

Townsend Detachment #920
Marine Corps League, Inc.

Regular Detachment Meeting, Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Arrowhead Country Club.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Sgt at Arms Kuehndorf distributed a “high-tech” calendar (paper version) with events for November and December listed. Several people with cell phones were baffled by the paper technology, and a few minutes were spent in explanation of how to turn the page over to see November on one side and December on the other. Very useful and perhaps even “user friendly!”

Meeting was called to order at 0830 by Commandant Nancy Burtron.

Sgt at Arms presented colors and led pledge, Marine Corps Hymn; Chaplain offered opening prayer.

Roll call of officers: Jr. Past Commandant not present (out of town); all other elected officers were present; Paymaster present; Sgt at Arms present; Chaplain present; Historian present; Adjutant excused.

Correspondence: Commandant Burtron read a letter of appreciation from Goodwyn Middle School thanking the detachment for its support of Constitution Day at the school.

Minutes for the September meeting were not available.

Paymaster report: The Paymaster distributed the monthly paymaster report which showed expenditures of \$767.59 and revenues of \$458.00 and an ending balance of \$8,264.59. He further reported that “National” had removed delinquent members with the result that Townsend Detachment now has 85 members. Eleven of those members are delinquent regarding current year dues and two more are delinquent regarding current year and last year dues (owing \$70 each). A spreadsheet was provided showing the names of paid and unpaid members.

Motion was made and seconded to accept Paymaster Report; passed unanimously.

Chaplain Harris reported on sick and distressed. Carl Winn is back in the hospital, but nobody was sure which hospital or what his specific ailment is; Matt Gibson reported that his sister and mother continue to be struggling and in need of his help but getting along; Charles Harris reported that he is feeling reasonably well but has two procedures scheduled soon (the second of which will involve his heart); George White's mother and mother-in-law have both died recently.

Larry Welton reported on this year's Toys-for-Tots campaign. There are several dates on the calendar for which volunteers are needed. Larry passed out a list of events and a sign-up sheet. Most of those dates were shown on the calendar previously distributed. The work events at the warehouse was emphasized and the location of the air-

conditioned and clean warehouse facility was discussed. Those able to help on work days at the warehouse were invited to meet Larry in the parking lot of the BBQ restaurant next door to the Marine Reserve Center and to follow Larry to the warehouse in Gunter Industrial Park – or to meet at the warehouse.

An additional Toys-for-Tots event scheduled is the WSFA 12 Days of Giving on Friday the 7th of December at the Atlanta Highway WalMart. The event is a heavily publicized event and all hands are asked to make an effort to participate.

Commandant Burtron discussed other calendar events including the two cake-cutting ceremonies which will be on different days this year; the Air War College cake-cutting will be on Thursday, November 8 at 0900; the Air Command Staff College cake-cutting will be on Friday, November 9 at 0745. These are “red blazer events” and those needing gate passes should sign up with Richard Davis to be listed at the Bell Street gate.

Additionally, the Lima Company Birthday Ball will be held at the WindCreek Casino; tickets may be obtained from I-I at the Reserve Center for those who would like to attend.

Sr. Vice Commandant Moore reported on the Veterans Day event scheduled to take place on Monday, November 12 at 1000 at the Riverfront (Biscuits) Stadium. The final planning meeting for the event will be on Tuesday, October 30 at 1000 at the stadium office on Coosa Street. Lima Company is expected to have returned to Montgomery by November 12 and will lead the parade of veterans from the right field gate around the field to the 3rd base dugout where they will enter the stands. Mark Bullock from WSFA is to be the Master of Ceremonies.

Commandant Burtron informed members of the names of the Nominating Committee and solicited anyone wishing to place a name in nomination to contact Don Fisher, Richard Davis or Mark Kuehndorf. Those nominated for consideration must be regular members in good standing (shorthand for dues having been paid!).

Willie Tarver asked to speak about a charitable organization called the Semper Fi Fund which is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2003 – “Spring 2003, a group of dedicated military spouses at Camp Pendleton organize ‘welcome home’ activities for the first wave of wounded service members returning from Iraq.” (from semperfifund.org website). Willie asked that those of us inclined to help wounded Marines consider the Semper Fi Fund which has earned his respect and support.

Sr. Vice Commandant Moore discussed his plan to have an informal event at the Gilmer Cemetery in Pike Road next Saturday, October 27 in recognition of the 35th anniversary of the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon on October 23, 1983. He reminded those present that Cpl. Henry “Ben” Townsend of Montgomery was severely injured in the bombing and died within a few days after being returned to the U.S. Our detachment was named in Cpl. Townsend's honor and a stone made and donated by

Brooks Barrow was placed and dedicated at the Gilmer Cemetery in 2016 with Cpl. Townsend's family and friends present. The family is not able to attend the event this year, but a brief ceremony honoring Cpl. Townsend and the 240 others who died as a result of the attack on October 23, 1983.

The brief event will begin at 1030 at the Gilmer Cemetery. Those wishing to attend who do not know the cemetery location will muster at Sommers Place on Saturday at 1000.

Commandant Burtron asked Richard Davis to address the desire of Townsend Detachment officers to recognize the extremely generous donations made by Joe Dawkins in the form of toys and prizes which were presented to the children of the Marines attending the "Welcome Aboard Picnic" in August. Whereas the detachment has a budget item for candy which is passed out during the Veterans Day parade, and whereas there will be no parade this year, it has been suggested that the \$250 budgeted for candy be channeled to Joe in recognition of his and his family's generous support of the picnic.

Commandant Burtron announced that she would entertain a motion to give the \$250 "candy money" to Joe Dawkins. A motion to that effect was made and seconded; passed without further discussion by acclamation.

The Christmas Party (which replaces the December meeting) will be held at the home of Richard and Linda Davis on December 15. The Davises will provide the food.

Commandant Burtron reported that several Lima Company Marines were adversely affected by Hurricane Michael and, although the extent of that damage is unknown at present, a Tag Fund request will be prepared to assist those Marines when the details of their losses has been assessed.

Judge Advocate Jim Fulks announced that he and Susan will be moving to Birmingham sometime in the coming year. They have become "empty nesters" and Jim's father lives in the Birmingham area, so he would like to live closer to his father who is in declining health. Jim's work encompasses Montgomery, Auburn, Birmingham and Tuscaloosa and he plans to remain active with the Townsend Detachment. No date has been set for the move.

There was no further "Old Business." There was no response to calls for further "Old Business" nor for "New Business."

There being no further discussion, the Chaplain was asked to offer a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 0915. The next meeting will be on November 17, 2018 at 0830 at the Arrowhead Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Moore, Sr. Vice Commandant, acting as adjutant for the meeting.