



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of the National Judge Advocate

**Bruce R. Rakfeldt**

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15 October 2024

To: Chief Operating Officer, Marine Corps League

Subject: Proposed National Bylaw Change

In accordance with the National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Ten, Section 10020, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at the 2025 National Convention.

**IRT**: National Bylaws Section 515, B, 1, c

**CURRENT:**

## **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 515 §B., 1. below may upon application to a detachment be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Upon acceptance, associate members will 16 Aug 2024 BL - 10 pay dues in the same amount as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees.

### 1. **Enrollment Criteria**

- a. Individuals must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the armed forces of the United States;
- b. Individuals may join who have never served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States;
- c. Individuals who are serving or have served honorably in other branches of the armed forces of the United States;

**PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):**

## **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 515 §B., 1. below may upon application to a detachment be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Upon acceptance, associate members will 16 Aug 2024 BL - 10 pay dues in the same amount as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees.

### **1. Enrollment Criteria**

- a. Individuals must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the armed forces of the United States;
- b. Individuals may join who have never served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States;
- c. Individuals who are serving or have served honorably\* in other branches of the armed forces of the United States;

Note \* - “Served Honorably” is determined by the last DD Form 214 or certificate of discharge that the applicant received. A General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. An Entry Level Separation (ELS) or Uncharacterized Discharge is **not** acceptable.

### **RATIONALE:**

This has been an official National Judge Advocate Ruling dating back to 04 January 2024. This ruling is in the Member Library section of our website however, it is easily overlooked as members are searching our National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures for the answers they need (located at the very top of the page) and the Rulings are in a totally different section much lower on the same page. Since this ruling is already a de facto policy, formally incorporating it into our National Bylaws would provide clarity and ensure consistent adherence. The official ruling has been attached as reference as well.

Respectfully submitted,

***Bruce R. Rakfeldt,***  
*National Judge Advocate*  
***Marine Corps League***



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## Office of the National Judge Advocate

**David Porter**  
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04 January 2024

From: David Porter, National Judge Advocate, Marine Corps League, INC.

To: All Marine Corps League Divisions  
All Marine Corps League Departments  
All Marine Corps League Detachments

Subj: Ruling on applying for Associate Membership into the Marine Corps League claiming to be Veterans, do they need to show their DD-214.

Ref: (a) National Bylaws (NBL)  
(b) National Administrative Procedures (NAP)

1. Applicants applying for Associate Membership who claim to be “Veterans” must show their most recent DD-214 and they must have served honorably.

2. NBL Article V, Section 515. Categories for Membership (page BL9-BL10):

Note \* - “Served Honorably” is determined by the last DD Form 214 or certificate of discharge that the applicant received. A General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable.

**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 515 §B., 1. below may upon application to a detachment be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Upon acceptance, associate members will 18 Aug 2023 BL - 10 pay dues in the same amount as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees.

### 1. Enrollment Criteria

- a. Individuals must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the armed forces of the United States;
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3. NAP Chapter Six, Section 6030. Members (page AP6-4)

A. Each detachment shall be the sole judge of its membership, providing said person meets the requirements of National Bylaws Article V, Section 515. No detachment, however, may accept as a member any person who is currently incarcerated or on supervised probation for any felony conviction or any misdemeanor conviction which has resulted in incarceration of more than two years and who is currently incarcerated or serving active probation as a result of a sentence imposed by any court of competent jurisdiction. No detachment may accept for membership any person who has been convicted of a crime where the victim is a child. No detachment shall accept for membership any person whose name has been stricken from the rolls of the MCL

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David M Porter Jr." in a cursive script.

**David M Porter Jr,**  
**National Judge Advocate**  
**Marine Corps League**  
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