



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**



MINUTES - QUARTERLY MEETING – OCTOBER 29, 2022

OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Bill Miller at 0901. 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 JR Millhorn

Appointed Positions:

V.S.O. – Mickey Edwards
Young Marines – Jim Berres
Marine Corps JROTC – Jay Maxwell
Boy Scout Coordinator – Mickey Edwards
Disaster Relief – Larry Heard
Public Affairs – Alton Coleman
Newsletter – Brent Eaton
Web Sergeant – Brent Eaton
Historian – Terry Holland

Detachments in attendance included:

Detachment 647 - L/Cpl Squire “Skip” Wells
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
Detachment 1424 – Peach County

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Miller noted that the minutes of the July 30, 2022, business meeting are available and have been posted on the Department website. Adjutant LuAnn Miller noted that a typographical error was identified on page 2 in the Jr. Vice Commandant Report. That error will be corrected and the minutes reposted. Michael Clark moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as amended. Tim McClelland seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as amended.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster's report was read. Harry McCann moved to approve the Paymaster's Report as submitted pending financial review. Larry Heard seconded the motion, and it was approved. The subject of funds held for prospective Detachments in Tifton, Thomaston, and Forsyth was raised. It was noted that no records exist for Tifton and Thomaston, so the Department is unable to return these funds. Ashford Todd moved to incorporate the funds for Tifton, Thomaston, and Forsyth into Department of Georgia assets. The motion was seconded by Ed Barbee. Following discussion, the motion was approved.

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

Members with health problems include Frank Goalen and LuAnn Miller. Members who have passed away include Vince Dooley. Chaplain Mickey Edwards reported that he received notification of eight deaths since the last quarterly meeting including Edward Chin, Douglas A. Barringer, Vera S. Newsome, William H. Stephens, Felix Demuth, Willard Camp, Gregory Welsh, and Graden E. Loveless.

REPORTS OF ELECTED OFFICERS:

Commandant: Commandant Bill Miller reported on Operation Shooting Star, an initiative to have a star added to the Hollywood Walk of Fame for Gunnery Sergeant R. Lee Erney. He noted that a petition is being circulated. Commandant Miller also noted that copies of an honor and memory book titled Marines Don't Cry are available to the members at no charge. The volume is normally priced at \$49, but the author donated the books to the Department. Christopher Giblen provides a service that locates convention space at no cost to the Department. Commandant Miller suggested we use this service for the 2024 Convention. Please contact Commandant Miller if your Detachment is interested in hosting the 2024 Convention. The Legislative Affairs Officer position for the Department is currently vacant. Commandant Miller noted that National Marine Corps League considers this to be a critical position. Please consider volunteering. The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is an award presented by age group for volunteer service. The Department of Georgia is authorized to become a certifying agency. If interested, a committee will be appointed and trained, and that committee will review

submissions. The Department would purchase the awards. Please contact Bill Miller if you are interested in participating. Commandant Miller reported that each Department has been requested to appoint a Compliance Officer to review legal requirements. The Compliance Officer for the Department of Georgia is Alton Coleman. The 2024 National Convention will be held August 10-17 at the Hyatt Regency in Denver, Colorado. The room rate is \$167.84/night including taxes. Parking will be \$10-\$25/day for the self-park option. This is still being negotiated. The Department of Colorado is working on making breakfast available to all attendees regardless of hotel. Commandant Miller reported that the Department now has a Toys for Tots Coordinator, Cheryl Jordan, from the Lake Blue Ridge Detachment. He noted that if you raise money for Toys for Tots, you cannot use those funds to purchase toys directly. You must forward the funds to the Toys for Tots Foundation, who will then apply the funds to your Coordinator's account for use in your local area. There was a discussion regarding issues that arise when working with civilian Coordinators. Money should never be funneled through a Detachment. National Headquarters has advised that members are authorized to wear dress blues provided they meet the height, weight, and grooming standards of the USMC. Commandant Miller advised that the Meritorious Individual Commendation can be presented to a member of any Young Marines unit that is considered worthy. He recommended that the Department Awards Committee present that award to Young Marines in Georgia. Please take the time to look over the various awards available. Next year, any member in good standing will be entitled to wear the League's 100th anniversary ribbon. Commandant Miller received an email from National Commandant Johnny Baker relating to Project Purple Heart, which is a resolution requesting that the Purple Heart be listed in Department of Defense records. Please contact your Representative and Senator to encourage them to support this initiative.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk noted that when the recent hurricanes came through, several Detachments assisted the storm victims in Florida. He suggested that the Department create a Disaster Relief Fund. Jerry Holt, National Vice Commandant for the Southeast Division, has several suggestions to raise funds. Sr. Vice Commandant Delk will be working on that and will provide a further report at the next quarterly meeting. He will also be working with Alton Coleman to write a grant request for the Department, and will report back next quarter.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Jr. Vice Commandant Lisa Delk recommended that Detachments request a current roster from Paymaster Miller if they do not have the most recent roster. Detachment Jr. Vice Commandants should review that roster and contact delinquent members. She suggested sending them the last few minutes and invite them back to a Detachment meeting. Jr. Vice Commandant Delk also recommended reviewing the roster for accuracy. If you have roster issues, please contact her. Peach County has requested surrender of their Charter. Jr. Vice Commandant Delk will be working with the Detachment to achieve that. James Murphy asked about removing delinquents that no longer want to be involved from the roster. A discussion followed regarding the options available for removing delinquents. This can be accomplished by either a letter of resignation or using the DEL code on a Dues Transmittal in cases where the member is delinquent for more than one year.

Judge Advocate: Judge Advocate Alton Coleman reported that he sent an email to Detachment Judge Advocates advising them that the National Bylaws are available on the National website. He also noted that minutes from the Convention are posted. Judge Advocate Coleman advised that revisions to Detachment Bylaws should not be required, but recommended that Detachment

Judge Advocates review the National Bylaws Amendments and minutes to confirm. As Compliance Officer, he will review Department records to confirm Detachment compliance of 990s filed with the IRS, annual registrations filed with the Georgia Secretary of State, Bylaws are up to date, and Detachments have at least 15 members. Judge Advocate Coleman noted that his Detachment just completed a veteran's building project. As a result of being involved in the project, he questioned the availability of insurance coverage for projects like this. He noted that National's coverage includes an umbrella policy for Detachments that is provided through Rust Insurance. When planning activities, Detachments should fill out a questionnaire, which is available online, that Rust Insurance will review. They will let you know if you are covered or if you need to obtain additional coverage to cover liability. Commandant Miller noted that Detachments are not covered if alcohol is being served or consumed. Each Detachment should fill out the questionnaire for every event, including parades and banquets. The Certificate of Insurance is available online on the National website.

REPORTS OF APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Sergeants-at-Arms: No report

Chaplain: Chaplain Mickey Edwards observed that, in the past quarter, Department was notified of six deaths. Please let the Chaplain know of any needs or requests for prayer. As Boy Scout Coordinator, Mickey Edwards reported that new coins have arrived. Contact him if you need coins. He noted that Scouting is a program supported by the Marine Corps League, and a discussion followed about the Eagle Scout program. James Murphy noted that Detachments do not receive reports from Department, Division, or National about the success of the program. Michael Clark noted that this is a volunteer organization and that, in the past, the only report given has been presented at the annual National Convention.

Adjutant/Paymaster: No report

District Vice Commandants: No report

Disaster Relief Coordinator: Coordinator Larry Heard reported that the Southeast Division sent \$10,000 to Florida for disaster relief. The money came from Departments, Detachments, and fundraising events. Please let Commandant Bill Miller know if disaster relief is needed, and he will work with Coordinator Heard to initiate an action plan. Commandant Miller suggested the Department consider a donation to the Southeast Division Disaster Relief Fund. It was noted that the Department currently has \$200 set aside for disaster relief. Terry Holland suggested each Detachment send an annual donation to build up the fund. Ashford Todd made a motion to donate \$2,000 to the Southeast Division Disaster Relief Fund. James Murphy seconded the motion and it was approved.

Young Marines Liaison: Jim Berres thanked the Detachments that supported the Young Marines during the last year. He noted that the Young Marines had an encampment in June with 71 shooters, and he appreciated the volunteer support received. The Young Marines will run an NRA certification class next year. They will qualify on rifles, shotguns, and pistols, and will be certified as safety officers. He reported that the Young Marines have lost their drug awareness funding from Congress. He has sent and will again send letters requesting funds to support Leadership School attendees. The next Leadership School may be held at Parris Island. He

extended his thanks for everything the members are already doing and requested they please continue their efforts on behalf of the Young Marines.

Public Affairs Officer: No report

Newsletter: Brent Eaton noted that he is depending on the membership to provide him with content for the next newsletter.

Historian: Terry Holland reported that he will be in contact with the previous Historian, Bernard Bledsoe, who will send Terry all available information.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2023 Department Convention Committee: Marty Habecker reported that the 2023 Department Convention will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Warner Robins. Hotel information is on the Department website. There is an issue with the email address for program ads, and Marty is looking into it. The Department Convention is May 5-6, 2023. Detachments are requested to submit three raffle items and the convention support stipulated in the Department Bylaws, which will be requested by the Department Paymaster.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

James Murphy raised questions about the Fallen Marine program. He noted again that he is getting no support from the Department and no information is being provided. Commandant Bill Miller will follow up with appointed officers. Levi McKenna noted that their Detachment does it, but it is not yet a formalized program of the Marine Corps League. Michael Clark started this program years ago based on an existing program from another Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marty Habecker presented an opportunity for Detachments to raise funds. Gem Gun Shows offers free space to set up at the gun shows to recruit, sell, or just get in front of the public.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Marty Habecker announced a raffle for a .9mm Smith & Wesson. \$5/ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.

Lisa Delk advised that Detachment 1196 is hosting a Birthday Ball on November 12 at Barnstormer's Grill in Williamston, GA. \$50/ticket.

Lewis Hurst reported that the Detachment 1402 Birthday Ball will be at the National Infantry Museum on November 12. \$75/ticket

Bill Miller announced that he purchased a copy of the Marine Corps League's National Charter for each Detachment. Please pick them up.

AWARDS:

National Jr. Vice Commandant Citation Certificates were presented to the following Detachments for growth during the last year.

Detachment 647 – 102.38%
Detachment 970 – 106.9%
Detachment 1260 – 117.31%
Detachment 1326 – 108.82%
Detachment 1333 – 157.89%
Detachment 1402 – 106.98%

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

National implemented a program to streamline submission of Dues Transmittals. Going forward, Detachments are no longer required to send a separate check for National dues. Now only one check is needed for both Department and National Dues. The check should be made payable to Marine Corps League Department of Georgia. The change is effective immediately. Effective January 1, 2023, if any Detachment submits paperwork for processing (Reports of Officer Installation, Notices of Death, Dues Transmittals, etc.) that is not filled out correctly or uses an old form, the submission will be sent back. Also, please use the correct membership application, There are two versions on the National website (application and brochure), and the application is also provided in the *Semper Fi* magazine. Any application being used as a Marine Corps League form must be approved by National.

FALLEN MARINE CEREMONY:

CLOSING CEREMONY:

There being no further business, the Quarterly Business Meeting was closed by ritual at 1101.

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