



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of the National Judge Advocate

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To: TJ Morgan, National Commandant, Marine Corps League, Inc.
The membership of the Marine Corps League, Inc.

Subject: 2025 Midwinter National Judge Advocate Report

National Commandant Morgan and all Members of the League:

Since being elected National Judge Advocate in Palms Springs last August, I've had the opportunity to answer many emails and phone calls from the majority of our Departments on various topics. Some of the members I spoke to could not find the answers they were looking for in the National Bylaws (NBL's) or Administrative Procedures (NAP's). As these are the two primary documents we go to for finding information, there are times the answers are found in other places such as the Guidebook for Detachments, our Ritual or located in one of the two libraries on our national website as standalone documents. I am working on reducing some of these external documents so that they can be included within our NBL's/NAP's.

In addition, at this time, there are currently 12 NBL/NAP proposals submitted that will be discussed and voted on in Texas. I'm sure this number will increase. The National Bylaws Committee has already started to meet to discuss these proposals. I am working with our National Commandant and National Executive Director to get these proposals published on the website as soon as possible so that you also have the maximum amount of time to download and review them as well. There is no reason to wait until after the submission deadline date of 1 April to publish the proposals when they can be published as quickly as they are submitted.

In addition to these proposals, I am also working on a complete Chapter Nine update. I plan to have it published in plenty of time for the membership to thoroughly review and be prepared to discuss at the National Convention. There are many things that we can do to improve this process. For example, creating standardized downloadable forms that make it easier for members to file their concerns with, utilizing email versus postal mail and holding virtual meetings versus physical meetings. These improvements will save everyone time and money.

Pertaining to Chapter Nine issues, since the National Convention, I have received the following:

- One Grievance
- One appeal to the NJA pertaining to the outcome of a Department hearing board
- Two Disciplinary charge packets
- Three appeals to the National Board of Trustees

No members have been suspended or expelled at the National level.

When I campaigned to run for National Judge Advocate, I mentioned three goals I had for the coming year.

1. The first was to expedite the publishing of the 2024 National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, which were updated and published on the National website just 27 days after the close of the National Convention.
2. My second objective is to ensure every Department has their bylaws up to date with the newly approved 2024 National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures by the Mid-Winter Conference. I have had to adjust this goal as there are some Departments out there that have bylaws that have not been updated in several years. What I have done was request all of the Departments to provide me with their latest approved bylaws so that I could archive them and work with those Departments that are in need of updating their outmoded bylaws. Currently I have archived 46 of the 47 Departments Bylaws.
3. Lastly, I want to integrate the five National Judge Advocate rulings from the member library into our NBL/NAP's. I have written and submitted those proposals to be voted on at the 2025 National Convention.

Overall, our League is doing well. I am excited about the progress we've made so far and the upcoming improvements that I am confident will be approved by the membership in Texas. This Conference marks the halfway point of my term as your National Judge Advocate, and I am enthusiastic about the future and the continued opportunities to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Rakfeldt,
National Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League