

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2018 SE DIVISION CONFERENCE 22-24 March 2018 Pigeon Fork TN

I was the only representative of Louisiana at this Conference. David Martin had intended to be here but health matters in his family prevented him from coming at the last moment.

COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL

The main topics of discussion during the Commandants Council were the Marine for Life program and the new help for Funeral Honors requested by the CMC. The initial request for Funeral Honors is that the MCL provide the bugler. Outside of that much of the discussion related to officers stepping up to their responsibilities.

ASSISTANT DIVISION VICE COMMANDANT

Record Keeping The Departments need to track the dates they submit their transmittals to National.

Communications is still a problem we need to make sure the information is passed down to the rank and file. Officer installation reports need everyone's contact information.

Officers training The PDP should be used as a resource for new officers to understand the requirements of their office.

The Library is a separate website (linked to main site) It was developed to overcome the restrictions placed on changes to the main site. There will be an effort following this conference to post the Conference documents to the library.

DIVISION VICE COMMANDANT

Chapter 9s are still a problem. Try to prevent face to face conflicts during meetings all discussions need to go through the chair. All detachments should closely follow the procedures (Ritual) for meetings.

Detachments Departments need to closely monitor all detachments to assure that yearly elections are being held. There are 164 Detachments in the SE Division however only 12 were present at this conference. All Department and Detachments Commandants should be encouraged to attend these conferences.

Rifles Detachments need to track the rifles that have been loaned to them by the Army (CMP). All information relating to the rifle program is on the National Website. It

will be added to the Division website. Understrength detachments need to be helped or dissolved.

VAVS

SE Division will be developing new awards based on increased percentage in hours and dollars contributed to the VA and hours and dollars to other than the VA. One way to track this is to add VAVS hrs and contributions to the sign in sheet for detachment meetings.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE SOP (DIVISION EQUIVALENT OF BYLAWS)

Section 10 para 11. Changing the criteria for Division Marine of the Year. It presently has words indicating the community service is an important criterion in selecting the MoY. The proposal as to make it more like other MoY awards in that it should be based primarily on Marine Corps League activities. Changes to the SOP can be made by the Board of Directors but they were seeking input on this item. No action was taken at this meeting.

FUTURE CONFERENCE VENUES

The 2019 Conference will be in Charleston SC. It will be at the Crown Plaza, in the Tanger Outlet, 23-24 March. Registration starts 1 April \$134/night (not including tax) includes full breakfast (\$138 for 2 people in a room). RV parking is about 5 miles away. The Banquet will be \$50/person.

The 2020 Conference will be in Warner Robins GA (just South of Atlanta). It will be at the Marriott Courtyard \$119/night (no breakfast)

FOUNDATION

Vic Beverson was recognized for his work on the Challenge Coins. It was announced that the Foundation will be sending a Certificate of Recognition and 10 challenge coins to his family.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

National will have forms available 11 April. Of 250 applications received only 158 were preliminarily approved due to errors. Of the preliminarily approved only 116 submitted the necessary enrollment letters. 116 Students received \$700 awards. When

applying remember only original (not copies) documents and signatures are accepted. Due to IRS regulations future checks will be made out jointly to the student and college.

NATIONAL COMMANDANT

Honors Standing order has been sent out to all Marine Bases stating MCL is to be involved in all Funeral Honors. Initially we will provide the bugler. A program is being developed which will specify the rules for members involved in Funeral Honors.

Ship store Outside sources were investigated but found to not provide adequate profit margins. We are going to use a company which will provide miniature medals and ribbons. The ribbons or miniature medals can be purchased professionally mounted. There will be no large medals.

Financial Checking account and quick books balance for the first time. We are now using a professional firm to keep our books instead of a National Paymaster. All computer systems are fully backed up and secure from hacking. Expenses are much more closely monitored. All expenses must be submitted within the calendar year they were incurred. Board of Trustees meet via teleconference on a regular basis. Greeting card program is a very successful money raiser. Marine Expos are also very successful.

Membership The Commandant has set a goal that membership will be 50% over 50 and 50% under 50 years old. We are being invited to the Marine Corps Transition sessions so transitioning Marines will now be aware of the MCL.

IRS There is a new IRS 8976 online registration in place for NEW detachments. The MCL is a 501c4. The MCL Foundation is a 501c3. Being a 501c4 allows us to lobby for Veterans Issues. All detachments are considered to be entities of National. Gen0955 is the parent group identifier code. ROI (Officer Installation) is critical for contact information. All units need a deductibility of 1 (which means donations are deductible). National will assist detachments to correct deductibility problems. The ICO is the paymaster. Departments should have a Registered Agent. National is going to setup a required online school for all Officers in the MCL. Although the school is pass/fail, passing the course will not be necessary for a member to be elected to office.

Data Base Initial program chosen didn't meet our needs. A new program has been chosen which appears to resolve these issues. Unfortunately, our present data base which will provide the basis of the input to this new program has many problems. The free Active Duty memberships have caused some problems.

NATIONAL SR. VICE

Commitment Membership is voluntary, serving as an Officer is voluntary. Once you have volunteered doing the work is not voluntary. Marines who join and those who accept offices (appointed or elected) have committed themselves and they need to live up to their commitments.

NATIONAL JR. VICE

Bylaws The new bylaws have been submitted. They are 23 pages. The Administrative procedures have been expanded to include things moved from the old Bylaws.

Youth Physical Fitness Program. The MCL role is to make the schools aware of the program. This program is free to the users. The program is run by the Youth Physical Fitness Foundation.

(Marine for Life) 36,000 leave the MC every year. Although the Marine for Life is a Marine Corps Program not a MCL Program, there will be MCL Division, Department and Detachment Coordinators. The detachment coordinator will be the critical person. We will now have a MCL member at **Transitioning Marines Support Network (TAP) meetings.** The MCL rep at these meetings will forward the information on transitioning Marines to the detachment coordinator.

FISHER HOUSE

There are presently 72 houses actively supporting Veterans families when a veteran is in a VA hospital. There are no Fisher Houses in Louisiana. These houses have saved 305 thousand families over \$360 million. The MCL supports the houses through donating meals, supplies and taxi vouchers..

YANKY72 MEMORIAL

There is a Memorial being built headed by the Dept of Mississippi Marine Corps League to commemorate the crash of Yanke72. The Department started with plans

for a roadside marker but this has developed into a full memorial. They have already secured donations to cover the estimated cost of \$80 K to build the memorial . They are now raising funds to cover an estimated \$15-20 K for the dedication ceremony July 14, 2018. One of the primary use of these funds will be to cover the traveling expenses of the families to the Marines and Sailors who lost their lives

AWARDS

David Martin and Thomas Thompson received Distinguished Citizen awards. At the closing Banquet Johnny Baker was selected as Division Marine of the Year a well-deserved award.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Brandt PDC Louisiana 2013-14