



31 May 2025
MCL Dept of MA State Convention Minutes
Held at: Boston Marriott Burlington
1 Burlington Mall Rd
Burlington, MA 01803

Recording of meeting available: send request to Department Adjutant Ed Yung
reyung@live.com
508.902.7212

08:00 hours Opening Ceremony:

Conducted by Department Commandant Jon Ziriblia

SGT at Arms ordered to secure the quarters and satisfy yourself that all present are qualified to be present during the deliberation of this Department session.

SGT at Arms complies

SGT at Arms ordered to lead in Pledge of Allegiance

SGT at Arms complies

Dept Chaplain order to lead in Prayer

Dept Chaplain complies

SGT at Arms order to declare this meeting open for the transaction of official business

SGT at Arms complies

08:03 Intro of Dignitaries of the Day:

PNC Warren Griffin

National Jr Vice Commandant Dave Porter

National Executive Director Bob Borka

New England Division Commandant Pat McGuire

New England Division Assist Commandant Michael Hinds

New England Division Newsletter Editor Walt Benson

Past Dept Commandant Bernie Heaney

Past Dept Commandant Warren Griffin

Past Dept Commandant Dave Porter

Past Pack Leaders:

Marine PDD Joseph Deleany

Marine PDD Kieth Buckhout

08:08 Motion or accept the minutes of past Dept Meeting as posted online:
Peter King motions to accept posted minutes
Art Enos 2nds
No discussion
Vote in favor: 100%
None oppose
Motion carried

08:11 No Correspondence

08:12 Any members or family members in sickness or distress?

08:14 SGT at Arms ordered a recess for the meeting to give way to National Executive Director Bob Borka's presentation.
Ed Aucoin motions to break normal order of business
Dave Epps 2nds
Discussion? None
All in Favor? 100%
Oppose? none
Motion Carried...Dept Chaplain closes Bible

09:10 Motion to return to normal order of business
Motion is 2nd
Motion carried
5 minute recess

09:15 Roll Call of Officers:

Commandant - Jon Ziriblia - present
Sr Vice - Mike Hinds - present
Jr Vice - Steve Cheney - present
Judge Advocate - Bruce Katz - present
Adjutant (Acting) - Ed Yung - present
Paymaster - Bernie Heaney - present
Chaplain - Ed Yung - present
SGT at Arm - Kyle Torpey - present
Finance Committee Chairman - Bill McGuire - present
Finance Officer - Seth Mansur -
Finance Officer - Tim McCrory -
Past Dept Commandant - Warren Griffin - present
Past Dept Commandant - Bernie Heaney - present

Roll Call of Detachments:

Metro West - present
South Central Mass - present
1Lt Brian McPhillips Metro South - present
Pequoig - present
Burlington - not present
William R Caddy - not present
Cape Cod - present
Essex County - present
Capt. William Glynn - present
Van Gyzen - present
Honorable Few - present
Plymouth - present
Norfolk County - present
Pittsfield - not present
PVT Charles Shutt - present
Greater New Bedford - present
Westfield River Valley - present
Worcester - present
James Laskey - present
Oak Ridge - present

Adjutant declares quorum

09:25 Report of the Paymaster

Bernie Heaney distributes report to all members present for review

PNC Warren Griffin motions to accept Paymaster Report subject to audit

Ed Aucoin 2nds motion

Discussion? Dept area of operation list needs to fixed - Commandant will fix

All in favor? 100%

Oppose? None

Motion carried

Report of Officers:

Dept Commandant:

- Here to help you Marines with any questions you have while attending the Convention
- Emails: get your emails into the system...very important. Detachment Commandants & Paymasters please continue to work to get those emails in, in order to update the system.

- Roster: need to distinguish between members and associate members who are veterans. All detachment Commandants need to compile a list of all associate members who are veterans. Turn the list into Dept Commandant; who will then turn into National.
- Working with the Governor's office regarding the 250th Marine Corps birthday celebration at the State House. More details are forthcoming. I have directed PNC Warren Griffin as POC for the USS Constitution event.
- The National Convention is in Texas - still time to register if going.
- Be sure to turn in your detachment activity reports. These need to be turned into the Division for National
- Over the past months, I have Installed various detachments
- Thank you all for the past 2 years serving as Department Commandant

Dept Sr Vice:

- Stresses importance of email address to update system
- Need any assistance I am available
- my report is posted online for review
- Iwo Jima Day at State House was outstanding and may continue - recruiting help to ensure this continues. Let me know if you can assist.
- New Coins are available - see Quarter Master
- New rosters are available

Dept Jr Vice:

- Mediation with Oak Ridge
- fund raisers in Worcester
- Railers and Rucks to Pucks events
- I'm available if you want to know more about my activities
- Commandant requested the members count to determine Department's voting strength: last year 1133 voting members - this year (2025) 1039 voting members. A decrease due to deaths - need to recruit more members to get number strength up.

Dept Judge Advocate:

- Was involved in detachment Mediation
- NOTE: you CANNOT install yourself as an officer.
- In the past 2 years of serving as Judge Advocate, I have noticed the relationships of members in some detachments become strained. Try to mediate at detachment levels and avoid escalation to Department

Finance Officer: Job well done to Dept Commandant Jon Zwirblia

09:50 Unfinished Business

Dept Commandant: Last year's convention we had discussion of altering Department By-Laws.

Steve Cheney: Motion to suspend / waive section 800 of the current by-laws which details the timing of how by-law changes occur at State Conventions. Rationale is the timing of the Dept by-law changes allowed conflicted with the New England & Quad State Conventions resulting in restricting the timing allowed for MA Dept by-laws to occur.

Motion 2nd by Dave Porter

Discussion? More clarification needed on the proposal as it relates to National...we are waiving the timeline requirement for the State By-Laws to be submitted in order for these By-Laws to be submitted in our State Convention for proper voting.

All in Favor? 100%

Oppose:

Motion carried

By-Law & Administrative Procedural Changes:

Dept: Judge Advocate reviews:

By-Laws:

Section 103 (6) & Section 105 (b) Motion Art Enos - 2nd Ron Timms

Section 115 (b) (c) - Motion Peter King - 2nd Warren Griffin

Section 120 - Motion Paul Gouthro - 2nd Ed Aucoin

Section 200 - Motion Paul Gouthro - 2nd Ed Aucoin

Section 205 (8) - Motion Art Enos - 2nd Bernie Heaney

Section 220 (c) - Motion Paul Gouthro - 2nd Ed Aucoin

Administrative Procedures:

Section 135 - Motion Ed Aucoin - 2nd Art Enos

Section 300 (e) Motion Art Enos - 2nd Paul Gouthro

- For details on the By-Law(s) / AP Changes refer to the following link:<https://mcldeptofmassachusetts.org/f/0/3/League-Documents>

Motion to accept By-Law & Procedural Changes:

Paul Gouthro 2nds

Discussion? None

All in favor: 100%

Oppose? None

Motion carried

Recess 5 minutes:

Proposed upcoming Fiscal Year Budget - Bernie Heaney

- See attached

Bill McGuire: Motion to add budget for Finance Officers attending Division Conference

Motion to add \$750 line item budget for each 4 Financial Officers

Will be line item 436 & 474

Ed Aucoin 2nds motion

Discussion: Paul Gouthro: Keep in mind the increase we have already had increases from last year - this proposed increase is an additional \$6000 from last year's increase

Vote: 100%

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Motion to accept Budget as Proposed:

Ed Aucoin motions

Paul Gouthro 2nd

Discussion: None

Vote: 100%

Oppose: None

Motion is carried

Announcements:

Firing detail see Keith Buckout

Chow - pizza buffet

Memorial Service - outside out back

Report back at 13:15

SGT at Arms: Dismissed for lunch

Dept Chaplain: Bible is closed

13: 15 Return from Lunch:

SGT at Arms to restore regular order of business

Dept Chaplain: Bible is opened

New Business:

Volunteer Detachments to host next year's 1 day Convention?

Shutt Detachment volunteers (location is Watertown, MA)

Brian Dupee motions next Dept Convention hosted by Shutt Detachment in the 2nd week of March, 2026

PNC Warren Griffin 2nds

Discussion: None

Vote: 100%

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Report of Standing Committees:

- Women's Shelter - Associate Tab M:
 - In Memory & Honor of Cheryl Griffin MCL Dept of MA continues to donate the local Women's Shelter
- Convention Committee - Associate Tab M:
 - Registration: Online will continue for future conventions
- Scholarship: Wayne Ricky:
 - 10 openings
- VAVS: Brian Dupee
 - Food Donations needed to various locations. Suggestion for next convention is everyone attending can donate something
- Eagle Scouts:
 - 6 Eagle Scout certificates have been mailed out for MA, also covering NE Division

Special Committees:

None

Good of the League:

- Ernie Laberge - Memorial wreath for Dept of MA
- PNC Warren Griffin:
 - USS Constitution June 6th 08:30 - event is full
 - Legislative Officer for the Dept of MA - state house 2-3 times a week. I moderate in front of legislation i.e. veteran on drivers license was our idea. MA is #1 for taking care of veterans
 - Governor Citation for Dept Commandant Jon Zwirblia
 - Senator Fattman Citation for Dept Commandant Jon Zwirblia
 - House of Representation Citation for Dept Commandant Jon Zwirblia
- Marine Richard Broadnax Detachment 128 hosting Marine Corps Ball November 7th 18:00 hours - price is \$80/ticket
- NE Div Commandant Pat McGuire
 - Division has Division coins for sale at \$15 each
 - Youth Fitness Program restart by PNC Warren Griffin...looking for someone to oversee
 - VSO for Division needed - must be certified
- Marine Jay Bogar
 - Detachment 1306 hosting Marine Corps Ball Sat November 8th - \$75 each
- Marine Paul Gouthro
 - I have been collecting Brass for the last couple of years for recycling in Lynn which pays for \$2.10 a pound, and I had 23 pounds. Let me know if you have any brass you would like to have recycled.
- Marine Keith Buckout

- Detachment 141 having Golf Tournament August 9th...4 to a team for \$125, South Hampton
- Detachment Relief Checks issued by Dept Commandant for Compliancy
 - Burlington
 - Cape Cod
 - Essex County
 - Capt Glynn
 - Norfolk County
 - Pvt Shutt
 - Westfield River Valley
 - Metro West
 - Brian McPhillips
 - Van Gyzen
 - Honorable Few
 - Plymouth
 - Greater New Bedford
 - James R Laskey

13:45 Citations, Commendations & Medals

- Associate Ernie Laberge Certificate of Appreciation for wife Joann for Loyalty and Patriotism to our Country 31 May 2025
- Meritorious Individual Commendation presented to Plymouth Detachment:
 - Vale Gene Duly
 - Richard Revoni
 - Joseph Revoni
- Marine Joann Nelson: Meritorious Individual Commendation
- Dept Staff Appointed Medals:
 - Dept Chaplain Ed Yung
 - Quartermaster Steven Cheney, Jr
- Dept Distinguished Citizen Bronze Award
 - Marine Schkowski
 - Marine Steven Cheney, Jr
 - Marine Ed Yung
- Dept Distinguished Citizen Silver Award
 - Marine Art Enos
- Meritorious Unit Commendation for Burlington Detachment for convention efforts
- Meritorious Unit Commendation for Plymouth Detachment

Dept Donation checks issued to Detachments:

- Van Gyzen - Wreaths Across America
- Art Enos - People Helping People & House of Hope
- Metro West - Assabet Valley - ROTC
- ROTC Lynn HS
- Haverhill HS ROTC

- VA Programs:
 - Bedford PDAMC
 - Huntington House
 - West Roxbury
 - Brockton
 - North Hampton VACWM
 - Veterans Home Chelsey
 - Young Marines Westover
 - Young Marines Fall River
 - Young Marines New Bedford

13:58 Announcements:

- Haverhill MCJROTC June 14-21, Firehouse on River St Haverhill - Car Wash Fund raiser 09:00 - 13:00
- Raffle :15 min after closing ceremony in the morning
- :30 after Raffle Hospitality Room 630 will open
- Banquet no covers or credentials
- PNC Griffin USS Constitution June 6th - if going, bring membership applications to event
- Marine Cheney Sr...recognizes Burlington Det exceeded 103.3% membership
- Singing Trooper at Banquet tonight

Motion to Suspend Regular Order of Business to Conduct Election of New Officers

Marine Dave Epps Motions

Marine Bruce Katz 2nds

Motion is rescinded in order to invite family members to the installation of new officers

SGT at Arms order to recess for 5 minutes

Dept Chaplain: Bible is Closed

SGT at Arms ordered to restore normal order of business

Dept Chaplain: bible is opened

14:17

Ed Aucoin motions to suspend regular order of business to Carry out elections of new officers:

PNC Warren Griffin 2nds motion

Discussion: None

Vote: 100%

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Election of new Officers for FY 2026 officiated by NE Division Commandant Pat McGuire

Number of delegates registered and allowed for vote per Detachments:

Burlington 123: 4 Allowed 4 Registered
Caddy 124: 6 Allowed 0 Registered
Cape Cod 125: 7 Allowed 1 Registered
Essex County 127: 4 Allowed 1 Registered
Capt William Glynn 128: 4 Allowed 2 Registered
Norfolk County 136: 4 Allowed 1 Registered
Pittsfield 137: 2 Allowed 0 Registered
Shutt 139: 11 Allowed 11 Registered
Westfield River Valley 141: 7 Allowed 7 Registered
Worcester 144: 15 Allowed 15 Registered
Oakridge 628: 2 Allowed 0 Registered
Metro West 1037: 5 Allowed 1 Registered
South Central 1094: 4 Allowed 0 Registered
Metro South 1115: 3 Allowed 1 Registered
Pequoig 1168: 4 Allowed 4 Registered
LCpl John Van Gyzen 1285: 13 Allowed 13 Registered
Honorable Few 1302: 5 Allowed 5 Registered
Plymouth 1306: 3 Allowed 2 Registered
Greater New Bedford 1399: 6 Allowed 2 Registered
James R Laskey 1443: 3 Allowed 3 Registered

Number of Delegates NOT contested

Dept Nominations: for Commandant, Sr Vice, Jr Vice, Judge Advocate & up to 4 at least 2 Financial Officers:

MA Dept Commandant:

- Marine Jon Zwirblia nominates Marine Michael Hinds, who accepts
- No other nominations
- Adjutant cast 1 unanimous vote for Marine Michael Hinds for MA Dept Commandant

Sr Vice Commandant:

- Marine Jon Zwirblia nominates Marine Steven Cheney Sr, who accepts
- No other nominations
- Adjutant cast 1 unanimous vote for Marine Steven Cheney Sr for MA Dept Sr Vice Commandant

Jr Vice Commandant:

- Marine Dave Epps nominates Marine Bruce Katz, who accepts
- No other nominations
- Adjutant cast 1 unanimous vote for Marine Bruce Katz for MA Dept Jr Vice Commandant

Judge Advocate:

- Marine Jon Zwirblia nominates Marine Paul Gouthro, who accepts
- No other nominations
- Adjutant cast 1 unanimous vote for Marine Paul Gouthro for MA Dept Judge Advocate

Finance Officer: Need minimum of 2 up to 4 Elected:

- Marine Dave Epps nominates Marine Ron Timm, who accepts
- Marine Steven Cheney Sr nominates Marine Bill McGuire, who accepts
- No other nominations
- Adjutant cast 1 unanimous vote for Marine Ron Timm & Marine Bill McGuire both for MA Dept Finance Officers

14:30 Installation of Newly Elected FY26 Officers, PNC Warren Griffin Officiates Swearing-In Ceremony:

FY2026 MA Dept Elected Officers:

Commandant Michael Hinds

Sr Vice Steven Cheney Sr

Jr Vice Bruce Katz

Judge Advocate Paul Gouthro

Finance Officers Ron Timm & Bill McGuire

Dept Chaplain Prayer

PNC Warren Griffin presents the gavel to the newly elected MA Dept Commandant Michael Hinds

14:45 Marine Ed Aucoin motions for a 5 minute recess to congratulate new officers w/their family members present

Marine Don Ricki 2nds motion

Discussion: None

Vote: 100%

Oppose: None

Motion carried

Recess for 5 minutes

SGT at Arms recesses body

14:52 SGT at Arms to resume body

Commandant - no reason for not having full voting strength represented from your detachment, especially in a contested voting situation. Fill out the delegate form and submit payment to ensure your detachment has full boating strength.

Marine Dom Ricci motions to adjourn

Marine Ed Aucoin 2nds

Discussion: none

Vote: 100%

Oppose: none

Motion carried

14:55 Dismissed

Closing Ceremony

Moment of Silence for deceased Marines

SGT retired Colors

Dept Chaplain closing Prayer


Bible closed

Sr Vice performs last duty of post


SGT at Arms - declared Meeting dismissed

Attachments:

Attendance Sheet:

 2025 05 31 Attendance Sheet MCL Dept MA State Convention.pdf

FY26 Proposed Budget MCL Dept MA:

 2025 07 01 to 06 30 2026 FY 26 Proposed Budget MCL Dept MA.pdf

By-Laws & Administrative Procedural Changes:

<https://mcldeptofmassachusetts.org/f/0/3/League-Documents>