

The following are the minutes of the Marine Corps League, Department of Georgia business meeting, held on August 22, 2009 at the Delkwood Grill, in Marietta, Georgia.

Meeting started at 11:04am. Colors were posted and the Chaplain led us in an opening prayer.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

All elected and appointed officers were either present or accounted for. A roll call was then taken of all Department Special Staff officers and they were either present or accounted for.

ROLL CALL OF DETACHMENTS:

14 Detachments were present. Absent were Savannah, Ga. Black sheep, Kings Bay, North Georgia Mountains, Dalton, West Chatham, Glynco, Currahee and Clyde Thomason.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Bernard Bledsoe to dispense with the reading of the May 16, 2009 minutes held at the 18th Annual State Convention in Albany, Georgia, due to their being electronically published earlier. This motion was seconded by Wally Caldron and the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commandant advised that he received a letter from the Georgia Veterans Service's Office requesting that we as individual's, should notify our elected officials, that there is a proposal to try and get another VA Hospital on the south side of Atlanta and that their support is needed.

PAYMASTER:

We had a balance of \$14,755.79 as of May 16, 2009. Since that time we had debits of \$1529.05 and credits of \$1860.00, leaving us with a balance of \$15,086.74. We are holding money for the McDonough and Waycross Detachments and once they are chartered, we will be sending their money back to them. A motion was made by Michael Clark to accept the paymaster's report as read and a second was made by Tom Newton. Motion passed and a copy of this report will be filed with these minutes.

REPORT OF MEMBERS OR MEMBERS FAMILIES SICK OR IN DISTRESS:

Acting Chaplain Bernard Bledsoe read a report of deceased Department members since January of this year. A copy of this report will be filed with these minutes. It was reported that: Robert "Bob" Mullins of the Pless Detachment passed away last week and J.D. McCuem of Middle Georgia passed away about a month and a half ago. The Chaplain advised if one of your Detachment member's passes away please send the Death Notice to Chaplain Dalton Hammock at P.O. Box 794, LaGrange, Georgia 30241. The Unico Detachment reported that Bobby Gerard and Zell Miller are home recuperating, as is Stan Linder from Upper Chattahoochee. Conrad Butts from Middle Georgia has cancer as does "Rip" Masters from Woodstock and Chad Long from the Pless Detachment lost his grandmother this past week. Please send a complete address and name on any member or their family who is sick or has passed away to our Chaplain so he can send the appropriate card.

REPORT OF ELECTED OFFICERS:

Judge Advocate: Not present

Jr. Vice Commandant: The new McDonough Detachment's number will be 1339.

Sr. Vice Commandant: The Senior Vice handed out a very detailed report of his activities, which will be filed with these minutes. The following does need to be highlighted. "On May 22, 2009 a proposal was submitted indicating the Department of Georgia divide the State into three Districts. The purpose of this proposal is to divide the Department of Georgia into three Districts, with a District Vice for each District reporting to the Commandant, for improvement of service, recruiting and growth and reduced volunteer cost. The North and Middle District will serve ten (10) Detachments each and the Southern District will at present have three (3) Detachments. Each District represents the opportunity for growth, service, and less individual volunteer cost, with particular emphasis on the Southern district, for the Department. The basic design for this proposal is to improve the effectiveness of the Department.

Jr. Past Commandant: Life memberships in all Detachments must be validated with National by the end of this November. Khaki shirts are no longer authorized to wear as part of your MCL uniform. National has purchased a new program to eliminate paper work as we now know it. Transmittals, Death Notices and Dues will be done on line in the near future. Start now to identify members in your Detachments who are proficient with computers. The 2010 National Convention will be held in Greensboro, N.C. and the 2011 National will be held in Boise, Idaho. The 2010 S.E. Division Conference will be in Mobile, Alabama. Register now, you can always cancel.

COMMANDANT:

Attended the VA Advisory Board meeting, the Department of Veterans Service's meeting and the Marine Corps Coordinating Council meeting. The last group consists of, retired and active duty Marines, which work within the communities, to assist Marines and their families.

PAYMASTER:

Do not send him any DD 214's, only transmittal sheets and be sure to keep the gold copy for your Detachments records. Old member's who are no longer shown on the delinquent sheet and what to rejoin can, but make sure you list them as new members and code them as R/I. If you do it this way, National will send you back \$5.00. Make sure you have the member's birthday on the transmittal sheet if he/she is applying for Life Membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

DD 214's have to be certified for certain benefits, especially if one dies, and wants to be buried in a National Cemetery.

Consideration should be given to the possibility of monetary assistance, which would be given to those who travel throughout the state on official business. Especially those, who are trying to increase the Detachments and membership. After a lengthy discussion by those present, it was felt that feedback on this topic should be sent back to the Department Commandant by September 22, 2009 and discussed further at our next Staff meeting.

The Fallen Marine Program should be handled by the Detachment which is closest to where the Marine lived.

Don't forget to recognize your Detachment members who deserve recognition. This will help motivate them and others. Check your Department bylaws, it will show what awards can be given on the Department and Detachment level.

The Department of Georgia's National Colors need to be replaced, start checking around and see what we can do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Web Master advised we now have a distribution list for all the Detachment Commandants in the state. If not receiving please contact the Web Master. Thinking about making another list where all the elected and appointed officers in the state can communicate with each other.

Chris Roberts is now our Department News Letter Editor.

The VA Hospital is going to have a Homeless Veteran Stand Down on October 3, 2009 from 8am-4:30pm. Food, showers and shelter will be provided.

The dates for next years State Convention which will be held in Athens, Georgia are set for April 30th, May 1-2, 2009. The Holiday Inn has been selected for the convention site. Rooms will go for \$89.00 a night plus tax. They are currently working on programs for the ladies and more information will be presented at our next meeting.

SPECIAL STAFF REPORTS:

Toys for Tots: Detachment's participating, need to contact Sgt at Arms Chad Long and give him your point of contact/coordinator. Chad's e-mail address is: chad_long75@yahoo.com.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

The Jimmie Dyess Detachment received a Third (3rd) place award at this year's National Convention for a 50% increase in membership.

Herb Bradley from the Aubrey Gilbert Detachment received the MCL National Jr. Vice-Commandant, Citation, the MCL Distinguished Service Award and is authorized to wear the National Recruiter Award (Silver Ribbon).

The Maj. Stephen Pless Detachment received a certificate of Participation for participating in the MCL National News Letter Competition.

The Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment received the Meritorious Commendation Streamer Award for hosting the Department of Georgia Annual Convention for 2009.

The Department of Georgia and the following Detachments received the Jr. Vice-Commandant Award and streamer for exceeding the previous year membership: Upper Chattahoochee, Unicoi, Jimmie Dyess, Ga. Black Sheep, Jake Puryear, SgtMaj. Louis Roundtree, Gen. Ray Davis, Maj. Stephen Pless, Kings Bay, Maj. Lawrence DesJardines, Currahee Mountain and Dalton.

Jr. Past Commandant Michael Clark was awarded the National Distinguished Citizen Award (Gold).

It was announced, that to help off set next years 87th National Convention, which will be held in Greensboro, N.C., raffle tickets will be sold at \$20.00 a piece and the winner will receive a ten day Hawaiian Vacation for two on the island of Oahu. Ticket includes Hotel Airfare and rental car. (Tickets were passed out to the Detachments that were present)

The 4th Annual Battle Color Ceremony will be held on October 15, 2009 at 1900 hours in Albany, Georgia. Handouts were distributed.

The Major Stephen Pless Detachment placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown(s) at Arlington National Cemetery on August 7, 2009.

John King advised that on August 15th, their Detachment honored Associate Life Member Leslie Green on his 90th birthday. He also thanked all the Detachments that had sent birthday cards to Mr. Green.

Unico Detachment now has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 701, Hiawassee, Georgia 30546. They will be holding their 3rd annual picnic and all are invited. If coming, please contact them and let them know how many will be attending. Lastly they will be hosting their 13th Annual MCL Golf Tournament which will be held on October 8, 2009. Handouts were passed out.

Acting Chaplain Bledsoe again read the names of our deceased comrades and after a closing prayer and the retiring of the colors, Commandant Mullins closed the meeting at 1:37pm and advised, the next meeting would be held in December at a time and place to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Everett A. Stewart Adjutant,
Department of Georgia
Marine Corps League