Marine Corps League
Department of North Carolina

DoNC Staff Meeting Minutes
02 January 2026

Presided by: Commandant Robert Hare
Department of North Carolina
Marine Corps League

Meeting start time: 1901
Meeting Location: Teams

A. EBOT attendees

1. Commandant – Robert Hare
2. Sr. Vice Commandant – James (Jim) Mitchell
3. Jr. Vice Commandant – Steve Tracy - Absent
4. Judge Advocate – William (Bill) Brown
5. Jr Past – Ric Ledford - excused
6. Chief of Staff – Tony Nunez -
7. Adjutant – Justine Mitchell
8. Chaplain – Lisa Ciesielski
9. Assistant Chaplain - Marilyn Bower - Absent
10. Sgt.-at-Arms – Laura Hamilton
11. Assistant Sgt-at-Arms - PJ Hamilton - Excused
12. Paymaster – Kevin Ashton
13. Assistant Paymaster - Colin Mayo
14. Young Marines Service Officer – (Vacant)
15. Toys For Tots Coordinator – Kevin Ashton
16. VAVS Service Officer - Al Pasquale
17. Legislative Officer – Kenny Joyner - Absent
18. Compliance Officer - Phil Randall - Absent
19. Bylaws Committee Chairman - Lisa Ciesielski
20. Eagle Scout Coordinator – Charles Minton - Absent
21. Marine For Life Liaison – (vacant)
22. Web Sergeant – (vacant)
23. Public Relations – Marilyn Bower - Absent
24. Historian – Greg Ciesielski
25. Chapel of Four Chaplains – Jeff Mixon - Absent
26. West District – Denver Grant - Absent
27. Northwest District – Todd Abbott Absent
28. Midwest District – Glen Perkins - Absent
29. Northcentral District – Mike Clark
30. Central District – Mike Nelsen – Excused
31. Southcentral District– Shaun Slattery
32. North District – Doug Ross - Absent
33. Northeast District – (vacant)
34. South District -Howard Boyd - Absent
35. East District – Ray Randall - Absent
36. Southeast District – Ray Randall – Absent
37. VSO – Tim Stewart

B. <u>Subject of discussion</u>

1. 2026 Spring Membership Meeting
    a. Robert Hare – Thank you for joining.
    b. Robert Hare – Tim Stewart Is the DoNC Veterans Service Officer. Tim will be the head VSO but we can have multiple VSOs.
    c. Robert Hare – Registration and announcement have been sent out.
    d. Kevin Ashton – Asked if the DoNC was aware it is within two weeks from the Mideast Division Meeting
    e. Robert Hare – Laura Hamilton is the New Mideast Assistant NVC
2. Leadership Academy
    a. Robert Hare - Jan 31st at the Salsbury VA Med center. 0900 – 1600
    b. Robert Hare – Will go over the roles and responsibility of officers
    c. Robert Hare – This is open to all not just elected and appointed officers
    d. Robert Hare - March 28th is the date of the Second Leadership Academy. This will be the same as the one held on Jan 31st. People do not need to attend both.
    e. Robert Hare – Hopes that this becomes and annual Academy.
    f. Colin Mayo – This is a great idea, OJT is not always fun, so training is great. We can do a roadshow as well to travel to those that cannot come.
    g. Robert Hare – We just need to get it started then we can expand on it
    h. Robert Hare – Annual Report, this is from National. If the detachments send in their quarterly reports, we can get that information from the spreadsheet.
    i. Robert Hare – DVCs get with your detachments to get the quarterly reports completed. But what is needed - Toys for Tots numbers and Funeral, color guard/honor guard numbers, and community service hours.
    j. Bill Brown – Detachments need to focus what is captured at each meeting, example sign in forms and minutes.

k. Robert Hare – DVCs and elected officers need to get out and visit the detachments.

l. Robert Hare – Some of our detachments have not had a member of leadership visit them. That is a disservice to them. We need to hit all 47 of them.

3. 2026 Directions

a. Colin Mayo – Sent out the membership numbers - about 91% of our memberships are paid.

b. Colin Mayo – Can we have a push to get the unpaid members paid.

c. Robert Hare – Our DVC's are here to assist the detachments with membership renewals and all issues.

d. Colin Mayo – One thought is setting up a Zeffy for membership renewal.

e. Shaun Slattery – For the members that cannot afford the dues can we assist in helping them pay them?

f. Robert Hare – It is the responsibility of leadership in getting information to members. We need to get the younger members to step up.

g. Robert Hare – Appointing the Assistant Paymaster Department was one of the best decisions that was made. Things are flowing smoothly.

h. Greg Ciesielski – The PR for the MCL needs to be changed to reflect younger generations to increase recruiting and retention.

i. Tim Stewart – The military members that are getting out want to remove themselves for the USMC awhile.

j. Mike Clark – How can we get more advertising for the MCL at the DoNC level. Robert Hare - we need to look at this in the EBoT.

k. Robert Hare – It is all about money. The uniforms are costly.

l. Robert Hare – Asked the Sr Vice if we have received the bylaws from NY yet.

m. Once we get the foundation set, we will be in a better monetary situation to promote the DoNC with advertising.

4. 2026 Department Convention

a. Robert Hare – The Convention will be at the same hotel that the Spring membership meeting.
b. Robert Hare – The growl and the Convention Meeting will be held at the hotel, and the Banquet will be help as the Museum. By doing t this way the Musuem will be closed to the public.
c. Al Pasquale – asked if we will be responsible or security while we are holding the Banquet. Robert Hare – The Museum staff will be there while the Banquet is being held.
d. Robert Hare – the Department is hosting the Convention, so we are responsible for all fundraising for the convention. Please get with the Sr Vice with ideas.
e. The Sr Vice and Chief of Staff are heading the convention committee. Get with them on ideas
f. Robert Hare – There is a convention book and will get a copy to the Chief of Staff.
g. Robert Hare Convention Date is the first weekend of June, the 5th – 6th. Yes, we are aware that it coincides with the Winston Salem mud run.
h. Robert Hare – We need to change out Bylaws. We used to have 4 meetings a year; the winter meeting was dissolved. When we took that meeting away the other 3 meetings dates should have been adjusted so there is not a huge gap between meetings. This year the spring membership meeting and convention are only 3 months apart
i. Robert Hare – Has tasked the JA to come up with a meeting schedule that would work and then bring it to the body to vote on at the convention
j. James Mitchell – Members are not communication back to us on what works and what does not work.
k. James Mitchell – Will get with the hotel this month and lockdown the number of rooms and pricing for those rooms. We will also need to lock down the lunch at the convention.
l. Robert Hare – The Sr Vice and the JA did an outstanding job on securing the hotel for the 2025 Fall Membership meeting.

m. . Robert Hare – The attendance of the meetings has increased from 60ish to over 100

n. Laura Hamilton – There is a conflict in our bylaws concerning the meeting dates. Several sections contradict each other. We need to adjust one of the sections to get us in compliance.

o. Robert Hare – Bill Brown does a good job in updating and writing the bylaws. We have confidence in him in those changes.

p. Bill Brown – Is pretty sure he can get a convention book at the same price as his detachment did and we can make some money on advertising.

q. Bill Brown – We need to get an estimate from the Museum on what the Banquet will cost.

r. Robert Hare – The Museum has not decided f they will use in house chefs or use a catering company. He will stop by the museum when he is in Jacksonville within the next couple of weeks.

s. Bill Brown – We need a menu to see what the meal options will be and the cost. Robert Hare – Was thinking a buffet meal.

5. DoNC Foundation Board nominations (need 5 appointed staff)

a. . Robert Hare – We need the Bylaws set before we can open the banking accounts

b. Robert Hare – Kevin Ashton Is knowledgeable and has taken steps in getting the foundation set up.

c. Robert Hare – We need to get a board set up. The main board members will be the EBoT to include the paymaster. But we need additional members on the board to round it out.

d. Robert Hare – If you are interested in being on the board

e. Robert Hare – Adding 5 additional members to the board which comprise of the those holding appointed DoNC positions.

f. James Mitchell – All board members must be a member in good standing

g. Gerg Ciesielski – asked if the Commandant should be the President of the Foundation Board.

h. Bill Brown – He has discussed with Bruce Rakfeldt on the foundation board. He will meet with Bruce again this month.

i. Robert Hare – Some of the issues, is the Foundation part of the MCL for the are a 501(c). They must follow different tax laws.

j. Robert Hare – The purpose of the foundation is to get things accomplished that fall outside the normal realm of the organization.

k. Robert Hare – With the foundation we can go to large corporations for donations that would not normally give to the MCL.

l. Robert Hare – One of the biggest issues we have is with fundraising. It is a huge responsibility on the Sr Vices; the foundation will take some of the stress off the Sr Vices with this.

m. Robert Hare – Hopes that the foundation can pay for conventions and the hosting detachments can focus on fundraising for their detachments. We are still in the planning phase.

n. Bill Brown – Any detachment that choses to do fundraising can go to National and get a non-taxable letter. Even though we have a foundation, the purpose of the foundation needs to be stated in the article oof incorporation.

o. Robert Hare – We are now in the administration phase of setting up the foundation. The EBot will review and send it to National to review. We will also present to the membership for final decision.

p. Tim Stewart – Asked if there will be a 15%-85% rule. What % is for conventions/meetings and what % is for donations.

q. Robert Hare – The foundation is for us to go after corporations with bigger money to assist more in our community.

r. Laura Hamilton - The foundation will also help the department with the budgets

No other topics discussed. Meeting was adjourned. 2030.