

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

MIDDLE GEORGIA DETACHMENT #970

June 3, 2014

Meeting Minutes

**Opening by Ritual:** Meeting called to order and Marine Corps League Mission Statement read by Commandant Jeff Amerson. There were 28 Marines and 2 associate members in attendance.

**Roll Call of Officers:** All officers were present. Commandant welcomed Assistant Chaplain, Bob Burns, back after a hospital stay. There being no applications for membership, Commandant urged all to be actively pursuing the recruitment of Marines who will be quality Detachment 970 members, noting that this is not hard to do.

**Meeting Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the minutes as published by Bill Hall and seconded by Michael Clark.

**Financial Report:** Paymaster Ray Walker gave the detachment financial report. The beginning balance was \$10549.09; Disbursements: \$669.59; Deposits: \$786.50; Adjustments: \$3.00, bank service charge; leaving an ending balance of \$10663.00. Commandant asked whether the bank's service charge could be waived in consideration that we are a veteran's organization. Paymaster replied that the bank will not. Commandant also pointed out that the entire deposit as reported represents the proceeds from the Belk fundraiser. Motion was made to accept the financial report by Joe Barbee and it was seconded by David Mincey.

**Sick and Distressed:** Ron Chipman reported his loss in the death of his brother, Harold Lee Chipman, also a Marine veteran and retired police detective. Commandant conveyed condolences on behalf of the detachment. Another hale and welcome back also from a hospital stay in the room beside Bob Burns' went out from Past Commandant to Bill Hall.

**Officer's Report:** Senior Vice Commandant Ed Barbee reported the Memorial Day Color Guard and Honor Guard, in full complement, looked sharp and by the noteworthy execution of their duty he received many good comments from those in attendance, among whom was our own Paul Odom in full uniform. Bubba Wall and Wirt Durdin handled the wreath ceremony and looked good. Detachment Chaplain, Reverend James Jackson gave the opening and closing prayers. A good BBQ plate was provided and enjoyed by all. Senior Vice also encouraged everyone to participate in recruitment and be involved in our next service opportunity at the annual Rock 'n Soul marathon for the Rodney Davis, Jr. Memorial Fund. Commandant noted that our unit was on the 6 o'clock news and in the Tuesday daily paper. Also in the news was Michael Clark who participated in the dedication of a highway. Jr. Vice Commandant Tuffy Phillips reported everyone had a fun time at the shooting practice at the gun range. All were embarrassed and made to look bad by the stellar shooting of Louis Johnston, who put 48 rounds at the 50' range covering the hole all except two. Tuffy said if everyone wants to go shooting again, please let him know and he will talk with the range director.

**Standing Committee Report:** Commandant announced Leonard Pless as chairman of the Patriot Flag Program and added he has the certificates and folders ready and that they look good. Secondly, Commandant called for a volunteer to step up and take over, by no later than the July detachment meeting, as chairman of the Fallen Marine Program. A letter to the funeral directors to be included in an informational folder will be needed first. Our detachment gives out a certificate of appreciation and a

pennant that is given to the widow. Louis Johnston inquired whether we had discussed this with associate member Phil McGoldrick, to which Commandant replied, "Yes." Bill Hall volunteered to write the letter as long as Bitsy Phillips, who volunteered to proofread, will do so. The Commandant described the Fallen Marine Program Chairman's duty as mainly making phone calls or visiting the funeral homes for the purpose of familiarizing them with this service that our detachment offers. Commandant added that he has the detachment bugle stored at his home.

**Unfinished Old Business:**

Information cards to be distributed to prospective Marines are available at the front table.

Due to overwhelming demand, Ray Walker confirmed that there has been no progress made in getting new Membership ID Cards for those who made previous requests for them.

Anyone who has not turned in their Convention money for themselves and spouses please do so at close of meeting.

**New Business:** Sergeant at Arms, Bobby Shepherd presented the details involved in having a fish fry as a fundraiser for the detachment. The Lizella Masonic Lodge made assurance that their facilities are available for us to use for this purpose including propane, most likely for a modest fee. Food preparation, distribution and clean-up will require detachment-wide participation. Bobby said he will report later regarding the total costs for food and other fees.

**Good of the League:** Ron Chipman announced that our requested dates for reserving the Middle State Georgia facilities for the Marine Corps Birthday and Christmas Dinner are locked in. Ron also added that the LaGrange MCL Detachment did a good job providing color guard and taps for his brother's graveside service.

Bill Hall announced that he will be placing another shirt order, at \$25 each, asking that all those interested must let him know after the meeting.

Joe Barbee stood to call for color guard and final hole attendant volunteers for Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, at Bowden Golf Course, for the Rodney Davis Memorial Fundraiser Tournament. Hole attendant volunteers are Bill Hall, Tuffy Phillips, Bitsy Phillips, and Leonard Pless. Color Guard will be manned by Joe Barbee, Michael Clark and two members of the Griffin MCL detachment.

Joe also requested confirmation of a date for the June Family Dine Out. Denise Shepherd called for suggestions and the consensus was O'Charley's for 6:30, June 26. Also, for the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting night fellowship, Joe proposed, on behalf of a number of members, that all Marines and their families bring something, including plates, cups, etc., for a potluck meal. Commandant called for a July vote for the potluck.

There being no further business, Commandant proceeded to close the meeting by ritual.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Dyche, Adjutant