



Marine Corps League
Office of the National Judge Advocate
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From: National Judge Advocate, Phil Zamora

To: Marine Corps League membership

Cc: Johnny Baker, National Commandant Marine Corps League

Subject: National Judge Advocate report

Since the National Convention in Springfield, Illinois, as your National Judge Advocate I have thankfully only received a few potential chapter 9 charges that have been sent back to the petitioner to change the wording from a grievance to a disciplinary letter. I have received numerous calls asking for my opinion on different issues and usually after I give an opinion I also ran it by the Commandant to see if I was on the right track.

I have also received calls where two members are creating chaos within the detachment and the Detachment wants some help. I always refer them back to the Departments and let them know that if it comes to me then it is serious and that I should be the last result.

Back in December we had a request for a waiver by a member to wear a Turban in lieu of the MCL cover because of their religious beliefs; this was brought before the National Board of Trustees and discussed in length, but in the end the waiver was denied because we are non-sectarian and our bylaws state "NO OTHER TYPE OF COVER MAY BE WORN AT A MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FUNCTION OR MEETING".

Your Bylaw and Administrative Procedures (AP) changes should be into the National Headquarters that is outlined in our AP, No later than April 1

Section 10020. Amendments

a. The Bylaws and Administrative Procedures may be revised, amended, or repealed by a majority vote of the properly registered and approved Delegates voting at a National Convention, provided that the proposed revision, amendment, or repeal is submitted to the National Executive Director/COO at National Headquarters **no later than April 1** prior to the National Convention at which said proposal is to be considered. Submission of proposed revisions, amendments or repeals shall be in typewritten form, and shall be in the exact wording intended. Submission can be sent via Email, Certified U.S. Mail, or by other carriers where Certified delivery may be verified, and a Return Receipt may be requested. If the proposal is

mailed, it is recommended that a PDF or copy of the source document be emailed to the COO. Receipt of the email submission will be acknowledged by the National Executive Director/COO.

Something I am asking all Department Commandants and Department Judge Advocates is to familiarize yourself with our Bylaws and AP's and pay special attention to Section 9000 of our AP and know the difference between a Grievance and a Disciplinary charge; a grievance is used to negotiate an ending to a problem without charges being filed.

If a disciplinary charge is filed please use the example that is in the Chapter 9 attachments and also keep within the timelines.

Respectfully Submitted

Phil Zamora
National Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League