



Marine Corps League - Department of Louisiana

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To: National Commandant Johnny Baker

Subject: 2023 National Convention Report

It is my great pleasure to report on the state of the Department of Louisiana. Our Department is on an overall positive course. Adding two detachments in the last couple of years, the LCpl. Justin D. McLeese Detachment 1487 and Lafourche Chein Diable Detachment 1494. We were honored that you were able to be on hand and personally install our latest Detachment charter for Lafourche Chein Diable 1494 only last month. This was a big moment for our Department and there is great pride in this state as you well know, thank you.

This is not the end of our additions though. My staff is diligently working to increase the number of Detachments in our state even more. Since taking office in June we have started a new fireteam in Alexandria, which is the central part of the state. In our first meeting there we signed eight new members and had a member at large transfer in. Our goal will be to resurrect the charter that was once there, Cenla 619.

Next, I will be stopping in Monroe Louisiana on my way to the National Convention to meet with Marines in that area. We currently only have one member so it doesn't qualify for a fireteam just yet but that is the purpose of this meeting is to try to sign enough members to at least create the fireteam. This was once home to the Northeast Louisiana Detachment 109. Restoring these two detachments will bring the Marine Corps League back to all the major areas of our state, something we have been lacking for the last twenty years.

Next, when I return from the National Convention we plan to go to Hammond Louisiana, which is more in the northern part of the eastern boot part of the state and try to

resurrect the Florida Parish Detachment, we already have enough members in my Detachment that live in the area along with old life members of the charter that failed about 20 years ago to possibly get this back and operational in a reasonable amount of time. It just needs the extra nudge to make it happen.

I also have members in the St. Francisville, Louisiana, this is located about an hour northwest of Baton Rouge along the banks of the Mississippi River, area whom we started a fireteam with right before COVID however it lost its momentum and we haven't been able to reestablish it yet. This one is especially important to me as St. Francisville is the home and final rest place for General Robert H. Barrow, 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Lastly, we have two spots that are just in the infancy stages: Washington Parish (which is north of Hammond) and Larose / Galliano (which is down by Houma, whom I am sure you are very familiar with but for others reading this report is located in the southeastern part of the state below New Orleans).

My goal is also to address the Southwestern part of the state as well. We do already have a Detachment there but I would like to attempt to bring in some younger Marines that live in that area and help make them stronger than ever as they have suffered some since Hurricane Laura devastated their area a few years ago.

Our current membership stands at 665 total members (408 life members, 257 regular members) and only 55 unpaid members. Most of our Detachments are in compliance and the couple that are not are currently working on getting into compliance. I have renewed PDC David Martin's appointment as Department Compliance officer so I expect to see these Detachment's cleaned up by year's end if possible.

Louisiana continues to strive for excellence. In the past few years, we have seen two Division Associate Members of the Year and four of the last five Division Marines of the year have all been from Louisiana. I believe this has been a source of pride in the efforts made by our many successful Detachments in the state. We have also even seen a few Distinguished Citizen Medal Golds awarded to members in several of our Detachments.

The awards are nice but where the real victories are won is out in the communities of our great state. You learn about these things during our Commandant's Council during our Department Convention each year. This is one of our strongest moments as a Department. We received much praise for the way we conduct ours. Detachments talking about what they do as Detachments to help their communities, raise money,

recruit new members, and help each other. As you know our state is prone to hurricanes and although these can be very destructive they have acted as a catalyst to bring our Department together over the past few years and help us work together.

I look forward to leading this Department over the next year and if I am so lucky to serve a second term the year after. I believe our staff is more than capable and I look forward to seeing what we can do.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Roy