



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
MINUTES - QUARTERLY MEETING – JULY 15, 2023



OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Bill Miller at 0904. The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League was read.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DETACHMENTS:

A quorum was present.

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
- Acting Chaplain Harry McCann
- Sergeant-at-Arms Merrill Tindall
- Sergeant-at-Arms JR Millhorn

Appointed Positions:

- Fallen Marines – Merrill Tindall
- Young Marines – Jim Berres
- Marine Corps JROTC – Jay Maxwell
- Disaster Relief – Larry Heard
- Public Affairs – Alton Coleman
- Newsletter – Brent Eaton
- Web Sergeant – Brent Eaton
- Compliance Officer – Alton Coleman
- Historian – Terry Holland

Detachments in attendance included:

- Detachment 647 - L/Cpl Squire "Skip" Wells
- Detachment 665 - Upper Chattahoochee
- Detachment 783 - Unicoi
- Detachment 970 - Middle Georgia
- Detachment 1196 - Maj Stephen W. Pless
- Detachment 1260 - Maj Lawrence Des Jardines
- Detachment 1325 - Sgt Clyde Thomason MOH
- Detachment 1326 - West Chatham
- Detachment 1333 - Waycross
- Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia
- Detachment 1402 - Columbus

Dignitaries in attendance included:

- Past Department Commandant and Past SE Division Vice Commandant Michael Clark

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Miller noted that the minutes of the May 6, 2023, annual business meeting are available and have been posted on the Department website. Russ Vermillion moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Michael Clark seconded the motion, and it was approved. Michael Clark moved to accept the minutes as posted. Jim Murphy seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as published.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster's report was read. Points of note included reporting receipt of the annual PLM distribution and discussion pertaining to electronic filing of Dues Transmittals. For electronic filing, only one copy of the Dues Transmittal, a single check made payable to the Department of Georgia MCL, and accompanying documents, if any, are required. The Transmittals are uploaded online, and dues are paid from the Department to National as an ACH transaction. Department Commandant Miller urged all Detachments to participate in the electronic filing process as it is faster, easier, and less expensive, costing only \$.25 per transaction compared to purchasing U.S. First Class postage. Russ Vermillion moved to approve the Paymaster's Report as submitted pending financial review. David Haag seconded the motion, and it was approved.

REPORT OF MEMBER OR MEMBER'S FAMILY SICK OR IN DISTRESS:

Members with health problems include Ed Barbee, Greg Gouin, Charles Addison, Jim Porcella, Bob Dewitt, Page Dewitt, Jim Boyle, and Bill Miller. Members who have loved ones with health problems include Bill Sirmon. Bill Miller expressed gratitude to all, especially Rex and Lisa Delk, who assisted him after his fall post-surgery.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Commandant: Commandant Bill Miller provided a report on the Department of Alabama Convention.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk also reported on the Department of Alabama Convention. He noted that Bill Miller, Rex and Lisa Delk, Larry and Sandra Heard, and Michael and Linda Clark attended. The Convention included seven Alabama Detachments, and the head of Veteran's Affairs spoke about Alabama services for veterans. Rex also reported on the 988- telephone line which is a veteran crises line that has been in service for a year and focuses on suicide prevention. Sr. Vice Delk noted that we lost the Grits Bowls by a 10% differential. The Sr. Vice also corrected his comments from the annual meeting, noting that the brown web belt he referenced should have been identified as a khaki web belt, which is worn with blue trousers. A black belt is worn with black pants. Sr. Vice Delk reported that currently 10 Detachments are attending the meeting in person with one individual watching via Facebook.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Jr. Vice Commandant Lisa Delk gave her report on the Department of Alabama Convention. She noted that we lost the Grits Bowl because we have so many delinquent members. She suggested that Detachments check their rosters, as many rosters are still incorrect. She further recommended to Commandants that they urge their Jr. Vice Commandants to attend quarterly Department meetings. If you have issues with your roster, contact the Department Jr. Vice for assistance. Jr. Vice Commandant Delk reported that life membership dues doubled effective July 1, 2023. She advised that Glynco, Detachment

716, is in the final stages of closing. Members are transferring to Dog Company, Detachment 564. The next Detachments for closure are DLC Marines, Detachment 1462, and Peach County, Detachment 1424. The Department of Georgia will be establishing a Georgia At-Large Detachment to retain members from closing Detachments who do not want to transfer to an active Detachment. Georgia Devil Dogs, Detachment 952, is currently being used as an At-Large Detachment with the current Department Board of Trustees standing as the Board for the Detachment. Jim Murphy asked how Detachments should handle delinquent members. Jr. Vice Commandant Delk advised that the Detachments must carry the individuals for a year before they fall off the roster or the Detachment can suggest that the individual transfer to another Detachment or submit a written letter of resignation. Sr. Vice Commandant Delk reported that he used the resignation letter route to clean up his Detachment roster. It was noted that, if a member is a dual member, the letter of resignation will completely remove the member from all membership rosters. There was a discussion regarding recruitment and membership and allowing Detachments to permit payment plans. Paymaster LuAnn Miller noted the importance of detailed recording keeping if payment plans are authorized.

Judge Advocate: Judge Advocate and Compliance Officer Alton Coleman advised Detachment Commandants that it is important to encourage their Boards of Trustees to attend Department quarterly meetings. These are work sessions where Detachment officers can approach Department officers to discuss things specific to their Detachments. The National Annual Convention is coming up in August, and there are 49 proposed Bylaws amendments. One of note is a proposed amendment to Section 645 dealing with Charter suspension and revocation. Currently, when a Detachment has had its charter suspended, all members are held on that roster for the duration of the suspension. If a charter is revoked, the members will be transferred to the nearest Detachment or to Member at Large. If the amendment is approved, when a charter is suspended, members may be moved out, even those members who are not in good standing. Compliance Officer Coleman thanked the Detachments previously not in compliance for moving quickly and taking care of business to get back into good standing. Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk added that, when he was Jr. Vice, he found a lot of people that had passed away when he was working on Detachment closures. If you haven't talked to the people on your roster in a long time, please contact them and make sure they are still with us. Know your roster and your people. Stay in touch with them.

Sergeants-at-Arms: No report

Chaplain: Acting Chaplain Harry McCann read the written report of the Chaplain. Deceased members since the last meeting included Peter Hurber, Daniel Fink, Lawrence John Wolst, Frederick Thomas, Robert E. Thornton, William Pless, and Anthony Chiavarni.

Adjutant/Paymaster: No report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2024 Department Convention Committee: It was reported that Edward Gizara is working on procuring hotels and other convention-related items. The Department Commandant plans to meet with him at the end of August.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Fallen Marine – Merrill Tindall reported that a Marine and member of his Detachment passed, and he had to read about it in the newspaper. He noted that each Detachment should have a Fallen Marine officer to work with funeral homes. If your Detachment does not have a program and would like to start one, Merrill would be happy to assist.

Eagle Scout program – Rex Delk reported that five Eagle Scout presentations were conducted by Detachment 1373, Larry Heard did five for the Department, and three were done by Detachment 1325.

Young Marines – Jim Berres reported they have one new unit, the Northwest Georgia Marines situated in Douglasville. Young Marine Color Guards have been very busy with Memorial Day. A Young Marine Encampment is being held next weekend at Brownsdale Plantation and volunteers are needed. The Encampment will include exercises in compass, navigation, marksmanship, and range safety officer training. Their annual budget is \$16,000 per year including leadership, and a new unit cost is \$8,000-\$9,000 for the first year.

Michael Clark reported that, historically, the Department of Georgia has supported four organizations including ROTC, Boy Scouts, Young Marines, and Youth Physical Fitness (YPF). Michael Clark moved that the Department of Georgia donate \$500 to each of the five Young Marine units in Georgia. The motion was seconded by Larry Heard and was approved. Jim Berres will provide the current contact list to the Department Paymaster.

Newsletter – Brent Eaton reported that newsletters will be emailed out. He noted that he entered the current newsletter in the National annual competition.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

LuAnn Miller reminded the membership that the National Commandant encourages support for the Young Marines and the Marine Corps League Foundation, suggesting that each Detachment, Department and Unit donate \$100 to each of these organizations. Michael Clark moved that the Department of Georgia donate \$100 to the Marine Corps League Foundation. Marty Habecker seconded the motion. Russ Vermillion asked if this can be made a line item in the budget or if it must be approved by motion. The motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commandant Bill Miller advised that the Department needs a new website and expects that more information will be provided at the October quarterly meeting. Currently, the Department of Georgia and Detachment 1260 are sharing hosting costs. We need to break from Detachment 1260 and get the domain name transferred to the Department of Georgia. A new member of Detachment 647 noted that she is a web designer and is willing to help design a new website. It was noted that our Commandant's email distribution list is limited to 100 addresses. We need to expand that and create officer-specific distribution lists to function more efficiently.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Lisa Delk spoke about Color Guards and Honor Guards. If you have an Honor Guard or Color Guard, you are now required to have white duty belts, not cartridge belts. They can be ordered from the Semper Fi Store. She also noted that Honor Guard and Color Guard covers cannot have anything on the right side and must be red covers. The National Colors for a Color Guard cannot have fringe and only the pike is permitted. The Public Affairs Office at National is very quick to respond to posted pictures that have uniform inconsistencies. Detachment Colors and the Marine Corps flag may have fringe. Outdoors, fringe is not permitted on any flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Doug Tasse, Detachment 647, noted that today is the 8-year anniversary of Skip Wells' death in the Chattanooga terrorist attack. Today is also his 56th wedding anniversary, but he still came to the meeting.

Marty Habecker reminded the membership of the tribute knife raffle that will benefit the Department of Georgia treasury.

CLOSING CEREMONY:

There being no further business, the Quarterly Meeting was closed by ritual at 1043.

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