THE GRINDER

Mike Clark, Commandant **Tina Hare, Editor**

April 13, 2026, Vol. 14 No. 4

www.mcl260.info

A publication of Marine Corps League Detachment 260

Greensboro, North Carolina

Officer Corps 2025-26

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CONTENTS

1. Latest News
2. Commandant's Letter
3. Chaplain's Corner
4. Calendar of Events
5. FOCUS Marine
6. News (continued)
7. Community Service Squad Report
8. Minutes of the February Meeting

*Photos courtesy of Steve Nash

Reverse Raffle Night

The ***Reverse Raffle*** is right around the corner!! Join us this Friday, April 17th at the Elk's Club on Cornwallis Drive beginning at 5:30pm. Dinner will be served before the raffle. The cost is $60 a person. This is an event you don't want to miss.

*Don't forget the Grand Prize is **$3000**!*

The Servant Center
1417 Glenwood Ave
Greensboro, NC 27403
www.TheServantCenter.org

March 24, 2026

Michael R. Clark
Commandant
GG Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 10227
Greensboro, NC 27404

Dear Michael,

On behalf of all of us at The Servant Center, I wanted to thank you for the extremely generous Community Services Grant of $25,000 from the Greater Greensboro Marine Corps League. We are so grateful for the wonderful support your organization has given us over the years, and we appreciate being recognized for the work we do for veterans in our community. I know that it resonates a lot with you and all your veteran members as well.

Our programs are working. At The Servant House where we house 21 veterans, mostly disabled, we had 100% leave with stable income and 95% exited with permanent housing. We are proud of these successes, and your continued support helps us meet those high standards. We couldn't do it without your support.

I, and the entire team at The Servant Center, look forward to continuing to partner with you in order that we might serve those in need the most.

Sincerely,

Shanna T. Reece
Executive Director
The Servant Center

Thank you!

Commandant's Letter

Mike Clark



Greetings Marines, Navy FMF Personnel and Associate Members,

I am saddened to announce that Kevin Lucas's father passed away in March. Please keep Kevin and his family in your prayers. Harold Turner is still dealing with the declining health of his wife as well. If you are aware of any other loss, illness or injuries please let us know. Always know we stand ready to assist if needed or requested.

On to brighter news Bingo is proving to be quite a fun fundraiser. With a few of them behind us we have seen an increase in numbers on both accounts. On the last Bingo night, Jim Hayes won the first game. Exemplifying Leadership by Example, he donated his winnings back to the Detachment which became a trend throughout the night. Winners did keep additional prizes but most, if not all, refused payment. We have more Bingo nights scheduled. Currently - on April 11th (Both Robert and I will be at the DONC Conference, but Tina Hare will be available) and again April 24th. For May the dates are the 2nd and 23rd. If you have not joined us yet, please consider. Tina Hare along with George and Sue Orfanedes have done impressive jobs at taking money in and paying it out, Keith Ingold has been excellent at verifying Bingo winners. Al Ruggiero is having too much fun with calling the numbers.

April meeting will bring time for nominations for Officers for 2026-2027. I would like to announce my intent to seek reelection as Commandant. However, all nominations must come from the floor. This also includes those positions of Senior and Junior Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate. Appointed positions are at the discretion of the Commandant. If you are interested in a leadership position, please let us know. Elections will be in May followed by the Installation of Officers in June.

As always thank you for your continued support of the Detachment and the League as a whole. We have shown that we can do great things. Let us strive to keep improving on what we can do for the future.

Semper Fidelis,

Mike



Chaplain's Corner

Al Ruggiero



Fellow Marines,

Happy Easter. My prayer is that all were able to rejoice in the most wonderful gift from Our Lord, a gift so great that only God Himself can give it.

In this newsletter, I would like to remind everyone that we have so much to be grateful for, and so much to pray for. I thank God every day for our great and wonderful country. A place where we can worship in peace without fear. This privilege did not come without a price. Many of our brothers and forefathers paid with their lives and fortunes and had the foresight to do so. They fought against evil men and tyranny, not for monetary gain or power, but for freedom for all men. And with my whole heart and soul I thank them and praise our Lord who gave them the strength, courage and the will to further the cause of peace and liberty.

Today our brave warriors are standing tall against new and dangerous foes. The risks they face are high powered modern weapons, technology and even nuclear warheads. But they all realize that this is not about oil or prosperity, but rather security for our children and grandchildren. May God bless them all, keep them safe and lead them to a swift and enduring victory.

I would also like to say "Thank you!" to Alan Atwell for his deep commitment and dedication of hard work for our newsletter. This is a very difficult job that requires exceptional talent and only the most motivated among us can successfully perform this duty. Hats off to Alan for all his hard work and dedication, and for putting up with me! And also, welcome aboard, Tina Hare. Good luck ma'am! You will be GREAT at this, and if you ever have any problems or questions, just call Alan.

Semper Fi Bingo seems to be going well. I get a lot of positive feedback from the Pinetop members. My goal with them is to bring in more of their membership. I am so proud of every MCL-260 member that shows up in support, to play, and especially those who come to work it! If you have not attended one of our Bingo Saturdays, I encourage you to come and enjoy the event. However I hope it does not become a chore, or an obligation. I am working with the management of Pinetop to secure dates well ahead of time to better prepare scheduling for a positive outcome. Please let me know if you have any comments, good and bad, (for the good of the league).

Again, Happy Easter to every Marine and Family of the Fighting 260, and may God bless your efforts in service to Veterans and community. And may God bless America.

<u>Chaplain`s Prayer List:</u>

Kevin Lucas and family

Sadie and Rusty Bell

Nancy Guthrie and Family

Judy Brenner

Tony Ruggiero

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 	**6**	7	8	9	10	11 X
12	13 X	14	15 X	16	17 X	18
19	20	21 X	22	23	24	25 X
26	27	28 X	29	30		

April 11th - *Semper* ***BINGO,*** Pinetop Neighborhood Resort ~6:00PM

April 13th - Regular, monthly Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral beginning at 5:30.

April 15th - Triad Honor Flight, Greensboro Airport, come and send off this trip's veteran's and/or welcome them home!

April 17th - Reverse Raffle beginning with dinner at 6:30. Doors open at 5:00. It will be at the Greensboro Elk's Club on Cornwallis Drive near the intersection with Battleground Avenue.

April 21st - Veteran's Bridge Home (VBH) Tactical Tea Tuesday (Triad)

April 25th - *Semper* ***BINGO,*** Pinetop Neighborhood Resort ~6:00PM

April 28th - Marine Night Out at Rody's Tavern. Lots of fun and great food. Come on out and bring a guest.

Department EVENTS:

https://www.ncmcl.org/events

FOCUS MARINES FOUNDATION

HONOR * COURAGE * COMMITMENT

Robert Hare – Detachment Adjutant & Past Commandant

From March 21 – 28, 2026, I had the pleasure of attending the 26-03 session of FOCUS. Located about 30 minutes outside of St. Louis, Missouri, this program is absolutely life-changing. Words cannot describe the impact this had on me. All I can say is afterwards, I feel more alive and freer after taking off the "backpack" I have carried for over 40 years. Below is just a snippet of the program:

The FOCUS program serves wounded warriors in various stages of transition and recovery. Participants suffer visible and invisible injuries and, now faced with these challenges, are working to find a new reality.

FOCUS Marines Foundation conducts four multi-faceted, seven-day workshops each year in rural Augusta, Missouri. The course includes a host of motivational speakers who encourage participants to rise above challenges, reject victimization, and adopt positive habits. Participants realize they are not alone in their challenges while building a vast support network. Participants, who attend from throughout the U.S. at no expense to themselves, are encouraged to leave their comfort zone and set/realize the goals to which they aspire. They are also coached in practical life skills such as networking and other important abilities. Participants find renewed hope and direction, develop positive characteristics, experience enhanced self-worth, and commit to continuing self-improvement.

Warriors know what goals they need to set for themselves. FOCUS gives them a jumping-off point. The pride and sense of accomplishment these warriors feel when they take steps to improve their lives is FMF's definition of success. FOCUS provides graduates with continued support and encouragement as they strive to meet their full potential. More importantly, they find strength and security in each other. The bonds made during FOCUS are life-long and overwhelmingly positive.

Go to https://focusmarines.org/ to see more about who they are and what they do.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND OUR NEXT BINGO!



DATE: April 11, 2026 ~6:00PM

PLACE: PINETOP NEIGHBORHOOD RESORT
LOCATED AT 3723 PINETOP ROAD, GREENSBORO

BINGO BOOKS ($20 FOR 10 GAMES) GO ON SALE AT 6 PM







The Tree of Valor – Burlington 250th Celebration

Back in February, on the 21st, The Tree of Valor, Burlington celebrated the 250th anniversary of the USA. Our own Steve Nash represented the eldest veteran to help do the honors of cutting the cake, (and of course get the first piece!)





Horsepower theraputic held it's annual gala for 2026 on March 28th for an unforgettable Gala and Silent Auction, where purpose met celebration. Guests enjoyed a lively evening featuring a delicious meal catered by Painted Plate, drinks, entertainment, and exciting bidding opportunities. As their largest fundraiser of the year, this special night brings our community together to support our life-changing equine-assisted programs. Your participation helps ensure that individuals with disabilities, veterans, and at-risk youth continue to benefit from the power of the horse.

COMMUNITY SERVICES SQUAD REPORT – APRIL

Although the Community Services Squad (CSS) has not met recently, the efforts to distribute funds from MCL-260's 2025 Golf Tournament continues.



Our latest donation was to The Servant Center. At our March meeting, Commandant Mike Clark presented a check for $25,000 to Shanna Reece, TSC's Executive Director. That check increased MCL-260's total cash grants to the Servant Center to over $182,000 since 2017. We have also contributed over $350,000 goods (primarily mattresses and Welcome Home Baskets) over this same period.



On March 17th, the CSS participated in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at The Servant Center's new facility , located at 1915 Boulevard Street in Greensboro. This new location features a 37,000-square-foot facility to support Veterans facing homelessness. This new site provides 43 individual bedrooms, private bathrooms, and dedicated space for both male and female Veterans, including a medical respite program.



Brian Sowers, Jim Burgio, and Rich Carrera all serve on TSC's Board of Directors, and were very involved in the yearlong effort to obtain the building, oversee the renovations, and help secure the necessary funding. During her opening remarks, Shanna thanked our Detachment for the dedication and personal efforts of these three MCL-260 members, and for the financial and material support that the Detachment has provided over the years. In addition to Brian, Jim, and Rich, several other Detachment members attended, including Jim Hayes, Susan Carrera, Sue and George Orfanedes, Rob O'Hanlon, K-Ben and Steve Nash, Mike Clark, and Al Ruggerio.



FUTURE CSS PLANS: At the next Membership Meeting scheduled for April 9th, a check for $3,000 will be presented to Camp Corral, which is sponsored by Golden Corral Restaurants. The mission of Camp Corral is to transform the lives of children of wounded, ill, and fallen military heroes by providing camp, advocacy, and enrichment programs. This will be MCL-260's third year of supporting this important venue for children of our Veterans.

GREATER GREENSBORO DETACHMENT 260

MARCH 2026 MEETING

Meeting began at 1845

32 members and guests in attendance

The Fighting 260 proudly presented a check to The Servant Center for $25,000.

The Commandant welcomed the Department Commandant to the meeting.

Associate member Bob Vallier spoke about the Tiny Homes project. There is a total of 6 homes dedicated to homeless veterans, and currently, there are 3 homes left for sponsorship. Sponsorship is $20,000.

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Grinder. There is a correction with the date of the 2026 Reverse Raffle.

Brian Sowers, Jr. Vice-Commandant, spoke about the 2026 Golf Tournament. The Servant Center has a grand opening on March 17, 2026, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

The Judge Advocate has created a committee to go over the bylaws.

Chaplain report: Keep the following members in your prayers – Al Ruggerio, Spike, Judy Brenner, Harold Turner, and everyone else that we have missed. Sue Orfanedes gave a report regarding Judy Brenner.

George Orfanedes gave the financial report. Motion was made to approve the report as given. Motion passed.

Susan Carrera gave the 2026 Reverse Raffle report. We are currently on a slow start with ticket sales. There is still a need for sponsors and gift cards for the event.

Robert Hare gave the Bingo report. Also, spoke about the Midwinter Conference and announced that he donated $500 for a brick that will be installed in the alleyway behind the Tun.

Tina Hare spoke about the possibility of a Detachment Field Trip at the North Carolina Zoo.

Mike Clark spoke about the Carolina Museum of the Marine opening on June 8, 2026.

Allan Atwell announced that he has officially stepped down as the editor of the Grinder. George Orfanedes thanked Allan for his service as the editor. Tina Hare will take over as editor.

Clyde Dungee led the Detachment in the singing of the Marine's Hymn.



Meeting adjourned at 1925

