



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING – MAY 6, 2023



OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Bill Miller at 0902. The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League was read.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DETACHMENTS:

Department officers in attendance included:

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

Appointed Positions:

- V.S.O. – Mickey Edwards
- Fallen Marines – Merrill Tindall
- Marine for Life – Bill Sirmon
- Young Marines – Jim Berres
- Marine Corps JROTC – Jay Maxwell
- Boy Scout Coordinator – Mickey Edwards
- Disaster Relief – Larry Heard
- Public Affairs – Alton Coleman
- Compliance Officer – Alton Coleman
- Historian – Terry Holland

Detachments in attendance included:

- Detachment 564 – Dog Company
- Detachment 647 – L/Cpl Squire “Skip” Wells
- Detachment 665 – Upper Chattahoochee
- Detachment 783 – Unicoi
- Detachment 970 – Middle Georgia
- Detachment 1040 – 1st Sgt Charles F. Waller
- Detachment 1188 – Gen Ray Davis MOH
- Detachment 1196 – Maj Stephen W. Pless
- Detachment 1260 – Maj Lawrence Des Jardines
- Detachment 1303 – Currahee 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

A quorum was present.

DIGNITARIES IN ATTENDANCE:

Commandant Miller welcomed all in attendance and introduced the following dignitaries:

Southeast Division Vice Commandant Jerry Holt;
Southeast Division Vice Chief Devil Dog Jim Stone;
Department of Alabama Commandant Mike Ryan;
Georgia Pack Leader, Levi McKenna;
Past Department of Georgia Commandant Michael Clark;
Past Department of Georgia Commandant Joe Barbee;
Past Department of Georgia Commandant Ron Kirstatter;
Past Department of Georgia Commandant Randy Barnes; and
Past Department of Georgia Commandant Larry Heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Miller noted that the minutes of the January 28, 2023, business meeting are available and have been posted on the Department website. Rusty Hurst 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:

Commandant Bill Miller reported the following correspondence:

- An email sent to the Detachments noting that life member dues will be increasing on July 1, 2023.
- An email announcing a golf tournament on May 8 at the Eagles Landing Golf Course in Stockbridge, Georgia, pitting the Montford Point Marines against the Tuskegee Airmen.
- Correspondence regarding the annual Georgia Veterans' Day Parade on Saturday, November 11, 2023. Commandant Miller suggested Detachments consider participating as there was no Marine presence in last year's parade.
- Correspondence announcing a Veterans' Block Party and Veteran-Owned Business Market at the Semper Fi Bar & Grille in Woodstock, Georgia, on May 20, 2023, from 1100 to 2200. There will be free meals for veterans.

Adjutant/Paymaster LuAnn Miller noted promotional material received from The Shepherds Center requesting support. Larry Heard made a motion to donate \$200 to the Shepherd's Men. The motion was seconded by Harry McCann and was approved.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster's report was read. Gary Verheyen moved to approve the Paymaster's Report as submitted pending financial review. Michael Clark seconded the motion, and it was approved.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Illnesses and surgeries reported included Ed Barbee, Barbara Brammer, Guy Mitchell, Hubert Hunnicutt, and Bill Miller.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Judge Advocate: Judge Advocate Alton Coleman spoke as both Judge Advocate and Compliance Officer. He noted that Marine Corps League websites must have an EGA disclaimer. He reported that we are still awaiting the appeal hearing for the pending Chapter 9. As Compliance Officer, he will be reaching out to Detachment Commandants regarding non-compliance (including IRS 990s, Georgia Secretary of State filings, non-payment of \$20 convention support, and failure to submit a completed Report of Officer Installation).

Jr. Vice Commandant: Jr. Vice Commandant Lisa Delk spoke about membership, recruiting, retention, and the marketing manual. You can get a copy of the marketing manual from Jr. Vice Commandant Delk. Jr. Vice Delk reported there are 1,162 members in the Department of Georgia; however, only 1,091 current. She suggested sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to members that are delinquent and having the Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant call members. She recommended that Detachment officers read their National membership rosters and make sure they are correct. If there are issues with your roster, Jr. Vice Commandant Delk can help fix them. She noted that Detachment visits are not punitive; they are to make Department Officers available to the Detachments. Jr. Vice Commandant Delk reported that PLM audits are coming up based on the membership roster as of June 30. If your Detachment does not complete the audit or have its banking information on file with National, you will not receive a PLM distribution.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk provided an overview of Detachment visits and noted several areas where improvements are needed. For example, the Bible must be on its own table in a place of reverence; the National flag must be on the left side of room when seated in the audience; when moving about the room, salute the flag; flags should always be in stands; flags should have pikes, not eagles; members must wear a cover at meetings, it is our uniform; ball caps and pins on covers are not acceptable; the undress uniform must be worn properly with ribbons on the left, a brown web belt, and collar ornaments with anchors inboard; we belong to a Detachment, not a Unit or Battalion; removing covers is optional during prayers; prayers are prescribed by National (nonsectarian) and are intended not to offend; use of the ritual manual is encouraged; avoid political discussions.

Commandant: Commandant Bill Miller thanked his staff for their hard work and support during the past year. He stated that Detachment visits will increase during the next year and noted that it takes a village, and Detachments are the village that will grow the Department.

REPORTS OF APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Sergeant-at-Arms – No report.

Chaplain Mickey Edward reported that 16 Notices of Death were received since the last Department meeting including Edward Heritage; Mathew Suddath, Sr.; John A. Blazer; General Crumlet; Phillip C. Corbin; B.G. Tedder; Texas G. Lovell; James McAleer; Harrell Roberts; Jerry Gill; Ira Ryan; George Vickery III; Margurite Mcguire; Joseph A. Caldeira; Richard J. Hack; and Clifford Leon Dyes. The Department Chaplain urged Detachments to submit their Notices of Death, even if they are old.

Adjutant/Paymaster – No report.

Commandants' Council Report – Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk noted that the Commandants' Council is required by the Bylaws, and it is intended as an opportunity for Commandants from all Detachments to discuss ways and means to develop the League. Topics of this year's Commandants' Council were recruiting; social media; community involvement (represent...wear covers/uniforms); National is moving to a paperless environment, and the Department needs to do the same; Detachment activities (Young Marines, Boy Scouts, Toys for Tots, funeral details, Fallen Marines, color guards, 13 folds).

Young Marines – Jim Berres thanked the membership for its support. He noted that it costs \$800-\$950 for a Young Marine for their first year in the program. The Young Marines focus on drug awareness and gang awareness. Their recruits are 8-18 years of age. He reported that 77% of our nation's youth do not qualify for the military, and only 8% of the rest are interested. Only half of those are able to pass the ASFAB tests. In conclusion, he said the Young Marines can always use support and volunteers.

Boy Scouts – Mickey Edwards advised that he has Boy Scout coins available. He received 15 calls from National asking for MCL Detachments to attend Courts of Honor. Alton Coleman explained what takes place at an Eagle Court of Honor and challenge coin presentation. There was a discussion about Boy Scout Eagle Award and Girl Scout Gold Award. The Marine Corps League Auxiliary is responsible for awarding the Girl Scout Gold Award. He advised Detachments to get parent releases before using pictures of youths. Additionally, he noted there is a ribbon available for Boy Scout involvement.

Marine 4 Life – Bill Sirmon reported that he uses LinkedIn, which is the platform chosen by National for this program.

PRESENTATIONS:

Jerry Holt, Southeast Division Vice Commandant, spoke to the membership about a Department whose charter was suspended with all officers being removed from office. They had an election of officers at a meeting in which they had no quorum. He reviewed simple procedures they were missing, which included checking the Bylaws for quorum requirements (alternatively, Robert's Rules of Order), IRS 990s must be filed every year, state registration requirements must be met. He suggested staying connected with your aging-out members. Additionally, the National Commandant issued a challenge for every Detachment and Department to contribute \$100 to both the Young Marines and the Marine Corps League Foundation.

Marine Corps League Foundation – Bill Miller, Treasurer and Director of the Marine Corps League Foundation, reported that they receive income of \$16,000-\$18,000 a year and noted that scholarships alone have been over \$100,000 each year for the last few years.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Bylaws Committee – Chairman Alton Coleman reported that there were no proposed amendments this year. He noted that the Department Bylaws have been approved by National and will be posted on the Department website. Detachments may contact the Department Judge Advocate for a copy in the interim.

Credentials Committee – Judge Advocate Alton Coleman provided the following Credentials Committee report:

Detachment	Regular Delegates	Regular Alternates	Associate Delegates	Associate Alternates
564	1			
647	2			
665	5			
783	2			
970	4	1		
1188	1			
1196	8	1	1	
1260	6			
1303	0			
1325	6			
1326	2		1	
1333	3	1	3	
1373	4	2		
1402	5	5		

In the case of Detachment 1303 and Detachments that did not submit a Delegate Registration form, each member will receive their own individual vote.

Financial Review Committee – The Financial Review Committee was composed of Larry Heard, Chairman; Frank Goalen; and Walter Millhorn. Chair Larry Heard reported that the Paymaster’s records for the last year have been reviewed and no issues were identified. The Paymaster records are approved as reviewed.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None

The meeting recessed at 1042 and reconvened at 1054.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Convention Committee – Commandant Bill Miller reported that a Host Detachment is still needed. Detachments 564 and 1326 agreed to host the 2024 Convention in Savannah, Georgia.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Jr. Past Commandant Larry Heard chaired the election and noted that the order of election is Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, and Judge Advocate.

Commandant: Rex Delk nominated Bill Miller, and Bill Miller agreed to serve. No other nominations were received, and the Department Chaplain cast one unanimous vote for Bill Miller for Department Commandant.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Gary Verheyen nominated Rex Delk, and Rex Delk agreed to serve. No other nominations were received, and the Department Chaplain cast one unanimous vote for Rex Delk for Department Sr. Vice Commandant.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Michael Clark nominated Lisa Delk, and Lisa Delk agreed to serve. No other nominations were received, and the Department Chaplain cast one unanimous vote for Lisa Delk for Department Jr. Vice Commandant.

Judge Advocate: Ashford Todd nominated Alton Coleman, and Alton Coleman agreed to serve. No other nominations were received, and the Department Chaplain cast one unanimous vote for Alton Coleman for Department Judge Advocate.

Elections were closed, and the newly elected and appointed officers were sworn in by Southeast Divisional Vice Commandant Jerry Holt at the evening banquet.

AWARDS:

Commandant Bill Miller presented the following awards:

- Meritorious Unit Commendation Department Level to Detachment 665 for active Detachment of 15 or more years
- National Jr. Vice Commandant Citation to Detachment 1311 for 130.14% increase in membership and Detachment 1303 for 110.53% increase in membership

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Larry Heard reported on pending legislation, scheduled for January 2024. If this legislation passes, anyone receiving more than \$170,000 per year will lose their disability compensation and anyone making between \$125,000 and \$170,000 will lose a portion of their disability.

Tony Gasper reminded the membership that the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Georgia has money available to help Marine veterans, Navy Corpsmen, and their families.

Rusty Hurst noted that the Military Honor Flight is looking for donations. This is an opportunity to make your presence known.

Alton Coleman reported that he will be taking a college-level grant writing course and that his Detachment hired a grant writer to assist in raising funds. He suggested other Detachments look into grant writing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commandant Bill Miller noted this will be his second and final term as Department Commandant. At the end of his term, LuAnn Miller will be stepping down as Department Adjutant/Paymaster. To allow sufficient time for training and transfer of responsibilities, Commandant Miller appointed Edward Gizara as Assistant Adjutant/Paymaster.

Detachment 1402 announced they will be holding their next birthday ball on November 10, 2023, at the National Infantry Museum in Columbus. Everyone is invited to attend.

FALLEN MEMBERS CEREMONY

The meeting recessed at 1123 and will reconvene at the banquet.

BANQUET NOTES:

Guest Speaker – James E. Sehorn, Brigadier General USAF (Retired)

Grits Bowl – Department of Alabama

Associate of the Year – LuAnn Miller, Detachment 1196

Burkhardt Award – Waycross, Detachment 1333

Big Al Meade Award – Not presented

Pack Dog of the Year – Lisa Delk, Pound 350

Marine of the Year – Rex Delk, Detachment 1196

Adjournment at 2101

Submitted by:

LuAnn K. Miller

Adjutant/Paymaster

Department of Georgia

Marine Corps League