

14 July 2018

Time: 1000Hrs

Location: Hoover Tactical Firearms



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

**July 2018 Detachment Business Meeting  
Minutes**

**Officers in Attendance: 5**

1. Fernando Valentin (Commandant)
2. Carol Higgins (Sr. Vice Commandant)
3. Ed Smith (Judge Advocate)
4. Jessica Findley (Adjutant)
5. John Simmons (Chaplain)

**Officers Absent: 2**

1. Mike Jeffries (Jr. Vice Commandant)
2. Harvey Jones (Associate Chaplain)

**Members Present: 24**

- |                              |                        |                            |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Vernon Woods              | 10. Don Lehman         | 19. Tom Krebs              |
| 2. Duane Kloever (spelling?) | 11. Ron Bradstreet     | 20. Glenn McWaters         |
| 3. Jeremy Harris             | 12. Tom Donaldson      | 21. Andre Hall             |
| 4. Ceasar Rodriguez          | 13. Patrick Hebdon     | 22. Dan Topping            |
| 5. Bob Simpson               | 14. Clarence Guthrie   | 23. Randall McAdory        |
| 6. David Gaut                | 15. Steven Weber       | 24. LaQuonna Coachman-Hall |
| 7. James Murphy              | 16. John Redd          |                            |
| 8. Mac Hefner                | 17. Oather Larry Alred |                            |
| 9. Tom Mullin                | 18. Ross O'Malley      |                            |

1. Commandant Valentin called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
2. The colors were posted prior to start of meeting.
3. John Simmons gave the invocation.
4. Sr. Vice Higgins gave the roll call of officers. Jr. Vice Jeffries and Associate Chaplain Jones were absent.
5. Commandant Valentin recognized guest Duane Kloever.
6. There were no new applicants for membership.
7. Commandant Valentin turned everyone's attention to the purpose and protocol notes on the back of the agenda.
8. Commandant Valentin noted that the February, March, and June meeting minutes had been posted and that January and April would be uploaded along with the July meeting minutes by Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, and that we would vote to approve them at the August 2018 meeting.

9. Commandant Valentin shared the delinquency list and reminded everyone to pay their dues. He will check with A.B. Grantham to find out why some members are showing up delinquent even though their expiration date isn't until 2019.
10. Commandant Valentin shared concern about member participation and asked the detachment to vote on whether to host Shoot with the Brutes, the Birthday Ball, the Zamora Sportsman's Giveaway, and the 2019 Convention.
11. **Motion 1:**
  - a. Vernon Wood made a motion that the detachment not host Shoot with the Brutes this year but instead postpone it until next year and do some detailed planning in the meantime.
  - b. David Gaut gave the second.
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Vernon Wood stepped up to chair the Shoot with the Brutes committee but suggested we scale back and plan ahead.
    - ii. David Gaut commented on the importance of the event and also suggested that we wait until next year to have another SWTB fundraiser.
12. **Vote 1:** Passed unanimously.
13. **Motion 2:**
  - a. Vernon Wood moved that we scale back the Birthday Ball and hold it at Hoover Tactical.
  - b. Dan Topping gave the second.
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Don Lehman said perhaps we could do something in between what we did last year at The Club and Hoover Tactical. He recommended Danbury or Inverness Country Club as alternatives.
    - ii. David Gaut agreed we should look into other places.
    - iii. Jeremy Harris suggested that we consider VFWs or American Legion posts as possible locations.
  - d. Vernon modified his motion to establish a Birthday Ball committee to get more information and decide at the next meeting.
14. **Vote 2:** Passed unanimously.
15. The Zamora Sportsman's Giveaway will be held on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The detachment voted to allocate \$300 to purchase a sponsor package for the event. The detachment will set up a table and sell gun drawing tickets at event. We will also have the drawing for our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter gun raffle at Zamora.
16. **Motion 3:**
  - a. Don Lehman made a motion to pay for the Zamora sponsorship package.
  - b. Ed Smith gave the second.
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Ed Smith said he would donate \$100 toward the cost.
    - ii. Fernando Valentin also donated \$100.
    - iii. David Gaut donated \$50 toward the cost.
    - iv. The detachment only has to pay \$50.
    - v. John Redd will donate a cooler for the Birmingham Beer Package.
17. **Vote 3:** Passed unanimously.
18. Commandant Valentin shared his concerns about the detachment's ability to successfully host the 2019 State Convention in Birmingham next year.
19. **Motion 4:**
  - a. Tom Krebs moved that we not host the convention in 2019.
  - b. Vernon Wood gave the second.
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Dan Topping asked if we could host it jointly with another detachment and noted that following through on hosting would go a long way toward rebuilding camaraderie with other detachments.
    - ii. Vernon Wood suggested we form a committee to explore the potential to host but that we have an open-invite party to start healing the divide between our detachment and others.
    - iii. Tom Krebs noted that he had been building ties with the HMS detachment through activities organized for the Reserve Station in Bessemer. He will share meeting dates/times going forward.
    - iv. Jessica Findley gave an overview of the things that the detachment would be responsible for if it does host. She said she would put together a general checklist to help everyone determine if it's doable.

- v. Ceasar Rodriguez agreed that the opportunity to host should be reviewed, not called off and that we have an opportunity to show our excellence by hosting a great convention.
  - vi. Ed Smith noted that the clock is ticking and we need to decide soon whether we will host so the department can find a backup host detachment.
  - vii. Fernando Valentin noted that much of the work was already done, including narrowing down options for hotel/venue.
  - viii. Andra Hall said that unity and working together should be the theme for the convention and that we should use this as a tool and a time to come together.
  - ix. Steven Weber asked for a breakdown of how many volunteers would be needed and for what roles. Jessica will send out a preliminary breakdown.
20. **Vote 4:** Did not pass. The detachment decided that it WILL host the 2019 Convention.
21. The National Convention will be held August 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> in Buffalo, New York. Commandant Valentin, Adjuant Findley and Judge Advocate Ed Smith will attend. Vernon Wood suggested we change the date of our August meeting so our Commandant could be in attendance.
22. **Motion 5:**
- a. Dan Topping made a motion to reschedule the August detachment meeting for August 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Tom Donaldson gave the second.
  - c. Discussion: None
23. **Vote 5:** Passed unanimously.
24. Commandant Valentin gave the financial report. We have \$10,203 in savings and \$1,262 in checking
25. Brute Ceasar Rodriguez shared his feelings that those individuals to whom we provide assistance should be required to volunteer with the detachment. Commandant Valentin responded that he feels we give with no strings attached. Vernon Wood stated that we're not expecting anything in return and that no one owes us anything. Ed Smith reiterated that a person's financial circumstances are fully vetted before financial assistance is given.
26. There are openings for Sergeant-at-Arms, Paymaster and Social Media Officer. Vernon Wood, Tom Krebs and Jeremy Harris volunteered for the positions, respectively.
27. Don Lehman reported that he had delivered fourteen birthday cards and gift certificates to Three Hots and a Cot and that the guys were all really appreciative.
28. Don Lehman also reported that our detachment, along with Home Depot, had completed the home renovations for Brute Luke Carroll and his family. In total, Home Depot spent about \$81,000 for materials to repair floors, rebuild the porch, build a playhouse, etc. Brutes Don Lehman, Ceasar Rodriguez, John Redd, Bob Simpson, Carol Higgins and Fernando Valentin all helped out with the project.
29. Keep an eye out for a veteran in need of a car, as Don Lehman is working to get one through Home Depot.
30. Judge Advocate Ed Smith briefly discussed the petition that went before the National Judge Advocate and the appeal sent to the National Board of Trustees.
31. Ed Smith shared that Carol Higgins requested assistance to cover costs related to her son Gil's heart surgery. The bill totals \$3,314.97. She already received \$750 from the Alabama Marine Foundation, which brings the total to \$2,564.97.
32. **Motion 6:**
- a. Ed Smith moved that we give Carol up to \$1000 to help cover the costs for her son's medical expenses and ask the Tag Fund to cover the remaining amount.
  - b. David Gaut gave the second.
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Tom Donaldson asked for a reporting of the balance from the detachment account. Commandant Valentin said there was about \$10,000.
33. **Vote 6:** Passed unanimously.
34. Special thanks given again to Oather Larry Alred for offering his beach house to the Carroll family for a vacation and his airline points to Ed Smith for the national convention,
35. Sr. Vice Carol Higgins was pictured on the cover of the most recent issue of *Semper Fi*.
36. Chaplain John Simmons shared that Al Barfield will have his leg amputated next week at UAB hospital due to a bone infection. He encouraged everyone to sign a card for Al.
37. Jeremy Harris shared that he and other MCL members are unhappy with the new, smaller design on the Marine Corps tags and asked Commandant Valentin to pass along their complaint to the Tag Fund committee.

38. The raffle brought in \$95.
39. John Simmons closed us in prayer.
40. Commandant Valentin led the detachment in the Marine Corps Hymn.
41. The meeting was closed at 11:45am.
42. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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Submitted by Jessica Findley, Adjutant