



## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE OUTER BANKS DETACHMENT 1264

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14 January 2017  
1100

From: Adjutant  
To: Distribution List

Subj: MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR JANUARY 2017

Ref: (a) Marine Corps League National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures  
(b) Outer Banks Detachment Bylaws

Encl: (1) Muster Roll for January 2017  
(2) Gig Line: December's Blessings

1. In accordance with the references, a detachment general membership meeting was conducted on 10 January 2017 at the Kern Pitts Center, 5375 North Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, North Carolina.

2. A roll-call of detachment members and staff members was conducted, with those in attendance at the meeting identified as "Present" in the remarks column at enclosure (1). In addition, two guests were present at this evening's meeting. They were as follows:

George Berry, Guest Speaker for the Navy Federal Credit Union

Jeffrey D. Jones, Department of North Carolina Senior Vice-Commandant

3. The meeting commenced at 1900 with Sergeant-at-Arms Clark securing the quarters, presenting the national color, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance, and declaring the meeting open for the transaction of official business.

4. In the absence of our chaplain, Junior Past-Commandant Gregory opened the meeting with a prayer.

5. Guest Speaker. Retired Navy Commander George Berry addressed the membership concerning the possibility of having the Navy Federal Credit Union open a branch office on the Outer Banks and to gauge interest in this issue from our members. George briefly stated the benefits available to members of the Navy Federal Credit Union and cited that there are approximately 5,000 veterans living in Dare County who could benefit from their services. In closing, George requested a letter of endorsement from our detachment in support this effort. Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson thanked George for his presentation and excused him from the meeting with the assurance that his request would be considered by the membership later in our meeting.

6. New Members. One membership candidate, Chris Scarborough, was present at the meeting and following his submission of a completed membership application with evidence of honorable Marine Corps service, was administered the Oath of Membership along with Jim Owens by Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson in accordance with reference (a). Jim had previously applied and been accepted for membership on 3 January 2017. Following the Oath of Membership, both Chris and Jim were formally welcomed to the detachment. Each of our new members was then afforded an opportunity to provide a brief overview of their background, Marine Corps service, and current status as a resident in our area.

8. Staff Reports

(a) Commandant. N/A

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(b) Senior Vice-Commandant. None

(c) Junior Vice-Commandant. None

(d) Judge Advocate. None

(e) Junior Past-Commandant. None

(f) Adjutant. Robert Yanacek reported that Marsha Brown, editor of the Gig Line news column and member of the Dare County Veterans Advisory Council, published an article in the Coastland Times on 11 December 2016 expressing her thoughts about the past-Christmas season. In her article, she provided thanks to the members of our detachment and listed contact information for those interested in learning more about us. This article was emailed to our members and is provided at enclosure (2) for informational purposes. In addition, Robert reported that we now have 39 members on the rolls, and that since our last meeting we have reinstated one member, and added two new members. Both of these new members are present at the meeting.

(g) Chaplain. N/A

(h) Paymaster. Jorge Diaz provided a detailed report of the income and expenditures since our last meeting as well as the detachment's current account balance. His report was examined and no discrepancies were noted. Jorge further indicated that as a result of our hard work in our fundraising activities, our operating account balance has increased over 100-percent during the last twelve-month period. Commenting on that remark, Judge Advocate Laney added that although we have donated more than originally budgeted, our detachment's increased fundraising efforts have off-set those additional expenses, and we remain on-track with our budget. Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson added further comments to this report by thanking the membership for a job well done! Continuing with his brief, Jorge reported that the annual audit of the detachment's financial records was conducted in accordance with the references by Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson and Judge Advocate Laney on 21 December 2016 with satisfactory results. Lastly, for informational purposes, Jorge informed the membership that the branch office of our bank has moved from Southern Shores to Kitty Hawk.

(i) Quartermaster. Although Dennis Thompson had nothing to report, Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson inquired as to how members may obtain uniform items such as covers and detachment polo shirts. Assisted by Adjutant Yanacek, Dennis reported that most items are available for purchase through the Marine Corps League Ship's Store, and that the detachment polo shirts remain available through Joanne Sulik, wife of member Richard Sulik. At the suggestion of Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson, Dennis and Adjutant Yanacek will send out an e-mail to all hands prior to the next meeting, providing information necessary for members to purchase covers, cap devices, polo shirts and other uniform items.

(i) Sergeant-at-Arms. None

(k) Toys for Tots Liaison. Acting in the absence of Larry Czernik, Russ Laney reported that the 2016 Dare County Toys for Tots program had its most successful year since its establishment by our detachment in 2007. Over 600 children in Dare County received toys during for Christmas thanks to the effort of our members. Russ added that he will be applying for certification from the Toys for Tots Foundation this year to better assist Larry in our 2017 campaign. Lastly, Russ is currently drafting a letter of thanks to the general public for their support of our annual Toys for Tots campaign. Upon completion, this letter of thanks will be published in the Coastland Times and the Outer Banks Sentinel.

## 9. Old Business

(a) Awards Presentation. None

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(b) Recruiting and Retention. Adjutant Yanacek reported that we are currently working 12 membership candidates. Each candidate has been sent a personalized letter asking them to attend our meeting, along with a map of our meeting location, and an appropriate membership application.

(c) Grants and Donations. Adjutant Yanacek reported that a \$250 "Volunteerism Always Pays" grant request from the Walmart Foundation for the fourth quarter was approved and mailed during mid-December. This grant has not yet been received. Should it not be received within the few weeks, necessary action will be taken to have the check re-issued.

(d) Sickbay. None

(e) Website and Marketing. Adjutant Yanacek reported that our detachment website and Facebook pages are up-to-date, and that he has been expanding our social media efforts by posting information about our detachment on various Facebook pages directed towards local residents. In order to ensure proper and timely responses to inquiries, he has requested the assistance from a number of our members. This assistance is in the form of providing these members with editorial privileges to permit them to post information and news on our Facebook page, share items of interest on other Facebook pages frequented by our target audience, reply to inquires made by the general public, and to solicit their Facebook friends to "Like" our page. Craig Clark, Mike Keating, and Tom Hunley have agreed to assist in this effort and have been assigned editorial privileges accordingly. Any additional members interested in assisting in this effort are invited to contact Adjutant Yanacek.

(f) Social Activity. Adjutant Yanacek reported that on 3 January, five members and two membership candidates met for the free breakfast social offered to veterans at the Jolly Roger restaurant in Kill Devil Hills. Robert added that everyone in attendance enjoyed both the food and company. Next month's breakfast social will be on 7 February 2017 at 0900. All hands are invited and encouraged to attend.

(g) Summer General Membership Meetings. Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson opened for continued discussion the idea of conducting general membership meeting during the summer months—something the detachment has not done since its establishment in 2006. Junior Past-Commandant Gregory offered informational background that general membership meetings had never been held during June, July, or August due to the high volume of traffic during the tourist season. Paymaster Diaz remarked that although tourist traffic is undoubtedly an issue during the summer months, the heaviest volume occurs in the area of our meeting location on weekends as a result of tourists arriving through one of only two roads that provide vehicular access to the Outer Banks. Continuing, Paymaster Diaz pointed out that traffic volume on Tuesday evenings is generally not an issue as the vast majority of tourists will have already arrived at their vacation destinations and would not be driving through the narrow traffic corridor at our Southern Shores meeting location. In addition, Paymaster Diaz pointed out that we currently lose one-third our ability to effectively plan and coordinate activities with our membership, and to introduce prospective members to our detachment by failing to hold meetings during this three-month period. As our detachment has grown and increased its activities to year-round efforts, meetings during the summer will foster camaraderie among our members and ensure continued growth, he continued. Adjutant Yanacek and Quartermaster Thompson concurred with this assessment and stated that they fully supported holding meetings during the summer. Offering his thoughts, Department of North Carolina Senior Vice-Commandant Jones stated that monthly meetings are indeed important at the detachment-level and he felt that holding meetings during the summer was a step in the right direction. Junior Past-Commandant Gregory then inquired as to whether the Town of Southern Shores would permit our meeting location to be available to us during the three months being discussed. Having spoken to the town's Public Service Director recently on this issue, Adjutant Yanacek reported that our meeting location has, and continues to be reserved for our use the second Tuesday of each month from 1900 to 2100, including the months of June, July, and August. In closing the discussion, Senior Vice-Commandant

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Hudson reminded those present that as participation at our meetings is on a voluntary basis, adding the summer months to our meeting schedule would have no adverse impact on those who decided to not, or were unable to attend meetings. Following discussion, Junior Past-Commandant Gregory motioned that the months of June July, and August be added to our meeting schedule. His motion was duly seconded by Judge Advocate Laney, then voted-on and passed by the membership without dissent. With the motion approved, Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson instructed Adjutant Yanacek to take the necessary action to ensure that the meeting schedule on our operational calendar, website, and promotional materials is updated to reflect the newly approved summer meeting dates.

(h) 2017 Membership Directory. Adjutant Yanacek reported that the 2017 Membership Directory has yet to be printed, pending the results of this evening's meeting concerning the issue of whether to hold membership meetings during the summer months. This delay was deemed appropriate as our meeting schedule is part of the directory. With this issue resolved, the directory will be printed and handed out to those at our February meeting as a cost-saving measure recommended by Paymaster Diaz. Directories for those members not present at our February meeting will be mailed their address of record on 15 February 2017.

(i) Marine in Need. Adjutant Yanacek expressed thanks on behalf of Commandant Draper to Tom Hunley for his thoughtful and generous donation of a motorized wheelchair to one of our members, and to Chaplain Lawrenson for his assistance in transporting it to Spring Arbor.

(j) Outer Banks Shrimpfest. Acting on Judge Advocate Laney's suggestion, Adjutant Yanacek researched the feasibility in participating in Outer Banks Shrimpfest this year. As of yet, few details are available, other than it will be held at Festival Park in Manteo sometime in September or early October. Further information and details will become available sometime during February to early March according to the festival organizers. The event's Facebook page is being followed so further information can be obtained as it becomes available.

#### 10. New Business

(a) Marine in Need. None

(b) Donation of Christmas Trees. Adjutant Yanacek reported that on 17 December the Kitty Hawk Walmart donated five new artificial Christmas trees to our detachment for distribution to any families in our area that were in need. Taking these trees home, he posted details and information about the trees on our detachment's Facebook page and shared a link to the post on the OBX Locals Facebook page. As a result of that effort, he was contacted by five individuals needing a Christmas tree, and he delivered them to these families on behalf of the members of the Marine Corps League Outer Banks Detachment. Judge Advocate Laney added to this report stating that one of the families receiving a tree was subsequently identified as having a child in need of some toys for Christmas. Acting on this information, Judge Advocate Laney procured some age-appropriate toys for this family's child from the Dare County Toys for Tots Program and had Adjutant Yanacek deliver them to the family in time for Christmas. In closing, Adjutant Yanacek indicated that this ad-hoc program stimulated quite a bit of interest and favorable comments within the community through social media, and that he anticipates that this effort will be possible in future years.

(c) Request for Donation. Adjutant Yanacek received correspondence via the Marine Corps League Department of North Carolina from the Corpsman Memorial Foundation, requesting a donation for the construction of a memorial to Corpsmen at Camp Johnson, NC. This memorial will serve to "honor those Corpsmen who put their lives on the line to preserve the lives of Marines they served with side-by-side." The foundation needs to raise approximately \$450,000 for the memorial and are currently one-third of the way towards that goal. Opening the discussion, Judge Advocate Laney indicated that he fully supported providing a donation to memorialize the contribution our Corpsmen have made to the Marine

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Corps, and those present agreed with his thoughts without exception. Department of North Carolina Senior Vice-Commandant Jones added that the Department of North Carolina also agreed and had recently donated \$1,000 towards the construction of the memorial. Following discussion, Judge Advocate Laney motioned that the detachment contribute \$200 towards this effort. The motion was duly seconded, voted on, and passed without dissent. At the request of Paymaster Diaz, Adjutant Yanacek provided to him the information necessary to prepare and mail the approved donation as follows:

Corpsmen Memorial Foundation  
PO Box 12641  
Jacksonville, NC 28546-2641

(d) Detachment Visit to the Museum of the Marine Corps. In January 2015 a number of members had expressed interest in visiting the Museum of the Marine Corps, located in Triangle, Virginia. The following month, Adjutant Yanacek reported that he had completed a cost-assessment based on renting a 15 passenger van, and that a one-day trip could be conducted at a cost of between \$12 and \$15 per person, assuming we had sufficient interest to fill the van to capacity with members. Following discussion, this business item was tabled to examine the cost based on staying overnight near the museum—as the total driving time for the round-trip of eleven hours would be not permit sufficient time to visit the museum and would prove exhausting for the participants. Unfortunately, this item was never resolved due to the detachment’s operational commitments. Reviving this possibility, Adjutant Yanacek inquired to those present whether this may be something they would like to do, possibly in the early to mid-April time frame. Although there was interest by a number of those present, Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson tabled this business item at the request of Adjutant Yanacek in order to establish interest by those not present at our meeting, and to permit a cost-assessment for a two-day trip to be conducted. Accordingly, Adjutant Yanacek was instructed contact our membership by e-mail, to gauge interest, and if warranted, assess the cost for such a trip. The results of his inquiry will be briefed at our February meeting.

(e) Adopt-a-Beach Program. At a recent meeting, a member suggested that the Outer Banks Detachment may want to consider participating in the “Adopt-a-Beach” program as a community service project. Adjutant Yanacek has researched the program and reported that in order to participate we must apply for and be assigned a designated beach access in Kill Devil Hills or Nags Head by the Outer Banks Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. Upon acceptance, the appropriate town will provide and maintain a sign listing our organization at the designated beach access. In return, our members would be required to clean our assigned beach access and remove the litter from the area a minimum of six times per year. Additionally, we would be required to complete and submit a data collection form to the Outer Banks Surfrider Chapter each time a cleanup is performed as evidence that our cleanup effort had been accomplished. Doing so would preserve our eligibility to maintain our assigned beach access and sponsorship signage indefinitely; however should the detachment fail to meet these requirements, our sponsorship signage would be removed and our designated beach access would be reassigned to another sponsor. Paymaster Diaz inquired as to which beach accesses were available for assignment, unfortunately Adjutant Yanacek was unable to provide a list as he is awaiting receipt of that information from the Surfrider Foundation. In light of that, Adjutant Yanacek requested that this item be tabled for further discussion at next month’s meeting. His request was granted by Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson.

(f) Endorsement to Open an Outer Banks Navy Federal Credit Union Branch Office. Opening this item for discussion, Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson polled those present to determine how many are currently members of Navy Federal Credit Union. The results indicated that 25-percent of those present are currently members, so a local branch office would certainly be of benefit to them. Addressing a more complex issue, Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson expressed concern over the legal issues of our detachment providing the requested endorsement. Paymaster Diaz concurred with this concern, pointing out that our status as a non-profit organization may prohibit our ability to endorse a commercial for-profit

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entity. Judge Advocate Laney acknowledged these concerns, adding that he could not offer an opinion on the legality at this time without further research. Judge Advocate Laney recommended that this business item be tabled for further research regarding possible legal issues, and to await the outcome of the same request for endorsement being made to the Dare County Veterans Advisory Council, and our local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War posts. Senior Vice-Commandant Hudson granted Judge Advocate Laney's request and tabled this item until such time that further research is completed and the results of the request for endorsement made to organizations similar to ours is known.

(g) Thank-You for Donation. Detachment member Pat Riley addressed the membership to express his thanks for the donation made by the detachment to the Corolla Wild Horse Fund in memory of his wife, Mary, who passed-away this past summer.

(h) Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Junior Past-Commandant Gregory reminded those present that the date of Kelly's Saint Patrick's Day Parade is rapidly approaching as it is scheduled for 12 March 2017. Junior Past-Commandant Gregory will be taking the necessary action to coordinate our participation at this event as we have in the past with the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts.

(i) Raffle Tickets Available. Department of North Carolina Senior Vice-Commandant Jones advised the membership that the Department of North Carolina is selling raffle tickets for an M-1A rifle. The weapon is a beauty and was passed among those members present to examine it. Only 600 tickets will be sold at a cost of \$10 each. The drawing will be held at the department's summer quarterly meeting.

11. Junior Past-Commandant Gregory closed the meeting with a prayer.

12. The meeting concluded at 1959 with Sergeant-at-Arms Clark retiring the national color and declaring the meeting closed until 14 February 2017, when the detachment's membership will reconvene for the transaction of official business.

*Robert J. Yanacek*

Robert J. Yanacek  
Adjutant

## DETACHMENT MUSTER ROLL FOR JANUARY 2017

<b>Name</b>	<b>Staff Billet</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Beall, Daniel M.		
Bowser, Oyoma R.		
Boyce Sr., Ronald A.		
Clark, Craig T.	Sergeant-at-Arms	Present
Czernik, Lawrence C.	Toys for Tots Liaison	
Diaz, Jorge L.	Paymaster	Present
Dozier, John J.		Present
Draper, Frank D.	Commandant	
Fearing Jr., Zenas E.		
Felder, Gary L.		
Figura, John P.		
Fillmore, Walter D.		
Gibson, Ron G.		
Gillis, Steven		
Gregory, Timothy G.	Junior Past-Commandant	Present
Holton, Edward J.		
Hudson, Daniel R.	Senior Vice-Commandant	Present
Hunley, Thomas M.		Present
Hurley, Thomas F.		
Keating, Michael A.	Junior Vice-Commandant	Present
Laney, Russell E.	Judge Advocate	Present
Lawrenson, Richard	Chaplain	
Lotspeich, Cory B.		
Mason, Ronald L.		
McGrath, Kevin J.		
Messinger Sr., Robert L.		
Murphy, Donald W.		
O'Brien, William W.		
Owens, James W.		Present
Riley III, Edward W.		Present
Scarborough, Christopher L.		Present
Spivey, Elvin L.		
Stone, Leonard J.		
Straub, Charles G.		
Strauss, John O.		





# GIG LINE



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**By Marsha M. Brown**

## December's Blessings

This time of year we consider the seasons of our lives and the happiness of past holidays, family togetherness and traditions. Some of those traditions we hold dear will take place again as usual, and some can't due to changes in our family composition but despite the loss of our precious loved ones, we still have very much to be thankful for.

I love: Christmas and the beautiful story about a miraculous conception that resulted in the birth of Jesus, the most influential figure this world has ever known; hearing typical hymns at church, or on a radio en route to deliver and collect hugs and kisses from folks we love and watching Christmas movies on T.V. because movies with only the tree lights on while sipping a cup of eggnog or hot cocoa is a must! Though the movie scenes are much the same, people come full circle to remember, embrace and celebrate the days of old—baking cookies, fresh ham and hot mashed potatoes with butter and gravy somehow renews the spirit! Low carbs? Not so much! Somehow they take a backseat to the festive goodies this time of year and unfortunately rather than taking priority, they often times fall into the “New Year Resolution” basket. My singing? Still horrible and memorable only for the wrong reasons, but I still make an attempt to bellow out the familiar tunes that make us smile. All the while I thank God I can see the Christmas lights, hear the music and feel, taste and touch the blessings around me.

Over the holidays when we hear news about those less fortunate and what they don't have, also consider what they do have... loving, kind, fellow Americans and “brothers” and “sisters” who devote their time to help by serving their plates, volunteering at shelters, praying for them and comforting them as best they can. Simply put... good people do good things.

Also think about the generosity and good exemplified by the Marine Corps League Outer Banks Detachment #1264 and all they put into their annual project the “Toys for Tots Program” during the months of November and December.

The goal of the program according to their website and Marine Corps friends I know is “to collect new, unwrapped toys each year, and to distribute them as Christmas gifts to the needy children of Dare County.” Note: Their meetings are held on the second Tuesday of

each month from 1900 to 2000 at the Kern Pitts Center in Southern Shores, the next being Tuesday December 13. If you are interested in joining as a regular or associate member, please contact them at phone: 252-305-4768; by email: [info@obxmarines.org](mailto:info@obxmarines.org) or by mail: Marine Corps League Outer Banks Detachment, P.O. Box 2332, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-2332. They are awesome veterans who are dedicated, devoted and diligent when it comes meeting and exceeding their goals to help others. If you would like to feel the joy of helping them help children, please get in touch with them ASAP. In advance, thank you!

Our local American Legion Post 26 will meet on Wednesday, December 14 at 6 p.m. at the post located: 302 W. Lake Drive, Kill Devil Hills (rather than noon) and they will continue the 6 p.m. schedule for the next six months). Their monthly meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Post 26 members are loyal to their post and to fellow veterans. They welcome you and would greatly appreciate your participation. Please consider joining them in their crusade to help local veterans.

In the last few weeks I (as well as other Dare County Veteran's Advisory Council members) have received calls from veterans who are just learning about the veterans resources and support that is available in Dare County/Outer Banks. Our Veteran Service Officer Rhonda Creef contact phone: 252-475-5604 is eager to help you in any way she can and I suggest you consider calling her to make an appointment to see what might be available to you. Also you're welcome to contact me on my cell 252-202-2058 or by email: [giglineheroes@aol.com](mailto:giglineheroes@aol.com). Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or know of a veteran in need of help.

Until next time, be happy be safe and be proud. As a veteran you have sacrificed to save us all from not telling what. We thank you, we love you, and we owe you all big time. God bless you all and your families! Take care and please seek fellow vets around you. You all need each other and we sure as heck need all of you! Stay tuned!

**ENCLOSURE (2)**