



**SOUTHWEST DIVISION
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**
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Date: July 11, 2019

To: National Commandant MCL

From: ANVC, Southwest Division

Subj: Southwest Division Report

I was in attendance at the SW Division Conference held at the Eastside Cannery Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas the weekend of 25 to 28 April 2019. This was a start of what NVCSW Division Commandant Bill Ebright and I hope to make an annual event. In place of any meetings occurring during the annual Marine Expo at Camp Pendleton, we hope to have an annual meeting and growl to be held sometime in April at a location that is centrally located so members of the Departments of Arizona, California and Nevada can attend without having to travel long distances. This year we chose Las Vegas and hopefully will be able to rotate future locations or just settle in on one location every year so members of the SW Division will know in advance where future Division meetings will be held. Marine Ebright and I, along with our staff, put together a great two days of training and meetings. We were able to have very successful Marine for Life and Chaplain Training sessions in addition to training for the use of Social Media and Paymaster. Unfortunately, our Division Paymaster could not make the meeting; however, personnel from the Department of Nevada stepped up and walked attendees through the processes necessary for the submissions of ROIs, transmittals, death notices, membership applications and a host of other responsibilities.

Our guest speaker at the Division Meeting was the NVC for the Northwest Division, Marine TJ Morgan who gave us an update on what is occurring at the national level. He stated that a new system is being developed for the roster process which will allow individual members to update their own information and Paymasters and Adjutants will be able to print out their own membership rosters. He also informed attendees that the bylaws and administrative procedures have been reduced to only 44 pages which makes them much easier to understand

and to read. Marine Morgan also announced that he would be seeking the office of National Judge Advocate and hopes that efforts will be made to get the first elected National Office from west of the Mississippi River in over 35 years.

I spoke about a few topics that are important to me:

- I asked that all Detachment Commandants continue to monitor their staff and members to ensure they are always in the proper uniform.
- When someone runs for office, the members are entitled to know and be assured that their elected leaders will faithfully execute the duties of their office. In Billings, Marine Ebright and I will be introducing a motion to have the oath of office, at all levels, include the wording: "you will faithfully execute the duties of the office to which you have been elected". There are too many instances, division wide, of officers holding the positions and doing nothing in the office.
- I put out a call to detachments which are named after an individual deceased Marine to submit to me a short bio of that Marine and why he was chosen to have a detachment named after him or her. I will be forwarding one to National for consideration.
- I also reminded attendees that when sending pictures for publication in *Semper Fi* Magazine, they must ensure that the Marines and/or Associates appearing in the pictures are in the proper uniform. Failure to ensure that this is done is a sure bet that the picture will not be published.

Marine Ebright and I want to have a Division Flag designed and manufactured in time for the next Expo at Camp Pendleton in February. We are looking at a design that would have the Marine Corps League Seal centered in the middle of the flag, with the Department Logos of Arizona, California and Nevada and the state or territorial flags of Hawaii, Okinawa and Guam circling the MCL Logo in a semi-circle.

A full slate of Officers have been added to the Division Staff. We felt that the more Marines we could get involved at the Division Level, the more efficient the Division will be. We have appointed Marine 4 Life and Young Marines Liaisons so we can get in step with the National Programs.

The Division is growing as we have added (2) new Detachments. A Detachment at Coronado in the San Diego area was chartered in June 2019 as was a new Detachment in East Tucson, Arizona during the Department of Arizona Annual State Convention. Both Detachments are functioning well and establishing themselves firmly in the local Communities.

The Division Staff is exploring ways to generate some revenue to help pay any bills that might be incurred during normal day functions. We hope to not have to rely on the Departments throughout the Division for any funding.

Finally, I reviewed the new Funeral Detail SOP written and passed at the National Convention in Buffalo. Commandants were instructed to make sure all Color Guard members are instructed in the appropriate uniform requirements.

Semper Fidelis,

Patrick J Connell

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