OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Al Yates at 0900. The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League was read by Sr. Vice Commandant Larry Heard.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DETACHMENTS:

Department officers in attendance included:
- Commandant Al Yates
- Sr. Vice Commandant Larry Heard
- Jr. Vice Commandant Silas Brown
- Judge Advocate Bill Miller
- Jr. Past Commandant Randy Barnes
- Adjutant/Paymaster LuAnn Miller
- Acting Chaplain Bernard Bledsoe
- Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Polk
- Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Martin

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:
- District 6 – Harry McCann
- District 7 – Marty Habecker
- District 10 – Barbara Brammer

Appointed Positions:
- V.S.O. – Mickey Edwards
- Boy Scout Coordinator – Mickey Edwards
- Newsletter – Al Yates
- Historian – Bernard Bledsoe

Detachments in attendance included:
- Detachment 647 - L/Cpl Squire “Skip” Wells
- Detachment 1040 - 1st Sgt Charles F. Waller
- Detachment 1188 - Gen Ray Davis - MOH
- Detachment 1196 - Maj Stephen W. Pless
- Detachment 1260 - Maj Lawrence Des Jardines
- Detachment 1311 - MajGen Warren R. Johnson
- Detachment 1326 - West Chatham
- Detachment 1333 - Waycross
- Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia
- Detachment 1402 - Columbus
- Detachment 1424 - Byron

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Yates noted that the minutes from the July 21, 2018, business meeting are available and have been posted on the website. Bernard Bledsoe moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes as
they have been posted on the website. Bonita Johnson seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as posted.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Commandant Yates noted correspondence from Daniel Kirk requesting donations to the Sons of Pacific Heroes for the benefit of the Semper Fi Fund.

**REPORT OF PAYMASTER:**

The Paymaster’s report was read. Walter Millhorn moved to approve the Paymaster’s Report as submitted pending financial review. Marty Habecker seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Bernard Bledsoe reminded the membership that there may be requests for funds for Hurricane storm damage. Bill Miller said the Marine Corps League Foundation has about $40,000 in their Disaster Relief Fund. Bernard Bledsoe recommended that the Department earmark $2,000 for possible disaster relief. Roscoe Foster made a motion to donate $1,000 to the Semper Fi Fund via the Sons of Pacific Heroes. The motion was seconded by Darby Morgan and was approved.

**REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:**

Members with health problems include Richard Jones (#1196), Bob Donaldson (#1196), Bob Page (#1196), and Lawrence Wolst (#1311). Members who have passed away include Judy Bledsoe (#1040) and Jane Wilcox (#1260).

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

**Judge Advocate:** Judge Advocate Bill Miller reported that a disciplinary Hearing Board had been convened and both parties were found not guilty. At the National Convention in Buffalo, the membership voted on Bylaws Amendments. A complete rewrite of the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures passed, and the Bylaws should be posted in the next week or two. An email will be sent to the email distribution list when they are available. Judge Advocate Miller pointed out that new members accepted during July and August will be due the following September. The Department Bylaws Committee will include Bill Miller as Chairman, Lisa Delk, Ron Kirstatter, Levi McKenna, and Marty Habecker. Once National Bylaws are posted, the Department Bylaws Committee will meet to begin revision or rewrite of the Department Bylaws. Judge Advocate Miller confirmed that each Detachment and Department must be incorporated and must have their own Bylaws. He will continue review of Detachments for compliance with regulations. Bernard Bledsoe noted that he believes that Detachments can state that they are governed fully by the National and Department Bylaws. He also noted that the National Bylaws Amendments were primarily a rearrangement of sections. Judge Advocate Miller will contact the Georgia Secretary of State for verification. He will also provide dates for submission of Bylaws amendments for consideration at Department and National conventions.

**Jr. Vice Commandant:** Jr. Vice Commandant Silas Brown outlined the responsibilities of Department and Detachment Jr. Vice Commandants. He will be working on a plan to share with the Detachments for recruiting members under the age of 50. Everyone in the Detachment needs to assist with recruitment and retention efforts. The Jr. Vice Commandant cannot do it alone. Roscoe Foster suggested that a packet of materials be prepared that can be given to prospective new members. Roscoe also pointed out that National no longer accepts H-AD applications, and National no longer provides the tri-fold application form. Bob Ekholm noted that National staff informed him that tri-fold applications would be available in September. Marty Habecker noted that a Welcome Aboard book and a full-page application are available.
on the National website. All material that includes the Marine Corps League logo must technically be approved by National. Barbara Brammer showed a brochure and business cards created by their Detachment. Silas Brown and Bill Miller will contact National about recruitment materials. Russ Vermillion recommends the you not only give prospective members your contact information, but that you also get their contact information. He suggests calling prospective members to follow up with them a couple of days before the next meeting. Jr. Vice Commandant Brown said that the key is getting prospective members to the meeting; then you can assess their level of interest. Once you recruit a new member, give them a job. It will keep them engaged with the Detachment. Bernard Bledsoe read part of the officer installation program that charges Detachment members to continue their efforts in support of their officers.

The meeting was recessed at 1005 and was called back into session at 1017.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Sr. Vice Commandant Larry Heard reported that he is getting better and will have a report at the next meeting.

Commandant: Commandant Al Yates noted that he has been out visiting a lot of Detachments. He reported that Detachments are not receiving information via the email distribution list. The email distribution list is populated from the information submitted on the annual Report of Officer Installation (ROI) forms filed by each Detachment. Please make sure your ROIs are completed accurately. Commandant Yates advised that he will be visiting five Detachments within the next month.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2019 Department Convention Committee: Joe Najjar, Detachment 1260, provided a status report for the 2019 Department Convention to be held in Albany, Georgia, May 17-19, 2019. The Convention Committee was impressed with the site visit to Merry Acres. The hospitality suite will be hosted in one of Merry Acres’ apartments, which includes three bedrooms for accommodations. Merry Acres will provide shuttle service to restaurants, and the room rate is $91. An RV park is located nearby. The base does not have anything specific lined up, but Ron Kirstatter is working with base personnel. Information is posted on the Department website. Merry Acres is located at 1500 Dawson Road, Albany, GA 31707 and may be reached by calling (229) 435-7721 or (888) 217-1426. If you have special needs, please let Merry Acres know when you book your room. All the rooms are ground level, and breakfast coupons are included in the room rate. You can purchase a buffet breakfast for about $7. Barbara Brammer reminded Detachments that they need to pay $20 for convention support and suggested that Detachments start thinking about their three raffle items as outlined in the Department Bylaws.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Historian Bernard Bledsoe noted that National will have an anniversary in a couple of years. He requested that Detachments submit their charter date and a list of Detachment Commandants since their inception. He also suggested that Detachments provide a list of their Marines of the Year since chartering. Bernard encouraged members to attend Department, Division, and National conventions.

The Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League are pushing the Marine for Life program, and more information is forthcoming. Detachments need to appoint coordinators for this program. Marty Habecker noted that Bill Surmon is the Marine for Life Coordinator for the Department of Georgia.

VSO Mickey Edwards reported that the VA is changing a lot. PX and commissary privileges are forthcoming, and VA centers are looking to assist.

Boy Scout Coordinator Mickey Edwards noted that he has Boy Scout coins with him if anyone needs them. He reported that only three Detachments have submitted quarterly reports. Since Detachments are
doing the work; he recommends submitting quarterly reports so that the Detachments get credit for their efforts.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

2020 Department Convention Committee – No report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ladybug Bogus, Commandant of Detachment 1326 (West Chatham), reported that her Detachment is negotiating for the National Convention to be held in Savannah, Georgia, in 2020. She contacted Savannah Visit, a convention/visitor promotion group who has contacted convention sites in Savannah. They will be reviewing proposals for submission to National via Department. She also reported that her Detachment is working on their Birthday Ball scheduled for November 3, 2018. It will be a traditional birthday celebration which will be held at Savannah Quarters. Barbara Brammer reported that Detachment 1402’s Birthday Ball will be on November 17, 2018, at Fort Benning.

Commandant Al Yates requested that each Detachment provide contact information for their Marine for Life Coordinators. He noted he has only received information for Detachments 1040 and 1402.

It was reported at the National Convention that the Marine of the Year medallion can be worn with every uniform except the polo short. It was not noted if the Marine of the Year or the Chapel of the Four Chaplains medallions can be worn with DOD ribbons.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

Commandant Yates noted that newsletters have been sent out. Only five Detachments submitted articles. The next Department meeting will be January 12, 2019, with the location and room rates to be announced.

Russ Vermillion spoke about Marine Expo and Modern Day Marine activities held in Quantico and Camp Lejeune. He noted that it is a great recruiting opportunity. He also confirmed that the H-AD program has been discontinued.

Bonita Johnson reported that the General Ray Davis Detachment is having a fundraiser on October 27, 2018.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Birthday Ball for Detachment 1196 is scheduled for November 10, 2018. It is a traditional ceremony and will be held at Barnstormers Grill.

Bill Miller reported that he attended the Honoring Veterans portion of the Cherokee Indian Nation Fair. Cherokee National Principal Chief Bill John Baker conveyed his thanks to all for their service.

The 2019 Southeast Division Conference will be held in North Charleston, South Carolina, March 21-24, and is being hosted by Low Country Detachment #803

District Vice Commandants were directed to send their quarterly reports to the Department Sr. Vice Commandant and to the Department Adjutant.

Silas Brown provided a report on the Dublin Detachment. Their charter application was submitted to Department today. They will be chartered as the DLC Marines (Dublin Laurens County). They’ve been holding Birthday Balls and have participated in Warner Robins shooting competitions, and their membership comes from 1940s through the 1990s. Silas thanked Sr. Vice Commandant Larry Heard and former District Vice Commandant Levi McKenna for their hard work.
The 2018 National Convention and the Department of Georgia 100% attendance streamers were presented to Sergeant-at-Arms Polk. Detachments 647, 1326, and 1333 also received recognition for attendance.

Paymaster LuAnn Miller requested that Detachments use the new Dues Transmittal form posted on the National website each time a transmittal is prepared. Use of old forms will result in return of the Transmittal to the Detachment for resubmission on the proper form. Paymaster Miller also provided information relating to the new membership database.

**CLOSING CEREMONY:**

There being no further business, the Quarterly Meeting was closed by ritual at 1220.

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