

The following are the Minutes of the Marine Corps League, Department of Georgia Business Meeting held on May 1, 2010 at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention, hosted by the Joseph Schmittou Detachment 1083 in Athens, Georgia.

Meeting started at 9:00AM. Colors were posted and the Chaplain led us in an opening prayer.

#### ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

All elected and appointed officers were present and/or accounted for.

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the absence of our Department Commandant, the Senior Vice - Commandant, E.B. "Bo" Stollenwerck assumed the duties of running the business meeting. The Minutes of our last meeting were not read due to the absence of our Department Adjutant. A motion was then made by Bernard Bledsoe that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of our last business meeting on account of our Adjutant not being present. This motion was seconded by Michael Clark and the motion passed.

#### ROLL CALL OF DETACHMENTS

17 Detachments were present. Absent were; Currahee Mountain, Dalton, Georgia Black Sheep, Kings Bay, North Georgia Mountain, Savannah, Sgt. Major Louis Roundtree and Waycross.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

None

#### PAYMASTER

Paymaster Corrick advised that the balance in our account at the last meeting held on December 5, 2009 was \$15,736.04. Our current balance as of May 1, 2010 is \$17,225.08. He advised that we have funded liabilities of approximately \$137.00 which will go to the Waycross Detachment and a funded liability of \$500.00 which will go to the Joseph Schmittou Detachment, which is, this years convention dues. A motion was made by Michael Clark to accept the paymasters report as submitted. This motion was seconded by Gary Keene and the motion passed.

#### RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Our Senior Vice- Commandant then Recognized John Kovalchek, the National Judge Advocate for the Marine Corps League and Johnny Baker the Department Commandant for the State of Alabama.

## REPORT OF MEMBERS OR MEMBERS FAMILIES SICK OR IN DISTRESS

Woodstock Detachment, George Masters has cancer. West Chatham Detachment, Homer Thames has cancer. Major Stephen Pless Detachment, Dee Tomlin and Harold Webb have cancer and C.C. Hinton's wife has cancer. Joseph Schmittou Detachment, Gary Locke has "white matter disease". Chaplain Hammock then advised that these names should be given to him after the meeting so he could send them an appropriate card.

## REPORT OF OFFICERS

Senior Vice Commandant: Attended the Georgia Department of Veteran Service Board meetings on January 13, and March 10, 2010 along with our Commandant and Jr. Vice Commandant. Attended the Atlanta Veterans Administration Medical Center Advisory Board meetings on January 29<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Attended the Premiere showing of the HBO Series "The Pacific" on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Attended the S.E. Division Conference in Mobile, Alabama from March 4<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> and visited the McDonough Detachment on March 10, 2010. Advised, that he will be attending a Veterans Outreach Program in Macon, Georgia on May 8<sup>th</sup> at a Local American Legion Post.

Jr. Vice Commandant: As of this date, the Department of Georgia has 25 Detachments, with over 1100 members. We picked up 87 new members this past year for an 8.9% increase. We also have 153 unpaid members. He requested that each Commandant to get together with their Jr. Vice Commandants to try and get these unpaid members current within their Detachments. He concluded by advising that he is still working on getting new Detachments for the Department of Georgia.

## CHAPLAIN

Chaplain Hammock advised that he will be stepping down as the Chaplain for the Department of Georgia after having served in this position for the past six years, and will be taking the position as National Chaplin for the Marine Corps League this coming August.

## REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

By-Laws Committee: There have been three submitted proposed by-law changes to better address the needs of the Department and our Detachments. One is an administrative procedure that addresses how we should handle our annual awards that are given out to our membership. This clarification will explain/show how the proper documentation is to be submitted and when it should be submitted. The awards are: Department Marine of the Year, Associate Member of the Year, Glaser Burkhardt Award, The Recruiter of the year award, Detachment Streamer awards and Pack Dog of the Year.

Another proposed item addressed was, what should be done, if one or more persons decide to run for the same Department office. It is proposed that each individual will then address the membership present and state their qualifications and what they would do if elected to the office they are seeking'

Lastly it is proposed that the Department have a "Critical Events Chart" that has been drafted, which purpose is to assist those who have a need for a quick reference to our by-laws. It is another administrative procedure to help each Detachment in understanding our by-laws and where to look in addressing any questions.

#### VOTING ON PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

The first proposed item to be voted on is the election procedure on candidates for Department Offices if more than one candidate is running for the same office. (Candidates for an office, have to be present when the voting occurs). Michael Clark made a motion that we adapt this proposed by-law change as written. This motion was seconded by Wally Calderon and the motion passed.

The second proposal to be voted on will be the awards proposal. Hal Gosnell then made two proposed amendment changes to this second proposal. 1st change; when Detachments are submitting nominations to the Department for the Marine and Associate of the year awards, these nomination will be made/sent to the Department Paymaster rather than the Department Commandant. The Department Paymaster will be in a better position to know if the person being nominated is current in his dues and eligible for these awards. 2<sup>nd</sup> change; Persons being nominated for Marine of the Year and Associate of the year have to have their nominations in prior to the Commandants Council rather than the start of the Departments business meeting. This will give the previous recipients of this award time to read the recommendations and decide on whom to vote for. Dalton Hammock made a motion that we adapt the proposed by-law change as amended by Hal Gosnell. This motion was seconded by Michael Clark and the motion passed.

The third proposal to be voted on is the "Critical Events Chart" Bernard Bledsoe then made a proposed amendment change to this third proposal, to wit: "This document should be updated promptly upon any change in the by-laws and not require a one year wait, so any change in the by-laws would be reflected immediately in this document. If this amendment to the proposed change is adopted, you would not have to wait one year to make a change". Michael Clark made a motion that we make this change as amended. This motion was seconded by Bill Hall and the motion passed.

## APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Senior Vice – Commandant/acting Commandant. then appointed Frank Corrick, Hal Gosnell and Chris Roberts to serve on this committee to audit the financial records of the Department of Georgia for the past year.

## BIDS FOR 2011 STATE CONVENTION

Mike English, Commandant of the West Chatham Detachment came forward and presented his Detachment's bid for the 2011 Department of Georgia 20<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention. Since no other bids were presented, West Chatham was voted on to host next years Convention.

Meeting recessed at 10:50am to reopen at 10:20am.

## NEW BUSINESS

Tom Newton of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment would like the Marine Corps League to consider an additional MCL award on the National level, which would be a "Supporting Establishment Marine Award" in addition to the awards that National gives each year. It was discussed that this would have to be done on a national level and that the Department of Georgia could not authorize same. A motion was made by David Mincey, that The Department of Georgia support this addition of a new award if the Major Lawrence Desjardines sent this request on to National. Michael Clark seconded this motion and the motion passed.

## GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

The Marine Corps League's National Convention will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina in August. If you plan on going, register now,

The Department of Georgia was awarded the "Thomas B. Perrone" award at this years S.E. Convention held in Mobile, Alabama. This award goes to the Department that had the greatest net membership growth for the year 2009. We were also awarded the "Milton Ockman" award for the Department that had the greatest number of new Detachments for the calendar year 2009.

Awards were also presented to Chris Roberts for his outstanding work for the première showing of the HBO series, "The Pacific" and to Vern Behner of the Jake Puryear Detachment, who received the Department of Georgia "Associate of the Year" award.

The Department of Georgia "Marine of the Year" will be presented at the banquet tonight.

John Kovalchek our National Judge Advocate then addressed the meeting and advised that during the Mid-Winter Conference it was discussed as to how national was \$107,000 short in their budget, and that we had approximately 10,000 members delinquent in their dues. Letters were sent out to all the Division Vice - Commandants to address this problem and approximately 1,000 members were resigned. "Glock" donated \$25,000 to National and things are starting to look up. We still have to address the number of delinquent members throughout the league. "Khaki" shirts will not be part of the Marine Corps League uniform. If you are in a position of leadership and wear the "Gold Cover" be prepared to lead, know your by-laws and procedures.

Johnny Baker the Commandant of the Department of Alabama invited us to attend their State Convention to be held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on June 11-12, 2010. He also advised, that the Department of Alabama will be submitting a bid at the National Convention this year to host the National Convention in Mobile, Alabama in the year 2013. He needs our support and hopes those who attend this years Convention will cast their votes for Alabama.

Recess called at 11:15am to reopen for the election of next years Department officers at 11:30am

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Bernard Bledsoe of the Credential committee advised, that because of the lack of participation, there are not enough designated delegates to call for any type of vote other than the individual vote by member. Senior Vice - Commandant E.B. "Bo" Stollenwerck acting on the behalf of our absent Commandant, then passed the gavel to Jr. Past Commandant Michael Clark to conduct the election of new officers, because he "Stollenwerck" would be running for the office of Commandant.

The single nominee for the office of Department Commandant was E.B. "Bo" Stollenwerck. The Department Adjutant was directed to cast one unanimous vote for the candidate.

The single nominee for the office of Senior Vice-Commandant was Frank Corrick. The Department Adjutant was directed to cast one unanimous vote for the candidate.

The single nominee for the office of Jr. Vice-Commandant was Bud Malmstrom. The Department Adjutant was directed to cast one unanimous vote for the candidate.

The single nominee for the office of Judge Advocate was Tom Newton. The Department Adjutant was requested to cast one unanimous vote for the candidate.

Following the election of the above officers the newly elected Commandant E.B. "Bo" Stollenwerck took back the gavel to continue on with the business meeting.

#### FALLEN MARINE CEREMONY

Our outgoing Chaplain Dalton Hammock, concluded this portion of the business meeting by remembering those Detachment members who had passed away in the previous year.

The morning portion of the business meeting was recessed at 11:50am. All were instructed to gather in the banquet room starting around 6:00pm for the conclusion of the business meeting following the banquet.

The business portion of our meeting was reopened after the banquet was completed. Our incoming Commandant Bo Stollenwerck then recognized our guests and Frank Corrick introduced our guest speaker. At the conclusion of his remarks, Commandant Stollenwerck surrendered the "Grits Bowl" to Johnny Baker the Commandant for the Department of Alabama. Commandant Stollenwerck then presented the following Department awards. The "Glaser Burkhardt" award went to the West Chatham Detachment. The Department Recruiter of the Year went to Ted Golab from the Upper Chattahoochee Detachment. The Department "Marine of the Year" award, went to Wally Calderon, who is from the Upper Chattahoochee Detachment.

John Kovalchek National Judge Advocate for the Marine Corps League then swore in all the newly elected and appointed officers for the Department of Georgia for the year 2010-2011.

Newly elected Commandant Bo Stollenwerck then awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation Award to the Joseph Schmittou Detachment for the period of 30 April – May 1 2010.

The business portion of this meeting was then closed at 9:00pm.

The next Department of Georgia Staff meeting will be held in August 2010 at a date and place to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Everett A. Stewart  
Adjutant  
Department of Georgia  
Marine Corps League