

## **Brazos Valley Marine Corps League**

**May 10, 2021**

General Meeting at Cooper's Bar B Q

At 7:00 p.m., Sergeant-at-Arms Olivia Burnside, secured the facility and determined that all present were qualified to be so. **Cub Scouts Pack 1069** posted the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Al Diaz led the detachment in prayer. Sergeant-at-Arms Burnside declared the meeting open for the transaction of official business. A quorum was determined.

Pictures were taken of the scouts presenting the flag.

Commandant Ament welcomed everyone, noting some guests.

Commandant Ament altered the normal order of business due to the **presence of guest speaker Jeff Murski, lead for Pete Sessions in the Brazos Valley and Tom Walker, local Director for the VA Clinic in town.** Jeff indicated he was unable to attend last month due to COVID. There is a desire to facilitate local VA care. Member Jeremy Williams is meeting with DC staff at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning toward same.

Market analysis produced by the VA tells us the statistics on the horizon for this area.

The **first Veterans' Town Hall is next week in Grosbeck.** Key stake holders have been invited for input for future planning. This town hall will help lay the ground work for future town halls. We have a commitment from Congress to facilitate positive change. We are seeing lots of veterans relocating from urban areas to more rural areas and want to be prepared for those related needs.

Commandant Ament shared that there has been a surge of energy over the last twelve months. Jeremy has been instrumental at the state level. There will be a **Town Hall hosted by MCL (Marine Corps League) and the VA Center for Minority Veterans, with Doris Carter (BVMCL Information Officer) moderating the event on May 27.**

Commandant Ament recognized Pat Patterson, **a Lifetime Member who is also a Brazos County VSO.**

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Adjutant Report:** Commandant Ament asked that the minutes that had been sent out be considered for adoption. Olivia Burnside indicated a correction needed to be made: Roger Vallejo should be Roger Martinez. Ellen Fuller indicated her materials came from the Elizabeth

**DOLE** Foundation. That correction also needed to be made. Following these corrections, minutes were proposed for acceptance, seconded, and adopted.

Commandant Ament reminded all those present to **please be sure to sign in**. He also noted that Dean Mater was present, as well as his father. Dean spoke briefly thanking membership for their support.

**Paymaster Report:** Roger Martinez presented the financial report. Donations made through the Benevolence Fund were cited. It was noted that dues are coming. They are \$35 due by July 31, 2021. Our fiscal period is July 1 – June 30. If you are interested in Lifetime Membership, please talk to Roger. Motion was made by Olivia Burnside to adopt the Finance Report as presented. It was seconded by Al Diaz. Motion passed.

**Chaplain Report:** Chaplain Al Diaz reported he had been in Temple today visiting Doc Powell. He is working on his PT. Last Saturday, Al took a birthday card from the detachment. If he keeps his PT going, he will probably be able to go home next week.

**Judge Advocate Report:** Thorin Moser indicated he had nothing new to report.

**Junior Vice Commandant Report:** Pat “Red” McClung indicated he had nothing new to report. He did have something on which to comment later in the meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Sean Amo visited with us indicating they will be hosting a burial information seminar at a dinner on Tuesday, May 18, starting at 1900 at Coopers. It will be catered.

Doris Carter will be facilitating a **statewide Town Hall for veterans**. We are asking that questions focus on whatever is actionable and pertinent.

This **Friday will be Commencement at Texas A & M**. Just prior to that, at 8:30 at the Arches, we will be presenting the sword to Eric Krieger, from Hershey, PA.

**Memorial Weekend** will see various ceremonies at both the Legion and at the VFW. Flags will be distributed at the Bryan Cemetery at 8:30 for those volunteers who are interested.

**Tom Walker, Director, B/CS VA-CBOC**, shared there is a good deal of energy at his organization as they pursue serving veterans in the area. In the forthcoming months, we will be recognizing some of these folks.

**NEW BUSINESS: Fundraising Plans** – Commandant Ament lead a discussion regarding fundraising options and member discussion. It was noted that our detachment requires about **\$11,000 to fund its needs:** scholarships, meeting sites, websites, benevolence, and miscellaneous needs.

Steve drew a chart on the white board of sources of income:

Existing:

Potential New/Activities:

Seatbacks	\$ 1500	Campaign USMC Bale
Chilifest	1500	Coopers' Cornhole
Wreaths Across America	1500	Profit Shares
Brazos Valley Cares	2000	BV Bombers – Profit Share
Brazos Valley Gives	1000	Family Appreciation Day
Chamber of Commerce	1000	Park Pals
Operation MRE	1000	Radio Mash
	<u>1000</u>	
	\$ 9500	5K Run – Birthday (2022?)

1. **Seatbacks** - While pursuing seatbacks this year, we would hope to use the younger members as well as some of the cadets.
2. **Brazos Valley Cares** involves the Benevolence Fund, which are restricted funds as they can only be used through the Benevolence Fund. We will once again apply for a grant.
3. **Brazos Valley Gives** is in the fall and is an online initiative. People go out for a day of giving. As a result, we received \$900 last year. We are hoping for \$1000 this year.
4. **Brazos Valley Chamber** – Gus Flores is our liaison. There will be a function for John Anderson for Vietnam Vets on 5/22 In downtown Brazos at the Icehouse at 1800. We would hope to be in position to get some donations from the Lyons Club/ Rotary Club
5. **Operation MRE** is presently targeted for around Veterans Day.
6. **Chilifest:** Involves the removal of TPosts. There will be an abbreviated version this year at Wolf Pen; in 2022 it will be back in Snook.
7. The suggestion was made that we **go into the community to solicit donors (business)**. We can promote these sponsors on our website. Steve would like to see a committee to pursue this. If you are interested, please let him know.

Red asked: Shouldn't we have something for them to display in their businesses?

It was also suggested that we take advantage of our KBTX connection, Erica; we should ask her to mention BVMCL

8. Ellen mentioned a **Corn Hole League and suggested having a Corn Hole Challenge** (fundraiser) at \$20 a person (or \$35 per couple) at Coopers. The suggestion was also made to make available 2 tickets to the First Annual Corn Hole Championship sponsored by BVMCL. Another possible location is the parking lot of either the VFW or the Legion.
9. Local businesses like **Jersey Mikes and Cotton Patch due profit shares.**
10. Thorin Moser reported that the **Brazos Valley Bombers** have invited us to participate via two possible options. The one that appears most attractive is to have a table with handouts at the entrance to the game. We would take part in a profit share that evening. Members could work 1 or 2 hour shifts for ticket sales or in concessions. **This could be a Marine Night or a Veterans Night** and could potentially turn into an annual event. We could even have a link/note on our website such that people could order tickets through us via a code, reflecting funds that would come to us. Members appeared to be interested and approved pursuing this with Thorin taking lead. We could plug Wreaths Across America, Operation MRE, etc. at our table.
11. **Marine Poppies** – these may be offered for donation – not at a cost/price.
12. **Patches**
13. **Coins**
14. **Family Appreciation Day** – a fun day for spouses, kids, whoever, whenever, wherever?
15. **Park Pals – PetSmart** partnership enabled over 6000 stuffed animals to be donated last year. Al nominated Benny to lead on this. Benny is investigating the possibility of a drive thru at a church. There is also the possibility of visiting Help for All – free clinic, Baylor, Scott and White. Each of these organizations took a bag of stuffed animals.  
  
**Gus has a radio contact in both Spanish and English.**
16. **Radio MASH** – free PR as they interview us and advertise for us.

17. **Seatback Installation** – Discussion involved the amount we would receive per chair - \$.65 or \$.75 per chair. However, Benny indicated he had a conversation with them last year wherein he had them up to \$100 per chair.
18. Terry Cahill suggested the **5K at the Marine Corps Birthday** and suggested involving Col. Jerry Smith at A & M. Having T-shirts with business sponsors names on the back would be an idea. In a former detachment in the metroplex they earned up to \$40,000. This endeavor requires a good deal of work ahead of time (about 48 hrs. ahead) for set up. The suggestion was made to get the Corps involved and perhaps even have the event route be on the campus. The city council could also become involved. The comment was made that this might be a goal for 2022. Red made the comment that it sounded as though we might need money up front to get things going.
19. The suggestion was made to **add an auction and a raffle at the Marine Corps Birthday Celebration** in an effort to raise funds.
20. Red shared that there will be a Law Enforcement Memorial at Veterans Park at 9 a.m. this Wednesday at the Pavilion.

Thorin facilitated an award for both Benny Vallejo and Steve Ament, who donated time to support the **Pinewood Derby**.

Seven -year old Max Moser presented an appeal supporting **the Brazos County Youth Livestock Show through the 4H via the purchase of raffle tickets** (\$50 per ticket) for a Silver Spurs 2021 Gun Draw. Only 1000 tickets will be sold with 30 drawings. It is possible for a ticket to win more than once as each ticket is entered into each of the 30 drawings. Drawings begin on July 5, 2021.

Sergeant-at-Arms Olivia Burnside retired the colors. Chaplain Al Diaz led the detachment in prayer. Senior Vice Glen Saunders appreciated everyone's participation and being here tonight. He further indicated we can't grow without membership assistance. Let other veterans know about BVMCL and encourage them to join. Sergeant-at-Arms Burnside declared the meeting closed at 8:38 p.m. until the June 14, 2021, meeting.

