

**Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment #924 Marine Corps League**  
**Minutes of Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

Jim Williams, Commandant

**Time: 18h30. Location: Karns Youth Center, Karns, TN**

**Presentation prior to the meeting:**

Prior to the Detachment meeting the Mud Run Committee met.

**Call to order:** Commandant Williams called the meeting to order at 18h30 and ordered Sgt-At-Arms Saathoff 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. Sgt-At-Arms declared the meeting open for the transaction of official business. 46 members were present.

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

Commandant: Jim Williams (JW)	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant: Travis Bryan (TB)	Present
Junior Vice Commandant: David Terwell (DT)	Present
Judge Advocate: David Hatfield (DH)	Present
Junior Past Commandant: Tim Eichhorn (TE)	Present
Adjutant: Eric P. Nash (EPN)	Present
Paymaster: Lee Rhinemiller (LR)	Present
Chaplain: Gordon Adams (GA)	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms: John "Stony" Saathoff (JS)	Present
Web Sergeant: Tim Shea (TS)	Present

**Applications for membership:**

- Visitor Enoch J. Banks. Was in 3<sup>rd</sup> phase at Paris Island and was let go medically.
- Gerald "Gerry" Wright. I'm moved here from Michigan about a year ago. Joined August 1990. Reenlisted 1995. Got out in 1997. Now I am look for a reason to get out of the house. Q: What did you do in the Corps? Artillery. Went in Army Reserve for 4 years. Voted on by show of hands. Accepted. Sworn in by PDC David Hatfield. Pin issued.

**1. Mud Run Chairman PDC Tim Eichhorn: Mud Run update.**

- a. Some of you have participated in before. And some of you are new to the Mud Run. So I am going to back up a little bit, and walk us through the Mud Run. I'm going to introduce some other key people with the Mud Run and look for you a place to participate.
- b. My first introduction to the Mud Run, I came back in 2005 from Fallujah to the Reserve Center. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Mud Run had just taken place. Now we are up to the 16<sup>th</sup>. Since 2004. Nicely done by this Marine Corps League Detachment. Nicely done over the years. It's always been one of the chief fund raiser for our Detachment. We have individual runners that come out and teams that come out. The teams come out from different corporations. From different JROTC'S. From different High Schools. We even had a team travel from North Carolina for this. To include Bearden, South Doyle, and Jefferson comes. 4<sup>th</sup> one I talked to this evening to get signed up. This is a cool way for us to give back to the community. They have a chance to get dirty in the Mud Run and get a t-shirt out of it. You as a volunteer get to put your sweat equity in to it.

If we get a 1000 runners out there. This is our goal, every year. We are going to make for the detachment, which will be given away in scholarships, support for these JROTC units, Wounded Warrior Regiment, Women Marines, we'll have \$14,000.00 to give away. It goes out from here to support other veteran causes. Particularly Marine Corps and other related Navy Causes. By us doing this we make an impact down the road.

- c. That being said, how can you participate? The Mud Run takes about a week to put together on site. It's at Melton Hill Lake Park. Off Hardin Valley. Where the schools are.
- d. (Recognizes David Hatfield) We start work the weekend before. We'll be loading out trailer there (at his house) the weekend prior too. He has already started working on it. We start building on site that Monday the 2<sup>3rd</sup> of September. The race is the 2<sup>8th</sup> of September. We will build throughout the week. (Recognize Jeff Tegzes) If you would allow me to call myself the CO of the Mud Run. Jeff Tegzes is my S-3. All operations take place through him. He's designed the course. Along with David he constructs. He has so many race day activities I cannot begin to enumerate them all. SgtMaj Hatfield is my S-4. The two key people in this process.
- e. Then on Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. That's the big day. That's when the runners will come out to Melton Hill Park. Starting at 08h00. We'll have a 08h00, a 08h30, a 09h00, and a 09h 30 flights for individual runners to go off/run. And they will compete. We have really nice medallions for the top runners. It works out really well. People really appreciate what they get there. Appreciate what they do.
- f. The Kids Run, which is a separate course, is a ¼ mile run and the adult run is about 3 miles. It takes place about 11h00. At 11h30 we send off our first team flight or wave. Again, that is the ROTC and corporate teams whatever the case may be. So there might be 100-150 people in that flight but you can break them down to about eight or so sub groups. We run a final flight at noon.
- g. Where you come in right now, we need adult supervision. That eliminates some of you I get that. We have a dozen obstacles these runners go over, under, through and around. We need adults to be safety monitors at those obstacles. That's the primary place of need right now.
  - i. An example, one of the obstacles people really like because it's halfway through the race is Tarawa Beach. At Tarawa Beach you leave hard ground and go into water of Melton Hill Lake. Depending on how tall you are it might be waist deep it might be chest deep. And for about 50 meters you have to wade through to another exit point. We have two certified Red Cross Life Guards at this obstacle.
  - ii. Another is a new obstacle over a mud pits with a tower over it, with a rope hanging down. You jump out grab the rope and swing to the other side otherwise you take a bath in the mud pit. We've all done that at recruit training. So it is one cool obstacle. I need two adults on an obstacle like that. Bring your lawn chair bring an umbrella. If you're not in the tree line. Will bring you water lunch. Will provide you with a radio or a phone list for your cell phone. We just need your eyes on the obstacles. In order to call in help if we need help. I say that because in the past we

have tried that with Junior ROTC unit cadets. Put a 16 year old as a safety observer in retrospect is not a good idea.

- iii. I need you. If you have not signed up for the Mud Run yet, that is a key place to sign up for and I need you there. I'll need you early in the morning and cut you lose at 13h00. After that last wave comes through. It's a long morning it's an early morning. BJB: But it's a hoot. The hoot just came from my volunteer coordinator. Betty Jean Berry. Betty Jean is awesome at being the S-1 of this thing. She is the Volunteer Coordinator. She has volunteer forms. She has with her the ability to tell you, I've got you I've got your information. And I have you signed up and there will be more information coming. So that you can help out with this event. (Recognized Betty Jean Berry). And SgtMaj as the S-4 you'll see him on his lawn mower out there, toting his trailer around. He'll bring you a sandwich.
  - h. That's what we need for the Mud Run. And the Mud Run is a unit event. And I will tell you; this is my second year as Mud Run Coordinator. SgtMaj Hudgens ran it before me for 3 years. This is a Detachment function. Not everyone can lift a telephone pole or dig a trench. Not everybody can run heavy equipment. I'm not asking you to do that I'm asking you to participate as a safety observers.
  - i. Passed out the last of the flyers to be distributed.
  - j. We should come out with about \$40K. Will spend about half of that on the run, and half on charity.
  - k. EPN: Tim, see if there is anyone in here has an ATV? BJB: Or golf cart. TE: Good point. As you have heard Leroy Brown has had health issues. He is instrumental with his ATV. He runs up and down the hill. Sometimes he takes. It's not unusual for a kid to come out and his grandmother come to watch. And he would drive them down. He was also very helpful if someone was injured picking them up and taking them to the first aid trailer. If you are someone you know has an ATV or a golf cart and can have it there. We prefer if was dropped off on Friday. I will be spending the night out there. The night of the 27<sup>th</sup>. So it will be watched over and kept safe. And you can operate on that Saturday or your friend. Or whoever you can think of has one of those, we can use you. That's a special needs on top of those volunteers we need.
  - l. Staff gets a cool volunteer t-shirt.
  - m. Commandant: Anybody have any questions about the Mud Run? I know if I can go out there with this falling apart old body. I know everybody can go out there. Can't do much you don't have to do much. We're going to need everybody we can get. TB: I'm missing a leg. JW: Yeah he's missing a leg and he's going to be out there.
2. Howard Raines: I have passed out quite a few of these pens only a brotherhood could understand. That's us. I found out that we have a support system. Lee put out an e-mail for me that said: Ginger has beat cancer for 15 years. She won every battle. Then at the hospital one day she said it time to go. 10 days later she was gone. I got phone calls, I got cards, and I got mail. I have had people say to me I will do anything you need. Just ask. There have been people in my situation ahead of me. And I have seen it happen again and again. The words thank you is not enough. You cannot express the feeling through my heart. The words I'm sorry, don't have a beat. It because of a thing called Brotherhood. Thank you.

3. Adjutant's Report: Eric Nash.
  - a. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as posted on the web site.
4. EPN: Correspondence received
  - a. The 2019 Veterans Day parade is Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. The applications are available now. If we are going to participate.
  - b. Tennessee Athletics has its Military Veterans and First responders' discounts for all home games at UT. Anyone interested see me afterward. TS: I'll put it on the web site. LR: I have an e-mail to send out to the membership in the morning with the details.
  - c. ETMAC Veterans Luncheon this year will be Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of November. If we are interested in getting a table together. They use to have it on the same day as Veterans Day. But it was too hard for those at the back of the parade to make it back.
  - d. Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October there will be a picnic at Chilhowee Park by the Capt. Bill Robinson Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. If interested they will allow us to set up a recruiting booth there. It will be open to all Veterans.
  - e. The next honor flight will be going 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.
5. Paymaster Lee Rhinemiller.
  - a. We owe a big thanks to Dave Terwell. We started about 6 weeks ago we were 69% behind in membership dues. Walked into night we were 31 down in unpaid and got 7 of them tonight. This leaves 24, without privileges in 4 days. Of that 24 it appears that 6 will be dropped by national. They have not paid their 2018 dues. That leaves us with 18 people who need to get their dues in. Ave has been responsible for getting this all in. My problem is I have the same problem with 16 other Detachments across the state. Our news life member is Elizabeth Carr. She has paid life membership dues tonight.
  - b. Have completed several of the reports that are due.
    - i. The 990 work sheet and it is at the CPA's.
    - ii. Charitable solicitation will be done at the same time.
    - iii. I have completed the life membership audit, interest refund to send to National.
  - c. Our cash flow is healthy and the checking account is reconciled.
  - d. 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.
6. Commandant Jim Williams presented awards.
  - a. If anybody remembers back in March after Mid-Winter I had a little problem. Spent 4-5 days in the VA with CHF. We'll there was a certain guy that hounded me to death when we left Virginia all the way back down. I kept saying I'll come back on Monday. He wanted me to go to the VA (Johnson City). If I had gone home and come back Monday some other ugly guy would be up here now. This can only be issued from the National Commandant of the Marine Corps League. Presented Marine David Hatfield with the Distinguished Citizen Gold award. Awarded by National Commandant Wendell Webb.
  - b. Eric P. Nash; Distinguished Citizen Silver from the Department of Tennessee.
  - c. Robert C. Willis, Lee Rhinemiller, and Wayne C. Jones, Community Service Award from Detachment #924. These certificates handed out. We had to help a Marine in need get out of his appt.

7. JW: There is a sign-up sheet for the picnic next month. If you are, coming please sign up, and list how many you are bringing. If you want to put down a dish. Put down a dish. But I am requesting you bring something. I am smoking the meat and tearing it apart. I'm making the beans. You can do your part. Otherwise you're going to have Bar-b-que and baked beans. I have a couple of fellows that are coming out to help load the truck.
8. JW: The Bill Gerst Rifle Match. 14<sup>th</sup> of September at TWRA. This is the match that was suppose to take place in the spring but was rained out. M-1/M-1A Match. If you do not have an M-1 you can borrow one from the club and pay for the ammo. Signup sheet for next month. We shoot at the 200 yard line. The next match will be in October. Any military rifle.
9. Judge Advocate David Hatfield.
  - a. Safety Break signup sheet for Labor Day week end.
10. National Convention Report: David Hatfield. We went to beautiful Billings Montana. There was a casino on every corner. I didn't set foot in any of them.
  - a. By-law changes were about the same.
    - i. I heard they had rejected to rewrite the National Associate of the year. And they had not even authorized a ribbon for the Detachment level. Or a dept, or Division. Why are you starting at the top? Start at the bottom level and work your way up.
    - ii. Remember the real long purpose of the League? They are going to reduce that down.
    - iii. Also, the oath membership is being greatly reduced. The President of the United States says 20 words when he is sworn in. So why do we say 200? It is being rewritten and shortened.
  - b. Eric (Nash) Kudos to you. The Department of Tennessee came in second in the number of BSA Good Citizen Certificates presented. Pennsylvania was 1<sup>st</sup> with 552 Certificates. We had almost 400 certificates. (Actual No. 394). While Pennsylvania had 552 certificates the entire North-East Division it in only had 730 certificates. The SEDiv was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Divisions with 1131 certificates. We care about our Eagle Scouts in the South.
  - c. We talked about the million dollar budget at NHQ. They did approve retaining 50% of new Life Membership dues for operating National Headquarters. Not going to take away from you technically because we have over XXXXXXXXX in Morgan Stanley investments. And 50% invested each year. Profits will be divided up 3 ways on the investment, on a 3 year average. So if you have a real down market year, it will be on a 3 year average so you're not hurting all the time.
  - d. However, as you know I am the Scholarship Chairman. We took a hit. The card and label program for the next three years is not going to scholarships. It's going to National. National has to function on dues. They do not have any other way of raising money except Semper Fi Magazine. Or these Marine Expos. They're doing these Expos for the Marine Corps because technically the USMC being the Federal Government they can't sell booth and sites and stuff like that. So they let the Marine Corps League do it for them. There is a big cost involve with insurance and everything else. But there are other corporations involved with that. Because personally NHQ does not have the expertise to put on 3 military Expo a years. Of civilian equipment, that they want to sell the military. So we teamed up with other experts, but it's is the Marine Corps

- League that puts it on. The Commandant likes that. We do three a year. Starting out at Camp Pendleton, with Marine West. Bottom line budget. We did break even. 1,319K.
- e. The old National Headquarters that we sold. We have a contract with a new building. Now they divulge to us, the rent on our new headquarters goes up 6% a year. After three years the rent goes up without a warning 6%. You multiply that out by 25 years we're going to be paying a lot for that building. Right now the investment from Morgan Stanley is help paying the rent, out of the profits. They charge the ships store. They don't give it to them free. Charging the MCLA, not much, but rent for it space as well. For their Headquarters. They are looking for real-estate, so they can build. Quantico is like D.C. expensive.
  - f. Let's go back to the Mud Run Construction: Even Monday-Friday while we're doing the construction of the course. Even if I have an accurate list of names, we're going to feed you during the week there too. Bring water and ice every day. By Saturday you'll be filled up with Subway sandwiches. Will give you a different one every day. Hopefully you'll lose about 10 pounds. The more people we have the easier the construction.
    - i. One year we were up till midnight, in the rain. Because guess what the Marine Reserves backed out the night before. We didn't have a clue. We said you always do this. They said New Orleans (HQ) said no. So we jumped through hoops, midnight before the race, we were pounding nails in the pouring rain.
    - ii. Let's not do that again this year. Because we never know when a bad front is going to come through. We have to bust ass right away, just in case we do have a front moves through. Then we can relax. So if your name is not on construction crew. Because you can construct all week and still do something else on Saturday. Right now I only have 8 people. You're not going to have to be digging ditches and stuff like that. We have heavy equipment for stuff like that. Hey I got somebody 16 feet up in the air. I need a hammer or something like that. Or I dropped the bolt. We got to spread straw and stuff like that. After it's over we have a thousand people walk across the grass. Just walking across it destroys the grass. Then we have to replant. That year we had 2" of rain the morning of the Mud Run. We had to pay the Park Service. We had to pay the farmer. Because we destroyed his hay field when vehicles got stuck. We learn every year. Let's get on it early.
  - g. Just got in last night. Have not gone through my notes yet. Give you the final report what's going on at National. Normally I give that report at the Department Fall Conference in October. I did stop in Nashville yesterday. Got with the Department Judge Advocate (Glen Berry Evans) and he has consolidated all the changes we just voted on a National into the new Department by-laws. Now that will help finish the new Detachment by-laws. We are not only going to have by-laws but administrative procedures. Tell us how to handle money. What you got to do to replace money. How the budget process works. Without those by-laws were dead in the water. Couple of years ago we walked in here; some guy walked in with a dog, and said we help veterans. We spent \$7,000.00 before we could turn around, in one night, on half of a dog. We got a sad story and we didn't have any procedures. So we bought half a dog.

Now we have procedures in place so people can't walk in and give us a tear drop story. Now we look and analyze this and budget for it.

- h. The Americanism Award we placed third. They will have the plaque at Mid Winter Conference so they can engrave them. The other Detachment in Tennessee placed also.
- 11. Sr. Vice Commandant Travis Bryan.
  - a. I was just looking over the Eagle Scout Certificates. I just looked over the numbers. Tennessee we hit about 48% of Eagle Scouts that we had. Pennsylvania only hit about 25%. They really are working them.
  - b. EPN: I talked to Brice West on the subject yesterday. There are two Councils. There actually 5 Councils covering Tennessee. Great Smoky Mountain Council, Sequoyah Council, Middle Tennessee Council, Cherokee and West Tennessee Council. Two of those councils we get all, the list we want. It's in Middle Tennessee and up in Sequoyah that we have trouble. The Detachment up there in that area. As Brice says they come out all at once and put out their certificates at an Eagle Scout Banquet. And then they don't quite get the report in. JW: That Greenville? EPN: Tri-cities.
- 12. Jr. Vice Commandant David Terwell.
  - a. I will continue to call those who have not made their remittance. Some of the calls I make I get a buzz-buzz or I get a voice mail.
- 13. Jay Holmes: Pistol Match 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019, 09h00 out at Windrock Range. Same course as last time. Same awards as last time. Bring a lawn chair. 7yd, 10yd, 15yd and 25 yard stages. Rim fire match as well as center fire match. No more than a 6 inch barrel. JW: We do have a good time out there. They do get fed out there.
- 14. EPN: Comment from the gun show. JW: Had a great time at the gun show. Got five names of people who are interested in joining the League. That gun show is a pretty good deal. Plus you get to walk around and see everything. EPN: A guy down the way from us told David Cates send everybody down here for a t-shirt. I got this t-shirt free at the gun show because I was a Marine. It says real heroes don't wear capes. They wear dog tags. I also got to meet the daughter of Michael Ryan. Master Sergeant, Baritone for the Presidents Own United States Marine Corps Band. Sang for 4 Presidents. I like the way she said "My dad was in the Marines. Well he was sort of a Marine." He spent 30 years. I said he was a Marine.
- 15. 14<sup>th</sup> September is the family day at the Marine Corps Reserve. We are going to try and solicit help for the Mud Run. Come out and help us. We'll buy your ball ticket. Not your dates. And we'll feed you. We will be donating 5 Calhoun's gift cards, \$50.00 a piece, to be used as door prizes. Good will that we do for our Reserves.
- 16. JW: John Lay and Sam Moss checking us out tonight.
- 17. Web Sgt Tim Shea.
  - a. The cards we have. Do we have the new business cards? Any one needs some?

**End of the Meeting:** Sgt-At-Arms retired the colors. Chaplain led us in the closing prayer. Commandant Williams adjourned the meeting at **19h25. Next meeting is on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Eric P. Nash**  
**Detachment Adjutant**