OPENING CEREMONY:

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

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 Mickey Edwards
   Sergeant-at-Arms AJ Polk
   Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Martin

District Vice Commandants in attendance included:
   District 1 – Gary Verheyen
   District 3 – Harry R. Johnson
   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 647 - L/Cpl Squire “Skip” Wells
   Detachment 665 - Upper Chattahoochee
   Detachment 970 - Middle Georgia
   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 1325 - Sgt Clyde Thomas MOH
   Detachment 1326 - West Chatham
   Detachment 1333 - Waycross
   Detachment 1373 - Central Georgia
   Detachment 1402 - Columbus
   Detachment 1424 - Byron
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Al Yates noted that the minutes of the January 11, 2020, 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. Randy Barnes seconded the motion, and it was approved. The minutes were accepted as published.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Chaplain Mickey Edward reported that 23 members passed since our last meeting including Roger Paulin, Joseph D. Tatkousky, Tom Fisher, Clarence R. Davis, Christopher L. Cline, James R. Easterwood, Donald Hawald, James L. Rassler, Ollie Herbert Bradley, Carl Wilcox, Benny Watt Terry, Noel Vincent Mundy, James G. Meeks, Charles H. Feaselman, David F. Burton, Paul M. Evans, Dawaine Lake, David E. Oxley, Lavonda Heintzelman, Dawayne Gilbert, Jessica Churchwell, Col. George Bailey, and Teresa Crawley.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster’s report was read. The Paymaster also provided a non-financial report which is appended to these minutes.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Judge Advocate: Judge Advocate Bill Miller reported that he completed an initial review of Bylaws for several Detachments and approved Bylaws for several other Detachments. He recommended that voting delegates determine the voting preferences of their members when voting at Department, Division, and National functions. The Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League has changed and may be found in the National Bylaws, Article I. You can access the National Bylaws in the Member Library on National’s website. Judge Advocate Miller recommended that Detachments refer to both National and Department Bylaws when considering amendments to their Detachment Bylaws to ensure that there is no conflict. In anticipation of election of officers, Judge Advocate Miller reported the voting strength for the Detachments in attendance. Reported voting strengths are:

- Detachment 647 - 37
- Detachment 665 - 51
- Detachment 970 - 62
- Detachment 1040 - 30
- Detachment 1188 - 19
- Detachment 1196 - 75
- Detachment 1260 - 53
- Detachment 1311 - 80
- Detachment 1325 - 48
- Detachment 1326 - 35
- Detachment 1333 - 27
- Detachment 1373 - 55
- Detachment 1402 - 37
- Detachment 1424 - 8

Judge Advocate Miller reviewed the voting procedures for the election of officers.
Jr. Vice Commandant: Jr. Vice Commandant Silas Brown compared membership numbers from March 2019 to March 2020. The Department of Georgia had 1,320 members in March 2019. In March 2020, the Department of Georgia had 1,320 members. While the numbers did not change, some Detachments increased their membership while other Detachment showed a decrease in membership. Jr. Vice Commandant Brown provided some suggestions to grow membership including conducting virtual meetings, hosting virtual runs, and being visible in your communities as much as you are able. That visibility should extend beyond participating in parades and could include assisting at food banks or working with other local organizations on community projects. He urged the Detachments to continue to work their rosters and get their membership up to date. Current unpaid members total 136 in the Department. We need to recruit new members, retain the membership we already have, and restore the members that have moved on.

Commandant Al Yates announced that the Department of Georgia is keeping the Grits Bowl this year. He noted that Detachment 1083 had the largest increase in membership.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Sr. Vice Commandant Larry Heard stressed the importance of working on our membership. He noted that the Coronavirus is affecting everyone. We need to keep the ones we have, we need to get back the ones we have lost, and we need to work on getting new members.

Commandant: Commandant Al Yates reported that, during the Mid-Winter Conference, sexual and gender harassment was discussed. The Marine Corps League will not tolerate this behavior. If a member believes he or she is being harassed, that member should lodge a complaint with their Detachment Commandant. If the issue is not addressed, that individual can take the complaint to the Department Commandant. The Department Commandant will then go to the Detachment to resolve the issue. If the issue is not resolved, the Detachment’s charter will immediately be pulled. If the Detachment Commandant is the offender, members should lodge their complaints directly with the Department Commandant. It is incumbent on the offended to let the offender know that they feel uncomfortable. Commandant Yates noted that he is still looking for District Vice Commandants for Districts 2 and 5.

REPORTS OF APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Boy Scout Coordinator Mickey Edwards announced that Scouting activity has dropped tremendously nationwide due to the Coronavirus. He referred to page 44 of current issue of the Semper Fi magazine to affirm the Marine Corps League’s support of the Boy Scouts of America.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2020 Department Convention Committee: Richard Sabo reported that Detachment 1311 awarded the M1 riffle to Betty Lewis, who was the raffle winner. The raffle drawing is posted on their Detachment Facebook page. He noted that the Detachment suffered a financial loss due to cancellation of the Convention.

2020 Southeast Division Conference Committee: Marty Habecker reported that Detachment 1373 was authorized to retain the proceeds from the conference program book, so their Detachment did not suffer a financial loss due to the Conference cancellation. He noted that the supplies purchased for the Conference will be used by the host Detachment for the 2021 Southeast Division Conference, which is scheduled for March 17-21, 2021, at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Commandant Al Yates noted that he still needs Marine for Life Coordinators for four detachments including Detachments 564, 921, 1325, and 1424.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commandant Al Yates reported that Bill Miller suggested that we have a one-day mini convention for the 2021 Department Convention due to the current uncertainty. Detachment 1196 suggested that they host a one-day event at the site of this meeting assuming the location is acceptable. Commandant Al Yates appointed Bill Miller, Bernard Bledsoe, and Bonita Johnson to the Convention Committee for the 2021 Department Convention.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

The 2021 Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled for February 25-27, 2021, at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel. Room rate is $129/night and includes breakfast.

The 2021 Southeast Division Conference is scheduled for March 17-21, 2021, at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Information on the 2021 National Convention is not yet available.

Commandant Al Yates reported that the annual review of the Paymaster records will be conducted following the meeting.

A question was raised relating to the Department’s authority to suspend the Bylaws for the election. Judge Advocate Bill Miller will review and respond.

**AWARDS:**

Commandant Al Yates reported that presentation of the Marine of the Year and the Associate of the Year awards will be deferred this year. All submissions will be returned to the individuals who submitted the nominations.

The Glaser F. Burkhardt Award was presented to Lt.Col. Jimmie Dyess Detachment 921.

The “Big Al” Meade Award was presented to District 2.

The meeting was recessed at 1016 and reconvened at 1022.

Commandant Al Yates presented a plaque for outstanding service to LuAnn Miller for her contributions as Department Adjutant/Paymaster.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Judge Advocate Bill Miller reported that he contacted the National Judge Advocate who contacted the National Sr. Vice Commandant regarding the question raised about the Department’s authority to suspend the Bylaws for the election. The standing emergency order issued by the Marine Corps League allows the suspension of certain Bylaws to conduct necessary business. Judge Advocate Bill Miller advised that all attending Detachments will have a larger percentage of their voting strength under the current system. Bernard Bledsoe moved to suspend the portion of the Department Bylaws pertaining to the election of
Department Officers at a convention in favor of electing officers at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Verheyen and was approved by more than a two-thirds vote of those in attendance.

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

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

**Commandant:** Randy Barnes nominated Larry Heard who accepted the nomination. Robert Eckholm nominated Richard Sabo who accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. The nominees were each given three minutes to address the membership. Following a caucus interval and voting by Detachments, Larry Heard was elected Commandant for the Department of Georgia.

**Sr. Vice Commandant:** Harry McCann nominated Bill Miller who accepted the nomination. Randy Barnes nominated Silas Brown who accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. The nominees were each given three minutes to address the membership. Following a caucus interval and voting by Detachments, Bill Miller was elected Sr. Vice Commandant for the Department of Georgia.

**Jr. Vice Commandant:** Randy Barnes nominated Rex Delk who accepted the nomination. Richard Sabo nominated Russ Johnson who accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. The nominees were each given three minutes to address the membership. Following a caucus interval and voting by Detachments, Rex Delk was elected Jr. Vice Commandant for the Department of Georgia.

**Judge Advocate:** Larry Heard nominated Lisa Delk who accepted the nomination. Tom Coursey nominated Richard Sabo who accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. The nominees were each given three minutes to address the membership. Following a caucus interval and voting by Detachments, Lisa Delk was elected Judge Advocate for the Department of Georgia.

Elections were closed.

The meeting was recessed at 1126 and reconvened at 1131.

Ron Kirstatter moved to reinstate the full Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Russ Johnson and approved by the membership.

The newly elected and appointed officers were sworn in by Bernard Bledsoe. Appointed officers include:
- Adjutant/Paymaster – LuAnn Miller
- Chaplain – Mickey Edwards
- Sergeants-at-Arms – Levi McKenna and Bobby Shepherd
- Web Sergeant - Brent Eaton

**CLOSING CEREMONY:**

There being no further business, the Annual Business Meeting was closed by ritual at 1148.

Submitted by:
LuAnn K. Miller
Adjutant/Paymaster
Department of Georgia
Marine Corps League
In addition to the financial report, the following items were discussed as part of the Paymaster’s Report at the 18 July 2020 Department meeting.

IRS 990s for fiscal year 2019 (based on FY ending 30 June 2020) must be filed by 15 November 2020. Forward a copy of your 990 filing to the Department Paymaster for subsequent submission to National Headquarters.

PLM (Permanent Life Member) audits are due to National Headquarters no later than 31 December annually. Forward your PLM audit to the Department Paymaster by 15 December 2020 to ensure it is received by National before the end of the year.

The Semper Fi Magazine is a tab in the mcleaguelibrary.org website. The password is no dashes and all lower case. Please do not share this password outside of the League.

The Member Library is a tab in the mcleaguelibrary.org website. The password is no dashes and all lower case. Please do not share this password outside of the League.

Membership Database:
1. The Member Portal is a tab in the mcleaguelibrary.org website. This is where you access the new membership database. Your username is your email address, and users can reset their own password in the site. Detachment Commandants and Detachment Paymasters should have access to add and edit members of their Detachment. When accessing the database the first time, enter your username (email address), then select “Click Here for Log In Information.” Subsequent logins will require your username (email address) and your password.
2. If Detachment Commandants and Detachment Paymasters are unable to access the site, please provide your email addresses to the Department Paymaster who will forward them to National Headquarters for entry into the database.
3. Email addresses for individual Detachments members must be entered by the Detachment Commandant or Detachment Paymaster for the individual members to have access to the database. Once entered, individual members will be able to edit their own personal information (including address, email, and telephone number).
4. Posted in the Member Library are two PowerPoint presentations that were delivered to the membership at the 2020 Midwinter Conference. These PowerPoint slides provide further information about the membership database and are located in the “Corporate Documents” section of the Member Library.
5. ATLAS is the actual database and can be accessed only by National staff, Department Commandants, and Department Paymasters.

The National Headquarters office remains working remotely. They are picking up mail once per week and are in the office once per week to clear store orders, pay bills, and issue work to employees.

The Semper Fi store is receiving orders electronically via the website at: https://the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com/

Modern Day Marine 2020 was cancelled but they are doing a virtual MDM. In 2021, MDM will permanently move to May instead of September. Marine West will continue to be in February. Marine South will be in October (2021).