



National Vice Commandant, NW Division Report 07/30/2024

Department Meetings: I had the privilege to attend all four Department Conventions.

Idaho; May 3 & 4 in Coeur d'Alene

Montana; May 17 & 18 in Billings

Oregon; April 26 & 27 in Bend

Washington; June 7 & 8 in Yakima

All four were very well attended by their respective members. Three of the four Departments elected new Commandants and the support for them was uplifting as they assume their new role. It was great to see members being engaged and entering the Department leadership. You could see the look of excitement in taking on new roles.

In addition, celebrating our 250th birthday is a new topic creating great discussions of local events as well as tracking national ones. Most Detachments are already discussion going above and beyond our normal celebrations. Now is definitely the time to begin planning.

Color Guards/ Honor Guards: The number of Color Guards and Honor Guards continue to be in action. It remains both humbling and a little alarming because of the rate we are losing members. I am happy to state almost every Detachment is willing to be part of the final send off for fellow Marines and members. Even with short notice, Detachments did not hesitate to lend whatever support they could.

Membership: During all four Conventions, recruiting is high on our list and we are gaining new members. The discussion regarding retaining members is a top priority with focus on getting our existing members current in dues. Everyone was very vocal discussing the upcoming renewal timeframe of August.

Awards: There is a push on to receive nominations for awards amongst our members, and rightfully so. We have the opportunity to recognize the efforts of our membership. All four Departments have Department awards and are encouraging Detachments to do the same. It was good to see all four Departments recognize both a Marine of the Year and Associate of the Year.

Mid-Winter: Mid-Winter Conference will again be in DC. Feb 27-Mar 1. I will be attending.

Toys for Tots: The Toys for Tots effort continue to grow. Most Detachments are very active in one form or another. Along with this has been a parallel discussion of changing leadership with TFT coordinators and the requirements to become involved. We face similar issues with the need for future leaders.

Respectfully Submitted

Mike Flynn

NVC, NW Division