OPENING CEREMONY:

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Al Yates at 0859. The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League was read. Commandant Yates welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DETACHMENTS:

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

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:
- District 3 – Harry R. Johnson
- District 6 – Bonita Johnson

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 783 - Unicoi
- Detachment 1040 - 1st Sgt Charles F. Waller
- Detachment 1188 - Gen Ray Davis - MOH
- Detachment 1196 - Maj Stephen W. Pless
- Detachment 1280 - North Georgia Mountain
- Detachment 1311 - MajGen Warren R. Johnson
- Detachment 1312 - Aubrey Gilbert
- Detachment 1326 - West Chatham
- Detachment 1333 - Waycross
- Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia
- Detachment 1402 - Columbus
- Detachment 1438 - Lake Blue Ridge
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Yates noted that the minutes of the August 24, 2019, business meeting are available and have been posted on the Department website. Bernard Bledsoe moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as posted. Richard Jones seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as published.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commandant Al Yates noted that correspondence has been sent out via the Commandants’ email distribution list. It was also noted that the Semper Fi magazine contains a good article with instructions for determining your Detachment’s IRS status.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster’s report was read. Bernard Bledsoe moved to approve the Paymaster’s Report as submitted pending financial review. Richard Jones seconded the motion, and it was approved.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Chaplain Mickey Edwards noted that there were four deaths reported at the last meeting. Since the last meeting, Notices of Death were received for Robert Dubower, General M. Crumley, James Sayers, Carl Slockel, Charles Monroe, and Ollie Bradley. Chaplain Edwards requested that all Notices of Death be sent directly to him. Members with health problems include Ray Frazier (#647), Larry Wolst (#1311), Karen Lawrence (#1311), and Silas Brown (#1188). Members who have passed away include Jean Guyer (#1333), an associate member (#1196), and member Davis (#1373).

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Judge Advocate: Judge Advocate Bill Miller reported that two sets of bylaws amendments were reviewed and approved, and one proposed set of bylaws was approved. We are in the final stages of dissolving Detachment 1339. Letters were sent out to all the remaining members letting them know they have until the end of February to make a decision on the transfer of their memberships. The Detachment dissolution process should be completed within the next 60-90 days. An inventory list of Detachment 1339 assets was prepared. Assets will be made available for inspection on February 1, 2020, weather permitting, with an alternate date of February 8, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the storage location in Locust Grove, Georgia. Bids will be accepted from Detachments only, individuals may not submit bids. Judge Advocate Miller will provide further information via the Detachment Commandants’ email distribution list. Sample tri-fold brochures approved by National Headquarters were presented and are available for $12 per hundred from Judge Advocate Miller. Convention Delegate forms will be sent out in late January/early February for the Department Convention. They must be returned to the Department Paymaster. The business meeting for the Convention will be held on May 2, 2020. All members in good standing as of April 17, 2020, will be counted for delegate voting. Any Detachment in default of funds will have until the Convention opening to clear their accounts. Default letters will be mailed out prior to the Convention. Bylaws amendments must be received by the Department Judge Advocate no later than February 15, 2020, to be considered at the Department Convention. Last year’s amendments to the Department Bylaws were approved by
the National Judge Advocate and are posted on the Department website. A Bylaws template is available from the Department Judge Advocate.

**Jr. Vice Commandant:** Acting Jr. Vice Commandant Levi McKenna noted that we have entirely too many detachment with members that are delinquent. We need to get a handle on this. Currently there are over 900 paid members in the Department and over 400 delinquent members. It is important for our members to pay their dues, as we are a non-profit organization funded by its members, receiving no state or national funding. Detachments are the life blood of the League. For a local detachment, dues are used to support detachment-level operations. Detachments receive distributions for Permanent Life Members annually from National Headquarters. Dues payments strengthen your Detachment so you can help your members and your community. There is strength in numbers. Every member helps to support our Marine brothers and sisters and provide lobbying strength in Congress. There has been an issue with members not receiving their membership cards. Each Detachment is requested to send a list of members, including membership numbers, for the people in their Detachment that need membership cards to the Department Paymaster for submission to National. Bernard Bledsoe recommended that Detachments review their quarterly rosters to be sure renewals have been processed. Bill Miller suggested that Detachments get their delinquent members to pay for this year and next year since dues will be due again on September 1, 2020. Levi McKenna requested that all outstanding dues be paid before February 15 to ensure that National Headquarters records them before the end of March, which is the date of the roster that will determine the Grits Bowl winner.

**Sr. Vice Commandant:** Sr. Vice Commandant Larry Heard noted that quarterly reports should be sent directly to him. If you are having difficulties in your Detachment, let the Department officers know so that they can attend your meetings and provide assistance.

**Commandant:** Commandant Al Yates noted that the Reports of Officer Installation (ROIs) are looking better, but we still need addresses for at least the Commandant and the Sr. Vice Commandant. If you do not want this information to become public, send a separate copy of the ROI with the requested information directly to the Department Commandant. Commandant Yates noted that we need a District Vice Commandant for District 5. Randy Barnes will assume this position for Detachments 1312 and 1325.

**REPORTS OF APPOINTED OFFICERS:**

Mickey Edwards, Boy Scout Coordinator, requested that all Boy Scout Reports and information be sent directly to him. Since most Detachments are already recognizing Boy Scouts, please submit reports to capture the work you are already doing.

Bernard Bledsoe, Historian, noted that we are approaching the 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps League. Detachments should be compiling information to provide to the Department. This information should include the Detachment charter date, list of previous officers, list of Commandants, and special things you want memorialized.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**2020 Department Convention Committee:** Ron Welborn reported on the 2020 Department Convention being hosted by Detachment #1311. He noted that the flyers posted on the
Department website will be changing. Instead of a ladies’ program, interested individuals will be transported to Marietta for May-Retta Daze. The banquet menu includes spinach salad; roast tenderloin of beef, grilled chicken breast, or grilled salmon; and key lime pie with fresh berries. Registration forms will be on the Department website this week. Special diet requirements must be listed on your registration form. Bob Ekholm reported that the agenda has not yet been finalized but will be similar to previous conventions. Information packets were provided for each Detachment. One of the featured highlights is the raffle of an M1 Garand rifle. Tickets sell for $10 a piece or two tickets for $20. Ron Wellborn reported that the room rates $116 plus taxes and includes breakfast for two. To make reservations, call the number on the flyer and use the code “2020Marine.” The banquet speaker is 4-star General Charles E. Wilhelm. The Convention will be held at the Hilton Atlanta Conference Center in Marietta, Georgia. The Conference Center provides free parking and property security. Additional security will be arranged, if needed.

**2020 Southeast Division Conference:** Al Camp, Detachment 1373, reported on preparations for the Southeast Division Conference being held in Warner Robins, Georgia. Attendees need to submit their registration forms, and the Host Detachment is requesting that Detachments place program ads. All information is posted on the Southeast Division website. The Conference will be held March 26-29, 2020, at the Courtyard Marriott in Warner Robins, Georgia. Room rate is $119/night, with an optional breakfast buffet available for $8. A hospitality room will be provided.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Commandant Al Yates needs Marine for Life Coordinators for Detachments 564, 921, 1325, and 1424. Bernard Bledsoe is the Marine for Life Coordinator for Detachment 1040. He said a Coordinator is a resource contact who is not expected to do everything, but they need to know the people that can get things done.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

The National Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Norfolk, Virginia, from February 27-29, 2020. The Conference hotel is the Sheraton Norfolk Waterfront Hotel

The 97th National Convention is August 9-14, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Florida. The room rate is $145/night and includes breakfast. There is an overflow hotel.

Tony Gasper, Detachment #647, thanked the Detachments that supported the Sons of Pacific Heroes who raised a little over $50,000 in the Marine Marathon. The Marathon’s half-million dollar goal was met. This year’s goal for Sons of Pacific Heroes is $75,000 in honor of the 75th anniversary of Iwo Jima.
Wayne Roshaven, Detachment #783, noted that their Detachment is hosting an Iwo Jima anniversary event on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at the Towns County Veterans Center, Foster Park, in Hiawassee, Georgia.

Bill Miller extended thanks to the Department of Georgia for their donation to the Marine Corps League Foundation.

Harry McCann, Detachment #1196, reported that they have a heavy-duty, electric Quantum wheelchair which is available for someone in need.

Paymaster LuAnn Miller reminded Detachments that their Detachment’s annual registration is now due to the Georgia Secretary of State.

Commandant Al Yates presented membership ribbons to Detachments #783, #1280, and #1438.

Rich Sabo, Detachment #1311, reported that their Ceremonial Rifle Team completed their 250th mission, and are now up to 260 missions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Bernard Bledsoe encouraged members to become involved in activities outside their local Detachments. He recommended attendance at Department, Division, and National Conferences and Conventions. Historically, Georgia gets only about 50% of their voting strength. This would be improved by more membership participation.

The next Department meeting will be held at the Department Convention on May 2, 2020, and will include the election of officers.

**CLOSING CEREMONY:**

There being no further business, the Quarterly Business Meeting was closed by ritual at 1017.

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