



**NVC SOUTHWEST DIVISION
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

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Date: 23 July 2022
To: National Commandant Johnny Baker
National Senior Vice Commandant Warren Griffin
National Jr Vice Commandant TJ Morgan
From: NVC Southwest Division
Thru: COO Bob Borka
Subj: 2022 National Convention Report

Sir Commandants,

The following report is but a summary of the proceedings of the Southwest Division since my last report was submitted for the 2022 Mid-Winter Conference.

Several topics were discussed, and I will try to summarize here in this report the important points of those topics:

- The Southwest Division continues to remain a viable entity of the national Marine Corps League. The Commandants throughout the Division have worked extensively to maintain the membership status quo and in fact, 1 Department Commandant has been successful in enlarging the number of Detachments within his Department over the course of the last year. The Department of California has added 3 new Detachments to their total and remains committed to enlarging their numbers. The Departments of Arizona and Nevada have struggled to maintain their membership numbers but not for lack of trying. Those Departments suffer from the same demographics as Departments from all over the nation. Unfortunately, the Department of Arizona has suffered the loss of one Detachment that recently surrendered its charter and all its possessions. They had exhausted all means of trying to maintain and increase their membership, but they were a small, retirement community type of Detachment and just suffered from the age factor for the most part.
- A full court press is in operation presently to recruit and retain additional members known as the Are You Ready? Campaign. There is a You tube channel dedicated to recruiting as well as a

website Tribe@mcleague.org. There are also new SOPs being written at the National Level concerning the recruiting and retention processes. These SOPs, once completed, published, and implemented, will be made available to all Detachments throughout the Division.

- The Department of Arizona Marine 4 Life Program is being revitalized and a representative of that program is in place and will be presenting exciting new methods for recruitment at our October Fall Conference to be held in northern Arizona. The Departments of California and Nevada are still working on jumpstarting their respective programs.
- The Department of Arizona is also in the forefront of a national program that originated in Arizona aptly named the Be Connected Program. This is a program where mentors are available all over the state to work with Veterans who are experiencing hardships in the employment, financial, social, and mental health disciplines. Once a Veteran is referred to the program, he/she is then paired with a “navigator” who directs them to the proper personnel in each discipline and outlines the treatment program and other methods to ensure that the Veteran gets the help needed. This is a very successful program, and the National Commandant will be given a briefing on the processes when he attends the October 2022 Fall Conference for the Department of Arizona.
- In addition, Detachments and Departments are urged to start working closely with the Young Marine Units within respective areas. Invite the Young Marines to participate in some of your activities where they can man booths, help with color guard requests etc. Possibilities are endless with the YMs.

The Southwest Division annual Conference was held the weekend of May 20th and 21st, 2022 in Las Vegas, NV at the Orleans Hotel and Convention Center and was attended by the National Marine Corps League COO Mr. Bob Borka. The attendance exceeded all expectations and was very successful. The Conference will be held on an annual basis and negotiations are underway to either rotate sites within the Division or leave the gathering in Las Vegas. That decision, as well as possible date changes, will be forthcoming. The Assistant National Vice Commandant, Southwest Division, Marine Jim Loorya from Nevada was elected to the Division NVC and Marine Roger Smith from the Department of Arizona, will be the new ANVC. They both will be installed into office along with the other Division Officers during the National Convention in Daytona Beach, FL in August 2022. Marine Loorya has been an excellent

ANVC and will continue his exemplary work in his new position. He is currently assembling his staff.

The 50th Anniversary of the chartering of the Department of Arizona will be celebrated during the annual Fall Conference to be held in Camp Verde, Arizona the weekend of October 21st and 22nd, 2022. The National Commandant has been invited and has agreed to attend the function. A special ribbon, authorized by the National Board of Trustees, will be given to all members in attendance as well as a special 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin.

As my term draws to a close, it has been a humbling but very rewarding experience for me. I have been a member of this League for 41 years and the last 2 1/2, exposed me to the actual inner workings of the League. I saw firsthand the dedication and hard work put forth by our elected National Officers and I was in complete awe of them, their talents and their dedication to their respective positions. I also developed a newfound appreciation for those in the appointed positions throughout the National level and I leave this position knowing that the Marine Corps League is in good hands and has nowhere to go but up. I was very proud to be an active member of the leadership of this organization for the last couple of years and will always cherish my time spent with the excellent men and women associated with the leadership of this fine organization. Semper Fidelis to all of You.

Respectfully Submitted,

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