



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## National Vice Commandant

### Southeast Division

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**TO:** Wendell W. Webb, Marine Corps League National Commandant

**FROM:** Archie H. Sweet, National Vice Commandant, Southeast Division

**DATE:** 5 August 2019

**SUBJECT:** 2019 MCL National Convention Report

I have enjoyed serving my second year of my first term as the National Vice Commandant of the Southeast Division. I am very thankful to have received the support of the members of the Southeast Division for a second term as their National Vice Commandant of the Southeast Division. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve with the National Officers over the past two years, and to serve the members of the Marine Corps League. I sincerely thank all the Southeast Division Officers, Department Commandants and the members of the Southeast Division, for their help and support over the past two years, and I pledge my best efforts to serve you in the coming two years.

Since my report for the 2019 Mid-Winter Conference, I have attended six of the seven Departments of the Southeast Division at their Annual Conventions. In April, I attended the Department Convention of Mississippi, and in May I attended the Department Conventions of Georgia, and Tennessee. In June, I attended the conventions of Louisiana, Florida and Alabama. At two of those conventions, I was given the honor of installing the officers for the 2019-2020 year. I have also maintained contact with all Department Commandants by both email and phone.

In March we had our Southeast Division Conference in North Charleston, South Carolina. Attendance was excellent, and the hosting Detachment, Low Country #803 did an outstanding job. Our 2020 Southeast Division Conference will be in Warner Robins, GA, hosted jointly by Central Georgia Detachment 1373 and Byron Detachment #1424. The dates for the conference are March 26-29, 2020, and we invite visitors from nearby Departments and Divisions. Check the SED website for hotel and registration details.

Membership renewals are picking up, and the percentages of past due annual members have dropped in all Departments. Total paid membership in the Southeast Division is 9,014, as of the 6/30/2019 National Quarterly Membership Report, which is 89.5% of the total 10,077 members on the roster. The total membership for the SED dropped by 18 members over the past year. Recruiting and retention is still a top priority for the Southeast Division.

Most of our Departments are doing well on their Eagle Scout Awards Programs. The Departments reporting their awards numbers are as follows: Alabama, 64; Florida, 200; Georgia, 178; Mississippi, 81; Tennessee, 394; giving us a total in the Southeast Division of 917 reported awards presented to Eagle Scouts. Two Departments failed to report any Scout Awards.

The Southeast Division covers six states jointly with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Young Marine Division. They are Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. The 3<sup>rd</sup> YM Division has three regiments, ten battalions and 40 YM units that account for 1,019 YMs, 59 recruits and 360 adult volunteers. They are broken down as: 1st Florida Regiment has five battalions and 19 units interacting with 25 MCL Detachments; the Georgia Regiment covers the states of Georgia and South Carolina and has two battalions and ten YM units interacting with 10 MCL Detachments; the Tennessee Regiment covers the states of Alabama and Tennessee

and has three battalions and ten YM units interacting with eight MCL Detachments; Mississippi at this point has no YM Units. Each Department has appointed a YM Liaison except for Mississippi.

The Young Marines and adult volunteers put in 66,700.04 hours of community service (for the period 1 Oct 2018 to present) of which the YMs had 27,021.88 hours and the adult volunteers had 39,678.16 hours. The Corporate World values 1 hour of community service at or about \$25 per hour. The Young Marine's community service during this period is valued at \$1,667,501. Around 75 percent of the hours are hours spent with Veterans' causes.

The Marine for Life (M4L) Program in the Southeast Division is well manned and running, with all Departments having a M4L MCL Liaison assigned, and approximately 90% of the detachments having a M4L MCL Liaison volunteer. M4L Liaison training was held at this year's SED Annual Conference, and will continue.

Plans and expectations for the coming year are to get Young Marine Units in all Departments. All detachments should have M4L MCL Liaisons in place, and all detachments are expected to put more emphasis on membership recruiting and retention. All departments are currently trying to add new detachments. VAVS is being implemented in all departments, with detachments being encouraged to assign VAVS representatives. Emphasis is being placed on training for detachment commandants, adjutants and paymasters, with instructions to implement the use of only the latest forms available on the MCL National Library and using electronic filling and filing of forms when possible.

Respectfully, and Semper Fidelis,

Archie H. Sweet, Jr.  
National Vice Commandant  
Southeast Division  
Marine Corps League