



**P.L. WILSON DETACHMENT #447
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 6765
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36660**



**10 May 2011
Detachment Meeting Minutes**

Opening Ceremony

Commandant A.B. Grantham called the meeting to order at 1903 hours. Posting of Colors and Opening Prayer ensued. 58 Members were in attendance.

Commandant Grantham recognized the following attendees:

- Larry Kent, Sam Vaughn, and Gerald Deas, back after absences
- ADVC, SE Division and Dept of Alabama Commandant – Cal Walters
- Aide to the National Commandant, Joe Fell
- PDCs Jim Harrell, Perry Vaughn, Joe Fell, Jerry Steele, John Reid, Bubba Jackson, and Cal Walters.
- Commandant-Elect of Jesse Andrews, Jr. Detachment, Jerry Cherne

A Roll Call of Officers was taken by Adjutant Cal Walters:

Commandant A.B. Grantham	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant Gregg Wood	Absent, Excused
Jr. Vice Commandant Zach Bolden	Absent, Excused
Judge Advocate Rick Ivy	Present
Chaplain David Sprott	Absent, Excused
Sgt. At Arms Gerald Jowers	Absent, Excused
Paymaster Sheryl White	Present
Adjutant Cal Walters	Present

Commandant Grantham mentioned that Sr Vice Gregg Wood was attending the Eagle Scout dinner on behalf of the Detachment.

Visitors

Commandant Grantham recognized, Jesse Martinez, daughter of Sheryl White. Marines Darren McPherson ('89-'94) and Joel Sigelski ('84-'88) were introduced as potential members of the Detachment.

Membership Applications and Presentations

There were no applications for Associate membership.

There was one application for regular membership. Ken Robinson

The application was approved by a vote of the membership and those present were sworn in by Commandant Grantham.

Life Members

Commandant Grantham presented Gerald Deas, Bob Hamilton, and Fred Walters with their Life Member Cards and pins.

Special Presentations

Pat Sirmon from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation gave a presentation on the Scholarship and distributed information on the Scholarship to the members present.

Prior Minutes

Prior minutes for April were announced as available and posted to the website for review. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Member Ron Bridges asked why complete minutes were not provided. The Adjutant clarified that the Minutes that are presented to the membership are the same that are posted on the internet, and that the discussion on the floor was in reference to the current Minutes and that this was the time for corrections to the minutes as presented. Member Bridges asserted that there were incomplete minutes from prior months. Commandant Grantham reminded the members that we were discussing the current minutes and called for the vote. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

Two letters with regard to the Alabama Tornado Relief were presented. One was for an \$850.00 donation and the other was from the Nam Knights of America for \$1700.00. It was noted that the Detachment was collecting funds for the Department Tornado Relief because the Department was not prepared to accept funds online.

Paymaster Report

Paymaster Sheryl White presented the Paymaster's Report which was available on each table. The Detachment has \$5,816.66 in available balance. The question was raised if Humana was donating to the Detachment again. Commandant Grantham explained that they were not due to limits on donations to individual groups. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion passed.

Chaplain Report

Chaplain – Acting Chaplain John Reid reported additions: Larry Kent for viral infection and Bell's Palsy, but was with us at the meeting, Perry Vaughn's heart was doing well. Bob Hamilton had survived the 'roto rooter procedure'. Terry Sullivan's wife recently had a heart attack. Bob Hamilton's wife broke her hand. Roy Lafon reported that Danny LaFon continued chemo treatment cancer,

Officer's Reports

Sr. Vice Commandant – None. Commandant Grantham reported that the training program was going well.

Jr. Vice Commandant – None. Commandant Grantham reported that membership was 247 paid members. Retention rate of 102%. (not correct)

Judge Advocate – Nothing to report.

Adjutant – Cal Walters reported that the registration for National Convention delegates goes through the Detachment. Registration for events at the Convention can be done online through the Host Detachment's website.

Paymaster Report – Sheryl White had nothing further to report

Service Officer---Ron Bridges reported that DoD was looking to raise TriCare fees. Also, the local Vet Center would be moving to Springhill Avenue this month.

Web Sgt – Tricia Allen reported that the website had been shut down at one point due to the response for the tornado relief. It was back up and running smoothly.

Chaplain – Nothing further to report.

Public Relations Officer – Tom Claxton – no report.

Sgt at Arms---Charlie Malone reported that he had name tags for Larry Hewitt and Bob Hamilton on hand.

Legislative Officer – John Bankston had returned from Japan and gave a report on his trip. **Cal Walters** reported on a number of bills working through the Legislature in Montgomery. SB143, to add the MCL to the State board of Veterans Affairs, has passed the Senate and will be picked up by Rep Victor Gaston in the House. The Wounded Warrior Bill is being worked by Rep Gaston as well as a bill to allow for tax-exempt status for the MCL. All bills are being worked, but the time constraints of the Legislature are working against us at this time. If the bills do not pass during this session, they will be ready to pre-file next year.

Committee Reports

Convention/Conference Committee—Cal Walters reported that the Department Convention, which will be held in Oxford on 10-12 June, is still on despite the tornados. All members are encouraged to attend and that forms were available at the head table. He also reported that a meeting of the National committee will be held on June 2 at the Post at 6:00pm. He will also be travelling to the Dept of GA Convention on 20-22 May to do a presentation on the Convention.

Bereavement Committee—John Reid reported that one Marine and one FMF Corpsmen moved on to their final duty assignment and were visited by the Bereavement Committee
FMF Corpsmen Britton Lane
Marine Alton James

Semper Fi Riders – Gregg Wood via Commandant Grantham mentioned that the riders will have a ride on Sunday, 22 May. Meet at the Post at 12:30 ready to ride.

Coke Rewards – Tom Wells was absent, but there were plenty of caps available for inputting.

Boy Scout Committee – The Eagle Scout dinner was being held tonight and Detachment members were present.

Newsletter Committee – Cal Walters reported that the newsletter went out on time via email and was mailed earlier that day. Anyone with an email was asked to provide it for Detachment use. He also thanked Kingdom Coach for their help in printing the newsletter and that anyone who wished to help with the printing and production of the website should contact him or AB Grantham. All submission should be emailed to him at the time of the Staff Meeting each month. He also noted that the newsletters were on the website as well as back issues.

Hospitality Committee---Herschel Mason said that the chow tonight, courtesy of Dianna Grantham and Sheryl White was great. Commandant Grantham mentioned that Herschel would be taking over the Ships Store and Jim Evans would be taking command of the Hospitality Committee.

Young Marines – Herschel Mason reported that there was a change of command ceremony for the Young Marines at the Battleship on 7 May and that three of our members were in attendance.

Flea Market Committee –Rick Ivy reported that the Flea market will be staffed for the Memorial Day weekend and anyone interested should contact him.

Color Guard – John Reid reported that the Detail performed on 5 May at the Aircraft Pavilion at the Battleship for an art donation from the Daphne Detachment and the US Sports Academy. Also they provided a detail for the uncle of Tom Wells. The Color Guard is also on duty for the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony in Mobile, time TBA. Volunteers are needed for the flag detail. Also, they have a request for a detail on 28 May at the Mobile International Speedway Memorial Day ceremony.

Golf Tournament – no report

Green Home – Larry Savell was absent – at the Eagle Scout dinner.

Mulherin Home – Commandant Grantham reported that Edward Walters has taken over the Committee from Ron Bridges in order to consolidate efforts on the program. Sydney Halliday thanked the Detachment for their assistance with the delivery of goods to the Home on 30 April with her PACE students. Ron Bridges noted that he had not quit from the position, but was replaced, as is the Commandant's prerogative.

Roadblock – CMDT Grantham reported in Chair's absence. There will be a roadblock on Saturday, 14 May at Airport and Schillinger. Commandant Grantham noted with emphasis that volunteers are needed as this is a very busy intersection. Member John Reid asked about the use of the money raised at the Roadblock, and Commandant Grantham gave details on its use.

Vets and the Hank –Fred Walters reported that he has made the arrangements with the Bay Bears for food and that the funding will be arranged for the season.

Ships Store – Jim Evans reported that Ships Store is under new management.

Special Announcements

Bill Caraway reported that member Sid Phillips will be speaking on the Thursday, the 12th at 10:00 at Cottage Hill Baptist Church. All are invited.

Jim Gunnels as acting Sgt at Arms encouraged everyone to check their attic for items that might be able to be donated for the raffle. It will go to a good cause.

The Welcome Home for Vietnam Veterans was originally scheduled for 21 May of this year will be moved to 31 March of 2012.

Old Business

The Daphne Detachment will hold its chartering ceremony on 14 May.

There are still a few tickets for the Marines Helping Marines raffle (from National) available. If interested, please see AB at the break.

Ron Bridges mentioned the \$400 for Mulherin Home for chairs. Commandant Grantham mentioned that Edward Walters will be contacting Rose at the Home for an update and will report back on this.

The unveiling ceremony for Sgt Foster Harrington's ONF bust will be the week of 23 June. More details to follow on the ceremony. The bust requires a pedestal base to properly display it. A base has been found which will support it. The cost is \$600.00. A motion was made by Jim Evans to pay for the bust. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Rick Ivy report on two new members to the Detachment, his daughter and son-in-law, who are a Marine and FMF Corpsmen, respectively. They joined the Detachment while in town and have since returned to duty in NC.

New Business

Ron Bridges commented on the \$400 for the Mulherin home and the Commandant's lack of faith in his ability to serve and he resigned his positions with the Detachment. Commandant Grantham ruled him out of order and asked him to sit down.

Bonnie White was commended for working with the Marine Recruiters on their tornado relief carwash on 7 May. \$400 was raised.

Chaplain closed the Bible.
Sgt at Arms closed the meeting.

RECESS WAS TAKEN

Chaplain reopened the Bible
Meeting was called back into order.

Good of League

\$91 raised in the raffle tonight.

Commandant Grantham mentioned changes in his staff, including Sheryl White taking the position of Paymaster and thanked Tricia Allen for her service in the position.

Roy Lafon mentioned his attendance at the Commissioning of a Marine Lt. earlier in the month and what a privilege it was to receive the silver dollar from him.

Sr Vice Gregg Wood came in from the Eagle Scout Dinner and reported that the ceremony went well and that the certificated were presented to the Scouts. The League was recognized for their support. A number of potential members were also identified.

Announcements

Next Staff meeting – 21 May @18:30 with training @1800. Next Regular meeting – 14 June 2011

CMDT Grantham reminded everyone to help the Sgt at Arms secure the quarters after the meeting.

Gregg Wood will be providing food for next month.

CMDT Grantham asked that everyone keep Gerald Jowers in their prayers. Gerald went to the hospital with chest pains tonight. Updates will follow.

Closing Ceremonies

Closing Ceremonies were conducted and the meeting adjourned at 2041 hours.