



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Colorado - New Mexico - Utah - Wyoming

From the Office of

Russell Miller

National Vice Commandant

To: National Commandant Johnny Baker
Copy: National Executive Director/COO Bob Borka
Subj: 2022 National Convention Division Report

Sir Commandant,

As our Nation continues to recover from the aftereffects of the COVID Pandemic, more and more Detachments and Departments were again able to resume regular meetings as well as conventions and conferences during the past year. Our Departments each held their conventions, all-be-they in a somewhat modified format from previous years. The newly elected and re-elected Commandants and their staffs have each hit the ground running and are working diligently to mentor and direct their respective Detachments toward correcting deficiencies while spurring growth and added impact in their communities. Unfortunately however, since 2021 National Convention, each of our Departments have continued to see the loss of some Detachments that for a number of years, even pre-Covid, were no longer in-good-standing as a result of EIN revocations, failure to remain current with their corporate filings to their respective Secretaries of State, Non-filing of Reports of Officer Installations, or falling below the National Bylaw mandated minimum number of fifteen paid members on their rolls. We have continued to encourage staffs to seek ways to help these Detachments regain their in-good-standing status, but unfortunately a few have failed to see the growth or leadership within their ranks to continue. A few of the "sick & wounded" on the other hand, have come back with a new fire and determination that is lighting the way for the other Detachments in their Departments to learn from and emulate.

Department of Colorado (DOCO)

The DOCO Annual Convention took place on 5-8 May 2022 in Greeley, CO. Marine Ken Jacobsen was elected and installed as Commandant to lead the Dept. for the coming year. DOCO currently has 13 Detachments, 2 of which are currently "not-in-good-standing" ;

- Charter has been revoked for San Juan Mountains Det. 1104 due to non-filing of 990N, ROI, and Secretary of State filing.
- The membership of Northern Colorado Det. 785 has recently elected to surrender their charter and transfer all of their members to the Loveland Marines Det which is approximately 30 minutes south of their current location. The Department Convention voted unanimously to retain the Northern Colorado Det 785 Charter as a "Headquarters Detachment" and encourage MAL's located throughout CO as well as any others that choose not to transfer to a nearby Detachment in the cases where their previous Detachment Charter has been surrendered or revoked to consider transferring to HQ Det. Department Elected and Appointed officers are proposed to serve in a "dual-hat" manor as the Detachment officers of the Colorado HQ Det 785.

"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

- Frank J Carroll Det. 28 and Windsor Marines Det 904 (which both are located in the eastern part of the Denver metro area) have begun meeting together and are in the process of combining their memberships as the “Frank J Carroll / Windsor Marines” Det. 28. Both Detachments have lost a number of members the past few years and have frequently struggled on their own to gather a quorum at every Detachment meeting in order to conduct business. In every other aspect, they have maintained good status and by consolidating their manpower and resources, should begin to experience growth.
- The Department's proposed plan for the surrendered charter for Windsor Marines Det. 904 and its associated EIN, Bylaws, and Letters of Incorporation will entail a proposed name change to the “Castlerock Marines” and moving that charter, which is currently in good standing with the IRS and Colorado Secretary of State, to the southernmost suburbs of Denver area (Castlerock & Parker CO) where they have experienced a massive influx to the area's already large veteran population.
- After a number of years without a MCL Detachment, some Marines in Alamosa CO have begun recruiting throughout the San Luis Valley and are slowly progressing toward re-starting a Detachment. They have already re-established Toys for Tots covering 5 counties and are having a positive impact in their community.

Department of New Mexico (DONM)

The DONM Annual Convention and Rocky Mountain Division Conference were held in Rio Rancho, NM on 8 & 9 April. We were very fortunate to have NED/COO Bob Borka and his wonderful wife Patricia at our Division Conference. Bob gave some great instruction on the League side of the House and Tricia spoke on behalf of the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League to the delegates from all four Departments. PDC Charles Walters was once again elected and installed as Commandant to lead the Dept. for the coming year. DONM currently has 8 Detachments, 2 of which are currently “not-in-good-standing”;

- Sgt Moses D Rocha Det. 1287 in Roswell is in the process of surrendering their charter due to lack of minimum membership.
- Cpl Wilfred E. Billey Det. 736 in Farmington NM had previously surrendered their charter. But, with the help of PDC Ronald Barnard and some motivated Marines, New Commandant Beau Harwood and his staff, have regained momentum and are making great strides toward becoming the example for other Detachments in DONM to emulate. The Detachment has been renamed in honor of past Detachment member and WWII Navajo Codetalker, Cpl. Wilfred E Billey. They have already appeared in numerous parades and local events as well as becoming actively involved in their area's Toys for Tots Campaign. Sept 24th they will be hosting the dedication of the new Gold Star Family Memorial there in the Four Corners.

Department of Utah (DOUT)

The DOUT Annual Convention took place on 4 June in St. George, UT. Marine Ben Setter was elected and installed as Commandant to lead the Dept. for the coming year. Commandant Setter has a monumental task before him, but with his new staff and a great deal of creative thinking and tenacity, I am hopeful that they will right the ship. DOUT currently has 8 Detachments, 5 of which are currently “not-in-good-standing”;

- Commandant Setter is working to reestablish the Department's EIN that was revoked due to non-filing of 990n with the IRS and has been traveling the state to meet with all Detachments and offer assistance in correcting the deficiencies that some of them are experiencing.
- There are currently four Detachments in the Salt Lake City metro area that are all below the minimum membership threshold as designated in the National BL&AP and have each struggled to rally enough

members to constitute a quorum in order to conduct the business of the League at their respective meetings. My hope is that they might consider combining 2 Det's memberships in the northern rural area of SLC and 2 Det's memberships in the central part of SLC to form two stronger/functioning Detachments that might better appeal to new membership coming aboard.

- Utah Dixie Det. 1270 continues to set a blazing pace not only in DOUT but also for the rest of the Division as they have been innovative and quick to adopt new concepts to increase membership among both senior & younger veterans and are continuously recognized in their community for the standard that they set for all Veteran Service Organizations exemplified by their efforts on behalf of youth, veterans of all branches, and surviving families of those that have answered the final roll call.

Department of Wyoming (DOWY)

The DOWY Annual Convention took place on 20 & 21 May in Cheyenne, WY. Commandant Joe Bolton was re-elected and installed as Commandant to lead the Dept. for the coming year. DOWY currently has 8 Detachments, 1 of which is currently “not-in-good-standing”;

- Pronghorn Det. 1359 had its charter revoked because there are NO members left. Between COVID pandemic and the closing of coal mines and lack of jobs, the area around Rawlings, WY has been devastated.
- The remaining seven detachments continue to move along in true Marine Corps fashion and I have delivered two Detachment Starter kits. There has been talk of a new Detachment to be started in the Jackson Hole/Yellowstone area.
- With the addition of a new National Veterans Cemetery in Cheyenne, WY, the Ed Herschler Det. 772 has stood up an honor guard and continues to grow and recruit new/younger membership. Following the tragic deaths of our Marines and FMF Corpsman during the withdrawal from Kabul, Afghanistan. Det 772 coordinated a citywide event and raised in excess of \$80k for the Widow and Newborn Daughter of LCpl Rylee MCCollum.

While we all have faced numerous challenges across our nation this past two years and have suffered personal, economic, and organizational losses; it is vital that we who have taken on the mantle of leadership within our Detachments, Departments, Divisions and National staff positions, continue to march forward and remain the standard bearer by being vigilant to uphold our oaths of office and ensure that we are doing all that is within our power to ensure the longevity of our beloved Marine Corps League for those Marines and FMF Navy Personnel that will carry us forward into the future.

Very respectfully submitted

Semper Fidelis

Russ Miller,

National Vice Commandant

National Toys for Tots Liaison

Marine Corps League, Rocky Mountain Division

Commandant

Marine Corps League, Department of Colorado