



Brazos Valley Marine Corps League *Detachment 1391*



2012

Brazos Valley Marine Corps League Chartered

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Brazos Valley Marine Corps League (Detachment 1391) was formally inaugurated on April 14, 2012. During the inaugural meeting, the detachment officers and charter members were sworn in. The event was held at the American Legion hall in Bryan (Post 159). Officiating the meeting from the Marine Corps League were Harry Bruce (National Southern District Vice Commandant), Bob Quinn (Department of Texas Commandant), Charles Ynman (Department of Texas District 5 Vice Commandant), and David Sahm (Brazos Valley Detachment Commandant-elect). Providing support for the event were Platoon Leaders

Class (PLC) candidates from TAMU.

The charter ceremony climaxed a six month effort recruiting members and organizing activities that began in September, 2011 with initial meetings being hosted by Paul Bonarrigo at Messina Hof.

Much of 2012 was taken up getting organized. In addition to electing officers, scheduling and holding the inauguration meeting, we presented bylaws for approval by the national organization and incorporate as a non-profit within the State. We also supported a number of veteran and local charity events, as well as military funerals.



David Sahm (Brazos Valley Detachment Commandant) and Charles Ynman (Department of Texas District 5 Vice Commandant) at the Marine Corps League Detachment Charter Presentation Ceremony



Detachment meetings are normally held at C&J Barbeque, but sometimes at other sites like this meetings at the Museum of the American GI.

Representatives of the BVMCL collecting donations for a Marine with terminal cancer at the Navasota VFW

Hosting the State Fall Staff Meeting

One of the events we undertook was sponsoring the Department of Texas Fall Staff Meeting. Fortunately, we received a lot of help from the City of College Station, which provided an intern to manage registration, and published the Fall Staff Meeting brochure. The American Legion also provided the Color Guard used at the formal opening of the Staff Meeting.

The Department of Texas Fall Staff Meeting was a good learning experience and a great team building exercise for the local chapter. We also obtained considerable insight into the State organization; meeting a number of organization leaders informally at the hospitality suite we established in the hotel that hosted the meeting. We had a number of fun raisers, including a Wine

Tasting Tour at Messina Hof. After the wine tour on Friday (10/12) we had dinner at C & J Barbeque in Bryan, where we hold monthly meetings. Then Saturday night (10/13) detachment members attended the formal dinner at the hotel, where Colonel Paul Timoney (new head of TAMU NROTC) gave a presentation on the challenges facing the Marine Corps.



An Active Fall

November 10 was a full day. A few weeks earlier we were invited to attend the Grimes County Veteran's Day Parade in Navasota. Thorin Moser had a large amount of Halloween candy left over, so we had fun distributing it to the kids that came out to see the parade. After the parade, we attended a barbeque lunch at the Navasota VFW.

That night we attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Messina Hof. The evening started at 6:00 PM with a social, followed at 7:00 PM with the formal birthday ceremony and dinner at 7:30 PM. It was a rather stressful period leading up to the event because some of the members were glued to the television as TAMU

successfully defeated Alabama. Fortunately, they did manage to arrive slightly before 7:00 PM with enough time to settle in before ceremonies started.

The next weekend (11/17) we participated in the TAMU Veterans Association Tailgate. The game was a non-conference game between Sam Houston State University and Texas A & M. The TAMU Veterans Association provided barbeque to any veteran and their guests that showed up. BVMCL set up a booth to raise money for the Family Support Fund of a local Marine that was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer.

The highly successful first year then ended with a party at Benny Vallejo's home in December, with Gustavo Flores barbequing steak, sausage, and venison.