



**Ronald S Kirby**  
**National Vice Commandant**  
**Mideast Division Marine Corps League**  
**913 Oak Grove Rd, Waverly, WV 26184**  
[skirby@mcleague.org](mailto:skirby@mcleague.org)

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To: National Commandant, T. J. Morgan

Subject: 2026 Midwinter Report for Mideast Division

**Overview-** The Mideast Division consists of five states: Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Each department has received at least one visit in the last year. Recently, as you know, NVC Frank Mathers resigned his position due to health issues. I was installed to fill out the remainder of Frank's term and Laura Hamilton was appointed as the ANVC. Elections will be held at the Division Conference in June 2027.

**Membership-** Recruiting and retention is going to be one of our main focuses this year. We are discussing how to recruit and retain younger members to carry the torch for the Division. Several of our Departments attended the Jr Vice Commandants Zoom call earlier this year and have already started sharing ideas.

**VSO Accreditation –** The Division has one accredited VSO and a second that is currently in training. Our goal is to have at least one VSO in each Department by the end of the year.

**Communication and Compliance-** I am currently searching for the next Division Compliance Officer as our last one resigned due to other commitments with another non-profit organization. Communication is key and that is why I am making regularly scheduled Zoom calls to the Department Commandants. These calls will be designed to share ideas and to discuss the events within each Department. My goal is to also stress the importance of reporting what each Department is doing.

**Conference-** The Mideast Division Conference will be held in Rehoboth Beach Delaware from 17-18 April. Training will consist of compliance reporting, a class from NJA Bruce Rakfeldt and a class from membership supervisor JD Foster.

Sir, in closing, I would like to say that I didn't have a lot of time or notice prior to Midwinter to prepare this report or communicate my needs to the Department Commandants. I will get a handle quickly and will turn our reporting around. I appreciate all the assistance that you have given me up to this point.

Semper Fidelis,

*Ronald S Kirby*