



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

**8 December 2018**  
**Detachment Business Meeting Minutes**

**Officers in Attendance: 7**

1. Fernando Valentin (Commandant)
2. Carol Higgins (Sr. Vice Commandant)
3. Mike Jeffries (Jr. Vice Commandant)
4. Vernon Wood (Sgt-At-Arms)
5. Ed Smith Jr. (Judge Advocate/Jr. Past Comdt)
6. Jessica Findley (Adjutant/Interim Paymaster)
7. John Simmons (Chaplain)

**Officers Absent: 1**

1. Harvey Jones (Assoc. Chaplain)

**Members Present: 15**

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|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Steven Weber     | 7. Tom Donaldson      | 13. Jeremy Harris |
| 2. Ceasar Rodriguez | 8. Oather Larry Alred | 14. Tweety Byrd   |
| 3. Jason Alexander  | 9. Ken Suggs          | 15. Lillian Jones |
| 4. David Gaut       | 10. Patrick Hebdon    |                   |
| 5. Jim Murphy       | 11. Tommy Krebs       |                   |
| 6. James Alexander  | 12. Clarence Guthrie  |                   |

1. Commandant Valentin called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
2. Sgt-at-Arms Vernon Wood led the posting of the colors. Steven Weber, Jeremy Harris and Tweety Byrd served as the Color Guard.
3. Chaplain Simmons gave the invocation.
4. There were no guests present.
5. The November meeting minutes were approved. Mike Jeffries made the motion and David Gaut gave the second.
6. Judge Advocate Smith carried out the election of officers by secret ballot. The following slate was approved:
  - a. Carol Higgins – Commandant
  - b. Ceasar Rodriguez – Sr. Vice Commandant

- c. Patrick Hebdon – Jr. Vice Commandant
  - d. Ed Smith, Jr. – Judge Advocate
  - e. Steven Weber – Adjutant
  - f. Fernando Valentin – Paymaster (Write-in)
  - g. Vernon Wood – Sgt-at-Arms
  - h. Jeremy Harris – Social Media
  - i. Jessica Findley - Webmaster
7. ADJ Findley led the detachment in a strategic planning session.
  8. The detachment members present agreed that the most critical need is more engagement among our current membership; we should strengthen our core before focusing too much effort on recruiting.
  9. Clarence Guthrie is taking charge of assembling fire teams/buddy system to facilitate a calling tree to make sure there is at least one point of contact for every member. ADJ Findley to provide updated contact information to Guthrie.
  10. COMDT Valentin shared the template for a monthly Impact Report summarizing the events, disbursements, new members, etc. from the prior month.
  11. COMDT Valentin shared that there is currently \$1,313.35 in checking and \$7,556.00 in savings.
  12. COMDT Valentin shared the proposed 2019 budget with the detachment. There was discussion about the need to cut expenses, which are projected to exceed revenue by about \$5,000.
  13. The Detachment showed great interest in organizing a shooting event—not as a fundraiser, but among members. James Alexander will be overseeing “all things shooting” for the detachment and will organize a shooting event to be held at Warrior Ranch. A sign-up sheet was passed around and James will be reaching out to those on the list to determine best date and time for the shooting event. We will then share the event information with the rest of the detachment via Brute Blast.
  14. Ed Smith noted that the Hoover Tactical Appreciation Cookout will be help on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10am-2pm. The American Legion and the Krulak Marine Alliance of Alabama will also be participating and helping to cover the costs. The detachment will merely pay one third of the total cost of the food. The grill and cooking supplies will be provided by Alagasco.
  15. Chaplain Simmons shared the details for Wreaths Across America. The main program will take place at the Alabama National Cemetery at 11am on December 15<sup>th</sup>. There is also a program taking place at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery at 11am that same day. Show up anytime between 7am and 11am to help place the wreaths in staging areas.
  16. COMDT Valentin reminded the detachment about the Hoops for Heroes event taking place at Birmingham-Southern College on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10am – 10pm. The event will feature six boys’ high school basketball games and one college men’s game. The detachment will have a table set up and we need a few volunteers to work a shift or two. Contact COMDT Valentin (678-361-8996) if you’re interested in volunteering.
  17. The Reserve Station needs help organizing and distributing toys for Toys for Tots. Volunteers are needed and welcome to help sort and bag toys Monday (12/10) - Thursday (12/13) from 0900-1700 at the warehouse located at 124 Green Springs Hwy Birmingham, AL. The distribution days are Friday (12/14) - Saturday (12/15) from 0900-1800. They need volunteers on those days as well. They are also looking for security support Friday/Saturday if possible.
  18. The raffle brought in \$115 for the Brute Scholarship Fund.
  19. The special raffle brought in \$275. Brute Jim Murphy won the pot, kept \$100 and gave the other \$175 to the detachment.
  20. John Simmons closed us in prayer.
  21. Sgt at Arms Wood led the detachment in the Marine Corps Hymn.

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22. The meeting was closed at 12:20pm.
23. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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Submitted by Jessica Findley, Adjutant