

The following are the minutes of the Marine Corps League, Department of Georgia business meeting, held on December 5, 2009 at the Delkwood Grill in Marietta, Georgia.

Meeting started at 11:03AM. 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:

Thirteen Detachments were present. Absent were: Savannah, Georgia Black Sheep, General Ray Davis, Kings Bay, North Ga. Mountain, Dalton, Aubrey Gilbert, West Chatham, Glynco, Currahee and Woodstock

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Bernard Bledsoe to dispense with the reading of the August 22, 2009 minutes held at the Delkwood Grill, due to their being electronically distributed earlier. This motion was seconded by Wally Caldron and the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

MCL National, forwarded a letter to Jr. Past Commandant Michael Clark from Jordan R. Jackson, who recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, who was requesting that the MCL send a Congratulatory letter to Eagle Scout Troop 400, which is an elite troop in Valdosta, Georgia thanking them for their efforts in the Scouting Community. This letter will be given to the nearest Department of Georgia Detachment to handle this request.

PAYMASTER:

We had a beginning balance of \$15,086.74 as of August 22, 2009, with debits of \$369.70 and credits of \$1,019.00 leaving us with an ending balance of \$15,736.04. A motion was made by Michael Clark to accept the Paymasters report as read and a second was made by Bernard Bledsoe. Motion passed and a copy of this report will be filed with these minutes.

REPORT OF MEMBERS OR MEMBERS FAMILIES SICK OR IN DISTRESS:

Al Meade from Greater Atlanta was in the hospital being treated for congestive heart failure and was just transferred to the Atlanta Health Care for rehabilitation. Gray Locke from the Joseph Schmittou has been diagnosed with "white matter disease". Stan Linder from Upper Chattahoochee is home recovering from numerous health related problems.

Levita Bennett, Chaplain of the McDonough Detachment, is in the hospital and Herb Bradley from the Aubrey Gilbert Detachment is in the hospital in Rome, Ga. Chaplain Hammock advised that Bernard Bledsoe's son and daughter-in-law are also under going some treatments. The Chaplain also advised that his e-mail address is: daltonhammock@att.net and to please notify him, if anyone in your detachments is in the hospital so he can send the appropriate card.

REPORT OF ELECTED OFFICERS:

Judge Advocate: Absent

Jr. Vice: Has been in contact with numerous Marines in Manchester, Ga. who are interested in starting a Detachment and has been pursuing leads in Dublin, Newnan and Thomson in hopes of getting detachments in those parts of the state.

Sr. Vice: Attended a Chartering Ceremony on September 26, 2009 where the new Waycross Detachment was inducted into the MCL. Attended a meeting with the current and past Jr. Vice Commandant's where we discussed opportunities for recruiting new members and establishing new Detachments within the Department of Georgia. Attended a Department of Georgia Veteran Service Board meeting on October 29, 2009 a summary of this meeting will be attached to these minutes. On October 30th he and Commandant Mullins represented the Department of Georgia, MCL at the Atlanta VA Medical Center Advisory Board meeting. He further advised that there will be a Supermarket of Veterans benefits on Thursday December 10th at the Georgia National Guard Armory in Griffin, Georgia from 10am-3pm a summary which is also attached.

Jr. Past Commandant: Make sure all detachments verify their Life Members to National by the end of this month. This verification process is based on the list which National sends to each Detachment and will be dated June 30, 2009. Also remember to submit your 1099's to National.

Paymaster: He has two Challenge Coins left to sell from the S.E. Division, that show the seven flags of the states within the Division and five Challenge Coins that show all the Marine Divisions and Air Wings. These coins will go for \$10.00 apiece. From June 30, 2009 until September 30th, paid members went up 13 and unpaid members went up 27. Upper Chattahoochee, Kings Bay and Waycross have not turned in their transmittals and ten detachments do not have their Installation reports on file. Mike Clark advised that National has just recently purchased a program that will be coming on line in the near future, where you can submit your paper work pay your dues and everything else on line via a credit card. Once this occurs hopefully this will avoid some of the delays which we are currently experiencing. Remember transmittals and installation reports need to be forwarded to our Paymaster and not to the Adjutant. Also when it comes to dues, \$23.00 has to go to National for new members. So set your dues accordingly so National will know how much to return to the Department.

Chaplain: Received two new death notices today. Remember to send your death notices to him and not National. He will forward them on.

Commandant: All of our Detachments need to work on getting their delinquent members current. Most of his activities for the past quarter were already done in conjunction with the Sr. Vice-Commandant, which have already been reported.

Adjutant: There has been and increased problem of late, of people impersonating Marines. We have to be careful of those we accept into the Marine Corps League. Make sure each applicant who is coming in as a full member has a "good" DD-214, Check it carefully. National can now check on questionable DD-214's. Make sure all members have a certified copy of their DD-214's you'll need one if you want to be buried in a National Cemetery.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

2010 Convention Committee: Department Convention will be held in Athens, Georgia from April 30th – May 2, at the main Holiday Inn at a cost of \$89.00 per room. A Luncheon is planned for the ladies at the University of Georgia Botanical Gardens. Convention forms are being updated and should be on line around the first of the year. More information will be given out at our next meeting.

REPORT OF DETACHMENTS:

See Department Quarterly News Letter for Detachment reports. Unicoi wanted to report that their mailing address has been changed to: P.O. Box 701, Hiawassee, Georgia 30546. The Schmittou Detachment advised that the local paper in Athens gave them a nice front page write up, about the Marines leaving the Naval Supply School and how their Detachment would be taking over the Toys for Tots Program. The Jake Puryear Detachment advised that they are also taking over the Toys for Tots program in Rome since the USMCR Center has moved to Dobbins AFB in Marietta.

Commandant Mullins advised that the S.E. Division Convention will be held in Mobile, Alabama in March, the Department of Georgia Convention in Athens during April & May and the National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina in August. Remember, make your reservations early, you can always cancel.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commandant Mullins advised that at our last quarterly meeting we discussed dividing the Department of Georgia into three Districts, which would make it easier for recruiting and developing new Detachments. By doing so, it would cut back on the expense of our Jr. Vice from having to travel back and forth over the entire state. Detachments were to think about this proposal and get back with him by September 22nd. As of this date, nobody has contacted him. Walt Scott advised that he would check with the Detachments in the

Northern part of the state to see if those detachments could work together to achieve this goal. It was also brought up at the last meeting, that the Departments National Colors (American Flag) needs replacing. Bernard Bledsoe then made a motion that the National Colors be replaced and that the money needed should come from the Departments treasury to pay for same. This motion was seconded by Dalton Hammock and the motion passed. Commandant Mullins then appointed Jr. Past Commandant Michael Clark to be in charge of making this purchase.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Web Master Ron Kirstatter passed out a handout titled, "Detachment Web Presence Assistance" which will enable the Department and its Detachments to assist in publishing, updating and accessing information on the internet. A copy of this handout will be attached to these minutes.

News letter Editor Chris Roberts, advised that if any Detachment members would like a copy of the Department Quarterly News Letter, have them send their e-mail address to him and he will forward it to them. His e-mail address is marine64@comcast.net. He also advised that not all of the detachments are sending him input. It doesn't have to be much, but please contribute.

The Major Stephen Pless Detachment is making a handout which consists of all the current Detachments in the state, where they are located and with contact information. These can be handed out at gatherings where one might run across Marines who are in attendance. This could be a good state wide recruiting tool.

Chaplain Dalton Hammock then read the list of MCL members who had passed away from January 2009 until the present. This list will be attached to these minutes. After the retiring of the colors and a closing prayer, Commandant Mullins closed the meeting at 12:50PM and advised the next meeting would be held in February at a time and place to be announced.

Respectfully Yours,

John King
Adjutant, Department of Georgia
Marine Corps League

By Everett Stewart