

7 June 2018  
Time: 1800Hrs  
Location: Hoover Tactical Firearms



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

**Detachment Business Meeting  
Minutes**

**Officers in Attendance:**

- Fernando Valentin (Commandant)
- Carol Higgins (Sr. Vice Commandant--Appointed)
- Mike Jeffries (Jr. Vice Commandant)
- Ed Smith (Judge Advocate)
- Melody Lott (Paymaster)\*
- Harvey Jones (Associate Chaplain)
- Jessica Findley (Adjutant)

**Officers Absent:**

- Jeff Bacon (Sgt-at-arms)
- John Simmons (Chaplain)

\*Left during meeting

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**Members Present:**

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|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Jim Alexander   | 15. Tom Krebs        | 29. Delmar Scivley    |
| 2. Oather Alred    | 16. David Landier    | 30. Bob Simpson       |
| 3. Albert Barfield | 17. Donald Lehman    | 31. Ann Taylor        |
| 4. Don Brooks      | 18. Gary Lott        | 32. Kimberly Thrasher |
| 5. Tweety Byrd     | 19. Glenn McWaters   | 33. Steven Tucker     |
| 6. Bruce Cornell   | 20. Johnny Meadows   | 34. Tommy Tucker      |
| 7. Tom Donaldson   | 21. Thomas Mullin    | 35. Bruce Watkins     |
| 8. Lyle Dorsett    | 22. Jim Murphy       | 36. Steven Weber      |
| 9. David Gaut      | 23. Ross O'Malley    | 37. Ken Wilkins       |
| 10. Mac Hefner     | 24. David Parker     | 38. Vernon Wood       |
| 11. David Holcombe | 25. Della Patterson  | 39. Al Wood           |
| 12. Lillian Jones  | 26. Jonathan Prell   | 40. Jim Wyatt         |
| 13. Harvey Jones   | 27. Ceasar Rodriguez |                       |
| 14. James Keele    | 28. Robin Schafer    |                       |

1. Fernando called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
2. Don Brooks filled in as Sgt-at-Arms and the colors were posted.
3. Harvey Jones gave the invocation.
4. Fernando recognized guests Bill Blackburn and Mark Hamilton.
5. **Guest Speaker: Mark Hamilton**
  - a. Don Lehman introduced Mark Hamilton, who is the manager of the Hoover Home Depot and the district leader for Team Depot, Home Depot's associate-led volunteer force that helps veterans in need.
  - b. Mark shared about the Home Depot Foundation, which has already surpassed its goal of giving away \$250 million to veterans in need and veteran-related causes. Mark has overseen several projects in the Birmingham area, where Home Depot has spent over \$100,000 helping veterans.
  - c. Several members of the Krulak Detachment have volunteered with Team Depot on their projects. Mark recognized Brutes Robin Schafer and Bob Simpson for their volunteer service with the program and presented them with Team Depot challenge coins that represent the work the foundation do.
  - d. Recently, Mark received approval to move forward with the renovations to Brute Luke Carroll's home in Pell City. He will share the details of the project, including volunteer needs, dates and times, as soon as he has them, and they will subsequently be passed on to the detachment.
6. Fernando presented Mark Hamilton with a Semper Fi Award, thanking him for all he does for veterans.
7. Fernando turned everyone's attention to the back of the agenda where we have included (a) Article IV of the Bylaws, which describes the purpose of the detachment, and (b) a few reminders about business meeting protocol, such as saluting the Commandant to be recognized before addressing the membership.
8. Fernando noted that the January-April 2018 minutes would be uploaded along with the June meeting minutes by Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, and that we would vote to approve them at the July 2018 meeting.
9. Ann Taylor addressed the detachment and asked that we correct the meeting minutes from the July 2017 detachment meeting. Her proposed changes were set forth in a handout that she gave to Jessica. The changes include:
  - a. Correcting the sentence about the posting of the colors.
  - b. Removing Ann Taylor from the list of Brutes who assisted on the Home Depot project.
  - c. Correcting the spelling of Robin Schafer's name.
  - d. Including Matt Bein, Don Lehman and Oather Alred in the list of Brutes who assisted with the project.
  - e. Changing Don Brook's National Cemetery Report from "Absent" to "No report".
10. Ed Smith noted that it is important to sign in at meetings. He encouraged all members to take it upon themselves to sign in, because "if you don't sign in, you're not here". There is no other record of members' attendance.
11. **Motion 1:**
  - a. David Gaut made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the minutes. Robin gave the second.
  - b. Discussion:
    - i. Tom Krebs presented the minutes from the July 2017 meeting showing that Don Brooks was not present when called upon to give his report. He asked Don Brooks to give his word that he was present, which Don did.
    - ii. Jim Wyatt also commented.
    - iii. David Gaut asked that we come back to the motion at hand.
    - iv. Tom Krebs noted that when minutes are ratified without objection, we shouldn't be able to go back and make changes to them down the road.
    - v. Jr. Vice Mike Jeffries noted that we are governed by Roberts Rules of Order and that once minutes are affirmed they are not to be changed.
    - vi. Ed Smith asked that we vote on the motion and that everyone take time to review the minutes once posted.
    - vii. Tom Krebs asked for clarification on what the vote was about.
    - viii. Fernando clarified that the motion was to revise and correct the July 2017 meeting minutes.
  - c. **Vote 1:**

- i. Passed with majority
  - ii. Tom Krebs and Al Barfield opposed
12. Jessica reiterated that the January-April 2018 meeting minutes would be uploaded to the website by Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Going forward minutes will be posted on the Brutes Only section of the website by the Monday following each detachment meeting.
13. Robin Schafer asked that the agendas also be included along with the meeting minutes.
14. Ed Smith, in his role as Judge Advocate, presented Bill Blackburn for membership.
15. **Motion 2:**
  - a. Tom Krebs made a motion to accept Bill's application for membership. Mike Jeffries gave the second.
  - b. There was no discussion.
  - c. **Vote 2:**
    - i. The motion passed unanimously
16. **Financial Reports:**
  - a. Paymaster Melody Lott presented the Financial Report.
  - b. We've had \$9,800 in revenue and \$11,000 in expenses.
  - c. We have \$1,600 in checking account and \$9,000 in savings.
17. **Motion 3:**
  - a. Mike Jeffries made a motion to accept the Financial Report. David Gaut gave the second.
  - b. There was no discussion.
  - c. **Vote 3:**
    - i. The motion passed unanimously.
18. Senior Vice Carol Higgins had no report.
19. Jr. Vice Mike Jeffries reported that he has been in touch with most of the people on the delinquency list and that he had secured several renewals. The deadline for members to pay their dues is August 31, 2018.
20. **Judge Advocate Report:**
  - a. Judge Advocate Ed Smith reported that it is his job to hear grievances and charges at the detachment level and notify the detachment when protocol allows.
  - b. He reported that disciplinary charges had been filed against a member and that a hearing committee at the Department level found the member guilty.
  - c. An appeal to the National Judge Advocate was denied so the next step is for the member to appeal to the National Board of Trustees.
  - d. Ed has a petition signed by 127 members, which he will forward to the National Judge Advocate on the member's behalf.
  - e. If we have differences within the detachment, we have a process; bring your grievances to the Judge Advocate.
  - f. **Discussion About JA Report:**
    - i. David Landier asked Ed to share the exact charges and the name of the person who brought the charges.
    - ii. Ed Smith shared that Al Barfield brought the charges and that the charges are related to a knife that he gave to John O'Malley to take to the National Convention in 2017.
    - iii. David Landier asked Ed to clarify what the misunderstanding was about.
    - iv. Ed Smith said the misunderstanding had to do with whether or not the knife was to be used for a fundraiser or to be donated. John O'Malley chose to donate the knife. He further clarified that the disciplinary charge was that John was unbecoming of a Marine in his actions, which violates oath of membership
    - v. David Landier asked Ed if it was his understanding that the knife had been given to John personally or that it had been given to the detachment.
    - vi. Ed Smith noted that is up for interpretation.
    - vii. David Landier noted that if the knife were given to the detachment, then the detachment should determine what happens, and that if the knife were given to John personally, then this is not a Marine Corps League matter.
    - viii. Ed Smith noted that once a disciplinary charged is filed, the detachment is removed from the proceedings and it is out of our hands.

- ix. David Landier asked if the Department was made aware of all the knives Al has given out and the disposition of those knives.
- x. Ed Smith said they were not aware at the time.
- xi. David Landier asked why the members were not made aware.
- xii. Ed Smith noted that once the matter is in the hearing process, it can't be discussed with anyone other than the detachment Commandant.
- xiii. David Landier then asked if there had been any claim as to the value of the knife.
- xiv. Ed Smith said that he valued the knife at about \$65.
- xv. David Landier asked what value Al Barfield placed on the knife.
- xvi. Ed Smith said that it was much higher.
- xvii. Commandant Valentin noted that this was not a detachment-level decision, that the protocol moved it out of the detachment's hands.
- xxviii. Ross O'Malley asked for the name of the counsel for Al Barfield.
- xix. Commandant Valentin stated that Krebs served as counsel for Al Barfield in his position as Judge Advocate at the time the grievance was brought.
- xx. Jim Wyatt stated that this matter should have been resolved at the detachment level and that John O'Malley was elected as Senior Vice Commandant in January but never sworn in.
- xxi. Commandant Valentin noted that because John had been told he was suspended, he couldn't be sworn in. According to the detachment's bylaws, the Commandant is to appoint a member to the vacant Sr. Vice Commandant position to serve out the remainder of the term.
- xxii. Gary Lott expressed his disappointment with the way John O'Malley has been treated during this process and left the meeting. Several other members also voiced their opinions and left the meeting, including Bruce Watkins, Melody Lott, Don Brooks, Lillian Jones and Kimberly Thrasher.
- xxiii. Jim Wyatt asked if the matter could be resolved by doing away with the suspension.
- xxiv. Ed Smith noted that they had done everything they could do at this time through appeals to the National Judge Advocate and the National Board of Trustees.
- xxv. Kenny Wilkins asked if it could be resolved if the charges were merely dropped.
- xxvi. Commandant Valentin said that it could have been if the charges had been dropped early on, but that we are beyond that at this point.
- xxvii. Kenny Wilkins then presented the knife that he won at the 2017 Brute Bash Picnic and offered the knife to Al saying that if it was only about the knife then why wouldn't he drop the charges if it were replaced.
- xxviii. Don Lehman asked if we could appeal the suspension instead of the charges.
- xxix. Ed Smith said that we have to go through the processes and procedures but that they are hoping to appeal the suspension.
- xxx. Ann Taylor asked why this matter wasn't dealt with at the detachment level first.
- xxxi. Commandant Valentin stated that everyone was following the proper protocol.
- xxxii. David Landier noted that he considers Al a friend and feels that what happened is unfortunate but that in possessing a knife himself, he is in the same position as John and should be disciplined in the same manner. He further stated that by not holding others with knives from Al to the same standard as John shows that there is more behind the charges than the knife. He then stated that he is standing with John and is handed in is request for transfer to the Commandant.
- xxxiii. **Motion 4:**
  - 1. Robin made a motion that the detachment pay for Ed Smith's expenses to attend the National Convention so he can be present to represent John at the next hearing.
  - 2. Mike Jeffries gave the second.
  - 3. **Discussion:**
    - a. Ed Smith said that he would attend the National Convention to be present at the next hearing if the detachment would cover the costs.
  - 4. **Vote 4:**
    - a. The motion passed unanimously.

21. Fernando informed the detachment that he appointed Carol Higgins to serve as the Senior Vice Commandant.

22. Ed Smith reiterated that Fernando's appointing a member to the vacant officer position was within protocol.

23. Robin Schafer asked if proper protocol was used with John O'Malley.
24. Commandant Valentin said that according to the Department, proper protocol was used.
25. Carol Higgins shared a presentation on behalf of her son, Gil, who is raising money for his Eagle Scout project, which is to build a pavilion near the community center in Sylvan Springs.
26. Don Lehman asked for the total cost of the project.
27. Carol said they didn't have a total estimate but that Gil was asking the detachment for \$300.
28. **Motion 5:**
  - a. Tom Krebs made a motion to support Gil's Boy Scouts project in the amount of \$500.
  - b. Mike Jeffries gave the second.
  - c. **Discussion:**
    - i. Commandant Valentin asked if she wanted us to pass the hat or take it out of the detachment's funds.
    - ii. Vernon Wood suggested that the motion be tabled until more information could be provided.
    - iii. Carol noted the time constraints, as the project has to be completed in the next couple of months.
    - iv. Don Lehman asked if Gil needed any kind of permit to construct the pavilion.
    - v. Carol noted that the city had already approved the project.
    - vi. Steven Weber said he is a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts but suggested we pass the hat rather than use detachment funds that are meant to be used to help Marines in need.
  - d. **Vote 5:**
    - i. The motion passed with a majority.
    - ii. 15 yays and 7 nays.
29. In the interest of time, Commandant Valentin suggested we table the remaining agenda items until the next meeting.
30. He quickly shared a few highlights from the remaining items:
  - a. Don Brooks was voted Marine of the Year.
  - b. Jessica Findley was voted Associate of the Year.
  - c. Fernando will chair the 2019 Department Convention committee, as our detachment is hosting it.
  - d. Robin Schafer asked if we voted to take on the Department Convention.
    - i. Jessica Findley said she thought we voted on it last year.
    - ii. Ed Smith said it was our turn to host it.
31. Ed Smith swore in Carol Higgins as the Senior Vice Commandant.
32. Tom Krebs suggested we consider making a change to our bylaws to require members to wear a cover rather than allowing a ball cap.
33. Don Lehman oversaw the Raffle drawing. We brought in \$113 on the raffle.
34. Fernando oversaw the Gun Donation Drawing.
  - a. Jessica Findley noted that we brought in \$1700 on ticket sales and only spent about \$180 on the gun, tickets and marketing materials.
35. **Motion 6:**
  - a. Robin Schafer made a motion on behalf of an unnamed member that we dissolve the detachment.
  - b. Commandant Valentin said the motion was denied because she couldn't make a motion on someone else's behalf.
36. Larry Alred stated that he couldn't let the meeting end on a bad note and offered to open his beach house in Gulf Shores for Brute Luke Carroll and his family., He also offered his sky miles/airline points to be used for Ed Smith's flight to the National Convention in August 2018.
37. Officers performed the last of their duties and the colors were retired.
38. Commandant Valentin closed the meeting at 12:12pm.