



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Department of Texas

District 8

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District 8 Vice-Commandant Report (2018 Department Conference)
San Antonio, Texas

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District 8 of the Department of Texas has been doing well in all areas Marine Corps League throughout the County communities that we reside. The District includes seventeen counties spanning from just south of Dallas County throughout East Texas to the Louisiana border. The seven detachments included in the District are; the Pineywoods (Nacogdoches) Det. 1189, Rose City (Tyler) Det. 1354, Lufkin Det. 1362, Jacksonville Det. 1362, Houston Co. Det. 1433, Rusk Co. Det. 1450 and the Ellis Co. Det. 1452.

Yearly, in the month of October (before the Department Conference), District 8 and 9 join forces to host a joint Family day event which includes a Pistol competition and a BBQ brisket and beans competition. We just wrapped up our 5th Annual event in Lindale, Texas. The Lindale VFW Post has been generous to allow us to use their facility over the years and allow us to host this event and be able to accomplish all of our goals on their lake front property. A few changes that are in the works for next year is that we will continue the ever growing Pistol competition and do away with the BBQ brisket and beans competition, where instead we will just have one or two cooks still prepare the meat while the other participants bring other food items to round out the meal for all to enjoy. This year we started bringing other food items and it really helped those of us that attended to enjoy a great cooked meal. Additionally, we are considering adding a desert competition to bring the families into the fold and allow them to bring their favorite dishes and highlight their Chef skills. Lastly, we will look into the weekend that we hold the event to allow for all of the detachments to participate, if possible. This year two detachments from each District were already committed to other events, but would have enjoyed participating with us.

Lastly, as I stated before, we have seven detachments in District 8 and I have continued work on creating an additional Detachment in Henderson County, which I took over from my predecessor Larry Barnes. It has been an uphill struggle due to Henderson County being such a long County (West to East), and getting everyone together has been a struggle (as it is with all of us). I am going to continue to push this endeavor with those Marines in Henderson County because they really want to have a Detachment, but they don't want to pursue the Fire Team concept, which I don't blame them. Several Counties in the District without a current Detachment could do well to have one due to the many numbers of Marines in the East Texas area. I have a few areas of interest to look at after Henderson County, but if any members know of an area with a high volume of Marines that could fit this bill please let me know and I will start work into researching and starting the process.

Semper Fidelis,

Robert Bell

District 8 / Vice-Commandant
Department of Texas
Marine Corps League Inc.