

# Proposed By-Laws Changes



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

– Incorporated by an Act of Congress – 27 August 1937 --

28 March 2016

From: Glen Barry Evans, PDC  
To: National Adjutant-Paymaster  
Subj: Proposed Amendment to the National Bylaws

In accordance with ARTICLE EIGHT, SECTION 800 of the National Bylaws, the following amendment is proposed.

Delete the current SECTION 130 of ARTICLE ONE of the National Bylaws and replace it with the following:

## **SECTION 130 – TERM OF OFFICE**

- (a) The National Commandant shall be elected for a term of one (1) year and may stand for reelection for one (1) consecutive additional term.
- (b) The National Senior Vice Commandant, the National Junior Vice Commandant and the National Judge Advocate shall be elected to a term of one (1) year and may stand for reelection without restriction.
- (c) The National Vice Commandants of the Divisions shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and may stand for reelection for one (1) consecutive additional term.
- (d) The Assistant National Vice Commandants of the Divisions shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and may stand for reelection without restriction.

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**RATIONALE:** The current lock of term limits on all of the Elected Officers provides for a definite progression in the advancement through the "chairs," but the current provisions do not insure that the progression is either orderly or productive.

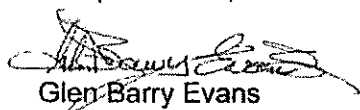
The apparent presumption is that all the Elective Offices are easily transferred from the incumbent to their successor without any difficulties. I would contend that this is not the case. The National Judge Advocate has a heavy burden and one of the previous NJAs has put in a great deal of work to improve the functioning of that office. The National Junior Vice Commandant is charged with developing membership programs, specifically recruiting and retention, not an easy task, either.

Of the twenty National Commandants that have served in that office since I have been a part of the Marine Corps League, seven (35%) have served only one year. Under the current mandate of a maximum of two one year terms, if the National Commandant only serves one term, the three subordinate Elected Officers are faced with the prospect of "up or out." Even though any one of them may have a developing but uncompleted program in progress, they have to choose to abandon it and move up to the next higher office, or spend another year where they are and then have an unpleasant task ahead of they desire to continue in a National Elected Office.

An attempt to mitigate the problem for the National Judge Advocate was introduced in 2013, but while the proposal was well meaning, the extended effects were not carefully considered and the proposal was not adopted.

Under this proposal, the two term limits remain in effect for the National Commandant and for the National Vice Commandants of the Divisions. After their tenure is completed, whether it be one term or two, the subordinate National Officers will have the flexibility to make their decision to remain or advance and they will be better able to make either choice for the good of the League.

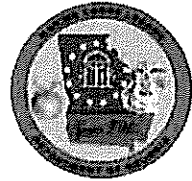
Semper Fidelis,



Glen Barry Evans



COMMANDANT  
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
206 W DOUBLEGATE DRIVE  
ALBANY, GEORGIA 31721-6301



Date: March 31, 2016

From: Ron Kirstatter, Commandant, Department of Georgia

To: National Adjutant-Paymaster

Subject: Proposed Amendment to the National Bylaws

In accordance with ARTICLE EIGHT, SECTION 800 of the National Bylaws, the following amendment is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at the National Convention.

Add paragraph (c) to **SECTION 200 – MEETINGS**

**CURRENT:**

The National Convention shall be convened once each calendar year during the month of August unless prevented by national emergency or other unpreventable cause.

(a) Effective with 1998, the Convention shall be rotated within four (4) geographic sections of the country as follows:

(1) **Eastern Quadrant** - consisting of New England, Northeast, and Mideast Divisions.

(2) **Western Quadrant** - consisting of Rocky Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest Divisions.

(3) **Southern Quadrant** - consisting of Southeast and Southern Divisions.

(4) **Central Quadrant** - consisting of Central and Midwest Divisions.

(b) The Division in each geographic quadrant can rotate hosting by Division or compete at their choosing. If no bid is submitted by any Division in the designated quadrant for the subject year, the next quadrant in the rotation becomes the host.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

(c) The Divisions in the geographic quadrant hosting the Convention shall donate the total sum of \$1500 to the Marine Corps League Foundation for the sole purpose of purchasing the next in a series of challenge coins at a date to be determined by the Foundation.

**RATIONALE:**

The first challenge coins were purchased with funds from the Department of South Carolina and support from individual Divisions. To ensure funds are available to support continued purchases of challenge coins and not burden any one Department or Division, donations annually by the host quadrant will provide sufficient funds to purchase the coins every two years.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald V. Kirstatter  
Commandant  
Department of Georgia  
Marine Corps League

Incorporated by act of Congress

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# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Headquarters

March 1, 2016

To: Meg Thoburn, National Adj./Paymaster  
From: Paul F. Hastings, PNC  
Subj: Proposed Bylaw Change

In accordance with National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Article Eight, Section 800, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at National Convention.

## ARTICLE TWO SECTION 220 – BOARD MEETINGS

(a) The National Board shall meet:


**Add Sub section (5) as follows:**

(5) At the call of at least one third of the members of the Board of Trustees, provided at least one of those members shall include a non-National Vice Commandant, may call for a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to discuss matters of emergency measures considered most important for the conduct of business of the Board of Trustees between national conventions. The senior member of the Board asking for such a Special Meeting shall chair the Special Meeting. The Chair of the Special Called Meeting will ensure that each member of the Board of Trustees is notified of the date, time and location of the Special Meeting. Such Special Called Meeting will ensure that a Quorum is in accordance with Section 225 of the National Bylaws in order to conduct official business of the Special Called Board Meeting.

### RATIONALE:

As most of you are aware circumstances required that immediate action should have been taken on matters of importance in the immediate past couple years. However, when some members of the BOT requested a meeting of the Board, they were stymied by our current bylaws. Hopefully, if this bylaw change is adopted, such special meetings of the board could be called by at least one third of the members, subject to a quorum of the BOT in attendance at the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
PAUL F. HASTINGS  
Past National Commandant

*“Once a Marine, always a Marine”*

*Address for packages express mail: 8626 Lee Highway, Suite 201, Fairfax, VA 22031*



**Marine Corps League**  
**Office of the National Judge Advocate**  
**Johnny Baker**  
**P. O. Box 6**  
**Leesburg, AL 35983-0006**  
**[mclnja@yahoo.com](mailto:mclnja@yahoo.com) - 256-490-3916**

1 March 2016

From: National Judge Advocate Johnny Baker

To: Meg Thoburn, National Adjutant/Paymaster

Subj: Proposed Bylaw Change

In accordance with National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Article Eight, Section 800, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at National Convention.

**ARTICLE SIX SECTION 600 – MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

**Current subparagraph (b) reads:**

(b) **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** - Those individuals not qualified for regular membership in the Marine Corps League who espouse the principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League as contained in its Congressional Charter may upon application to a Detachment, or to the National Headquarters, be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Associate members, upon acceptance, will pay dues in the same amounts as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees. A membership pin and membership card, indicating "Associate Member" will be issued by National Headquarters. The appropriate uniform and cover, including an ornamental device and lettering will be designed by the National Uniform Committee. An associate member shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of a regular member, unless otherwise prohibited. Such member shall not vote on a membership application, an election of officers, or hold an elective office. A Detachment, or a Department may by provisions in the By-Laws and/or Administrative Procedures allow an associate member to vote on its internal affairs provided such vote does not affect a policy of the Marine Corps League.

**Change Subparagraph (b) to read as follows:**


(b) **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** - Those individuals not qualified for regular membership in the Marine Corps League who espouse the principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League as contained in its Congressional Charter may upon application to a Detachment, or to the National Headquarters, be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Associate members, upon acceptance, will pay dues in the same amounts as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees. A membership pin and membership card, indicating "Associate Member" will be issued by National Headquarters. The appropriate uniform and cover, including an ornamental device and lettering as describe in the subparagraph "Associate Members Uniforms" in the Uniform Code (Enclosure 3) of these Bylaws and Administrative Procedures Manual. An associate member shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of a regular member, unless otherwise prohibited. Such member shall not vote on any regular or associate membership

applications; cannot participate in the nomination process and/or elections of officers; or hold an elective office. Associate members are allowed to vote on all internal affairs of the Detachment except for those items noted above and votes that affect a policy of the Marine Corps League, such as Bylaws or Bylaw changes.

**RATIONALE:**

For the past twelve months, as your National Judge Advocate, I have answered numerous e-mails concerning exactly what an associate member may and may not do. In the new subparagraph (b) above, it covers two specific areas for associate members. The first three sentences offer no changes. In sentence four, it clarifies where to find the requirements for the wear of the MCL uniform for associate members. The original sentence stated “including an ornamental device and lettering will be designed by the National Uniform Committee.” The “will be designed” wordage is outdated. In sentence five, there were no changes. In sentence six, the change clarifies that an associate member cannot vote on any regular or associate membership applications; cannot participate in the nomination process and/or elections of officers; or hold an elective office. Sentence seven was reworded to clarify further that associate members are allowed to vote on all internal affairs of the Detachment except for those items noted above and votes that affect a policy of the Marine Corps League, such as Bylaws or Bylaws changes.

Respectfully,

  
Johnny Baker  
National Judge Advocate

Incorporated by act of Congress

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# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Headquarters

March 28, 2016

To: Meg Thoburn, National Adj./Paymaster  
From: Paul F. Hastings, PNC

Subject: Proposed Bylaw Change

In accordance with National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Article Eight, Section 800, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at National Convention.

## CHAPTER SIX, MEMBERS

**SECTION 600(d) – CORPORATE MEMBER - Delete in its entirety and replace with a new sub paragraph 600(d) as follows:**

**SECTION 600(d) – HONORARY ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER – Detachments, Departments and the National Headquarters may, at the discretion of the respective Commandant, issue Honorary Membership to Active Duty Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains, free of charge, for the entire tour of their active military duty. These Honorary Active Duty Members will be entitled to the rights, privileges and benefits available to a Regular Member, except for receipt of the official printed publication but will be eligible to obtain a copy of the official publication on line at no charge. In addition, members in this category will not be counted as an eligible voting delegate member in accordance with Article One, Section 105, nor will this category of membership be eligible to hold an elected office in the Marine Corps League. Article Five, Section 540 applies to this Section of Article Six.**

### RATIONALE:

The current Section 600(d) is out of date and has not been used for years. Therefore, it should be deleted in its entirety. If approved, then it should be replaced with the proposed new Section 600(d). If not approved, then the proposed addition should be renumbered as Section 600(e).

The new Section 600(d) will assist in the implementation of the new program being adopted to ensure that all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Navy Chaplains, eligible for regular membership in the Marine Corps League, become familiar with the League in their home communities and to further assist in their transition to civilian status after their tour of active duty.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paul F. Hastings*  
PAUL F. HASTINGS, PNC  
National Comptroller

*“Once a Marine, always a Marine”*

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# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Headquarters

March 29, 2016

To: Meg Thoburn, National Adj./Paymaster  
From: Thomas W. Hazlett, National Executive Director

Subject: Proposed Bylaw Change

In accordance with National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Article Six, Section 610, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at National Convention

Section 610(d) - (d) Delete in its entirety and replace with a new sub paragraph 610(d) as follows:

(d) The Membership year and the annual dues shall expire on the 31st day of August of each year. New members joining the MCL between August 31<sup>st</sup> and the last day of February will pay the current National \$20.00 + \$5.00 Initiation fee; new members joining between 1 March and August 30<sup>th</sup>, will pay \$10.00 + \$5 Initiation fee. The Annual renewal rate of \$20.00 will be due on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August of each year.

#### RATIONALE:

The current Section 610(d) calls for the Membership year and the annual dues to expire on the last day of the anniversary month of such member's original dues having been received at National Headquarters. This means a continuous printing of annual dues notices being printed and sent out to the entire membership. Involved in this printing of notices are the costs of each notice, the labor and material cost, the cost of postage of mailing each notice and the confusion as to when members are to pay their renewal fees should a renewal notice not be received or if received, forgotten.

The new date of 31 August will allow for just one renewal date for all members, eliminating the need to purchase renewal notices; the renewal date can be tracked on the National Website; and the need to print out a renewal notice and pay the postage will also be eliminated thus resulting in a cost savings of \$15,000.00 annual postage, the time expended, cost of printing, and the approximate cost of \$.40 per form times the approximate 40,000 members requiring renewal notices or approximately \$16,000.00 a year would result in an approximate cost savings of \$40,000.00 a year; a huge savings annually.

Respectfully Submitted

THOMAS W. HAZLETT SR.  
National Executive Director

*"Once a Marine, always a Marine"*

*Address for packages express mail: 8626 Lee Highway, Suite 201, Fairfax, VA 22031*



**To:** Meg Thoburn  
National Adjutant/Paymaster  
Marine Corps League - National Headquarters  
P.O. Box 3070  
Merrifield, VA. 22116

## **REVISIONS / SECTION 645 - LIFE MEMBERS**

### **Situation:**

National retains the unused investment and earned proceeds of a detachment's deceased Life members for their own benefit.

### **Current Text:**

(c)(5) Should a participating LIFE MEMBER die, resign his/her membership or be expelled from the Marine Corps League, the members quota of interest division shall terminate.

(d) When a participating LIFE MEMBER dies, resigns his/her membership or is expelled from the Marine Corps League, the "unused" portion of the member's original investment in Life Membership shall remain in the blocked fund. NO REFUND shall be made to survivors, the former member, nor to his/her Department or Detachment.

### **Proposed Changes:**

(c)(5) Should a participating **LIFE MEMBER resign his/her membership** or be expelled from the Marine Corps League, the members quota of interest division shall terminate and the "unused" portion of his/her original investment in Life Membership shall remain in the blocked fund. NO REFUND shall be made to the former member, nor to his/her Department or Detachment.

(d) When a participating LIFE MEMBER dies, the "unused" portion of his/her original investment in Life Membership shall remain in the blocked fund. NO REFUND shall be made to **the former member's survivors. However**, his/her Detachment will continue to share proceeds as outline in section 645, (c)(1). **Upon becoming a Life Member, he/she, will declare the disposition of their Life investment upon their death, with the option to continue sharing as outline in section 645, (c)(1), or leaving it in the block fund with no further distribution to his/her Detachment and Department.**

### **Rationale for Change:**

The Life member's detachment of record deserves the continued benefit of receiving the shared proceeds of the Life member. There is no sound reason for National Headquarters to amass funds by retaining the investment & proceeds of a detachment's deceased Life member(s). Especially since it stands to reason that the continuation of the shared proceeds best serve a detachment membership at the local level. We are most confident that Life members, given a choice, would want their original investment in Life Membership shared proceeds to go to and stay with their detachment of record.

### **From:**

John O'Malley / Life Member / 2015 recipient of the SE Division's Marine of the Year (Carter Award)  
Lt. General Victor "Brute" Krulak Detachment (1415) Hoover, AL 35244  
205-995-8495 / jom@strategicvisionsinc.com

# Proposed Administrative Procedures Changes



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

-- Incorporated by an Act of Congress -- 27 August 1937 --

29 March 2016

From: Glen Barry Evans, PDC  
To: National Adjutant-Paymaster  
Subj: Proposed Amendment to the National Bylaws

In accordance with ARTICLE EIGHT, SECTION 800 of the National Bylaws, the following amendment is proposed.

Insert a new SECTION 805 into CHAPTER EIGHT of the NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, as written below:

**"SECTION 805 – RELATIONSHIP WITH SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS** - The Marine Corps League recognizes and adopts each of the organizations listed below in this Chapter as official subsidiary organizations of the Marine Corps League which shall ever be subject to the authority, supervision, direction, control and discipline of the Marine Corps League at the National level, only. (Article Seven (7), National By-Laws applies.) Each of these subsidiary organizations operates as a separate entity under its own by-laws, as amended. Individual Marine Corps League Members as well as Detachments, Departments and Divisions are encouraged to work with and support the subsidiary organizations at their own level; however, no Member of the Marine Corps League, unless a registered member of the specific organization, shall interfere in any way with the day-to-day operations of the subsidiary organization. The same restriction applies to Detachments, Departments and Divisions of the Marine Corps League"

**RATIONALE:** Some Members and/or Detachments have incorrectly expressed a proprietary "ownership" in any and all Marine Corps League associated activities in their area. This has included a Detachment trying to insert into their Bylaws a provision that there would be no MODD Pounds and no MCLA Units formed where they are located. (The jurisdictional Department was able to correct this as the Detachment reluctantly gave up.)

The provisions of Article Seven of the National Bylaws address the requirements placed on subsidiary and subordinate parts of the Marine Corps League, but it does this as overall requirements equally and jointly applicable.

This proposal to be placed in the Chapter that lists the subsidiary organizations will clarify the relationship between the Marine Corps League and its subsidiaries.

Wording of this nature was added to the Section listing the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League, but it failed to address the other subsidiary organizations as a whole.

This will correct that oversight.

Semper Fidelis,

  
Glen Barry Evans



D. ROBIN BARKER  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER – DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
175 S.E. Saint Lucie Boulevard, Unit: E-145  
Stuart, Florida 34996-4746  
Phone/Fax: 772.781.8176



To: Meg Thoburn, National Adjutant / Paymaster, Marine Corps League  
From: D. Robin Barker, Public Relations Officer, Department of Florida, Marine Corps League  
Subject: **SECTION 912 – CRIMINAL ACTS, NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES; PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF**  
Date: 28 March 2016

The previously submitted Amendment to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures **SECTION 912 – CRIMINAL ACTS**, dated 1 October 2015, that was respectfully proposed for consideration of adoption by the Marine Corps League at the next National Convention, and properly delivered to the Marine Corps League during October 2015, has recently had editing changes made only to the proposed Amendment's specified '**RATIONALE**' and '**POTENTIAL POSITIVE EFFECT(S)**' paragraphs contained on page two (2) thereof.

Per consultation with National Judge Advocate Johnny B. Baker, at Augusta, GA, on 25 March 2016, this cover letter has been generated to accompany the re-submission of the original proposed Amendment, which includes the edited changes on page two thereof.

The re-submitted Amendment is appropriately re-dated 28 March 2016 for proper administrative handling. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Robin Barker,  
PRO, DoF, MCL

Copy to: Richard D. Gore, National Commandant, Marine Corps League  
Wendell W. Webb, National Senior Vice Commandant, Marine Corps League  
Dennis Tobin, National Junior Vice Commandant, Marine Corps League  
Johnny B. Baker, National Judge Advocate, Marine Corps League  
James "Jimmy" Hackbarth, National Vice Commandant, Southeast Division,  
Marine Corps League  
William "Bill" Cona, Commandant, Department of Florida, Marine Corps League

DRB:drb



D. ROBIN BARKER  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER – DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA  
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To: Meg Thoburn, National Adjutant / Paymaster, Marine Corps League  
From: D. Robin Barker, Public Relations Officer, Department of Florida, Marine Corps League  
Subject: **SECTION 912 – CRIMINAL ACTS, NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES; PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF**  
Date: 28 March 2016

The following amendment to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures **SECTION 912 – CRIMINAL ACTS** is respectfully proposed for consideration of adoption by the Marine Corps League at the next National Convention.

**CURRENT:**

Should any member of the League, or any subsidiary organization, subordinate group or members thereof, violate any of the criminal laws of the United States, or a State having jurisdiction thereof, the complaint should be made directly to the proper Federal, State or local authority, and not to the League although such conduct may also be the basis for a disciplinary charge under this chapter.

**PROPOSED CHANGE(S) (underlined):**

Should any member of the League, or any subsidiary organization, subordinate group or members thereof, violate any of the criminal laws of the United States, or a State having jurisdiction thereof, the complaint shall be made in detail directly to the proper Federal, State or local law enforcement authority to acquire a criminal case file number, and not to the League although such conduct may also be the basis for a disciplinary charge under this chapter. Further, League members shall:

(a) File a complete criminal report and provide all evidence thereof, and witness names, with the nearest local law enforcement agency for a professional investigation, and acquire an agency case report file number.

(b) Report the facts of the incident, and the law enforcement agency's criminal case number of the reported incident, to the Department Commandant, or appropriate Department officer in the chain of command.

(d) Report the specific tangible loss of monies, funds, and or equipment belonging to a Detachment or Department, in a timely manner to the League's 'Rust Insurance Co.' thereby making a valid claim for potential recovery of some portion of said loss of same.

(c) File applicable MCL Charge(s) pursuant to Section 900.

(e) Any failure to do the foregoing required administrative and procedural tasks shall be deemed to be a direct dereliction of one's obligations to uphold the best interests of the League, as well as any other applicable offense(s) as contained in Section 900.

###

**RATIONALE:**

To provide a strong deterrent to dissuade individuals from engaging in unlawful activity that is detrimental and harmful to the League; to wit: By Amending Section 912, and adding additional text to specifically assist and guide all members of the League in such instances where an apparent criminal act has been perpetrated, and to specify the precise uniform procedures League members must follow to enable the League / Department(s) / Detachment(s) to:

- (a) Mitigate losses and damages;
- (b) Enable the potential for the rapid removal of a member from the League due to a criminal arrest;
- (c) Be eligible for potential compensation / indemnification / restitution from the perpetrator(s); including relief from the Civil Court(s).
- (d) Be eligible for potential compensation / indemnification from the League’s Rust Insurance Company Policy after deductible upon filing a loss claim;
- (e) Strictly hold offender(s) responsible for their apparent unlawful actions in and before the appropriate judicial Criminal Court system(s) for the specific jurisdiction(s).
- (f) Reduction of extensive number of costly and time consuming Chapter 900 proceedings.

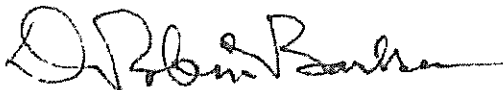
**POTENTIAL POSITIVE EFFECT(S):**

- (a) A reduction in the number of criminal incidents, and public embarrassments sustained by the League, due to specified and required reporting of offenders to law enforcement.
- (b) Providing standardized procedures for League members to follow when a criminal act may be ascertained to assure uniform compliance thus enhancing effective command and control.
- (c) Realizing a substantial potential reduction in the number of costly and protracted Chapter 900 hearings; as some perpetrators may be thus positively motivated to tender resignations of membership status ‘with prejudice’, rather than add to their other Criminal / Civil Court involvements and consequences associated with enactment of this change.

**POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT(S):**

- (a) Positive: A substantial reduction in the costly financial and time / man-hours losses due to criminal activity and resulting administrative expenses associated with Chapter 900 procedures.
- (b) Positive: A substantial reduction in the number of criminal acts, and criminals who may currently be members of the League; who may also be positively encouraged to resign or otherwise terminate membership due to concerns over potential dire consequences mandated by cases being referred to appropriate civil court jurisdictions upon approval of this proposed amendment.
- (c) Negative: None.

Respectfully submitted,



D. Robin Barker,  
PRO, DoF, MCL

Copy to:                   Richard D. Gore, National Commandant, Marine Corps League  
                                   Wendell W. Webb, National Senior Vice Commandant, Marine Corps League  
                                   Dennis Tobin, National Junior Vice Commandant, Marine Corps League  
                                   Johnny B. Baker, National Judge Advocate, Marine Corps League  
                                   James “Jimmy” Hackbarth, National Vice Commandant, Southeast Division,  
   Marine Corps League  
                                   William “Bill” Cona, Commandant, Department of Florida, Marine Corps League