

March 15, 2023

From: Weydan Flax  
To: Chief Operating Officer, Marine Corps League  
Copy: National Judge Advocate, Marine Corps League

Subj: Proposed National Bylaw Change

Ref: Marine Corps League National Bylaws, dated 19 August 2022

In accordance with National Bylaws, Article XI, Section 1100 and National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Ten, Section 10020, I am submitting the following change for consideration at the 2023 National Convention.

**Current:**

**Section 515. Categories of Membership, b. Associate Member**

**(4) Voting**

- (a) Associate members shall not vote on a regular or associate membership application;
  - (b) Associate members shall not participate in the nomination process and/or voting for elected officers; and
  - (c) A Department or 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) Elected Office.** Associate members shall not hold an elective office.

**Proposed:**

**(4) Voting**

- (a) Associate members shall not vote on a regular or associate membership application **except at the Detachment level, and only if or when Detachment's Bylaws and/or Administrative Procedures stipulate that they may;**
- (b) Associate members shall not participate in the nomination process and/or voting for elected officers; and **except at the Detachment level, and only if or when Detachment's Bylaws and/or Administrative Procedures stipulate that they may; and**
- (c) A Department or 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 **National, Division, or Department** policy of the Marine Corps League, such as Bylaws or Bylaw changes.
- (d) **If so stipulated in Detachment's Bylaws & Administrative Procedures, Associate members may be given full voting rights on DETACHMENT membership applications, nominations, elections, and policy matters, upon either:**

- (i) Being named Detachment Associate Member of the Year OR,**

(ii) Being a Detachment member in good standing for a period of two consecutive years  
OR,

(iii) Receiving an affirmative vote by a majority of Detachment members at a regular  
business meeting.

(iv) An Associate member may decline this opportunity as often as it is presented.

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

**Rationale:**

Associate members need the opportunity to have full voting rights at the Detachment level. They are instrumental to the success of the League, holding many appointed positions, and doing a lion's share of the work at Detachment events.

This change does not give Associate members immediate rights to vote. The change is a pathway where Associate members earn their voting rights through their performance and dedication to the Detachment.

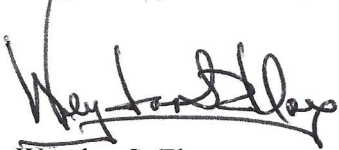
The change does not change anything above the Detachment level.

The change does not permit Associate members to be elected to any of the Trustee offices.

~~This change recognizes that not all Associate members will want to have voting rights, so they may decline this opportunity, if that is their choice.~~

Associate members, at the Detachment level, must have a way to get full voting rights based on their dedication and commitment to the Marine Corps League.

Respectfully submitted,



Weydan S. Flax

Commandant

Albert E. Schwab Detachment 857