

**Second Battalion Fourth Marines Association, Inc.**  
**Annual Business Meeting Minutes 16 September 2023**  
**Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a. m. by President-Elect Joseph “Pete” Gannon.

Board members present were President Scott Huesing, President-Elect/Vice President Joseph “Pete” Gannon and Secretary Manuel Travassos. Staff members present included Chaplain Frank Valdez, Sea Horse Editor Becky Valdez, Web Mistress Kristen Day, and 2/4 Liaison Phillip Skaggs.

Pete Gannon led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, followed by opening prayer given by Chaplain Frank Valdez

**Opening Remarks.**

MajGen James Livingston called in to the meeting and said, “Good morning and I hope y’all are having a wonderful time... I miss all of you and I’m just so sorry that I couldn’t be with you... this old body is just hanging on here. My back is just hurting.”

President-Elect Joseph “Pete” Gannon began by stating that we need a new Sergeant-At-Arms with the passing of Pat Burns. He then stated that we need to discuss what we, as an Association, want to do, where we are going in the future, and what we want to accomplish in the future as far as getting things done, ie, getting more people in and getting the younger generation of members involved and taking on a more active role in the Association to help move it forward in the future. He stated that because the Association is not funded by dues anymore, we should consider asking members to contribute \$10.00 per year to fund the Association. Everyone can do \$10.00 a year. He then, called for Officer and Staff reports

**Officer and Staff Reports.**

Pete stated that a copy of the last Business meeting Minutes were on the desk up front and could be viewed by the members that desired to see them. Ray Del Rio requested that at each meeting a copy of the Minutes should be given to each member so that they could view them for themselves. Manuel Travassos stated that a copy is available in the Newsletter and on the website. Ray pointed out that not all members are computer literate. Manuel said that he would see that a copy of the previous Minutes would be available to the members.

Pete, also, stated that he had a copy of the Financial Report but that he had left it up in his room. Ray Del Rio said that just like the Minutes, a copy should be provided to each member, also. Pete Gannon said that he would have a copy for everyone at the Dinner Cruise, tonight. Pete was asked how much was in the Association’s account and he stated that there was approximately \$12,000.00.

**Old Business**

The idea was put forth that maybe we should start charging dues, again, by Phil Skaggs. Phil said that we older members paid \$100.00 to join the Association and that even though we were told that, since we were a 501(c)(19) Association, the Association could get enough funds through donations to fund the Association. This way the Association could attract more members, especially the younger Marines through free memberships. However, this has not worked. Pete Gannon said that he understood that and that is why he is suggesting maybe \$10.00 a year from each member to get revenue in the coffers and possibly charging dues for new members who want to join the Association. He, further, stated that the Board will take this up in its next Zoom meeting within the next 2 weeks. He, also, stated that getting a steady revenue stream for the Association was one of his goals as President of the Association. Gen Livingston, told the Association that he would send \$1000.00 to help fund the Association, Just send him a bill. Becky Valdez asked Ray Del Rio how much he gave to the Association for the cost of the Awards for the Active Duty Battalion. Ray stated that he gave \$1,500.00 and has given more and that all of us are able to give some, also. If we do that, we could keep the Association funded but we have to make it important to the younger members as well. Frank Valdez, then, then said that we need to address the financials more closely, that we need to talk about all the new members that we have for numbers, which is wonderful, but this has really drained us. Although, we are building for the future of the Association, we old timers who were the movers, feel like we are getting shafted, because we gained members but are giving away our finances. Although, we have talked about being funded by donations, which is not happening, we need to consider getting back to paid memberships.

**New Business:**

Following the discussion about the funding and the future of the Association, Pete Gannon called up outgoing President Scott Huesing and outgoing Secretary Manuel Travassos and awarded them acrylic plaques for their years

of loyal service as President and Secretary of the Association, respectively. They were honored with applause from the members in attendance.

The next order of business was to approve Wisconsin Dells as the next location of the annual Reunion that will be hosted by Donald Greengrass. Suggestions for other locations for reunions were, California or Quantico, VA. It was pointed out that someone has to volunteer to host the reunions in those locations. MajGen Livingston pointed out that the younger Marines like to have reunions near Marine Corps bases and we need to keep that in mind. After a short discussion, Frank Valdez made a motion to approve Wisconsin Dells as the location of the next reunion, seconded by Bill Juneau, and approved by a vote of the members. Scott Huesing volunteered to host the Reunion in 2025 in Texas and it was approved.

Pete Gannon, then stated that it is not in the By-Laws or the operating policies, but that there should be a swearing in of the Officers with an Oath of Office. Pete has created an Oath of Office and asked the outgoing President Scott Huesing to administer it to him since he is the only new officer, present. Scott administered the Oath to Pete and it was greeted by a round of applause.

**The Oath is as follows:**

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear and affirm..... that I will bear true Faith and Allegiance..... to United States of America..... to the United States Marine Corps..... and to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Association..... that I will enforce and uphold..... the By-Laws..... and will myself obey..... the laws governing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines Association ..... I shall ever bear in mind ..... the purposes of which..... and the principles upon which..... the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines Association..... and the Marine Corps were founded..... I will subordinate myself..... to the best interest..... of my fellow Marines..... FMF Corpsmen..... FMF Navy chaplains..... and all other members..... in the Marine Corps..... and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines Association..... and will never personally benefit..... at the expense of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines Association..... in the slightest degree..... At the termination..... of my Tour of Duty..... I will surrender my office..... to my duly elected..... or appointed successor..... accounting for any property..... that may have been entrusted..... to my care or custody..... All this I solemnly swear or affirm..... so help me God.*

**Good of the Association:**

Jack Del Rio made an impassioned plea, stating that we all get an allowance, whether it's a pension, social security, etc. Ray stated that he donates \$1000.00 a year and he can afford it and he is sure that the rest of us can afford to give \$20.00, \$30.00, \$40.00 a year because it takes money to run and fund this Association Therefore, all of us should be able to contribute to keep the Association going. Additionally, he said that he is one who believes the Financial Report should be presented at every meeting because he wants to know where his money is going. It takes money to operate an organization. He, further, stated that he belongs to a club with 180 members. It is a rifle club with \$80,000.00 because the members support it financially, some of which haven't been there in 30 years, but they still support the club. That is what we should be doing. Additionally, he suggested that all the reunions should be held on the West Coast and the East Coast, so that, maybe, we can get the younger members to attend. These younger members are not interested in what we are doing until they get a little older when they start wondering where so and so is and what they are doing. He finished with, "we all need to put money in our Association".

Manuel Travassos then spoke and said that he is, currently, the Membership Chairman and desires to turn this position over to someone, else. He suggested that, with the influx of so many new members, the committee should consist of a Chairman and 3 committee members in order to effectively contact all members. It is a daunting task. Becky suggested that the members who ran for Office in the last election be contacted and asked to serve on the Membership Committee, such as Jason Hall, Alphonso Velesco, and Matthew Boelhower. Kristen Day suggested asking Luis Arboleda who is attending the Reunion this week. Manuel said that he would contact them.

**Closing Remarks:**

President Pete Gannon, reiterated that he will call a Board meeting on Zoom in the next two weeks and address the issue of finances and seek a solution. He was disappointed that none of the Board members attended the Business meeting since he set it up on Zoom and notified all Board members. He went on to say that we are all getting older and we need to have fun and enjoy life, come to reunions, see old friends, and live life and not waste it.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 with a salute to the American Flag and Singing of the Marine Hymn.

Secretary: Manuel G. Travassos Date: 24 September 2023  
Manuel G. Travassos

Vice President : Joseph P. Gannon Date: 24 September 2023  
Joseph P. Gannon