



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**



MINUTES – ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – MAY 14, 2016

OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Ron Kirstatter at 0900. The colors were presented by the East Coweta JROTC. The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League was read.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DETACHMENTS:

Department officers in attendance included:

Commandant Ron Kirstatter
Sr. Vice Commandant Randy Barnes
Jr. Vice Commandant Bill Miller
Judge Advocate Barbara Brammer
Jr. Past Commandant Joe Barbee
Chaplain Guy Mitchell
Adjutant/Paymaster LuAnn Miller
Sergeant-at-Arms Larry Heard
Sergeant-at-Arms Lamar Scott

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:

District 2 - Frank Corrick
District 4 - Craig "Doc" McNabb
District 5 - Jim Daughtry
District 6 - Randy Barnes
District 7 - Joe Barbee
District 8 - Tim McClelland
District 10 - Al Yates

Detachments in attendance included:

Detachment 647 - L/Cpl Squire "Skip" Wells
Detachment 665 - Upper Chattahoochee
Detachment 970 - Middle Georgia
Detachment 1020 - "Jake" Puryear
Detachment 1040 - PFC George Eiland
Detachment 1083 - Joseph Schmittou
Detachment 1196 - Maj. Stephen W. Pless
Detachment 1260 - Maj. Lawrence Des Jardines
Detachment 1303 - Currahee Mountain
Detachment 1311 - Maj.Gen. Warren R. Johnson
Detachment 1312 - Aubrey Gilbert
Detachment 1325 - Sgt. Clyde Thomason MOH
Detachment 1339 - Henry County Leathernecks
Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia
Detachment 1402 - Columbus
Detachment 1424 - Byron

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

National Judge Advocate Johnny Baker – National Judge Advocate Baker provided a report on the 2015 National Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona; updated the membership on what has been happening at National Headquarters with regard to new staff and litigation with the Blums; discussed current National Judge Advocate activities; spoke about recruitment and retention; discussed a transition program from the Corps to civilian life; and spoke about the new program for active duty marines.

National Vice Commandant Southeast Division Jimmy Hackbarth – National Vice Commandant Hackbarth spoke about the importance of communication between the Department Commandants; encouraged use of the Professional Development Program; introduced the new National Comptroller, Bill Miller, and noted that the Assistant National Comptroller is Allen Ferguson; and spoke about upcoming conventions.

Past National Vice Commandant Southeast Division Michael Clark – Past National Vice Commandant Clark spoke about the importance of the active duty membership program.

Also introduced were Department of Alabama Commandant Jerry Cherney, Department of Mississippi Commandant Ron Polk, and Past Department of Alabama Commandant Jack Hopping.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Kirstatter noted that the minutes from the February 27, 2016, business meeting are available and have been posted on the website. No changes were requested and the minutes stand as posted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster’s report was read and accepted pending financial review. Commandant Kirstatter noted that Joe Barbee, Al Yates, and Mickey Edwards served as the Financial Review Committee. The review of Paymaster records for the preceding year was conducted on May 13, 2016, and no irregularities or issues were found.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Bill Stevens’ wife, Angie, broke her wrist; Chuck Feaselman is having difficulties with a leg implant and needs to have some bone removed; Tom Hisel is undergoing chemotherapy; Tom Hisel’s wife has been hospitalized; and Dalton Hammock is not doing well.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

Commandant: Commandant Kirstatter expressed his thanks to the membership for a very successful two years. He noted there have been no Chapter 9s during his tenure and recognized the membership for making that possible.

Senior Vice Commandant: Senior Vice Commandant Barnes reported that we had a good past two years. He noted that we’ve grown a bit and will continue in the same direction as best we can. He reinforced the fact that the Department and its officers are available to assist the Detachments in any way

they can. Senior Vice Commandant Barnes also announced that he is running for the office of Department Commandant and said he would appreciate the support of the membership.

Junior Vice Commandant: Junior Vice Commandant Miller thanked the membership for their efforts in recruitment and retention over the last year. He reported that, in March 2015, we had 1,346 paid members with 290 delinquent members. By the end of March 2016, we had 1,368 members with 216 delinquent members. Junior Vice Commandant Miller noted that one Detachment reduced their delinquencies from 20 to 2 within the last year, and a charter application is currently being signed and submitted for a new detachment with 22 members, the Lake Blue Ridge Detachment. He also noted that he will not be seeking election for a department officer position for the upcoming year.

Judge Advocate: Judge Advocate Brammer reported that there have been no Chapter 9s, and she thanked the membership for working with her to resolve issues before official charges needed to be filed. She advised that she read and approved three sets of Bylaws and received letters from several Detachments confirming that they are using the National and Department Bylaws. All Detachments using National and Department Bylaws in place of Detachment Bylaws should notify the Judge Advocate by letter. Judge Advocate Brammer thanked the membership for the honor of serving them over the last year.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Credentials Committee: Commandant Kirstatter noted that the Credentials Committee will review the credential reports provided by the Paymaster and will make their report to the membership.

Boy Scout Report: Mike Foran is his Detachment's Boy Scout Coordinator as well as the Boy Scout Coordinator for the Department and the Southeast Division. He thanked those Detachments that have been providing Scout Reports and urged those that have not to get involved. He noted that the Boy Scout program includes a Certificate from the Commandant and a Good Citizen Award, and the Girl Scout program includes a Gold Award Certificate. Also, there are Venturing Scouting Awards, Sea Scout Awards, and the Billy Mitchell Award for the Civil Air Patrol. Coordinator Foran reported that over 200 scouts were recognized last year. As of the Mid-Winter Conference, however, he only received reports for recognition of 20 scouts. He noted that the final report is due in June.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

2017 Department Convention: The 2017 Convention will be hosted by the Joseph Schmittou Detachment in Athens, Georgia, April 28-30, 2017, which is the only date available. According to Department Bylaws, the convention must be held between May 1 and July 31. Commandant Kirstatter reported that the Board of Trustees unanimously approved an early convention for 2017 and noted that a Bylaw change will be submitted for consideration at the next convention. Bernard Bledsoe noted that there is no provision in the Bylaws for the Board of Trustees to approve an early convention. Commandant Kirstatter advised that he contacted the National Judge Advocate who confirmed that the Board of Trustees had the authority to approve the change.

2018 Department Convention: Commandant Kirstatter reported that we are still seeking a host Detachment.

A 30-minute recess was called at 0955 to allow the Credentials Committee to meet. The meeting was reconvened at 1030.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Junior Vice Commandant Bill Miller explained the process for delegate voting. Judge Advocate Barbara Brammer gave the report of the Credentials Committee noting that 6 Detachments qualified for delegate voting, with 2 of those Detachments having no delegates in attendance. The qualified Detachments included:

- Detachment 665 – 5 delegates with a voting strength of 70
- Detachment 1020 – 6 delegates with a voting strength of 88
- Detachment 1325 – 5 delegates with a voting strength of 75
- Detachment 1339 – 3 delegates with a voting strength of 41

Gary Burks, Detachment 1373, moved that we dispense with delegate voting, and the motion was seconded. A discussion of delegate voting followed including the discussion of a possible Bylaw amendment for future conventions. It was suggested that delegate forms be sent to more than just the Commandant of each Detachment. Gary Burks withdrew his motion and suggested we move forward to voting.

Commandant Kirstatter chaired the election.

Commandant: Frank Goalen nominated Randy Barnes; the nomination was seconded by Bernard Bledsoe. Randy Barnes accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received, and the Department Adjutant cast one unanimous vote for Randy Barnes for Department Commandant.

Senior Vice Commandant: Bernard Bledsoe nominated Al Yates; the nomination was seconded by Michael Clark. Al Yates accepted the nomination. Tim Cook nominated Jim Daughtry; the nomination was seconded by Mike Foran. Jim Daughtry accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. By a vote of 231 to 85, Al Yates was elected Department Senior Vice Commandant.

Junior Vice Commandant: Harry McCann nominated Silas Brown; the nomination was seconded by Bill Miller. Silas Brown accepted the nomination. David Epps nominated Guy Mitchell; the nomination was seconded by Ernie Menet. Guy Mitchell accepted the nomination. By a vote of 239 to 75, Guy Mitchell was elected Department Junior Vice Commandant.

Judge Advocate: Mike Foran nominated Barbara Brammer; the nomination was seconded by David Knopf. Barbara Brammer accepted the nomination. Al Yates nominated Tim McClelland; the nomination was seconded by Bernard Bledsoe. Tim McClelland accepted the nomination. Gary Burks nominated Marty Habecker; the nomination was seconded by Joe Kusar. Marty Habecker accepted the nomination. The tally of all delegate and individual votes was Barbara Brammer - 254, Tim McClelland - 54, Marty Habecker - 5. By a majority of votes, Barbara Brammer was reelected Department Judge Advocate.

Elections were closed.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Commandant Kirstatter presented the following awards:

- National Certificate of Appreciation with Silver Ribbon for Modern Day Marine –
Michael Vernon, Roscoe Foster, Barbara McCann, Buddy Simpson, Larry Heard
- National Certificate of Appreciation with Gold Ribbon for Modern Day Marine –
Lamar Scott, Harry McCann, Russ Vermilion, Frank Goalen

National Junior Vice Commandant Citation for maintaining or increasing membership
Detachment 647, Detachment 665, Detachment 1325, Detachment 1373
National Rifle and Pistol Plaques (2 second place awards and 1 third place award)
Detachment 1325
Department Certificate of Appreciation
Randy Barnes, Guy Mitchell, Larry Heard, Lamar Scott, Bill Stevens
Department Meritorious Commendation-Individual
Jim Daughtry, Bill Miller
Department Distinguished Service Award
LuAnn Miller, Al Yates, Joe Barbee, Tim McClelland, Barbara Brammer, Craig "Doc"
McNabb, Mike Foran
Marine Corps League Commendation Award
Metro Atlanta Young Marines

Commandant Kirstatter noted that the Department received a Commendation from the Governor of Georgia for hosting the 2016 Southeast Division Conference, and an award was also received from the Congressional Record.

Ron Polk reported that a wall with photographs of Iraq and Afghanistan deceased veterans will be displayed at the Alabama Convention and, hopefully, at the National Convention. He asked that the membership support this initiative. Bill Miller saw this display at the Department of Mississippi Convention and spoke highly of it.

Bernard Bledsoe noted that there is a change in the uniform for Modern Day Marine. The red blazer will be worn for the opening ceremony, and a Marine Corps League golf shirt and black trousers will be worn for other activities.

Mike Foran reported that the January *Semper Fi* magazine talked about the Marine Corps League getting more involved at the local level. In that regard, he stated that this year the Shepherds Men Share Initiative ran from Boston to Atlanta and raised over \$600,000 to date.

Bill Miller advised that the 2017 Southeast Division Conference will be held in Mobile, Alabama, from March 30 to April 1 at the Mobile Marriott. Information and registration forms are available on the Southeast Division website. There is a locator page on the National website which can be found under the Contact section. To update your Detachment's information, submit a Report of Officer Installation form with the correct information to the Department Paymaster. All Marine Corps League forms are now available on the National website in electronic format. Bill Miller reviewed the mission of the Marine Corps League Foundation and reported on their activities and fundraising efforts. He emphasized that this is our Foundation. We are the front line for vetting candidates in need of assistance, and our time and financial contributions are crucial to the success of the Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commandant Kirstatter noted that the 50/50 and raffle room will be closing at 1500, and the Ship's Store has been doing well. The Silent Auction closes at 1900.

Bill Craig reported that tickets for the Ruger Revolver have sold out, and the drawing will be held at the banquet.

Marty Habecker noted that there are paintings by Avery Chenoweth, one of their Detachment members, that were just added to the offerings in the Silent Auction.

Commandant Kirstatter advised that the social hour preceding the banquet will begin at 1800 with the banquet commencing at 1900.

Chaplain Guy Mitchell conducted a Memorial Service for the 19 Marines that have fallen since last year.

The Business Meeting was recessed until the banquet at 1900.

Submitted by:

LuAnn K. Miller
Adjutant/Paymaster
Department of Georgia
Marine Corps League