

13 May 2017

Meeting Time: 1000-1200

Location: Hoover Tactical Firearms



THE LT. GEN. VICTOR "BRUTE" KRULAK DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Business Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2017

ATTENDANCE - 44

NEW MEMBERS - 6

I. OPENING CEREMONY

- Commandant Valentin called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.
- Chris Linn led the color guard in the posting of the colors in Jeff Bacon's absence.
- Commandant Valentin gave the invocation in John Simmon's absence.

II. OFFICER/TRUSTEE REPORTS

A. **Commandant** – Fernando Valentin (krulak.commandant@gmail.com)

- The April meeting minutes were approved.
- Jr. Past Commandant Smith swore in Al Barfield as the new Jr. Vice Commandant.
- Commandant Valentin recognized all the guests present and swore in the new members.

B. **Sr. Vice Commandant** – Carol Higgins (krulak.srvice@gmail.com)

- Sr. Vice Commandant Higgins announced that Alvin Rogers, a local marine and personal friend of hers, is in Princeton Hospital. She asked detachment members to join her and the officers to visit him and swear him in as a new member. His son, also a Marine, has plans to join the detachment as well.

C. **Jr. Vice Commandant** – Al Barfield (krulak.jrvice@gmail.com)

- No report

D. **Judge Advocate** – Tom Krebs (krulak.judgeadvocate@gmail.com)

- No report

E. **Paymaster** – David Landier (krulak.paymaster@gmail.com)

1. We currently have \$21,311 in the bank.
2. We currently have 145 members; 15 delinquent

3. Paymaster Landier reminded the detachment that there will be a Shoot with the Brutes committee meeting following the regular meeting.
4. He clarified the confusion about the Gun Donation Drawing fundraiser and reminded members to pick up tickets from him before they leave.
5. He also asked for volunteers to assist with managing the Ship Store. Brute Vernon Wood stepped forward to assist.

F. **Chaplain** – John Simmons (krulak.chaplain@gmail.com)
– Absent

G. **Adjutant** – Jessica Findley (krulak.adjutant@gmail.com)

1. Committees/Squads

- Jessica encouraged members to fill out a Committee/Squad Interest Form if they haven't already. Committee/Squad Interest Forms will be on the sign-in table at each Detachment meeting.
- Each member should plan to join at least one committee or squad.
- You can fill out an interest form online at <https://goo.gl/forms/TQPMSeNqN86pt7Bf2>. Otherwise, pick up a hard copy at the next detachment meeting.

2. Website

- The password for the “Brutes Only” section of the website is: **GUNGHObrutes**

3. Picnic

- The detachment picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 12th, in place of our regularly scheduled detachment meeting. We have not yet decided on a location. If you have any recommendations, please send those to Jessica Findley at krulak.adjutant@gmail.com.

4. Senior Games

- Birmingham is hosting the 2017 Senior Games (like the Olympics for people over the age of 50). They are in need of volunteers for the various sporting events from June 2nd-15th. If you are interested in volunteering, let Jessica Findley know.

H. **Jr. Past Commandant** – Ed Smith, Jr. (krulak.jrpast@gmail.com)

- We have submitted the names and information of five marines for stepping stones at the Alabama Veterans Memorial Park: William “Tadpole” Taylor, Philip Gahee, Sam Lyle, Carl Jones, and Chuck Beveridge

I. **Sergeant-At-Arms** – Jeff Bacon (krulak.sgtatarms@gmail.com)

- Absent

III. **GUEST SPEAKER: KIM RAFFERTY, FELLOW “BRUTE” AND BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCILOR**

- Councilor Rafferty spoke about the state of veterans and veterans programs in Birmingham.
- She says we have to change the way we handle veterans, specifically with regard to reintegration. We can't wait for there to be a problem to step in and help; we have to be a resource for them before the problem transpires.

- There is no cohesive goal or mission among the various groups and organizations who exist to help veterans. We need to establish a single program that will serve as a clearing house for veterans and veterans programs.
- The Veteran Blueprint Program will serve as that one-stop-shop for veterans to be plugged in to the various community organizations that help veterans—from those that offer education and health assistance to those that offer help with housing and financial matters.
- The Blueprint program will also conduct relevant due diligence on the various organizations to ensure the veterans are being connected to legitimate, well-run programs that have been vetted to ensure the funds they receive are being used appropriately.
- Councilor Rafferty also spoke about Veterans Memorial Park, informing us that they are in desperate need of volunteers. She is also working to get the flag pole fixed and to get proper lighting. She also noted that the flag needs to be replaced every year. There was some discussion from the detachment to cover the cost of replacing the flag each year, but that motion was tabled for a later date.
- She noted the interesting fact that Alabama has the largest population of veterans per capita and that our state is recognized as the “most volunteering” state in the US.
- She touched on the Three Hots and a Cot issues, informing us that the board is contacting the VA to review Three Hots and a Cot’s contracts to ensure the integrity of the housing program.
- Finally, she noted that she is looking for a consultant to be hired through her office to help put together an Alabama Veteran Project that would include expanding on the Blueprint program.

IV. COMMITTEE/SQUAD REPORTS

A. Three Hots and a Cot (Don Lehman)

- Absent
- Thank you to everyone who brought household items.

B. National Cemetery/Veterans Memorial Park (Don Brooks)

- Stay tuned for information about Memorial Day events.

C. “Second Chance” Gun Donation Drawing (David Landier)

- So far, we have raised \$8200.
- See David for tickets.
- Sign up to work the gun donation drawing table at Hoover Tactical.

D. Marine Corps Birthday Ball (Jessica Findley)

- The event will be held at The Club again this year.
- The date is Friday, November 10th.
- Jessica took a show of hands to gauge interest.

E. Toys for Tots (1st Sgt. Spuesens)

- The reserve station is already gearing up for Toys for Tots registration, which is opening in September.
- Findley will send her the names and contact info for the individuals who signed up for the

V. OLD BUSINESS

- New Member Application Process
 - Commandant Valentin announced that all new member applications, and accompanying DD-214s or other acceptable form of identification, have to be vetted by Albert Barfield or Tom Krebs. No one else is authorized to sign-off on applications.

VI. FOR THE GOOD OF THE DETACHMENT

A. Brute Post-Meeting Social

- Going forward, the members will rendezvous after detachment meetings at Bar 31 (<https://www.bar31birmingham.com>).

B. State Convention

- Commandant Valentin asked detachment members to consider attending the State Convention in Dothan from June 9th-11th. The detachment will pay for convention registration, but members have to cover their own accommodation and other travel expenses.

C. Memorial Day

- Findley will be sending out a Brute Blast with information about the various events and ceremonies taking place for Memorial Day and Memorial Day weekend.

VII. DONATION DRAWING

- All of the money brought in from the donation drawing goes in the scholarship fund.

VIII. RETIRING OF THE COLORS/ADJOURNMENT

- Jessica Rafferty gave the closing prayer.

****NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE JUNE 10, 2017****

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Submitted by

Jessica A. Findley
Adjutant