



Southeast Division Marine Corps League

- Chartered by Congress – 7 August 1937 –



MINUTES MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 & 8 MARCH 2014

JOINT SESSION

David Gardner welcomed the assembly of the Joint Session to Nashville. He then introduced and recognized the members of the committee for the conference and those members from the Department of Georgia working the hospitality room.

David Gardner led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

National Division Vice-Commandant (NDVC) Michael Clark was introduced. NDVC Clark introduce National Commandant Jim Tuohy; National Junior Vice-Commandant Richard Gore, MCLA National President Jackie Hunter, and Joyce Brickett.

Joyce Brickett recognized members who worked for the success of the conference and introduced the National Officers of the Fleas

MEMORIAL SERVICE

NDVC Clark introduce SED Chaplain David Epps to lead the Memorial Service who led the assembly in prayer. Chaplain Epps recognized deceased from the several Departments as follows: Department of Alabama – 25 members; Department of Georgia – 35 members; Department of Florida – 72 members; Department of Louisiana – 15 members; Department of Mississippi – 7 members; Department of South Carolina – 23 members; Department of Tennessee – 16 members; total 193 members deceased this past year. Joyce Brickett named those members deceased this past year with 7 from Florida and 2 from Louisiana.

The Joint session and Memorial service was adjourned with the membership meeting to follow.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by NDVC Michael Clark. Sergeant of Arms Butch Raynes led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain David Epps led in a prayer.

Adjutant George LaMont conducted a roll call of officers with all present or accounted for.

Motion by Lou Calleja to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as posted. The motion was seconded by Bernie Bledsoe. Minutes approved.

Adjutant George LaMont read the rules of the conference.

NDVC Michael Clark introduced National Commandant Jim Tuohy. Commandant Tuohy welcomed the assembly.

NDVC Clark invited a member to report on the condition of national Senior Vice-Commandant John Kovalcik who will be undergoing a procedure to remove an infected stent today.

NDVC Clark introduced National Junior Vice-Commandant Richard Gore who thanked the assembly for allowing his presence.

NDVC introduce Dennis Tobin, candidate for National Judge Advocate. Dennis addressed the assembly asking for the support of the Division in electing him as the next National Judge Commandant.

NDVC called for any correspondence with none reported.

Chaplain Epps asked for any present who knew of members in sick or distress with prayers requested for those identified.

Assistant Division Vice-Commandant (ADVC) Johnny Baker provide his report. The goal of the Division is for everyone to leave the conference with something of importance to take back to their Departments and Detachments. He recapped the discussion from the Commandants Council meeting of the night before. He spoke about honor, courage, and commitment and reminded the members of their oath as Marines.

Adjutant George LaMont presented his report noting the revision of the Division roster and submitting of Report of Officer Installation forms with copy to NDVC.

Webmaster David Sargent reported. He will no longer serve as the Division Webmaster. The new Webmaster will need input from Departments and Detachments.

Division MODD SED Chief Devil Dog David Sargent reported for the MODD. Division growl this evening. There are a couple of new pounds in the Division. Florida MODD Pack will be conducting a MODD leadership school at the spring conference in April.

Department Commandant Lou Calleja reminded the assembly of the 2015 SED conference to be held in Altamonte Springs.

Georgia Department Commandant Joe Barbee asked for other Departments to exchange newsletters with the Department of Georgia.

Louisiana Department Commandant Dick Brandt noted the welcome aboard package, honor guard and other documents in use by the Department and are available on the Department website of www.mclbatonrouge.org/download.

Mississippi Department Commandant Patrick Tutor reported that the Department convention will be 25 – 27 April.

Meeting recessed for 10 minutes.

Department of Tennessee Russ Martz welcomed everyone to the convention. He then provided information on the MODD Growl.

Young Marine Chair Dan Long reported. There are 51 Young Marine units in the SED. The Young Marine Program is the ground for perpetuating the Marine Corps. The Young Marines charter reads the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League. He presented a challenge to double the number of Young Marine Units by 2015.

Boy Scout report present by Jim Daughtry for Mike Foran, Reports need to be submitted to SED coordinator. Certificates of Eagle Scout were presented as follows:

- Department of Alabama – 0
- Department of Florida – 86

- Department of Georgia – 70
- Department of Louisiana – 120
- Department of Mississippi – 0
- Department of South Carolina – 6
- Total for the SED – 283

The Eagle Scout program is an excellent recruiting and public relations opportunity. Reports need to be filed with National MCL. The Division report has been submitted but no report from National during past 3 years. Commandant Tuohy stated this will be corrected. Florida Commandant Lou Calleja suggested that each Department copy National when submitting reports to SED.

Awards Committee Chair Al Tamburrino reported. He is also the National Awards and Citations committee chair. He has been visiting Divisions across the country promoting the awards program. A CD was presented to each Department Commandant with information and examples of how to write the nominations. Use the awards for the community in addition to members to promote Public Relations. The awards program is a tool to help with retention. Al or a committee member will travel to present information as requested and available. A revision to enclosure 4 will be presented at the 2014 National Convention in August.

NDVC Michael Clark presented his report.

- The “Locator Page” on the National webpage needs updating twice a year in January and July. 10% of the pages need updating with some not updated since 2006.
- EIN – 990 needs to be filed annually or face potential of loss of EIN after 3 years of non-filing, National Commandant Jim Tuohy reported that Wendell Webb has been appointed as Chair for the team to resolve EIN issues. Bernie Bledsoe noted that the MCL National HQ is doing all they can; the problem is in IRS not MCL.
- SED coin to support Marine Corps League Foundation will be released soon. There are 500 numerically coins minted that will be available for sale at the 2014 National convention.
- The new National computer system is nearly completed.
- Department Commandants are to report on the proposal of Junior PNC Vic Voltaggio in the next couple of weeks.

Dave Hatfield reported on the scholarship program. Applicants must provide confirmation of enrollment in a college or university. 331 applications were submitted, 233 were approved but only 177 completed the process. Detachments do not approve applications; they only certify eligibility in that the sponsor is up-to-date in their dues. Members at large do not certify through detachments only through National HQ. The application is interactive, please utilize for clarity in reading. National Commandant Jim Tuohy asked why the application is not yet on the website. Hatfield said the changes were submitted. Commandant Tuohy restated that the information has not yet been received and needs to be submitted promptly.

The meeting was recessed for lunch following some general announcements.

NDVC Michael Clark resumed the meeting.

National Junior Vice-Commandant Richard Gore discussed recruitment. There will be 25,000 potential new members due to force reduction of active duty Marines, Recruitment is not a one-

time event but requires effort over a long time. Repeated invitations to potential new members to join in a Detachment meeting or event is more likely to see a positive result.

NDVC Michael Clark discussed the Inactive Ready Reserves (IRR) as a source for recruitment together with developing relationship with recruiters for referrals. National Aide-de-Camp Jim Daughtry reported that he will distribute information as he receives it concerning meetings of IRR.

National Aide-de-Camp Jim Daughtry reported that Detachment 1325 will be submitting a bid for the 2016 conference to be held at the Wyndham in Peach Tree City, Georgia.

NDVC Michael Clark reminded the assembly that the National Convention will be in the South or Southeast for 2016. If a detachment is interested in hosting the convention they should begin preparing the bid now to present at the national convention in August.

NDVC Michael Clark appointed Department of Georgia Commandant Joe Barbee to serve on the Carter Award selection committee.

The meeting was recessed until 0900 Saturday 8 March 2014.

NDVC Michael Clark called the meeting to order at 0900.

Paymaster Glen Barry Evans presented his report reflecting that there are no outstanding bills with a current balance of \$4483.41.

NDVC Michael Clark informed the assembly that Raider passed away this morning.

The BOT meeting is rescheduled from Sunday morning to Saturday afternoon following the membership afternoon session.

Marine Corps League Executive Director Michael Blum was introduced and spoke on several topics:

- Attended a meeting in D.C. concerning the DOD budget. Sequestration will cause a severe reduction in the readiness of the military to defend the country. The Commandant of the Marine Corps established a floor of staffing at 182,000 Marines. The budget sets the floor at 175,000 with the potential of further reduction to between 165,000 and 168,000. Each member of the Marine Corps League is needed to help spread the word on how sequestration will impact the military and the readiness to defend our country. The VFW is allowing MCL members to utilize their web site in order to write congress urging opposition to sequestration. Commissary services will likely be reduced if not eliminated.
- National database has some glitches that are being attacked and corrected as identified. Computer hardware has aged with upgrades occurring now. A few Departments and/or Detachments will be identified for testing of the database with a rollout to everyone to follow. The near future is paperless reporting. National HQ is up-to-date with transmittals but experiencing some delays at the Detachment and Department levels. Transmittal should be sent promptly and not wait to fill up the form. Waiting only causes a delay in processing with the new or renewed member being negatively impacted.
- Eric Nash, Department of Tennessee asked about sexual harassment reports in the Marine Corps. Michael Blum responded that there is more reporting of sexual harassment but does not believe there is an increase in incidents of sexual harassment. There is zero tolerance for any sexual harassment in the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps is opposed to sexual harassment cases being handled by the civilian courts preferring such incidents be handled through the chain-of-command and court martial.

- USAA has contracted for financial services for members of the League. More information will be rolled out soon to the membership.

The meeting was recessed for 10 minutes.

NDVC Michael Clark resumed the meeting.

The Low Country Detachment of South Carolina will host a 5 day cruise to the Bahamas in November 2014 to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday.

Information was presented concerning the Americanism Award. The award is presented based on the record of events for the past year. It is important to read, understand, and follow the requirements as posted on the National MCL website. There have been changes since last year.

ADVC Johnny Baker addressed the assembly:

- Johnny Baker also serves as the Paymaster for the Department of Alabama. He has a guidebook for paymasters that he is willing to share with other paymasters. Executive Director Michael Blum suggested that every paymaster in the league be provided training on the duties of the paymaster.
- By-law changes have been updated and available on the National website.
- JVC needs to have a copy of the organizations roster
- EIN & 990 copies need to be sent to MCL National HQ for inclusion in the group code. Eric Nash of the Department of Tennessee noted that the EIN on the Report of Installation should be reviewed for accuracy and a list be maintained by each Detachment. Department Commandants will report on status of EIN in their annual report to the Division.

NDVC Michael Clark suggested that officers and staff at all levels of the League maintain a turnover book that passes to succeeding staff. The book should be a living document that is constantly maintained and updated. SED staff is directed to develop a turnover book for their positions. All staff should utilize the PDP and Guidebook for Officers.

Carter Award Chair Karl Ekstrom reported. 18 nominations were submitted this year. Many nominations were disqualified because the Detachment Commandant did not sign the nomination. Only detachments may submit nominations; not individuals or departments.

NDVC Michael Clark and ANDVC Johnny Baker presented Distinguished Citizen Silver awards to the following members:

- Albert Tamburrino
- Victor Beaverson
- Russ Martz
- Archie Sweet
- Patrick Tutor
- Richard Brandt
- Joe Barbee
- Lou Calleja
- Jack Hopping

- Robert Butch Raynes
- David Epps
- George LaMont
- James Daughtry
- Glen Barry Evans
- Johnny Baker

National SVC John Kovalcik is recovering well after a successful surgery.

A moment of silence was held in honor and remembrance of Raider.

National JVC Richard Gore announced that John Kovalcik is a candidate for National Commandant.

National JVC Richard Gore announced his candidacy for National SVC.

Dennis Tobin announced his candidacy for National Judge Advocate.

National JVC Richard Gore announced that Bruce Rakfeldt is a candidate for national JVC.

Department of Florida Commandant Lou Calleja reminded all that the 2015 SED Conference will be in Altamonte Springs, Florida 26 – 29 March.

A bid will be submitted for the 2016 SED Conference in Peach Tree City, Georgia.

The meeting was recessed until the banquet.

Host conference Chair David Gardner introduced and welcomed the distinguished guests to the banquet.

Colors were presented by Young Marine Music City Unit with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Young Marines performed a silent drill for the assembly. The individual Young Marines of the Silent Drill and the Color Guard were recognized.

NDVC Michael Clark was introduced and welcomed all to the banquet. He recognized some of the distinguished guests.

The host Detachment Chaplain provided the prayer. He called attention to the POW/MIA table explaining the significance and symbolism of the various items on the table.

Host conference Chair David Gardner introduced a representative of the hotel who thank everyone for their stay.

NDVC Michael Clark recognized the birthday of David Gardner with a group birthday song.

NOTE an award was presented but due to noise the identity of the recipient and which award could not be determined.

Guest Speaker General John Glad Castlaw was introduced and addressed the assembly on some of his experiences and various issues and concerns of the United States Marine Corps

NDVC Michael Clark presented the following awards:

- The Milton Ockman Award for the Department with the greatest number of new detachments for the preceding year, presented to the Department of Alabama.
- The Tom Perrone Award for the Department with the greatest increase of membership for the preceding year presented to the Department of Florida

- Southeast Division Rotating Attendance Award (Travel Award) presented to the Henry County Leathernecks Detachment 1339 of the Department of Georgia.
- The Norma Liner Award of the Marine Corps Auxiliary was presented to Joyce Bricket by Inda Adams.
- Karl Ekstrom presented the Carter Award (Division Marine of the Year) to Bernard Bledsoe of the Department of Georgia.

NDVC Michael Clark recognized all the members who worked to bring the conference together.

National Commandant thanked the audience for their work.

The conference was closed until the 2015 conference in Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

George LaMont

George LaMont, Adjutant

Southeast Division Marine Corps League