



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**

MINUTES - QUARTERLY STAFF MEETING - AUGUST 1, 2015



OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Ron Kirstatter at 1004. 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 Dalton Hammock
Adjutant/Paymaster LuAnn Miller
Sergeant-at-Arms Larry Heard
Sergeant-at-Arms Lamar Scott.

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:

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 970 - Middle Georgia
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 1325 - Sgt. Clyde Thomason MOH
Detachment 1339 - Henry County Leathernecks
Detachment 1402 - Columbus
Detachment 1424 - Byron

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Kirstatter noted that the minutes from the May 2, 2015, business meeting are available and will be posted on the website.

CORRESPONDENCE:

National Headquarters mailed packets for the 92nd National Marine Corps League and Auxiliary Convention to all Detachments. The National Convention is being held August 9-15, 2015, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Also mailed with the packets was a form from the National Director of Veterans Services requesting that each Detachment appoint a Detachment Service Officer, whose contact information should be provided to National Headquarters.

Tickets are available from the Marine Corps League Auxiliary for their Spring fundraiser with the drawing to be held August 15, 2015.

A request was received for an Eagle Scout presentation in the Marietta area. The request will be forwarded to the Greater Atlanta Detachment.

Young Marines Regimental Commander Nathaniel Lohman submitted a request for Young Marine units to be presented a National award. All eight of the Georgia Young Marine units received this award. Award certificates were given to Detachments in attendance for presentation to their respective Young Marine units.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster's report was read and accepted pending audit.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Please remember National Commandant John Kovalcik whose wife recently passed away. Also keep Bernard Bledsoe's wife and Dalton Hammock's wife in your prayers.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

Commandant: Deferred until New Business and Good of the League.

Senior Vice Commandant: Recommended that we concentrate on increasing membership attendance at quarterly staff meetings.

Junior Vice Commandant: Reviewed the status of Detachment memberships. Delinquencies are still an issue. Commandants should be reviewing Detachment rosters with their Junior Vice Commandants and Paymasters to identify and contact delinquent members. Don Alexander (Detachment 1303) noted that deceased members are not removed from the National roster on a timely basis. This matter will be addressed with National. Detachments were asked to review the last page of their roster to confirm the accuracy of the information contained in National's database. Also, PLM audits are due by the end of the year. Instructions for completing these audits were provided. Commandant Kirstatter noted that four Detachments are in jeopardy of revocation, with two of those Detachments currently inactive.

Judge Advocate: One set of Detachment Bylaws has been reviewed and a second set is currently under review. A book containing bylaws for all Georgia Detachments is being compiled.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2015 Department Convention Committee: Craig "Doc" McNabb (Detachment 1311) provided a post-Convention report. The Convention was well attended with many positive comments received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Detachment has stepped up to accept responsibility for the 2016 Department Convention. Roy Williams (Detachment 1196) offered to discuss hosting the convention with his Detachment.

District Vice Commandant positions are vacant for Districts 1, 2, 3, and 9. Don Alexander (Detachment 1303) offered to fill the position for District 1; Frank Corrick (Detachment 1083) volunteered to fill the position for District 2. The Board approved these appointments.

Detachments in jeopardy of losing their charter include Detachment 1048 (Sgt.Maj. Louis Roundtree), Detachment 1188 (Gen. Ray Davis MOH), Detachment 1229 (Kings Bay), and Detachment 1412 (Auburn).

Due to space limitations, only Department elected officers were sworn in at the 2015 Department Convention. Commandant Kirstatter administered the oath of office to all appointed Department officers in attendance.

Mike Foran, Department Boy Scout Coordinator, discussed the Boy Scout program and announced that 200 scouts were presented with Eagle Scout certificates in the past year. Of Georgia's thirty Detachments, seventeen Detachments submitted Boy Scout reports, six of which showed zero activity. The remaining eleven Detachments are recognizing scouts and reporting their activities to the Department. Contact Mike Foran for Boy Scout and Girl Scout challenge coins.

Nathaniel Lohman has volunteered to be Young Marines Coordinator for the Department of Georgia. Commandant Kirstatter will forward his information to Department officers for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commandant Kirstatter announced that Bob Force is currently serving as the Department Newsletter Editor. Please forward copies of Detachment quarterly reports to Bob for inclusion in the newsletter. Bob is working on a standard format for quarterly reporting. Additional information is forthcoming.

The email distribution list for the Department of Georgia includes all Detachment Commandants and Department Officers. Detachment officers may be added to the list, if appropriate. Only those on the distribution list can send emails to the distribution list without review. All other email communications sent to the distribution list are reviewed before release. This eliminates spam and junk emails.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

The subjects of holding training sessions as part of the quarterly staff meetings and use of the Professional Development Program were discussed. Members commented on the need for training sessions, recruiting posters, and Detachment start-up kits and discussed strategies utilized by their Detachments to facilitate recruitment. Don Alexander (Detachment 1303) noted that one of the biggest challenges is attracting young Veterans. Commandant Kirstatter noted that meetings should be used for planning upcoming activities and suggested that family-friendly activities be considered. Junior Vice Commandant Bill Miller recommended utilizing public relations tools and social media to attract younger Marines and suggested that press releases should include digital pictures, which are more easily reproduced by media outlets.

New Detachment efforts are ongoing in Blue Ridge, Statesboro, and Thomaston.

Upcoming staff meetings will be held December 5, 2015, in McDonough (hosted by Detachment 1339) and February 27, 2016, in Peachtree City (hosted by Detachment 1325).

Commandant Kirstatter reported that National Senior Vice Commandant Richard Gore has been serving as Acting National Commandant to allow National Commandant John Kovalcik to attend to funeral

arrangements. Acting National Commandant Gore convened a Board of Trustees meeting which resulted in the removal of the National Executive Director Michael Blum, the Chief Technology Officer Richard Blum, and their office IT support staff. Joe Barbee (Detachment 970) spoke with National Commandant Kovalcik who indicated he intends to run for a second term as National Commandant. Commandant Kirstatter noted that National staff is working on establishing a new website and the membership database project, which was already in the test phase, should continue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A brochure from Vision Outreach (visionoutreach.org) about upcoming Veterans' activities was reviewed and included a concert in August, a car show in October, and Thanksgiving dinner in November. Clayton County's fourth annual Vet Fest was discussed, and Craig "Doc" McNabb noted that the Vietnam Veterans' Moving Wall would be coming to Union County in October.

The 2016 Southeast Division Conference will be held March 24-26, in Augusta, Georgia, and is being hosted by Detachment 921. Hotel reservations may be made now, and registration packets are currently being compiled. Information about the Convention is posted on the Southeast Division website.

CLOSING CEREMONY:

There being no further business, the Staff Meeting was closed by ritual at 1217.

Submitted by:
LuAnn K. Miller
Adjutant/Paymaster