



Southeast Division

# Marine Corps League

- Chartered by Congress – 7 August 1937 –



## MINUTES 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SOUTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE 2018

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee 22 - 25 MARCH 2018

Conference host:

**TENNESSEE SMOKEY MOUNTAIN DETACHMENT 1206**

### DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order at 1600 on Thursday, 22 March 2018 by SEDANDVC Michael Clark

Present at the meeting were officers and staff of the Southeast Division, Commandants from each of the Departments except Louisiana (represented by PDC Dick Brandt), and many other members of the Marine Corps League. National SVC Dennis Tobin and JVC Johnny Baker were also present.

Adjutant George LaMont conducted a roll call of Department Commandants with all present other than Louisiana (represented by PDC Brandt).

ANDVC Clark called for reports from the Department Commandants. The written reports were verbally summarized (Note: each written report is archived to the Adjutant records of the meeting).

- Department of Florida Commandant George LaMont reported. A thank you was extended to each of the Departments who provided contributions to aide in the relief of members impacted by Hurricane Irma.
- Department of Georgia Commandant Randy Barnes provided the oral report. He discussed how Leadership Training is scheduled and conducted within the Department of Georgia.
- Department of Louisiana PDC Dick Brandt reported for Commandant Thomas Thompson.
- Department of Mississippi Commandant Ron Polk reported. He spoke briefly on the Memorial for the crash last year and the annual Trail of Honor inviting al to come and participate in both events. A new Detachment is ready to be chartered in Biloxi.

- Department of South Carolina Commandant Jim Stone reported. Department of Tennessee Commandant Kenneth Kotchevar reported. He reported briefly on the 2019 SED Conference.
- Department of Tennessee Commandant Kenneth Kotchevar reported.
- Department of Alabama Commandant A. B Grantham reported. He spoke on the difficulty of filling billets for the many tasks coming in.

ADVC Clark spoke on the Mid-Winter National Conference. TACOM has begun a complete audit of the MI rifles loaned out for Honor/Color Guard duties. Every 3 years an audit is required. A newly formatted transmittal will be forthcoming. PLM audits are not being completed with the result of Detachments losing revenue.

NJVC Baker spoke briefly on the importance of submitting the PLM audits.

ADVC Clark continue to brief on transmittals and ROI emphasizing the need for correct individual contact information of each officer in the detachments. The "Fire Team" concept was briefly explained. He stressed the importance of getting the membership involved in detachment activities. Properly completed and submitted IRS 990 is required. The USMC and the 4<sup>th</sup> Division are requesting assistance of the MCL in support of Marines providing final honors for Marines. It may be as simple as sending one MCL member to play taps. Important to remember that the Marines are the lead on the Honor Guard details. The USMC is also requesting assistance with the Marines for Life program in assisting Marines transitioning back to civilian life. The MCL Marines for Life program is being revitalized.

Discussion from the floor concerning providing the address for each individual officer on ROI rather than one common address for each. It is important for communications that each individual personal phone, email, and mailing address be provided. Additionally, handwritten ROI create the opportunity for mistakes. A computer generated, typed, ROI is important for accuracy. The ROI may be submitted through the chain electronically.

DVC Archie Sweet addressed the meeting on professionalism in the MCL throughout the complete chain of command.

NSVC Dennis Tobin spoke on the mission statement of the MCL and the importance of a cooperative effort in support of the USMC. Discussion was generated on volunteerism and the importance of volunteer leadership performing their duties rather than merely wearing the cover.

NJVC Johnny Baker spoke briefly on the IRS EIN audit being conducted of the MCL organization; the request to support the USMC with Funeral Details, and the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) of the USMC.

Commandant's meeting adjourned by ANDVC Michael Clark at about 1735.

### **JOINT OPENING CEREMONY AND MEMORIAL SERVICE**

NDVC Archie Sweet called the meeting to order at 0900 on Friday 23 March 2018.

The meeting was declared as an open session.

NDVC Archie Sweet recognized the following VIP & guests:

- National Commandant Wendell Webb;

- National Senior Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin;
- National Junior Vice Commandant Johnny Baker;
- MCLA SEDVP Joyce Brickett;
- Glenn Fowler (sp?) 91-year-old WWII Veteran;
- PDVC Jim Hackbarth;
- PDVC Michael Clark;
- PDVC John Hicks.

MCLA SEDVP Joyce Brickett introduced:

- National JVP Evelyn Joppa;
- National JPP Deborah Evans;
- National PP Alice Blackburn;
- SEDAVP Carol Mazzara;
- SEDPVP Linda Adams;
- National JP Big Flea & MCLA National Guard Rogene Hackbarth;

NVC Archie Sweet thanked everyone present for their attendance and participation.

Conference Chair Ken Cioffi welcomed everyone and announced schedule changes. He thanked his Detachment and MCLA members for their efforts with the convention.

SED Chaplain Terry Witt dedicated the convention to all the MCL and MCLA members lost this past year together with those members that are sick or in distress. The charter was draped in memory and respect to the deceased. Chaplain Witt read the dedication and meaning of the tables: Fallen Comrades; POW/MIA; and MCL & MCLA deceased members.

The following are reported as being deceased this past year:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| • Alabama        | 15 MCL - 0 MCLA  |
| • Florida        | 26 MCL – 4 MCLA  |
| • Georgia        | 25 MCL – 0 MCLA  |
| • Louisiana      | 35 MCL – 0 MCLA  |
| • Mississippi    | 12 MCL – 0 MCLA  |
| • South Carolina | 25 MCL – 0 MCLA  |
| • Tennessee      | 21 MCL – 3 MCLA  |
| • Total SED      | 159 MCL – 7 MCLA |

SED Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes placed the meeting in recess for 30 minutes to allow for MCL and MCLA to prepare for their respective business meetings.

### **SOUTHEAST DIVISION MCL BUSINESS MEETING**

The business meeting of the SED MCL was called to order at 1000 on Friday, 23 March 2018 by SED Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes at the direction of SEDNDVC Archie Sweet.

SED Adjutant George LaMont conducted a roll call of officers and staff of the Division. All were present other than: Webmaster Eric Hill (absent); Division Aide-de-Camp Lou Calleja (absent); Veteran Service Officer, Gerald Kiehl (excused); Young Marines, John Gionet (absent); Youth Physical Fitness, William Gonzalez (absent); Department of Louisiana Commandant Thomas Thompson (represented by PDC Dick Brandt).

Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes read the rules of the conference.

Adjutant George LaMont reported no correspondence that had not already been distributed other than a bid for the 2019 conference which will be addressed later.

Karl Ekstrom announced Carter/MOY award nominations to be submitted by lunch break.

ADVC Michael Clark reported on the Commandant's Council meeting (see minutes of that meeting above) and the National Mid-Winter Conference. He emphasized the need for better communication, especially from Detachment Commandant to member; accurate ROI; use of PDP training at all levels; reduction of delinquencies; resolution of conflict at lowest level to avoid Chapter 9 issues.

NDVC Archie Sweet emphasized the need to avoid Chapter 9 issues; Department records to track Detachment elections and ROI submittals. He recognized the Detachment Commandants present noting that only 15 to 20 in attendance of about 164 in the SED. Work at improving Detachments but do not keep Detachments on active status just for the numbers.

Marine Bernie Bledsoe spoke on suggestions to reduce Chapter 9 filings.

NDVC Archie Sweet appointed Bernie Bledsoe as interim Judge advocate for the current meeting.

SED Paymaster Glen Barry Evans presented his report and announced that the oversight committee has reviewed the financial records and statements without any discrepancies being found. A copy of the report may be obtained by contacting Paymaster Glen Barry Evans. (NOTE: A copy is archived to the Adjutant records)

Member Barbara Brammer, Department of Georgia spoke on the past contribution to the Shepard's Men and asked if further contributions will be made. The discussion was tabled to be presented under new business.

NDVC Archie Sweet called for reports:

- Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes no report;
- MODD SEDVPK Randy Barnes no report;
- VAVS Cary Haerlin reported. He noted that 6 of 7 of the Departments responded to the request for reports. Awards of recognition for VAVS was intended for this year. Department of Florida because of their size was the clear winner in all categories. It was determined to stand-down on any awards this year and to begin awards next year based on the percentage of improvement from the previous year thereby leveling the playing field for all 7 Departments. It is likely that the reports submitted reflect only 25% of the actual hours/dollars donated under VAVS. Better recording and submission is needed to

better reflect VAVS donations. SED 16,435 hours to VA; 36,045 hours to other than VA; \$18268 to VA; and \$111,643 to other than VA.

- Protocol Officer Jerry Cherne presented a proposal to SOP for Carter Award/MOY (copy attached to minutes). SOP revisions are the responsibility of the SED Board of Trustees (BOT) but NDVC Archie Sweet wanted to hear from the membership before taking the question to the BOT.

NVC Archie Sweet directed Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes to place the meeting in recess for 10 minutes after which it was resumed in accordance with the ritual.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Department of South Carolina PDC John Tharp on behalf of the Department and the Low Country Detachment presented information on the 2019 SED Conference 21 – 24 March in Charleston S.C. Hotel reservations should be available via internet about 1 April 2017. Room rate is \$134 for 1 or \$138 for 2 inclusive of breakfast plus 18% taxes. Banquet final menu remains to be determined but will be plated at about \$50 per attendee.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Department of Georgia, Detachment 1373 SVC Allen Camp reported that they would like to present a bid later in the meeting to host the 2020 SED Conference in Warner-Robbins, Georgia.

Department of Georgia, Detachment 1373 Commandant Marty Habecker announced the 2018 Department of Georgia Annual Convention. All are invited to attend.

Adjutant George LaMont reported that the minutes are available to be read and that they have been posted on the SED website. Motion and second (names not understandable on recording) was presented to waive the reading of the minutes and to accept as posted. Motion passed unanimously.

NDVC Archie Sweet spoke on the election of Division officers to be conducted in accordance with the National By-Laws. This will require delegates from the Detachments of the SED. The SOP will be revised accordingly.

ANDVC Michael Clark reported briefly on the proposal to amend the National By-Laws at the National Convention in August.

Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes at the direction of NDVC Archie Sweet placed the meeting in recess until 1330 when it resumed in accordance with the ritual.

NDVC Archie Sweet introduced Pete Smith, Manager of Sales who welcomed all to Pigeon Forge and presented a proclamation declaring the week Marine Corps League appreciation week in Pigeon Forge.

National Comptroller Bill Miller was introduced. He spoke of the MCL Foundation coin and the passing of the coin designer Marine Vic Beaverson of the Department of Louisiana. The next coin is another of his designs which the Foundation will present to members of his family in his memory.

Marine Eric Nash was introduced and spoke on the Americanism Award at all levels of the MCL. The SED has been a leader in entries for the Americanism Award.

National Scholarship Chair David Hatfield spoke on the National Scholarship. A suggestion is for the Detachments and Departments to screen applications prior to being submitted to the

Scholarship Committee which may help reduce the number of rejections due to simple mistakes.

NVC Archie Sweet recognized and thanked ANDVC Michael Clark for standing in for him during his recent illness.

ANDVC Michael Clark addressed the membership. Reports from the SED conference will be submitted to National for posting on the National website library. He asked that anyone with a written report submit that report to Bill Miller at [WMiller@mcleague.org](mailto:WMiller@mcleague.org) for posting to the website.

SED Eagle Scout Chair Mickey Edwards reported that he has received only a couple of Department reports and asked that each Department submit their report.

Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes at the direction of NDVC Archie Sweet placed the meeting in recess until Saturday 0900 when it resumed in accordance with the ritual.

NDVC Archie Sweet announced the meeting to be in open session. He then introduced Deborah Evans of the MCLA. She informed the membership that the Operation Little Angel donation from the MCLA was presented to Smokey Mountains Children's Home. Randy & Jessica Sheely (sp?) of the Children's Home were introduced and provided a briefing on the organization.

NDVC Archie Sweet appointed Jerry Cherne from the Department of Alabama as the new SED Aide-de-Camp.

National Commandant Wendell Webb addressed the membership on National topics with an emphasis on IRS issues and concerns. He stated that the PowerPoint presentation will be available on the National Web Site Library. All subsidiary (Departments, Detachments, Pounds, MCLA, etc.) must be organized under the IRS as 501c4 under the parent organization of the National MCL. Those who refuse to comply may face potential revocation of their MCL Charter.

Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes at the direction of NDVC Archie Sweet placed the meeting in recess for 15 minutes when it resumed in accordance with the ritual.

National SVC Dennis Tobin was introduced. He addressed the membership on volunteerism and performance of duties by the membership. He also spoke on the relationship of membership in the MCL to the USMC.

National JVC Johnny Baker was introduced. He spoke on communications, By-Laws, YPF program, Marine 4 Life, and other National topics. Information will be posted to the National website – library. SED Marines 4 Life Coordinator Cary Haerlin spoke further on the Marines 3 Life program and how it is being utilized in Florida. JVC Baker continued by speaking on assistance to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division especially with Funeral Honors.

Marine Larry Frelin, JVC South Carolina spoke on the Fisher House.

Marine Clifton Addison, Department of Mississippi spoke on the Yankee72 Memorial to the 15 Marines and 1 Corpsman killed in the crash. The dedication ceremony is planned for 14 July 2018. Financial assistance is needed to help cover the some of the expenses associated with hosting the dedication ceremony.

Chaplain Witt announced the Girl Scouts were outside with cookies for the membership.

Department of Georgia SVC Allen Camp presented a bid for the 2020 SED conference on 21 – 24 March 2020 in Warner-Robbins, Georgia at the Marriott. A site inspection will be conducted

prior to final decision. Motion and second to accept the bid pending a satisfactory site inspection. The motion carried unanimously.

Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes at the direction of NDVC Archie Sweet placed the meeting in recess for 90 minutes when it resumed in accordance with the ritual.

NDVC Archie Sweet and ADDVC Michael Clark presented the following awards:

Distinguished Service (Bronze)

- David Martin, Department of Louisiana for service in recovery of missing ceremonial rifles.
- George LaMont, Department of Florida for service in connection with Hurricane Irma recovery.

Distinguished Citizen (Silver)

- A. B. Grantham – Commandant Department of Alabama
- Phillip “Randy” Barnes – Commandant Department of Georgia
- George LaMont – Commandant Department of Florida
- Thomas Thompson – Commandant Department of Louisiana
- Ron Polk – Commandant Department of Mississippi
- Jim Stone – Commandant Department of South Carolina
- Kenneth Kotchevar – Commandant Department of Tennessee
- Terry Witt – Chaplain
- Robert “Butch” Raynes – Sgt. at Arms
- Glen Barry Evans – Paymaster
- George LaMont – Adjutant
- Michael Clark – ADVC

Additional awards will be presented at the banquet.

National JVC Johnny Baker introduced Marine Dick Brandt, Department of Louisiana and spoke of his recent National award for Heroism due to his service in saving the life of an electrocution victim.

ADNVC Michael Clark thanked everyone for a successful conference and how the MCL is improving. He encouraged all to share the information from the conference with those members that were not able to be present.

National Comptroller Bill Miller reminded everyone of the ongoing Foundation Disaster relief program.

NDVC Archie Sweet reminded everyone of the importance of communications, especially the forwarding of email messages when requested.

Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes at the direction of NDVC Archie Sweet placed the meeting in recess for 90 minutes when it resumed in accordance with the ritual.

## BANQUET

NDVC Archie Sweet thanked the National Officers for their presence and participation in the conference.

NDVC Archie Sweet introduced the guest speaker MCL member and retired MajGen Michael Regner for his presentation to the banquet guests.

Conference Chair Ken Cioffi thanked everyone for attending.

Carter Award Chair Karl Ekstrom introduced all the previous recipients of the award present. Eight nominations were received for the 2018 award. National JVC Johnny Baker was announced as the 2018 MOY/Carter Award recipient.

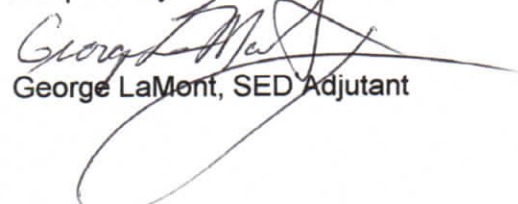
The Tom Perrone Award was presented to the Department of Tennessee.

The Milton Ochman Award was presented to the Departments of Tennessee and Alabama.

The traveling attendance award was presented to Detachment 1169 of the Department of South Carolina.

Sgt.-at-Arms Butch Raynes at the direction of NDVC Archie Sweet closed the conference until the next session in 2019 in Charleston, S.C.

Respectfully submitted,

  
George LaMont, SED Adjutant