



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**



**MINUTES - QUARTERLY MEETING – JANUARY 28, 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  
Boy Scout Coordinator – Mickey Edwards  
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 564 – Dog Company  
Detachment 647 - L/Cpl Squire “Skip” Wells  
Detachment 783 - Unicoi  
Detachment 970 - Middle Georgia  
Detachment 1040 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Charles F. Waller  
Detachment 1196 - Maj Stephen W. Pless  
Detachment 1260 - Maj Lawrence Des Jardines  
Detachment 1280 - North Georgia Mountain  
Detachment 1325 - Sgt Clyde Thomason MOH  
Detachment 1326 - West Chatham  
Detachment 1333 - Waycross  
Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia  
Detachment 1402 - Columbus

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Commandant Miller noted that the minutes of the October 29, 2022, business meeting are available and have been posted on the Department website. Bernard Bledsoe moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as posted. Russ Vermillion seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as published.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Levi McKenna reported that the Devil Dogs will hold a special growl this afternoon, which will feature chartering a new pound.

Commandant Bill Miller reported receiving an email from National Headquarters requesting a list of honor guard and color guard activities for reporting at the Mid-Winter Conference. Responses need to be turned in by February 10. If a Detachment does not participate in these activities, they should still submit a report indicating zero activity.

Commandant Miller also noted that National Headquarters requested that all Marine Corps League websites should include a disclaimer and requested that each Detachment report when this is completed. The disclaimer should include the following wording:

Disclaimer: “The Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem and the name Marine Corps® are registered trademarks of the USMC. The Marine Corps League and its subordinate organizations support the USMC and its veterans, however it is not officially connected to or endorsed by the USMC, and the name and emblem are used with permission.”

**REPORT OF PAYMASTER:**

The Paymaster’s report was read. Bernard Bledsoe moved to approve the Paymaster’s Report as submitted pending financial review. Harry McCann seconded the motion, and it was approved. Detachments were reminded to pay for their Boy Scout coins when they receive them. If we continue to have issues receiving payments, we may need to move to a pay-first system.

**REPORT OF MEMBER OR MEMBER’S FAMILY SICK OR IN DISTRESS:**

Members with health problems include Roger Pilcher’s sister (Det. 783), LuAnn Miller (Det. 1196), Rusty Held’s granddaughter (Det 1402), and Rex Delk (Det. 1196).

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

**Commandant:** Commandant Bill Miller reported that, due to Chapter 9 activities and other matters, the Department staff has been less active than usual in the last three months. All items for the Commandant’s report have already been discussed.

**Sr. Vice Commandant:** Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk urged the membership to do things at your Detachments to make and keep the Detachment relevant to your members and community. You never know how your presence and the things you do affect people. He added, as a reminder, that we need people to step up for Department positions. We can use your help.

**Jr. Vice Commandant:** Jr. Vice Commandant Lisa Delk reported that an email will be going out announcing availability of the second quarter roster. Currently in Georgia, we have 207 members delinquent. We have until March 31 to clear them up as March 31 is the deadline for the Grits Bowl. Jr.

Vice Delk encouraged Detachment Jr. Vice Commandants to attend quarterly Department meetings to interface and share with other Jr. Vice Commandants. To encourage early payment of dues, Detachment 1196 offers discounts to members that pay early. She recommended utilizing alternate payment methods, such as credit card transactions. Jr. Vice Delk noted that a Detachment Guide for recruitment and retention came out recently. Please contact her if your Detachment hasn't received it. Craig Reeling from Maryland suggested calling members on their birthdays.

**Judge Advocate:** Judge Advocate Alton Coleman reminded Detachments that they need to register with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. The deadline for annual registrations is April 1. You can register for one, two, or three years. Also, 990-N postcards should have been filed by November 15. If you have not yet filed your 990-N, please do so now. Judge Advocate Coleman reported that a Chapter 9 had been filed involving a Detachment in Georgia. A hearing was held December 3, the Hearing Board released its findings, and the respondent filed an appeal. An update will be provided after the appeal is completed.

The meeting recessed at 0933 and reconvened at 0948.

**Sergeants-at-Arms:** No report

**Chaplain:** Chaplain Mickey Edwards reported that sixteen members passed away since the last quarterly meeting. They include Edward Chin; Thomas E. Reid; James M. Renfro; Robert H. Machen; Marion Sparks Ramcy, Jr.; Gregory Welsh; Vincent Dooley; Richard S. Wakefield; Johnny E. Davis; Brady Drummond, Jr.; Eugene Lester Krattli; Gerald N. Blaney; James M. Schultz; Arnold Ford; Harry Kone; and Denzil H. Harrell. As Boy Scout Coordinator, Mickey Edwards requested that Detachments turn in their reports. He noted that around 55-60 Eagle Courts of Honor have been held in the current reporting period.

**Adjutant/Paymaster:** No report

**Newsletter:** Brent Eaton is in the process of preparing an e-newsletter, which will be posted online or distributed by email. Look for it on the Department website and the Marine Corps League Department of Georgia Facebook page. He noted that people are watching our site, and this helps keep us relevant.

**Disaster Relief:** No incidents to report. Barbara Brammer noted that it is never too late to help people recovering from disasters. There is always something that is not covered by insurance that the individuals may not be able to replace.

**Historian:** Terry Holland reported that Bernard Bledsoe sent him spreadsheets and he is in the process of updating them.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**2023 Department Convention Committee:** Levi McKenna reported that Detachment 1373 is hosting this year's convention at the Courtyard Marriott off Watson Boulevard in downtown Warner Robins. The Convention will be Friday, May 5, through, Sunday, May 7. The Hospitality Room and Registration will be open on Friday with the Commandants' Council being held Friday evening. The business meeting and Grand Growl will be on Saturday. The banquet will be Saturday night. If you have any special dietary needs, please let the Host Detachment know. Detachments are encouraged to provide three raffle items, and each Detachment is required to send a \$20 donation to the Department Paymaster, which will be forwarded to the Host Detachment.

Levi McKenna also reported on the opportunity to recruit members at gun shows. RK Gun Shows offers tables at a cost of \$35; Gem Capital Gun Shows does not charge for setting up a table. Interested Detachments should contact Levi McKenna.

**Financial Review Committee:** Commandant Bill Miller requested volunteers for the Financial Review Committee, which will conduct the annual financial review in advance of the Convention business meeting. As Jr. Past Commandant, Larry Heard will chair the committee. Additional committee members are Barbara Brammer and Tim McClelland.

**Bylaws Committee:** Committee Chair Alton Coleman advised that the deadline for Bylaws Amendment proposals is February 15. All Bylaws Amendments can be sent to Alton Coleman by mail or email. The proposed Bylaws Committee comprises Tony Gasper, William Clark, Merrill Tindall, and Chair Coleman.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Alton Coleman reported that Detachment 783 is again hosting the Iwo Jima Ceremony on Monday, February 17, at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center in Young Harris, Georgia. An email with the event details will be sent out.

Robert King noted that a Vietnam Memorial Ceremony will be held at the Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia, at 9:00 a.m. on March 29.

Terry Holland reported that Detachment 1402's 2022 Birthday Ball was very successful, and they intend to expand for 2023. They had almost 150 people at their last ball, which was held Friday, November 10, 2022.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

Detachment 1424, Peach County, has surrendered its charter.

Craig Reeling, National Uniform Chairman, is a defense contractor for the Army and is currently working in the area. Please let him know if your Detachment has anything going on in the next two months. He is working at Fort Benning. As National Uniform Chairman, he reported that people send him photos all the time of individuals out of uniform. He recommends that Detachments include their location on their covers so that people know what area they are from. He also recommends having name tags or names embroidered on shirts.

Commandant Bill Miller reported that there are copies of the Marine Corps League Congressional Charter available to Detachments.

Commandant Bill Miller presented the National Jr. Vice Commandant Citation to Detachment 1280 for exceeding previous year's membership by 194.12%. Also receiving the National Jr. Vice Commandant Citation was Detachment 564 for exceeding previous year's membership by 108.33%. Detachment 564 was also presented with the Jr. Vice Commandant Citation Meritorious Unit Citation Department Level for Detachment longevity of 15 years or more.

Commandant Bill Miller reminded the members that the National Convention will be held in August in Oklahoma City. It is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marine Corps League.

Jim Stone noted that the Southeast Division Conference will be held March 16-19 at the Hilton Garden Inn in North Charleston, South Carolina.

Merrill Tindall reported that Detachment 1333 would be unable to host the 2024 Department Convention as they have no facilities that can handle the number of attendees. The Department Commandant will send contact information for a convention facilities resource to any Detachment interested in hosting.

Rusty Held of Detachment 1402 noted they have engraved glasses left over from their Birthday Ball. They are \$5 per glass. Proceeds go to the Young Marines.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**CLOSING CEREMONY:**

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

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