



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of the National Judge Advocate

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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 930

CURRENT:

Section 930. Meetings. A detachment shall meet at a date, time and frequency of its choosing. Once a month is recommended. The detachment charter or a copy, the National Colors, and a Bible shall be displayed at all business meetings. The “Ritual” of the Marine Corps League shall be observed and employed at all meetings and appropriate functions to the maximum extent possible. (Rev 2024)

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 930. Meetings. A detachment shall meet **physically*** at a date, time and frequency of its choosing. Once a month is recommended. The detachment charter or a copy, the National Colors, and a Bible shall be displayed at all business meetings. The “Ritual” of the Marine Corps League shall be observed and employed at all meetings and appropriate functions to the maximum extent possible. (Rev 2024)

Note * - Detachment meetings will be held in person for general monthly business, elections and installations. Virtual meetings will not be an option to replace the regular meetings in person.

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

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4 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 clarification with Detachment meetings being held in person or via Zoom meetings.

Ref: (a) National Bylaws (NBL)
(b) National Administrative Procedures (NAP)
(c) National Board of Trustees (BOT) posted minutes on the National Website under member library

(d) Marine Corps League Ritual, Revised February 2015

1. Detachment meetings will be held in person for general monthly business, elections and installations. Zoom meetings will not be an option to replace the regular meetings in person. Evidence below shows that it is implied or presumed that regular meetings should be conducted in person.

A. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, all meeting and elections were done in person. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were no issues or questioning about meeting in person for general business, elections, and installations.

B. On 1 April 2020 the 2020 Emergency Plan for Elections and Installations took effect, ie. Emergency Elections Procedure (EEP)*. An email was sent out to all National Vice Commandants and Department Commandants to pass down to all Detachments.

C. On 15 May 2021 the Emergency Plan for Elections and Installations policy was cancelled, setting all regular business back to normal.**

2. **NBL Article IX, Section 930. Meetings (pg BL-29).** A detachment **shall meet** at a date, time and frequency of its choosing. Once a month is recommended. The detachment charter or a copy, the National Colors, and a Bible shall be displayed at all business meetings.

3. NAP Chapter Six, Section 6020. Quorum (pg. AP 6-4). Each detachment may fix the minimum **number of members required to be present for the transaction of business**, such number shall be stated in the detachment bylaw.

4. NAP Chapter 10, Section 10005. Respect (pg. AP 10-2)

A. The Bible shall be opened and placed on an altar which is covered with a clean and attractive “Altar Cloth” during all the meetings of the MCL. No disrespect to the Bible, by act or word, shall be tolerated. No one shall use the altar for physical support, and shall not, under any circumstances, use the altar or Bible as a resting place for any item or material. All space between the altar and the Chair shall be considered as hallowed ground and shall not be traveled upon while the Bible is open.

B. The “Ritual” of the Marine Corps League shall be observed and employed at all meetings and appropriate functions to the maximum extent possible.

5. The Marine Corps League Ritual can be found on the National Website under member library. On page 6 of the Ritual, Conducting a regular league meeting under Opening Ceremony states,” Commandant: Sergeant-at-Arms, secure the quarters and satisfy yourself that all present are qualified to be present during the deliberations of this Detachment/Department/National Session”.

Respectfully submitted,



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