



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

**Detachment Business Meeting Minutes  
September 2019**

**Date of Meeting:** 09/14/19  
**Location:** Hoover Tactical Firearms  
**Recorded By:** Jessica Findley  
**Date of Minutes:** 09/15/19

**Officers in Attendance: 7**

1. Carol Higgins (Commandant)
2. Ceasar Rodriquez (Sr. Vice Commandant)
3. John Simmons (Chaplain)
4. Vernon Wood (Sgt-At-Arms)
5. Fernando Valentin (Acting Paymaster; Jr. Past COMDT)
6. Ed Smith Jr. (Judge Advocate) (Past COMDT)
7. Harvey Jones (Asst. Chaplain)

**Officers Absent: 1**

1. Patrick Hebdon (Jr. Vice Commandant)

**Total Present: 22**

Guest (G): 1

Officers (O): 7

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Carol Higgins (O)     | 9. Peter Leavitt (Patriot) (G) | 17. Tom Krebs       |
| 2. Ceasar Rodriguez (O)  | 10. Jim Murphy                 | 18. Tommy Krebs Jr. |
| 3. Vernon Wood (O)       | 11. Jessica Findley            | 19. Mac Hefner      |
| 4. Ed Smith, Jr. (O)     | 12. Jeremy Harris              | 20. Mel Shinholster |
| 5. Fernando Valentin (O) | 13. Al Barfield                | 21. Alicia Simpson  |
| 6. John Simmons (O)      | 14. Glenn McWaters             | 22. Lillian Jones   |
| 7. Harvey Jones (O)      | 15. Don Lehman                 |                     |
| 8. Bob Saxon (G)         | 16. Clarence Guthrie           |                     |

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1. Commandant Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:23am.
2. Sgt-at-Arms Vernon Wood led the posting of the colors. Alicia Simpson, her son Camron and Peter the Patriot served as the Color Guard.
3. John Simmons gave the invocation.
4. Commandant gave the roll call and recognized past commandants and special guest Peter the Patriot.
5. One first-time visitor, Bob Saxon. Life member. "Hollywood Marine" from San Francisco. Coming to us from Department of Georgia. Owns a small business servicing desktop printers. Gung-ho for Toys for Tots.
6. No applicants for membership.
7. Jessica Findley shared August meeting minutes. Commandant proposed changes. Ed Smith made motion to accept changes and Fernando Valentin gave the second. Minutes with changes were approved. No Adjutant report.
8. Fernando Valentin shared the Paymaster and impact report. Reported that there is \$3,992 in checking and \$3,461 in savings account. There is \$4,513.47 in the combined accounts and \$1,491 of that is in the Scholarship Fund. Discussed issues with roster and members who don't plan to renew. Total membership right now is 57 paid (48 regular, 8 associates, 1 dual). Unpaid on roster is 29 members (19 reg and 10 associates). Some members are still on our roster who don't plan to renew, so our roster numbers will continue to go down unless those individuals officially resign.
9. Judge Advocate Ed Smith, reported that he is reviewing the changes to the National Bylaws so he can share with the Detachment. Shared again about Kimberly Glenn, a Marine we helped last month. Ed Smith was recently contacted about another Marine who is in need and he connected them to the right people in Opelika. University of Alabama has received grant funding to conduct a suicide prevention program. They are going to involve the Marine Corps League and assign reps from Johnny Spann, Krulak and Smith detachments to assist as well.
10. John Simmons gave the Chaplains report. Noted that Brute Neil Rafferty had a death in his family. [It was later confirmed that Neil Rafferty has not had a death in the family.]
11. Sr. Vice Rodriguez gave an overview of and shared announcements/updates from the National Convention. Encouraged all members and associates to attend all conferences and conventions. The Department of Alabama won second place in the National Newsletter Competition. National Convention will be in Daytona next year. Reminded members to bring pictures for the Detachment picture board.
12. Commandant Higgins shared about her National Convention experience. Gave everyone a token/chip like the ones she and Ceasar handed out at the Convention as a "leave behind" item for people to remember our detachment reps from our Detachment.
13. Woody reminded members that the Birthday Ball is coming up soon. Tickets are \$65 per person. Made a motion that the Detachment provide \$650 to cover the ticket costs for those from the reserve station who can't afford it. Al Barfield gave the second. Floor open for discussion. Fernando Valentin asked if it fits with mission of helping Marines in need. Don Lehman shared same sentiment. Jessica Findley noted that the mission is more than helping Marines in need and promoting values and traditions of the USMC, which the Birthday Ball fits into. Clarence Guthrie asked for more details. Vernon Woods shared date, time, place, etc. Commandant suggested we support by buying a table and attending in MCL uniform so they recognize who we are. Vernon Wood modified motion for Detachment to authorize himself to contact First Sgt at Reserve Center and offer support for Birthday Ball. There was more discussion and the motion was tabled.
14. Don Lehman passed around birthday cards for members to sign. The cards include a \$25 Walmart gift card for those at Three Hots and a Cot. Asked members to support one or more birthdays by donating

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- \$25. Made a motion for Detachment to provide up to \$400 for gift cards. Fernando Valentin gave the second. No discussion. Motion passed.
15. Don Lehman also noted that the Home Depot Foundation is still renovating homes of veterans in need. Next workday will be near Woodland Park, mostly indoors, from September 26-28. Let Don Lehman know if you want to volunteer.
  16. Jessica Findley shared totals from Zamora and thanked members for involvement in gun drawing. Gave out certificates to those who participated and/or sold tickets. Detachment won a firearm. Considering whether to trade in for more desirable pistol or sell outright.
  17. Fernando Valentin discussed next fundraiser. Noted Tom Krebs has confirmed availability of the gift card for a golf/hotel package. Don Lehman made a motion that the weekend golf/hotel/resort package from RSA be used for the fourth-quarter fundraiser. Detachment decided to use regular tickets instead of fancy ones. Jessica Findley will draft a flyer/poster to go with the tickets once she receives the details.
  18. Jessica Findley noted that the Veterans Day Parade will be upon us soon. Recommended that the detachment form a committee to sign us up and prepare. Commandant Higgins will get us registered. She and Sr. Vice Rodriguez are the contacts for this event. Fernando Valentin to contact Jason Alexander about using his truck again.
  19. Jessica Findley noted that Toys for Tots has already kicked off and asked if our Detachment has plans to be involved. Commandant asked that members bring a toy to the next detachment meeting. If you need a box to set out at a place of business or have any questions about Toys for Tots, see Vernon Wood.
  20. Don Lehman modified a motion from the May meeting that had been tabled until the September meeting. The motion is that the officers provide a fundraising plan along with the proposed budget by the December meeting. Fernando gave the second. No discussion. Motion passed.
  21. Commandant introduced "Peter the Patriot". Sr. Vice Rodriguez recognized him as a "shining example of patriotism". From Jacksonville, Alabama; 23 years old and born on November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Marine Corps Birthday. Collects antiques as far back as 1743. He recited the Declaration of Independence, which was met with a standing ovation.
  22. The raffle brought in \$105 for the Brute Scholarship Fund.
  23. Harvey Jones closed us in prayer.
  24. The meeting was closed at 12:35am.
  25. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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Submitted by Jessica Findley on Sunday, September 15, 2019  
Amended on September 18, 2019