



February 9, 2026, Vol. 14 No. 2

www.mcl260.info

THE GRINDER

Mike Clark, Commandant

Alan Atwell, Editor

A publication of Marine Corps League Detachment 260

Greensboro, North Carolina

Officer Corps 2025-26

Mike Clark, Commandant

336-259-5239 oldmarinedav@yahoo.com

Jim Hayes, Senior Vice Commandant

202-285-4141 bagsetc@aol.com

Brian Sowers, Junior Vice Commandant

336-207-0601 golfman.sowers@gmail.com

Charles Jones, Judge Advocate

336-617-6853 cajonesdt@triad.rr.com

Robert Hare, Adjutant

678-656-2764, deputy6416@gmail.com

Keith Ingle, Sgt. At Arms

336-337-9263 keithingold1@gmail.com

Scott Matthews, Past Commandant

336-210-4090, deputy6416@gmail.com

George Orfanedes, Paymaster

603-305-0221 gorfanedes@gmail.com

Steve Nash, Photographer

702-883-5461, greenseal@earthlink.net

Al Ruggiero, Chaplain

336-202-3928 al@simplyrents.com

Alan Atwell, Editor

336-706-7675, agatarheel@yahoo.com

WINTER WEATHER

What ever Happened to Global Climate warming? We got left out. Twenty to Thirty degrees below normal! Schools canceled, meetings canceled, churches closed. We should be looking forward to spring next month.

The Detachment has helped many veterans get off the streets and into apartments. Because of your service projects and fund raising capabilities, you have helped The Servant Center and Partners Ending Homelessness provide apartments for them and furnish them with basic necessities. Many veterans are warm now due to your hard work. Well done.

Give yourself a hand for all the people you have assisted.

Fortunately, next weeks weather is much improved. Our regular second Monday of the month meeting is still on at Golden Corral at 5.30. Your attendance IS NEEDED AND REQUESTED BY THE STAFF OFFICERS.

CONTENTS

1. Winter Weather
2. Commandant's Letter
3. Chaplain's Corner
4. Event's Calendar
5. January Minutes
6. Photo Documents of Meeting
7. Community Services Report

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we report the death of Barbara Hayes, beloved wife of past Commandant, Jim Hayes. She passed on February 4. We will let everyone know when and where her funeral service will be held when receive said information. Please keep Jim and his family in your prayers.

Commandant's Letter

Mike Clark



Marines, Associates, and Friends of the Fighting 260,

It is with great sadness that we received the news that Jim Hayes' wife Barbara (BA) passed away on 4 February. I ask that you keep Jim and his family in your prayers in his time of need. BA was present at many meetings and functions over the years. Her loss will be felt by many who knew her. May God bring comfort to Jim with her passing.

I hope that the winter weather has not been too unkind to you. It has caused a delay in our debut of Bingo this month. We will have our new grand opening date on 7 FEB and will have news of those results at our meeting.

A robo-call and email were put out requesting that you reach out if you needed any assistance during the past couple of weeks. That offer is ongoing. Please know that we are here for each other, but you must make us aware of any needs. I know that as Marines we like to do things for ourselves but sometimes we all need assistance in some form or fashion.

As we move forward into the year, Susan Carrera and all are working toward our Reverse Raffle on 17 APRIL. I hope you are looking forward to it and are selling tickets and/or asking for baskets and gift cards. We all must work together to ensure that it is a success. There will be an update on the status at our monthly meeting.

Semper Fidelis,

Mike

Chaplain's Corner

Al Ruggiero



Fellow Marines,

Now that we are into winter with cold days and short nights, we often slip into an uncontrolled depression or a low level of energy caused by a lack of sunlight.

Up to now we had Thanksgiving and Christmas to look forward to, happy times filled with joy of giving, times with family and children. We are busy, hopeful and most of us are looking forward to the birth of Christ. But after New Years Day, the beautiful lights and decorations come down and then, so here we are. The good news is we aren't stuck here. **This can be a great time to take positive action.** You can join a gym and get ready for Spring. Plan a trip to somewhere warmer, or simply build a few things into the week that will lift your spirit.

My prayer is that we all take care of each other thru the cold and empty days; plan lunch with a friend or a dinner with a group. Perhaps a phone call or a visit to a lonely veteran. It is very difficult to be depressed while you are helping someone.

Also, February is the month of roses and chocolate for our wives, a time to share our love and appreciation for the one true person who completes us and brightens our days! With this thought, may I suggest you read a beautiful love story from the Old Testament, the Book of Ruth. It is only two and a half pages, this wonderful story reflects the Love of Christ for us through a gentle caring woman who had lost everything, but is redeemed by a wealthy kinsman. I am sure you will receive a blessing as well.

If you feel yourself slipping into the winter blues, consider reaching out to someone in need or getting together with some friends or simply send some roses.

SF/CM,

Al Ruggiero, Chaplain

336-202-3928

Chaplain's Prayer List

K Ben

Lt. Col Rusty Bell (shoulder replacement surgery)

Sadie Bell

Judy Brennen

Jim Hayes

The United States of America and our leaders.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>X</i>
8	9 <i>X</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 <i>X</i>	25	26	27	28

Events Calendar

7th Bingo Night @ Pinecroft Neighborhood Resort, 3723 Pinetop Rd. just off of Westridge Rd. @ 6:30 pm

9th Regular Meeting of the Detachment @ Golden Corral Restaurant, 4400 Landview Drive, off of West Wendover

Starting Time: 5:30 pm, Dinner Time: 6:00 pm, Business Meeting: 7:00 pm

24th Marine Nigh Out @ Rody's Tavern, Battleground Avenue North @ Horse Pen Creek Road in the Harris Teeter Shopping Center Starting Time: 5:30 pm. Bring a Marine, your wife, a friend.

Continental Marines



Minutes of the January Meeting

Meeting began at 1850 hour.

Thirty-one members/guests in attendance.

The Sergeant-at-Arms posted the colors, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Chaplain opened the meeting with a prayer.

Department Commandant Robert Hare duly swore in new member Marine Herbert Stevens and new Associate member Susan Carrera.

Chaplain Al Ruggiero asked for our prayers for members and their families members who have health issues.

Paymaster George Orfanedes gave the financial report and it was voted on and approved.

Associate member Susan Carrera spoke regarding the new 2026 Reverse Raffle that will be held on Friday, April 17, 2026. It will be at the Elk's Club on Cornwallis Drive near Battleground Avenue. The event will start at 5:00. The cost for the evening is \$60 and includes dinner. A limit of 200 tickets will be sold. The grand prize is \$3000.

Al Ruggiero talked about the Detachment Bingo Night fundraiser and the logistics behind it. The first event was to be held on February 7, at Pinecroft Neighborhood Resort. 3723 Pinetop Rd. Time: 6:30 pm

Community Services Coordinator, George Orfanedes, presented the 2025 Community Services Report of their activities.

Jim Birdwell gave a report about the 2025/26 budget. He said that we are on track and looking good.

Scott Matthews spoke about the Medal of Honor CDs to give away.

Robert Hare detailed the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor and the Governor's Volunteer Service Award.

Rob O'Hanlon presented the Honor Guard Service Ribbon to Jim Burgio (10 missions), Al Ruggiero (10 missions) and Charles Jones (20 missions) for their work on the Honor Guard by representing the Detachment in honoring our fallen Marines.

We sang the Marine Corps Hymn before closing.

Meeting adjourned at 2000.

Submitted by Robert Hare, Detachment Adjutant



Photos by Steve Nash



COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT – FEB 1, 2026

With all of the income and expenses for our 2025 Golf Tournament finally tallied, the planned distributions for Calendar Year 2026 have been approved by the Golf Committee, and will be presented to our members for approval at the February meeting.

PLANNED CSS Donations - Cal Yr 2026		
Recipient	2025 ACTUAL Amounts	PLANNED 2026 Distributions
Camp Corral for Vets Children	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000
Horse Power Therapeutic Riding	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Marines/Vets in Need	\$ 8,182	\$ 6,500
Guilford County Veterans Memorial Donation	\$ 2,500	\$ -
Western NC Hurricane Relief Donation	\$ 6,381	\$ -
High School JROTC	\$ 1,650	\$ 2,000
Garret Torney Foundation/Savings Grace K9s	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Eagle Scout Scholarships	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Triad Honor Flight	\$ 10,500	\$ 8,000
The Servant Center Donation	\$ 26,500	\$ 25,000
TSC Welcome Home Baskets-TSC (12 Baskets)	\$ 7,193	\$ 7,500
Reserve for Other Charities		\$ 5,000
TOTALS	\$ 83,906	\$ 77,000

Note that the totals for each year reflect the profit earned from that year's Golf Tournament.

The Detachment will distribute the planned donations throughout 2026, usually during our monthly membership meeting. Our first such event will be on March 9th with the presentation of the check for Camp Corral.

MCL-260's Total Donations 2017 – 2025

Cash: \$ 521,493

Goods: \$ 592,995

TOTAL: \$1,114,488

Images from January Meeting

Steve Nash, Official Photographer

