

**Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment #924**  
**Marine Corps League**  
**Minutes of Meeting of 26 March 2019**  
Jim Williams, Commandant

**Time: Location:** Karns Youth Center, Karns, TN

**Presentation prior to the meeting:**

I've got an apology to make to people not necessarily on purpose. After mid-winter I spent three days in the VA Hospital. We had a saying in Nam. We wrote it on our helmets and on our lighters. "To really live till, you must nearly die". I did not know how close I was. If it was not for one person I would not be here. I had planned to go home. But I was aggravated in to going to the hospital all the way from Mid-Winter. And I don't let anybody drive my truck but I let him. So I want to thank Dave Hatfield for aggravating me back to the VA Hospital. I would never made it back they said. They are still looking into what made me sick.

The MCLA departed for their meeting.

**Call to order:** Commandant Williams called the meeting to order at 18h35, 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 Gordon led us in the opening prayer. Commandant Williams asked Sgt-At-Arms to declare the meeting open for the transaction of official business. Commandant Williams proceeded to recognize dignitaries in attendance.

**Adjutant called the Roll of Detachment Officers:**

Commandant: Jim Williams	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant: Travis Bryan	Present
Junior Vice Commandant: David Terwell	Present
Judge Advocate: David Hatfield	Present
Junior Past Commandant: Tim Eichhorn	Present
Adjutant: Eric P. Nash	Present
Paymaster: Lee Rhinemiller	Present
Chaplain: Gordon Adams	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms: John "Stony Saathoff	Excused
Web Sergeant: Tim Shea	Excused
Acting Officers: Bill Mullaly acting Sgt at Arms.	

**Applications for membership:** Commandant Williams:

Lee Rhinemiller: Has DD-214 and paid dues. Ronald J. Naugle, Navy Corpsman. From Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. I joined the Navy so I wouldn't be shot at. So the U.S. Navy sent me to Viet Nam two times as a Corpsman. First time was with Lima 3/26, 1<sup>st</sup> MarDiv. While in Japan a Marine Corps Colonel was looking for men with at least 4 month combat experience. For Volunteer Combined Action Platoon, serving in the villages and hamlet near Hoi An. I don't remember volunteering, so he must have volunteered me. So I went back a second time with 2<sup>nd</sup> Combined Action Group, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Amphibious Force. I was fortunate to return home many of my friends didn't. I married the daughter of a Master Gunnery Sergeant. Since I was an

E-5, she has more stripes on her pajamas than I do. I went to school and I taught for two years. Then we went to England where I pastored a military church for three years. And we just finished our 30<sup>th</sup> year of doing missionary work in Africa. It looks like we're going to be home permanently now. So I want to be a member of the Marine Corps League so I can still be sure you guys are taking your malaria pills, and cleaning the crappers.

Accepted by voice vote. Sworn in By Dave Hatfield. Lapel pin was issued.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Adjutant's Report: Eric Nash.
  - a) Minutes of previous meeting accepted as posted on the web site.
- 2) Correspondence received. None.

**Report of the Officers:**

- 3) Paymaster Lee Rhinemiller:
  - a) Mud Run finances have been closed out for 2018.
  - b) 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.
  - c) Annual membership dues. We need to get our 2020 dues in. The payment date is 1<sup>st</sup> September. So across the Nation the Marine Corps League National is going to process all dues in September. I am going to do something new this year. When National changed all the dues to 9/1, they stopped sending out notices. We're going to send out an invoice. It just makes sense to get that reminder.
  - d) The Dine-in is 12<sup>th</sup> April. We have got a real nice menu. It is steak and shrimp. Looks like everything is in place. We had 14 signed up. Started a calling campaign. I came into the meeting tonight with 50 signed up.
  - e) Hatfield: We are going to have an introduction to the new I&I First Sgt. And he is going to tell us about the Marine Corps of today.
  - f) 6<sup>th</sup> April is the Department Spring Conference in Smyrna Tennessee. This is an opportunity for some of you to go and see what happens around the League.
  - g) 30<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June is the 38<sup>th</sup> Department Convention.
    - i) The registration forms are on the web site.
    - ii) Working on a full page ad.
    - iii) We will be asking you if you want to be delegates to the Convention.
  - h) 6<sup>th</sup> May is the Medal of Honor Dinner. The Detachment is being listed as a \$1000.00 donor and will be listed in the program. We have one seat left at the table.
  - i) Safety Break this week end. Howard you can breathe easy. We have you two bodies for Sunday.
  - j) The new venue. We hear some rumblings. Too far to drive. We don't like it. We pretty hard to get a place to meet. We did not have a lot of choices. Physical layout it pretty good. Somebody has a better idea will listen to you.
  - k) Will you have the microphones so we can hear? The new microphones arrived this afternoon, and I did not have time to take them out of the box.
  - l) We need some bodies for the Honor Guard. We picked one up tonight. At the meeting in May, we will have a training session with the rifles. Jeff has a lot of people who have not had a lot of experience. It gets mighty tough to get seven guys out together.
  - m) If you go to buy items for the League. Purchaser must use sales tax exemptions.

- i) Howard Raines: You can't just walk in with the tax exempt paper. A: That's correct.
  - ii) Raines I was told you had to take it to corporate.
- 4) Chaplain Gordon Adams: Gave report on status of Joe Edelman.
  - a) Williams: Joe wants visitors. Go see him.
  - b) If you go to the Ben Ashley Veterans home you need to check in at the front desk before going to visit a resident.
  - c) Remember Frank Waller.
- 5) Jr. Vice Commandant David Terwell:
  - a) I am working on trying to collate our membership and going through and calling members who have not been here in quite some time. Following up with personal letters.
  - b) Trying to update our data sheet. Which needs to be updated.
- 6) Judge Advocate David Hatfield:
  - a) I have been to LA to the Expo. Mid Winter in Fredericksburg. And down to Charleston for the South East Convention. I will try to run through quickly. My report is actually an hour and half. So if you got any question see me later or you can come to Smyrna and hear the whole report.
  - b) This is the dismal convention book from Charleston. We paid \$100.00 for an ad for Bonnyman. Very poor printing.
  - c) Start with the National report. Next year we are going to Norfolk Virginia. Very near the Naval ship yard.
  - d) The final report of 2018 showed that the MCL alone has performed over 10,000 funerals. The Commandant was at the banquet and he was impressed because his Marines are only providing two Marines to a funeral. We just did one this past month for David Cates father in law who was a fallen Marine. We are going to talk to the Marines down at the Reserve Center on the importance of Col Joe Edelman. And that he was a past commanding officer there.
  - e) Morgan Stanley reported 4.9% interest off the old National Headquarters building. National Headquarters is still paying us for the loan we gave them. Still going to pay us 3% for the loan we gave them for the building.
  - f) The red blazer is no longer available at the ships store. Hardwick was bought out by another company and no longer makes red blazers.
    - i) J.C. Penny's Stafford blazer on line. You can go by Penny's and try on the coat to get your right size. It's not in store.
    - ii) Cost is \$79 to \$98 dollars depending on your size.
    - iii) National still has a stock pile of blazers. \$50.00 with buttons. They may have your size.
    - iv) Hardwick wash and wear is \$110.00.
    - v) J.C. Penny's has 4 buttons. National change the rules to 3 or 4 buttons. Need to order additional buttons. Ship store is looking at four button packs.
  - g) At the last National Convention there was a proposal for Charleston for a National Convention in 2020. We rejected that proposal, because it was \$157.00.
    - i) We are now going to Daytona Beach Florida in 2020. With taxes and parking its \$145.00 a night for a suite. 6<sup>th</sup> August through 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

- ii) Major remodel was just completed. It's on the beach. No over flow hotel. It's that big.
- iii) We rejected Tulsa Oklahoma bid.
- h) Veterans for Warriors Organization. A 24 hour a day hot line, staffed by experts. It's like a suicide prevention hotline. Or if you just need to talk to someone because of your PTSD. (855) 838-8255. Vets4warriors.com is available for all branches.
- i) Toys for Tots collected 8 million toys in 2018. The MCL was credited with 3 million of that total.
- j) National wants to increase Life Membership dues by \$200.00. It will not be invested in Morgan Stanley. They want to keep two hundred dollars for Headquarters use.
- k) Also. Every Detachment sets its own dues. Ours are \$28.00. After 1<sup>st</sup> March it's 50% dues. But there is always a \$5.00 new member fee. They want to change that so everyone in the whole Nation has the same dues. They (National) want to standardize dues, so that when they go on line payments they do not have to figure each Detachment cut. They want to charge in all Detachments to \$40.00. That will be an issue at this convention.
- l) The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Viet Nam Pin. A by law will be submitted authorized to be worn on the lapel.
- m) We have a chain of command. National has a small staff. If there is nothing to do on Friday the boss sends the staff home without pay.
- n) Marine4Life program. Marines getting off active duty. There is about 30k getting out every year. We want to help these Marines. If just to talk. Jeff we want you to think about taking this. Let us know at the officer meeting. This is a team effort.
  - i) Brian Hudgens: They also said if you are helping these young people out there is a better chance of them helping your unit out. But that is not the reason for doing it.
- o) This year was Charleston. Next year we are going to Warner Robbins Georgia. Will be the site of the SEDiv Conference in 2020.
  - i) The year after Mississippi wanted us to come. They have a casino. We said no.
  - ii) We are going to Baton Rouge Louisiana will host in 2021. \$125.00 a night at the Crown Plaza.
- p) I have only got one application for the Bonnyman Scholarship. The deadline is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.
- q) JROTC Awards. We've got 9 high schools here. Everyone is volunteered in April. The selected cadet is going to collage next year they will be eligible for scholarship.
- r) National Scholarship Application will be on line 11 April. Must be submitted by 15 July.
- s) The Expense Voucher. We have got it on the web site. If you spend money for the Detachment, go to the web site and down load the Voucher. Attach your receipt to that and turn it in to Lee (Rhinemiller). You have to have permission to go spend money.
  - i) The store has to be one that we have registered a tax account with. You have to have the **tax free letter**. You have got to use a Detachment Paymaster check.
  - ii) You need to shop around and get the best price for an item. Then we will get you authorization.
  - iii) A new form we are looking to using. The Cash Turn In. This tracks were the money has come from.

- t) The Marine of the Year and the Semper Fi Award recipients have been selected.
- 7) Commandant Jim Williams:
- a) We have 128 members. You see what we have here (30). I am not going to preach. We are the best unit in Tennessee. We are the best unit in the Southeast to me. But we got to get our attendance up. We have committees to fill. I have got about 10 committees that need two to three members each. We have 9 people in here who do nearly everything. One of these days one of these people is going to burn out. One of them ended up in a hospital and that was no good. So look inside, and see what you can do to help.
    - i) I need a **Fallen Marine Coordinator** right now.
    - ii) Does everyone know what a Fallen Marine is? A: No.
    - iii) We give out Fallen Marine Certificates. A Fallen Marine is a Marine who has died. Whether he is a member of the League or not. There is a certain procedure you have to go by when you go to the funeral of a fallen Marine. Most of the time, we do not get enough notice to do it. Sometimes we have a day or two. And we show up in dress uniform.
    - iv) We have got committees coming up on **Vet4Life**. At least two people to help him out.
    - v) I need a **VAVS Officer**. Our VAVS decided to take a year off.
    - vi) We need to get some young blood here. Mostly we need to get out and recruit. We're going to have more stuff we can hang on the windows I hope. That one card we could put under windshield wipers. We had good results with that one.
    - vii) We need to set back up at the gun shows. How many people would be willing to sit at a table at a gun show? (At least 3-6 hands.) I hate to say it but Jeff (Tegzes), if you can get us in. We'll bring the stuff. He always brought his uniforms and stuff. But we need volunteers. We may not get anybody to sign up but we gave a lot of cards.
    - viii) I need everyone to consider being on these committees. They will be in the Gazette and at the Officers Meeting. The Officer Meeting, are open, for anyone who is interested. A lot gets planned at those meetings. You are more than welcome, the second Monday of each month at the Red Cross on Middlebrook Pike.
    - ix) With as many committees as we have. There are enough jobs for everyone here and some left over. We get involved. We are about the only unit that really does. But then again you guys voted for it too. We need everyone to get involved.
- 8) Dave Hatfield: April we start our **Mud Run Meetings**. April officer Meeting. Commandant: And we will meet an hour earlier here. The Mud Run Committee on our meeting nights. That's where the money comes from. And if we don't do that we will die.
- 9) Jay Holmes: The Jack McGivney Shoot, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Information is on the web site. 08h30 at Windrock range. There will be a singing with Justin Moore going on in the same area. There might be extra traffic.
- a) George Helton: Would you explain the rules? A: I rather do that at the range.
  - b) Helton: You got to lay your pistol on the ground. Williams: Bring a holster. Helton: We do. Williams: Why have you got to lay your pistol on the ground? Holmes: We'll look at that George. Every range has its own safety rules. I will talk with them.

10) Commandant: I'm looking for a volunteer that's got brains. Lee is not going to be around here forever. He wants an apprentice to the Paymaster. He will show you the procedures. We are one of the highest money units around.

**Unfinished Business from previous meetings.**

**Motion: Judge Advocate Dave Hatfield.** Looking at the minutes of the last meeting. I do not want to make a modification motion, but a motion to strike. We have what we call a motion log. Any time a motion is made it goes into the log book. Being the Judge Advocate: The Paymaster report was made into a motion to accept. No organization can vote to accept a Paymaster report. Unless it's been an audit must be held first. We did not audit the books last month. I make a motion to strike the motion to accept the Paymaster report. The 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Helton. Motion passed by voice vote.

Dave Hatfield: This is probably best under good of the league. But this is the good of the Bonnyman. The Commandant is right. We have got the most active, the most hardest working Detachment, in this entire state. Because, I see it all. We want to keep it that way. We never miss a report. We're always on time or early. Doesn't matter what it is. Now we get carried away I know. And say we can do better. When it comes to being a Veterans Service Officer. We can't be a VA Officer anyway. You have to be certified you have to be bonded. You have to go to school. All we want is a representative to tell any member. We can't give any advice. It's illegal, unless you are certified and bonded. You can go to jail or get fined, for giving bad information. All you need to be able to do is direct him to our County Veterans Service Officer. Tom Humphries. Don't be giving free advice. Because if you are wrong you could be technique sued. Keep that in mind. Travis Bryan is our VAVS being the Sr. Vice Commandant.

Hatfield: Young Marines. The VAVS guy claims we can use Young Marines volunteer service hours that you do on our report. I hesitate to do that. Do you have someone that reports that? Vernon Tassey: You will have to ask someone that does paperwork.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Eric Nash: This Friday is the Viet Nam Veterans Observance day. The Vietnam Veterans of America Ceremony. They will be issuing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pin. At the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Hwy. 09h30.

Commandant presented Historian Eric P. Nash with the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Battalion Size plaque for the Americanism award for 2018. (Plaque was given at Mid Winter.)

**End of Meeting:** Sgt-At-Arms retired the colors. Chaplain led us in the closing prayer.

Commandant Williams adjourned the meeting at **20h00.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Eric P. Nash**  
**Detachment Adjutant**