



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
MINUTES – QUARTERLY MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 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:

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
Paymaster/Adjutant LuAnn Miller
Asst. Paymaster/Adjutant Edward Gizara
Chaplain Mickey Edwards
Sgt at Arms Merrill Tindal
Sgt at Arms JR Millhorn

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

VSO – Mickey Edwards
Fallen Marines – Merrill Tindall
Young Marines – Jim Berres
Boy Scout Coordinator – Mickey Edwards
Disaster Relief – Larry Heard
Public Affairs – Alton Coleman
Compliance Officer – Alton Coleman

DETACHMENTS IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDED:

Detachment 564 – Dog Company
Detachment 647 – L/Cpl Squire “Skip” Wells
Detachment 783 - Unicoi
Detachment 970 – Middle Georgia
Detachment 1196 – Maj Stephen W Pless
Detachment 1333 - Waycross
Detachment 1373 – Central Georgia
Detachment 1402 – Columbus

MISSION STATEMENT:

Commandant Miller asked Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk to read the Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League. Commandant Miller took a moment of personal privilege to discuss the work a few League Members took to assist with the transportation of the remains of Marine Veteran Sean Willey.

Distinguished Service Medal – Gold awarded to Alton Coleman

Distinguished Service Medal – Silver awarded to Ashford Todd (not present)

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. Russ Vermillion (1196) moved that we accept the minutes as posted. Harry McCann 1196 seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as posted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

LuAnn Miller read a “Thank you” card from the Metro Atlantic Young Marines for a donation made to their unit.

Also, a letter was sent from the Albany Young Marines for a donation made to the unit.

A “Thank you” for our donation to support the Northwest Georgia Young Marines. A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to the Department of Georgia MCL.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster’s report was read. JR Millhorn 1333 moved to approve the Paymaster’s Report as submitted pending financial review. Harry McCann 1196 seconded the motion, and it was approved.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Members with health problems include Ed Barbee, Ashford Todd, and Bill Miller. Members who we have lost since the last Quarterly Meeting are PJ O’Hanlon, Walt Scott (Past Commandant 783), Ed Hisel lost his wife in September. LuAnn Miller will be having carpal tunnel surgery on October 30th. At the National Convention, Marty Habecker had to be hospitalized due to a hernia. Levi McKenna stayed with him to provide a ride back home.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Commandant: Commandant Bill Miller received an invitation to be a dignitary at Governor Brian Kemp’s Veteran’s Day Ceremony, which is hosted by the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, on November 6th at the Capital, where he represents the Marine Corps League. He received another invitation to be a Dignitary at the Georgia Veteran’s Day Parade on November 11th. That evening Bill Miller will be attending the 2023 Freedom Ball being held at the Cobb Galleria Centre.

Senior Vice Commandant: Rex Delk stated that he is in the process of getting the Department Website right. Members should not have to call for basic information, they should be able to find that information on the website. He has until June to transfer the site to a new platform.

Junior Vice Commandant: Lisa Delk reported that the 1st Quarter Rosters for FY 23/24 are out. If you have not already received your Detachment Roster, please contact Lisa Delk or LuAnn Miller. Currently, there are 339 delinquent members, which is 28% of our membership. We just had the turnover from FY22/23 to FY23/24. Many of the delinquent members are waiting for National to catch up. Please review your rosters and make sure that members showing delinquent, are delinquent. If you have a processed copy of your transmittal, call Lisa Delk and she will work with you to get it fixed.

We have one Detachment Glynco 716 that is completely closed and members have been transferred out to Dog Company 564. Peach County Detachment 1424, there are four members that need to be transferred, she will reach out to them to see if they want to be transferred to another Detachment or go into the Georgia At-Large Membership.

DLC Marines, Detachment 1462, has one member remaining who needs to be transferred, and he is a dual member.

Lisa Delk will be reaching out to all five of those members so those Detachments can be closed by the end of the calendar year.

Bill Miller asked about Detachment 1421, as the Department has been holding their funds of \$173.00 for more than a year, still waiting to get their Charter, Paymaster to move funds into the General Account.

Judge Advocate:

No report at this time.

Sgt-At-Arms:

No report at this time.

Chaplain:

Mickey Edwards reported that we have had 13 deaths since the last Quarterly Meeting, they are James R. Caines, Terri Dunkle, George Metz, Gale Murphy, Charles Roscoe Outland, John Sybrandt, William Jones, Walter Scott, Jessie B. Pruitt, Lewis Riley, Jr., Alan Yovich, Allen B. Harvey, and Neal Lawrence. Commandant Bill Miller asked all Detachments present if there were any members not on that roster, Alton Coleman reported that there was one life member from 1325 and Harry looked into this matter and found that the member was, Thomas Hughes who recently passed away. The daughter wanted a service so Alton, Frank, and Mickey conducted a nice memorial service for Thomas Hughes which was in Fayetteville.

Adjutant/Paymaster:

No Report

Assistant Adjutant/Paymaster:

No Report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Financial Review Committee:

No Report - will have members by January.

Bylaws Committee:

If any Detachments have changes to the Department Bylaws, they must be submitted in the correct format and received by the Bylaws Committee before February 15th.

Commandant Bill Miller put the meeting in recess.

Commandant Bill Miller Opened the meeting and reminded everyone that this year is the 100th Anniversary and that all members are authorized to wear the 100th Anniversary ribbon with the 100 device. If you attended the National Convention, you are authorized to wear the gold frame around the ribbon.

Convention Committee:

Ed Gizara began with a slide show presentation and reported that the hotel selected is Embassy Suites by Hilton. He gave details about the hotel and the rooms. Ed stated that the website for registration is www.dogcompany564.com, Ed Gizara went through the process of doing an online registration and the fill, print, and mail registration. He showed the link to the hotel room registration. Advised all that if anyone has any questions or issues to contact him and he provided his cell phone number. LuAnn Miller reminded all units of their obligation to support the Convention and provide a \$20 donation made payable to the Department of Georgia.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**Fallen Marines:**

Merrill Tindell asked how many Detachments had a Fallen Marine program, and recommended that if they did not, it was highly recommended that they should be put into practice.

The NOD must be submitted properly, and a copy sent to Mickey. The NOD must be included with the transmittal and submitted to the PayMaster. Bill Miller recommended that each Detachment have a program to stay in contact with all Marines, especially those who are unable to make it to meetings. Recommended that there be a Lunch & Learn on the Young Marine Program at the next quarterly meeting.

Young Marines:

Jim Berres reported that two Unit Commanders, Northwest Georgia, and Metro Atlanta were in attendance. Jim is the Unit Commander for Middle Georgia. Jim's Young Marines partnered with the Marine Corps League Detachment in Warner Robins for Toys for Tots. Together they worked one weekend and delivered \$600 cash and three full boxes of toys. There are three more weekends that they will be collecting. Jim added that they have the Young Marine's Birthday this month and individual units will be doing their own celebration, and hopefully, they will be able to have one large celebration for all units. This week is Drug Awareness Week, and all Young Marine units are active in their communities.

Eagle Scout:

Mickey Edwards reported that the Eagle Scout report for the past totaled out at 25-30. Scouting is coming back after Covid. A letter went out to all Detachments via the Commandants List, 24 Detachments, only 6 returned emails with their Eagle Scout Reports. Mickey will be enrolling his son as an Associate Member, and he will be the Scouting Coordinator for Detachment 1402. Bill Miller added that it is very important that Detachments compile their list of Eagle Scouts and submit them to Mickey, and he will compile a complete report that goes to the Southeast Division, who then compiles the report to National.

Marine for Life:

Reported that Bill Sirmon is the Marine for Life for the state of Georgia. He is retiring from the base, and we will have to find another Marine for Life for next year. Bill Miller asked if he would be invited to the 2024 Convention.

Unfinished Business:

None

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:

None

Good of the League:

Bill Miller called the Sgt at Arms to the front, gave him the streamer from the National Convention and told him to get it on the flag at his earliest convenience.

Presentations:

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

Detachment 647 – 106.98%

Detachment 970 – 104.84%

Detachment 1333 – 140%

Detachment 1373 – 106.9%

Detachment 1402 – 117.39%

Announcements:

Tony Gasper – 647 mentioned the Coordinating Council of Georgia. The Department Commandant is the representative to the Council. The purpose of this council is to help veterans, active, reserve, and their families who are in financial need.

Doug Casey – 647 stated that in January they put out a newsletter detailing what is happening in their Detachment. Also, they made a “Welcome to Our Detachment” booklet for new members. It gives information about the Marine Corps League as well as the Detachment, the by-laws, the listing of officers, and other information. The purpose is to make the new members feel that they are welcome and important to the Detachment.

LuAnn Miller recommended that as soon as a new member joins, you should immediately assign them a mentor. Bill Miller added that a mentor is a single POC for the new member for meeting reminders, ride-share, and other information.

Bill Miller told everyone that the next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled to be in Gainesville, GA, hosted by Detachment 665. No date yet, but it had to be in the last two weekends.

LuAnn Miller told everyone that at the next quarterly meeting, there will be Paymaster Training. Take the information back to your Detachments. Invite everyone to the training. The Quarterly meetings are not just for Detachment Commandants.

CLOSING CEREMONY:

There being no further business, the Quarterly Meeting was closed by ritual at 11:24 AM.

Submitted by: Edward Gizara

