

# **Marine Corps League**

**Cpl. Suzi Sannes**

**Detachment 1262**

**VFW Post 2057, NC Hwy 97**

**Rocky Mount, NC**

**6 July 2017**

## **Opening Ceremony:**

At 1900 Commandant Dave Sannes instructed Sergeant at Arms, Claude Battle to secure the quarters. The Sergeant at Arms was further instructed to post the colors and lead the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bible was opened and opening prayer was read by Acting Chaplain William Blackmon.

Meeting was declared open for business by Sergeant at Arms, Claude Battle.

## **Roll Call of Officers:**

All present except: Chaplain Melvin Wolf-excused, National Web Sergeant Lori Sannes – excused, Paymaster Larry Hill - excused.

## **Visiting Guests:**

Dept. Senior Vice Commandant Rick Thomason, Dept. Jr Past Commandant and worthy pack leader Charles Minton, Commandant Gold Leaf Det. Keith Shearin. Keith introduced his guest, Eddie Powell, a perspective member for the Gold Leaf Det.

## **Induction of New Members:**

None

## **Correspondence:**

Information about the MCL's agreement with the American Military University (AMU) to award two members a full scholarship to receive either a bachelor's or a master's degree. Hard copy was requested by Pat Milligan.

## **Old Business:**

**Paymaster Report:** Given by Commandant Dave Sannes. Opening balance is \$6876.13. Listed deposits \$0. Listed payouts \$319.58 - total checking \$6556.55, cash on hand \$40.00 (50/50) Totaling \$6596.55. Previous monies voted as dedicated were listed as Uniform fund @ \$91.51; Scout fund @ \$0; Humanitarian fund at \$332.46. Leaves the Detachment \$6172.58 total general use. Motion to accept paymaster report by Rick Ferguson, second by Joe Pisarik. Unanimous vote taken and accepted.

### **Sickbay Report:**

Acting Chaplain William Blackmon knew of no updates at this time. Rick Thomason had spoken to Mel Wolfe and updated the members about the challenges he is facing.

### **Officers Report:**

Sr Vice Joe Pisarik opens with idea of purchasing of a rifle raffle as a fund raiser. Goes on to admonish Rick Thomason for beating him to the punch with the Dept. of NC purchasing their "Saint Rifle". Rick Ferguson makes a motion that the Det. pursue the idea and Charles Minton seconds it. Rick Thomason explains why Dept. of NC limits tickets to 600, further explaining the efforts made by Jeff Jones and himself to visit a significant number of state detachments with their weapon. Adding that most of the tickets were sold to Det. members, that he purchased the latest weapon from a gun shop cheaper than he could from Springfield direct. Suggesting Vince Sievert might be able to do the same for us. General discussion proceeded to discuss ticket sales; other detachments, local locations, approaching general public. The limiting sales to 600 tickets, the rifle being a M1A, the cost at or below \$1,000.00. Vote was taken, unanimous vote, motion passed.

Jr Vice Rick Ferguson is going to put together a book that can be updated and used as a running account for perspective members. Rick Thomason offers to get from David Evans a list he provided while Commandant.

Commandant Dave Sannes updates T4Ts, we have received official notice. Halifax has become their own campaign, although we will be working very closely with them to include sharing our warehouse space. Suggested a member other than himself attend the conference set for Sept 15-17, travel expenses will be reimbursed and all other expenses are paid by national. Both Joe Pisarik and Rick Ferguson expressed interest if nobody from Martin County is interested.

Dave Sannes went on to tell membership about the flag ceremony the Det. had performed for the Harley Davidson dealership. The event was another example of how advantageous it would be if we did in fact have 7 members committed to working together to provide polished presentations of ourselves. Charles Minton, Rick Thomason and William Blackmon all expressed agreement and spoke of different advantages to the Det. getting out in the community in this manner. Dave mentioned he would follow up with Davenport Auto on a request they had asked about awhile back.

### **New Business**

Challenge! This could have been a correspondence item, except that it calls for action. Action that would take the whole membership to agree upon. John Dilday from the TarHeel Detachment # 733 has made a challenge to ALL Detachments in North Carolina. The Challenge is to have a special fund raiser and for all the proceeds to go to the Sophia Betancourt fund. The Detachment that raises the most funds towards this cause will be presented with the Department Meritorious Unit Commendation, qualifying all Detachment members to wear the Unit Commendation Ribbon. Rick Thomason was familiar with Sophia's situation and gave the membership the full background. Rick also had examples of donations that other detachments and pounds had already given. Dave express's concern about our detachment's lack of fund raising history, no "go to structured event". Cornhole tournament is discussed. Keith Shearin, from an earlier discussion with Dave, says he has talked with Jeff Jones and has a commitment from 3 or 4 of his Marines that would help with a cornhole tournament to be held in conjunction with a

planned spaghetti dinner at the Middlesex Baptist Church. Requirements of such an event were discussed; no adequate experience was forthcoming that would be required. Plus, the time table and location to hold it with the dinner was not deemed feasible. Rick Thomason recommends the detachment makes a donation from available funds, Dave agrees that would be more plausible and could be made up later from future fund-raising efforts. Rick makes a formal motion that the detachment make a \$250.00 donation payable to the Department of NC paymaster for the Sophia Betancourt fund. Second voiced by Charles Minton. Dave opened subject for discussion, when none was voiced he stated he felt this request fell squarely within the parameters of the MCL's mission to rally to the aid of a marine in need and called for a vote. "Ayes" carried. Keith replied to a question from Rick Ferguson about the cornhole idea, that he would raise it in the upcoming Gold Leaf Det. meeting to see if any of his members has any experience in organizing one. The fate of a tournament is left at that. Carl Johnson speaks up, and from his company pledges a matching \$250.00 to be sent along with ours to Department of NC. Applause!

Dave Sannes opens discussion about Canines for Service, a 25 year old organization in Wilmington that is the longest serving service dog provider in North Carolina. Service dogs for veterans may be a viable candidate for a veteran's program to affiliate with. There may be a choice of activities. From getting schooled to actually training dogs, become equipped to determine if a dog is a fit for the program so we could be point of contact for surrounding counties to pick up, evaluate, and hold till a trainer is available. Also discussed was idea of organizing an annual "Walk and Dog Dash" copying what they do in Wilmington. This activity could definitely yields the kind of exposure we're looking for. Nothing definitive was decided.

#### **Good of the League:**

Rick Thomason promotes the rifle being raffled by the NC Department. Also promoted the challenge coins being offered by the Department of NC MCL.

Rick Thomason promotes the reserved parking for disabled veteran signs. Gave examples of recent commitments. Available for free, but a payment of \$20.00 per sign would pay for replacement. William Blackmon added information about poles and their availability and cost.

Charles Minton announces there will be a pound /pack growl held the coming Saturday at the Am Legion in Clayton. That at this growl eligible pups can advance to Devil Dog. Mentioned a special award of Pedigree that will be part of the growl.

Dave Sannes explains to the members present that Carl Johnson has purchased 3 tickets for the Department rifle, and that if he wins, the rifle will be donated to the detachment.

#### **Closing Ceremony:**

Acting Chaplain William Blackmon reads closing prayer

Sr Vice Joe Pisarik reads closing statement.

Sergeant at Arms Claude Battle retires the colors and further declares the meeting officially closed until Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.