

Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment #924

Marine Corps League

Tim Eichhorn, Commandant

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 29 August 2017, 18h30.

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

Presentation prior to the meeting:

- Walter Taylor passed out copies of Leatherneck with the story of his brothers Medal of Honor battle.
- Larry and Kathy Winters: Virgil Young was recognized by the Young Marines for his years of service. He has recently announced his stepping down, and will no longer be with the Young Marines. Virgil became a Young Marine Adult Leader in 1998. He was the commanding Officer of the Bonnyman Young Marines from 2003 to 2016. Under his tutelage the Bonnyman Young Marines became one of the best Units in the Nation and was the Top Young Marine unit 2014-2015. He became the Tennessee Regimental Commander in 2012 to 2017, and during that time he formed the North Knoxville Unit. He is the Young Marines School Director; he has trained hundreds of young Marines at Senior Leadership Training and Junior Leadership Training. YM from all over the Country came to the school because of Virgil. He was the Divisional Executive Officer from 2014 to now. He a marksmanship safety officer and a range safety officer and he is the one that started our marksmanship program here. He holds a Silver Presidential Service Award. The recipient of the Distinguished Order of Merit which he received in 2015. It is the highest award a young Marine Adult or Youth can receive. For demonstrating by superlative example the values of our program.

Virgil is working with the State Department in Mexico training their law enforcement down there, and he is down there all the time. He is relocating Virginia outside Washington D.C. with his wife. Where his son, and grandchildren are.

He was a Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. A platoon leader in Viet Nam. An Agent with the FBI for over 20 years, and the Special Agent in Charge in Knoxville.

Virgil Young: My wife fell two weeks ago, and sprung a knee. It took her 2 hours to get to a phone. She has a pendant now. But that got us to thinking. We have a grandson, the oldest one in the 8th grade and will be graduating in 4 years. This would be a good time to get closer to my son and daughter and grandchildren, near Washington. And it

would be easier to fly out of there than Knoxville that connects to nowhere. So we will be moving in 6 to 9 months. I have so enjoyed working with the Young Marines and the League here since we got this going in 1994. Thank you so much. I know we are leaving the Young Marines in good hands.

Ladies left the meeting.

Call to order: Commandant Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 18h40, and 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.

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

Commandant Eichhorn proceeded to recognize dignitaries in attendance.

Adjutant called the Roll of Detachment Officers:

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

Acting Officers:

Applications for membership: None.

Introduction of new members and guests

OLD BUSINESS:

Adjutant's Report

- A. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as posted.
- B. Correspondence received
- C. Report of the Officers:
 - a. Commandant: Tim Eichhorn.

- I served as an escort on the last Honor Air Flight. And we enjoyed the Post flight breakfast get together. I want to share with you, as a Marine. If you are a Viet Nam Veteran, or you have someone close to you that is a Viet Nam Veteran, I encourage you to sign up for an Honor Air Flight. As a Desert Storm Iraq Freedom Veteran, as an infantry officer, thank you. My Father in Laws name is on the Viet Nam wall. You honor me by letting me be an escort.
 - The wall that heals will be here in October.
 - Received a card of thanks from the (Ken) Valentine Family. For participating in his funeral. When there is a call to help, or participate. It means a lot to that family, pay it forward by helping. It was a first class affair. Sgt Maj Hatfield as the Ring Leader to be able to hand rifle casing it was first class.
 - Virgil (Young) thank you officially from this chair. You are a plank owner here.
- b. Sr. Vice Commandant: Travis Bryan
- New Veterans Student Center at UT. Opening is scheduled for Nov 17. It's in the bottom of the Library.
- c. Junior Vice Commandant: James B. Cotton, excused.
- d. Judge Advocate: David Z. Cates, excused.
- e. Junior Past Commandant: Jim Williams.
- We are having a military style rifle match at TWRA rifle range.
 - No pistol matches at TWRA. All pistol matches will be at Camp Bonnyman.
 - There was an incident at Camp Bonnyman. Someone shot over the burm and hit a house. Three times. The range is shut down until correction can be made.
 - Jay Holmes will handle the pistol shoot registrations. VA wanted me to stop shooting. I will cont to handle the registration for rifle shoot.
- f. Strategic Planning –Dave Hatfield. Post National Convention report.
- No by-laws were approved due to them not being posted on the internet by the due date, (1 May). Because we were ready to protest. And they were grossly late. And the new by laws that were reduced from 250 pages down to 25 pages. They were not approved either. They were made to follow the rules.
 - Streamer for participation was presented.
 - The Detachment placed first in the Americanism contest, battalion level. Presentation of the plaque was made to the Historian Eric Nash by Commandant Eichhorn.
 - Just a couple of items. I will give the nitty gritty report at the Department
 - Hired a contractor to write a new program, that the MCL can use and you can use later. They are going to start with a small Division, Central Division to begin with Paymaster and Commandants first, can go online and update their

records. It comes with a cost, \$2,400 dollars a year, then \$1,500.00 a month. We bought this program before in Mobile for \$40 K. Do we own it no. We just rent it.

- Paid Life Members for the last 2 years half of it has gone to National because it was broke. He Paid life member fund is now at \$4 Million, we made \$570,000 interest.
- The building fund is \$1.4 Million, in that separate fund. So far we have made 10% interest.
- The new magazine is well accepted. The articles are more about Marine Corps League Members.
- National internet problem is no longer on dial up. It now has a dedicated line.
- If you tell USAA insurance you are a member of the League the MCL gets \$50.00. If you are a new customer.
- Video on the start of National web site.
- We are going to change from dress shoes to black shoes with the uniform.
- National will send out a renewal notice if they have an e-mail address.
- USC is still hot on converting USMC films to digital. Old training films from WW-II on.
- The Eagle Scout certificate program. Tennessee was second in the Nation with 374. Pennsylvania was first with 500.
- MODD gave the local Children's hospital in Kansas City, with a check for \$50,000 donation from passport fees.
- 2018 National Convention will be in Buffalo New York at the Hyatt Regency. There are only 350 rooms at the main hotel. 2019 in Billings Montana. The state capital. Population 100,000.
- We have new flag staff for the Detachment. With heavy duty threads.
- Legislative committee: If you know of any WW II Veteran, who's award should have been higher. Especially, Asian pacific soldiers, to be upgraded alive or deceased.
- My committee, The National Scholarship Committee received 250 applications; so far we have and approved 158. Approximately \$500. 61 left a block blank. Winners will now have to prove to me that they are enrolled.

g. Adjutant: Eric P. Nash, no further report.

h. Paymaster: Lee Rhinemiller

- 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.
- We are solvent.
- Received a 3 page letter from the Army. And have accounted that we still have the Color Guard rifles.
- Currently 14 Marines delinquent to last July (2016). We will probably lose some of these.

- 29 members paid up till Friday. We will probably have to invoice everyone once a year.
 - Currently 75 life member and 73 regular members.
 - i. Chaplain: Pearl Rich.
 - Happy to be back and getting stronger.
 - Remember Gen Vadeboncoeur and Vern Tassey.
 - j. Sergeant-At-Arms: John Saathoff, no report.
 - k. Web Sergeant: Tim Shea.
 - The new web site is up and operational.
 - Go to the old site to get to the new. MCLknoxville .org
 - The old web site will be maintained for several months.
 - If you have something of interest to post on the home page send to the Web Sgt.
 - One of the things I put on there was the uniform. Uniforms for dummies.
- F. Report of Project Leaders and/or Committee Reports
- a. Young Marines- Virgil Young
- ❖ Young Marines Lt Alexander Bonnyman Unit: Larry Winters.
 - We have been really busy with Veterans events over the last month. Last weekend we were at the NRA banquet where there were over 400 people. We helped them run things and provided the color guard.
 - The range. We know what we have to do to make correction the County wants us to do. I have paid to make the repairs to the house was hit.
 - We have 32 volunteers for the Mud Run. SgtMaj has the list.
 - Fly in on the 9th. 10h00 to 14h00. Followed by an encampment.
 - We are scheduled for activities through January.
 - We had a request. About a young man who always wanted to be a Marine. We requested from National to make this young man a young Marine. Hospice in New Tazewell has a 15 year old that is terminal. He is not expected to make it past the 23rd of this month. We will be making him an honorary Young Marine Saturday.
 - ❖ Young Marines North Knoxville Unit: Vern Tassey, excused.
- b. Veterans Service Officer / VAVS – Tom Humphries
- G. Unfinished Business from previous meetings.
- Dave Hatfield: The picnic is scheduled for the last weekend in September?
Commandant: Have no update.
 - Last meeting the Quartermaster said he was dying and he may not be back. Has anyone heard from him? Pearl Rich: I have not.
 - Commandant: Mud Run? Brian Hudgens: Anyone who has not volunteered yet need to fill out a form. Those who have volunteered you will probably get a call next week. Eric Nash: When does construction begin? A: Tuesday before the race.
 - Commandant: Angela Godel came by tonight. She has brought items of Laimon she is willing to let go of. We will have them available at the ships store for a donation.

- Safety Breaks – Howard Raines: I have three days I need to finish filling.
- Howard Raines: Wall that Heals. RVN. It will be here October 4th through the 8th. Lyndhurst Cemetery. People come out and make rubbings. This is not allowed on this wall. Address will be taken and the names and sent to D.C. to be made from the Wall. I have 11 volunteers. Does anyone else want to volunteer? It will be open 24 hours a day and be staffed at all time. We will be there on Sunday from 12h00 to 16h00. Training will be on Wednesday before. Opening ceremony will be at 10h00 on Thursday. Commandant: A wreath laying will take place at that time. I will get with Howard and figure out the details. Tim Shea: The web site will have details on it. Howard: Read the poem “50,000 Names”.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Howard Raines brought to me that Patrice Collins with ETMAC who does so much with the Veterans is raising \$6,000.00 for a trip to Viet Nam with History Tours. She has been invited to go on.

Motion: Howard Raines: Motion to donate \$250 to the Go Fund account of Patrice Collins. To raise money for her to go to Viet Nam with Veterans. 2nd Jim Williams. Passed by voice vote.

10 November Bonnyman Birthday Ball.

- Commandant: There is a monster storm going through Texas. Earlier in the year we donated \$1,000.00 dollars to the Red Cross for the Gatlinburg fire. The question came from Jeff Tegzes.

Motion: Howard Raines: To send \$1,000. 00 to the Red Cross for the Houston Texas flood relief. 2nd Tim Shea. Passed by voice vote.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

Leatherneck Page 33 the story of Carl Taylor Medal of Honor.

Walter Taylor: I knew nothing about the Corps when my brother said lets go in. Going into the Marines at the same time as my brother did. 15 Jan 1959. I am standing here he is not. It is in our bible. What I call our bible (holds up Leatherneck). Carl was 6’2”, 237 pounds. That was going into recruit training. I was under weight by about two pounds. So our recruiter said, you eat his meals and make sure he eats nothing. We did we fought like cats and dogs on the way to Paris Island. We got through it. Through all those days Carl picked up what I thought was the epitome of a Marine. I tried to emulate him. I think I did. Carl was on 881, the GySgt of 3/26. He came off of 881, Operation Taylor Comet, where they ran into heavy opposition, NVA. He lost his life bring back wounded Marines to the lines. He lost his life saving 26 men, one by one. He did do away with two machine guns during that time. He went back out looking for more men and lost his life to a machine gun nest. I have lived my life to be a Marine like I think Carl would have wanted to. I think I did. At least I retired as one. He’s my Hero. I recently went to

Quantico, last week. I came out of the 881 mock up and I met a man who said I am the curator of this museum. He asked, are you this man's brother? I said, yes I am. There on the mock up of the bunker on 881. Was the morning report, that he sent back to his commanding officer from that morning in his hand writing. That was enough for me. Further on was a wall with the pictures of all the Medal of Honor recipients. I chuckled my wife said, Is that all? I said that is just the Marine Corps recipients. She began to realize there was a lot more to him than she thought. We don't post the Army and Navy in our museum. So yes I keep his memory alive. I told the curator I would send him a copy of the film I saw a few years back. About the tribute to my brother, and the film, of the dedication of the Independence Cemetery, where he is buried. And I would send him anything else I had relating to the Medal of Honor his life. So possibly in the future you may see these items at the museum. I thank you.

He was big; he was so big they did not have enough of the new camouflage uniform to fit him. The only thing that bigness did not do for him was he could not out run me. I could out run his big butt. So I could out run him every time we had a fight. And we fought like cats and dogs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

End of Meeting: Sgt-At-Arms retired the colors. Chaplain led us in the closing prayer. Commandant Eichhorn adjourned the meeting at **19h50. Next meeting 26th of September 2017.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Eric P. Nash
Detachment Adjutant**