



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Bylaws Committee

11 August 2025

From: Bruce R. Rakfeldt, Chairman

Committee Members: James Powell, Hugh Nisbet, Bonita Johnson,
Denny Mathias, Juan Pascacio, Sean Downey

To: National Commandant, TJ Morgan

All Members of the Marine Corps League

The National Bylaws Committee began reviewing proposals earlier this year, initiating the process in February, significantly ahead of the traditional timeline. Historically, all proposals were received, numbered, and published on 01-April, which limited the committee's time for thorough review, particularly in years with a high volume of submissions.

In 2025, a new approach was implemented: proposals were numbered and published on the National Convention website as they were received. This allowed members to access, read, and begin discussions with their Detachments well in advance. Additionally, the committee organized the proposals thematically and in the order they appear in the current National Bylaws (NBL) and National Administrative Procedures (NAP), streamlining discussion on the convention floor.

To further support the membership, the committee compiled an overview of all 30 proposals and made it available through the MCL app. A notification was sent to all app users, encouraging early review and engagement. These enhancements, though simple, significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposal review and voting process.

This year, the committee reviewed a total of 30 proposals (6 NBL and 24 NAP). Among them is a proposal I submitted: an update (not a rewrite) to Chapter Nine. This proposal, spanning 76 pages, received dedicated attention across several committee meetings. While the length may seem daunting, the rationale behind it is clear and focused on process improvement and operational efficiency. Key elements include the introduction of standardized forms (with instructions and examples) for filing grievances, disciplinary charges, and appeals, as well as the optional use of email and virtual meetings in place of physical meetings—measures that promise to save time, reduce travel, and lower costs.

The committee members demonstrated exceptional dedication and professionalism, bringing diverse perspectives to the table. Discussions were thoughtful and productive, and while consensus was not always unanimous, all viewpoints were respected and considered.

I extend my sincere thanks to the committee members for their hard work, commitment, and collaborative spirit throughout this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Rakfeldt,
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Marine Corps League