



BRAZOS VALLEY DETACHMENT #1391
August 12, 2019 Detachment Meeting Minutes

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, Inc.
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Location: Golden Corral, 700 University Dr. E, College Station 77840

Officers Present:

Commandant, Benny Vallejo; Senior Vice Commandant, Doug Tennis; Junior Vice Commandant, Thorin Moser; Paymaster, Dave Sahm; Past Commandant, Keith Stephens; Adjutant/ Web Sergeant, Ed Holcomb; Chaplain, Mary Jean Holcomb; Sergeant at Arms, Don Hutchcraft

Officers Absent:

Staff Judge Advocate, Roger Martinez; PAO/Historian, Misti Moser

OPENING CEREMONY: The meeting was called to order at 1902.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:

- Gustavo Flores was unanimously voted in as a new member of Detachment 1931.
- Demond Oliver was unanimously voted in as a new member of Detachment 1931.
- Commandant Benny Vallejo swore in Gustavo Flores and Demond Olive.

GUESTS:

- Marine George McMaster is a life member of the Marine Corps League from Sgt. Ryan Detachment 1226 in Riverview, Florida.
- Marine McMaster served at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea.
- Marine McMaster is here in Bryan to visit his daughter.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

- Minutes for the June regular meeting were read.
- Marine Tom Powell motioned for minutes to be accepted.
- Marine Keith Stephens seconded.
- Regular members present voted unanimously in favor.
- There was no meeting in July.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PAYMASTER: Report for May provided.

REPORT OF SICK/INJURED MEMBER OR FAMILY:

- Commandant Benny Vallejo reported that Bud Oliver is recovering from surgery in San Antonio.

REPORT OF OFFICERS: None

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- **MRE:**
 - o Commandant Benny Vallejo reported that the proposed deadline for members to order the Christmas briskets is November 10.
 - o After November 10 the public will be able to order briskets.
 - o The Counsel of Brazos Valley Veterans Organizations will be notified of the availability for purchase of briskets at their meeting on November 19.
 - o The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion will be notified of the availability for purchasing briskets after November 10.
 - o Marine Thorin Moser will be on KBTX to solicit sales of the briskets.
 - o Commandant Benny Vallejo reported that the goal is to sale 60 Christmas briskets.
 - o Commandant Benny Vallejo noted that if we meet the brisket goal we may be able to curtail some of the other more physically demanding fundraiser activities.
 - o Commandant Benny Vallejo recommended that we change the summer brisket sale from the Independence Day period to the Memorial Day period. This could avoid commitment conflicts that some members have encountered with the Independence Day schedule.

- **Veteran / Marine Support:**
 - o Camp Corral benefits children (ages 8-15) of veterans.
 - o Golden Corral is one of the sponsors of Camp Corral.
 - o Commandant Benny Vallejo suggested that Camp Corral might be something to which the detachment might like to provide financial support.
 - o We usually get the bulk of our "Marines in need" requests in September - February, barring a natural disaster. Many of these come from Marines/ FMF Corpsmen who have come to Texas A & M and encounter various issues (part-time jobs, rent, insurance, medical bills, food, class costs due to delayed funding coming their way or some other reason) especially when they have a family to support. Frequently, they go to the American Legion first - which has a much larger money coffer. We frequently support their efforts by contributing funds needed in excess of their limitations. In short, often either the American Legion or the VFW - who have vetting processes in place - address big expenditure needs. We support smaller requests or provide a remaining balance due to our limited resources.

- **Financial Sources:**
 - o Marine Roger Sheridan will gather information on whether requesting a grant from Brazos Valley Gives is a good way to obtain financial support for programs the detachment supports.
 - o Commandant Vallejo reported that the detachment earned \$1,500 from Chili Fest this year. The Commandant reported that Chili Fest indicated that we should receive \$2,000 next year.

- **Coming Events:**
 - o Commandant Vallejo reported that the detachment will be participating in a Chili Cook-off, to be held at the American Legion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Upcoming Calendar Events:**
 - o Aug 21: TAMU Vet Camp
 - o Sep 9: Regular Detachment meeting
 - o Oct 14: Regular Detachment meeting
 - o Oct 24-27: Fall Staff Conference in Nacogdoches
 - o Nov 4: Detachment USMC Birthday Celebration
 - o Nov 9: Place flags in Bryan City Cemetery lots 17 and 18 beginning at 0800
 - o Nov 10: Marine Corps 245th Birthday Ball at Messina Hoff

- Nov 11: Veterans Day
 - Nov 14: Pickup flags from Bryan City Cemetery
 - Nov 14: Wreath Across America ceremony at the Field of Honor in College Station
 - *No detachment regular meeting in December*
 - Dec: Operation Seatback (Kyle Field seat removal fundraiser)
 - Dec: Make-A-Smile-Happen (MASH)
 - Dec: Detachment Christmas Party
- **Program:**
- George McMaster spoke on his experiences in the Korean War.
 - The Marines didn't get winter clothing right away, which aggregated the acclimatization of the Marines which primarily came from the South and were not familiar with snow.
 - Temperatures were 30⁰F below zero.
 - They learned that snow was a good insulator.
 - C Rations were frozen. The Marines were provided Tootsie Rolls and crackers, which proved easier to eat due to the extreme temperatures.
 - Marine McMaster reported that he entered Korea weighing 185 lb. and left weighing 155 lb.
 - One good thing was that if wounded the freezing temperature immediately froze the blood, which saved a number of lives.
 - At the Chosin Reservoir there were 120,000 Chinese against 17,000 Marines.
 - Marine McMaster's unit was located at Hargaru-ri when the Chinese attack began.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Wreaths Across America:**
- Prior Commandant Keith Stephens will be the guest speaker at the Wreath Across America ceremony on November 14.
- **Veterans Day:**
- Commandant Vallejo reported that the detachment will not be participating in the Navasota Parade due to the numerous conflicting events the detachment members are already committed to attend.
 - Due to all of the conflicting Veterans Day activities scheduled for November 11, the second Monday of the month, the normal detachment meeting is moved to Monday, November 4.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: No update

CLOSING CEREMONY: The meeting concluded at 2010

Meeting Attendees:

Bill Brown	John McGuire	Roger Sheridan
Al Diaz	Maggie McGuire	Roger O. Sheridan
Gustavo Flores	George McMaster	Keith Stephens
Laura Flores	Thorin Moser	Doug Tennis
Ed Holcomb	Demond Oliver	Benny Vallejo
Mary Jean Holcomb	Tom Powell	Sherry Vallejo
Dale Hutchcraft	Darrel W Ray	John Withers
Don Hutchcraft	Teresa Ray	

Don Jalufka

David Sahn