



New Bern: A “Bear” of a Conference

As one was attending our 74th conference put it: “New Bern was a ‘bear’ of a town.” Now, whether or not he was referring to the many bear statues around town or the fact that New Bern takes its name from Bern, Switzerland (named after the German word ‘bear’”) we do not know. Apparently though, he and the 65 other former CCs and ComCam Marines and their wives/guests had a good time during our August 16-20 Annual Conference.

While it may not have been the easiest venue to reach by air, the town and the great staff of the Hilton Double Tree Hotel went out of their way to make our annual conference was one of the best ever.

Why did we choose New Bern in the first place? As we have explained many times previously, when restrictions on travel and per diem keep active duty Marines from coming to us, we now choose to go to them. As New Bern is ideally suited between MCAS Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, our reasoning was relatively sound. **Yes, we did attract more than 50 active duty Marines to our Wednesday evening banquet.** Unfortunately, we had few winners of our annual VIEC & DPA Award competition on board.

On Tuesday 37 of the guests were bused to Camp Lejeune where the group was treated royally by **Fernando Schiefelbein** (retired MSgt), from the base operations office at Camp Lejeune. He, along with our very own **Nat Fahy**, current civilian director of public affairs for Marine Corps Installations East, provided running commentary throughout the tour with the personal touch that only Marines can. The first stop was the MOU training facility which, in civilian parlance, is a mock village designed to provide realistic training in an urban environment.

Following this the group lunched at the Officer’s Club and played host to five active duty Marines, much like we did at Oceanside in last year’s “host a Marine for lunch” program.

In the afternoon, the group visited the 2nd Marine Division’s Combat Camera Facility where they saw the very latest in photograph-

ic support equipment and expeditionary combat camera support capabilities.

Winding up the afternoon visit, the group was bused to the **Camp Lejeune Memorial Gardens** where they received a final brief from their tour guide Fernando and were given a chance to see the Beirut, Vietnam and 9/11 Memorials.

On Wednesday, the attendees received an update on Marine Corps information and combat camera operations from **Col. Sean Gibson**, Director, USMC Communications Division and **Maj. Sean Hayes**, Combat Camera.



A New Bern Bear

That evening, active duty Marines from MCAS Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune joined members and their guests for our annual Distinguished Performance Awards Dinner. Our guest of honor this year was **Maj. Gen. Gary Thomas**, the new CG, 2nd Marine Air Wing. We received musical support from a brass quintet from the 2nd MAW Band and a color guard from the 2nd Marine Division.

More than capably handling the emcee chores this year was past president, **Keith Oliver**, whose knowledge of the organization as well as that gleaned from past PA tours at both Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune held in good stead throughout the evening.

Awards were presented to the Camp Lejeune Globe for winning first place in the Civilian Enterprise News category and to the MCLB Albany, GA for second place. The staffs of both papers were on hand to receive their awards.

Four individuals were on hand to accept their awards. Newly-promoted **Sgt. Eric Keenan**, DMA was honored for first place honors as

(Continued on page 3)



Maj. Gen. Gary Thomas

In Transition



Russ Savatt

Russell W. Savatt Jr. MGySgt. USMC

(Ret.) died peacefully on September 7, 2015, at his home in Poway, California. He was 87 years old. Services were held Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 11:00 am at the Miramar National Cemetery.



Mike Pitts

Former National President and retired Marine Captain Mike Pitts died peacefully on July 28.

He was buried at Quantico National Cemetery on August 3.

Pacheco's Notes

Manny Pacheco, USMCCCA President



Greetings fellow CCs and I hope this latest edition of our newsletter finds you well.

As I begin my second year as your president I am excited and more optimistic about the state of our organization. I am excited to celebrate our 75th anniversary --- and trust me we will do that in grand fashion in Fredericksburg --- more on that in a bit. But I am also optimistic at the support and encouragement I have been receiving from you our members and your drive to continue making this organization not only a place of social gathering and fellowship, but just as important to continue to make this the professional organization that our young CCs expect and deserve.

For those of you who joined us in New Bern and those that where there in spirit you realize and understand that for the foreseeable future we will try to do our conferences near a major installation to continue to drive in our active duty CCs. It may not always be the best but I hope those that took advantage of our trip to Camp Lejeune got a good taste and understanding of a balance between our "village elders" and the future "elders." I believe the count was more than 50 active duty Marines at the banquet --- a few more than even our ED counted on as the hotel staff had to rush in an extra table --- sorry about that Jack! But I believe it was all worth it. Not only did we have a packed house but we were also treated to a great speech by MajGen. Gary Thomas, the C G of 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, but more importantly is also a cousin to our very own Mawk Arnold --- much to our Chaplain's surprise!

As we get turning on the next event the focus is now shifting on the schedule for Fredericksburg. We have begun some initial dialogue with folks at HQMC and with Recruiting Command to get an early start on getting them to host an event in conjunction with ours --- and the feedback is promising thus far. We are looking to host a professional development series of panels during one of the days and while the active duty folks conduct their business we will be out enjoying a look at the Quantico of today. Additionally we are

building in time for folks to enjoy the many wonderful things that Fredericksburg has to offer --- from antiques to history and food to shopping, there is plenty here for everyone.

Here is what you can expect at our 75th celebration. Please note that this is just a draft and will be refined as we finalize planning so days and events may change a bit, but we have added one more day to provide folks enough flexibility to enjoy some free time:

Monday --- Welcome reception

Tuesday --- a tour that will include Quantico and the Marine Corps Museum

Wednesday --- training for our active duty CCs, while the rest of us partake of the many wonders in historical Fredericksburg.

Thursday --- some business and some fun, followed by our awards banquet

Friday --- our sayonara breakfast and for those who have the time. The hotel will honor our discounted rate for an extra day or two. More on that at a later date.

I hope I have piqued your interest enough to start making those travel plans sooner rather than later. Finally, as we are nearing the holiday season I would be remiss if I didn't tell you to take it easy on the turkey and all the trimmings!

I hope you and your family and friends and a safe and happy holiday season.

Semper Fidelis, Manny

Dues Reminder

CCHQ has had a good response for member dues this year but we sill have quite a few who need to "re-up."

Remember, the dues year is Octobe4r 1 through September 30. Dues are \$25 for sergeants and below and \$35 for staff ncos and above.

Go on line to www.usmcca.org and get current with us. We need you!

2015 Booster Club

Gold
\$1,000-\$4,999

Keith Oliver

Silver
\$100--\$999

Gene Smith
Mike Arnold
Ralph Austin
Don O'Neal
Don Coleman
Cochise Cash
Jack Paxton
John Kloczkowski
Manny Pacheco
Sally Pritchett
Walt Ford
Tom Kerr
Art Detman
George Chrisman Jr.
Clinton Firstbrook
Dale Baird
Bob McEwen
Chris Whiting
Don Parzanese
Bob Bowen

(Note: Take advantage of a possible tax break. Get your Booster contribution in prior to the end of the year. Helps you, helps us!

Hauptfleisch's Notes

Bill Hauptfleisch, USMCCCA Foundation President



Fredericksburg Virginia, is often touted as one of America's most historic cities for the civil war battles that took place there. Another historic event will be added to the cities fame when the 75th anniversary of the USMCCCA will be celebrated at the annual conference. Talking with Association president Manny Pacheco recently we both agreed since this is in our backyard we need to make it special, and we will. In the last several months I have contacted businesses that are owned by my friends and associates and have received pledges that they will purchase journal ads. Since this will be our "75th" I would like to encourage all members to also reach out for journal ads, DPA sponsorships and Scholarship donations. Additionally, I would like to ask current members to reach out to those who have left the association to return and be active again in the

organization; we need them now more than ever! The 75th is a big one and what a better way to get them. As always we greatly appreciate the continued fiscal support from members and corporate donations.

Journal Ads Needed

The USMCCCA Annual Journal is in its final stages but we still need quarter page member ads. If you want to honor another member, someone who has passed, or simply want to see your name in print, we can handle it.

Just go to our website www.usmccca.org and start the process with your credit card. Or, better still, give us a call and we'll handle it for you.

Our member-only quarter page ads remain at \$150. If you have an idea, tell us and Kate Stark will create it for you.

New Bern: A "Bear" of a Conference

(Continued from page 1)

Outstanding New Journalist and Commentary categories, plus a second place award for an honorable mention in the Feature Article category. He also received a check for \$200 for his first place wins.

Former **Sgt. Austin Hazard**, now living in the Camp Lejeune area, received a first place award for his Sports Photo win. He received a check for \$100.

The big winner – for the third straight year – was Sgt. Reece Lodder, now of RS Seattle, WA, who won five first place awards for the following: Feature Article, Photojournalism, Picture Story, Portrait Personality and Pictorial. Lodder also won an honorable mention for his entry in the Feature Photo category. He received a check for \$500.

The **Sgt. William T. Perkins Combat Camera-man of the Year Award** was won by **Sgt. Christopher Q. Stone**, NCOIC of the 2nd Marine Division, Combat Camera installation.

Retired **Col. Mary Reinwald**, Editor, Leatherneck Magazine was on hand to announce the

2014/15 Leatherneck winners. Unfortunately, none of the three winners was able to be on hand.

The final award of the evening was the Brig. Gen. Robert L. Denig Sr. Memorial Distinguished Service Award presented posthumously to the late **Dickey Chapelle** for her distinguished war reporting, both in World War II and Vietnam. In the latter conflict she was killed on November 4, during Operation Black Ferret near Chu Lai. On hand to accept the award were here niece and nephew, **Betsy** and **Rob Meyer**. Responding was **John Garofolo**, family friend, who is also author of a soon -to-be-released book, "**Dickey Chapelle Under Fire.**"

At Thursday's Sayonara Breakfast, HLM **Joe Galloway** regaled the audience with remembrances of his lengthy career as a war correspondent, including the battle of the Ie Drang Valley in Vietnam, from which his book, "**We Were Soldiers Once, And Young**" and the movie, "We Were Soldiers" was produced. It was at that battle that Joe became one of the first civilian newsmen to win the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" device.

What's In A Cap? Depends on Emblem

(By Don Knight, Kensington, MD) My black cap with gold lettering has magnetic impact on people I don't know. On my way to an outdoor market a stranger walks up, shakes my hand with a strong squeeze and promptly says "thank you for your service" and quickly walks on.

The cap I wear was a gift, was manufactured in the USA and has, in gold lettering, **United States Marine Corps**.

A week later I enter the Safeway Store and am met by a guy who asks, "You Marine Corps?" Observing his broad grin I confess to being a former Marine. He pulls a photo from his jacket of a Marine in dress blues. "This," he says in broken English, "is my son, training to be an officer. Yes, he's in Quantico."

Another guy who has been listening nearby approaches and wants to know more about World War II. He is an Army vet,

been to Vietnam and now is caretaker for a small park nearby. He wants my opinion of General Doug MacArthur. I manage to say good things about him and promptly forget what I was supposed to bring home for dinner.

History Project Underway

Don't be surprised if you receive a request for information about your time in a PA or ComCam position during any of our combat eras.

To celebrate our 75th anniversary next year at the Fredericksburg Annual Training Symposium (aka conference), an historical update is being prepared that more completely identifies the conflicts we have been involved in since our inception in 1942. Hopefully, the 250-300 page book will serve as inspiration to bring our previous history: Last to Know, First to Go up to date.

The book will be published by Life Member Dave and Diane Biesel's St. Johann Press. Initially the book will be given to all who register for the Symposium at Fredericksburg. Other copies will be available to members at cost, with all proceeds going to the CCs.

To date, we are fairly well set with World War II and Korea. We have quite a bit of info on hand for Vietnam. Needed are photos for Bierut and all subsequent operations.

Lodder: Quite A Good Year

Over the past couple of years we have grown accustomed to seeing Reece Lodder walk off with a multitude of our Distinguished Performance Awards. This year he outdid himself capturing five more firsts at our New Bern DPA Banquet.

Earlier he garnered two top awards in Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Awards competition winning the prestigious Sgt. Maj. Bradley Kasal Award for Photojournalism as well as the Gen. O. P. Smith award for Local Reporting.

The icing on the cake came when he was named MPA of the Year by the Marine Corps Recruiting Command.



Sgt. Reece Lodder receives two medallions at the Marine Corps Heritage Awards Banquet from former CMC Joe Dunford as MCHF President Lt. Gen. Rusty Blackman looks on.



Life Member Riccoh Player, (center) PAO, Marine Forces Command, Norfolk, was promoted to colonel July 8. Col. (ret) Brian Salas, left and MGySgt John Cordero, right, assisted in pinning on the new rank.

Our Boards

Association

Officers

President: Manny Pacheco

VP: Kate Stark

Secretary: Chris Whiting

Treasurer: Rick Lavers

Directors

Fran Piccoli (2017)

Don Coleman (2017)

Bob Long (2016)

Bob Mergle (2016)

Cal Openshaw (2016)

Foundation

Officers

President: Bill Hauptfleisch

VP: Tom Kerr

Secretary: Sally Pritchett

Treasurer: Don O'Neal

Directors

Red Carpenter

Walt Ford

Agostino vonhassel

Pat Coulter

Brian Thompson

Executive Director Jack Paxton serves both boards.

That's 30 from from CCHQ

Executive Director Jack T. Paxton



As you surmised, this is primarily a post-conference edition. In nearly 11 years of working conferences I am amazed at the differences between our larger events years ago and our new regional affairs. We lament the fact that we do not have a large active duty attendance—and hopefully that changes next year—but nevertheless we generally have a great time.

Our hospitality suite at New Bern was one of the smallest ever but thanks to Don Coleman who oversaw things each night and held awesome auctions, it was a hit! Thanks to those who participated, proceeds from the auction helped to defray the bus and other expenses.

We first met **Joe Galloway** at the old Danang Combat Information Bureau (CIB). He was about 22 at the time and probably had already seen more action than many of our Marines. His reporting of the IeDrang Valley battle became immortalized in his book **“We Were Soldiers Once, and Young”** and later in the movie of the same name.



Joe Galloway

He and his wife, **“Doc Gracie”** were with us and no conference would have been the same without comments from Joe at our Sayonara Breakfast. As usual, he held us spellbound with tales of RVN and later combat reporting. Doc Gracie may have set a new record in bidding on our hospitality suite auction items. Gracie, we do appreciate it.

In the pages devoted to meeting minutes you will read about concerns of member-recruitment, future conferences, and the financial “health” of this organization. I encourage you to read the minutes.

Of particular interest to us (and other organizations like us) is the recruitment of new members. It’s no secret that all veter-

ans organizations are in the same boat. We are looking at various ways to attract our young CCs and ComCam Marines. We now know we cannot wait until they get older and recognize our value. President Manny named Board members **Fran Picoli** and **Bob Long** to a committee to come up with a plan of attack.

We also are looking at ways to cut down on our constant dollar “ask” of members. No, we still need the money, but asking for it three times a year needs to change. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be able to offer a “pledge” system where you could make a substantial pledge to our programs and be able to take 10 months to pay the pledge. **The easiest way is to setup “bill pay” through your bank to the Foundation with a payment scheduled automatically each month.**

We also will offer a payment procedure on our website where you can use either a VISA or MCard to make the pledge and monthly payments. Watch for it on the website and on our Facebook page.

Saving the “best” for last: On Tuesday at the New Bern conference we had arranged with a local trolley company for a bus to transport members to Camp Lejeune for a landing, a tour of a new training facility, a visit to the Beirut Memorial and lunch with CCs and ComCam Marines.

In **Manny Pacheco’s** words: “I thought something a bit strange when we crossed the bridge outside of New Bern and saw a sign leading to Havelock but I figured the local bus driver knew a shortcut. When we pulled up to the MCAS Cherry Point Main Gate I knew we had a problem!”

So, another hour later the group arrived at Camp Lejeune. So ends another routine conference activity.

Conference Highlights: Welcome Reception



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Bish
Came

..., Hospitality Suite and “Lengthy” Bus Trip!



Conference Photo Credits
The author gratefully appreciates the special photo efforts of Mike Minardi, [Name], and [Name], and the cooperation of the 2nd Marine Division Photo Lab, especially help provided by SSgt. Sevelius and MGySgt. Paul [Name], 2nd Marine Division Combat [Name] era group.



Conference Highlights: Camp Lejeune's Mo



Memorials; Annual DPA Awards Ceremony



Executive Summary of Minutes: Old, New, Fou

2015 (old) Board of Directors Meeting August 17, 2015

President Manny Pacheco called the meeting of the 2015 US-MCCCA Board of Directors to order at 2:07 p.m. Present were: President Pacheco, Treasurer Rick Lavers, Secretary Chris Whiting, Directors Cal Openshaw, Bob Mergle, Bob Long, and Executive Director Jack Paxton. Don Coleman and Michael Frank sat in on the meeting. A quorum was present.

Reports

Secretary: Pacheco called for a Secretary's report. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as published in Executive Summary form in the *Now Hear This* newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lavers reported that as of June 23, the Association's three CD accounts contain \$ 10,177.25, \$15,524.21 and \$15,324.47. He said the checking account has \$24,348.93. He summarized by saying we have approximately \$70,000 in current assets.

Executive Director Paxton brought up a proposal to change the frequency of the Association Treasurer's report from monthly, as indicated in the bylaws, to quarterly. With most of the financial assets belonging to the Foundation, the need for a monthly report was put into question. A motion was made to adopt a quarterly Association Treasurer's report. The board voted to put this bylaw change to a vote by the members at the Annual Business meeting.

3. Executive Director: Paxton said he would give his report at the Annual Business Meeting.

Old Business: No old business was conducted.

New Business:

Director Appointment: Paxton briefed the board concerning a change to the slate of officers for the 2016 Board. Fran Piccoli and Tom Kerr had been on the slate for the two open director seats, but Kerr had bowed out due to health concerns. Pacheco appointed Don Coleman to replace Kerr on the slate. The members will formally accept the slate at the Annual Business Meeting.

Electronic Board Meeting: Pacheco talked to the board about whether the bylaws need to be changed to reflect the use of technology to facilitate board meetings. He referred to the conference call meeting of the board in December, 2014, but this could also include Skype meetings. He said that his research determined that, since email board votes had already been approved, and since a conference call or Skype meeting is merely an extension of that, the bylaws need not be amended. He added that one board meeting, along with the Annual Business Meeting could satisfy the requirement in the bylaws to meet "in body" twice a year.

2016 Conference Brief: Pacheco briefed the board about the progress of the 2016 site in Fredericksburg, Va., just south of Quantico. He said the facility is good, there is a mall nearby and the room rates are reasonable with breakfast included. He added that the area for the hospitality suite is well-suited to our gathering.

He said he has already begun work on a preliminary schedule,

adding a day for professional military education seminars. He said one of the days there would be a tour of Quantico in the morning and lunch and the afternoon would be spent at the Museum of the Marine Corps. The dates are August, 22-26, 2016.

He said since 2016 will be the 75th Anniversary of the Association, the Awards Banquet will go back to being a formal affair. (This constitutes Blue Dress "A" for Marines, tux or dark suit for men, suitable attire for women.)

Also relating to the 75th Anniversary, an update of the US-MCCCA history is in the works, to be published by Dave Biesel. Plans call for Biesel's company, St. Johann Press, to print a teaser to the new history book at no cost to the Association. It will be handed out at the 2016 gathering.

Payment plan for member contributions: Paxton told the board of a proposal he will make at the Foundation meeting. He said that we ask our members for a lot – ads, award sponsorship, booster club, and dedicated member contributions. He told about a plan for members to make a one-time pledge, ideally in the last quarter of the year, to be paid off in installments during the following year. The member would be able to designate how the contribution would be used, for example, a pledge of \$1,200 could be designated for an award sponsorship, with the remainder going to the scholarship fund. Paxton said the idea is to try to get more for the Foundation, while making it easier on the members.

Committee Assignments:

Membership: Pacheco started a discussion about gaining more members and getting more attendees at the annual gathering. Pacheco said the Association is still giving DINFOS grads a free membership. He said that one problem is the younger generation does not need to go to a meeting to "catch up" with friends, they are in constant contact via social media. Paxton also brought up the issue of current members not updating their addresses with CCHQ, causing him to get many mailings back. At that point, he says, he must drop that member from the rolls. He added that he got a better return after sending a dues renewal postcard this year than in the past. He said we have 425 members, 150 of whom are Life Members or Honorary Life Members.

Pacheco proposed that we make membership free, with everyone who graduated from a course at DINFOS with a 4300 or 4600 MOS automatically becoming a member for life. He proposed making up the member dues revenue with other activities such as "crowd-sourcing" and auctions. No vote was taken on this proposal. Pacheco asked the board members to come up with other ideas to increase membership.

2017 Conference: Pacheco tasked Coleman to look at sites on the west coast for 2017.

Nomination Committee: Pacheco named Bob Mergle and Bob Long to the Nominating Committee.

Scholarship Entry Date Change: Pacheco briefed a proposal to change the entry submission date for scholarships to May 1, to better reflect the college application process. This will be brought to the Foundation Board as an administrative action.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Foundation Boards, Annual Business Meeting

2015 Foundation Board of Directors

Meeting, August 17, 2015

Present were Walt Ford, Jack Paxton, Red Carpenter, Sally Pritchett, Chris Whiting, Manny Pacheco, Rick Lavers, and Bob Long.

The meeting was called to order by Walt Ford who substituted for the Foundation President who could not attend.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as previously published.

There was considerable discussion on the finances of the foundation after Jack gave a report of the organization's financial status in the absence of the treasurer. While we were solvent at the time, there was concern about the future. He said we need advertising for the Journal, more DPA sponsors and for the Booster Club. Although the dedicated membership was up this year he said we need to explore different ways to earn money. Jack said he would send a proposal for a simplified one time-per-year pledges to all foundation members for their approval.

Manny talked about the idea of crowd sourcing as a possibility. He agreed to research and propose crowd sourcing for the foundation. If approved, all ideas would start in 2016.

Scholarships. We agreed to change the deadline to May 1 because the schools don't send out the transcripts until later. Walt and Sally agreed to change the date for submission. Walt asked if we can give more than the current amount and could we give more in one of the scholarships if we didn't have applications for the other. Walt agreed to work up a proposal for everyone's approval. Two scholarships were again given this year.

The meeting adjourned at 1700.

2015 Annual Business Meeting

August 19, 2015

President Manny Pacheco called the 2015 USMCCA Annual Business Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Reports

Secretary: Secretary Chris Whiting was asked to read the minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the *Now Hear This* newsletter. It was seconded and passed. Whiting added that the board voted by e-mail to hold the 2016 conference in Fredericksburg, Va. and also voted to give Dickey Chapelle the Denig Award.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rick Lavers told the members that the Association has approximately \$70,000 in current assets. Pacheco added that there is \$24,000 in checking.

Nominations: Pacheco told the members that two members had been nominated to fill the two open director positions on the 2016 board. Those were Tom Kerr and Fran Piccoli. He said Tom Kerr bowed out and told the membership that the president had nominated Don Coleman to take Kerr's place on the slate. Paxton reminded the members that all the positions were uncontested, thus there was no requirement for an absentee ballot. Pacheco said the slate consists of: President – Manny Pacheco; Vice President – Kate Stark; Secretary – Chris Whiting; Treasurer – Rick Lavers, Directors Cal Openshaw, Bob Mergle and Bob Long, and the two aforementioned directors. A motion was made to approve the slate. This motion was seconded and the members voted to approve the slate as read.

Pacheco opened nominations for the 2017 board. Don Coleman nominated Cal Openshaw for director. Nominations will remain open until

May 15, 2016.

Executive Director's Report: Paxton told the membership the state of the organization is good – with concerns. He said he has seen a decline in revenue, membership and award sponsorships.

Paxton said that journal ads are dropping off and that he needs members to feed leads to him so he can go after them. He would like to see each of us take out a ¼ page ad at the member rate of \$150. He said other size ads are discounted 20% for members.

He said we got the DPA sponsorships to a manageable level, with just 33 individual awards receiving plaques. Unit awards receive certificates. He said last year we voted to give first place winners \$100.00. He said we raised the sponsorship rate to \$250, to allow for the monetary award, free membership and the cost of the awards winner's banquet ticket.

Paxton briefed the membership on a proposal adopted at the Foundation Board Meeting, to allow members to make a pledge to the Foundation and pay it off in ten installments throughout the next year. Ideally, the pledge would be made in the third quarter of a given year, allowing the member a possible tax break. Paxton said the payment arrangements can be made through PayPal or the member's own bank. He said this would make things simpler for those making donations and decrease the pitches from CCHQ.

Paxton also mentioned the Florida Chapter's annual golf tournament – eight people bringing in up to \$8,000 with one event. He invited people to come down to Florida and play in the tournament. He called it a floating venue, taking place at the course that gives them the best contract. He also praised Gene Smith, Champions Tour Director who gets many of golf-related items which are auctioned off at the event. He said this year the event garnered \$4,500, and Red Carpenter has asked that the Foundation give \$1,000 of that to the Semper Fi fund,

On a good note, Paxton told the members that the Dedicated Member Campaign was the best ever, netting almost \$6,000. However, the Booster Club revenue was down.

Mawk Arnold pledged a full page journal ad from him and his Vietnam "Snuffies."

Paxton said we now have 425 members, but that membership fluctuates. He said he continues to get surprised when people "come out of the woodwork" to join. He encouraged the members to invite others to become members of the Association. He concluded by saying that if this organization is going to stay afloat, it takes money.

Foundation Report: In the absence of the Foundation Treasurer, Paxton briefed the members that the Foundation is solvent and promised to post the Foundation Quarterly Report on the web site and make sure the board gets copies.

Sally Pritchett and Walt Ford, members of the Foundation Scholarship Committee, talked about this year's scholarships. Pritchett said they gave out two scholarships this year. Ford asked members to check out the information about scholarships on the web site, pointing out that they may be awarded to USMCCA members, active duty members and their dependents. The member must have been in the USMCCA for two years. Scholarships fall into the categories of general studies and communication studies. Ford said both given this year were for general studies. He also mentioned that the third member of the Scholarship Committee is Fred Lash.

President's Report: Pacheco briefed members on business conducted by the old board of directors. He said Don Coleman was tasked to look for a 2017 site on the west coast. He said we will again try to go where there are active duty Marines. He said his contact at Marine Corps Recruiting Command expressed an interest in holding an annual training function to coincide with our event.

(Continued on page 12)

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Executive Summary of All New Bern Board Meetings

(Continued from page 11)

He told the members about the board's decision to change the scholarship application date to May 1. He added that this will have to be looked at as it may be a challenge to get an applicant's senior transcript by that date.

Pacheco told the members about the recommendation to change the Association treasurer's report to a quarterly requirement. A motion was made to that effect. Paxton interjected that the Association is not dealing with a lot of money and a monthly report was not worth the work. The motion was seconded by Rick Lavers and the motion carried.

Member Discussion: Pacheco said he plans to appoint a membership committee who will recommend options to help us stay

viable. He encouraged the membership to come up with ideas and send them to him and Paxton. He said, "We have to change."

Pacheco's comments prompted a lively discussion by the membership. Arnold recommended everyone post about the conference on social media. Dave Biesel said his business has a website and can link to the USMCCCA site. Don Coleman said we should mention next year's 75th Anniversary in our posts.

(Col.) Rico Player said that he felt this event was a "mission failure" as there should be young Marines here. He said the senior leadership did not buy into it. He said to get a buy-in from higher headquarters, the conference needs to include professional military education.

Pacheco told about his efforts to do just that over the last several years. He also told about plans to extend the event next year to allow for PME seminars and his efforts to get Combat Camera and Marine Corps Recruiting Command onboard.

Fran Piccoli suggested changing the USMCCA mission statement to reflect a commitment to providing PME. Paxton said we need to change the name of the conference, such as an annual training symposium.

Admin Announcements: Pacheco reminded the members that next year is the 75th Anniversary of the USMCCCA, so for the 2016 Conference we will go back to more formal attire for the awards banquet.

Old Business: As there was no old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Now Hear This

Now Hear This is the official publication of the USMCCCA and it's Foundation.

The newsletter is published and edited by the Executive Director of the USMCCCA.

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