



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

**September 2018**  
**Detachment Business Meeting Minutes**

**Officers in Attendance: 4**

1. Fernando Valentin (Commandant)
2. Carol Higgins (Sr. Vice Commandant)
3. Jessica Findley (Adjutant/Interim Paymaster)
4. Harvey Jones (Chaplain)

**Officers Absent: 4**

1. Mike Jeffries (Jr. Vice Commandant)
2. Ed Smith (Judge Advocate)
3. Vernon Wood (Sgt-At-Arms)
4. John Simmons (Chaplain)

**Members Present: 12**

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| 1. David Gaut       | 6. Ken Suggs     | 11. Oather Alred |
| 2. James Murphy     | 7. Don Lehman    | 12. Van Myers    |
| 3. Jackson King     | 8. Tweety Byrd   |                  |
| 4. Ceasar Rodriguez | 9. Jeremy Harris |                  |
| 5. Mac Hefner       | 10. Steven Weber |                  |

1. Commandant Valentin called the meeting to order at 10:09am.
2. The colors were posted prior to start of meeting.
3. Chaplain Harvey Jones gave the invocation.
4. Senior Vice Higgins gave the roll call of officers.
5. COMDT Valentin noted that the August minutes were sent out in a Brute Blast and posted on website.
6. Don Lehman moved to accept the August minutes. Tweety gave the second.
7. Mac Hefner sponsored Jackson King for membership. Jeremy Harris moved to accept and David Gaut gave the second.
8. COMDT Valentin turned everyone’s attention to the calendar of events. Adjutant Findley outlined the general calendar, making particular note of recurring annual events.

9. ADJ Findley reminded everyone that we will have a table set up at the Zamora Sportsman's Giveaway at the Zamora Shrine on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Arrive by 9am to set up. Event officially begins at 10am. Drawings usually begin around 1pm. Over by 2pm.
10. COMDT Valentin informed the members that we no longer have access to the 2-ton truck we have historically used for the Veterans Day Parade. We need to give thought to our level of involvement this year and how we want to accommodate those who can't or prefer not to walk in the parade.
11. COMDT Valentin asked everyone to read the purpose and protocol notes on the back of the agenda.
12. COMDT Valentin noted that our membership numbers are going to be lackluster for the near term since we had members transfer to "Member at Large" status and some choosing not to renew their memberships. We need to pick up recruitment efforts.
13. Toys for Tots kicks off on October 1<sup>st</sup>. COMDT Valentin expects to have boxes available at the October meeting. We encourage everyone to get involved by taking a box and collecting toys. Let us know how many boxes you need.
14. COMDT Valentin advised that we develop a contingency plan in the event we ever have to find a new meeting place and asked that members give thought to alternative meeting locations.
15. COMDT Valentin reminded us of our commitment to host an appreciation event for Hoover Tactical. Don Lehman suggested we partner with the American Legion and host it over a Saturday and Sunday to accommodate all staff. SV Higgins suggested we have a chili cook-off. Don Lehman will take the lead on this.
16. In the spirit of transparency, COMDT Valentin shared the detachment's financial transaction log since January 1 of this year. He asked everyone to consider where we are spending our money and decide where we want to focus our efforts. We have \$676.91 in checking and \$ 9,408.80 in savings.
17. COMDT Valentin urged members to continue recruiting new members. ADJ Findley said she would provide "recruiting" materials like flyers/handouts at the October detachment meeting.
18. Mac Hefner brought up the need for more fundraising and PR. He recommended placing our meetings on calendars and "upcoming events" sections of local newspapers/online newsletters. He also recommended we look into opportunities to assist with parking at sporting events for high schools/other events to raise money. Lastly, he recommended we establish a flag retirement program whereby we will hold a ceremony to formally retire flags. We can collect them through the year (HTF as an ongoing drop-off location) and then hold a ceremony once or twice a year where we can invite the public. Mac and SV Higgins will work together to draft up a proposal. Mac agreed to chair this committee.
19. We discussed the need for everyone to keep up with events around town that would be good locations for recruiting and selling gun drawing tickets, such as gun shows, boat shows, state fair, etc.
20. Don Lehman shared the proposed policies and procedures for the Brute Scholarship Fund, including calendar, criteria, eligibility, budget, etc. COMDT Valentin will disseminate to officers for approval. If passed by officers, ADJ Findley will share the proposal in a Brute Blast and then post it on the website for members to review before it is voted on at the October detachment meeting.
21. COMDT announced that it is time to convene a nominating committee for the 2019 Slate of Officers. Jeremy Harris, Mac Hefner, and Tweety Byrd expressed interest in serving on the nominating committee, which will propose a slate of officers at the December detachment meeting.
22. COMDT Valentin spoke about the National Convention. He shared the program, the Department Commandant's report and all the proposed amendments and decisions. He also conveyed National's commitment to assist the Marine Corps with funeral duty by serving as part of the honor guard.
23. Don Lehman spoke about the Birthday Ball options. We decided not to host a formal ball this year but to instead attend and/or help with other detachments' or other organizations' events. ADJ Findley

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will send out info on the other Birthday Ball events around town. We will still have a formal cake cutting ceremony at our monthly meeting on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Ken Suggs suggested we invite the Boy Scouts and other groups to the Cake Cutting.

24. COMDT Valentin reiterated that he understands the sensitivities surrounding the Military Order of the Devil Dogs and re-committed that he has not and will not promote the Devil Dogs within the detachment.
25. COMDT Valentin spoke about the Young Marines program, which is supported by the Marine Corps League, and his desire to start a YM detachment in Birmingham. He will be sending out information on the program. Chaplain Jones spoke about his "Suited for Success" program where he speaks at schools and leaves each young man with a suit. There was discussion about revisiting our speaking program where our members have opportunities to speak to schools/businesses/children about the Marine Corps League, the Marine Corps or veterans/veterans issues in general. David Gaut is the chair of the speaking committee and ADJ Findley and SV Higgins will prepare a slide show/outline/guide for speakers to use.
26. We had a fun icebreaker where we got to learn all kinds of interesting things about one another!!
27. The raffle brought in \$40.
28. Harvey Jones closed us in prayer.
29. Commandant Valentin led the detachment in the Marine Corps Hymn.
30. The meeting was closed at 12:00pm.
31. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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Submitted by Jessica Findley, Adjutant