



BRAZOS VALLEY DETACHMENT #1391

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, Inc.

P.O. BOX 3745

BRYAN, TEXAS 77805

Email: brazosvalley1391@gmail.com

Web: www.brazosvalleymcl.org

Facebook: [Brazos Valley MCL Facebook](#)



Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2016

LOCATION: Kreuz Market Bryan, 768 N Earl Rudder Fwy, Bryan, TX 77802

OFFICERS PRESENT: Commandant John McGuire; Sr Vice Commandant Thorin Moser; Jr Vice Commandant John Withers; Paymaster Glenn Burnside; Chaplain Doug Crabtree; Jr Past Commandant David Sahm; Web Sergeant Ed Holcomb

OFFICERS ABSENT: Adjutant Leo Rivera; Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Paulson

OPENING CEREMONY: The meeting was called to order at 19:01

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: None

GUESTS: SSgt Ernesto Perezfoundeur (RSS College Station); Angel Martinez; Missy and Dennis Merrit

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Commandant suggested that minutes be accepted

- o Marine Burnside motioned; Marine Holcomb seconded; Regular members present voted unanimously in favor

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PAYMASTER:

- o Checking: \$4,557.15
 - Processed eleven Life Memberships in last 45 days
 - Only expenditure this month was the annual \$82.00 post office box fee
- o Savings: \$1,253.51

REPORT OF SICK/INJURED MEMBER OR FAMILY: None

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

- Senior Vice Commandant report:
 - o Working on location and date/time for Detachment hike
 - o Collected blank plate from Harry Bruce "Retreat Hell" plaque for mameluke sword recipient so SSgt Mark Green's name can be added at our convenience
 - o CACO at 1st Bn 23rd Marines in Houston reported that they are tasked to provide funeral honors for Major Shawn Campbell - which may be in College Station
 - Major Campbell was one of 12 Marines killed in a CH-53 crash on Jan 14
 - CACO will inform Det if they need assistance with ceremony
 - o Coordinating with RSS College Station in preparation for Poolee Family Day
 - Thursday, April 21 at 18:00; Location TBD
 - Det has been asked to support with food/drink and possible venue
 - o Eight Det members successfully passed License to Carry course on Feb 27
 - Thanks to Doug Tennis for coordinating the opportunity!
- Junior Vice Commandant report: Nothing significant to report
- Staff Judge Advocate report: Nothing significant to report
- Junior Past Commandant report: Nothing significant to report
- Chaplain report: Nothing significant to report



BRAZOS VALLEY DETACHMENT #1391

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, Inc.

P.O. BOX 3745

BRYAN, TEXAS 77805

Email: brazosvalley1391@gmail.com

Web: www.brazosvalleymcl.org

Facebook: [Brazos Valley MCL Facebook](#)



REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- Programs Committee
 - o Program for the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut postponed until the
 - LtGen John Miller may be present as well
- Benevolence Committee
 - o Committee interviewed Marine Angel Martinez who is studying at TAMU and pending a graduation date of December 2016
 - Determined Marine qualifies for financial support but Detachment by-laws allow for only limited support
 - Committee solicited support from Det membership
 - o **Please see enclosure (1) for more details**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Upcoming calendar events
 - o Apr 11 Regular meeting: officer installation
 - o Apr 21 RSS College Station Poolee Family Day
 - o Apr 23 Texas A&M Baseball Military Appreciation Game
 - o Apr 23 Memorial for Major Shawn Campbell
 - o May 9 Regular meeting with "Marine Barracks bombing in Beirut" program
 - o May 13 Harry Bruce "Retreat Hell" Mameluke sword award presentation
 - o May 30 Memorial Day events at Vietnam Veterans Memorial & American Legion
 - o Jul 4 Chappell Hill 4th of July parade; Bush Library Celebration
 - o Nov 10 USMC Birthday
 - o Nov 11 Veterans Day
 - o Dec Make-A-Smile-Happen (MASH); Det Christmas party

NEW BUSINESS:

- Commandant McGuire tasked detachment to hold mandatory annual Board of Trustees meeting to review the Detachment's operations
 - o Per Det by-laws the meeting must take place no later than May
 - o The elected officers are also known as the Board of Trustees
 - At least 3 Trustees must be present
 - o Meeting discussion will include review of the following:
 - Financial records
 - Membership status
 - Administrative recordkeeping
 - o Meeting will be open to the membership
- Commandant McGuire tasked both Sr and Jr Vices to identify Det inventory needs and wants, such as:
 - o Detachment banner x 2
 - o Business cards
 - o Red award binders
 - o Eagle, Globe, and Anchor for meeting room at Kreuz Market
- Commandant McGuire reminded members of protocols during this election season:
 - o Members have a civic duty to participate and are encouraged to do so
 - o The Marine Corps League cannot be involved in the political discussion
 - o Members are reminded to keep the Marine Corps League apolitical to the greatest degree



BRAZOS VALLEY DETACHMENT #1391

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, Inc.

P.O. BOX 3745

BRYAN, TEXAS 77805

Email: brazosvalley1391@gmail.com

Web: www.brazosvalleymcl.org

Facebook: [Brazos Valley MCL Facebook](#)



- Commandant McGuire presented nomination slate for elected officer positions:
 - o Additional nominations requested and none given
 - o **The following members were elected by unanimous paper ballot vote:**
 - Commandant John McGuire
 - Sr Vice Doug Tennis
 - Jr Vice Doug Crabtree
 - Paymaster Glenn Burnside
 - Staff Judge Advocate Roger Martinez
 - o Commandant identified the following members for appointed positions:
 - Adjutant Thorin Moser
 - Chaplain Cary Tennis
 - Sergeant at Arms Olivia Burnside
 - Web Sergeant Ed Holcomb
 - o Officer installations will take place at April 11 monthly detachment meeting
 - Terms of both elected and nominated officers will begin District 5 Vice Commandant James Andrews has been confirmed to conduct the installation ceremony

GOOD OF THE CORPS:

- Texas Veterans Commission Summit 2016
 - o TAMU hosted this year
 - o Sr Vice and SJA attended
 - o Veteran education and health benefits dominated session topics
 - o **Please see enclosure (2) to see notes from sessions**
- Brazos Valley Veteran Memorial update
 - o Monument will feature a Marine assaulting a wall during the Battle of Chapultepec in September 1847
 - o Tentative groundbreaking date - November 10, 2016
 - o Tentative dedication ribbon-cutting date - November 10, 2017
 - o Detachment will be well served if involved in sculpture funding
 - Approx. cost: \$75,000
 - Detachment could be represented as sculpture supporter
 - Detachment donation will need to be significant and will require large scale fundraiser
 - Ideas and volunteers are welcome!

CLOSING CEREMONY: The meeting concluded at 20:03.

Meeting Attendees:

Glenn Burnside	Thorin Moser
Olivia Burnside	David Sahn
Bill Collopy	Keith Stephens
Doug Crabtree	Cary Tennis
Al Diaz	Doug Tennis
Larry Farmer	John Withers
Ed Holcomb	
John McGuire	
Maggie McGuire	

March 2, 2016

This morning, Detachment Marines Ed Holcomb and Doug Tennis interviewed a Marine attending Texas A&M who needs financial assistance. They joined representatives from the American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans of America, who were also interested in this Marine's request.

Angel Rea Martinez is a discharged Marine studying geology at TAMU. He expects to graduate in the Fall. He hopes to get a commission in the Marine Corps, but is also looking at joining the FBI. He learned late in the game that he needed to participate in a field exercise this summer to graduate in the fall and that he needed to come up with \$4,000 to cover the expenses. He is short \$2,500.

Representatives at the meeting made the following commitments:

American Legion: \$900

Vietnam Veterans: \$500

Marine Corps League: \$200

Ed and Doug have recommended that we contribute \$500.00, but per our bylaws, they could commit to only \$200.00. I would like to solicit contributions from the Detachment to cover the other \$300.00. Maggie and I will pledge the first \$100.00. If you are interested in assisting this Marine, please make the donation to the Detachment, and the Paymaster will send one check. If we get more than \$500.00, that would help, too, as \$1,700.00 total has been pledged so far, and he's still short. This is one of the reasons we exist— to help Marines.

Enclosure (1)

Texas Veterans Commission Summit

Feb 9 – College Station, TX

Notes from the general sessions and the Veterans Health Care break-out session

☐ George P. Bush

- As Texas General Land Office Commissioner, he has direct effect on Veterans Land Board program and services
- Committed to any veteran service organization that requests he come speak on the subject of the five veterans programs under the VLB:
 - Veterans Land Program
 - Veterans Housing Assistance Program
 - Veterans Home Improvement Program
 - Texas State Veterans Homes Program
 - Texas State Veterans Cemetery Program
- VLB Board meetings are open to the public and are also webcast live
 - Next meeting is April 28, 2016 at 10am
 - <http://www.glo.texas.gov/the-glo/events/webcasts/index.html>

☐ Hazlewood Act

- Exempts qualified veterans and certain dependents from specific tuition and fee charges at public educational institutions in Texas for a max of 150 credit hours.
 - Qualified veterans must have been a resident of Texas at enlistment and must provide official military documentation proving eligibility
 - Qualified veterans can transfer unused credit hours of exemption eligibility to a child under certain conditions
- Under fire because:
 - Lawsuit from student wishing to use Hazlewood benefits despite not being a Texas veteran under the eligibility rules
 - Educational institutions re-evaluating costs associated with the loss of revenue from tuition/fee exemptions under Hazlewood
 - Approx. 39,000 students covered by Hazlewood in 2014 resulting in loss of approx. \$169 million
 - Loss is projected to increase to \$379 million by 2019
- BOTTOM LINE: Hazlewood Act benefit may disappear
- What's next?
 - A strong battle was successfully mounted by Texans to urge the legislature to continue the benefit
 - The next legislature will discuss and evaluate the last legislature's decision to continue the benefit
 - TVC reported that while strong battle was successfully mounted, the veteran voice was not near as strong as other efforts – such as pro-life organizations or 2nd amendment supporters
 - Texas veterans can help determine whether Hazlewood lives or dies and in what condition
 - Goal is to continue the benefit within a sustainable structure
 - Send personal letters and also visit legislative representatives

Texas Veterans Commission Summit

Feb 9 – College Station, TX

□ Veteran Health Care

- Health Care Advocate (Speakers: Jose Silva/Joseph Dalpiaz/Gary Lee)
 - Similar to patient advocate at VA Hospital
 - Addresses issues veteran may have with VA health benefits
 - Will work on behalf of patient to get resolution
 - Typically finds common issues are complicated by actions or lack of actions on part of patient – for example:
 - “VA won’t see me!” – Advocate finds that patient missed an appointment and still expects to be seen
 - “VA won’t give me my medicine!” – Advocate finds that patient is unaware of policy change
 - Call TVC Veteran Hotline in these cases: 1-800-252-VETS (8387)
 - Visit www.tvc.texas.gov for additional details

- Care Payment issue
 - Providers are not receiving payment for care
 - ... as a result, providers are cancelling follow-up appointments
 - ... and invoices for care are being sent to collections
 - VA reviewing contracts nationally, e.g. TriWest, for payment history
 - Call TVC Veteran Hotline in these cases: 1-800-252-VETS (8387)

- Episode of Care
 - New policy in some cases allows for coverage of one event and then also subsequent care
 - e.g., knee surgery and then physical therapy
 - Check your coverage to see if this affects you

- Choice
 - Idea that veteran could choose a provider if VA could not provide care
 - Especially for those in rural areas, far from a VA hospital or clinic
 - Problem: care can be provided but not covered
 - Solution: Identify your Choice Champion at the nearest VAMC and open discussion for options