



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**



MINUTES - QUARTERLY STAFF MEETING – DECEMBER 5, 2015

OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Ron Kirstatter at 1003. The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League was read.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DETACHMENTS:

Department officers in attendance included:

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

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:

District 7 - Joe Barbee
District 8 - Tim McClelland

Detachments in attendance included:

Detachment 970 - Middle Georgia
Detachment 1040 - PFC George Eiland
Detachment 1196 - Maj. Stephen W. Pless
Detachment 1260 - Maj. Lawrence Des Jardines
Detachment 1303 - Currahee Mountain
Detachment 1311 - Maj.Gen. Warren R. Johnson
Detachment 1339 - Henry County Leathernecks
Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia
Detachment 1402 - Columbus
Detachment 1424 - Byron

Mickey Edwards was sworn in as the Department's VAVS Coordinator.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Kirstatter noted that the minutes from the August 1, 2015, business meeting are available and have been posted on the website. Michael Clark moved to suspend the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Bernard Bledsoe and was approved.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

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

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Big Al Meade is not doing well. Roy Williams reported that one of his Detachment members received some unfortunate news and requested we remember them. Dalton Hammock's wife passed away. Thomas Hisel is having bladder cancer surgery.

CORRESPONDENCE:

An invitation was received Commissioner Mike Robey's office to attend the Georgia Department of Veterans Services leaders meeting on December 9, 2015. Commandant Kirstatter is looking for someone to attend that meeting in his stead.

A flyer was received from the P.L. Wilson Detachment 447 (Mobile, Alabama), host of the 2016 Alabama Department Convention. The convention will be held June 10-12, 2016, at the Ashbury Hotel and Suites in Mobile, Alabama.

Commandant Kirstatter reported that he attended the chartering ceremony to rename the L/Cpl Lorenzo Tuggle Detachment (formerly Auburn Detachment). There was an organization there that is working with the city of Auburn on a new building for veterans' services. A flyer was received from Operation Atlas, a subsidiary of the Military Veterans of Georgia, Inc., whose mission is to train and provide service dogs. Operation Atlas needs old camouflage uniforms to make vests for service dogs.

Detachments should have received Mid-Winter National Conference registration forms and the Conference schedule. The Conference will be March 3-5, 2016, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia. Additional correspondence from National Headquarters included information regarding reinstatement of members and a registration form and donation request for Tree of Lights.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

Commandant: A contract was signed with the Wyndham Peachtree Hotel and Conference Center for the 25th Annual Department Convention to be held May 13-15, 2016. Since there is no host Detachment, each Detachment in Georgia is being asked to sell at least five ads for the program book. Ad orders and payments will be received by the Department Commandant. The program book will be all color, and in-kind services may be provided in lieu of cash for ads. Room rates are from \$99-\$119, including breakfast. Room reservations, meal options, special events, and convention packets will be available soon. Volunteers are needed for the registration table, the raffle room, and the hospitality suite. A golf tournament is proposed for Friday morning.

National Headquarters is considering moving the Mid-Winter Conference to a southern location (Southern or Southeast Division areas). More information is forthcoming.

The Southeast Division Conference is being held in August, Georgia, and will be hosted by the LtCol Jimmie Dyess Detachment. Many activities are being planned.

Senior Vice Commandant: None

Junior Vice Commandant: Recruiting efforts included an airshow in Peachtree City and the Toombs County parade in Vidalia, Georgia. Lead cards were provided to Detachments 1040, 1311, 1325, and 1339. Check the date of your Detachment's last life member audit on your roster to confirm National's information. Recruiting and retaining members remains an issue. During the last quarter, unpaid membership increased and paid membership decreased. Nine Detachments gained members, three remained level, and the rest lost members. For recruiting purposes, Detachments may use 844-MCL-1775 or mcl.membership@gmail.com. Leads received from these contact points will be forwarded to the

Detachment closest to the interested individual. Another recommendation is to network between Detachments.

Members suggested that we need to attract new members, and younger Marines need to know we offer family-friendly activities. Michael Clark suggested that the Guidebook for Detachment and Department Officers and the Professional Development Course are rich resources and noted that recruiting is everyone's job. Additional suggestions included using social media, hosting social activities, and organizing shooting competitions. Commandant Kirstatter explained the Fire Team concept instituted by Wendell Webb, and Bill Miller noted that there is a Detachment out west that only meets twice a year, holding their regular monthly meetings via videoconference.

Delegate voting forms for the 2016 Department Convention were distributed.

Judge Advocate: Currently there are no Chapter 9 activities pending. Detachments Bylaws for Detachments 1303 and 1339 have been read and approved. Bylaws remain outstanding for Detachments 647, 783, 952, 1048, 1083, 1280, 1309, 1311, 1326, 1333, and 1373. Detachment 1260 will be submitting revised Bylaws for review.

December 29, 2015, is the deadline for receipt of proposed changes to Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures by the Department Judge Advocate for consideration at the next quarterly staff meeting. February 15, 2016, is the deadline for receipt of proposed changes to Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures by the Department Judge Advocate for consideration and voting at the 2016 Department Convention.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Miller noted an article in the American Legion's November issue about the Hershell "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation whose mission is to build gold star memorials in every state. Discussion ensued about participation with other veterans' service organizations to erect a monument in Georgia. It was agreed that Bill Miller should contact the American Legion to obtain further information for discussion.

Barbara Brammer noted that not all Detachments have provided copies of their Articles of Incorporation to the Department. The Department Judge Advocate turned over all Detachment Articles of Incorporation to the Department Adjutant/Paymaster for safe keeping.

Commandant Kirstatter noted that the Department Status Report is being updated. When the revised report is sent out, Detachments need to review their Detachment's information for accuracy.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Commandant Kirstatter presented the Department Sergeant-at-Arms with the 2015 National Convention Streamer from Scottsdale, Arizona. Barbara Brammer received the Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her service as District Vice Commandant. Roscoe Foster was recognized with a Certificate which will be presented to him by his Detachment Commandant. Commandant

Kirstatter presented Harry McCann, Barbara McCann, and Lamar Scott with the Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Past National Commandant John Kovalcik.

Bill Miller reminded the Detachments that responsibility to vet new members lies with the Detachment and encouraged Detachments to carefully review DD-214's to confirm eligibility.

The proposed Detachment in Blue Ridge, Georgia, is moving quickly; and they may submit their charter application to National in the near future.

There was a discussion about the new National website and Detachment Locator Page, a project which is ongoing.

Frank Goalen suggested that we may want to consider compiling a CD with information about the League for reaching active duty and reserve Marines. Bernard Beldsoe noted that the Georgia Detachments are well represented at the Marine South Expo at Camp Lejeune in April and the Modern Day Marine Expo at Quantico in September/October. Russ Vermillion shared some of the experiences he's had at these events and highly recommended participation.

Commandant Kirstatter noted that the Southeast Division Conference is being held in Augusta, Georgia, at the Doubletree by Hilton from March 24-27, 2016. This Conference is funded by support from Detachments, Departments, Pounds, and Packs; and Commandant Kirstatter suggested each group place an ad in the program book and contribute something worthwhile to the raffle.

Note was made that Al Meade is being moved to a memory care facility and will not be returning home at this time.

Bernard Bledsoe reported that the main hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which is the site of the 2016 National Convention, is full; and an overflow hotel is currently available for booking. He recommended making reservations as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

CLOSING CEREMONY:

There being no further business, the Staff Meeting was closed by ritual at 1144.

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