



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Colorado - New Mexico - Utah - Wyoming

From the Office of

Russell Miller

National Vice Commandant

Date: 05-Aug-2019
From: Russ Miller, NVC, Rocky Mountain Division
To: Wendell Webb, National Commandant, Marine Corps League
Subject: 2019 Rocky Mountain Division Report to the National Convention

Sir Commandant,

Through the tireless efforts of Past NVC Allen Brink, the Department Commandants & their staffs, and the detachment officers and members of the Rocky Mountain Division, I am very proud to report that we are growing and holding the ground we have taken.

In 2017, the paid member percentage (PMP) across our division was a meager 67%. Through a great deal of recruiting, phone calls and emails to delinquent members, as well as increased visibility in our respective communities, we saw the PMP increase to 77% in 2018 and now 85% as of the current National Roster distribution. The largest change was seen in the state of Utah that has seen their PMP rise from 47% to 75% in the aforementioned time frame and continues to rise.

In two of the four states where detachments were on the verge of losing their charters, with the help of their Department Commandants, we have seen new growth, proper installation of officers and ROI, 990n, and Secretary of State filings increase. Congratulations to Commandant John Nulle of Wyoming for his efforts in seeing this through. Colorado is moving toward adding two new detachments in the coming year, bringing them to fifteen. New Mexico has the opportunity to add a new detachment in the north central part of the state, bringing their count to ten. Utah is exploring the possibility of consolidating two very small detachments that are in very close proximity to one another into one that is better suited for growth and can still serve their respective communities. We all have seen on numerous occasions all that the Utah Dixie Detachment in St. George Utah and Union Colony Marines of Greeley Colorado have been doing in "Semper Fi". I trust these detachments will continue to set pace for the rest of us around the RMDiv.

Detachments in all four states continue to seek new venues to serve our fellow veterans and their families through volunteer opportunities at VA medical facilities, Veteran Cemeteries, as well as increasing involvement through Marine for Life Program, Wounded Warrior Games, Golden Age Games,

etc... Additionally, we are very hopeful for continued growth in our support of Toys for Tots, Young Marines, and Devil-Pups. Five counties in Southern Colorado have a new coordinator this year as a result of our continued growth in their region.

Teams of our volunteers currently serve at VA hospitals and clinics throughout our division, selling popcorn to raise money to give aid and assistance to hospitalized veterans, providing free cookies and coffee during outpatient visits, providing musical entertainment in waiting areas, directing and transporting patients through the facilities. They are also, hosting "Veteran Coffees", luncheons for WWII and Korean War veterans, and so much more.

With the recent addition of the National Veteran's Cemetery in Colorado and one soon to be constructed in Wyoming, our detachments are standing up more Honor Guard units to add to the already stellar teams that are currently serving at all of the current National, State, and Private cemeteries around all four states to better support the active duty component of the Marine Corps in their rendering of final honors to our brothers and sisters that have answered the final roll call. I have been contacted at least once every other week by the I&I staffs of the Marine Reserve Center in Aurora, CO seeking assistance with services. Since the opening of the Pikes Peak National Cemetery in September 2018, they have already surpassed 1000 memorials. Phase one of construction is slated to be complete by January 2020.

I was honored to be present as all Departments completed their annual conventions in May and June. The Department of Colorado (Union Colony Marines) hosted the division conference during their department's convention and a great time was had by all. I am very enthusiastic about the desire for growth that I witnessed at each event and hope to be worthy of the trust that has been placed in my care for this upcoming two years as NVC. Thanks also to Al Lieske of Utah for being willing to take on the task of ANVC for the coming term.

Semper Fi

Russ Miller
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Marine for Life Liaison
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