



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

**Detachment Business Meeting Minutes
May 2019**

Date of Meeting: 05/11/19
Location: Hoover Tactical Firearms
Recorded By: Jessica Findley
Date of Minutes: 05/11/19

Officers in Attendance: 7

1. Carol Higgins (Commandant)
2. Ceasar Rodriquez (Sr. Vice Commandant)
3. Patrick Hebdon (Jr. Vice Commandant)
4. Fernando Valentin (Acting Paymaster; Jr. Past COMDT)
5. Vernon Wood (Sgt-At-Arms)
6. John Simmons (Chaplain)
7. Harvey Jones (Asst. Chaplain)

Officers Absent: 1

1. Ed Smith Jr. (Judge Advocate)

Total Present: 22

Guest (G): 5

Officers (O): 7

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| 1. Fernando Valentin (O) | 9. Jim Murphy | 17. Jeremy Harris |
| 2. Carol Higgins (O) | 10. Jessica Findley | 18. Carlos Londono (G) |
| 3. Vernon Wood (O) | 11. Larry Alred | 19. Robert Hoffman (G) |
| 4. Ceasar Rodriguez (O) | 12. Tom Donaldson | 20. Darin Smith (G) |
| 5. Patrick Hebdon (O) | 13. Tweety Byrd | 21. Alicia Simpson (G) |
| 6. John Simmons (O) | 14. Mac Hefner | 22. Camron Ramirez (G) |
| 7. Harvey Jones (O) | 15. Al Barfield | |
| 8. David Gaut | 16. Lillian Jones | |

1. Commandant Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:25am.
2. Sgt-at-Arms Vernon Wood led the posting of the colors. David Gaut, Tom Donaldson and Albert Barfield served as the Color Guard.
3. Chaplain Simmons gave the invocation.
4. Comdt Higgins gave the roll call.
5. Comdt recognized five visitors: Camron Ramirez, Alicia Simpson, Carlos Londono, Robert Hoffman, and Darin Smith “the Hot Wheels Guy”.
6. Two applicants for membership.
7. Jessica shared Adjutant’s report. David Gaut made the motion to accept the minutes and Mac Hefner gave the second. The minutes were approved.
8. Paymaster shared impact report. Reported that there is \$321 in checking and \$5,061 in savings account. There is \$5,382 in the combined accounts and \$1,067 in Scholarship Fund.
9. Chaplain Simmons gave Chaplains report. Prayer list: Brute Tommy Tucker, Brute Jim Murphy’s wife Betty, death of Richard Windsor.
10. Sr. Vice Rodriguez expressed concern about our declining meeting attendance. Need to expand reach in community and come up with new ideas to get people to show up. Sent out emails and reaching out to members on Facebook to encourage attendance. Suggested we get info out via word of mouth, business cards, etc.
11. Mac Hefner asked about Brute Blasts. Comdt noted that we are re-doing how to send out emails. Sr. Vice noted that we can bring back Brute Blasts if need be. Don Lehman noted the need for meeting reminders, including Brute Blasts and call-em-all.
12. Comdt asked for recommendations about fundraisers. Guest Darrin Smith noted importance of car shows in attracting and engaging younger people. Asked for info to be able to share as he goes to various car shows and meetings. Sr. Vice shared some thoughts: Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot with the Brutes; Brute 5k run/walk.
13. Guest Carlos Londono recommended having a “Home Coming”/All/old member’s reunion to encourage them to come back.
14. Caesar suggested putting together a survey on Facebook to learn more about why members aren’t attending; what they like about the detachment, meetings, mission, etc. Don Lehman suggested using Survey Monkey instead of Facebook. Jessica will send Caesar previous survey and results, including survey log-in info.
15. Woody suggested pancake breakfast; something to dismiss with formality and encourage attendance.
16. Comdt suggested holding a Movie Night or bowling night and inviting the public.
17. Mac Hefner suggested connecting with other veterans organizations and Universities to see about collaboration and recruitment. Caesar suggested connecting with ROTC on campus at UAB to coordinate scholarship.
18. Woody suggested coordinating with Alicia Simpson to have an appreciation for first responders, police, fire fighters, etc. Woody suggested an appreciation dinner.
19. Alicia noted that Jeremy Harris is doing a great job connecting with younger veterans. Noted the importance of events like the recent Range Day to garner interest.
20. Carlos Londono suggested fun family day at Oak Mountain.
21. Don Lehman asked for a motion that the officers take into account all suggestions for fundraising and engagement from the meeting and put it in the form of a vote at the next meeting. Mac Hefner made the motion, Tweety gave the second.
22. Don Lehman noted that Zamora will be held on August 24th. Jessica volunteered to coordinate getting a table, raffle items and set-up for Zamora event.
23. Comdt gave out Certificates of Appreciation.

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24. Woody asked about Car Show. Ceasar discussed some of the issues. Noted it was set up on a verbal commitment. We were expecting to make some money on the event. Took 3-5 days on average for communication with Hoover Met. Told we would have a discount, but it wasn't honored. Not able to make money on concessions. We lost money from the start. Placing blame on Hoover Met. We were \$300 in hole. It would have been \$1800 in the hole if three Brutes hadn't contributed \$1500. Suggested it was a great "starting point" and that we learned a lot of lessons and received a lot of suggestions for making next year better. Suggested a monthly Krulak Kruiise-in at Hoover Tactical. Jessica recommended sticking with Shoot with the Brutes as the signature fundraising event, taking into account members' interests, skillsets and the detachment's past experience putting this event on successfully, noting it generated a positive revenue, good media coverage and served as a good recruitment tool.
25. Comdt noted need to vote on Marine and Associate Member of the Year. Comdt asked for nominations. Woody nominated Ed Smith. Don Lehman nominated Fernando. Tweety Byrd nominated Don Lehman. Jeremy Harris nominated Comdt Higgins. Vernon Wood nominated Ceasar Rodriguez. Carol Higgins nominated Jim Alexander for Associate. David Gaut nominated Jessica Findley for Associate. Email with nominations to be sent out for voting and will be coming from Sr. Vice Rodriguez at Krulak.SrVice.2019@gmail.com.
26. Prospective Member Alicia Simpson gave background on her service. Served as a diesel mechanic in Army. Three years with Jefferson County Sherriff's Department. Members voted to accept her application for membership, and she was sworn in.
27. Vernon Wood volunteered to organize Shoot with the Brutes next year and asked Alecia to serve as his partner.
28. Alecia nominated for Adjutant position.
29. No Jr. Vice report.
30. Judge Advocate absent.
31. Vernon noted that we need to build up a surplus of raffle items. Suggested everyone bring at least one item to the next meeting.
32. The raffle brought in \$101 for the Brute Scholarship Fund.
33. Don Lehman shared current project for the Home Depot Foundation. Discussed two projects. Work days Thurs-Fri this coming week. Doing some basic landscaping at a Veterans' home 729 71st Street South, Birmingham, 35206. Also gave update on Three Hots and a Cot. Still giving out birthday cards and collecting in-kind donations such as canned goods, cleaning supplies, toiletries etc. on ongoing basis.
34. Chaplain Simmons closed us in prayer.
35. Sgt at Arms Wood led the detachment in the Marine Corps Hymn.
36. The meeting was closed at 11:55am.
37. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 8th, 2019.

Submitted by Jessica Findley