



Marine Corps League Department of South Carolina

To: National Commandant Johnny Baker

From: Helen Breen, Commandant, Department of South Carolina

Re: 2022 National Convention Report

The Department of South Carolina is continuing a positive trend overall with strong leadership and mentoring of leaders in our Department.

We currently have 23 Detachments and are 920 members strong. We are focusing efforts on retention and bringing in new members, thanks to a strong plan by our new Jr. Vice Commandant.

We are working toward 100% compliance on 990's and filings with the Secretary of State. We have not been as diligent in following up with Detachments who were in default on these filings and are taking steps to assist in getting all our Detachments in compliance.

We have one Detachment on the brink of folding due to lack of active members and those willing to step up to be officers, the Junior Vice and I are working with the current Commandant to focus on recruiting at local events to save the Detachment if at all possible. We also have 3 potential new Detachments across in the state. We are also working with the Detachments who have predominately older membership to encourage them to get out and try to bring in new members to continue the legacies of their Detachments.

Since becoming Commandant in late April, I have visited five Detachments and have plans to visit the remaining 19 Detachments over the course of the coming months. It is encouraging and exciting to see these Detachments at work as we continue to move out of the COVID years.

Over the past year, our Detachments performed 7,074 Community Service hours, and have participated in 11 Funeral / Color Guard events. We only have 6 Detachments that have Honor / Color Guards, but we are planning to incorporate some trainings on Honor / Color guards with the goal of increasing that number.

The majority of our Detachments are participating in Toys for Tots, in 2021 we collected 382,368 toys that were distributed to 78,262 children. We have had some new LCOs step up, so we definitely anticipate a larger impact for 2022.

We are having some challenges with the Eagle Scout Awards, mainly with the Councils not getting the information to the Scouts about the availability of this recognition. We have made some new contacts that we hope will allow us to get the word out more effectively.



Marine Corps League Department of South Carolina

We have four Young Marine Units in the state and recently voted to give \$1,000 to each Unit to support their projects. Our Liaison is amazing at getting information to us at each Quarterly.

South Carolina hasn't been involved in the Shooting Matches, but a couple of Detachments are interested in being involved over this year. There have been some challenges in finding shooting ranges that aren't membership-based and that adhere to the National SOP requirements.

Finally, we are excited to host the Southeast Division Conference in Charleston, SC March 16 – 19, 2023 and are anticipating great participation from our fellow Departments. Our Department Convention will also be hosted by Low Country Detachment #803 in Charleston, SC June 22 – 25, 2023. We are excited to work on some new ideas gained from our fellow Detachments to improve our training through our Convention to share some knowledge that our Detachment officers may not know and hopefully encourage some new leaders to step up to positions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Breen
hbreen.mcl@gmail.com

cc: Bob Borka, COO