

2010 Southeast Division Conference
Commandant's Council – Thursday, 4 March 2010
Mobile, Alabama

Assistant Division Vice Commandant Cal Walters presided at the 64th Southeast Division Conference Commandant's Council. Commandant's Council convened at 2008.

ADVC Walters made the following announcements:

- (1) Joint Session will commence at 0830 on Friday morning, 5 March 2010
- (2) Uniform for the Business Meetings will be Red Blazers or Dress Uniform, if you have them. Otherwise, casual clothing with some type of Marine Corps League shirt and Marine Corps League cover.
- (3) Transportation for those going to the USS Alabama on Friday, 5 March 2010, will depart from in front of the hotel at 1400.

ADVC Walters ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADVC Walters recognized our National Officers present:
National Senior Vice Commandant Vic Voltaggio
National Junior Vice Commandant Jim Tuohy
National Judge Advocate John Kovalcik
Assistant Division Vice Commandant for the Mideast Division Jim Hackbarth

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT COMMANDANTS

DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA – Johnny Baker (no written report)
Recognized Commandant Cal Walters, Commandant of the Mobile Detachment for the great job that he has done over the last year.
Increased membership over the last year by over 800 members.
Department Conference will be in June in Tuscaloosa.
Department is very active with Toys for Tots.
New Detachment organized in Anniston after the 2009 Division Conference.
The State of Alabama has a new Marine Corps League license plate.

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA – **Commandant Dave Sargent** (Report attached)
Department of Florida has organized their charitable contributions into four categories: Marines, All Veterans, MCL Sponsored Programs and Civilian Programs.
Have stepped up the concept of District Vices within the Department holding District meetings.
Department actively involved with the Toys for Tots Program.
With two new National Cemeteries in the State of Florida there are seven more detachments actively providing memorial guards and services to fallen Marines.
Recruiting of new members is up within the Department.

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA – Commandant Moon Mullins (Report attached)

Department continues to grow.

Department has chartered six new Detachments since the 2009 Division Conference.

The Department of Georgia Conference was hosted by the Major Lawrence Desjardines Detachment #1260 and held in Albany, Georgia.

Chris Roberts reported on the HBO Production that will air on 14 March 2010 and will air for nine more weeks after that date. Everyone should make an attempt to watch the show.

Division Chaplain Dalton Hammock reported on a funeral held for a young Marine who was killed by an IED in Afghanistan. Reported that the funeral was one of the most moving that he had attended or participated in. The civilian turnout was unbelievable.

DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA – Commandant Charles Norman (No written report)

Reported on their Toys for Tots campaign.

Hosted a “Welcome Home” party for a returning Marine Reserve unit that had been in Iraq for one year. This unit was primarily utilized to hunt down terrorist leaders during their tour. 37 Marines went over and all 37 returned unscathed. Instrumental in hosting Boy Scout troops throughout Louisiana and passing out certificates to these troops.

Vic Beverson still has four Challenge coins for sale. These funds help support the Marine Corps League Foundation.

Commandant Norman attended the funeral of an Iwo Jima survivor and was late arriving for the Conference.

Commandant also reported on some of the ceremonies that the different Detachments throughout the Department had participated in.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI – Commandant Patrick Tutor (Report attached)

Commandant Tutor reported that the Department is having trouble recruiting new members.

Nine Detachments now in the Department of Mississippi and will be having their first Department Conference this year.

Tupelo, Mississippi will host the Department Conference from 30 April to May 2.

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA – Commandant Gene Wilbur (Report attached)

Commandant Wilbur reported that this has been a very busy year and that he is now in his second year as Commandant.

Toys for Tots was a tremendous success despite the slow economy. The total toys collected were above last year’s total.

Continue to work with the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Camp Lejeune, NC.

Some Detachments of the Department fund a quarterly cook-out for the troops at the Barracks.

VAVS activities remain very high. Some of our Detachments spend numerous hours volunteering at VA hospitals. The Department has also contributed funds for the building of the new Fisher House at the VA Hospital in Augusta, GA. The Florence Detachment will be dedicating their Marine Corps League Monument at the Veterans Park on 1 May.

Commandant Wilbur reported on the license plate fund that is used for charity cases. One in particular, the \$700.00 presented to Chuck Taliano (the "I didn't promise you a rose garden" famous poster) in order for him to go to Tennessee to receive a bone marrow transplant.

Reported that Congressman Joe Wilson was present at the Department Quarterly meeting and presented vials of sand that he had collected from the beaches of Iwo Jima on a recent visit to all members in attendance.

Continue to mail "Care" packages to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Commented on the "Trike" program that is ongoing in the Department.

Department of South Carolina funded the Challenge coins for this year's Conference.

DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE – Commandant Dave Hatfield (report attached)

Commented on the Department's Toys for Tots programs throughout the State. Reported on the activities that are ongoing throughout the State of Tennessee, such as participating in parades and celebrations on National Holidays, the two concession trailers that provide refreshments to travelers on the Interstates and the Young Marines who sell \$5 discount cards to the public that are redeemable at any Belks Department Store.

The Department is sending "Care" packages to units from Tennessee as well as units from other States.

Reported on the Young Marines units in Tennessee that put over 250 new recruits through Boot Camp each year. Donated \$1000.00 toward the Tennessee Regimental Encampment at the 2009 Annual Conference.

National Senior Vice Commandant Vic Voltaggio requested permission to broaden what Commandant Hatfield brought up about web sites that totally out of date. He also mentioned that National Headquarters is presently working on updating their computer system. Eventually, everything will be done online.

NVC for SEDiv Dave Gardner announced that there would be a meeting of the seven Department Commandants immediately following the Commandant's Council concerning websites within the Division.

Commandant Hatfield reported on the Youth Fitness Program that is trying to be organized throughout the United States.

Also commented on the tours that are available to all Korean War veterans through Military Historical Tours.

Closing ceremony and adjournment at 2120.

