



# Southeast Division Marine Corps League

- Chartered by Congress – 7 August 1937 –



## MINUTES 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Altamonte Springs, Florida

26 TO 28 MARCH 2015

### BUSINESS MEETING

#### JOINT SESSION

Florida Commandant William Cona opened the joint session of the 2015 meeting at 0900 on 27 March 2015. The following were introduced and escorted to their seats by the Sgt-at-Arms: Michael Clark, Southeast Division National Vice Commandant; Jackie Hunter, National President of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary; and Joyce Brickett, Southeast Division Vice President of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

NDVC Michael Clark welcomed everyone to the 2015 Joint Session. He introduced Jackie Hunter, National Auxiliary President who welcomed everyone to the 2015 conference.

NDVC Michael Clark introduced Joyce Brickett, Southeast Division Auxiliary Vice President. SEDVP Brickett welcomes everyone to the 2015 SED Conference and introduced the Auxiliary Staff and members present for the session.

NDVC introduced Midwest Division National Vice Commandant David Hunter and the following Department Commandants from the Southeast Division:

- Department of Alabama Commandant Jack Hopping
- Department of Florida Commandant William Cona
- Department of Georgia Commandant Ron Kirstatter
- Department of Louisiana Commandant Dick Brandt

- Department of Mississippi Commandant Billy Henderson
- Department of South Carolina Commandant Don Jones
- Department of Tennessee Commandant Laimon Godel

NDVC Michael Clark reminded everyone to share their experience from the conference with their fellow members at home who are not able to attend.

The session was adjourned at 0910 until 0930 when the regular business meetings of both the MCL and the MCLA will independently reconvene.

The business meeting of the SED Marine Corps League was reconvened at 0930 by NDVC Michael Clark in accordance with the League ritual.

Sgt-at-Arms Butch Raynes declared the meeting open for the transaction of official business.

Adjutant George LaMont conducted a roll call of officers as follows:

- National Division Vice Commandant Michael Clark present;
- Assistant National Division Vice Commandant Johnny Baker present;
- Adjutant George LaMont present;
- Paymaster Glen Barry Evans present;
- Chaplain David Epps excused;
- Acting Chaplain Terry Witt present;
- Sergeant-at-Arms Butch Raynes present;
- Department of Alabama Commandant Jack Hopping present;
- Department of Florida Commandant Bill Cona present;
- Department of Georgia Commandant Ron Kirstatter present;
- Department of Louisiana Commandant Dick Brandt present;
- Department of Mississippi Commandant Billy Henderson present;
- Department of South Carolina Commandant Don Jones present;
- Department of Tennessee Commandant Laimon Godel present.

A Memorial Service for fallen members of the SED was led by Acting Chaplain Terry Witt for 285 fallen heroes.

NDVC Clark called for the reading of the minutes from the 2014 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as posted on the Division website was made by Robert Force with a second by Ron Kirstatter. The motion carried.

NDVC Clark acknowledged and welcomed:

- Midwest Division National Vice Commandant Dave Hunter;
- Southeast Division Chief Devil Dog PDD David Sargent;

There was not any correspondence to report.

NDVC Clark spoke on the topic of the Eagle Scout program. He encouraged each Detachment in the SED to participate in the program of acknowledging and presenting certificates to the Eagle Scouts. John Marsh added that the certificate may be sent to the recipient if a personal presentation cannot be made.

NDVC Clark appointed Charles Harding and Al Tamburrino to serve as the audit team. The team and the paymaster were excused from the meeting to conduct the audit.

Report of members sick and distress was deferred to the Commandants. Chaplain Epps is an ordained Bishop and excused from the conference due to family illness which requires his presence. Georgia reported that the Department JVC Jim Daughtry is home recovering from an illness.

Paymaster Evans reported that he was unable to locate audit member Charles Harding. NDVC Michael Clark appointed Bernie Bledsoe to the audit team.

NDVC Clark called for the report of officers beginning with his own. He addressed the high delinquency rate of League members and the impact it has on finances. He called for an aggressive effort to reduce the delinquency. Together with delinquency the Division has shown the lowest growth rate in years. He encouraged everyone to make the effort to recruit the younger Marines leaving active duty today. Recruitment alone is not the answer, new members need to feel they are welcome and belong to the Detachment. He addressed the need to remain current with required reports such as IRS 990s, PLM audits, and death notices. He reported that the Marine Corps League is now listed for the Combined Federal Campaign 10195 contributions fund.

ANDVC Johnny Baker present his report. This afternoon there will be a class on paymaster duties. In the morning there will be a class on National Judge Advocate. He

stressed a team effort to accomplish some of the efforts called for by the NDVC in his report. He applauded the current Department Commandants for their work and briefing of the previous night. The web sites (locator page) needs to be continually reviewed and updated. Recruitment and retention continue to be a top priority for every Detachment in the League. The PDP is being utilized in the Division. It is incumbent on Detachments to make the program available to each member of the Detachment. Leaders at all levels need to know their Detachment, Department and National Bylaws. They change annually, it is imperative to stay abreast of the changes.

Adjutant George LaMont was called upon to read the conference rules and provide a report. He called for each Department to be sure to send a copy of their Report of Officer Installation (ROI) to the Division Adjutant. The ROI is required not only for record keeping but also to verify the accuracy of the Division roster. The minutes of the meeting will be posted to the web site as soon as approved by the NDVC.

Webmaster Ron Kirstatter reported on the need to maintain the locator page provided to each Detachment by National.

Acting Chaplain Terry Witt reported that Detachments are losing track of their life members. The life member is not seen for some time but no one is following up to determine if the member has needs or is even still alive. Take the time to visit and remember all veterans in nursing homes.

NDVC Clark reminded the membership of the ability of the League to recognize JROTC Cadets with a League Award.

No report from Sgt-at-Arms Butch Raynes.

Carter Award report was presented by Karl Ekstrom, Chair of the Carter Award Committee. There are 10 nominees submitted so far. Discussion followed on fund raising for the Carter Award. Several years ago it was determined that the Division will not pay for the Carter Award but that funds will be raised at each meeting through a 50/50. Lane Parker made a motion to allow for a 50/50 fund raising for the Carter award. Second by Ed Becker. Lou Calleja stated that the 50/50 is already in the SOP. David Hatfield made a motion to amend the language to ensure that fund raising for the Carter Award may be conducted at each future SED conference. Second by Laimon Godel. The current SOP was read to the membership. Ron Ashley called for the question. The amendment carried unanimously. The original motion also carried unanimously. NDVC Clark directed the ANDVC to amend the SOP in accordance with

the motion. The Adjutant was directed to provide the wording of the motion to the ANDVC.

NDVC Clark called for a 15 minute recess at 1020. During the break NDVC Clark informed ANDVC Baker and Adjutant LaMont of feeling ill. He asked that ANDVC Baker assume the chair until Clark could return.

ANDVC Johnny Baker standing in for NDVC Michael Clark reconvened the meeting at 1035.

ANDVC Baker called for Department Commandants desiring to report in addition to what was reported the previous evening during the Department Commandant's Council. Copies of each Department Commandant's written report are attached to the written minutes as filed in the Division record book.

- Alabama nothing to add
- Florida Commandant Cona spoke on recruitment and delinquency. The recruitment of younger Marines to the League is imperative. ANDVC Baker added that not only is recruitment important but including them in activities is important. These Marines can feel left out and will become delinquent if not included.
- Georgia nothing to add
- Louisiana Commandant Dick Brandt commented on the Marine Scholarship Program. Scholarships are available to the Marines and their children. ANDVC Baker requested that Commandant Brandt send him the information; he will then distribute information on the scholarship program to the Commandants. The program website is [www.mcsf.org](http://www.mcsf.org). Commandant Brandt also spoke on is the use of a "Welcome Aboard" booklet available for all to use on the Department of Louisiana web site of [www.mclbatonrouge.org](http://www.mclbatonrouge.org).
- Mississippi nothing to add
- South Carolina nothing to add
- Tennessee Commandant Laimon Godel reiterated the convenience of [www.anymeeting.com](http://www.anymeeting.com) for online conferencing by voice or voice and video. ANDVC also noted that "Call 'em All" is a good program for messaging members.

ANDVC Baker called for the continuation of committee and project reports, as follows:

- MCL Foundation Coins report - Bill Miller, Treasurer MCL Foundation reports that the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the series of 5 coins is on sale now with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> series coins available by pre-order. Collectors should note the coins are numbered with matched numbers available in the series.
- Young Marines (YM) – Johnny Baker was appointed by the National Commandant to serve as the MCL Liaison to the Young Marines Board of Directors. The YM are not in competition with the Boy Scouts or Eagle Scout Program. He reported that the YM Board of Directors is comprised of professional people several of whom have experience in non-profit organizations. He recognized members on the floor who serve the Young Marines. Dick Brandt asked about a documentary film on the YM. Baker reported the film is in final stages prior to release but he does not have a release date.
- Protocol - Jerry Cherne reported that Detachments need to follow the ritual, have a purpose and utilize the PDP
- Boy Scouts – National Coordinator Ron Ashley reported. It is never too late to recognize an Eagle Scout. Having a Detachment level coordinator for the Eagle Scout program is an excellent public relations opportunity. When a Scout earns his Eagle Scout the press is often present. John Marsh stated the Eagle Scout program does not compete with the Young Marine program. Dick Brandt reported that he has used a patch provided to the Eagle Scout that once approved by the Scout Council may be worn on the uniform. Tennessee Commandant Laimon Godel challenged the other Departments to exceed the amount of awards they provided last year which earned them the bragging rights as the most awards presented to scouts. ADVOC Baker noted that reporting of participation is essential as all know that the reported numbers is less than the amount of awards actually presented. Ron Kirstatter reported that a Detachment in Georgia is presenting awards to Girl Scouts for their Eagle Scout equivalent.
- Awards – Al Tamburrino reported that there have not been many award nominations from the SED in the past 2 years while 3 years ago SED led the nation. The National Awards Committee is anxious to approve awards and provide recognition as may be due. ANDVC Baker added that awards may be presented to Young Marines.
- Legislative Affairs – Donald Hale stated it is important for the Departments to have a legislative officer to monitor legislation and for communication with

legislators. The cooperation of each of the members in communication with legislators is essential. ANDVC Baker spoke of the money raised from Marine Corps tags in Alabama. Recently there was legislation introduced to abolish the contributions, Monitoring of legislation provided the league the opportunity to respond to the bill sponsor and explain the benefits to veterans that result from the money raised.

The meeting was recess at 1130 until 1300 for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 1300 by ANDVC Johnny Baker.

The following committee reports were presented:

- VAVS report presented by Cary Haerlin. Not all Detachments are reporting on their VAVS activity. Weekly visits and other activities with Veterans is recommended. There are many other organizations and businesses that are willing to help with veterans activities. Mike Stewart suggested that members note the amount of hours they have served when they sign in for meetings.
- Marine For Life reported by Hal Gosnell. The program is designed to help Marines transitioning from active duty find a job.

ANDVC Johnny Baker and Department of Florida Paymaster Al Tamburrino presented and led a discussion on the duties of Paymaster. The power point presentation was provided to each Department for reference or future use at the Department and Detachment level.

The meeting was recessed for the day with donations being accepted for the Carter Award..

The meeting was reconvened by ADVC Johnny Baker at 0900 Saturday, 28 March 2015.

Colors were presented by the Orlando Devil Dogs Young Marine Color Guard.

Additional introductions were made as follows:

- Jim Hackbarth, Past Central Division National Vice Commandant
- Bill Backes, Past Southeast Division Assistant National Vice Commandant
- David Hunter, Midwest Division National Vice Commandant

John Gionet, Sgt.Maj. USMC (ret) and commanding officer of the Orlando Devil Dogs Young Marines spoke on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Young Marines and the accomplishments of the Young Marines.

2016 SED Conference will be in Augusta, Georgia 24 – 26 March 2016 hosted by Detachment 921. The host hotel is the Double Tree by Hilton 2651 Perimeter Pkwy with a nightly rate of \$91.00.

Call for bids for the 2017 SED Conference resulted in a bid from the Mobile Detachment to host in Mobile at the Ashbury Inns & Suites in Mobile. Dates and rates of the conference to be determined. The bid was approved.

ANDVC Johnny Baker and Department of Florida Past Commandant Lou Calleja presented and led a discussion on the duties of the National Judge Advocate. The power point presentation was provided to each Department for reference or future use at the Department and Detachment level. Discussion on the need for internal audits was discussed resulting in Bill Miller volunteering to prepare a guideline for Detachments on audit procedures.

Paymaster report and audit findings were presented by Paymaster Glen Barry Evans with a written copy of the reports to be attached to these minutes and maintained in the Division record book. Charles Harding made a motion to accept the audit report with a second by Dick Brandt. The motion carried.

The meeting recessed for 15 minutes.

NDVC Clark reconvened the meeting.

Florida Public Relations Officer Robin Barker spoke briefly on resources and materials available to all Division members on the Department of Florida website.

There will be a welcome home Vietnam Vets event in Inverness, Florida during the weekend of 30 April – 3 May 2016.

NDVC Michael Clark presented Distinguished Citizen Silver Awards to the following:

- Jack Hopping, Commandant Department of Alabama
- Bill Cona, Commandant Department of Florida
- Ron Kirstatter, Commandant Department of Georgia
- Dick Brandt, Commandant Department of Louisiana
- Billy Henderson, Commandant Department of Mississippi

- Don Jones, Commandant Department of South Carolina
- Laimon Godel, Commandant Department of Tennessee
- George LaMont, Adjutant Southeast Division
- Glen Barry Evans, Paymaster Southeast Division
- Butch Raynes, Sergeant at Arms Southeast Division
- Johnny Baker, Assistant National Division Vice Commandant Southeast Division

NDVC Clark called for nominations:

- Johnny Baker was nominated for the position of SEDNVC by Hal Gosnell with a second by Jack Hopping
- Jim Hackbarth was nominated for the position of SEDNVC by Lou Calleja with a second by Bob Beale
- Adjutant LaMont closed the nominations for NDVC after 3 calls with no additional nominations.
- Archie Sweet was nominated for the position of Assistant SEDNVC by Don Jones with a seconds by Lane Parker and Johnny Baker.

Following procedural discussion from the floor the nominations for Assistant NVC remained open until the conclusion of the vote for NDVC.

The meeting was placed in recess to allow for caucus of the membership.

The NDVC nominees were escorted from the room. A vote was conducted by standing. Following the count by the Sgt-at-Arms and assistants the vote was declared a tie. Another vote was conducted by writing the candidate of choice name on a piece of paper collected by the Sgt-at-Arms. NDVC Clark appointed Lou Calleja, Jack Hopping, Don Jones, and Bernie Bledsoe as counters. The counting was observed by NDVC Clark and Sgt-at-Arms Raynes with a final vote of 52 for Baker and 54 for Hackbarth. The nominees were returned to the room. NDVC Clark announced Jim Hackbarth as SEDNDVC elect.

Nominations for SEDADVC continued. Lou Calleja nominated Johnny Baker with seconds by Bill Cona and Jim Hackbarth. Nominations were closed by the Adjutant.

Nominee Johnny Baker declined the nomination. Adjutant LaMont cast a single vote to acclaim Archie Sweet as the SED Assistant National Division Vice Commandant elect.

Jim Hackbarth acknowledged his campaign team of Bob Beale, Lou Calleja, and Robin Barker. He also thanked the Morris F. Dixon Detachment 054 for their hosting of the conference.

The meeting was recessed at 1200 until the banquet.

The banquet meeting was called to order at 1900 in accordance with the MCL ritual. Guests and dignitaries were recognized.

A moment of silence was held for all the members who have passed during this past year.

NDVC (elect) Jim Hackbarth and ANDVC (elect) Archie Sweet were recognized.

Following dinner First Sergeant Christine Brewer was introduced as the guest speaker. She spoke on the history of women in the Marine Corps.

The following awards were announced and presented:

- Conference Attendee Award to Bill Hughes Leatherneck Detachment 1240.
- Milton Ochman Award for the most new Detachments in the previous year to the Department of Georgia.
- Thomas P. Perrone Award for the largest growth in membership to the Department of Alabama.
- The Francis Watt/Norma Liner Award Auxiliary Member of the Year was presented to Katherine Winter of the Bonnyman Unit
- The 2015 Carter Award Division Marine of the Year recipient is John O'Malley Department of Alabama, Detachment 1415.

The meeting was adjourned until 2016 in Augusta, Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,

George LaMont. Adjutant