

# The Scuttlebutt

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

**James M. Slay**  
Detachment Marine  
Corps League

**Richmond, Virginia**

[www.richmondmarines.net](http://www.richmondmarines.net)

- **Nick Wennberg**  
Commandant
- **Joe Shusko**  
Sr Vice Commandant
- **Joe Kelleher**  
Jr Vice Commandant
- **Phil Hebner**  
Adjutant
- **Bob Gilliam**  
Judge Advocate
- **Lonny Fry**  
Chaplain
- **Thomas House**  
Sergeant at Arms
- **Richard Klein**  
Paymaster
- **Randy Abernathy**  
Public Relations
- **Tim Taylor**  
Dept Legislative
- **David Charbonneau**  
Quartermaster
- **Bob Gilliam (Temp)**  
Web Sergeant
- **Rich Van Damme**  
Scuttlebutt Newsletter  
Editor :  
[rjv0402@gmail.com](mailto:rjv0402@gmail.com)

Slay Detachment,

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as the Commandant of the James Slay Detachment of the Marine Corps League over the past two years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to work alongside an exceptional group of Marines whose dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to our shared values have left a lasting impression on me. The members of this detachment represent the very best of what it means to be a Marine—past and present—and it has been both humbling and inspiring to serve in this role among you.



Throughout my tenure, I have learned a great deal from so many of you. Your mentorship, camaraderie, and steadfast support have not only guided me in my responsibilities but have also strengthened my appreciation for the bonds we share as Marines. Whether through our community outreach efforts, support for fellow veterans, or the preservation of our traditions, each of you has played a vital role in making this detachment what it is today.

When I first assumed this position, my primary goal was to continue the proud tradition of making a meaningful and positive impact in our community, particularly in support of our Marine veterans and their families. I sincerely hope that, together, we have upheld that mission and made a difference where it matters most. The work we do is important, and it is carried forward by the collective effort and dedication of every member.

As I step down from this leadership role, I do so with immense gratitude and confidence in the future of this detachment. I re-

Quartermaster Store Link:

<https://jamesmslay.itemorder.com/sale>

main committed to supporting our mission and will continue to serve as an active member, ready to assist in any way I can. I look forward to witnessing the continued growth, success, and positive impact of this outstanding organization.

Thank you all for the trust you placed in me, for your friendship, and for your continued service.

Semper Fidelis,  
Nick Wennberg



**MINUTES**  
**JAMES M. SLAY DETACHMENT**  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**28 March 2026**

**0900 Call to Order**

Commandant Nick Wennberg called the meeting to order, ordering the securing of quarters, posting of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, opening prayer, and directing the Sargent at Arms to declare the meeting open. Quorum was met.

**Roll Call of Officers**

Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Past Commandant (excused), Junior Vice (present), Adjutant (present), Judge Advocate (present), Paymaster (present), Chaplain (excused)

**Introduction of Guest**

Sheri Moore- Dept of Virginia Commandant

**Application for New Member**

Roger Galbraith-USMC-LtCol retired  
 Adam Hutchinson- USMC- Sgt with 3/6-works at VDOT with Nick  
 Frank Beltran III- USMC

**Reports of Officers**

Junior Vice Commandant – Joe Kelleher

Keep recruiting and talk to all the Marines you come across. Bring a prospect to a meeting.

Adjutant – Phil Hebner

Minutes from the February meeting passed

Paymaster – Rich Klein

Financials are available to review at any meeting or upon request.

Get your money in for the Leatherneck Club

Mix up with FedEx on the USO gift certificates but it is straightened out now

New mailing address for the Detachment: MCL 329, P.O. Box 27, Moseley, Va. 23120

Newsletter Editor/Historian – Rich Van Damme

Please submit any news or events to Rich for publication in the Scuttlebutt.

Web Sergeant – (Bob Gilliam)

Website is current. Richmondmarines.net. Check it out and promote it to prospective members for information

Legislative officer-Tim Taylor

Briefed the Detachment on the bills with the JLC. Published in the Scuttlebutt

Chaplain – Lonny Fry

James Fussell had a fall and is in the hospital. He will need full time facility care once released.

Please keep the Chaplain updated with any information that you may receive on our sick/shut in members to be passed on to the Detachment .

**Senior Vice Commandant – Joe Shusko - Committee Reports**

Honor Guard – Bruce Russell- Bill Odom standing in

Bill Odom briefed the Detachment on House Bill 108 in the Va General Assembly concerning state funding through grants for verified Honor Guards in the state of Virginia. It has passed the house and senate unanimously and is awaiting the signature of the Governor.

Working on a Rotary grant for funding thanks to Joe Kellher and hie Richmond Rotary

Next event is John Tyler’s Birthday which is being celebrated at Hollywood Cemetery on March 29th

Always looking for volunteers

Range Days - Lou Seigel-Bill Odom reported

Green Top is second Wednesday of the month. April 8

Cavalier will return April 6 for outdoor shooting

Houston-Holicky-Sitter – Tom Hastings

Always looking for suggestions/connections for upcoming speakers. Please see Joe with information

USO Program –Tom Hastings

We need more volunteers at the Airport USO Center to work 2–3-hour shifts. Free parking for volunteers. Please see Tom Hastings for more information

Quartermaster store- Dave Charbonneau (excused)

See Dave for nametags and shirts/swag. We have a link on our website to TSI to order any apparel.

Hats are in and available through the quartermaster. Working on the hard front version.

Ball committee- Mary Anne Wilson(excused)

MCJROTC

Trying to get instructors in and give brief on their programs as well as present our \$500 support check.

Liaison need to get certificate names to Bruce Steeley soon for award nights

Heilman Scholarship forms are going out soon and will be presented in the Spring

Fundraising-

Joe Kelleher brought up a member who wanted to auction a pistol with proceeds going to the Detachment

A few members expressed interest in volunteering for fundraising. Nick Wennberg, Rich Klein, and Rick Barden.

We need to raise funds if we intend to continue our support to the programs we contribute to.

#### Unfinished Business

None

#### New Business

Elections are in April. Current nominations are: Tom Hastings-Commandant, Joe Kelleher-Sr Vice, Joe Shusko-Jr Vice, Phil Hebner-Adjutant, Bob Gilliam-Judge Advocate, Dave Reichert-Paymaster

The Detachment has approved supporting the Louisa HS MCJROTC this year and Joe Shusko has volunteered to be their liaison.

#### Good of the League/Announcements

Dept of Virginia Commandant Sheri Moore updated everyone on the Mid-Winter Conference help at the end of February on Crystal City.

- National service officer program is being established.
- Uniform store will now be available in the exchange in an area specifically for MCL
- MCL National will be moving into the old uniform store in Q-Town on the Quantico base
- Mid-Winter will be in Va Beach the next three years
- Spring Department Conference in Fredericksburg May 29-30
- Zeffy is a good resource for online fundraising

Stay attentive in public when wearing Marine Corps related gear with the current situation in Iran.

When sending Detachment related emails please copy [commandant329@gmail.com](mailto:commandant329@gmail.com) so that records can be kept for future commandants.

#### Closing Ceremony

By order of the Commandant, the Colors were retired, the Marines Hymn was sung, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, 25 April 2026, at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phil Hebner, Adjutant

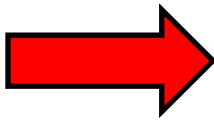
### **Detachment Elections**

The Slay Detachment will hold elections at the April meeting for new officers. All positions are open for candidates. Now is an opportunity for you to step up and assume a leadership position and guide the Detachment into the next year. Please, seriously consider running for office.

### **Purchase Your USMC 250th Anniversary Cap while supplies last**

We will have at the meeting the remainder of the Marine Corps' 250th Anniversary caps. Colors are red and blue. See photo later in this newsletter. Cost is \$27 to the paymaster.

There is a new Mailing Address for the James M. Slay Detachment 329



Marine Corps League  
James M. Slay Detachment 329  
3706 Sherbrook Road  
Richmond, VA 23235

### **Membership Dues and Renewal Dues Are now \$40**

### **Wes Pruitt Leatherneck Club**

Remember it is a new year, let's not forget to make your donation to the Leatherneck Club. Your \$100 annual membership fee supports the activities and efforts of the James M. Slay Detachment. Details are on the last page of this newsletter.

## Calendar of Up-Coming Events 2026

April 25	Detachment Meeting and Officer Elections
May 2-3	Showmasters Gun Show at Richmond Raceway
May 4	Detachment Shooting at Cavalier Range
May 7	Hermitage MCJROTC Awards Night, 1800-2000, Hermitage Ace Center
May 12	HHSVF: Guest Speaker LtCol Mike Schoelwer, USMC (Ret)
May 13	Detachment Shooting at Green Top
May 23	Detachment Meeting
May 29-30	Department of Virginia Spring Convention: Host Jack Maas 1379, Fredericksburg
June 1	Detachment Shooting at Cavalier Range
June 9	Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans Forum
June 10	Detachment Shooting at Green Top
June 27	Detachment Meeting
July 6	Detachment Shooting at Cavalier Range
July 8	Detachment Shooting at Green Top
July 11-12	Showmasters Gun Show at Richmond Raceway
July 14	Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans Forum
August 10-14	National Convention in Indianapolis, IN

The Jr. Vice Commandant wishes to remind all members to help recruit and retain new members. He also reminds you to attend all meetings as your condition allows. Remember to take part in leadership opportunities, and above all else, be involved in service to our communities.

## Slay Detachment Elections

Slay Marines,

As chairman of the nominating committee, I am writing to our members to remind them of the upcoming elections for officers. We must fill the following leadership positions for the coming year. As of today, 21 April, 2026 we have nominees for all elected offices and several vacancies for appointed positions. See chart below.

If you are interested in serving in any of the below leadership positions, or any other leadership position, please contact me at [rjv0402@gmail.com](mailto:rjv0402@gmail.com) as soon as possible. If you are nominating someone other than yourself, you must obtain their permission and verify they are a member in good standing (dues paid) and are willing to serve if elected or appointed.

If you have any questions about the duties of these positions, please contact me and I will send you the information.

Please give this request serious consideration. Marines lead from the front and we need to nominate some good leaders like yourself to lead our detachment.

Semper Fidelis, Rich Van Damme

As of this printing we have the following positions and interested candidates:

<b>Elected Office</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Commandant	Tom Hastings	
Sr Vice Commandant	Joe Kelleher	
Jr Vice Commandant	Joe Shusko	
Adjutant	Phil Hebner	Served 2 years
Judge Advocate	Bob Gilliam	Served 2 years
Paymaster	Dave Reichert	
<b>Appointed Officers</b>	<b>Presently Holding Office</b>	
Chaplain	Lonny Fry	
Sergeant-At-Arms	Tom House	
Quartermaster	Dave Charbonneau	
Public Relations	Randy Abernathy	
Legislative	Tim Taylor	Second of 3-yr term
Honor Guard Commander	Bruce Russell	
Web Sergeant	Bob Gilliam (temporary fill)	
Scuttlebutt Editor	Rich Van Damme	
VA Hospital Liaison	Tom Hastings	
Ft Gregg-Adams Marine Liaison		
Historian	Rich Van Damme	
Toys-for-Tots Coordinator	Phil Hebner	
Heilman Scholarship	Fred Marotta	
MCJROTC	Phil Hebner (Goochland) Joe Shusko (Tucker) Fred Marotta (Hermitage) Tom Hastings & Odis Bledsoe	Goochland HS Tucker HS Hermitage HS Highland Springs HS

# Detachment Marine of the Year 2025

A board of past Detachment Marines of the Year (MOY) and Associate of the Year (AOY) have selected Phil Hebner as the Marine of the Year for 2025.

Phil was also nominated by a vote of the members to represent the Slay Detachment at the Marine of the Year Board for the Department of Virginia in May.



No Associate of the Year was awarded due to not meeting minimum requirements.

## New Member Application Form

National has issued another new member application form. They will not accept any of the old forms that may still be floating around. I've asked Dan to update the website. I know several members keep hard copies with them. all previous forms are invalid will not be accepted. It's down to one page now so they did improve it. Copy of thr form is on the next page.

# Marine Corps League Application for Membership



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application-- New    Renewal    Membership Type--- Regular    Associate    Dual

Have you ever been convicted of a Felony? YES    NO    If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

I hereby apply for membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for one year's membership.

I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, "ON ACTIVE DUTY," for not less than ninety(90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; \*or have served or am currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points; or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy FMF Sailor who has earned the FMF Device or FMF Ribbon. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I further authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an unredacted copy of my latest DD form 214 from the Marine Corps Custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) or the National Archives, and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

### OATH OF MEMBERSHIP-REGULAR/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will \_\_\_\_\_ upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League. Help me God.

**SIGN HERE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor (Where Applicable)

**SIGN HERE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

Please locate a Detachment using the locator on The Marine Corps League National website. Upon completion submit this form and attach a copy of your last DD-214 (Service 2 or Marine 4)\*, as well as any applicable fees as defined by the Detachment. If you desire to join as a Member At Large, please go to The Marine Corps League National website and apply using the online form.

\*Regular Member applicants only



**SHOOTING RANGE SCHEDULES  
FOR 2026**

Green Top Shooting Range (GTSR). 2nd Wednesday of each month.  
Reporting time is 1700 so you can get checked in and be ready for our bay assignment. Range time ends at 1830. Range Fee is \$12.50.

Range Dates

<del>January 14</del>	May 13	September 9
<del>February 2</del>	June 10	October 14
<del>March 11</del>	July 8	November 11
<del>April 8</del>	August 12	December 9

Cavalier Rifle & Pistol Range. Dates are the FIRST Monday of the month starting with April 7th. For those who wish to partake, we will meet at the Goochland Restaurant for breakfast at 0800. Place your order when you arrive so you will receive your food in a timely manner. If you do not wish to join us for breakfast then meet us at the gate to the range.

Range Dates

<del>April 6th</del>	May 4th	June 1st	July 6th	August 3rd
September 7th	October 5th (Rifle Shoot)	October 12th (Pistol Shoot)		

Remember to obey the Speed Limit on Boon Dock Lane of 10 mph. Please refresh yourself on the range rules and regulations.

Any questions contact Lou:  
Home: 804-492-9202  
Text: 804-391-5909  
Email; MRNGNY@gmail.com

Looking forward to a safe year of shooting.



## HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER VETERANS FORUM

*MC: Col. Bill Parrish, USMC Ret.*

HHS Veterans' Forum meets next on Tuesday **May 12, 2026**.

Location will be the Publix, 2250 John Rolfe Pky, Henrico, VA 23233. We will be in the Community Meeting Room on the 2nd floor.

Speaker will be soon by email direct from the HHSVF.

Doors open at 1115, the program begins at 1150 and will conclude by 1300. Lunch may be purchased from the Publix Deli on the 1st floor.

The Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans' Forum is an informal forum for veterans of all branches of the armed forces. Col. Joseph J. Holicky, Jr. (USMC, ret.) and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Col. Carl L. Sitter (USMC, ret.) began having lunch together in the mid 1970's following their retirements. Over the years other veterans and local active duty Marines joined them for lunch. In the early 1980's Lt. Col. L.W. "Chip" Houston (USMCR, ret.) became part of the leadership team and served as its Master of Ceremonies for over 25 years. Today nearly 100 veterans meet each month to carry on the HHS tradition and to hear prominent guest speakers address military history, national security issues, and other topics of interest to veterans.

HHS is apolitical, and promotion of political interests is prohibited. HHS is a not-for-profit group, but it is neither a 501c3 nor a 501c4 organization.

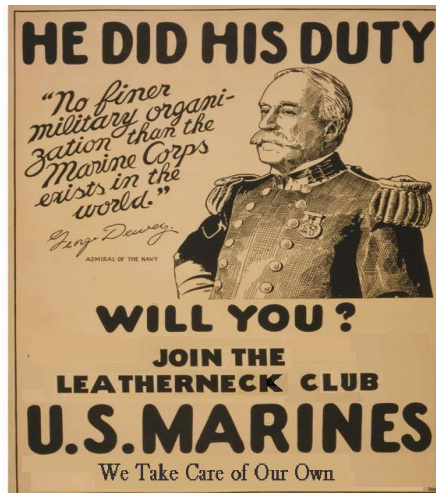
## Marine Corps Reading

Do you enjoy reading about Marine Corps history? How about military history in general? If you do then I have a web site for you. It's the Marine Corps History Division. Posted are many publications which are in PDF format for you to open and download. Here is the address (I hope the link works). <https://www.usmcm.edu/Research/History-Division/>

Open the link, then click on Publications, then click on Books by topic, and then choose a topic. Then just pick a book and click on the image. Enjoy

## 2026 WES PRUITT LEATHERNECK CLUB

**Bill Jeffress  
Spike Williamson  
Lou Seigel  
Thomas Milhousen  
Jamie Pleasants  
Joe Wadle  
Lonny Fry  
Bob Gilliam  
Joe Kelleher  
Tim Taylor  
Phil Hebner**



**Timothy Godbey  
Rich Van Damme  
Tom Hastings  
Bruce Steeley  
Clint Harrington  
Richard Zimmer  
Hank Ragland  
Greg Lee  
Thomas Mraz  
Rolfe White**

2026



Begin or renew your Leatherneck Club Membership for 2026. Your \$100 annual membership fee supports the activities and efforts of the James M. Slay Detachment, a not-for-profit 501c4 Veteran's Service Organization. Contact Detachment Paymaster Richard Klein at: [Paymaster329@gmail.com](mailto:Paymaster329@gmail.com)