

March 7, 2025 Zoom meeting minutes

Marine Corps League (MCL) Department of North Carolina (DoNC) Board of Trustees (BOT)

Thirteen were in attendance:

Robert Hare DoNC Commandant, Bill Brown DoNC Judge Advocate (JA), Jim Mitchell DoNC Senior Vice-Commandant (SVC), Colin Mayo DoNC Assistant Paymaster, Kevin Ashton DoNC Paymaster, David Anderson # 1187 Paymaster with Don Johnson # 1187 Commandant, Sam Gilliland # 1223 Commandant, Paul Miethker # 1407 Commandant, Kevin Rumsey # 1482 Commandant, Alvaro Rosero # 1096 Commandant, Shawn Potwin # 1257 Commandant, Frank Williams # 1257 Adjutant

It was noted that a full board meeting, which includes Detachment Commandants/representatives, will be held every other month.

Colin Mayo from Carthage, NC was introduced as DoNC Assistant Paymaster to help with administration paperwork like transmittals, ROIs, Notices of Death, etc. that go to National. DoNC Paymaster handles the financial matters. After only 2 weeks, Mayo has already spoken with 13 Detachment paymasters and done 30 odd transactions, including desktop procedures. Working on a portal that the computer-savvy paymasters can use. They can download rosters themselves. Rosters need to be cleaned up. Paymasters can send one check to DoNC combining National and DoNC dues. Mayo can electronically transmit to National on the same day, versus if mailed, it goes out the next day, plus mail time to get to National. Mayo is emailing paymasters when he receives items and emailing them when the item is processed. Currently all items received have been processed. National is working well with Mayo. Mayo appreciates feedback from members on how to improve things.

It was asked if transmittals can be emailed. The answer is yes, which saves scanning time, and checks can be mailed. DoNC Assistant Paymaster email is: asstpymasterdonc@gmail.com.

It was noted that if a member is 1 year behind on dues, they are dropped by National, and a new application will need to be submitted with the dues payment. Also, the new application requires checking off a box that they are not a felon. If an old application is submitted without that, it will be rejected. Mayo will send out the **attached** new application form. This is also found on the MCL National Library page, [Membership-Application-Form-2023.pdf](#). And it will be put on DoNC website Documents page (password, do1970nc).

DoNC is moving more and more to doing things electronically, including payment transfers. Detachments will need to adapt accordingly. Classes/training will be developed. And DoNC emails update items, so emails need to be reviewed and acted on.

Changes at the Detachment level need to be updated to DoNC via ROIs, e.g. meeting times.

Many DVC positions are vacant. Detachments have been asked for recommendations on a DVC for their areas. Potwin did respond but others have not. DVCs are important connections between the Detachments and DoNC.

John Henderson from Gastonia Detachment is being processed as the new Young Marines liaison.

Kenny, who was the Chief of Staff, is now the legislative officer. Recommendations for a new DoNC Chief of Staff are requested. Chief of Staff helps Detachments get their functions set up at DoNC.

Veteran Service Officer (VSO) position will be filled. VSO is a certified position assisting veterans filing claims and appeals, etc., to get veteran benefits. The software cost is a one-time cost of \$386. DoNC will then own this software as it stays with us if VSO goes elsewhere. There is also a certification cost of \$189.00 to the VSO. The certification goes with the VSO and there is an online annual re-certification

requirement, and the full board re-certification needs to be done every 3 years. The VSO will pay this, or consideration can be made for DoNC to pay it if VSO serves a set amount of time as DoNC VSO. If the VSO leaves before the set amount of time, the VSO would be expected to pay back the certification fee. A quorum was not present to allow a vote on this. So, it will be discussed at the Spring membership meeting.

Marine 4 Life position is also vacant. They assist Marines exiting armed service and reserves transitioning back to civilian life. It also helps veterans find employment. You can follow Marines 4 Life on LinkedIn.

Brown requests Detachments to let DoNC 2025 Convention host Air, Land, NC Detachment start establishing a realistic number of Detachments/participants who plan to attend. He noted 30% representation is needed to pass any amendments. It was noted that the actual number won't be known until the day of the convention as many do not sign up in advance. The "Zeffy" process initiated by Air, Land, NC will hopefully make this count more accurate before the event.

Williams brought up the Convention of States. DoNC Commandant Hare said he was familiar with it and understood it to be a political entity. Williams said it is a legally non-partisan organization that does not support any political party. But DoNC Commandant Hare understands because it is political in nature, it is against MCL bylaws. The discussion was dropped.

The host Detachment can make any decision on whether or not to have vendor/information tables and the cost available at the DoNC Convention. Vendor table money goes to the Detachment. Except no military uniforms may be sold, which takes away revenue from the National MCL. National ship stores will not be at the 2025 DoNC Convention. So host Detachment can have vendors as they choose.

Marine Corps Auxiliary will not be at the 2025 DoNC Convention.

The Carolina Museum of the Marine tour has already filled up. The new President, Major General Joe Schrader, will speak at the beginning of the tour.

The Spring Membership meeting should be interesting and all are invited to attend. Discussion was had on getting there early and all the exciting activities available, e.g. fishing, golf, etc. An agenda will be coming out.

The new DoNC website is coming along well. Senior Vice Commandant (SVC), Jim Mitchell, noted that there are 3 fundraisers now on the website. So invite everyone to go there.

Brown and DoNC Commandant Hare will get together later to discuss how to best complete the form and invite the 2025 DoNC Convention speaker, Lieutenant General Worth, Commanding General II Marine Expeditionary Force.

It was advised to start working on submitting both Division and DoNC Marine of Year (MOY) and Associate of Year (AOY) packets.

Emails will be going out soon on the 2025 DoNC Convention, which is being held June 13-15. It will then be put on the DoNC website. One email about the room raffle already went out on February 17th.

Detachment rosters will be going out soon and available to all. The deadline for delegates is March 31. It was noted that Sandhills is one word. Will discuss 250th Marine Corps Birthday celebration at Spring meeting. Which Detachment will host the Fall meeting will be discussed at the Spring meeting.

All left the meeting with DoNC JA, Bill Brown, DoNC DVC, Jim Mitchell, and DoNC Commandant Hare remaining for discussion of other matters.