

# **Marine Corps League** **Department of North Carolina**



## **Executive Board of Trustees and DVCs Meeting Minutes 02February 2024**

**Presided by: Commandant Ric Ledford  
Department of North Carolina  
Marine Corps League**

**Meeting start time: 1908  
Meeting Location: zoom call**

**A. EBOT attendees**

1. Commandant – Ric Ledford
2. Sr. Vice Commandant – Robert Hare
3. Jr. Vice Commandant – AJ Pitts
4. Judge Advocate – Bill Brown
5. Jr Past – Rick Thomason
6. Adjutant – Laura Hamilton
7. Paymaster – Scott Shermeyer
8. Finance Committee Member – Hank Kaczmarek (absent)

**B. Subject of discussion**

1. Proposed 2024/25 Budget
  - a. Ric Ledford – we will try to have the budget ready by the spring membership meeting.
  - b. Scott Shermeyer – one thing we should do is create a 501c3 foundation so we can reach out to more companies for donation purposes. This opens up grants from other non-profit organizations. Some of the items can be funded by these grants. We need grant writing to request from some of the large donors. We need that foundation to be able to accept these grants. This will allow the League to focus on the business side and let the grants/donations fund the other humanitarian items.
  - c. Ric Ledford – we will need a presentation on this so everyone can best understand this proposal. Most corporate bylaws are written so they can only donate to a 501c3, not a 501c4.
  - d. Bill Brown – the humanitarian funds should be replenishable throughout the year. If we hit the preset amount, then we would be able to go into the reserves to replenish the funds.
  - e. Ric Ledford – this needs to be put into the proposal; giving the EBOT has the authority to replenish the funds.
2. DVC / elected officers stipend
  - a. Ric Ledford asked if anyone had given thought about rising this? The DVC leaving at \$400? Raising elected officers to \$600?

- b. Bill Brown – DVCs should get maybe \$100 increase for copies/supplies/postage.
- c. Scott Shermeyer - these are direct costs and should be a reimbursement. These are legitimate business costs. The other part is travel / lodging related expenses for the meetings. This should not be a pay-your-way type of situation. Not everyone turns in reimbursements. We must be prepared for that year when everyone does turn in receipts. Such as DVCs, the predominant amount of their expense should be mileage for visitations.
- d. Ric Ledford – Bill and he talked about separating out the BL and AP. The AP should be covering these types of things. We need to put these things on paper and it is what has bit us in the past. There are not good guidance for procedures on many things. We need a good set of AP and treat these just like national on the EBOT would be able to adjust the AP and not wait until convention for the BL.
- e. Robert Hare - \$600 for elected officers.
- f. AJ Pitts - \$400 travel / \$200 for lodging.
- g. Ric Ledford – we could put a note on the budget that this is for mileage/lodging only.
- h. AJ Pitts – DVCs, he does feel it should be for lodging.
- i. Ric Ledford – he has only ever seen to a department meetings.
- j. Rick Thomason – its intent is for travel and not lodging for department meetings.
- k. AJ Pitts – DVCs should be \$400 for mileage. The Elected Officers are required to be at department meetings and should get the extra to help with lodging.
- l. Bill Brown – we could use a line item code for every expense to keep things separated.
- m. Scott Shermeyer – when an auditor looks at these things, they want clear item number and receipt correlation.
- n. Bill Brown made motion to raise \$600 SrV, JrV, JA, Paymaster, and Adjutant for proposed budget. Second by AJ Pitts. Approved by EBOT.

3. Change of FY.
  - a. Bill Brown – what needs to be done to officially change the FY?
  - b. Scott Shermeyer – he will confer with his notes. First though would be to correct the bylaws for the budget year (end of June). The IRS reporting is calendar year. It must be understood that at the convention, we will not have a final closure of the books. The Fall Meeting would need to have a revised final report. If a bylaw passes, then we need to have an immediate motion from the floor to extend the current FY to the end of June.
4. License Plate monies
  - a. Bill Brown – asked about where those funds are going?
  - b. Laura Hamilton – understood that we could not collect due to the copyright from the Marine Corps.
5. Computer replacement monies
  - a. Laura Hamilton – where is the line item for this.
  - b. Scott Shermeyer – that was not the best way to account for the replacement and those funds would be frozen for that type of use.
  - c. Laura Hamilton – when the computer is handed over, the Office suite and PDF editor will be removed as these are hers.
6. Detachment donations
  - a. Ric Ledford – where did the monies come from? One is from Percy John Fulton Detachment and one from Tarheel Detachment.
  - b. Scott Shermeyer – we have \$200 T4T and \$900 YM restricted funds. We just keep track until such time action is directed to be done.
  - c. Ric Ledford – the intent was to collect and then at the convention it would be presented to the membership for motion of use.
7. March EBOT meeting can further discuss this budget.
8. Scholarship
  - a. Ric Ledford – we voted in the scholarship program. Even if we didn't allocate funds in the budget, probably by accident, and it has not been taken off the program books. We need to honor this program. We have a member who has submitted for this money. It is 5 scholarships of \$1000. How will we honor this obligation?

- b. AJ Pitts – who accepted the application? (Ric Ledford did as head of committee). Made the motion for the BOT to pay this request. (withdrawn).
  - c. Scott Shermeyer – have the committee make a recommendation to the membership for them to approve the payment of this.
  - d. We recommend that it is put back into proposed budget.
9. Fundraising
- a. Scott Shermeyer – we are not on track with fundraising. It is not looking good at this moment.
  - b. Robert Hare – he is not pleased with the current projection at this time either. We as a board can talk about the forecast for next year but we need to work on income.
  - c. Scott Shermeyer – needs a motion to spend line item 52 for the MED detachment host of \$100. Ric Ledford made the motion for this line item to be sent out. Bill Brown seconded the motion. Approved by EBoT.

#### 10. Website

- a. Rick Thomason – gets a message from the website about not being secure.
- b. Scott Shermeyer – said it does not make the site unsecure, it is just the browser requirements.
- c. Rick Thomason – per Kenny Joyner it will cost to have the secure site. In the future all sites will be required to be secured. We will need to present this to the membership also.

No other topics discussed. Meeting was adjourned. 2030.