

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
MIDDLE GEORGIA DETACHMENT #970
September 3, 2013

Opening by Ritual: Meeting called to order and Marine Corps League Mission Statement read by Commandant Bill Hall.

Roll Call of Officers: All were in attendance with exception of 2nd Plt. Leader Carl Kitchens, excused and Sergeant At Arms, Ed Barbee, excused.

Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to accept, as submitted, minutes for the August meeting by Jeff Amerson and seconded by Tom Hisel. The motion carried.

Financial Report: Paymaster Ray Walker reports as follows: Beginning balance: \$17365.62; Disbursements: \$2210.50; Deposits: \$89.00; Adjustments: \$2.00; Ending balance: \$15242.12. Motion was made to accept the Paymaster's report by Michael Clark and seconded by Joe Barbee. The motion carried.

Sickness and Distress: Wirt Durdin, Squad Leader, Squad 7, reported Howard Hardison's health has improved and he is undergoing therapy, expecting to be discharged soon. It was determined that he did not have a stroke on 8/3/2013, but a seizure. Ed Barbee is recovering well from his August 27th surgery and looks forward to being released from bed rest on Sept. 11, 2013. Joe Barbee responded to Commandant's request that he inform us of his impending hip replacement surgery scheduled for Sept. 9th. Joe says he'll be incapacitated for four weeks, but presently is prepared for this and stated no need of help at this time. He will undergo therapy and be exercising to regain his strength. Commandant offered transportation or anything that Joe may need. Joe also mentioned he spoke with Jeremy Frasier, who stated he is doing very well and intends to begin attending detachment meetings once his children's sports season ends.

Officers' Report: Commandant gave Levi McKenna the floor to introduce himself as the District Vice Commandant and made himself available for finding answers to our MCL-related questions. Paul Reynolds, acting Sergeant at Arms, reports 27 in attendance including visitors and associate members. He also brought to our attention the now open, 2-page charter display. Paul also noted that at a 50% discount, Michael's did a very professional mount, mat and frame job.

Standing Committee Report: On Denise Shepherd's behalf, Commandant announced the upcoming Family Dine Out at O'Charleys, 6:30 p.m., September 19th, 2013. Commandant encouraged a larger turnout, inviting everyone to come enjoy this family time as a unit.

Old Business: Michael Clark expressed concerns that: 1) "the district donation for Boy Scouts has been made about three times in the past," and since there are other worthy causes and organizations, care should be given not to "make a routine of giving to the Boy Scouts every year." Other youth organizations suggested were: Young Marines of the Marine Corps League, JROTC programs, Toys for Tots, etc; the emphasis being that we should "spend our money wisely." 2) Michael requested a better understanding of the 50% Life Membership Award for members of MCL 970's Purple Heart recipients that was voted on and passed in the August 2013 meeting. After Commandant stated the present terms of this concern, Michael advised against it being an "up front gesture," but rather the individuals to be considered should be members in good standing for a minimum of one year and should be given only one year to repay. Two additional concerns introduced were the great numbers who are reentering after discharge and the members already among us who did not have this opportunity. A third concern introduced was that to single out one group for assistance is a departure from the mission statement's inclusiveness of all Marines in need. After explaining that this honor awarded Purple Heart recipients does not mean we would stop helping Marines in need, supported by statements from Paul Reynolds and C. W. Eldridge. Commandant agreed that detailed criteria and "procedures will be written up based on the motion that has already passed" which will safeguard the detachment and ensure this award be handled judiciously.

New Business: Tom Hisel opened discussion about the email Commandant sent regarding which items we should be collected for the VA Dublin Christmas donation and visit event. Outer wear is needed as well as new and used shoes, and toiletries are needed. Commandant is going to clarify whether they only want new clothing and report back to the body. Tom Hisel mentioned that the Milledgeville VA

accepts used clothing. Commandant will make a new separate donation list that will be posted in the newsletter and emailed.

The Marine Corps Birthday Celebration will be November 9th, Macon College. The cost is \$15.00 a head. Colonel Ted Robinson will host and MC the event. Sign up deadline will be the date of the November meeting. Levi McKenna inquired whether there would be room to include the Warner Robins Detachment 1373 members and guests at our Celebration. Commandant said he would check with Ron and Sue Chipman about room capacity and get back to Levi about this.

Commandant will make a new separate

For The Good of the League

Commandant inquired whether anyone is not receiving the newsletter.

The Staff Meeting is Tuesday, Sept 17, 1900; all are welcome to attend and participate with the exception of voting.

The National Convention is July 30 – August 10, 2014 in Charleston WV.

The Southeast Division Convention is March 6 – 10, 2014 at Opryland. National Vice Commandant, S.E. Division, Michael Clark, would like our support and attendance at this convention.

The Department of Georgia Convention is May 2 – 4, 2014 in LaGrange, GA.

Acknowledgement of a good job and thanks was given by Commandant on everyone's behalf to Michael Clark for chairing the Finance Committee for the last year.

The guest speaker for our October meeting program will be a representative of the Young Marines.

Commandant gave Michael Clark the floor to explain what the Young Marines' mission is about.

The Adjutant extended a cordial invitation to all members of Detachment 970 to be seated as guests of honor to hear Marine David Sommerdorf speak about America's Mobile Memorial, the Marine Corps Vette, and his mission to help Marines and all veterans and their families at Berean Baptist Church, 5151 Columbus Road, Macon, on Sept 22, 2013, 11:00 a.m. It was suggested that we make David Sommerdorf an honorary member of our Detachment. Commandant said he would look into the question of this organization's 501C3 status and other details and would post the events details on our website and send out an email to all.

Commandant Hall put a question to the body about interest in doing a new Detachment 970 shirt.

Discussion was entertained and Commandant said he would like to keep the business local if it's feasible. He offered that all should think about what color to make them and will consider this and vote on it next month.

Minutes submitted by Annette Dyche, Adjutant.