



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**  
**MINUTES - QUARTERLY MEETING – JANUARY 8, 2022**



**OPENING CEREMONY:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Guests in attendance included Christine Collins, Veterans Field Service Officer, Georgia Department of Veterans Services; Randy Barnes, Past Department Commandant; and Liz Ordiales, Mayor, City of Hiawassee.

**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
- Acting Chaplain Harry McCann
- Sergeant-at-Arms Levi McKenna
- Sergeant-at-Arms JR Millhorn

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:

- District 5 – Frank Goalen
- District 6 – Frank Goalen

Appointed Positions:

- Fallen Marines – Merrill Tindall
- Web Sergeant – Brent Eaton

Detachments in attendance included:

- Detachment 647 - L/Cpl Squire "Skip" Wells
- Detachment 783 - Unicoi
- Detachment 970 - Middle Georgia
- Detachment 1196 - Maj Stephen W. Pless
- Detachment 1280 - North Georgia Mountain
- Detachment 1311 - MajGen Warren R. Johnson
- Detachment 1325 - Sgt Clyde Thomason MOH
- Detachment 1326 - West Chatham
- Detachment 1333 - Waycross
- Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia
- Detachment 1402 - Columbus
- Detachment 1438 - Lake Blue Ridge

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Commandant Heard noted that the minutes of the September 25, 2021, business meeting are available and have been posted on the Department website. Russ Vermillion moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as posted. Randy Barnes seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as published.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**REPORT OF PAYMASTER:**

The Paymaster's report was read. Wayne Poore moved to approve the Paymaster's Report as submitted pending financial review. Rodney Riggs seconded the motion, and it was approved.

**REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:**

Acting Chaplain Harry McCann reported six members have passed since our last meeting. They are Robert Janke, Eva Jean Guyer, Arthur C. Dunlea, Pete Huber, Lewis W. Coker, and Charles Frank Young. Members with health problems include Michael Clark, Ralph Neller, and Bennie Shehane. Many members are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Additional members and colleagues reported to have passed include Tom Zaworski and Sgt. Hart.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Christine Collins, Veterans Field Service Officer, Georgia Department of Veterans Services, reported that they have offices around the state. She spoke about rejected claims and recommended that members contact the Veterans Service Officer in their area for assistance. Spouses of deceased veterans receive DIC benefits. You can get pre-qualified for a military burial. Things are always changing, and there is a form for everything. Her suggestions for pre-death preparations included registering your DD-214 with the County Clerk of Courts at no cost; filling out the pre-approval form for a VA burial and giving it to your funeral home for markers, flags, and certificates provided by the VA; and having service treatment records reviewed for pre-existing conditions from your time of service. She also recommended making sure medical conditions are listed on the death certificates, even if they are only contributing factors to the death, and obtaining copies of death certificates from the Probate Court.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

**Judge Advocate:** Judge Advocate Lisa Delk noted that you must use the chain of command for any questions you have. For Bylaws issues, your first avenue is the Detachment Judge Advocate, then the Department Judge Advocate, followed by the National Judge Advocate. Judge Advocate Delk reported that Georgia Secretary of State annual registrations are due between January 1 and April 1 each year. After April 1, the cost of renewal goes from \$30 to \$50. If not filed, the Secretary of State will administratively dissolve your organization. When preparing Reports of Officer Installation (ROIs), make sure your EIN number is accurate. ROIs are sent to the Department Paymaster for submission to National, and they must be sent to National by June 30 of each year. Internal Revenue Service 990-N filings are due November 15 of each year. If you are late, you can still file with no penalty. If you don't file a 990 for three consecutive years, you lose your tax-exempt status. Bylaws amendments for consideration at the Department Convention are due to the Department Judge Advocate by February 15. Bylaws Committee members include Merrill Tindall, Bill Craig, Alton Coleman, and Troy Bolt. There

will be several administrative changes that will be announced at the Department Convention. Detachments should keep working on their Bylaws amendments. Judge Advocate Lisa Delk announced she intends to run for Jr. Vice Commandant at the Department Convention, and she will work with the new Judge Advocate to ensure a smooth transition.

**Jr. Vice Commandant:** Jr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk talked about the membership roster and noted that there are a lot of problems. To fix your Detachment's roster, provide copies of Dues Transmittals (yellow copy) or Notices of Death to substantiate the changes that need to be made. He noted that the National Commandant has been helpful in getting changes made. Currently about 380 members (about one-third of our membership) are delinquent. We closed three Detachments (1048, 1229, and 1412). The life members in those Detachments have been transferred into a single detachment to allow for further research and resolution. Two additional Detachments (716 and 1462) will be closed before the Department Convention. Existing Detachment #952 is being used as the holding Detachment for life members from these five Detachments. Jr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk announced he plans to run for Department Sr. Vice Commandant at the Department Convention and confirms he will work with the new Jr. Vice Commandant during the transition.

**Sr. Vice Commandant:** Sr. Vice Commandant Bill Miller noted that 12 Detachments are represented at this meeting and pointed out that our Bylaws require an Awards Committee, chaired by the Sr. Vice Commandant, and comprising one representative from each Detachment. Associate of the Year nominations are reviewed by the Awards Committee. He requested that each Detachment Commandant provide him with contact information for the member that will represent their Detachment on the Awards Committee. Sr. Vice Commandant Miller reported that a Finance Committee has been created. Finance Committee members include Levi McKenna, Marty Habecker, Alton Coleman, Merrill Tindal, and Bill Miller. The Committee met and has begun working on Bylaws amendments for the Finance Committee and for a Financial Review Committee. The Finance Committee is addressing spending authorizations and will prepare a budget to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees and presented to the membership at the Department Convention for consideration and voting by the members. The budget will be sent out to Detachments 15 days before the Convention. Bill Miller announced that he is the Convention Chair and informed the membership that Convention packets are available and include registration forms, shirt order forms, and program ad forms. Normally a Detachment hosts the Department Convention. This year the Convention is being hosted by the Department, specifically four elected officers and one appointed officer. The Department needs help with program ads, raffle items, and staffing for the raffle room and hospitality suite. Detachment support is requested. We have already received three raffle items from outside companies. The Department Convention is May 13-14, 2022, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Alpharetta. There will be a Friday evening reception, and Saturday will include the business meeting, grand growl, and buffet banquet. Grunt Gear will also be there. Rooms are \$89 plus tax for double occupancy, \$99 plus tax for triple or quad occupancy. Parking is free, and the room rate includes breakfast. Shirts are being made for the Convention and may be pre-ordered. The National Commandant, Chief Devil Dog, and National Chaplain/Marine Corps League Foundation President will be in attendance. We are working on securing a guest speaker. Convention deadlines were discussed.

**Commandant:** Commandant Larry Heard extended thanks to Detachment #783 for hosting today's quarterly meeting. He announced that streamers for the 2020 and 2021 Department Conventions will be available at this year's Convention. Commandant Heard requested that Detachments send in their Reports of Officer Installation (ROI) in a timely manner as the ROI is the mechanism used to update communications lists. He reiterated the need to use the chain of command. Additionally, Commandant Heard directed the Detachment Commandants to work with their Paymasters to ensure that all requirements are met.

**REPORTS OF APPOINTED OFFICERS:**

None.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

Walt Scott reported that the annual Iwo Jima reunion will be February 21, 2022; and noted that they lost their last Iwo Jima veteran in January 2021. The Memorial Ceremony will be held at Towns County Recreation & Conference Center in Young Harris, Georgia.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Alton Coleman (Detachment #783) announced he will be running for Judge Advocate of the Department of Georgia and provided his credentials.

It was noted that Detachment #1333 traveled the greatest distance to the quarterly meeting with Detachment #1402 in second place. Both Detachments received t-shirts courtesy of the Semper Fi Bar & Grill.

Bill Miller announced he will be running for Department Commandant.

Marty Habecker, Detachment #1373, sent a letter to Commandant Heard about a group of Marines from the second battle of Fallujah. Battle statistics for Marines in the second battle of Fallujah report 95 killed in action, 655 Purple Hearts presented, 8 Navy Crosses given, and 1 Army Medal of Honor bestowed. It was called Operation Phantom Fury and went from November 7 to December 23, 2004. These Marines want to have a reunion in Warner Robins, Georgia, and are requesting assistance from veteran organizations. The reunion will be held July 21-23, 2022; and the contact person is Randy Wynn. You may also contact Marty Habecker for more information. Details will be provided via the Department email distribution list. Bill Miller suggested utilizing the Young Marines; and Tony Gasper suggested contacting the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Georgia, which assists veterans.

Commandant Heard announced the following upcoming events:

- National Convention – Daytona Beach, Florida – August 2022
- Southeast Division Conference – Baton Rouge, Louisiana – March 2022
- Mid-Winter Conference – Norfolk, Virginia – February 24-26, 2022
- Modern Day Marine – May 2022

The next quarterly meeting will be March 26, 2022, at Warner Robins, Georgia, hosted by Detachment #1373.

**CLOSING CEREMONY:**

There being no further business, the quarterly Department meeting was closed by ritual at 1045.

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