

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.
Office of the Judge Advocate
Benjamin A. Cero

Dr #7 3/018/19

Department Judge Advocate
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To: Robert Borke, National Chief Operating Officer
From: Benjamin A. Cero, Department Judge Advocate, Department of Pennsylvania
Subject: Amendment to National Bylaws, **Article VI, Section 515.b.**

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

CURRENT: National Bylaws

Article VI, Section 515. Categories of Membership

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 and meet the criteria in Section 501(b)(1) below may upon application to a Detachment be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Upon acceptance associate members will pay dues in the same amount as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees.

(1) **Enrollment Criteria**

(a) Individuals who are serving or have served honorably in other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(b) Individuals applying for associate membership must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the United States Marine Corps or the United States Marine Corp Reserve.

(c) Individuals applying for associate membership must join through a Marine Corps League Detachment only. Associate members can not directly join the Marine Corps League as a "Member at Large."

(2) **Rights.** Associate members shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of a regular member unless otherwise prohibited as listed below.

(3) **Voting.**

(a) Associate members shall not vote on a regular of associate membership application;

(b) Associate members shall not participate in the nomination process and/or voting for elected officers; and

(c) A Department of Detachment by provisions in the bylaws and/or administrative procedures, may allow an associate member to vote on its internal affairs if such vote does not affect a policy of the Marine Corps League, such as bylaws or bylaw changes.

(4) **Elected Office.** Associate members shall not hold elective office.

ADMENDMENT

Article VI, Section 515. Categories of Membership

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 and meet the criteria in Section 501(b)(1) below may upon application to a Detachment be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Upon acceptance associate members will pay dues in the same amount as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees.

(1) Enrollment Criteria. Individuals ~~applying for associate membership must~~ **who** have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the United States Marine Corps or the United States Marine Corp Reserve and

(a) Who have not served in a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; or

(a b) Individuals Who are serving or have served honorably in other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States.

~~(b) Individuals applying for associate membership must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the United States Marine Corps or the United States Marine Corp Reserve.~~

are eligible for membership.

(2) (e) Join Detachment. Individuals applying for associate membership must join through a Marine Corps League Detachment ~~only~~. Associate members can not directly join the Marine Corps League as a “Member at Large.”

(3 2) Rights. Associate members shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of a regular member unless ~~otherwise prohibited as listed~~ in Section 515b(4) and (5) below.

(4 3) Voting.

(a) Associate members shall not vote on a regular of associate membership application;

(b) Associate members shall not participate in the nomination process and/or voting for elected officers; and

(c) A Department of Detachment by provisions in the bylaws and/or administrative procedures, may allow an associate member to vote on its internal affairs if such vote does not affect a policy of the Marine Corps League, such as bylaws or bylaw changes.

(5 4) Elected Office. Associate members shall not hold elective office.

RATIONALE

1. In the **1987 edition of the National Bylaws** individuals who were not members or veterans of any branch of the Armed Forces were eligible to be associate members of the MCL.

2. The **2018 amendments to the National Bylaws** in a drafting error inadvertently limited the associate membership to individuals who were members or veterans of any branch of the Armed Forces. No member of the informal committee drafting and reviewing the 2018 amendments caught the drafting error.

3. This amendment restores eligibility to be associate member to an individual who is not a member or veteran of any branch of the Armed Forces .

Semper Fidelis,
Benjamin A. Cero
Department Judge Advocate
Department of Pennsylvania