



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**



MINUTES – QUARTERLY MEETING – SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Larry Heard at 0900. The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League was read.

RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES:

Commandant Heard welcomed the following guests: Carolyn Millhorn (Detachment #1333) and Skip Gray (Detachment #665).

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DETACHMENTS:

Department officers in attendance included:

- Commandant Larry Heard
- Sr. Vice Commandant Bill Miller
- Jr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk
- Judge Advocate Lisa Delk
- Adjutant/Paymaster LuAnn Miller
- Chaplain Mickey Edwards
- Sergeant-at-Arms Levi McKenna
- Sergeant-at-Arms Bobby Shepherd
- Sergeant-at-Arms JR Millhorn

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:

- District 5 – Frank Goalen
- District 6 – Frank Goalen
- District 7 – Ed Barbee

Appointed Positions:

- Fallen Marines – Merrill Tindall
- Boy Scout Coordinator – Mickey Edwards
- Web Sergeant – Brent Eaton

Detachments in attendance included:

- Detachment 665 - Upper Chattahoochee
- Detachment 783 - Unicoi
- Detachment 970 - Middle Georgia
- Detachment 1196 - Maj Stephen W. Pless
- Detachment 1260 - Maj Lawrence Des Jardines
- Detachment 1311 - MajGen Warren R. Johnson
- Detachment 1326 - West Chatham
- Detachment 1333 - Waycross
- Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia
- Detachment 1402 - Columbus
- Detachment 1424 – Peach County

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Heard noted that the minutes of the May 22, 2021, business meeting are available and have been posted on the Department website. Ed Barbee moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as posted. Merrill Tindall seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as published.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster's report was read. Merrill Tindall moved to approve the Paymaster's Report as submitted pending financial review. Russ Vermillion seconded the motion, and it was approved.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Chaplain Mickey Edwards reported the passing of 20 members since the last meeting. Those members include Albert Lafayette Smith; Charlie B. Stephenson; Randy Dollar; Shirley A. Redd; Edward Wilson; Robert L. Ashley; Kathy B. Fazekas; Fredrick K. Komm; J. D. Edwards Stuart; Hampton Pitts; Daniel J. Mudge, Jr.; Peter Pape; John Papp; Jesse Nieto; Robert Byron Williams; Paul Donald Webler; Russel C. DeMonbreun; Brad May; Wirt W. Durdin; and Daran Cassady. Members with health problems include Galina Shehann (Detachment 1402), the daughter and sister of JR Millhorn (Detachment 1333); Ashford Todd (Detachment 783); Ralph Miller (Detachment 1333) and Helen Hurst (Detachment 1402). An additional member who has passed away is Al Smith (Detachment 970).

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Judge Advocate: Judge Advocate Lisa Delk report that National Bylaws updates have been posted. She requested that Detachments compare the National Bylaws to their Detachment Bylaws to ensure the Detachment is still in compliance. National Administrative Procedures have not yet been posted. Judge Advocate Delk announced that 48 Bylaws and Administrative Procedures amendments were proposed, 19 of which were approved. Highlights of the amendment procedures included approval of Associate of the Year medallions and ribbons (retroactive), rejection of national officers being barred from holding department office; approval of membership eligibility for Corpsmen with MFM training, authorization to continue wearing the Devil Dog patch; defeat of amendment barring married Commandants and Paymasters from simultaneously holding office; and several uniform provisions including authorization for women to wear the Army ASU shirt. Nine Detachments have not filed their 990-N for 2020; November 15 is the IRS deadline. Six Detachments have not completed Reports of Officer Installation forms for this year. In answer to questions regarding cover protocol, Judge Advocate Delk reported that members do not need to uncover; it is a choice governed by precedence and religious preference.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Jr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk noted that, while attending Detachment meetings, he noticed that the new Oath of Membership is not being used. The new Oath is available on the National website. He also noted that rosters still have errors, and he encouraged Detachments with roster errors to work with the Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant to correct the errors. On the most recent roster (issued October 15, 2021) the members listed as delinquent (N)

should have dropped off the roster and some members marked as paid (Y) are not actually paid. Jr. Vice Delk reported that the Department is in the process of closing six Detachments that are noncompliant. One Detachment is attempting to comply with requirements to stay active. Department is consolidating the defunct Detachments into a single Detachment; three Detachments have been transferred to a fourth Detachment to date. Jr. Vice Delk is collecting charters and associated paperwork for those Detachments. One Detachment that was formed was never chartered, and he is working on that. Barbara Brammer asked how to remove members from the roster who have left and do not intend to return. Jr. Vice Delk said that life members must either resign or transfer to remove them from your Detachment roster.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Sr. Vice Commandant Bill Miller attended the National Convention and provided an overview of the meetings. The Marine Corps League has Public Relations Officers who monitor Facebook and posts on unofficial sites. The League has a U-Tube channel; search for Marine Corps League National Headquarters. In Commandants Council, the Department of Georgia was mentioned for chain of command issues. Unless told to do so, no Detachment should be contacting National except for Ships Store orders. There appears to be an issue with the PLM Reports. Members were dropping off the list when they should not have been dropped. Life members should stay on the PLM Report for two years after their death. Departments, Detachments, and individual members have the responsibility to access the Member Portal of the membership database to review their personal information (provided their email address has been entered into the database). Detachment Commandants and Detachment Paymasters have access to the records for all their Detachment members. If a member has a Stafford, Virginia, address, it is because National had a bad address for that member (based on *Semper Fi* magazine mailings). These errors need to be corrected. Entering member email addresses in the database is important because Atlas, the membership database, can create email distribution lists. An idea provided to Jr. Vice Commandants is to have a Marine night at a local college for the purpose of forming a detachment at that college. This has worked for several Departments. Sr. Vice Commandant Miller spoke about the email that was sent out concerning the Resolution sent to Congress and the President requesting that Hershel “Woody” Williams, as the last surviving WWI Medal of Honor recipient, be granted a state funeral. Next year’s National Convention is in Daytona Beach, Florida, from August 15-19, 2022. The hotel rate is \$127 plus tax. The parking rate of \$20 a night is being negotiated, and breakfast is included. Two bids were received for the 2023 National Convention. Albany, New York, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, made presentations; Oklahoma City was selected. The 2023 National Convention will be held at the Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, which just opened this year. The room rate is \$165.48, including everything except parking; and the rate is good for three days before and after the Convention. There is a campground 15 minutes away. There will be a streetcar available at no charge. Sr. Vice Miller reported that Mike “Mac” McNamara introduced a program called Post Traumatic Winning. It is normally a seven-hour program, but Mac presented a condensed two-hour version at the National Convention. Sr. Vice Miller offered to work with Mac to develop a one-hour program for use by Detachments and Departments. The program is not solely for individuals with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Commandant: Commandant Larry Heard thanked the Waycross Detachment for hosting this quarterly meeting and noted that every Detachment should send at least one member to these meetings, even if they must supplement the cost to attend. Commandant Heard urged Detachments to submit their Reports of Officer Installation forms and to work on membership. He reminded members to use the proper chain of command. The Department Paymaster is not

the go-to person for everything. First, read your Bylaws to try to answer your questions before contacting Department. If you have not consulted the Bylaws first, the Department officer may ask you to call back after you have. Going forward, if you send in paperwork that is not correct, it will be sent back to you with edits for resubmission. An email addressing this matter will be sent out. Barbara Brammer asked if National needs a copy of a member's DD-214 along with the membership application. The DD-214 should be verified by the Detachment and returned to the prospective member. Neither Detachments, Departments, nor National should retain a copy of anyone's DD-214. Also, the current membership application form does not request a social security or service number. If your Detachment is using in old application that requests that information, the prospective member does not need to provide it. In cases where the prospective member includes a service or social security number, make sure that information is redacted from the copy retained by your Detachment. Russ Vermillion offered to provide a list of documents that all service members should have available for their family members to access.

REPORTS OF APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Levi McKenna reported on behalf of Bill Sirmon, Department Marine for Life Coordinator. He reminded Detachment Commandants to respond to emails they receive regarding Marine for Life.

Mickey Edwards, Boy Scout Coordinator, reported that scouting is coming back to life. He has had lots of telephone calls about scouting and the Boy Scout coin. If your Detachment is buying Boy Scout coins, you need to be submitting Scouting Reports. Mickey noted that he has coins available. There is a new Notice of Death form; please use it. When submitting Notice of Death forms, continue to send them to the Department Chaplain. In addition, Notices of Death must be sent to the Department Paymaster with a Dues Transmittal noting the date of death. The Dues Transmittal code to use is NOD.

Brent Eaton, Department Web Sergeant reported that the Department website has been updated. He is working on some fixes but noted that a new locator is out there for Detachments and Pounds. He has created distribution lists for Department officers.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

None

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Bill Miller was appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee and is looking for volunteers. He noted that Levi McKenna will be a member of the Committee, the Department Commandant is *ex officio*, and the Department Paymaster is an advisor. Alton Coleman and Merrill Tindall volunteered. PLM Reports came out a couple of months ago. If you have not given your banking information to National, you will not receive a check. PLM distributions will be electronically transferred, so make sure Bob Borka has your Detachment's banking information.

Merrill Tindall provided a report for the Fallen Marine Program. He noted that funeral homes often do not notify Detachments of member deaths. He suggested going through funeral home notices to find Marines that have passed.

Alton Coleman reported that the Georgia Marines United II Facebook page is up and running.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Commandant Larry Heard reported that he will send out a request seeking a host Detachment for the January 2022 quarterly meeting.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Commandant Larry Heard presented National Jr. Vice Commandant Citations to Detachments 783, 921, 1083, 1188, 1196, 1325, and 1402. The award is for exceeding the previous year's membership during fiscal year 2020.

The Department received a request to assist the Young Marines in Louisiana affected by Hurricane Ida. Department membership approved, via email voting, \$500 in Amazon wish list purchases. The Department Paymaster reported that food totaling \$499.65 was purchased and shipped directly to Louisiana. Detachment 1373 challenged each Detachment to send \$100. It was noted that the Louisiana Young Marines received their entire wish list and more, and it was recommended that donations be held for the next disaster.

Bill Miller advised that he and Harry McCann are members of the Board of Directors for the Marine Corps League Foundation, with Bill acting as Treasurer and Harry as Secretary. Last year each Department and Detachment was challenged to donate \$100 to the Foundation, which would result in over \$100,000 collected. Bill is making that challenge again this year.

Larry Heard said he counted on his great staff to keep things running smoothly when he contracted COVID, and he thanked them for stepping up.

Commandant Larry Heard presented a ribbon from the National Convention to the Department Sergeant-at-Arms. Sr. Vice Commandant Bill Miller showed the membership the marksmanship medals earned by Detachment 1325. He noted that the Marksmanship Competitions are easy to do. They are based on the honor system, with the Detachment Commandant signing off on the scores.

Marty Habecker of Detachment 1373 noted that National gave out ribbons for the National Convention and asked if the Department will provide Convention streamers also. Commandant Larry Heard said he needs to work with National to get ribbons because the streamers include the League's logo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Detachment 1373 is holding a Top Shot Competition on October 2, 2021, at a 3,300-acre property near Hawkinsville, Georgia. Cost is \$20 per person. There will be a free shoot from 0900 – 1200 (no hollow point, green tip, or armor piercing) followed by lunch provided by the Detachment. The competition begins at 1300. Proceeds of the event go to the youth ministry group that runs the place.

Raffle ticket sales, silent auctions, and other fundraisers were announced by Detachments 1196, 1373, 1402, and the Department of Georgia. Marty Habecker noted that there is a permit requirement in their county and suggested that each Detachment check with their local municipalities about gaming requirements.

Rusty Hurst noted that you can receive VA News on your electronic device

The 2023 Southeast Division Conference will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

CLOSING CEREMONY:

There being no further business, the quarterly meeting was closed by ritual at 1047.

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