Tuohy	Past Dept. Commandant Gerald Alcorn
Past Dept. Commandant, Central Division	Past Dept. Commandant Dave Masunas
MODD Vice Chief Phil Zamora	Past Dept. Commandant Art Menard
Past Dept. Commandant, National Kennel	Aide De Camp and Central Division Aide
Quarter Master, Pack Leader, Central	De Camp Central Richard Monroe
Division Adjutant Wendy Zamora	Central Division Chaplain Fred Green

Announced also that 167 female Veterans from the Upper Peninsula were recently on Women of Valor Honor Flight and Christy Faymonville-Scholarship Chair and Tracey Tippet-Adjutant were part of this largest female honor flight ever to fly to DC.

Welcomed the First Timers to a Summer Convention.

Meeting was called to order by Department of Michigan Commandant Ray Rayl.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Many of the reports from the Detachments and Zones have been emailed to everyone in advance for viewing, a few more are still coming in.

COMMANDANT'S REPORT (Ray Rayl)

The Commandant welcomed everyone to the 2025 Summer Convention and stated it has been an honor to serve the Department of Michigan. Commandant Rayl conducted five Detachment Installation of Officers and of the 32 Detachments in the Department only had four yet to visit which was supposed to be accomplished by the June Convention.

In February and March visited the Cpl. Stanley L Moore Detachment to present a Certificate of Appreciation to a member for outstanding work with the Toys For Tots program. Also visited the John C. Rock Detachment with the Aide De Camp. Rayl also attended the National Mid-Winter Rally in Pentagon City, Virginia and Central Division Conference in Joliet, Illinois.

April went to Muskegon Detachment to assist in promoting a new Auxiliary Unit for possibly starting up. Distributed at Kalamazoo Detachment meeting Postal Shoot Certificates to members that took part in that. Was present for a Flag Education Program in the Davison Area. Attended the Livingston County Veteran of the Year Dinner in Howell. Also took a trip up north with the Aide De Camp and attended the UP Zone and Devil Dog Growl the end of April in Manistique.

In May attended an Eagle Court of Honor at St. Augustine in Hartland.

Finally with the assistance of the Dept. Jr. Vice sent out transfer forms and a letter of explanation to 67 Marines in five Detachments that have surrendered or relinquished their Charters within the last 3 years. We continue to search for the remaining nine TACOM Ceremonial rifles from GP Porta Detachment.

A reminder that those that are doing the Officer Installing and ask that members are in good standing, the paymaster needs to verify that it is true. Need to make sure all members are in good standing, and that bank and charter information is being sent in and that Point of Contact information is all up to date with the Adjutant. Finally, Jr. Vice Commandants and all members need to get out there and recruit more members for your Detachments. Semper FI.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT (Phil Smith)

Smith stated he attended the National Mid-Winter Conference and which time he turned in the Charter for Sgt G.P. Porta Detachment. At Central Division Conference the Charter for Washtenaw was turned in as well. When a Detachment fails to submit or report their IRS 990 and LARA Corps for over three years, your EIN will get suspended or dropped and you will lose your non-profit status and will have to start the processes of taking their charter.

Have installed and visited a few Detachments as well. Visited the 1st Battalion 24th Marines and discussed the Youth Physical Fitness Program and talked about Marines joining the league in their areas.

Finally will be running for Department Commandant and would appreciate your vote.

TOYS FOR TOTS (Phil Smith)

Asked how many in attendance were Toys For Tots Coordinators (a few raised hands). Almost every county in the State of Michigan has a Coordinator and toys program. The Toys For Tots Program you can observe on the website, over 314 million toys collected throughout the

Nation. Encourages all Detachments if they do not run their own toy campaign to help out someone who does. Next training will be in September in St. Louis, Missouri again.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT (Stephen Fletcher)

Fletcher stated the main duty for Junior Vice is membership, and that the membership is going ok, but of course it could always be better also remember that everyone is a recruiter, so go out and recruit for your Detachment.

Paid memberships expire on August 31 if you are a year-to-year member, make sure you are current for the coming year of 2026. Paymasters need to get transmittals sent in, so you will be considered paid for 2026. Think about becoming a life member so you wont have to remember to pay those dues.

Currently we stand at 1,625 paid members (1405 Regular + 202 Associate + 18 Multiple). We have 139 unpaid members (112 Regular + 27 Associate). Let us reach out to them and get them back into the fold. Our PLM has dropped a few, most likely due to the passing of members. Remember to report deceased members to the Chaplain as well as the Paymaster (also the MODD Dog Trainer/Dog Robber if they were also a Devil Dog member).

Received a few nominations for membership recruitment program award. Those winners will be announced later during the convention.

We have five detachments where those members will probably turn into Members at Large going off our rosters and going onto National's.

Finally will be running for Senior Vice Commandant and appreciate your vote.

JUNIOR PAST COMMANDANT (Art Menard)

Welcomed everyone to the 85th Department of Michigan Summer Convention. Menard hopes that this convention finds all healthy, safe and looking forward to 2026. Hope everyone has a good time and some fun by all attendees and we leave this Convention happy that you attended.

Stated lots has been going on been very busy, primary roll is advising Commandant Ray Rayl in what he knows and to assist him in anyway possible. They communicate frequently about Department business and work together trying to make sure everything is getting done and nothing is missed.

One of the job duties Menard is staying with is being on the Time and Place Committee. Encourages all to host a convention and that there is a lot of help to ensure you have a successful event.

Menard is looking forward to seeing you all, and stated it has been a pleasure to serve.

JUDGE ADVOCATE (Scott Hellman)-excused (report was emailed for viewing)

ZONE VICE COMMANDANTS

Southeast Zone 1—Randall Clemons

Has attended members meetings at all four Detachments. Supported the Detachments in different events they have held—barbeques, yard sales, Cinco Demayo Celebration, monthly local steak house dinners, Town Hall meetings with Speaker of the House of Michigan,

Vietnam Flag raising. Participated in Memorial Day Parades, supported VFW in doing Wreath Ceremony for Fallen Veterans, also represented league in 2025 Grand Prix opening day.

Southwest Zone 4—Michael Moross

Has contacted the Detachments in his zone by visit, email or by phone. Continued compliance issues with Branch Area 763—been working with them in getting proper form to file. Continuing to discuss retention and recruitment of members with the Detachments, and in looking for solutions to recruit the younger Marines into the League. Attends different events with the Detachments in his Zone. Organized the Honor Guard for Memorial Day Parade ceremonies. Moross continues to work with all Detachments.

Western Zone 5—David Masunas, PDC

I was asked to step back in as the Western Zone Vice Commandant by our Department Commandant Ray Rayl a few months ago. I have been in contact with Detachments in the Western Zone via phone, text and email. I have not been out to visit the Detachments in person yet, but I will work on doing that, it has been a long time since we have had a Zone meeting, and I would like to work on having one, if I am re-elected to the Western Zone Commandant position. A few places might be available to accomplish this. Thank you.

EAGLE SCOUT—(David Masunas, PDC)

First would like to thank all the members that have been able to present the Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Awards and help promote the program for the Department of Michigan. Since August of 2024 to present, 74 Eagle Scout Good Citizenship awards have been presented. I continue to be the Department, Central Division, and a member of the National MCL Scout program committee representative.

Richard Walsh and I attended a banquet for the Eagle Scouts that was held in Grand Rapids. Was able to attain 23 Scouts that had not received our Good Citizenship certificate. Presenting this award is a good recruiting tool for the league. Also noted that a Detachment in the UP also presents buck knives that they purchase for this event. More information can be found on the Michigan Marines website in regards to the Eagle Scout awards.

UPPER PENINSULA ZONE 8—Tracey Tippet

Five detachments in the Upper Peninsula comprise this Zone and all are holding their own. We meet twice a year in doing a UP Zone and Devil Dog Growl and we started rotating which detachments will hold this event (weather permitting). A few issues with some of the Detachments, Toogs St. Martin is having membership issues and needs to get roster cleaned up. They need to recruit more members or face closure. Keweenaw gave their Iwo Jima float and their ship store items Upper Peninsula 444. There has been talk of disbanding, but nothing has been official yet. Up Devil Dogs had issues with their toy program and issues that should have stayed in VFW post—2 members ended up being suspended and now their attendance for meetings has improved without the toxic environment that was happening.

Upper Peninsula Detachment is doing well, very active in the community—Honor Flight send offs, participating in parades. The only thing is their Auxiliary Unit will be turning in their Charter due to lack of membership and compliance issues. Lake Superior is doing fine and slowly getting more members.

On a side note, was part of the All Female Women of Valor Honor Flight which was the largest female Veteran flight to go to DC. May 23rd attended the ground breaking ceremony for DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans—lots of muckie-wucks were in attendance as well. Also have been encouraging membership and in getting and keeping everyone in compliance.

WEBMASTER (Tracey Tippet)

Things are pretty well with the website, but if you notice something not pulling up correctly to please let me know and where it is at to fix the issue. Know we had a few issues with the certificate to the site and thank you to Phil Zamora for getting that updated and fixed—also because of that some things might not open properly to please let me know. If your contact information for positions you hold change, please let me know to get it updated as well. The website is always a work in progress.

ADJUTANT (Tracey Tippet)

Thanked everyone for being here this weekend, knows at times we are taking away from work or family but know what we do and accomplish here is also very important to keep our beloved Corps and Marine Corps League as great as it can be. You are all greatly appreciated for all you do. Also during this weekend I will be running for the position of Department Commandant.

Some Detachments have been on the struggle bus in getting your Officer Installation Reports turned in properly or correctly. Members are getting installed that are not in good standing or even on their Detachment Rosters and National is cracking down on this. If on your latest roster the members listed as delinquent or not even on your roster—you cannot and should not install them until it is fixed.

There have been issues with the “fillable pdf” from National. I have reached out to JD at National about this and have not heard back in regards to this. But you are able to “manipulate” how the form fills in. Just make sure all the information is getting onto the form when you print it out. Also receiving installation reports with missing or incorrect information. Installing Officers should be aware of these things and should not be signing the installation form until it is correct.

Compliance continues to be an issue, getting ROI's, bank and charter form, filing 990s and Lara Corps all turned in. From National's side, if you turn in your PLM audit but have not filed 990s and Lara Corps—you will not receive those funds. Detachments can be temporarily suspended for not being in Compliant.

Lots of the Detachments never turned in reports for Convention. There have been ample emails sent out in regards to things. If you need help, assistance, questions, please reach out...we need all of these items properly filled out and completed.

Make sure the individuals being installed are capable and able to do those jobs—just don't install them to fill the position. Remember we are their to help you all succeed, reach out if you need assistance.

CENTRAL DIVISION (Phil Zamora) (Vice Chief Devil Dog)

A few things passing on from Central Division Vice Commandant Dave Englert, on the National website there is a manual for those that do Color Guards to read up on. To get into National's library the website password is dd4. Reminded everyone to use all the current forms that is posted on the library site. Commandant's and Paymasters are able now to pull their own Detachment Rosters the link says online portal to be able to do this. On a note, Michigan is running in 4th place for membership at 91.39% from National. 2026 Central Division will be held in Kentucky, not sure when and where yet.

***Commandant Rayl brought up before we start nominations for Department Officers—(and they did this at National Convention previously)—the By-Law states that all Department Officers nominations shall be made from the floor at convention each nomination shall be a regular member in good standing in the Department of Michigan Marine Corps League at the time of their nomination. Each nominee must be present, and when called upon, shall rise if not restricted by a physical impairment and state to the chair that if elected they will accept the office and serve loyally, faithfully and to the best of their ability during the term to which they are elected. Commandant Rayl would accept a motion to set aside that by-law, due to a few nominees not being able to attend Summer Convention but wanting to serve as an Officer in the Department.**

**Dave Masunas made that motion to set aside this bylaw for the nomination process,
Second by Richard Monroe, motion carried.***

CHAPLAIN (Fred Green)

Stated that on the National website has the death notice notification form to be filled out. The form requires membership number, life member number, but not the profile number and that can be added in the comment section. The Chaplain has filled his first book with 500 names starting back when appointed as Chaplain back in 2016, and stated this is a great privilege and thanked everyone. We have 51 members added to our death register book from mid-winter to now.

YOUNG MARINES (Fred Green)

There are eight Young Marine Units in Michigan (Traverse City, Southwest Michigan, Port Huron, Monroe, Macomb, Lapeer, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo) . There is not a specific certificate to present to a Young Marine, they do not graduate they retire, and they have a unique retirement ceremony and hopes in the future to get some kind of certificate to these individuals.

Also participated in Young Marines encampment the first weekend in May, it was very cold

outside. It was fun teaching land navigation and getting through the woods during this excursion.

This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR (Mark Sutton)

At the Department Mid-Winter we did some resolutions that were sent off, the status for one of them for the budget asked that the State Legislature give six million dollars to our Veterans Service Organizations accredited offices (Michigan Coalition of Veteran Service Officers). As of today, the budget is still set at 4.2 million dollars no increase for the year, but did add two full time employees to the MVAA to overlook those, however, not sure how this will turn out because the State of Michigan has a balance budget amendment-which means have to submit a balanced budget based on numbers that an economic forum gives to the State. For the State of Michigan, sometimes the Senate gives the budget or the House does the budget, this term it is up to the Senate to present a budget to the House, unfortunately, heard that the Senate is presenting a budget to the House that is \$1 million dollars over the economic forums proposed number (presenting an unconstitutional budget as it stands today). More to follow on that.

The rest of the Veteran Bills that are in the House are meaningless, they keep regurgitating the same ones over the past several years. As long as it keeps being presented is what matters.

There has been much discussion about the "Big Beautiful Bill", the 1000 plus page bill does not mention the US Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Administration is not part of it, it is a reconciliation bill that only takes a majority vote in the House and Senate to pass.

The new legislative session for the State of Michigan and the US Congress has been slow. We will continue to monitor the proposed legislation in the coming months.

MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS (Mark Sutton)

Three issues were released in the year 2024-2025 (November, February and April). The next issue deadline will be July 1 for a Mid-July release. Stories can be submitted to mm12sutton@gmail.com. If you send pictures make sure to list who and when it took place.

FIRST ROUND OF NOMINATIONS (PNC John Tuohy)

Department Commandant nomination Phil Smith by Dearborn Detachment 152 by Stephen Fletcher, nomination TraceyTippett by Upper Peninsula 444 by Christy Faymonville. Nominations were closed and positions were accepted if elected.

Department Sr. Vice nomination for Scott Hellman by Flint Detachment 155 Richard Monroe, nomination for Stephen Fletcher by Dearborn Detachment 152 Phil Smith. Nominations were closed and positions were accepted if elected. (Hellman's by letter to Commandant Rayl).

Department Jr. Vice nomination for Steve August by Upper Peninsula 444 by Christy Faymonville, nomination for Randall Clemons by Montford Point 158 AJ James. Nominations were closed and positions were accepted if elected.

Nomination for Judge Advocate for Mark Sutton by Northwest Detachment 162 by Mark Sutton. Nominations were closed and position was accepted if elected.

Nomination for Department Paymaster for Larry Sweerin by Oceana/Brett Wiiteveen Detachment 1225 by Dave Masunas. Nominations were closed and position was accepted if elected.

Nomination for member 3 year Budget and Finance Committee for Christine Tonegatto-Salo by Upper Peninsula Detachment 444 by Christy Faymonville. Nominations were closed and position was accepted if elected.

First round of Nominations were closed.

Meetings were closed for the day at 16:30

Open for business at 0900 on Saturday, June 7th, 2025

0900 RECONVENE OF MCL BUSINESS MEETING

ROLL CALL

Roll Call took place of those not present yesterday and noted.

EASTERN ZONE 2 (Norm Root)

Nothing to report at this time.

SOUTHERN ZONE 3 (Dale Erion)

As being asked to “fill-in” the position of Zone Vice, was able to get out to a few Detachments to visit. Still keeping all the Detachments in the loop of things.

HISTORIAN (Dale Erion)

Report was submitted online prior to convention for viewing. Historian is in need of some Detachments in getting copies of their charters. Currently working on master list of PDCs and other notables and a history of the Department. Stated hated in seeing the defunct Detachment list getting longer and no new Detachments coming onboard. Also another program called National Cemeteries Worldwide—they are looking for pictures of Veteran’s graves in the community or private cemeteries in the nation and around the world. They require a picture of the government marker for record keeping or achieves (Department Adjutant will send out the information). Also there is a website called findagrave.com as well you can utilize. Thank you.

CENTRAL ZONE 6 (Steve Kelley)

Stated all Detachments in his Zone are doing well, and that everyone is caught up on their filings.

PAYMASTER (Larry Sweerin)

On the Profit & Loss Budget we did pretty well this year, the dividend income was higher than normal, donation income did well—most of that money came from St. Joseph County donating to us when they turned in their charter. Membership dues and Life membership dues switched slightly due to the upcoming changes in the price of life member dues. Expense column accounting fees stayed the same, Adjutant didn't spend anything, advertising were for conventions, bank charges dropped considerably thanks to Paymaster inquiring about it, Commandant's travel and discretionary fund worked out well, Dues and Subscriptions spent \$85 for Zoom with splitting the cost with the Auxiliary. Expenses are holding their own, over in some items and under in others. Foundation expenses were turned over to the Foundation. Total income and expenses we have done very well. Any questions to please let him know.

Investments have been doing very nicely and holding their own. Just sitting their and doing what they should be doing.

FORT CUSTER NATIONAL CEMETERY (John Hadder)

Fort Custer National Cemetery Advisory Council Report for May 2025, casket remains 226, in-ground cremated remains 280, columbarium interments 130, scatter cremains 2, total burials since 1984 opening 45,804. The flag fund has \$37500.20 and project fund \$10,622.59. They are getting back up to speed from a recent death on their staff. Also just passed the OEI Cemetery Inspection.

FOUNDATION (Gerald Alcorn)

Thank you all for being here, that is the first thing because if you are going to make things happen it starts with showing up. The Foundation cares about our Department and its Detachments. The Foundation built a website, it is a tool, use it as part of marketing to get more funds and to use those funds for scholarships and VAVs in helping the Department and our families. There is a QR code in the convention booklet going to the new site, also the Department Webmaster will update the Foundation site to bring you to this new website.

John C. Rock donated \$500 to the scholarship fund. \$200 from Richard Monroe for thanks for granddaughters previously receiving scholarships. Cpl. Stanley L. Moore \$250 donation and Montford Point \$200 donation. All is greatly appreciated.

SCHOLARSHIP (Christy Faymonville)

Reported 27 applications turned in and were good enough to move onto the second round of the scholarship process. Out of 32 Detachments, 12 different Detachments turned in applications. Thank you for getting the word out there. Go to the Department Website, click on Foundation and go from there. Detachments were listed that turned in scholarships. Make sure the young people are filling out their own scholarships so they are invested in this process.

Upper Peninsula 444 Detachment donated \$500 to the scholarship fund, also \$250 from the Michigan Pack were donated. After Fall Staff the scholarship fund monies will be distributed to the applicants who completed the total application process.

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE (PNC Jim Tuohy)

The Time and Place Committee would like to apologize to the membership for the frustrating changes that occurred in booking the Wyndham Hotel for this Convention. In the middle of negotiations, the hotel which was the Gateway Center, sold to a third party, which then decided to negotiate with Wyndham Properties for a franchise. This has now in place final details and training for the staff are being worked out. We anticipate a smooth transition and a great Department Convention.

Since the Mid-Winter Rally held in Bay City in January, we have received a letter of intent from the Capital Detachment to host the 2026 Department Convention in Lansing. At this time there has been no letters of intent to hold a 2026 Department Mid-Winter Rally.

If anyone decides that they would like to host the 2026 Mid-Winter Rally, then the Time & Place Committee suggest you contact us as well as HelmsBrisco to assist you with negotiating with the hotel you choose. Important—do not contact or negotiate anything with the hotel directly, if you do HelmsBrisco cannot assist you.

On a final note, Jim is sad to announce he will be stepping down from the Committee—he will stay on in a mentoring capacity, and Art Menard will Chair this committee.

BUDGET AND FINANCE (Mark Sutton)

First off, we have our income accounts: our investments, donations, interest income (checking and savings accounts), life and membership dues, raffle income and Department Convention income. If we meet our goals there should be around \$28,800 total income for 2025-2026.

Many of the expenses stayed the same. The one big one we increased was the Judge Advocates expense due to issues having to deal with. Fall staff increased, but hoping to do as virtual zoom this year. Fund raising, if you become the Sr. Vice you are in charge of fund raising—start planning now. Office supplies and the Dewey award increased also the Eagle Scouts for materials and appreciation dinners to attend. If the raffle goes as planned, we will be end up with \$12,405 over budget and will be in the black.

Remember if you are on a committee or officer and look at your budget and say you don't have enough money to let the Budget and Finance Committee know to have a discussion and to possibly vote it through.

Balance sheet there is \$150545.13 in Assests. We are not hurting for cash. As a Veteran's organization we are doing ok.

Motion by Mark Sutton to approve the Budget 2025-2026 year, second by PNC John Tuohy: motion carried.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT (Cathy Rayl)

It is her honor to address this assembly as the Department of Michigan Auxiliary President. Looking forward to working with us throughout the year, do not hesitate to stop to ask questions or any concerns we may have about the Auxiliary. Open to working with us, the Auxiliary has had some bumpy roads lately concerning membership and the viability of units. We have lost two units and a couple of units are still struggling. Started tenure with seven units in the State of Michigan and now in the process of starting a new unit in the Muskegon area. So there is hope will continue to offer ideas for recruitment throughout the year. We are the bloodline the Auxiliary cannot do this without us. Also promoting a Rada Products line which is a department fund raiser. Thanked the Detachments that have helped with Operation Little Angel's again. Thank you all again for everything.

BY-LAW PROPOSED CHANGES (Phil Zamora)

MOTION #1:

This was submitted by our current historian, Dale Erion.

Administrative Procedure addition Section 315—Duties of Historian

Rationale—Currently, there is no comprehensive description of the historian's duties and responsibilities. Too many department and detachment properties have gone missing or unaccounted for in the past and present. Proposed Duties of Historian were read. Motion by Mark Sutton, second by PDC Tony Wade: discussion took place, motion 1 carried.

MOTION #2:

Submitted by Tracey Tippet, current Adjutant & UP Zone Vice.

Section 255 Election of Zone Vice Commandants and Section 325, Zone Vice Commandants

Rationale— propose the following By-Law Change in order to help/assist the Zone Vices in fulfilling their duties in assisting the Department Commandant. Propose adding an Assistant to the Zone Vice Commandants in case the Zone Vice Commandants are unable to attend conventions or meetings, and these Zone Assistant Vices then will have a say in the conducting of business and following Zone guidelines. Sections 255 and 325, in regards to Zone Vice Commandants were read. Motion by PDC Art Menard, second by Randall Clemons: an absorbent amount of discussion took place. Motion was tabled. After returning from lunch break, Adjutant Tippet rescinded her by-law change for Zone Vice Commandants having assistants.

MOTION #3:

Submitted by Scott Hellman, current Judge Advocate

Section 500, Authority and Section 331, Contracting Out Financial work

Rationale—This by-law has been expanded to reference to Section 331, Contracting Out Financial work, but this Section must be followed in conjunction with Section 331, as far as

signatures maintained at the banking institution. Motion by Christine Tonegatto-Salo, second by Wendy Zamora, discussion took place, Motion by Jon VanTol, second by PDC Tony Wade to amend Motion to say: No Officer, detachment, member or any subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League shall obligate the Department financially in any manner whatsoever, except as authorized by these By-laws and Administrative Procedures. The bank form shall have the following signatures, the Department Commandant, the Department Paymaster, the Department Adjutant and if applicable, the financial contractor designated per Article 3 section 331. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Motion 3: motion carried.

Lunch Break

13:15 MCL Meeting reconvened

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (Lisa Fountain)

Voting strength was read off to those present on the floor for voting in the Officer Elections.

SECOND ROUND OF NOMINATIONS (PNC John Tuohy)

Nominations for Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice (Randall Clemons respectfully withdrew his name for nomination), Judge Advocate, Paymaster, and 3yr Position for Budget and Finance were read.

noted that if Mark Sutton becomes Judge Advocate he will have to resign off the Budget and Finance Committee, and the Commandant will have to replace his one year position.

Caucus took place within each Detachment to determine who will be voting for whom.

ELECTIONS (John Tuohy)

PNC John Tuohy conducted the election of officers for the 2025-2026 year. The results of the elections is as follows:

Commandant	Tracey Tippet
Senior Vice Commandant	Scott Hellman
Junior Vice Commandant	Steve August
Judge Advocate	Mark Sutton
Junior Past Commandant	Ray Rayl
Paymaster	Larry Sweerin
3 yr Budget/Finance	Christine Tonegatto-Salo

ZONE CAUCUS

All Zones gathered together to discuss new changes and who is the Zone Vice Commandant.

ZONE VICE COMMANDANTS

Southeast Zone 1	Randall Clemons
Eastern Zone 2	Norm Root

ZONE VICE COMMANDANTS (CONTINUED)

Southern Zone 3	Wendy Zamora
Southwest Zone 4	Michael Moross
Western Zone 5	Dave Masunas
Central Zone 6	Steve Kelley
Northern Zone 7	Vacant
Upper Peninsula Zone 8	Mike Miller

AWARDS (Ray Ray)(Wendy Zamora)(Stephen Fletcher)

Pack Awards: Tracy Berg, Tracey Tippet, Phil Zamora, Stephen Fletcher, Christine Tonegatto-Salo, Dave Masunas, Phil Smith, Randall Clemmons, Jon Vantol and Dale Erion all received Pack Leader's Meritorious Commendation certificates: In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service in the interests of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. Authorized to wear the Pack Leader's Meritorious Commendation Ribbon.

Recruiter Award: Jr. Vice Fletcher presented two recruiter awards, second place was Tracey Tippet from Lake Superior Detachment 764, and Robert DeWitt first place from David Murnighan 161.

Distinguished Service Awards presented by Commandant Rayl in appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service in the interest of the United States of America, United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps League to: Phil Smith, Stephen Fletcher, Scott Hellman, Larry Sweerin, Fred Green, Randall Clemons, Norman Root, Michael Moross, Steve Kelley, Frank Rosinski, and Tracey Tippet. Authorized to wear the Distinguished Service Ribbon.

Motion

A motion was made by Phil Zamora, second by Jim Tuohy to accept all reports presented. Motion carried.

The business portion of the Summer Convention concluded at 1515.

The Detachment Commandants Council took place after business portion of meeting.

Following the Installation of Officers at the banquet, the Convention was closed at 21:30 hours.

Respectfully Submitted

Tracey A Tippet

**Tracey A Tippet
Department Adjutant**

