

DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI – MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS



Department Quarterly Meeting 06 September 2014 Minutes:

1. Opening:

The regular meeting of the Department of Missouri, Marine Corps League was called to order at 0900 on 06 September 2014 at Samuel F Gearhart Detachment Headquarters, by Department Commandant Miller. Cole County, Missouri Presiding Judge Patricia Joyce gave a presentation on Veterans Treatment Courts.

2. Roll Call of Officers:

Commandant: Floyd Miller - Present
Senior Vice Commandant: Bill Webb - Present
Junior Vice Commandant: Steve Michalski - Present
Junior Past Commandant: Teresa Terry - Present
Judge Advocate: Bob Reed - Present
Paymaster: Janice Hartley - Present
Adjutant: Jim Hartwick - Present
Chaplain: Joe Terry - Present
Sergeant at Arms: Gregory Craig - Present
Auditor 1 yr: Eric Salaby - Excused
Auditor: 2 yr: Bob Scannell - Present
Auditor 3 yr: Dick Brouillette – Excused

3. Introduction of guests and recognition of officers.

The following guests were introduced: National Junior Vice Commandant Wendell Webb, National Vice Commandant, Midwest Division Dave Hunter, Past Department Commandants, Department Marines of the Year, and MODD leaders.

4. Approval of Minutes:

After reading of the minutes, Bob Box moved the minutes of the 21 June, 2014 be accepted. 2nd Janice Hartley. Motion carried.

5. Correspondence:

Commandant Miller referenced a letter from Robert R. Blackman, Jr., Lieutenant General, United States Marine Corps (Ret), President and CEO, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The letter highlighted the goals of the Semper Fidelis Society, and extended an invitation for the Department to join the society. No action taken at this time.

Commandant Miller also referenced a letter from Tracy Della Vecchia, Founder and Executive Director of the Marine Parents organization. The letter explained that, by joint congressional resolution, the last Sunday in September is designated as Gold Star Family day, and is encouraging people and communities to participate in a Luminary initiative.

6. Paymaster Report:

The paymaster report was read and filed for audit. As discussion concerning Certificates of Deposit (CD's) ensued, and Dave Hunter made a motion that the Department "roll over" the current CD's at the .65% rate, 2nd by Bob Box, motion carried.

Paymaster Hartley also reported on other duties under her purview.

Participating Life Members (PLM's) – At the present, only 7 Detachments out of 20 have forwarded their PLM's.

Eagle Scouts: Only one Detachment forwarded reports on two separate Eagle Scout awards ceremonies.

Professional Development Classes: A Professional Development class is scheduled for Saturday, 1 November at 0900, to be held at the St. Peters, Missouri American Legion Hall. The course is expected to 3 hours in duration. Commandant Miller added that National would like to see all Detachment and Department officers attend these classes.

7. Report of Members or Members Family Sick or in Distress:

Bill Webb reported that Craig Trimmell suffered catastrophic injuries when he dove into a swimming pool and crushed his C-5 vertebrae. Craig is currently paralyzed from the chest down, and remains in the hospital. Craig, as well as his father Barry are League members of the Southwest Missouri Detachment.

Jerry Bradley reported that Rick Smythe is having medical problems, and recently had his appendix removed to relieve other conditions. Also, Lee Hollrah continues to have medical problems. Bill Ruff, who is turning 90 years of age, has been in and out of the hospital with ailments, and his wife is currently hospitalized. C.J. New suffered complications from a colonoscopy. C.J.'s colon was punctured, and needed a temporary colostomy. The colostomy was reversed, and C.J. is on the mend.

8. Reports:

Report of Officers

a. Commandant:

Report filed. In addition, Commandant Miller congratulated the Southwest Missouri Detachment and Auxiliary for hosting an outstanding Department Convention in June. In particular, the food at the banquet was excellent, and the band was "interesting". Commandant Miller also advised that the Department of Missouri was very well represented at National Convention in Charleston, West Virginia in August. The Department MODD was also well represented, having a high percentage of "dog handlers".

b. Sr. Vice Commandant:

Report filed. SVC Webb mentioned that, to date, there have been no Detachments to step up for hosting the next Department Convention next spring. SVC Webb intends to visit several Detachments in hopes of "pumping up" some interest in hosting the convention.

c. Jr. Vice Commandant:

Report on file.

d. Judge Advocate:

No report.

e. Jr. Past Commandant: No report

f. Adjutant: No report.

g. Paymaster: No further report.

h. Chaplain:

Report on file. Chaplain Terry provided an up-to-date listing of Marines who have “made their last Roll Call” as of September 6, 2014. All names of deceased Marines have been reported to the National Chaplain.

i. Sgt at Arms: No report. *Commandant Miller noted that the Department does not have a new Sgt at Arms, it's just that Greg Criag may not be readily recognized due to his shedding 106 pounds.*

j. Auditors: No Report.

k. Vice Commandants:

- Vice Commandant Eastern Region: VC Jim Brooks reported that he attended the National Convention, and also has visited each of the 5 Detachments in his region.
- Vice Commandant NE Region: Report on file.
- Vice Commandant Central Region: Excused.
- Vice Commandant Western Region: Report on file. VC Bob Box advised that the Kansas City Detachment is “in transition” with the resignation of Commandant Mike Freeman due to work conflicts. SVC Joe Mouton has been elevated to Commandant, which will be reflected on an amended ROI.
- Vice Commandant SW Region: Report on file.

l. Detachment Reports: Received written reports from all Detachments with the following exceptions:

Northwest Missouri Det. 180

Jeffco Det. 707

Greater Ozark Det. 1184

Warsaw Leathernecks Det. 1254

Old Drum Det. 1374

St. Louis Det. 184

Simpson Hoggatt Det. 984

Sgt. Darrell S. Cole Det. 1195

Tripoli Marines Det. 1356

Report of Standing Committees

a. Marine for Life: Report submitted.

- b. MCL Foundation:** Report submitted.
National JVC Wendell Webb advised that, as a result of his newly elected National position, he will be required to resign from the board of the MCL Foundation, but will continue to be involved in the Marine For Life and Focus Marine Foundation. National JVC Webb also thanked the Department for their support during his election. The Division had 1300+ delegate votes, which helped tremendously towards his election. NVC/MD Dave Hunter remarked that with the election of Wendell Webb, Departments west of the Mississippi now, for the 1st time, have a foothold in the League.
- c. Focus Marine Foundation (FMF)**
Report submitted.
- d. Toys for Tots:**
No Report. No representative.
- e. Program for Professional Development (PPD) Committee:**
Previously covered in Paymaster report and remarks.
- f. Eagle Scouts:**
No further report.
- g. VAVS:** No report.

9. Awards:

Commandant Miller presented an award for Honorable Mention for the National Americanism Award to the Cpl Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment 1081, accepted by Past Department Commandant Richard Bollwerk. The Commandant also presented Bill Webb with a Meritorious Unit Commendation, Department Level for their Detachments excellent job in hosting the Department Convention in June, and the impressive number of Color/Honor Guard details during the year.

10. Unfinished Business:

Commandant Miller advised that any articles, etc to the Department Newsletter must be sent to editor Eddie Flores. Also, each Detachment should strive for a website, and appoint a Web Sergeant who is authorized to make changes to Detachment entries at the National Website.

11. New Business: No new business.

12. Announcements:

- a.** Midwest Division Fall Convention will be in St. Louis, 17 – 19 October. Dave Hunter moved that the Department take out a \$100, full page ad, 2nd by Bob Box, motion carried.
- b.** Next Department Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Samuel F. Gearhart Headquarters Bldg, 6 December.
- c.** Midwest Division Spring Conference will be held in Jefferson City, (*although this location has not been voted on as yet*)

- d. Next National Convention will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, 9 – 15 August. According to NVC/MWD Dave Hunter, the 2016 National Conventions will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Also, Nebraska will be bidding for the 2017 National Convention.

13. Good of the League:

a. National JVC Wendell Webb presented the Department with a League banner “drape” for the podium.

b. Jerry Bradley reported that he has been appointed as Midwest Division Chaplain by NVC/MWD Dave Hunter. MWD Chaplain Bradley asked that Detachment Chaplains have their list of deceased Marines by October 1st. Department Chaplain Joe Terry advised that he has the list for the Department.

c. Commandant Miller advised that the Department, and the Midwest Division had placed several ads for the “National” book.

d. Commandant Miller lead a successful “challenge coin” campaign. The Commandant designed and sold about \$600 in coins, and presented the Department with \$300 in fundraiser receipts. Many of the coins were sold at the Department Convention in Springfield, MO.

e. JVC Steve Michalski suggested the Department sponsor a Department Christmas Party, and include “Christmas Karaoke”. Adjutant Jim Hartwick intends to get together with Steve and discuss options.

f. Commandant Miller has a copy of the National budget, if any member is interested in reviewing it. Also, the Commandant reported that there were 6 proposed changes to the National By-Laws, and 8 administrative changes. National JVC Wendell Webb commented that one of the proposed By-laws, the approval of a ribbon for Memorial teams, was rejected for the 2nd time. JVC Webb believes that the issue is not so much as members object to the ribbon itself, but rather object to the “hierarchy”, the position placed on the ribbon bar. It was noted that this particular ribbon is one step above a Department Commandant. NVC/MWD Hunter also opined that another reason some may have been hesitant to approve was that in some larger Detachments, only so many Marines can be on the memorial (color guard) squad, and so only a handful of Detachment members are eligible to receive the ribbon.

g. Commandant Miller reviewed a “turnover folder” from the Department of California, and thought it was an excellent binder to have board predecessors get up to speed on their duties. The Commandant would like to see a similar folder for the Department and all Detachments, and asked that any Detachments having a turnover folder send a copy to the Commandant.

h. Commandant Miller talked about the continuing problem League-wide on the proper wearing of uniforms. Simply put, the Commandant remarked that if an item is not seen or read about in the procedural manual, then it cannot be worn. The Commandant noted a recent picture in a local newspaper showed Detachment members wearing the black tie

with the short sleeve shirt uniform and they were also wearing the white frame cover versus the authorized League cover.

i. A foundation has been established in honor of Medal of Honor winner Hershel “Woody” Williams of West Virginia. Commandant Miller has more information on this issue.

j. Commandant Miller reported that the Samuel F. Gearhart Detachment participated in a fundraiser and purchased more than one-half of the raffle tickets benefitting a local family. The husband was diagnosed with Stage 4 Melanoma, and the local VFW ran the raffle.

k. NJVC Wendell Webb reminded the Department that he is responsible for membership in his new position, and expressed concerns about death notifications. NJVC Webb noted that notifications can be filed electronically. Commandant Miller added the Department had one member who had passed away two years prior to his wife receiving a renewal notice for membership. Detachments must stay on top of these notifications.

l. NJVC Wendell Webb advised that the Marine Foundation has given away a great deal of money, and that the Foundation can only provide assistance one time. Also, money is never given to the individual, but rather payments are made to take care of bills such as medical, house payments and the like. NJVC Webb cautioned the Department members to be aware and cautious of “scams” in the request for assistance.

m. NVC/MWD Dave Hunter advised the Department and Detachments that since he and NJVC Webb hold National offices, that, via the chain of command, all should go through them regarding issues.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 1105 by Commandant Miller. The next meeting will in Jefferson City, MO on Saturday, 06 December.

Minutes submitted by:

Jim Hartwick, Adjutant