



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
MINUTES – QUARTERLY MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2024**



OPENING CEREMONY

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Bill Miller at 0900.

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 - Excused
Jr Past Commandant – Larry Heard
Adjutant/Paymaster LuAnn Miller
Asst. Adjutant/Paymaster Edward Gizara
Chaplain Mickey Edwards
Sgt at Arms Merrill Tindal
Sgt at Arms Excused

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

VSO – Mickey Edwards
Fallen Marines – Merrill Tindall
Marine Corps JROTC – Jay Maxwell
Boy Scout Coordinator – Mickey Edwards
Disaster Relief – Larry Heard
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 – 1stSgt Charles F Waller
Detachment 1196 – Maj Stephen W Pless
Detachment 1325 – Sgt Clyde Tomason MOH
Detachment 1326 – West Chatham
Detachment 1333 - Waycross
Detachment 1373 – Central Georgia
Detachment 1402 - Columbus
Detachment 1438 – Lake Blue Ridge

MISSION STATEMENT:

Commandant Miller asked Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk to read the Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Miller noted that the minutes of the July 15, 2023, quarterly meeting are available and have been posted to the Department Website. Three minor changes were made to the minutes. Martin Habecker (1373) moved that we accept the minutes as amended. Bernard Bledsoe (1040) seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as amended.

CORRESPONDENCE:

LuAnn Miller received a request for a donation from the Wounded Warrior Program.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster's report was read. Martin Habecker (1373) asked about operating costs and the amount maintained in the Money Market Acct and Preferred Savings Account. LuAnn Miler (Paymaster) responded and answered all questions. Martin Habecker (1373) moved to approve the Paymaster's Report as submitted pending financial review. Bernard Bledsoe seconded the motion, and it was approved.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Members with health problems include Ed Barbee (970), Russ Johnson (1311), Jedd Depope, and Tom Zwager (1402). Members whom we have lost since the last Quarterly Meeting are Raymond Schneider, Thomas Hughes, Patrick O'Hanlon, Ernest Mixon, George Davison (1312), CC Hinton, Robert Askey (1260), and Raiford Smith (1325). James Murphy lost his wife recently.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Commandant: Commandant Bill Miller Sent an email from Bob Borka about the Newest Membership Application and the importance of using the most recent application from the website. LuAnn Miller added that she is still getting applications with Service/Social Security numbers on them, this was discontinued years ago. Bill continued by telling all Detachments that they must use the most current forms, or the packet will be sent back. If you have an issue with a member, the 1st thing to do is go to your respective PayMaster to see what they have in their records. Do not go directly to the Department PayMaster, she will have to go through all her records. Commandants are responsible for ensuring that all officers are doing their jobs. Bill also sent out an email about membership cards and they will now have Profile IDs instead of Membership numbers. He stated there could be some changes. Terry Holland (1402) asked about the Detachment's being able to submit everything electronically to the Department including ACH transactions. Bill explained that National has a company they are using for ACH Bank Transfers, the cost is \$0.25 per transaction. He explained that it is in a testing phase with the Department of South Carolina. Three documents were forwarded out by the National Judge Advocate, about requirements for membership in the MCL. Detachments are responsible for vetting the individual's DD214 from any service to be eligible. Tony Gasper (647) commented that Detachments should ensure that they ask for the most recent DD214. Detachments must vote on prospective members and follow proper procedures. The last email was about virtual meetings. You must have an in-person meeting; however, you could Zoom during your meeting with other members unable to attend. The next thing is, Bill read an article about the Tun Tavern and sponsorship levels.

Bill brought up Veteran Suicide and that America's Warrior Partnership released a striking report that the American Veteran Suicide rate is 2.4 times greater than the Veteran Affairs numbers. DOD report released in April 2022 shows that suicide is at its highest level since 1938 and that the numbers are increasing with Women Veterans as well as family members.

Senior Vice Commandant: Rex Delk stated that the Department wants to reach down to the Detachments, not to run them, but be a part of helping. The Department has talked about getting involved in some "Air Shows", they are all over the state. They have begun calling them about having the Marine Corps League be there and partner with the local Detachment to help recruit and get "Interest Cards" and disseminate them to the Detachments to reach out and get these people to join, and work on getting members. We are looking into Air Shows and Gun Shows because we see a lot of Marines at these events. The Department wants to be a part of what each Detachment is doing. When you are working these shows, get the Interest Card and get the contact. One thing to do is to create a prospect list to keep in contact with them and invite them to your meetings and events.

Junior Vice Commandant: Lisa Delk reported that there is a "Recruiter of the Year" Award for the Detachment level, the Department level, and the National level. It comes down to who recruits the most members. If you recruit between 5 and 25 members, you will automatically receive an "Individual Recruiting Citation" from National. If you get more than 25, you can earn the Recruiter Medal, Gold, Silver, or Bronze. Make sure the "Sponsor" is filled out on the application so they can keep track of who recruits the most members. Department PayMaster, LuAnn Miller added that there is a form in the Department Administrative Procedures that you fill out and submit to the Department. It must be signed by the Commandant. LuAnn touched on Detachment 1424 closing. We still have 4 members who are "Life Members" that need to be placed in another Detachment.

Another issue is that the Department needs to restart a new Detachment for all members of Detachment 952. The Department is going to start a new Detachment and move all the members from 952 into the new Detachment. To make this happen, we need about 15 dual members where one of the memberships is "At Large" to sign a new charter and get the new Detachment stood up, we can get all the existing members into the new Detachment and get the S.O.S. right, get the EIN right, get Bylaws and Administrative Procedures correct.

Judge Advocate:

Report by Rex Delk. Delegate Registration forms are due by 15 April. Any proposed Amendments to the Department Bylaws or Administrative Procedures are due to "Doc" by February 15th. They can be sent via email." Doc" sent out emails asking each Detachment "What are they doing for your veteran community?". The purpose of the request is to allow the Department to assist and help grow and be a part of the Detachments to help Detachments reach their goals.

Sgt-At-Arms:

No Report.

Chaplain:

Mickey Edwards reported that we have had 8 members who have passed on since the last Quarterly Meeting, they are Raymond Schneider, Thomas Hughes, Patrick O'Hanlon, Ernest Mixon, George Davison (1312), CC Hinton, Robert Askey (1260), Raiford Smith (1325).

Adjutant/Paymaster:

No Report

Assistant Adjutant/Paymaster:

No Report

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Convention Committee:

Ed Gizara reported that we are slowly getting Ads in. Detachment 564 has sent out over 400 Sponsor Request forms to local businesses. We have split Savannah into two sections with Detachment 1326, they have the north side of Savannah and 564 has the South side. He added that he has received 6 registrations for the convention, and we need to get everyone to begin to register for the convention. Marty Habecker (1373) asked when the Ads are due, Ed responded that they are due by April 1st.

Veteran Service Officer:

No Report

Fallen Marines:

No Report.

Marine for Life:

No Report

Marine Corps JROTC:

No Report.

Young Marines:

Getzie Lamar (647) reported for Jim Berres, that the Georgia Young Marines collected 13 boxes of toys. Metro Atlanta Young Marines were chosen as Division 3 Young Marine Unit of the Year and there was also a Young Marine selected as “Young Marine of the Year” and was meritoriously promoted to Young Marine SgtMaj. He will be one of six going for National Young Marine of the Year.

Northwest Georgia just graduated their first recruit class. She thought it would be good to have the Young Marines attend events like the air shows.

Marine for Life:

Reported that Bill Sirmon is retiring from the base, and he requests that he be removed as the coordinator. Bill Miller asked if anyone wanted to be the Marine for Life Coordinator, but no one responded.

Boy Scout Coordinator:

Mickey Edwards reported that the Eagle Scouts reported that in the past quarter, we had about 25 Eagle Scouts. Some Detachments are not turning in their reports. The report consists of an email being sent to Mickey with Detachment #, District, and how many Eagle Scouts you had. If you do not know how many Eagles Scouts there are in your area, call the district, if you can't let Mickey know and he will call. These young men and women must get the recognition they deserve.

Marty Habecker (1373) added that he has a video of three “Court of Honor” If anyone is interested in seeing them to learn how one is conducted, he would send a thumb drive to those who request it.

Disaster Relief:

No Report

Historian:

No Report

Convention 2025:

Bill Miller asked if there was anyone interested in hosting the 2025 convention.

Terry Holland (1402) stated that they agreed to take the 2025 convention if Savannah would do the 2024 convention. Bill Miller told Terry to do his research and get some preliminaries to report at the 2024 convention.

Unfinished Business:

Barbara Brammer (1402) asked if the Department still has districts. Bill Miller responded that the Department is reworking the boundaries. Lisa Delk added that this is due to some Detachment closures which leaves some Detachments out there by themselves. Rex Delk said that when he closed all those Detachments the districts became skewed. But where we are now with the strength of the Detachments, we can begin redistricting.

Bill Miller brought up the idea that due to the distance between some Detachments, we might think about having an Assistant District Vice so the workload can be split between them.

Old Business:

It was asked if the Department of Georgia has upped the amount of money for the Detachments to donate for the convention from \$20 to \$30. Some units already pay more because they know the cost of the convention. Bill Miller stated that it would have to be done in a Bylaw Amendment.

New Business:

Marty Habecker proposed a question as to what would have to be done to increase the donation for the convention from \$20 to \$30. Bill Miller stated that it would be a Bylaw amendment.

Presentations:

Bill Miller presented the National Jr Vice Commandant Citation for exceeding the previous year's membership to:

Detachment 1326 - West Chatham – 110.81%

Detachment 1325 Sgt Clyde Thomason MOH – 105.88%

Detachment 1402 – Columbus – Department of Georgia Shooting Competition. Brent Eaton individual rifle match – 1st Place Expert, Individual Pistol 22cal. 1st Place Marksman

Good of the League:

Bill Miller stated that Marine Corps League members are required to have a Marine Corps League Cover, that it is the only required uniform. Covers are required for all State and national conventions and all Detachment meetings.

Marine Corps League National Newsletter Award – 3rd Place, Department of Georgia – Jarhead Review, Brent Eaton Editor.

Jerry Holland (1402) They had SgtMaj, Raymond Rogue, who passed away and had a very hard time getting him military honors. He wanted to thank Detachment 1196 & Lisa Delk for assisting in this matter. Lisa told everyone that Detachment 1196 has a very active Honor Guard, they are 100% DOD Certified. They perform Honors for all services at no charge. If anyone has questions or knows a Veteran in need on an Honor Guard, contact Lisa Delk.

Announcements:

Mid-Winter Conference is in Arlington, Virginia from February 22-24 24th. The 22nd is mostly committee meetings except for going to the National Marine Corps Museum.

Southeast Division Conference is in Chattanooga Tennessee, March 14-16

Department of Georgia Convention May 3-4, Savannah, Georgia.

Department of Alabama Convention is in Sheffield, Alabama June 21-23.

Marine Corps League National Convention is in Rancho Mirage, California August 12-16.

CLOSING CEREMONY:

There being no further business, the Quarterly Meeting was closed by ritual at 11:10 AM.

Submitted by: Edward Gizara