



# Southeast Division Marine Corps League

- Chartered by Congress – 7 August 1937 –



## MINUTES COMMANDANT COUNCIL MEETING

1900 THURSDAY 6 MARCH 2014

The meeting was called to order by Assistant National Southeast Division Vice-Commandant (ADVC) Johnny Baker at 1900.

Johnny Baker asked all to stand and introduce themselves. Following introductions ADVC recognized those present as being the cream of the crop in the Southeast Division. ADVC identified National staff and officers that are present at the conference.

ADVC called for Department reports: (each Department provided a written report which are attached to the minutes)

- Department of Alabama Commandant Jack Hopping
  - 6% increase in membership
  - One new Detachment
  - Emphasizing quality of new members rather than quantity of members
  - Alabama receives \$25 for each Marine Corps vehicle license plate sold by the State.
  - Recruiting Marines at colleges and university
  - Recruiting at VA hospital
- Department of Florida Commandant Lou Calleja
  - Total paid membership at 3877 an increase of 318 members
  - Delinquency reduction efforts were discussed
  - Spoke of Department recruiting cards
  - Injured Warrior Fund of Florida utilized to help any combat injured veteran residing or being treated in Florida. Requests for assistance are vetted through a committee. \$28,000.00 has been provided to assist these injured warriors. The money is raised through donations from the Detachments and individuals.
  - There were some Chapter 9 proceedings resulting in 3 expulsions from the Marine Corps League.
  - Leadership program offered twice a year for any members registering with usually 50 to 60 members in attendance. A new Detachment must participate in the leadership program before granting a charter. The program may be taken to the Detachment.
  - Discussed the Eagle Scout program

- Department of Georgia Commandant Joe Barbee
  - Membership is growing with emphasis on quality rather than quantity
  - Delinquency rate is a problem at all levels of the MCL
  - Excess of Chapter 9 with 4 session. 2 were resolved and 2 withdrawn
  - Department scholarship fund
- Department of Louisiana Commandant Dick Brandt
  - Working at reorganizing the Department
  - Developed a booklet called “Welcome Aboard” for all new members
  - Seeking a viable fund raising program for the Department
  - Working at retention
  - Emphasizing PDP
  - There were not any Chapter 9 issues
- Department of Mississippi Commandant Patrick Tutor
  - Membership is steady
  - PDP in use at Detachment meetings
  - There were not any Chapter 9 issues
- Department of South Carolina Commandant Archie Sweet
  - Increase of 27 members
  - PDP program is in use but not as much as desired
  - There were 2 Chapter 9 issues with both resolved before reaching the hearing stage
  - Membership
    - Each detachment to hold 2 drives per year
    - Each member to recruit one member
    - Continually follow up with potential members
    - 60 days before renewal date members are contacted to remind of renewal
    - Resolution concerning allowing variance from uniform requirement of active duty military services. Tabled until following the end of this meeting for informal discussion.
- Department of Tennessee Commandant Russ Martz
  - Welcome to Tennessee
  - Membership down by 9
  - 2 new detachments in process
  - Americanism program success. The program is a great tool to answer the question of what the MCL does. A great recruiting tool.

Johnny Baker recognized the overall growth in the Division during the past year.

Johnny Baker introduced National Commandant Jim Tuohy who then addressed the meeting:

- Identified the recruiting card used by the Department of Florida as a great recruiting tool
- National will prepare a welcome package similar to that of the Department of Tennessee
- Use the PDP to help retain new members
- There has been some disconnect between the MCL and the Young Marines. A recent meeting between the organizations is likely to lead to improved relations.
- The national data base is working. Hardware is aging. An IT person was hired to resolve hardware issues and needs. A test will be forthcoming with a Department to identify unknown problems or issues before making it available to the remainder of the MCL.
- There were 4 recent cases of discrimination in the League. There is no tolerance for any discrimination.

ANDVC introduced NDVC Michael Clark

- Goal for everyone to leave conference with something to take back and share with their members.
- Need to involve everyone at the Detachment level. Develop a SRB as recommended by Jr Past National Commandant Vic Voltaggio.

Meeting adjourned following announcements.

An informal meeting was held to discuss a resolution to support prohibition of variance in uniforms of the Marine Corps. Lou Calleja stated that the resolution should be for all military services not just the Marine Corps. Archie Sweet asked for support of the Division following some revisions to the resolution. Bill Backes stated that any individual may present a resolution to the National resolution committee for review and determination of support by the Marine Corps League. Bill Cona cautioned that legal advice may be appropriate due to potential religious discrimination issues. Jack Hopping voiced support for the resolution. Archie Sweet will take the resolution back to the originator for revision and submission to the National committee.

Respectfully submitted,

*George LaMont*

George LaMont, Adjutant

Southeast Division Marine Corps League