Membership, Management and Leadership

Skills and traits that tend to be associated with good leadership include the ability to effectively delegate work to and communicate with members. This means that a leader must not try to control every aspect of an organization and must also be able to describe wants and needs in a way that is both clear and respectful to members, according to Forbes. Personal qualities such as strong ethics, honesty, confidence, creativity, enthusiasm and personality are also important qualities that help make an effective leader who inspires confidence in and draws good performance out of others.

Good leaders must be comfortable being in charge, but that does not mean they should act superior to others. Leaders who are respectful to others tend to get respect back, as reported by the University of Oregon. Other qualities that members tend to reflect back include enthusiasm and motivation, meaning that leaders who display these traits tend to see them more often in the people they lead.

Leaders should have some humility as well. This means that a leader should have an open mind and balance their confidence with a willingness to change when necessary. Intuition and the ability to think ahead are important qualities for a leader, but a good leader needs to be able to recognize when he or she is wrong.
OPENING CEREMONY:

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

RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES:

Commandant Al Yates recognized Marine Corps League Southeast Division Vice Commandant Archie Sweet and Marine Corps League Auxiliary Southeast Division Vice President Carol Mazzara. Vice Commandant Sweet reported that Past National Commandant John Kovalchik passed away on May 17, 2019.

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
- Chaplain David Epps
- Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Polk
- Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Martin

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:
- District 4 – Ruben Scott
- District 7 – Marty Habecker
- District 8 – Tim McClelland
- District 9 – Tim McClelland
- District 10 – Barbara Brammer

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

Detachments in attendance included:
- Detachment 564 - Savannah
- Detachment 647 - L/Cpl Squire “Skip” Wells
- Detachment 665 - Upper Chattahoochee
- Detachment 970 - Middle Georgia
- Detachment 1040 - 1st Sgt Charles F. Waller
- Detachment 1083 - Joseph Schmittou
- Detachment 1188 - Gen Ray Davis - MOH
- Detachment 1196 - Maj Stephen W. Pless
- Detachment 1260 - Maj Lawrence Des Jardines
- Detachment 1280 - North Georgia Mountain
- Detachment 1303 - Currahee Mountain
- Detachment 1311 - MajGen Warren R. Johnson
- Detachment 1312 - Aubrey Gilbert
- Detachment 1325 - Sgt Clyde Thomason MOH
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 January 12, 2019, 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. Randy Barnes seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as posted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commandant Yates noted the following correspondence:

1. Receipt of a $200 donation from the Garrett County Marine Corps League Detachment in Maryland for disaster relief. These funds will be held until a need is identified.
2. Letter from Joseph De'Angelo asking the membership for their support in his campaign for National Judge Advocate.
3. Notification of the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference being held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterfront Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia, from February 27 through March 1, 2020. Breakfast and parking are included, and reservations may be made by calling 1-800-325-3535.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster’s report was read. Bernard Bledsoe moved to approve the Paymaster’s Report as submitted. Levi McKenna seconded the motion, and it was approved. It was reported that the annual audit of the Paymaster’s records was completed with no issues to report.

PRESENTATIONS:

Carol Mazzara, Southeast Division Vice President for the Marine Corps League Auxiliary spoke to the membership about the requirements and benefits of forming a Marine Corps League Auxiliary unit. The Auxiliary is open to Women Marines and the wives, widows, mothers, stepmothers, sisters, daughters, stepdaughters, grandmothers, granddaughters, daughters-in-law, aunts, nieces, mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Navy Chaplains; and seven members are required to charter a new unit.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Chaplain Epps requested that members continue to remember Commandant Yates and his family during their time of loss. Members who have passed away since the last quarter include John “Jack” F. Rogers, Gwendolyn Crosby, Foster E. Padgett, and Flora Mae Byrd. Chaplain Epps also reported the death of Jim Daughtry from the Department of Alabama. Since the last convention, the Department of Georgia has lost a total of 28 members. Chaplain Epps reported that he is stepping down as Department Chaplain and noted that it has been an honor to service the membership in this capacity.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Judge Advocate: Bill Miller reported that he received one set of Detachment Bylaws for review, and that review is still in process. Seven Department Bylaws amendments were presented to and approved by the Bylaws Committee. All Detachments are required to have Bylaws to comply with National requirements. Judge Advocate Miller noted that seven Detachments were in default based on past due convention support; four of these Detachments have since resolved the delinquencies. National Bylaws Amendments should have been published by May 1, but they
have not yet been posted to the National website. A new Bylaws template has not yet been released by National. Judge Advocate Miller advised that delinquent members are not authorized to represent the Marine Corps League in any capacity, and there may be liability issues if they do.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Silas Brown thanked the membership for their diligence and hard work to reduce delinquent memberships. At the beginning of the report period, 235 members were delinquent. That number has been reduced to 141. Sr. Vice Commandant Brown noted that the National Commandant and the Department Commandant are seeking a 50/50 ratio for members (50% older than 50 and 50% younger than 50). He suggested using Instagram for attracting younger Marines, and he also recommended working with your communities as it provides exposure to your Detachment. When reporting membership numbers, do not include delinquent members. Sr. Vice Commandant Brown noted that a new Detachment was chartered in Dublin with 33 members earlier this year; they have lost one member to death since chartering. The Department of Georgia took in 69 new members in the last year.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Larry Heard recommended attendance at Department meetings as it provides an opportunity to talk with other Detachments to see what they are doing and what is working for them. He reminded Detachment officers that they took an Oath to be involved beyond their Detachment and Department and noted that Department meetings are not just for officers. All members are encouraged to attend.

Commandant: Al Yates discussed the importance of Reports of Officer Installation noting that it is critical to get the data correct and to provide individual’s information. Commandant Yates noted that District Vice Commandant positions are vacant for Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. Gary Verheyen (#665) volunteered for District 1.

The meeting recessed at 1015 and reconvened at 1028.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commandant Yates reported that he still needs Marine for Life Coordinators for 21 Detachments. Bernard Bledsoe, Assistant Department Marine for Life Coordinator, spoke on the role of the Marine for Life program. The Department Marine for Life Coordinator serves as a contact point for every Detachment for resources.

NEW BUSINESS:

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – Judge Advocate Bill Miller thanked the Bylaws Committee, composed of Ron Kirstatter, Levi McKenna, Marty Habecker, and Lisa Delk, for their service. He noted that the Bylaws Amendments were provided to the Department Adjutant for mailing to Detachment Commandants and Detachment Judge Advocates. Two packets were returned as undeliverable; one was hand delivered and the other was received too late to take alternative action. All proposed changes were timely submitted, and the Bylaws Committee recommended approval of all proposed Bylaws amendments. Copies of the proposed Bylaws amendments are appended to these minutes, and a brief overview of each proposed change is provided herein.

Bylaws Change 1
ARTICLE ONE - ORGANIZATION, SECTION 140 – ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE, ELECTED AND APPOINTED, b.
The current Bylaws require that candidates are nominated by authorized delegates at the Annual Department Convention. The proposed amendment allows for authorized delegates and individuals to nominate candidates. The Bylaws Committee recommended approval. Roscoe Foster moved to accept Bylaws Change 1. The motion was seconded by Ron Kirstatter. Following discussion, Bylaws Change 1 was approved.

Bylaws Change 2
ARTICLE ONE – ORGANIZATION, SECTION 120 – HEADQUARTERS AND MEETINGS
The proposed amendment adds a new paragraph (c.) to define a quorum. The Bylaws Committee recommended approval. Tony Gasper moved to accept Bylaws Change 2. The motion was seconded by J.R. Millhorn. Following a lengthy discussion, Bylaws Change 2 was approved by a 39 to 15 vote.

Bylaws Change 3
ARTICLE ONE - ORGANIZATION, SECTION 120 – HEADQUARTERS AND MEETINGS
The proposed amendment adds a new paragraph (d.) for voting that requires a 50% plus one vote to carry any measure and decide any issue. The Bylaws Committee recommended approval. Bernard Bledsoe moved to accept Bylaws Change 3. The motion was seconded by Ron Kirstatter. Following discussion, Bylaws Change 3 was approved.

Bylaws Change 4
ARTICLE ONE - ORGANIZATION
The proposed amendment adds a new Section (180) to define contracting authority for the Department. The Bylaws Committee recommended approval. Ed Barbee moved to accept Bylaws Change 4. The motion was seconded by Michael Ellis. Following discussion, Bylaws Change 4 was approved.

Bylaws Change 5
ARTICLE ONE - ORGANIZATION, SECTION 110 – NAME, ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE
The proposed amendment adds a new paragraph (d.) to include a “Not for Profit” statement. The Bylaws Committee recommended approval. Marty Habecker moved to accept Bylaws Change 5. The motion was seconded by Don Alexander. Following discussion, Bylaws Change 5 was approved.

Bylaws Change 6
New Article - ARTICLE EIGHT - DISSOLUTION
The proposed amendment adds a new Article (Eight) to include dissolution language in compliance with requirements of the Internal Revenue Service for 501(c)(4) organizations. The Bylaws Committee recommended approval. Levi McKenna moved to accept Bylaws Change 6. The motion was seconded by Joe Barbee. Following discussion, Bylaws Change 6 was approved.

Bylaws Change 7
ARTICLE FOUR – AWARDS COMMITTEE, SECTION 400 – AWARDS COMMITTEE, NOTE 1
The proposed Bylaws Amendment changes the authority of Section 400 from the Marine Corps League Bylaws to the Marine Corps League Administrative Procedures to comply with the recent National Bylaws Amendments. The Bylaws Committee recommended approval. Gary Verheyan moved to accept Bylaws Change 7. The motion was seconded by Harry McCann. Following discussion, Bylaws Change 7 was approved.

The approved amendments will be incorporated into the Department Bylaws and will be submitted to National for review. Following approval by National, the amended Bylaws will be posted on the Department website and copies will be provided to Detachment Commandants and Detachment Judge Advocates.

Marty Habecker reported that he was contacted by someone with the Young Marines who is interested in being a liaison to the Department. Commandant Yates will speak with that individual.
A proposal was presented by Ron Wellborn of Detachment 1311 for hosting the 2020 Department Convention. The convention will be held in Marietta, Georgia, at the Hilton Atlanta Convention Center, which offers free parking and two dining options (fine dining and a pub). The center is one mile from Marietta Square. The rate is $116/room. There is an excellent lobby and meeting area, which is also conducive to small meetings. Breakfast is under negotiation, and the estimated banquet cost is $50-$55. Barbara Brammer moved to accept Detachment 1311's Convention proposal. The motion was seconded by Ron Kirstatter and was approved following discussion. The convention dates, to be announced, will most likely be May 1-3, 2020.

Tony Gasper spoke about the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Georgia, which was formed by Gen. Ray Davis. The Council can provide financial support to Marines in need.

AWARDS:

The Department of Georgia was presented the Milato Ockman Award for the most increased and new Detachments for 2018.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to LuAnn Miller and Ron Kirstatter.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Larry Heard, Silas Brown, Bill Miller, David Epps, AJ Polk, Jim Martin, Randy Barnes, Ruben Scott, Marty Habecker, Tim McClelland, Barbara Brammer, Bernard Bledsoe, Mickey Edwards, Bonita Johnson, Joe Najjar, and Roscoe Foster.

Three awards for the 2018 National Pistol Match Team were presented to Detachment 1325.

Silas Brown presented the Department Recruiter of the Year Award to Levi McKenna for recruiting 36 Marines for two Detachments.

The meeting recessed at 1140 and reconvened at 1155.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

Judge Advocate Bill Miller reported that Detachment voting strength is based on the Delegate Registration forms timely received. If a Detachment's form was not received, the members of that Detachment will vote individually. The Report of the Credentials Committee indicated that qualified forms were timely received from the following Detachments: 970, 1196, 1260, 1303, 1311, and 1312. These Detachments will be voting their delegate strength. Members of the remaining Detachments will vote individually.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Randy Barnes chaired the election and noted that the order of election is Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, and Judge Advocate.

Commandant: David Knopf nominated Al Yates; the nomination was seconded by Silas Brown. Al Yates accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received, and the Department Adjutant cast one unanimous vote for Al Yates for Department Commandant.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Al Yates nominated Larry Heard; the nomination was seconded by Rex Delk. Larry Heard accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received, and the Department Adjutant cast one unanimous vote for Larry Heard for Department Sr. Vice Commandant.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Roscoe Foster nominated Silas Brown; the nomination was seconded by Levi McKenna. Silas Brown accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received, and the Department Adjutant cast one unanimous vote for Silas Brown for Department Jr. Vice Commandant.
Judge Advocate: Harry McCann nominated Bill Miller; the nomination was seconded by Russ Vermillion. Bill Miller accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received, and the Department Adjutant cast one unanimous vote for Bill Miller for Department Judge Advocate.

Elections were closed, and the newly elected and appointed officers were sworn in by Archie Sweet.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs growl will begin at 1330.

The Business Meeting was recessed at 1223 until the banquet.

BANQUET NOTES:

Guest Speaker – Brigadier General Shrader
Grits Bowl – Department of Georgia
Associate of the Year – None
Burkhardt Award – Gen Ray Davis MOH, Detachment 1188
Big Al Meade Award – Tim McClelland, District 9
Pack Dog of the Year – Bill Miller, Pound 350
Marine of the Year – Al Yates, Detachment 1040

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

FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE

DETACHMENT 647

I have joined a team that was going to participate in the Marine Corps Marathon's 10K run the last weekend in October. Both runs start at the same time with the firing of a 105 howitzer and end at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Knees won't let me run it, but I can still walk it at a pretty good pace.

As part of this event the team (Sons of Pacific Heroes) is also fundraising for the Semper Fi Fund. The Semper Fi Fund is one of the top rated veteran charities - over 90% of the funds raised are used to support our wounded warriors. Here is a link if you want more information. Home | Semper Fi Fund Our Team Goal is $50,000 and my personal goal is $7,500.
I have a donation website up and running - this allows donors to make an online contribution. Or you can make the check out to the Semper Fi Fund and mail it (along with the attached form) directly to the Semper Fi Fund.

Here is the donation website: [Anthony Gasper - Semper Fi Fund Marine Corps Marathon Team 2019](#)

On behalf of our wounded warriors who will benefit from your donation thank you.

Semper Fidelis

Anthony (Tony) Gasper, Past Commandant
L/Cpl Squire "Skip" Wells Detachment 647
Marine Corps League
(770) 973-8616 (Home)
(678) 270-8002 (Cell - Not Text Enabled)

**DETACHMENT 1325**

MARINES HONOR EAGLE SCOUTS

On Sunday May 19, 2019 the Sgt. Clyde Thomason Medal of Honor Detachment #1325 of the Marine Corps League (MCL) recognized four new Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 282, sponsored by the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, Georgia. Past Commandant Mike Foran presented each with the MCL Good Citizenship Award, the USMC Commandant’s Commendation and the Department of Georgia Gold Award Challenge coin. The local MCL detachment serves both Coweta and Fayette counties.

From left to right are Past Commandant Michael Foran, Donovan Baker, Kyle Jenkins, Joshua Thomas, and Peter Timm.
On 2 July 2019, the leadership and members of the Marine Corps Logistics Command, Marine Corps logistics Base, Albany; and Maj. Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260 gathered at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, Albany to bid farewell to Marine John E. Belk. At the young age of 95 Marine Belk was an active member of the local detachment and a veteran of the battles for the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. On Iwo he was close at hand to witness the original flag raising and the iconic posed photo that inspired the memorial that stands in Arlington, VA. The below picture is a U.S. Marine Corps photo by Re-Essa Buckels, MCLB Albany. In the background are MajGen Joseph Shrader, CG, LogCom and Col Alphonso Trimble, CO MCLB Albany. Base SgtMaj Johnny Higdon and several other active Marines were also in attendance. The presence of our local active duty officer and enlisted leadership made for a special homecoming to honor our friend and a part of our Corps’s proud heritage. In addition to full military honors, a presentation to the
family was made on behalf of Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (2nd Congressional District of Ga).

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION MAY 2019

Award to Bernard Bledsoe

Award to Rubin Scott

Award to Benita Johnson

Award to Randy Barnes
Award to Marty Habecker

The Grits Bowl to the Dept. of GA

Dinner with our guest

Dept. Marine of the year Al Yates

Department Marines Of The Year
Detachments who did not submit an article for this newsletter

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Our next News Letter will be published January 2020, you will have Toys for Tots, Christmas, Marine Corps Birthday, and many other events to talk about. Tell us about it, This is how we get the word out to other detachments about what we are doing. Send in some kind of article to be published in the next newsletter by January 2, 2020. Send to Alsphoto@mindspring.com.

Dennis Tobin National Commandant

Marines,
Thank you for your vote of confidence, I will continue to move our league forward. Richard Gore and Wendell Webb have done an outstanding job the past four years developing good business practices and fixing our IRS problems. We will continue to work forward for the good of League.
There’s a few things I want to work on as we go forward. Our Mid-
Winter conference and Convention business meetings are too long. At times there seems to be more members in the halls than in the meeting. Officer and committee reports, all reports will be written and submitted to National Hdq’s to be placed in the library. The top four officers will also give a verbal report. Only certain committee’s will also give a verbal report with a time limit (TBD). My goal is to cut a business session in half and to institute a leadership/training session. Awards are another time consuming session, I’m going to work with the MODD and Aux. and see if we can put together a combined awards night, maybe some music and fun. We need to trim sessions down so members aren’t rushing to make events and trips. By-Laws, another time consuming, out of control session.

How do we shorten it? We start at the Detachment and Department level. When the proposed by-laws go out it’s the Detachment’s responsibility at a meeting to go over each proposed change and decide how they want to vote on each one. Then, at the Department convention the Commandant reviews them again with all the Detachments and decides how they will vote at the National convention.

Now, at the National Convention, the by-laws will be on the big screen for your reading pleasure, the National Judge Advocate in the interest of time will not read the entire by-law and the change. He will read, ”proposed change #1,” the committee recommends accept or reject, motion, second then during the discussion we will deal with any amendments. Again Marines it is the Detachment and Departments responsibility to review with their members and know how they want to vote on each proposed change before they get to the National convention. These are few ways I want to change up our conference and convention to give us a little more free time.

Now some serious issues that need to be dealt with. Let’s start with IRS non-profit status. All Detachments and Departments must be a 501c4, under the National Parent Group 0955, with a deductible of 1, this allows corporations, companies and individuals to donate to you the same as a 501c3. If there is a problem we also have a letter of exemption from the IRS to verify they can donate. If your detachment or Department is not a 501c4, Parent Group0955 deductible of 1 you risk having you non-profit status revoked and your charter suspended. If you are having trouble getting your status corrected please contact the COO for assistance. Also if you are not operating correctly the entire local board is subject to fines by the
Another serious problem is the ROI’s. There are Detachments operating that have not sent in their ROI in years. No ROI, you are not a Detachment in good standing and your charter will be suspended. I will be comprising a list of every Detachment and Department not with the proper IRS status and without ROI’s and will be reaching out to each to try and correct the situations. These issues can be corrected.

Uniforms, Marines please before you put on one of our uniforms, if you’re not sure what it consists of check the uniform code. Our cover is our main uniform, worn with civilian attire and you are in uniform. If you are going to wear any of our other uniforms please wear them correctly. If you are not wearing a uniform correctly you will be stopped by the Sgt/Arms and told to correct it or take it off. In closing Marines, overall you are all doing an outstanding job. The work you do with T4T’s, Marine 4 Life, community, and funerals “is exemplary” You are putting the Marine Corps League name out there. The Marine Corps knows what you are doing and they thank you and I thank you. Keep doing what you do.

Semper Fidelis
Dennis Tobin
National Commandant
Marine Corps League

Next Up-Coming Event

2020 Mid-Winter Conference:

2020 Mid-Winter conference will be located in Norfolk, Virginia 02/27/2020-02/29/2020 at the Sheraton Norfolk Hotel, Reservations 1-800-325-3535, or call hotel direct at 757-622-6664.

74Th Southeast Division Conference:
The 2020 South east Division Conference will be held at the Courtyard Marriott, 589 Carl Vinson Pkwy. Warner Robins, GA31088 March 26-29 Reservations 1-478-602-6200.

2020 Department of Georgia Convention:

The 2020 Department of Georgia Convention will be held May 1-3, 2020 at the Hilton Atlanta Marietta Hotel Conference Center. 500 Powder Springs St. Marietta GA. Reservation direct to hotel 888-685-2500.

2020 97th Annual National Convention:

Our 97th Annual National Convention August 9-14, 2020 will be held at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach Florida 32118. Reservations can be made by calling 1-866-536-8477.

Happy Birthday to all Marines born in the month of September-December

God bless you and thanks for your service! You’re one in a Million

Happy Birthday
Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy and wonder of the autumn season. As we spend this time with friends and family, help to remember the many blessing you have bestowed upon us. As we reflect on the end of the harvest time, help us remember that you are in the business of bringing life out of death. Thank you that death does NOT have victory over us, and that spring will always come again. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.
Recruit, Recruit, Recruit, and Bring a Prospective Member
Guests Are Welcome. Members Are Expected!

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Jarhead Review Newsletter

Jarhead is the official publication of the Dept. Of Georgia, Marine Corps League, LaGrange, Georgia. The newsletter is published quarterly for the benefit of Department members and guests. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the Marine Corps League or the Department of Georgia. Excerpts may be used by permission of the editor. Any copyrighted material published herein is distributed under fair use without profit or payment to those who are interested in receiving the provided information for non-profit research and educational purposes only. Send all articles and comments to the editor:

Al Yates at Alsphoto@mindspring.com.