

National Vice Commandant Southern Division

Johnny Gothard
jgothard@mcleague.org



Feb 27, 2020

From: Johnny Gothard NVC Southern Division

To: National Commandant Dennis Tobin

Subject: 2020 Midwinter Report

The Division has had a very active year since my last Report, starting with the Nat Convention in Montana in August, Arkansas Fall Conf September the 7th Hosted by the River Valley Detachment 1248 in Fort Smith Arkansas, I would like to thank Commandant John Wilson and all the members of the Detachment for their outstanding Hosting of the Conf.

In Little Rock Arkansas a Gold Star Monument was dedicated on the State Capital Grounds Sep. 28th, thanks to a large part to MCL members of the Sidney S. McMath Detachment 532 and Lake Dardanelle Detachment 1310 for all their hard work on getting the Monument erected on the Capital grounds, the only one to be on a capital grounds in the united states. With a special thanks to Marines Dwight Witcher, John Smallwood and Paul Garrett for heading up this project from beginning to end.

Department of Texas Held their Fall Conf. Oct. 24-26 in Nacogdoches Texas Hosted by the Pinewoods Detachment 1189, and I would like to congratulate them and Commandant Kevin Grathouse for an outstanding and well Hosted Conf, I would also like to thank Department Commandant Charles (Chuck) Bones for inviting myself and Asst. Nat. Vice Commandant David Niemann. David and I would also like to Commend Texas Judge Advocate Paula Land, Texas Adjutant Stephen Oeding and Texas Sergeant at Arms Christopher Boral for their very Professional and informative classes they presented at the Conf. Southern Division National Vice President Terry Gothard was very impressed with the Conference.

My wife and I attended a Marine Ball Nov the 16th of November in Mena Arkansas hosted by the Herbert Littleton Detachment 1261 and would like to thank Commandant Ed Anderson for inviting us and treating us with such great hospitality. Arkansas held there 2020 winter conference in Conway Ar. Hosted by the Dale W. Langford Detachment 1323 Donny Hay, it was informative and very productive meeting Conducted by Department Commandant Jim Howington.

Membership continues to be on the front burner for the Division, we have to find a way to improve those numbers, but all and all the division is holding its own but , unpaid members at the level we are experiencing cannot be sustained over the long term. We can be the greatest recruiters in the world but if they are going out the back door faster than they are coming in; we are not winning. Retention is the secret to Growth we are trying to keep them , encouraging detachments to keep in contact with their members and heading off problems with them before it happens to prevent them from just slipping away, one famous thing said by all fails is "We have always done it this way" try new things keep growing. I am looking forward to some great things for the Division in the near and far future.

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The new Membership Database is now on line and training will be starting to take place, a new oath of membership was adopted combining Regular and Associate Oaths, new membership cards are now being issued and new Forms are being implemented to aid in the on line submission of reports and forms.

Johnny Gothard

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Gothard", written in a cursive style.

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Marine Corps League