



**SOUTHWEST DIVISION
NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
PO Box 1326
Overgaard, AZ 85933**



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To: National Commandant, Marine Corps League

From: NVC Southwest Division

Subj: Mid Winter Report

Marines: It is that time again that I write this update on the progress of the Southwest Division over the course of the last year.

This past year has, once again, severely impacted the efficient running of the Southwest Division Detachments. There are several Detachments still not meeting on a regular basis due to the varying effects of the Covid Virus and the emergence of the Omicron Deviant. I had envisioned being able to travel to many Detachments within the Division to get some hands on knowledge as to the workings of other Detachments and Departments. Instead, I have had to rely on ZOOM meetings to get to know many of the leaders of the Detachments and Departments that comprise the Southwest Division.

Notwithstanding the effects of the Covid 19 virus, the Southwest Division has been able to charter a couple of new Detachments, specifically in Arizona and California. We are still working diligently to maintain the current roster of members for the Detachments throughout the Division and members have utilized unique ways to retain and recruit – which everyone knows is our bread and butter in the League. As with any other Veterans Organization, we run into obstacles in our recruiting and retaining efforts but we are trying to overcome those hurdles.

The various Departments are still in the process of planning their respective Spring and State Conventions. Arizona has had to cancel an in-person Spring Conference but have made arrangements to conduct business via the Zoom option with a maximum of 100 members eligible to attend. The State Convention is well into the planning stages and will be held in Tucson in June.

The Southwest Division meeting has been scheduled for the 20th and 21st of May 2022 at the Orleans Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. The

National Commandant, Chief Operating Officer and the Jr Vice National Commandant all plan to be in attendance. A good convention is in the works and we plan to focus on a program that originated in Arizona and is now launching nationwide. I addressed this program, known as Be Connected, in one of my articles in the Semper Fi Magazine. The driving forces behind that program will be present in Las Vegas.

Our website for the Division is being competently managed by Marine Mark Dennis who has done a tremendous job of putting together a website that will be the envy of other Divisions.

Our Division is making progress in areas that were long ignored and we have charted a path that we will follow to raise the image of this Division in respect to its standing in the League. It is my belief that the Southwest Division was the first of the Divisions to design and manufacture a unique Division Banner and Flag and that flag was proudly displayed for all to see at the National Convention in Springfield, Illinois this past August. We are also currently working on a Division Patch that will be specific to the Division and will be made available to all Marines throughout the Division and the League once the final design and manufacturing are underway. With the cooperation of my staff, and the Commandants of the Departments within the Division, Southwest Division will grow in stature and erase any negative stigmas that might have been attached to it.

Semper Fidelis

Patrick J Connell

