

Marine Corps League



NVC: Bruce R. Rakfeldt

MIDEAST DIVISION

ADVC: Roger Ware

DELAWARE · DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA · MARYLAND · NORTH CAROLINA · VIRGINIA · WEST VIRGINIA

Date: 05-August-2019

From: Bruce Rakfeldt, National Vice Commandant, Mideast Division

To: Wendell Webb, National Commandant and CEO

Subject: 2019 National Convention Mideast Division NVC Report

Sir National Commandant,

The Mideast Division continues to perform well and exceed expectations.

I attended both Modern Day Marine and Marine South. These events are proudly hosted in our Division and the volunteers that show up to assist these events grows larger each year. I want to personally thank every member who attended and donated their personal time to make these events the best possible.

I attended four of our five Department Conventions this year. ADVC, Roger Ware, represented the Division at West Virginia's Convention as it took place the same weekend as Virginia's. I was honored to perform the Installation of Officers at three of the Conventions and participate as the Installing Sergeant-at-Arms at the fourth. There is new leadership in four Departments and I look forward to seeing what goals and objectives all of our Departments have set to perform the mission of our League this coming year.

Our 2019 Division Conference, hosted by the Department of West Virginia, was a great success and largely attended. Each of the four newly elected Department Commandants present had their Jr. Past Commandants in attendance for support as well. Hershel "Woody" Williams, Medal of Honor Recipient from Iwo Jima, was the Guest Speaker, as well as a registered member of the Conference. He spoke about his proposed 311 Resolution and presented it to the membership for a vote. The purpose of the resolution is to encourage support for a system that would improve the response to Veterans in immediate need. It was unanimously approved to endorse establishing a National 311 number in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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Our DC Marines Detachment is still moving forward and gaining momentum with new members. Marine Gary Berry has been doing an outstanding job promoting this Detachment and having monthly meetings. The next steps are to get a formal ROI submitted to National as well as get their EIN number reinstated.

I report with great pride a continued reduction in our Division's unpaid membership. As of the June 2019 roster, it is down to 10.08%. All of the Departments have committed themselves to making this a priority objective every year and their hard work continues to pay off.

March	PLM	Paid	Total Paid	Unpaid	June	PLM	Paid	Total Paid	Unpaid
Regular	3,064	1,678	4,742	643	Regular	3,050	1,915	4,965	490
Associate	377	385	762	137	Associate	381	468	849	102
Multiple	76	30	106	7	Multiple	76	30	106	5
Total	3,517	2,093	5,610	787	Total	3,507	2,413	5,920	597

Changes since March

June	PLM	Paid	Total Paid	Unpaid
Regular	-14	237	223	308
Associate	4	83	87	40
Multiple	0	0	0	2
Total	-10	320	310	350

Total % of Division Unpaid: 10.08%

As voted on during our Division Conference, ADVC Roger Ware will be the next National Vice Commandant. In reviewing our Division's history, it appears that he will be our **first** FMF Corpsman to lead our Division. That is noteworthy, but that is not why he will be a great Leader; it is because of the **love** that he has for his fellow Marines, Associate Members and the Marine Corps League as a whole. Roger brings decades of extensive knowledge and experience to this position. He and his Staff will do an outstanding job in leading our Division and will continue promoting the mission of our League.

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As this is the last National Convention I will attend as the Mideast National Vice Commandant, I want to share a few personal notes. For the past two years, I have had a great opportunity to learn, share and do so much. This honor that I was given to serve and work with this Division has been full of travel, fun, challenges, experiences and education. What I have treasured most was being able to meet and get to know so many members and to be able to call them more than just brother and sister Marines, but friends as well. The Mideast can be proud of all the accomplishments that they have made to make our Division stronger such as communicating more, increasing Department representation at our Division Conferences and National Conventions and Conferences and pushing themselves to achieve the goals and objectives that we set. All of this has been a result of everyone working together as a Team. That is why the Mideast Division is a benchmark that other Divisions strive to be like.

In closing, I want to say “thank you” to every member for their hard work, dedication and their most valuable commodity; their personal time.

Bruce R. Rakfeldt
National Vice Commandant
Mideast Division
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