



BRAZOS VALLEY DETACHMENT #1391

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, Inc.

P.O. BOX 3745
BRYAN, TEXAS 77805

Email: brazosvalley1391@gmail.com
Web: www.brazosvalleymcl.com
Facebook: [Brazos Valley MCL Facebook](#)



Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2018

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Commandant Keith Stephens; Sr Vice Commandant Doug Tennis; Jr Vice Commandant/Adjutant Thorin Moser; Paymaster Glenn Burnside; Staff Judge Advocate Roger Martinez; Sergeant-at-Arms Don Hutchcraft; Chaplain Mary Jean Holcomb; Jr Past Commandant John McGuire

OFFICERS ABSENT: Historian Misti Moser; Web Sergeant Ed Holcomb

OPENING CEREMONY: The meeting was called to order at 18:30

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: None

GUESTS:

- Diane Besosa, HEB Community Coordinator - BCS Area
- Mike Newkham, HEB Tower Point General Manager
- Shelley Nelson, Brazos Valley Cares
- Jim Churrer, Brazos Valley Cares
- Kevin, Brazos Valley Cares
- Heather Huhnke, Brazos Valley Cares
- The Honorable Judge J.D. Langley, 85th District Court, Brazos County
- Colonel Gerald Smith, [Director of Veteran Services, TAMU System](#)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes for regular meeting were read.

- **Marine O. Burnside motioned for minutes to be accepted; Marine Tennis seconded; Regular members present voted unanimously in favor**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank You note from Twin City Mission: specifically thanking Al Diaz and Doc Powell for donating briskets for a 3rd year in a row.

REPORT OF THE PAYMASTER:

- March (*revised*):
 - o Checking: \$2,416.77
 - Income includes:
 - Account dividends \$0.11
 - Expenses include:
 - RSS CS Poolee Family Day \$211.95
 - Ending balance: \$2,204.93
 - o Savings: \$1,254.53
 - o Total assets: \$3,459.46



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- April:

- o Checking: \$2,204.93
 - Income includes:
 - Donation for Detachment Wine \$20.00
 - Donation for Detachment coins \$50.00
 - Account dividends \$0.11
 - Expenses include:
 - "Retreat Hell" Mameluke sword \$621.00
 - Ending balance: \$1,654.04
- o Savings: \$1,254.53
- o Total assets: \$2,908.57

- May:

- o Checking: \$1,654.04
 - Income includes:
 - Donation for Detachment coins/wine/gift \$190.00
 - Dividends from Paid-Up For Life Members \$32.43
 - Account dividends \$0.11
 - Expenses include:
 - MCL National membership renewal \$30.00
 - MCL Department membership renewal \$10.00
 - Dept Convention Program Ad \$15.00
 - Donation for Cam Posey Scholarship \$100.00
 - Ending balance: \$1,721.58
- o Savings: \$1,254.53
- o Total assets: \$2,976.11

- June:

- o Checking: \$1,721.58
 - Income includes:
 - Donations for Operation MRE orders \$3,550.00
 - Regular membership renewal \$35.00
 - Account dividends \$0.13
 - Expenses include:
 - Operation MRE costs (brisket, bags, Foil, payment and tip to Kreuz) \$1,237.39
 - Ending balance: \$4,069.32
- o Savings: \$1,254.69
- o Total assets: \$5,324.01



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- July:

- o Checking: \$4,069.32
 - Income includes:
 - Donations for Operation MRE orders \$750.00
 - Account dividends \$0.21
 - Expenses include: \$0.00
 - Ending balance: \$4,819.53
- o Savings: \$1,254.69
- o Total assets: \$6,074.22

REPORT OF SICK/INJURED MEMBER OR FAMILY: None

REPORT OF OFFICERS None

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- Operation Meat Ready-to-Eat Committee
 - o Tremendous success! And, significantly less labor intensive than last two years of Operation MRE!
 - o Kreuz Market Bryan smoked briskets for us and allow packaging/pickup to take place at the restaurant - all for a negligible fee
 - Also hosted profit share on Jun 29 in support of Operation MRE
 - o Financials:
 - Gross: \$4,200.00 - Donations collected for 42 briskets
 - Cost: \$1,392.92 - prime briskets purchased from HEB
\$44.47 - aluminum foil, vacuum bags
\$300.00 - Kreuz fee and tip
 - Support: \$100.00 - general donation
\$500.00 - HEB donation
\$77.35 - Kreuz donation from profit-share
 - Net: \$3,139.96
 - o HEB was kindly referred to as "Helping Every Body"
 - o Det Commandant Stephens presented Diane and Mike from HEB with a Det coin
- Benevolence Committee
 - o Det 1391 awarded \$5,000 one-time grant from Brazos Valley Cares
 - \$4,000 for scholarships to veterans attending college in area
 - \$1,000 for Veteran Crisis Fund
 - o Shelley Nelson spoke briefly about the Brazos Valley Cares mission:
 - Help servicemen/women & their families in the Brazos Valley
 - Sixth year of operation
 - Able to donate over \$250,000
 - o Det Commandant Stephens presented Brazos Valley Cares with a Det coin



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- Hurricane Harvey Relief Committee
 - o Delivery made on August 3 to Combined Arms, a Houston-based veteran service organization
 - o Det 1391 moved everything from B/CS area in four trucks and two trailers
 - o Delivered couches, kids bedroom set, dressers, bookcases, kitchen appliances, cookware, silverware, coffee table, side tables, mirrors, beds, lamps, chairs, outdoor patio furniture, rugs, home decorations
 - o Combined Arms reported that 65 veteran families had requested to be on list to choose from items delivered
 - o See attached pics for visual of delivery to Combined Arms.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Upcoming calendar events
 - o Sep 5 Detachment Leadership meeting
 - o Sep 10 Detachment Regular Membership meeting
 - o Oct 3 Detachment Leadership meeting
 - o Oct 8 Detachment Regular Membership meeting
 - o Nov 7 Detachment Leadership meeting
 - o Nov 10 243rd USMC Birthday
 - o Nov Navasota Veterans Day Parade
 - o Nov 11 Veterans Day
 - o Nov 12 Detachment Regular Membership meeting
 - o Dec **(no detachment regular meeting in December)**
 - o Dec Operation Seatback (Kyle Field seat removal fundraiser)
 - o Dec Make-A-Smile-Happen (MASH)
 - o Dec Detachment Christmas party
 - o Jan Det Scholarship presentations at TAMU Troops to College

PROGRAM:

- Veteran Treatment Court
 - o 85th District Judge J.D. Langley (Captain, USMC) described characteristics of Veteran Treatment Court (VTC):
 - VTC began in Buffalo, NY when municipal judge (a veteran himself) had a veteran appear in his court
 - Judge asked his staff what could be done outside of the court to assist the veteran
 - The next time the veteran was required to appear in court, he stood a little taller and more "squared away"
 - When Judge Langley was active on court bench, he scheduled veteran cases together and asked the VA to have Veteran Case Officers appear in court so VA could coordinate a pooling of VA resources to assist
 - Found that Brazos Valley counties had approx. 17,620 veterans but did not have a caseload to justify administrative and financial cost of VTC



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- On Sep 1, 2009, Texas created law that allowed counties to serve veterans in positive manner in courts
- Since Sep 1, 2009, Texas has 25 VTC courts
 - But map shows all VTC courts in big cities
 - Caseload in rural areas doesn't justify VTC with already overburdened court system
- In 2015, Texas allowed counties to pool together to create multi-county VTC including key staff:
 - Judge (a veteran)
 - DA/Prosecutor
 - VTC Program Coordinator (a veteran)
 - VA Case Manager
 - Probation Officer
- VTC Criteria:
 - Veteran must have been honorably discharged
 - Case cannot involve victim not protected by court system
 - Case must be Class A misdemeanor or felony that District Attorney (DA) will allow
 - Courts and DAs have discretion to apply additional criteria
- VTC Process:
 - If a veteran is arrested, law requires individual to self-identify as a veteran
 - DA will evaluate to see if the case is eligible for VTC
 - If the case is eligible, the court VTC Program Coordinator drafts a **3-phase plan** for veteran within VTC and with consultation with all VTC key staff
 - 1st phase:
 - Defendant undergoes psychological evaluation
 - Defendant appears before Judge once every 2 weeks
 - NOTE: Judge is given latitude to be less formal during appearances and can be more direct with Defendant
 - Judge will review Defendant's behavior of last 2 weeks
 - VTC Program Coordinator will adjust case plan based on successes/failures
 - All plan adjustments made with DA review/approval
 - 2nd phase:
 - Defendant appears before Judge once a month
 - Judge will review Defendant's behavior of last month
 - VTC Program Coordinator will adjust case plan based on successes/failures
 - All plan adjustments made with DA review/approval
 - NOTE: By this time, all involved know and speak to Defendant by name - which gives him/her personal attention and contributes to overall solution



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- 3rd phase:
 - Defendant appears before Judge every other month
 - Defendant eventually digs out of hole
 - Otherwise Judge has ability to "demote" Defendant down to 1st or 2nd phase or out of VTC altogether
 - Case can be dismissed with DA approval or Defendant can receive deferred adjudication and/or probation
- Challenges:
 - Lack of veterans on court staff or bench
 - Texas created a fee structure that is hard for VTC
 - Unfortunately, Defendant usually cannot make payment on fees - 40% collection rate at best
 - VTC primarily works on grant funding
 - Counties authorized to absorb costs if VTC successful
- Question and Answer:
 - Q: What can BVMCL do to support?
A: 1. Continue to provide crisis assistance to veterans;
2. Sign up to become VTC Program Coordinators (or serve as a coach for VTC Program Coordinators) for veteran Defendants in VTC, similar to Big Brother/Sister
 - Q: Is there a need for VTC court staff, such as bailiff or court reporter?
A: In order for a VTC to be viewed as successful, case must be made to county that VTC will not be a cost burden and will use court resources in the most efficient manner
 - Q: Has local VA pledged any support?
A: Brazos County Veteran Service Office and Texas Veterans Commission supporting with grant writing to obtain funding

NEW BUSINESS:

- BVMCL Scholarships
 - For the past two years, BVMCL has awarded only small \$500 scholarships
 - This year, BVMCL can award up to \$7,000 in scholarships
 - **PROPOSAL:** BVMCL has opportunity to make eight \$500 scholarships and provide an additional \$1,000 scholarship as needed
 - **DISCUSSION** (made with feedback/input from TAMU Col Jerry Smith):
 - Typically, scholarships are used to supplement lost of GI Bill
 - \$500 increments are useful; if need is great, \$500 scholarships can be "stacked" to increase total amount
 - TAMU VRSC will provide metrics to support BVMCL grant reporting requirements, such as retention, graduation rate, GPA, etc.
 - BVMCL will distribute \$1,000 earmarked for Crisis Action Fund for any needs identified over and above scholarship award
 - Commandant asked attendees if anyone was opposed to plan - **NONE NOTED.**



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- Operation MRE:
 - o Kreuz Market reported that they would support another MRE event this year
 - o **PROPOSAL:** BVMCL host another Operation MRE event in late fall, with perhaps 25-30 briskets
 - o **DISCUSSION:**
 - May require BVMCL to advertise briskets outside of inner circle
 - End of June event is unique and fall event may take away from potential sales in summer
 - o Membership in attendance undecided and will discuss further.

- Membership Dues:
 - o The following applies only to those members that are not Paid Up for Life
 - Annual membership dues renewals are due September 1
 - BVMCL annual membership dues are \$35
 - Payment may be made with cash or check
 - If by check, make check out to Brazos Valley MCL Det 1391
 - o Payments must be given to BVMCL Det Paymaster Glenn Burnside
 - o To avoid annual payment renewal, consider paying Life Membership!!!

- Outstanding Check Issue:
 - o In 2017, BVMCL wrote \$150 check to help pay for RSS College Station poolee t-shirts
 - T-Shirt vendor accepted check but immediately went out of business
 - Check still has not cleared bank
 - If check does not get resolved, Department of Texas MCL will take the money for their general fund
 - o **PROPOSAL:** Cancel check and repurpose funds for current Detachment use
 - o **Marine O. Burnside motioned for check to be canceled; Marine McGuire seconded; Regular members present voted unanimously in favor**

CLOSING CEREMONY: The meeting concluded at 20:03.

Meeting Attendees:

Olivia Burnside
Glenn Burnside
Bill Collopy
Al Diaz
Larry Farmer
Dan Graalum
Ken Graalum

Mary Jean Holcomb
Dale Hutchcraft
Don Hutchcraft
Roger Martinez
John McGuire
Maggie McGuire
Thorin Moser

Tom Powell
Rene Ramirez
Tony Rogers
Jerry Smith
Keith Stephens
Doug Tennis



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