

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 67th SOUTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 8 & 9, 2013

The Joint Opening Ceremony began with a welcome from Randy Barnes, Commandant of the host Detachment Major Stephen W. Pless Detachment 1196. The Detachment's Color Guard presented the colors.

National Division Vice-Commandant (NVC) David Gardner welcomed the conference and introduced guests and dignitaries in attendance.

Madam President Gerri Tuohy, National President of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary addressed the conference.

Acting Senior Vice-President Joyce Brickett Southeast Division Marine Corps League Auxiliary addressed the conference.

The National and Southeast Division officers were introduced.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 0920 with a recess of the business meeting.

The meeting was resumed 0935 with the NVC announcing that any Carter Award nominations were due by the end of the day.

Acting Adjutant George LaMont read the Rules of Order for conducting the business meeting. Paymaster Glen Barry Evans made a motion, with a second by Department of Georgia Commandant Michael Clark to accept the Rules of Order as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Webmaster David Sargent explained some of the functionality of the Division Website.

Acting Adjutant George LaMont conducted a roll call of officers with all present except:

- Adjutant Dianne Bradley, unexcused and;
- Department of Louisiana Commandant Dennis Bergeron, unexcused.

Department of Georgia Commandant Michael Clark made a motion with a second by Department of Alabama Commandant Johnny Baker to accept the minutes of the 2012 business meeting as published. The motion carried unanimously.

NVC called for reports on those who are sick or distressed:

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- Bonita Johnson Department of Georgia has been undergoing treatment for cancer and is recovering.
- Lois Struthers-Payne, Southeast Division Marine Corps League Auxiliary President recently passed and is missed by everyone.
- Communications and Public Relations Officer Skip Sponheim recently underwent eye surgery.
- Marine Fred Felton a WWII veteran and member of the LCpl. Justin J Wilson Detachment 1045 recently passed and is missed by many friends and family.
- Madam Big Flea Jan Voltaggio is ill.

National Senior Vice-Commandant John Kovalcik addressed the conference.

National Junior Vice-Commandant addressed the conference.

NVC Dave Gardner welcomed everyone and extended an emotional thank you to everyone for all the support during the past year.

ANVC Bill Backes reported on the Commandants Council meeting and roundtable from the previous night.

Aide de Camp David Cates reported on the 2013 National Marine Corps League Scholarship. Information will be posted soon on the website. There are not any changes in the requirements from 2012 but a 2013 application will be needed.

Adjutant Dianne Bradley was absent and therefore no report provided.

Chaplain Ernie Elmore reported with the names (copy attached for the record) of those that passed since the last conference to be presented during the memorial service. He requested that the names of members who are ill, deceased, or in distress be provided to him.

Paymaster Glen Barry Evans requested to postpone his report until the audit is completed later in the conference.

Sgt. at Arms had no report to present.

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Each of the Department Commandants present provided a written report that is attached to the minutes of the Commandant's Council for the record.

- Department of Alabama Commandant Johnny Baker reported. Alabama has a vision of growth and is planning on the implementation of a mentoring program.
- Department of Florida Commandant Lou Calleja reported. Florida is focused on leadership and reduction of delinquency.
- Department of Georgia Commandant Mike Clark reported. Georgia is focused on encouraging the Detachments to do more than just meet by working on the programs.
- Department of Louisiana report was provided by Dick Brandt.
- Department of Mississippi Commandant Patrick Tutor reported. Mississippi is focused on recruitment.
- Department of South Carolina Commandant Archie Sweet reported. South Carolina is focused on professional development.
- Department of Tennessee Commandant Russell Martz reported.

NVC Dave Gardner noted the many needs within the Southeast Division to be filled to include: Young Marine Liaison, legislative affairs, youth physical fitness, VAVS, VSO, Marine 4 Life, procedures & rules, fundraising, and recruiting membership & retention.

National Judge Advocate Ben Cero reported that the majority of his time is consumed with Chapter 9 issues. He has prepared a protocol with sample letters that is available to Department and Detachment Judge Advocates to assist them in the performance of their duties.

NVC Dave Gardner reported that he would normally provide awards at this time but computer problems prevent that. He will provide the awards to the respective Department Commandants for the awards to be presented at the Department conventions.

The meeting was recessed at 1130.

At 1300 the meeting was resumed.

NVC Dave Gardner introduced George LaMont and appointed him as the Adjutant for the Southeast Division.

Adjutant George LaMont read the minutes of the Commandants Council.

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NVC Dave Gardner presented a proposal on the venue for the 2014 conference to be held in Nashville on March 6 - 10, 2014 at the Inn at Opryland. The room rate is \$99.00 plus tax. Following a motion by Lane Parker with a second by Mike Clarke the proposal was unanimously accepted.

Ron Ashley presented a proposal from the Morris Dixon Detachment #54 on the venue for the 2015 conference to be held in Safety Harbor, Florida at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa on yet to be specified dates during March 2015. Following a motion by Mike Clarke with a second by Skip Sponheim the proposal was unanimously accepted.

NVC Dave Gardner excused the audit committee from the meeting to conduct the audit of the paymaster's records.

David Hatfield asked to revisit the SOP tomorrow.

Butch Raynes suggested the Division sponsor a Mid-winter challenge coin for the Marine Foundation. Discussion was tabled until later in the meeting following the Paymasters report.

National Jr. Vice-Commandant Richard Gore addressed the membership concerning the revised membership application. It is required that the new form be utilized. The major revision provides authorization to obtain an unredacted copy of an applicant's DD214, if needed. The revision is the result of a bylaw change to help insure the eligibility of applicants.

NVC Dave Gardner opened the nomination process for the elected position of NVC and ANVC. Elections will occur later in the meeting with the winning candidates being presented to the National Convention in August.

- Department of Florida Commandant Lou Calleja nominated ANVC Bill Backes for the position on National Vice-Commandant of the Southeast Division.
 - Question from the floor was raised concerning the eligibility of nominating one individual for both positions. NVC ruled that it is permissible to nominate one individual for both positions but that individual would have to withdraw from one of the positions if elected to the other.
 - National Senior Vice-Commandant John Kovalcik addressed the conference concerning the history of the southeast division election process. The election is held during a conference to allow for better representation from the Departments than is normally present at a National Convention.

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- John Hicks nominated ADC David Cates for the position of National Vice-Commandant of the Southeast Division.
- Name not recorded nominated Department of Georgia Commandant Mike Clark for the position of National Vice-Commandant of the Southeast Division.
- Department of Georgia Commandant Mike Clark nominated Department of Alabama Commandant Johnny Baker for the position of Assistant National Vice-Commandant of the Southeast Division.

Following the call for additional nominations NVC Dave Gardner closed the nominations.

General announcements were presented and the meeting was recessed at 1345 until 0900 on Saturday.

NVC Dave Gardner re-opened the meeting on Saturday March 9th at 0900.

National Officers, a Montford Point Marine member, and past SED NVCs were recognized.

Chaplain Ernie Elmore led a memorial service for those members who answered the last call during the past year. A complete listing by name and department is attached for the record. The following reflects the number of individuals from the seven Departments of the SED.

- 15 - Department of Alabama
- 155 - Department of Florida
- 35 - Department of Georgia
- None reported from the Department of Louisiana
- 28 - Department of South Carolina
- 24 - Department of Tennessee.

The audit and finance report was presented by Paymaster Glen Barry Davis. The audit found no discrepancies.

The Carter Award Society was excused from the meeting for their deliberations.

Jerry Cecil asked for information concerning a liaison from the MCL to the Young Marines (YM). NVC reported that there is not a SED liaison for the YM. The YM voted not to have a MCL member as a voting member of their Board of Directors. The YM are an autonomous organization that is recognized by the MCL with a memorandum of understanding as the basis of the relationship.

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Ron Kerstander (sp?) of Albany, Georgia announced there would be a 8th & I Battle Color Ceremony on March 19th at 1000.

Dick Brandt of Baton Rouge, Louisiana spoke of a booklet used to help introduce new members to the MCL. He will send a copy to anyone requesting same via email at DBCON@hotmail.com.

NVC Dave Gardner excused himself from the meeting with National Senior Vice-Commandant John Kovalcik assuming the gavel. NSVC Kovalcik spoke on the Professional Development Program recommending a "school night" for detachments to review a portion of the program; the importance of each member to be familiar with the bylaws; and for detachments to have a vision rather than focusing on what has been done in the past.

NVC Dave Gardner returned and announced a 10 minute recess at 0955.

NVC Dave Gardner resumed the meeting at 1005.

NVC Dave Gardner recognized Butch Raynes for his service to the SED.

NVC Dave Gardner introduced Web Sergeant Dr. Dave Sargent who discussed the SED website. The Web Sergeant requests to be notified of all changes and will post events and activities from member departments and detachments. The website has a link to Facebook to assist with communications. The Facebook page requires an invitation so when requesting to participate on the Facebook account please include your Department to assist in the verification process.

The Carter Award Society addressed the conference introducing past recipients that were present. Nine nominations were submitted for consideration. The Society reported that there were some SOP changes they wanted to propose.

- Point of order raised by Dave Sargent that membership approval is not required for SOP change.
- ANVC Bill Backes presented the rationale for the proposed changes.
- Change is recommended to Enclosure 4 to read "Award Rescinded" for 2002 and 2008 and to add the names of the award recipients for 2010 and 2011. It is also recommended that the NVC is authorized to add the name of each annual award recipient without it being brought to the floor.

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- The Society recommends a change in the requirement of presenting a clock to the recipient without an identified funding source. The clock has been donated each of the past three years but the Society does not maintain funds and any expenditure requires a fund raising event. This topic generated significant discussion.
- Paymaster Glen Barry Davis explained how the Carter Award funds are recorded and maintained within the SED account.
- The Society recommends that the host detachment for the conferences print the names of all past recipients in the program book.
- The Society recommends a change to the engraving that currently reads "Outstanding Marine" to "Marine of the Year".
- The Society recommends a change in the delivery of nominations from being delivered to the NVC to deliver to the President of the Society no later than noon the 1st day of the conference.
- The Society recommends that the clock be added to the list of approved purchases.
- Web Sergeant Dave Sargent will post a PDF on the website with Carter award information but will need the address for the President of the Society.
- John Kovalcik reminded the conference that at the Orlando conference it was decided that the Carter Award was to be purchased with money raised by the Society and not from the general fund of the Division.
- NVC stated that there have been some years when a clock was not presented and recommended the Society consider awarding a ribbon, medallion, and a plaque. If the Carter Society desires to award a clock the funds should be raised by the Society.
- Name not recorded stated that the clock has been awarded and purchased by donations in past years.
- Paymaster Glen Barry Davis noted that the SOP provided for the Society to purchase the clock and not the SED or SED funds.
- Bill Backes stated the Society will provide the clock.
- NDC Dave Gardner tabled further discussion.

Paymaster Glen Barry Davis stated that the current registration fee is set at \$5.00 by SOP but the host detachments for this and for last year's conference were allowed to charge \$10.00. The SOP should be changed to reflect the practice.

- Communications Officer Skip Sponheim noted that changes to the SOP do not require membership vote.

The conference was recessed until 1300.

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NVC Dave Carter resumed the meeting at 1300.

Department of Alabama Commandant Johnny Baker led the conference in singing happy birthday to NVC Dave Gardner.

NVC Dave Gardner introduced the nominees for the position of NVC for the Southeast Division. The nominees were excused from the meeting. A vote was called by a show of hands to be counted by the Sgt. at Arms.

- The result of the election is:
 - Bill Backes with 14 votes,
 - David Cates with 14 votes,
 - Michael Clark with 67 votes.
- The nominees returned to the meeting and NVC Dave Gardner announced Michael Clark as the next NVC for the Southeast Division.

NVC Dave Gardner introduced Johnny Baker as the nominee for ANVC.

- A nomination was made from the floor by (name not recorded) for ADC David Cates for the position of ANVC for the Southeast Division.
- The nominees were excused from the meeting. A vote was called by a show of hands with the results"
 - David Cates with 9 votes,
 - Johnny Baker with 83 votes.
- The nominees returned to the meeting and NVC Dave Gardner announced Johnny Baker as the new ANVC for the Southeast Division.

NVC Dave Gardner thanked Bill Backes for all of his work as the ANVC which was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

NVC Dave Gardner thanked ADC David Cates for his 5 years of service as ADC which was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

Department of South Carolina Commandant Archie Sweet spoke of the challenge coin for the Marine Foundation.

- The Department of South Carolina has sponsored the coin the past two years with the cost being refunded following the sale of the coins.

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- The coins cost about \$2800.00 for 500 coins.
- ANVC Bill Backes noted that there are not sufficient funds for the SED to sponsor the cost of the coins.
- NVC Dave Gardner deferred further discussion on this to Commandant's Roundtable that will follow the meeting to determine if the Departments can help with sponsoring the coin.
- National JVC Richard Gore reported that the New England Division may be able to sponsor the coin if the SED could not.

The meeting was recessed at 1330 until the banquet.

At the banquet the guests were introduced and seated. The conference committee was also introduced.

A ceremony was conducted to honor fallen Marines and to honor the POW/MIA.

The Chaplain led an invocation.

The Department of Georgia was recognized for having the most new detachments in the past year as well as for the largest percentage of increase in membership in the past year.

The calculations are not yet in for the detachment with the highest percentage of attendees at the conference but once completed the rotating award will be presented.

The MCLA Vice President Joyce Brickett introduced MCLA officers present and presented Frances R. Watt with the PNP award as the outstanding MCLA member of the year.

The Carter Award Southeast Division Marine of the Year was introduced and presented to ADC David Cates who was selected from among nine candidates.

Donald Marsh was awarded the National Commandant Award of Excellence for 53 years of service.

The 2013 Conference was closed with the singing of the Marine Hymn.

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Respectfully Submitted,

George LaMont, Adjutant
Southeast Division MCL

DRAFT