



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of the National Judge Advocate
Bruce R. Rakfeldt

02 March 2026

To: Marine Corps League NED/COO Bob Borka

Subject: Proposed Amendments to:

- National Bylaws, Article III, Section 300,

The creation of:

- National Bylaws, Article III, Section 318,
- National Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 812,
- National Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 813,

- National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Five, Section 5012

In accordance with the National Bylaws Article XI, Sections 1120, and National Administrative Procedures Section 10020 the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at the 2026 National Convention.

National Bylaws

Current:

Section 300. Organization. The constituted bodies of the organization shall be National Convention, Divisions, Departments, Detachments, and Subsidiary Organizations.

Proposed (added in RED):

Section 300. Organization. The constituted bodies of the organization shall be National Convention, Divisions, Departments, **Districts**, Detachments, and Subsidiary Organizations.

National Bylaws

Current:

Section 318 – None

Proposed (added In RED):

Section 318. Districts. Department level geographic or administrative subdivision established by a Department to facilitate the oversight and support of Detachments. Districts are internal to a Department and do not constitute a separate level of the Marine Corps League.

National Bylaws

Current:

Section 812 – None

Proposed (added In RED):

Section 812. Department Subdivisions. Title Standardization

- a. Departments may establish internal subdivisions to improve administration and support of Detachments.
- b. To ensure clarity and uniformity throughout the Marine Corps League, such Department level subdivisions shall be titled "District(s)".

National Bylaws

Current:

Section 813 – None

Section 813 Department District Vice Commandants; Limitations

- a. Departments that establish Districts may appoint or elect District Vice Commandants as provided by Department Bylaws, provided such officers remain subordinate to the Department chain of command.
- b. Nothing in this Section precludes Departments from determining District boundaries, officer duties, or operating procedures consistent with these Bylaws and the National Administrative Procedures.

National Administrative Procedures

Current:

Section 5012 – None

Proposed (added in RED):

Section 5012. Department Organization; Establishment and Naming of Districts

- a. Departments may establish Districts to support Detachment liaison, training, and administration.
- b. The standardized title for Department level subdivisions is “District(s)”.
- c. Examples of acceptable District Vice Commandant titles include: “Southern District Vice Commandant,” “Zone 2 District Vice Commandant”.

Rationale

Many Departments within the Marine Corps League have created internal geographic or administrative subdivisions to more effectively manage large numbers of Detachments. These structures—commonly called *Regions, Zones, Areas, Sections, Divisions*, and other titles—are not regulated by the National Bylaws or Administrative Procedures, and Departments retain full authority to organize themselves as needed. These subdivisions have proven beneficial, particularly in Departments with wide geographic distribution or high numbers of Detachments.

However, the lack of standardized terminology has resulted in inconsistencies among Departments and, in some cases, conflicts with National-level titles. The most significant issue arises when Departments use the term “**Division**” for their internal structures. The Marine Corps League already has ten (10) National **Divisions**, each led by a National Vice Commandant whose proper title is **Division Vice Commandant**. When Departments adopt the term “Division,” it creates confusion regarding authority, responsibilities, and the distinction between Departmental and National offices.

A recent request for a Department level member to place the title “**Division Vice**” on a cover underscores the risk of misrepresentation. Because “Division Vice” is a recognized title within the national organizational structure, allowing a Department officer to use the same designation could unintentionally imply a National leadership role or create ambiguity regarding the individual’s level of responsibility.

To support clarity, uniformity, and the integrity of National titles, the Marine Corps League would benefit from adopting “**Districts**” as the preferred and standardized designation for Department level subdivisions. “District” is a commonly used, widely recognized administrative term that does not conflict with any existing National title or authority. Its use would:

- Eliminate confusion between National Divisions and Department subdivisions
- Preserve the exclusive meaning of “Division” within the Marine Corps League’s National structure
- Provide consistent terminology across all Departments
- Support accurate cover titles, correspondence, and organizational identification
- Maintain Department flexibility while creating uniform administrative terminology

While transitioning to “Districts” may require Departments to update bylaws, administrative documents, and cover title guidelines, this standardization strengthens organizational clarity across the Marine Corps League. It ensures that Department level leadership titles are clearly distinguished from National offices and supports the uniformity and professionalism of the League’s administrative structure.

If this proposal is adopted, Departments shall complete conforming changes to Department Bylaws, policies, forms, webpages, and cover title guidance within six (6) months of the effective date (the close of this National Convention) which will be 14 February 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BRUCE R. RAKFELDT', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bruce R. Rakfeldt,
National Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League