

**MINUTES OF FALL STAFF CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 8, 2016**

OPENED WITH PROPER CEREMONIES @ 0845 – Lake Havasu Color Guard, Commandant Blain; Mayor Mark Nexsen; Honorable Mitchell Kalauli; Department Sgt-at-Arms and Chaplain. Commandant Connell gave each speaker a challenge coin in appreciation for all they do for our veterans and one to Commandant Blain for hosting a successful conference.

10 Minute Recess

INTRODUCTION OF DIGNITARIES (Sgt-at-Arms) – SWD Sr. Vice Commandant Hoery; Assistant SW Division Vice Commandant Ebright, PNC MacIntyre; PDC and Pack Leader Reese; Past Pack Leader Leith; PDC NH Mike Roy; SWD Adj Reese. Veteran's Hall of Fame Members recognized.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: On file with the Adjutant. / **SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF STATE CONVENTION:** **Motion made by Marine Roy to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept as previously distributed, seconded by Marine Blair and approved unanimously.** / **CORRESPONDENCE:** New publisher for the *Semper Fi* Magazine – Chipotle Publishing, LLC. Submissions, Future Editorial Guidelines, and Advertising: Chipotle Publishing, LLC / 631 N. Stephanie St., #282 / Henderson, NV 89014 / 702 565-0746 / 702 567-2425 f semperfi@chipotlepublishing.com.

Cmdnt. Connell asked anyone interested in getting together in January in Prescott just for an informal gathering to sign up. The form is at the back of the room.

Staff conference is dedicated to the memory of Navajo Code Talker Joe Kellwood who passed away last month. Many Marine Corps League members assisted with the services.

Past Department Commandant, Gilbert Valenzuela, passed away in August. He was the third Department of Arizona Commandant. The charter was draped in his memory.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER (AM Bellard): First is my financial report for the Department of Arizona (Paymaster Bellard reviewed the spreadsheet he previously sent to the officers/detachments).

Last year we opened new accounts with Bank of America for the Miracles for Hero's Concert Tour and the money which was donated to the Department of Arizona. We are waiting for a final report on the results of the concerts.

This year, changes were approved at the National Convention regarding the due date for annual membership dues, I will have more information on this change during the National Convention Report in New Business.

At this time we are completing our 2016 tax returns. Since we hosted the National Convention and received funds for the Concert Tour, we need to file a long form, Not for Profit Tax Return this year which could end up being more than ten times larger than your tax returns including needed schedules and attachments. Next year we should be able to return to the 990-n ePost card tax return which takes about 10 minutes to complete and file.

Each Detachment Paymaster should attend Paymaster's Training that is held at the spring and Fall Department Staff Conference and the Department Convention. The reason for this training is to answer your questions and show you how to complete your transmittals correctly. When I receive transmittals with errors or missing information, I am unable to forward them to National until I receive the corrections. And, if I do not get a response to my calls or emails, then **I will** have to return your transmittal which causes delays in processing your members' information. Unfortunately, I have one transmittal that will have to be returned next week because I have not heard from the Paymaster.

In closing, remember to complete your Detachment Paid Life Members Audit which is based on the **6/30/2016** National Roster. Be sure that you make contact with each of your Life Members so your audit will be accurate. I would recommend doing your audit sooner than later so you do not forget to get your audit in before the end of the year. Remember, that I am here to assist you and if you have any questions, please let me know.

Motion made by Marine Alger, Jr. to accept the Paymaster's report as read, subject to audit, seconded by Marine Rodriguez and approved.

REPORT OF ELECTED OFFICERS

COMMANDANT CONNELL: It was my tremendous honor to be elected as your Commandant for the next year. I have been extremely fortunate to have a staff, both elected by you and those retained from Marine Ebright's tenure. They so far have proven invaluable. Since June, we as a staff and as a Department have faced some taunting tasks. Since we broke for the summer, I am sure that every Detachment has been involved in bar-b-ques, 4th of July celebrations, funerals and other activities. The business of the Marine Corps League does not shut down during the summer months. I have seen a tremendous amount of activity on behalf of Marine Dellacort and Associate Bellard. They have received, processed and finalized several requests for Marines in need and true to their mission, they have come through in the clutch. My thanks go out to both Lloyd and Mike.

Other Detachments, likewise, have had their share of Marines Helping Marines requests. June saw the 25th Anniversary of the Old Breed Detachment and we had a great time. In July, I had the distinct honor to be invited to Prescott to attend their Growl and due to my esteemed JA, I went back to my Doghouse minus a whole bunch of bones! In August, several members of the League attended the National Convention in Tulsa and we had a great time. All the Arizona Department members that were there went on a Thursday night to a local Irish pub and had a great time with good food and great conversations. After our return, several attended the 50th celebration of the chartering of the Ira Hayes Detachment and kudos to those Detachment members for putting on a great ceremony and a huge feast. I had never had Indian fry bread before this event and I ate my fill.

In September, Arizona suffered the loss of a Navajo Code Talker, 94 year old Joe Kellwood, who attended many Marine Corps Balls and sang the Marine Hymn in his native language. The Old Breed Detachment, specifically Marine Roy, played an important part in Joe's life over the last 5 years and he will be greatly missed. Another Marine reports to St. Peter.

The day after Labor Day saw several Marines go to Sky Harbor International Airport to send off Medal of Honor Recipients and Honor Flight attendees to Washington D.C and New York City for 9/11 commemorative ceremonies. To see the reactions of these WWII heroes to the presence of the Department Marines was immeasurable. Many a tear was shed by the attendees, their escorts and yes, the Southwest Airlines employees. It was a tremendous experience to see real American Heroes.

Finally, the 15th Anniversary of 9/11 came along and it was a somber day. I hope that all Marines paused for just a few minutes out of their busy days to reflect on what happened that day and offered a prayer in memory of those that died, their survivors and the rest of America that we will never experience such a despicable act in the future. America will remain strong and a beacon of hope for all the world to see.

SR. VICE RODRIGUEZ: First of all I would like to thank all of you for allowing us to be your department officers for this coming year.

For those detachments that have sent or been sending your detachment monthly minutes thank you, for those of you that have not please get them to me as soon as possible. I don't know how Tucson does it but within a minute after their meeting I have the minutes.

There were a handful of us were present at the Ira Hayes Detachment in August as they celebrated their 50th year as a Detachment and were served a fabulous lunch. On behalf of the Commandants request I recently attended a MIA/POW ceremony held at the Southern AZ VA Hospital. There were over 100 people including media and the Department was acknowledged for being present. There were several family members present and to observe the look on their faces as they know that their family members have not been forgotten.

I would like to mention that the Tucson Detachment recently lost a member Marine Harold Don who was one of many Marines who served during the Korean Conflict. He ran the Devil Pup program for over 40 years and had volunteered over 10,000 hours at the Southern Arizona VA. I only bring this up as we as a department need to continue trying to recruit younger Marines as the majority of us all are all over 50 years old and somehow the Department must look forward to the future. Semper Fi Marines

JR. VICE BROWN: J.V.C. of a Detachment holds a very crucial role in each detachment and every Department. He /she is responsible primarily for the recruiting and retention of members. The job goes beyond the Detachment level in that the JVC has the opportunity to find the appropriate Detachment for Marines outside of his/her Detachment area, and/or identifying areas where new detachments should be developed. The JVC should be familiar with the operations and projects of the Detachment, be able to influence programs, and be a spokesman to the Board of Trustees on what members and prospective members are looking for from the organization. Of all the specific Officer assignments, recruiting, and retaining membership ranks as the top of the list for his/ her office.

Quarterly Report: Well our first quarter is here, and with that being in the summer months, there is not a whole lot to report. But on August 20, the Department Officers and old and new members of the Ira Hayes Detachment celebrated their 50TH Anniversary of their "Charter". The Commandant Sr. Vice, myself and Paymaster and several others from Past National Commandant to Past Department Commandants to our new Jr. Vice Commandant Southwest Division, were on hand to present Citizen Achievement awards and certificates to three of its members. One living and two were presented to the families of the deceased. Pot luck dinner was fabulous and the Ira Hayes displayed a gift of a banner from their original drum and bugle corps donated by Mike Roy. The whole day was a real masterpiece for me.

I missed the National Convention due to a prior commitment, so I have no report for it. Thank you this concludes my first quarterly report.

JUDGE ADVOCATE WALLACE: Bylaws: Bylaws are written rules by which our organization is governed. They set forth the structure for rules and procedures to guide the actions of our members in the performance of our duties and activities.

I would like to encourage everyone, particularly elected officers, to review your detachment, department and national bylaws and administrative procedures. All bylaws are readily available online.

As Marines or Associate Members, we all have strong opinions. From time to time we may have dis-agreements, conflicts or disputes that can be quickly resolved if you rely on your bylaws as your operating manual.

If you don't like something as it is written in your bylaws, your bylaws themselves will spell out exactly how you can proceed to modify them.

When in doubt, read the instructions, read and follow your bylaws!

Membership Applications: Detachment Commandants and Paymasters should be particularly familiar with the Bylaws as they apply to processing membership applications. Once the applicant has provided satisfactory information that he/she is qualified for membership (usually a DD Form 214 showing 90 days of honorable

service), and has completed the application paperwork, then it is up to the membership of the detachment by vote to approve or disapprove the application.

Again...when in doubt, read the instructions, read and follow your bylaws!

REPORT OF APPOINTED OFFICERS

VAVS (Marine Crawford): As of October 7, 2016, Prescott has reported 6,132 hours through the end of August. Phoenix has reported 12,369 hours through the end of September and Tucson has reported 883 hours through the end of April for a total of 19, 384 hours for the Department of Arizona. **There appears to be a discrepancy with Tucson's hours; Marine Carper will check into this.** Good work Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Associates. Our numbers are forwarded to the National Rep who determines what awards each State and Detachment might be eligible for. Let us keep up the good work that we do and remember that we exist as an organization to further the ideals of the Corps that we help our fellow Marines and all veterans.

PR COMMITTEE (Marine Sahn): No Report

MARINES HELPING MARINES/AZ MARINES ASSISTING MARINES (Marine Dellacort): Since the start of our fiscal year, July 1st, we had not received any donations to Marines Helping Marines or Arizona Marines Assisting Marines or I should say Assisting Veterans. A donation of \$20 was received on Thursday from a woman who donates \$20 - \$25 regularly.

We have handled nine situations and donated \$5,904.90. We started with \$20,452 and have a current Balance of \$14,512.

One case was outstanding because of the cooperation between Detachments. A Vet owed \$1,548 on Back rent. Old Breed donated \$500, White Tank Mountain donated \$100 and AZ MAM donated \$948. Many thanks to Gerry Schaller for his work in getting this together.

We did donate \$150 to Choctaw Detachment in Louisiana for flood damage.

Please follow the guidelines on the Department website along with the vetting form. We can take care of any problem very fast if we have the proper paper work.

****Commandant Connell asked Detachments to consider donating to the Marines Helping Marines if they have any funds they can spare. ****

HOMELESS VETERANS (Marine Roy): From the National Coalition for the Homeless; this fact sheet examines homelessness among U.S. veterans. A list of resources for further study is also provided. While most housing help available to veterans focuses on homeownership, there have been Federal investments in programs for homeless veterans.

While most housing help available to veterans focuses on homeownership, there have been Federal investments in programs for homeless veterans. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) funds temporary housing for homeless veterans including

- Shelter and two-year transitional housing funded through the Grant and Per Diem Program,
- Long-term care through the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program, and
- Skills programs such as the Compensated Work Therapy/Veterans Industries Program.

These programs do not meet existing need. For example, Grant and Per Diem only funds 8,000 beds.

In addition, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) works with VA to operate the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. HUD-VASH connects HUD Housing Choice Vouchers with VA case management and services. This is HUD's only program targeted directly to veterans. HUDVASH, a long standing and rigorously tested program, has been under-resourced in past years, but the recent addition of 10,000 vouchers a year for two years has been a crucial step forward. The Administration did not request additional vouchers for 2010. However, the program is popular in Congress, and there is a strong possibility of additional vouchers this year.

BACKGROUND

Far too many veterans are homeless in America—between 130,000 and 200,000 on any given night—representing between one fourth and one-fifth of all homeless people. Three times that many veterans are struggling with excessive rent burdens and thus at increased risk of homelessness.

Further, there is concern about the future. Women veterans and those with disabilities including post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury are more likely to become homeless, and a higher percentage of veterans returning from the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have these characteristics.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night [\[1\]](#). And approximately twice that many experience homelessness over the course of a year. Conservatively, one out of every three homeless men who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served this country.

Approximately 40% of homeless men are veterans, although veterans comprise only 34% of the general adult male population. The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates that on any given night, 200,000 veterans are homeless, and 400,000 veterans will experience homelessness during the course of a year (National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 2006). 97% of those homeless veterans will be male (Department of Veterans Affairs, 2008).

DEMOGRAPHICS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) says the nation's homeless veterans are mostly males (four percent are females). The vast majority is single, most come from poor, disadvantaged communities, 45 percent suffer from mental illness, and half have substance abuse problems. America's homeless veterans have served in World War II, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Operation Iraqi Freedom, or the military's anti-drug cultivation efforts in South America. 47 percent of homeless veterans served during the Vietnam Era. More than 67 percent served our country for at least three years and 33 percent were stationed in a war zone.

Here are some statistics concerning the veterans homeless

- 23% of homeless population are veterans
- 33% of male homeless population are veterans
- 47% Vietnam Era
- 17% post-Vietnam
- 15% pre-Vietnam
- 67% served three or more years
- 33% stationed in war zone
- 25% have used VA Homeless Services
- 85% completed high school/GED, compared to 56% of non-veterans
- 89% received Honorable Discharge
- 79% reside in central cities
- 16% reside in suburban areas
- 5% reside in rural areas

76% experience alcohol, drug, or mental health problems
46% white males compared to 34% non-veterans
46% age 45 or older compared to 20% non-veterans

Female homeless veterans represent an estimated 3% of homeless veterans. They are more likely than male homeless veterans to be married and to suffer serious psychiatric illness, but less likely to be employed and to suffer from addiction disorders. Comparisons of homeless female veterans and other homeless women have found no differences in rates of mental illness or addictions.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates that the VA serves about 25% of veterans in need – a figure that would leave approximately 300,000 veterans each year to seek assistance from local government agencies and voluntary organizations.

<http://www.va.gov/homeless/> OR https://iris.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1333.com

SUICIDE - 1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1; VETERANS CRISIS LINE

The Veterans Crisis Line have some serious problems. From 2008 to 2015 the Crisis Line showed an increase of 700 % in those years even though there was an increase in call volumes. No attempt was made to hire a large amount of qualified, trained staff, so in fact many of the staff was burnt out and exhausted. The overflow unanswered phone calls were transferred to backup centers where counselors didn't have access to Veterans electronic medical records.

According to the Government Accountability Office Auditors;
Sample of 14 calls which had to leave a text message. 4 of the 14 never received a response back, of the remaining 10 text messages, 8 received a response within 2 minutes, 2 in 5 minutes.

65% of Veterans Suicide in 2014 were 50+ years or older.

- Since 2001, the rate of suicide among Veterans, who used VA Services has increased, ^8.8%, while the rate of suicides among Veterans who DO NOT USE VA SERVICES, ^38.6%.
- The rate of suicide among, who Female Veterans, uses VA Services ^4.6%, while the rate of suicide increased, ^98% among Female Veterans who do not use VA Services.

For further information on Suicide among Veterans go to:

www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/2016suicidedatareport.pdf. This is a 46 page report.

In the State of Arizona the VA Help Line for all facilities telephone cue has been changed. As of 09/01/2016 on the telephone: **Phoenix VA System 602-277-5551**

The old system asked in the ongoing questions that if you feel in danger of harming yourself or others to please call. 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1.

The new ongoing question will ask if you are having a medical or mental health emergency, hang up and dial 911 or if you are thinking of suicide press "7" now to be transferred to our Veterans Crisis Line.

Better than being ready to kill yourself and you forgot to bring a pen/paper to write the number down or used your last coin. That was not the time and place for that extra frustration. AMEN!!

Information on table tennis tournament for disabled players. Medal for Gold Star families available. Stand-down will be the first part of February. If you work at the fairgrounds, you can register online to have your hours benefit the Stand-down. Also provided a website with over 400 resources for Veterans.

Mike recently sent out an updated listing of duties for Homeless Veteran coordinators which included a sign-up form. Please get the form filled out and returned to him. It's a very important position that is greatly needed. We need to be helping our homeless veterans and get them off the street.

Commandant Connell reminded that it was decided a few years back that each Detachment was to have a Homeless Veteran's Coordinator. Detachment Commandant's are to make sure this billet is filled. Work with Marine Roy for assistance.

YOUNG MARINES (Marine Alger, Jr.): The Young Marines of the Grand Canyon Regiment are doing extremely well. Remember that you should visit your local Young Marine Unit to see first-hand what these dedicated Young Marines and Registered Adults are doing and support them in their efforts. The Young Marines love to see you and hear your stories. These Young Marines are the future of our country and we need to recognize the efforts of your Young Marines who are making a real difference in their local communities and in the State of Arizona.

Your Young Marines are working hard and have not only logged over 5,249.75 hours of community service since the State Convention but they are also earning local, state, division, and National awards. Your Young Marines have also spent over 141 hours developing their DDR presentations and have made over numerous public DDR presentations since the State Convention. Along with the following events they assisted over 10 Veterans with various activities and projects and participated in over 20 color Guards during this time frame. One Unit earned the DOD's Fulcrum Shield Award and will be traveling to DC to receive this award at the Pentagon on October 13, 2016. One unit received recognition from the AZ Secretary of State and their Congressman. One Unit also traveled to California to participate in the Young Marine Division Six Encampment. They also received local awards and recognition by participating in many events a crossed the State (see below):

- June 9th - Color guard for MADD Walk.
- June 16th - Photo op with Art Institute -RED CORD
- July 4th- Celebrate Mesa festival, Information table with DDR game w/ DDR related prizes.

Red Cord Project sales at Car Show, Working with Navajo County Drug Coalition, We do presentations in the local mid school and Junior High, Getting set up to do presentations at McNary elementary school on the Reservation

1 hour DDR per month plus extra for recruit classes. Encouraging Young Marines to become Project Alert Certified. Hand out DDR information during fundraising events

We have had law enforcement come to our meetings to discuss the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.

We have been pretty slow over the summer as far as DDR. We are now getting into gear for RRW We do presentations at schools, MCL meetings, American Legion meetings. Also focus on the presentations the Young Marines do at schools for Red Ribbon week.

Classes at unit level. Information at all displays and sales. Plan for Mayor to attend Ball. Plan RR week.

- June 11th - assisted MCL at AZ state MCL convention.
- June 13th - Flag day ceremony at Chandler Elks Lodge
- June 14 - Flag day ceremony At Tempe Elks lodge
- June 17th - Dedication POW/MIA table at Tempe Elks Lodge
- June 23rd - Flag folding ceremony at Mariposa Elementary school.
- Aug 12th - Performed Color Guard for the Arizona Cardinals football preseason home opener.

We do a lot of work with the Pinetop Lakeside Lions club with paper drives, Their Bi-Annual Antique show, Camp Tatiyee Handicap Camp with Camp Clean up, Pinetop Justice Court with Painting the Court House.

Color Guard for New Veterans plaque, Lead off Color Guard for local parade.

We have served at the local humane society, within the community cleaning up vacant lots, and provided a color guard for the opening of the Mohave County Fair.

We have done many community service activities in the last few months. Just last week we worked an event called HavaSlide that was put on to help raise fund for a pediatric infusion center in Havasu. Our Color Guard is always in high demand as well.

Primary function is with the ACSA on a monthly basis at their action shoot. Also work with the Buckeye, AZ police dept. with their Gain event.

- Assist American Legion when needed.
- East Valley had 1 YM attend a Division JLS as cadre
- 3 YMS attend spaces programs in July
- 13 YMS & RAS attend NCTD in August.

As you can see YOUR Young Marines are very busy and are making a difference in our communities. Also besides the list of events above they have participated in they have also worked with many other organizations and veterans groups and I am sure that I have missed some events that they have done but this gives you an idea of how busy your Young Marines are making a difference in the community.

Visit your local Young Marine Unit and support these youth as they are the future of our country!!!

CHAPLAIN (Marine Alger, Jr.): I have only received notification of three Marines that have passed away between the Convention and today. This is AWESOME if it correct which I know that it is not. Remember that I receive about 5-10 E-mail and phone calls every month of Marines passing away. I do not have a list of the MCL Department membership so I do NOT know who is a member of the MCL or not. I do help where I can but it is the Detachment Commandants and Chaplain's responsibility to notify me properly when one of their member passes away.

Detachment Chaplains that do not have a Chaplain assigned please let me know how I can assist in helping you find a member to serve in this position.

This billet is one that will assist in making the Detachment a **HOME** to our families. The Chaplain should be making visits, sending cards and flowers as needed and assisting our families both in their time of need and in times of celebration. I have sent all the Chaplains and Detachment Commandants a Dropbox link with all the material that I use for my turnover folder. I recommend that each detachment have a turnover folder made for their Chaplain as this will ensure that as Chaplains come and go each will have all the tools necessary to do their job effectively.

The Death Notices are an issue that has gotten better but I am still receiving late notices and notices that are filled out incompletely. Please, make sure that all notices have **all the required information and please add a note if the Marine was a DEVIL DOG.** I would appreciate it if each notice would include a note like this:

Molly Marine was a DD or Jody Jarhead was not a DD

This will help me as I assist MODD (Military Order of the Devil Dogs) Pack (Department) Dog Trainer (Chaplain) with his job and take care of our members and their families as they should be.

National is in the process of redesigning the Get Well and Sympathy cards but they do have Blank cards with the Marine Corps Eagle, Globe, and Anchor on it available for \$9 for 10 cards. The code for these is SR02 if you want to order them.

Remember that you also should notify me not just when members pass away but also if they are sick or in the hospital as I can send cards, call, or maybe otherwise help your members.

Marine Ebright asked if we could put something on the website to assist people in reporting deaths to the Chaplain. This would be a form that would have all the information the Chaplain would need to send condolences.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW DETACHMENT (Cmndt. Connell): Marine Yin has now seen what is involved in hosting a conference. They may be hosting the spring conference in 2018. Welcome aboard!!!

OSPREY MEMORIAL UPDATE (Marine Sinner): She gave a brief history of the Osprey crash and the current memorial. She has been talking to the Town of Marana regarding funding for refurbishing the memorial. They are going to put in \$10,000 to make the site ADA accessible, separate the memorial from the street and add some fencing. The site still needs to be landscaped and the memorial at the crash site needs to be improved. It will cost \$10,000 for freeway signs. Detachments were asked to consider helping with the costs by sponsoring a brick for the walkways, an engraved piece of granite or boulders that could have a plaque attached.

Discussion/Suggestions: Could something be put on the freeway signs that says “sponsored by the Marine Corps League”? Not on the freeway signs, but at the memorial. Try the Marine Corps Foundation to see if they will make a donation. Detachments were asked to discuss donating at their next meeting. Marines Brown and Marine Connell will check with other veterans’ organizations to see if they will contribute.

Marine Ebright made a motion, to donate \$1,000 towards purchasing the freeway signs for the Osprey Memorial; seconded and approved unanimously.

Marine Sinner was asked to forward the information she presented to Marine Sahnso so he can send it out to the Detachments.

NEW BUSINESS

Marine MacIntyre made a motion that the Department Commandant’s meal and hotel room be covered for the Veteran’s Hall of Fame ceremonies later this month, seconded by Marine Alger, Jr.; approved unanimously.

NATIONAL CONVENTION (Cmndt. Connell/Marine Roy): There are a couple pictures on display of a proposed uniform change unveiled at the National Convention. It was not well received by attendees.

Marine Roy made a motion that we send a letter to National stating what we think of the proposed new uniform. No second.

10 Minute Break

National Bylaws Changes (Marine Roy):

- **Article Six Section 600(b)** Associate Member – **CLARIFIED:** “CANNOT vote on any regular or associate membership application; **ADDED:** CANNOT participate in the nomination process. **CLARIFIED:** Are allowed to vote on internal matters of the Detachment except as otherwise noted or those that affect a policy of the Marine Corps League such as Bylaws or Bylaws changes.
- **Article Two Section 220 Emergency Board Meetings** – Section 5 **ADDED:** At the call of at least one third of the members of the BOT, provided at least one of those members shall include a non-National Vice Commandant, may call for a Special Meeting of the BOT to discuss matters of emergency measures considered most important for the conduct of business of the BOT between national conventions. The senior member of the Board asking for such a Special Meeting shall chair the meeting.

- **Article Six Section 645 (c) Life Members** (submitted as an emergency request) – **DELETED** Existing section; **REPLACED** with (c) An amount of four and one-half percent (4.5%) of the average Fiscal Year ending balance of the Life Member Fund for the trailing three-year period ending June 30 shall be distributed as follows: (Remaining section is extremely long. Can be obtained from Marine Roy or the Adjutant)

Administrative Procedures Changes (Marine Roy):

- **Section 805 Relationship with Subsidiary Organizations** – New chapter **ADDED**: The Marine Corps League recognizes and adopts each of the organizations listed below in this Chapter as official subsidiary organizations of the Marine Corps League which shall ever be subject to the authority, supervision, direction, control and discipline of the Marine Corps League at the National level only. (Article Seven (7) National Bylaws applies.) Each of these subsidiary organizations operates as a separate entity under its own bylaws as amended. Individual Marine Corps League Members as well as Detachments, Departments and Divisions are encouraged to work with and support the subsidiary organizations at their own level; however, no Member of the Marine Corps League, unless a registered member of the specific organization, shall interfere in anyway with the day-to-day operations of the subsidiary organization. The same restriction applies to Detachments, Departments and Divisions of the Marine Corps League.
- **Enclosure Three (3) VIII Lapel Pins Approved Lapel Pins**: American Flag Pin. **SIZE**: For the pin worn on the red blazer will be 1/2" x 1/2".
- **Article Eight, Section 800 Enclosure Four Commemorative Medal/Ribbon**: In order to wear a commemorative medal and/or ribbon for a specific event or anniversary, submit your request to National one year in advance.
- **Enclosure Four Marine Corps League Awards Ceremonial Guard Ribbon**: This ribbon was approved at the 2015 National Convention. An amendment was made at the 2016 convention to make the ribbon retroactive to January 1, 2010, providing the Ceremonial Guard meets all criteria for the ribbon.

CHANGE IN PAYMENT OF DUES (Cmdt. Connell & Paymaster Bellard): The change applies to National dues only. All National dues are due by August 31st beginning in 2017. After 2017, new member dues will have to be prorated up to August 31st. Detachment and department dues are not changing. AM Bellard provided information and handouts to attendees at the BOT and Commandant's Council. Membership cards will be dated September 1st. Members who feel they haven't received their membership card from National in a "reasonable time" can get a temporary card from AM Bellard. National has adopted the same card format as Arizona created that is valid for all levels of the League. **Detachment bylaws/AP must be amended to reflect change.**

MISC.

- National HQ has moved to outside of Quantico. This will save them approximately \$60,000 a year.
- 2017 Convention at Overland Park, KS. Sheraton is sold out. 2018 bid for convention has been turned down. Department of Arizona has expressed interest in hosting.
- National would like us to send \$1 to their subsidiary organizations – Chaplain of the Four Chaplains, Scholarship Foundation, Tree of Lights, etc.
- Life Membership Cards – the metal cards are not recognized by National. National is looking into a different type of card made of embossed plastic.
- Service animals – National is looking into guidelines for these animals to verify which animals qualify.
- Awards and Citations – National is no longer going to provide the large medals due to the cost. Most people wear ribbons or the miniature medals.
- Marine for Life Program – very important to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He wants the Marine Corps League to be involved.
- Elections were held at the National Convention.
- New publisher for *Semper Fi*. National office staff reduced to 8 from 12, which will save money. Remaining staff is being cross-trained to fill the duties of the staff that left.
- Mid-winter will be at Fredrickburg, VA.
- Life Membership – Must audit every year in order to get your funds from National.

NATIONAL CONVENTION HOST SELECTION: Marine Roy displayed the breakdown of Divisions for the Marine Corps League. A department in the east is the likely site for 2018.

NATIONAL ASSETS ESTIMATE: The comptroller estimated that assets were approximately \$4.11M after liabilities.

PRESENTING AT CONFERENCES/CONVENTION: Cmdt. Connell clarified that in order to present at all future meetings you must request to be on the agenda. If you do not request to be on the agenda, you will not be allowed to present. To be on the agenda, be sure to respond to the Adjutant's request for agenda items sent out approximately one month before each meeting.

Webmaster Miller – Requested permission to renew the hosting of the website.

Motion made by Marine Alger Jr., to renew the hosting of the website with GoDaddy for four years at a cost of \$785.82, seconded by Marine Reese; approved unanimously.

An updated website will debut the end of October.

AM Delsi – Provided information on the upcoming Run for the Fallen. It memorializes every Arizona service member that has died. It starts in Tucson and ends in Wesley Bolin Plaza after three days beginning October 14th. Someone will be at every mile marker to remember the service member.

The following weekend there will be a dinner/dance fundraiser on October 21st at the American Legion Post 41 to fund annual March memorial. Color Guards are welcome.

Toys for Tots – Contact your local coordinator and see how you can help.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Marine Hoery – Attended Expo and meetings. Old HQ was sold for \$1.4M. They are going to pay back what they borrowed from the Life Member Funds with the proceeds. Remaining funds will go into a trust fund. Expo West is February 1 & 2, 2017. Southwest Division meeting on February 2nd. Encouraged attendees to recognize member's good works and achievements by presenting them with awards. He is often asked why the Southwest Division does not give out more awards.

Marine Schaller – Wrote a letter in support of National providing a free one-year membership for any Active Duty Marine. He wrote the letter to Vice Commandant Tobin and copied Marine Hoery. Marine Hoery asked him to read the letter to get our member's opinion. All in attendance support this concept. Marine Schaller will get the letter to Marine Hoery to forward to the other Division Commandants. From there, it may be submitted to National as a bylaws addition.

From the Department of New Jersey – Information on shirts featuring one of the Recruit Depots. They can be lettered with your date of entry and unit number. Cost is \$20 and includes shipping. Flyer provided to attendees.

On October 29th there will be a dinner honoring Viet Nam veteran's at the Scottsdale Plaza. Flyer provided.

We still have Detachment guidebooks if anyone is interested.

Marine Alger, Jr. – East Valley Marines are \$800 short to go to the Pentagon. Young Marine of the Year has to travel throughout the Division and is also needing funds. Funds for the latter may be available in the Marines for Heroes account. Monies were moved into this account for expenses such as this.

Marine Alger Jr. made a motion for \$800 to allow the East Valley Marines and their adult chaperones to go to the Pentagon, seconded by PNC MacIntyre; approved unanimously.

Marine Alger, Jr. will apply for funds from the Marines for Heroes account for travel expenses for the Young Marine of the Year.

Marine Connell presented the DCM bronze to Marine Spohr recognizing his efforts in forming a Detachment in Fountain Hills.

At the last meeting, we approved money to send some students to a week-long Summer Leadership School at Quantico. Thanks to the generosity of detachments in the Department, and the Department, we were able to send several students.

Certificates for National Junior Vice Commandant Citation:

Casa Grande	Rim Country	Wild West	Verde Valley	Cpl. Salcido	SW Valley
Old Breed	Lake Havasu	Thunder Mtn			

Marine Ebright mentioned that every detachment does fundraising. Everything we are able to do is because of fundraising. It's very important.

Marine Ebright presented DCM Gold to the following Marines for their work in establishing the AZ MODD Charities and projects they facilitated. They helped develop plans, obtain donations, help manage to completion projects at the Prescott and Tucson Veteran's Hospital and have a project in the planning stage at the VA in Phoenix.

Benjamin Leith (Kingman)	Richard Broderick (Wickenburg)	Pat Connell (Phoenix)
Stewart Fraiser (Prescott)	Lloyd Dellacort (Sedona)	Gayle Smith (Tucson)
Bob Wallace (Prescott)		

Marine Ebright presented the Adjutant with DCM gold. He also presented Commandant Connell with a special award, a Cubs medallion celebrating his life-long support of the team!

Cmdt. Connell reminded attendees about the dates for the Marine of the Year and AMOY. The Adjutant will send out reminders. Marine Dave Stockwell was last year's MOY.

Nominations for scholarship need to be to Marine Dellacort by March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 SPRING STAFF CONFERENCE (Marine Shaw): No one from Thunder Mountain was present. Dates are March 24 – 25, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L Reese, Adjutant

Department of Arizona / SW Division
Marine Corps League