



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

**Detachment Business Meeting Minutes
August 2019**

Date of Meeting: 08/10/19
Location: Hoover Tactical Firearms
Recorded By: Jessica Findley
Date of Minutes: 08/10/19

Officers in Attendance: 4

1. Patrick Hebdon (Jr. Vice Commandant)
2. Vernon Wood (Sgt-At-Arms)
3. Fernando Valentin (Acting Paymaster; Jr. Past COMDT)
4. Ed Smith Jr. (Judge Advocate)

Officers Absent: 4

1. Carol Higgins (Commandant)
2. Ceasar Rodriquez (Sr. Vice Commandant)
3. John Simmons (Chaplain)
4. Harvey Jones (Asst. Chaplain)

Total Present: 15

Guest (G): 1

Officers (O): 4

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| 1. Vernon Wood (O) | 7. Tweety Byrd | 13. Glenn McWaters |
| 2. Patrick Hebdon (O) | 8. Philip Rushton | 14. Don Lehman |
| 3. Ed Smith, Jr. (O) | 9. Jessica Findley | 15. Steven Weber |
| 4. Fernando Valentin (O) | 10. Jeremy Harris | |
| 5. Garry Wates (G) | 11. Al Barfield | |
| 6. Jim Murphy | 12. David Gaut | |

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1. Jr. Vice Commandant Hebdon called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
2. Commandant Higgins and Sr. Vice Rodriguez were absent to represent the Detachment at the National Convention in Montana.
3. Sgt-at-Arms Vernon Wood led the posting of the colors. Don Lehman, David Gaut, and Garry Wates served as the Color Guard.
4. Ed Smith gave the invocation.
5. Ed Smith gave the roll call.
6. No applicants for membership.
7. Findley shared June meeting minutes.
8. Valentin shared the Paymaster and impact report. Discussed issues with roster and members who don't plan to renew. Those members are still on our roster so our roster numbers will continue to go down unless they officially resign. Reported that there is \$2,144 in checking and \$2,415 in savings account. There is \$4,513.47 in the combined accounts and \$1,300 of that is in the Scholarship Fund.
9. Hebdon made a motion to hold an abbreviated meeting. Motion seconded by Jeremy Harris and approved by membership.
10. Hebdon introduced guest speaker Garry Wates—a paramedic and medical trainer—who spoke to the detachment about the Scottish Rite Shoe Program. Didn't serve in military himself. But dad was in the army and son is in the navy who served 3 tours in Afghanistan. Son hit with a roadside bomb—but overcoming problems related to injuries. Prompted Wates to start sending packages of items to soldiers with his Masonic Lodge. Started sending red clown noses in the package along with one-liners for humor. Garnered attention of local news and they did a story. That then prompted the group to create a website in 2005 (<http://www.therednoseinstitute.com>) to raise money to start sending noses to troops all over the world. Convinced Tweety Byrd to go to clown college and become an “official” clown. Held a Veteran's Day fundraiser—a steak dinner for about 90 guests—and the clowns put on a reenactment of what it's like to be in the military—incorporating humor into the act. Use this type of entertainment, they began raising funds for shoes to give away to those in need. Encourages fellow members of the Scottish Rite to get out in the community to identify veterans and those currently serving and find a way to assist with getting shoes. Raise about \$20k/year for about 1200 new pair of shoes and socks. Membership has fallen off with Scottish Rite so looking to other organizations to assist with the effort and raising funds to continue the shoe program. Left some handouts and calendars. See Tweety Byrd or Jim Murphy if you have shoes or know someone who needs shoes. Also mentioned the Kiwanis's Armed Services Committee—noted that they're helping the Alabama Veterans Memorial Foundation with a big fundraiser. Planning to build space to have training about the “real” history of the military to share with students and other groups. Asks that those in the room who have served continue getting involved in capturing veteran's personal military history/stories.
11. Smith also noted that Kent Davis, the new commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, is a personal friend and will be asking him to come speak at a future meeting. Bobby Howard, a local war hero Ed and Fernando know from Kiwanis, will be the guest speaker in September.
12. Chaplain absent—no chaplain's report
13. Judge Advocate reported that there are no grievances at this time. Shared about Kimberly Glenn, a Marine who recently fell on hard times. Connected to her from American Legion 911. Was facing eviction from her apartment. She has three kids. Detachment was able to secure \$4,052.76 to assist her with her outstanding payments and the current month's rent. Also sent requests to KMAA and the Alabama Marine Foundation—secured \$2500 to assist with car payment, insurance and kids' school

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registration fees. Reminder that funds from the Marine Corps car tags goes to the Tag Fund, an fund that provides emergency assistance to Marines and their families in need.

14. Findley and Valentin discussed the gun drawing and Zamora fundraiser. Members took up a \$66 collection to help cover costs related to Zamora.
15. Lehman brought up old business from July meeting minutes noting that action is needed on a motion that was passed by the membership in May requesting that “the officers to take into account all suggestions for fundraising and engagement from previous meetings and put them in the form of a vote at the next meeting”. Findley noted that the officers asked that this item be postponed until the September detachment meeting. Ed Smith noted that Tom Krebs had confirmed that Dr. Bronner agreed to donate a weekend at Ross Bridge or some other resort with a golf package to be used as a raffle item.
16. Hebdon shared two notes from Commandant Higgins: 1. Don’t use sword during posting of colors; 2. Don’t carry arms during the meeting.
17. The raffle brought in \$79 for the Brute Scholarship Fund.
18. Ed Smith closed us in prayer.
19. Sgt at Arms Wood led the detachment in the Marine Corps Hymn.
20. The meeting was closed at 11:35am.
21. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 14th, 2019.

Submitted by Jessica Findley
Revised on September 14, 2019