

Marine Corps League
Department of Georgia Annual Conference
2 May 2015

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Ron Kirstatter.

Guest were: National Commandant John Kovalcik, National Judge Advocate Dennis Tobin, National S E Division Commandant Michael Clark, Assistant National S E Division Commandant Johnny Baker, and President of the National Marine of the Year Assoc. Jimmy Hackbarth, Commandant of the Department of Alabama Jack Hopping, Navy Cross Recipient Gunnery Sergeant Hubert Hunnicut, and Iwo Jima Veteran John Belk.

The Paymasters report was read and accepted. The Audit Committee (Jr Past Cmdt Joe Barbee, Jim Daughtry and Levi McKenna) found no irregularities in the Paymasters records.

The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League was read.

A roll call of officers found all present with the exception of Sr. Vice Commandant David Epps, Chaplain Guy Mitchell and Boy Scout Coordinator Mike Foran. There were 16 Detachments represented.

There were no corrections to the minutes of the February Staff meeting and they stood approved as posted.

Officers Reports:

Commandant: The Cmdt reported on the S E Division Conference and commended Johnny Baker for his class on Paymasters. The Commandant presented several awards, the first being from the S E Div. Conf., the Milton Ockman Award the Department that added the greatest number of Detachments received by the Department of Georgia. Distinguished Service Awards were presented by the Commandant to those who served with him and for him during the past year.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Not Present.

Jr. Vice Commandant: He reported that we had 290 members that had not paid the last quarter. We are losing members faster than we are recruiting. He spoke of problems in Detachments that are detrimental to retention. Attitudes that don't convey good order and personality conflicts that also interfere with perception of good organization. He spoke about information sent to Detachments from attendance at the annual IRR gathering and receiving no reply. Lack of effort will not grow our Detachments or the Department. He also spoke about the new Detachments and how they struggle to get started. Jim awarded Challenge coins to those who assisted him at The Vidalia Onion Festival. The Recruiter of the Year Award was awarded to Joe Barbee for his assistance in starting up the Bryon Detachment.

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Judge Advocate: The Department of Georgia being well behaved allowed the Judge Advocate to have no report.

Boy Scout Coordinator: There 11 Detachments submitting information but none for Eagle Scouts this year. Detachments are not participating or dropping out of the program. This is a program recognized by the Marine Corps League and should be supported like any other program. The Commandant had letters for Troop 2000 and they were given to the Commandant of the closest Detachment.

Young Marine program was discussed by National Liaison to the Program Johnny Baker spoke of benefits of the program and some of the activities involved. All were encouraged to the website youngmarines.org.

Correspondence: A thank you note was received from the Shepherds Men for the donation made by the Department. Major Tom Molder from the foundation addressed the body, speaking about the run from New York to Atlanta recently completed by them.

The S E Div. Cmdt spoke about by-laws, recruiting and membership. Keeping the members involved and in touch is one of the keys to retention. Be sure to keep your members informed.

New Business: By-Laws Committee – One change was received by the committee and it was in reference to the requirement of Colors being required to receive a streamer at conventions. The committee recommended not to accept the change. Bernard Bledsoe moved to reject the change and it was seconded by Harry McCann. In discussion a representative from Det. 1311 questioned why a members in good standing does not qualify to receive a streamer. There was discussion as to what constituted a Color. The flag manual was referenced for designation of Color, Guidon etc. The Detachment that submitted the request was allowed to speak and Rick Hack discussed his position. The Department voted to reject the change. Rick Hack challenged the procedures followed by the By-Law committee as to distribution to all Detachments 45 day prior to the Convention. Finding that procedure was not followed, the vote was nullified. The By-Law will need to be resubmitted.

The floor was opened for any Detachment to bid for the 2016 Convention. Doc McNabb said that his committee would be willing to share the information they compiled for this convention. There is a Detachment thinking about the 2017 bid, but we need someone to step up for 2016.

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The Commandant entertained a motion that we again make donations to the Young Marines in the Department Georgia, Richard Wakefield made the motion to donate \$500 per unit to the Young Marines, it was seconded by Hal Gosnell, it was passed by the Department.

Voting strength was verified by the credentials committee. Elections were conducted by Jr Past Cmdt Joe Barbee. Assisting in the counting of votes were past Department Commandants Michael Clark and Bernard Bledsoe, and Past Detachment Commandants Roscoe Foster and Levi McKenna.

Troy Robinson nominated Ron Kirstatter for Commandant, Rick Hack seconded, and there were no other nominations and the Adjutant cast one unanimous vote Ron Kirstatter.

Ron Kirstatter took over the election as Joe Barbee was going to make the next nomination.

Joe Barbee nominated Randy Barnes for Sr. Vice Commandant, Harry McCann seconded. Joe Barbee resumed control of the election. Ron Kirstatter nominated Jim Daughtry for Sr. Vice Commandant, Tim Koch seconded. A poll of Detachments present elected Randy Barnes by majority vote.

Levi McKenna nominated Bill Miller for Jr. Vice Commandant, Rick Hack seconded.

Randy Barnes nominated Barbara Brammer for Judge Advocate, Tuffy Phillips seconded. There were no other nominations and the Adjutant cast one unanimous vote Barbara Brammer.

The meeting was turned back over to the Commandant.

The Commandant thanked the members for the way the election was conducted.

Good of the League: Streamers were attached to the Department Color for the S E Division Conference as well as the current Convention.

The 2016 S E Div. Conference will be in Augusta. Information was given to the members for the Convention.

Jim Daughtry discussed information cards to be placed on vehicles with Marine stickers on them telling the owner about the League and local information. These are good tools to help get the word out.

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Roscoe Foster announced there will be a Pack Growl at 1300.

The Department Staff meetings for the coming year will be Aug 1, Dec 5, and Feb 27

The National Commandant asked for support in his quest for a second term as National Commandant at the upcoming National Convention in Arizona.

The National Judge Advocate asked for support in his quest for a second term as National Judge Advocate.

The meeting was recessed until the banquet.