

Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment #924

Marine Corps League

Minutes of Meeting of

Tim Eichhorn, Commandant

Date: 27th November 2018.

Location: Naval Operations Center, Marine Corps Reserve Center, Knoxville, TN.

27 members were present.

Sandwiches and drinks were provided by Ken DeBoer. Ham with goat cheese and red pepper jelly.

Call to order: Commandant Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 18h30, with a joint session with the MCLA. He ordered Sgt-At-Arms to Advance and Post the Colors, and to lead the membership in The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Chaplain Rich led us in the opening prayer.

Kathy Winters: Wreaths across America is the 15th of December. A couple of things have changed. I didn't change them. The Fire Department is now responsible for unloading the truck. So those of you who use to come and help us, it is no longer the Young Marines responsibility. The Young Marines will be out there helping. Some of you have bought wreath to go to different cemetery. I do not know what time those will be available. The communication has been somewhat lacking. The ceremony is still at 12h00. It's at 12h00 all over the United States. David Hatfield is still providing the music for us and Larry (Winters) is presenting the Marine Corps wreath. I am still collecting money. (Hat was passed and \$17.00 was collected.) Anyone who would like to donate to Wreaths Across America. The Young Marines have done really well. I have one YM, who is actually a recruit who has sold 105 wreaths. I don't know how he did it.

The Seymour Christmas Parade is a week from Saturday. We'll be out there collecting Toys for Tots. David is letting us use the float. If any of you would like to come out, we would certainly love to have you. The Young Marines and the Marine Reserve will be collecting toys from by standers. The 22nd the Young Marines are having a Christmas Party. You're not invited but you're welcome to come.

I'd like to tell you about someone you may know Dan Long. Dan was the Commandant of the Allan Ray Chaffin Detachment (#1329) down in Alabama. The Tennessee Regiment of the Young Marines is kind of weird because it includes North Alabama. Dan was the commander of the East Alabama Young Marines. The Battalion Commander down there. And the XO of the Tennessee Regiment. He was also the liaison of the Department of Alabama and the Young Marines. Dan died on Friday. Great Guy.

Pearl Rich: Toys for Tots. I have two lists. And one name, on several spots on both lists. That's not going to cut it. We have made this pledge; we have made this promise that we are going to help. I can't do it by myself. So, I am going to pass this around again. The Auxiliary Ladies you have one of the lists. One is for sorting, that goes from 12/10 to 12/14. That's going to go and help sort out the toys. There are two times that you can go. The next one is extremely important, is the distribution of the toys to the families. That does not mean you are going out

of the warehouse. That means you are going to asst when they come to pick up their toys. It's going to be the 12/17 through 12/20. Commandant: she is asking for 4 hour shifts.

Happy Birthday was sung to Vern Tassey and Ken DeBoer.

Vern Tassey: North Knoxville Young Marines were over at the Big Lots, Saturday. And we had quite a few of the North Knoxville Young Marines. And we had three or four in recruit t-shirts. Somewhere in there \$600.00 was donated. Big Lots really appreciated what we did. So, we turned around and filled five baskets. And the toys and material were turned in to Toys for Tots. And the 2-300 dollars change. I didn't count it. I'm sure the folks at Big Lots will want us back.

Commandant Eichhorn asked Sgt-At-Arms to declare the meeting open for the transaction of official business. 18h40.

Commandant Eichhorn proceeded to recognize dignitaries in attendance. Past Detachment Commandants Dave Hatfield, George Sexton, Bill Henson, Jeff Tegzes, Howard Raines (&MI), Jim Williams.

Adjutant called the Roll of Detachment Officers:

Commandant: Tim Eichhorn	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant: Travis Bryan	Present
Junior Vice Commandant: Sam Ruble	Present
Judge Advocate: David Z. Cates	Excused
Junior Past Commandant: Jim Williams	Present
Adjutant: Eric P. Nash	Present
Paymaster: Lee Rhinemiller	Excused
Chaplain: Pearl Rich	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms: John "Stony Saathoff	Present
Web Sergeant: Tim Shea	Present

Introduction of new members and guests:

You have been in contact with Lee and getting your paperwork together, and when he gets back will get you started.

Robert Willis: I served 1967 to 1989. I told my recruiter I wanted to wait till after Christmas to go. December 26th I was on my way to San Diego. 3381 Food Services. Went to UNC to collage. Works for the Marriott most of the time. Drove a truck for a short time. I got tired of food service. I retired in Indianapolis and moved down here.

1. Adjutant's Report: Eric Nash. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as read.
 - a. Americanism: A lot of events took place in the last month. Lots of Veterans events. If you have anything from Veterans events around the area school, please get them to me. If you have, pictures please get them to me. If you have not got my E-mail address, call me on the number and I will give it to you. And a caption to tell me what it was.

2. Junior Vice Commandant: Sam Ruble. Bring a toy to the Christmas Breakfast. New and unwrapped. It's not too late to sign up.
3. Sr. Vice Commandant: Travis Bryan. Help us take down. And take things back to the locker.
4. Chaplin: Pearl Rich.
 - a. Toys for Tots. And I thank you for your participation.
 - b. I spoke with Leroy Brown. We discussed Christmas Baskets, and what I have been told is they take a couple of baskets to Ben Atchley (Veterans Home). To a couple of members out there. And to our members who have passed away, we would like to remember their families. And anyone who you think would benefit from this. You all need to work with me and help to decide who to give them too. Nash: Question Pearl. How soon do you want to get this done? By the 1st?
 - c. Commandant: Pearl what would you like to get done by the 1st? Rich: Tonight, I would like you to designate how many baskets and to who. By the 31st the names of those to get baskets. And by the 1st the names of those plan to distribute them.
 - d. Commandant: Ok here is what we're going to do. I'm going to take a pause here and rely on the floor for some guidance. Sgt Maj (Hatfield) help, us out here.
 - e. Hatfield: I have a clip board here with four names on it. I am going to pass it around. If you have another name you think we ought to contact to see if they want a Christmas basket put it down.
 - f. Commandant: What it is a fruit basket with maybe some sweets in it. And I'd like at least two Marines to help Pearl deliver them. And visit. And if you would like to help deliver. Put your name and phone number at the bottom of the list and put delivery.
5. Paymaster report: I am going to give you the Paymaster report and my report as Commandant.
 - a. The detailed breakdown of the report of the paymaster is on file with the official copy of the minutes and available upon request by members in good standing.
 - b. The Mud Run was a success.
 - c. We left the Officer meeting on the 11th and we wrote checks. Wreaths across America, \$500.00. Women's Marines Association, \$500.00. This unit donated to the Young Marines, both units Young Marines North and Young Marines Bonnyman, \$2,000.00 each. This went out of our revenue. We also sent \$1,000.00 each to hurricane relief to the Dept. of North Carolina and Dept. of Florida. For storm recovery from the floods. If my addition is about right, we just put out \$7,000.00. Hatfield: Wounded Warriors (Regiment) got their check too. Commandant: Sgt Maj what was the amount? Hatfield: We did \$2,000.00 this year. \$1,800.00 was collected off the mud run site and we made up the difference of \$200.00. Commandant: So, \$2,000.00 also went out of our treasury to the Wounded Warriors. When runners come to sign up for the Mud Run, they are asked if they want to donate to the Wounded Warriors. And as Sgt Maj said we made up the difference.

- d. Howard Raines: Remember the time you said we weren't going to make it?
Commandant: Yea! Sit down! What Tunnel Rat is giggling me on, and he has the right to gig me on is. Is in June when the Mud Run was left without a Captain. Without a Mud Run Coordinator. As your Commandant I guess I'll do it that's not a problem. I had no idea what went in to the Mud Run. What went on behind the scene. Brian Hudgens had done such a good job the year before. And everybody, looking backwards to Gene Collins, to Virgil Young. So many people I am leaving out. I come in to the July Officers Meeting and I said, I don't know about you, but we should just shut this down in September and do it in the Spring in April. So, we can have time to do it. And every one of these from Jeff Tegzes to Tunnel Rat to Sgt Maj Hatfield to Lee Rhinemiller said to go ahead it. It would be fine. I think Sam Ruble and I look at each other and said this is crazy. But to Tunnel Rat, Yes you were right. How's that? But yes you were right. Jim Williams was in on that also. That's the Paymaster report.
6. Commandant's Report: Tim Eichhorn.
- a. The bill at the Bearden Banquet Hall has been paid also. For those who came out thank you. Capt. Torres. The I&I here, talked to us that evening. He brought his wife and infant. His young son. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful evening. Everyone likes the shrimp in addition to the prime rib. So, you can thank my wife for that working with the Bearden Banquet Hall. Thanks again for coming out. And once again if you're wondering where some of our money goes. We charge each Marine \$15.00, but it's a \$30.00 a head meal. That kind of where some of the other money went. So, thanks for your participation on the 10th. And I apologize to Jim Williams for the pace of the Marine Corps Hymn that night. Cause poor fellow couldn't keep up with it.
 - b. I also want to say as your Commandant. I am cross attached to the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (ETVMA). The Memorial we built in Worlds Fair Park we built 10 years ago. At a cost of 2.5 million dollars. It cost \$45 to \$50 thousand depending on what we do. We just spent \$24,000.00 installing new light for the 10th Anniversary. Which was, 15 November. But if you know the name Lowell Russell. Lowell was a recently elected State Representative from District 21; Monroe County and South Loudon County. Lowell was the big brother to Frankie Watson. Frankie Watson was LCpl Frankie Watson and when you go out this evening, on the right. He is one of two Marines, he and Cpl Daniel Christopher Greer from this unit that have died in the last decade. Lowell came along and helped us to celebrate. If you ever get a chance to meet Lowell or read his book *Trial by Fire*. About the Marine we lost. The 21 year old Marine, this community loss, the Marine Corps loss. Delta Company loss. It's a story you want to catch hold of.
 - c. Toys for Tots. Pearl, thank you again. If you can help out with that please donate four hours of your day.
 - d. As you Commandant also at the last Officers Meeting. We did set all the dates for the next year. From Mud Run to Dinning-In, in the Spring. To the Birthday in

November and the Christmas Breakfast. So, it's all on the calendar now and whoever takes over as Commandant, that slate is ready for them as far as dates.

- e. As I look around were a little light on attendance tonight, our attendance is down about ten tonight. Ken, I do want to thank you again for the food. Whether you are in a youth ministry at a church or a bunch of Marines they will come. Next time not a sloppy night. I do need you to think, I need you to look around. It takes a number of people to make this Detachment run, the Marine Corps League to run. It takes a number of people to make this Detachment to run well. And this Detachment does run well, because of the body, it runs well. When we have something come up, we have many hands on that pull on the rope. Many hands to row the boat. And I am thankful for that. It makes sitting up at this table for an hour, Hour and half a much easier job. And there are some folks here who carry more than their share of the weight. I personally and we corporately are very thankful. However, we are getting ready to enter 2019. And we need people to step up into leadership roles. Jim Williams needs to know if you are willing to serve in an Officers role in this detachment. It is good that we turn over officers. It is good that we change out leadership. But it is also good that we have people who are willing to step up and take those roles. As Marines, you know we could jokingly say when two Marines are together, we try and figure out who is senior. But that's true. But as Marines we also don't back away from challenges. Running this detachment or being leadership in this detachment can be challenging at times. But it also very rewarding, just based on some of the things this detachment does. Delivering baskets to fellow Marines. To welcoming each other when we get together as Marines. To working with young people like Vern and Larry and the rest of the folks do with the Young Marines. To supporting Delta Company here. So, this is a really good detachment, we need leadership here. We need you to step up. You may have had your turn at the barrel at one time. I respect that. It's OK to take another turn at the barrel. I throw that out there. Please do not be shy. Put your name in a hat for a position. It's very important that we have people step forward. Drafting people for positions is really not a very good way to go about things. We all recognize that.
 - f. Any question for your Commandant or your officers? Jim, Stony anyone in that area? Stony Saathoff: No report. Williams: None.
 - g. Larry anything from the ships store? No. There are more Mud Run T-shirts over there. Please make those go away. Buy 'em and give them away. Whatever. If you think about it, it's a donation. Whatever you offer Larry for it, he'll take it. We need to make them go away and whatever comes in on it go into the kitty. And give them to your son, daughter, grandson, wife, whatever. That's it for reports.
- 7. New business: What do I have?
 - 8. Strategic Planning: Dave Hatfield:
 - a. Anyone been to Camp Kinser? (several Marines acknowledge). Next Medal of Honor Dinner will honor Albert Kinser, in his name. I'm going to go up and visit

the Elbert Kinser Detachment in Greenville in a couple of weeks, for their meeting. Hopefully going to get that entire Detachment down here to Knoxville. For that Medal of Honor Dinner. Especially when I show them the coins that they get for coming to the dinners.

- b. My report for the National Scholarship Program. A brief run down.
 - i. We got 280 applications.
 - ii. We approved 204.
 - iii. However only 141 provided proof of enrollment in collage. So those names are now posted on the National web site. I put the name of the college or university they are attending and the Detachment number.
 - iv. Each to receive \$550.00 each.
- 9. Commandant: As SgtMaj mention Elbert Kinser he will be the honoree. There are 14 Medal of Honor recipients from East Tennessee. He is the next up, to be honored at the ETVMA Spring Banquet. The director of the Marine Corps History Division at Quantico is researching Marine Kinser. And he will be giving the presentation that night. It should be a really good evening. It will be the first Monday in May (6th).
- 10. Junior Past Commandant: Jim Williams.
 - a. Commandant talked about the officers up coming. In January. Since I have not had anyone jump up to go for Commandant. I am going for Commandant again.
 - b. If you have been talked to by me, you are on my list. However. Think about it, talk among your self's. And we will take nominations from the floor and you do not have to be present to win. We will be voting in January. Just be ready in January. For the guys that have been here a while know, it's every January.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Nash: As you know we are always looking for Marines to do ceremonies. Red Jackets. Dress Blue Trousers. So, when your kids come up to you and ask what do you want for Christmas? This year look in the Marine Corps Gazette and say I would like my red Jacket. Or I would like the Dress Blue Trousers. Birthday, same thing. Use this as an opportunity to get what you need for your Marine Corps League Uniform and show your pride.

Unknown: My wife mentioned at the Marine Corps Birthday Dinner how nice your wife was. And how much it meant to the ladies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hatfield: Next month 3rd December we have a Devil Dog Growl. We need to set the dates for next year so be there please. Calhoun's is not happy if we do not have enough dogs show up, they may start charging us for the Growl's.

Have we decided on the Officers Meeting? Talking to Pearl we can finalize the Christmas baskets and who's going to do what visiting. And she can contact those people prior to the Officers Meeting.

Commandant: That will be December 10th.

Tegzes: I have one item that might be confusing on Toys for Tots. They have an item listed as sorting. I have never done distribution, but I have done sorting. What they do is they have an enormous pile of toys they put in the middle of the warehouse, and they need to be sorted by age. And at the warehouse they have boxes around the perimeter and you sort them by age. You pick up a toy you figure if it's for an infant, a two-year-old or a ten year old, a girl or a boy. It's not rocket science. There is no right or wrong answer you just sort them out the best you can. But it takes a lot of time because there is a load of toys comes into that warehouse. You've not seen anything like it. It really takes a lot of time. There a lot of days down there for sorting but they are going to need all of them. As far as distribution I have never really done it.

Eric Nash: Pearl Harbor Remembrance 7th December, at the Lyons View, East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. It's been 77 years since that sneak attack, on that Sunday morning. America said we would never forget. We need to show up and show we never forget. There are one or two Pearl Harbor Veterans around. Let us show up in our red jackets, Covers and remember. Usually goes at 11h00 so be there at 10h00.

Rich: I was going to talk about distribution. What I was told by Sgt Metts; was that the four days we had that families would be able to pick up. Because they had everything ready for them. But that there would be families that did not get all their list in and they would be able to come in and have not been assembled for the family. We would be putting those baskets together for the families. It's going to be a long day. All four days, and all five days. But I do appreciate your sign ups and we will bring a lot of joy to lot of kids.

End of Meeting: Commandant asked for a moment of silence and remembered Dan Long. Sgt-At-Arms retired the colors. Chaplain led us in the closing prayer. Commandant Eichhorn adjourned the meeting at **19h15**.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Eric P. Nash
Detachment Adjutant**