

**Marine Corps League**  
**Grand Strand Detachment #873**  
**Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**



**2021 Edition**  
**Detachment Bylaws**

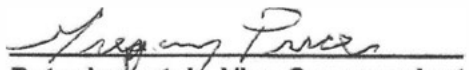
Approved 8 March 2021

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Adopted by the Grand Strand Detachment #873 membership on 8 March 2021

  
Detachment Commandant

  
Detachment Sr. Vice Commandant

  
Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant

  
Detachment Judge Advocate

Approved/Disapproved  8 March 2021  
Department Judge Advocate Date Signed

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**GRAND STRAND DETACHMENT #873**  
**MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Bylaws of the Grand Strand Detachment #873**

Under Section 900 of the National Bylaws of the Marine Corps League, the following Detachment Bylaws are set forth.

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

**Section 1. Name.** The name of the Corporation shall be known as Grand Strand Detachment #873 Marine Corps League Inc., hereinafter referred to as "Detachment".

**Section 2. Mission Statement.** The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

**Section 1.** The purposes of the Marine Corps League (MCL) shall be:

- a. To preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps;
- b. To band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service together in fellowship that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy;
- c. To fit its members for the duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms;
- d. To hold sacred the history and memory of the men who have given their lives to the Nation;
- e. To foster love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic;
- f. To maintain true allegiance to American institutions;
- g. To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civilian life;
- h. To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsman, and FMF Navy Chaplains, as well as their widows and orphans; and

i. To perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

**Section 2. Not for profit.** The MCL is not organized for and shall not be operated for pecuniary gain or profit. No part of the property of the corporation and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to any director, member, or other private individual. The MCL shall never be authorized to engage in a regular business of a kind ordinarily carried on for profit or in any other activity except in furtherance of the purposes for which the MCL are organized.

**Section 3. Non-Discrimination.** The Marine Corps League;

- a. Shall never take part in any labor or management dispute or issue;
- b. Shall not be sectarian, political, and partisan;
- c. Shall not be based on race, color, creed, nationality, or sex;
- d. Shall not be used as a medium of political ambition or preferment' and
- e. Shall not use former or present military rank or former or present civilian position as the basis for special consideration and preferment.

### **ARTICLE III: MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Regular monthly meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month. Any notice of special meetings or change of regular meeting dates shall be given to the membership by the Adjutant by mail, email, or telephone and published on the Detachment Website at least ten (10) days in advance of said meeting. If the regular monthly meeting falls on a holiday, or for some other reason cannot be held on the regular date, the Detachment Board of Trustees, by majority vote, may select some other day in that month, or cancel the meeting for just cause. **There will be no August meeting due to vacations and the National Convention. However, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting in August. There will be no meeting in December due to the Detachment Christmas Party. However, there will be a Board of Trustees meeting in December.**

**Section 2.** Meetings of this Detachment shall be conducted in the order and precedence set forth in the National Marine Corps League Bylaws, the Marine Corps League National Ritual and Roberts Rules of Revised Order.

**Section 3.** The Detachment Commandant or a majority of the Board of trustees shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Detachment at any time, meeting the same requirements of advance notice being given to the membership as specified in Section 1 above.

**Section 4.** A minimum of five (5) members of the Detachment must be present including a majority, four (4), of the Board of Trustees to constitute a quorum at a monthly meeting.

**Section 5.** The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once every other month, or as may be directed by the Commandant, on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Tuesday of the month, excepting the months of August and December. The Commandant shall call a special meeting of Detachment #873 Board of Trustees upon the request of three (3) or more members of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 6.** The Detachment Charter (or a copy thereof), the National Colors, and a Bible shall be displayed at all regular business meetings.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The governing body and management of the Detachment are entrusted to the Board of Trustees.

**Section 2.** The Board of Trustees for the Detachment shall consist of the following elected Officers: Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate, and the Jr. Past Commandant.

Appointed Officers shall be Adjutant, Paymaster, Chaplain, Service Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Web Sergeant, and three (3) Trustees.

**Section 3.** Detachment Elections of the four (4) elected Officers shall be by secret ballot and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in each office shall be declared the winner.

**Section 4.** The Commandant shall appoint a nominating committee in January of each year. The nominating committee shall prepare a recommended slate of Officers for presentation at the February Detachment meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the March Detachment meeting, during the election of officers.

During the period from the March meeting to the April meeting, the outgoing Officers of the Detachment will hold “turnover” meetings to brief the new Officers regarding their new responsibilities, as well as provide an update on the state of the Detachment.

### **Section 5. Duties of the Commandant.**

- a. To preside at all meetings of the Detachment and Board of Trustees.
- b. Direct the affairs of the Detachment as prescribed by the Board.
- c. Appoint committees as deemed necessary, subject to approval of the Board.
- d. Serve as a member of all committees, ex officio.
- e. Make a final ruling on questions of order after seeking an opinion from the Judge Advocate.
- f. Must attend four (4) meetings a year at the Department level, herein defined as: three (3) Quarterly meetings and one (1) Department Convention, in accordance with Department Bylaws.
- g. Ensure Department and National reporting requirements are addressed and submitted in accordance with specified timeframes.

h. With the Detachment Paymaster be responsible for all funds and property of the Detachment, subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees and Detachment membership.

#### **Section 6. Duties of the Senior Vice Commandant.**

- a. Perform the duties of the Commandant in case of his absence or incapacity.
- b. Shall also perform the duties delegated by the Commandant and/or the Board of Trustees.
- c. Be responsible for entertainment and Detachment's special events.
- d. Serve as the chairperson of the Audit and Awards Committee.

#### **Section 7. Duties of the Junior Vice Commandant.**

- a. Shall assist the Commandant in the discharge of his official duties.
- b. Assume the duties of the Commandant in the absence or disability of both the Commandant and the Senior Vice Commandant.
- c. Serve as chairperson of the Membership Committee.
- d. Perform the duties delegated by the Commandant and/or the Board of Trustees.

#### **Section 8. Duties of the Detachment Judge Advocate.**

- a. Direct the administration of all legal matters of the Detachment.
- b. Interpret and advise on any matters or questions concerning the Constitution and Bylaws of the Marine Corps League and of this Detachment.
- c. Be available to all Detachment Officers and Committees for legal advice pertaining to their duties and responsibilities.
- d. Serve as chairperson of the Detachment Bylaws Committee.

#### **Section 9. Duties of the Detachment Adjutant.**

- a. Record and maintain for posterity, a full and complete record of the proceedings of all Detachment business meetings, keeping such records current and up to date.
- b. Ensure that the required reporting of officer installation is submitted to the Department Adjutant for the installation of officers.
- c. Render reports of membership annually or when called upon and shall assist the Paymaster in the performance of the Annual Paid Life Member Audit.
- d. Keep lists of names and addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of current members.
- e. Under direction of the Commandant, read and handle all communications and correspondence of the Detachment.
- f. Perform any additional duties assigned by the Commandant and/or the Board of Trustees.

## **Section 10. Duties of the Detachment Paymaster.**

a. Shall have charge of all finances and safely deposit all funds belonging to the Detachment in a local bank or banks, as designated by the Detachment Board of Trustees.

b. Prepare a monthly report for the Board of Trustees reflecting the condition of the finances of the Detachment and make such recommendations as he/she may deem expedient or necessary for raising funds or minimizing expenses to carry on the activities of the Detachment.

c. Co-sign all checks disbursing the monies of the Detachment.

d. Be responsible for ensuring that two (2) Officers of the Board of Trustees co-sign all checks written on the Detachment account. The Paymaster, Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant or Junior Vice Commandant shall all be legally qualified to sign Detachment checks by bank records.

e. Retain and produce, upon request, financial records, vouchers and receipts required for the proper maintenance of the Detachment account, and the required annual audit.

f. Ensure that an Annual Budget is submitted for review and approval at the first business meeting of each year. The Detachment Fiscal Year shall be defined as the MCL Fiscal Year July 1 of prior year to June 30 of current year. An Annual Audit shall be conducted as of June 30 with an Audit Report made at the next regular Detachment meeting in July as of each year.

g. Ensure that the required Federal and State financial filings, e.g. IRS Form 990, IRS Form 990-EZ, South Carolina Charitable Raffle, etc., are submitted annually.

h. Ensure the Paid Life Membership Audit is conducted for annual certifications to Marine Corps League Headquarters; and that accurate membership transmittals with membership payments are submitted to Marine Corps League Headquarters.

i. The Commandant may decide to combine Adjutant and Paymaster duties into one (1) position.

## **Section 11. Duties of the Detachment Chaplain.**

a. Shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of all members and will offer Divine but non-sectarian services in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, meetings, etc.

b. Adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended from time to time by the Department or National Marine Corps League.

c. Perform any additional duties assigned by the Commandant or the Board of Trustees.

d. In coordination with the Detachment Paymaster and Detachment Adjutant ensure that the required Notice of Death is submitted to the Department Chaplain upon notification of the death of a Marine Corps League member.

## **Section 12. Duties of the Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms.**

- a. Assist the Detachment Commandant in keeping order at all Detachment meetings.
- b. Assure that only paid-up members of the Marine Corps League in possession of a current membership card and authorized guests are admitted at meetings of the Detachment.
- c. Be responsible for the proper arrangement of the meeting area, to include, but not limited to, the placement of both colors and other items required for display.
- d. Be responsible for the conduct of balloting during Detachment elections.
- e. Perform additional duties assigned by the Commandant or the Board of Trustees

## **Section 13. Duties of the Detachment Web Sergeant.**

- a. Shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of the Detachment website and social media outlets to ensure publicity of Detachment events and activities.
- b. Ensure that the Detachment website and social media present a positive public image and promotion of the Grand Strand Detachment and Marine Corps League programs.
- c. Bring to the attention of the Commandant and the Board of Trustees any abuse or misuse of the Detachment website.
- d. Perform the duties delegated by the Commandant and/or Board of Trustees.

## **Section 14. Duties of the Detachment Service Officer.**

- a. Shall be responsible for bringing to the attention of all members the rights and benefits granted to them and their dependents by Government laws and regulations.
- b. Serve as Chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation or Service Committee.

## **Section 15. Duties of the Detachment Appointed Board of Trustees.**

The Detachment Commandant shall appoint three (3) active Detachment members to serve on the Board of Trustees (appointing one (1) to serve as the Chairperson). Duties will include:

- a. Assist in the annual audit of Detachment Paymaster records.
- b. Assist in projects pertaining to active duty Marines.
- c. Assist in patriotic community activities.
- d. Assist in high school JROTC activities as assigned.

## **Section 16. Duties of the Junior Past Detachment Commandant.**

- a. The immediate Jr. Past Commandant or a Past Commandant, if available, shall be appointed to this office without election when the Commandant is installed.
- b. Serve as the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee and supervise the election of Detachment officers.



- c. Serve as the Assistant Chair of the Membership Committee.
- d. Perform any additional duties assigned by the Commandant or the Board of Trustees.

## **Section 17. Vacancies.**

### **a. Detachment Elected Officers**

(1) **Order of Succession.** The order of succession to the office of the Detachment Commandant shall be first, Detachment Senior Vice Commandant and second, Detachment Junior Vice Commandant.

(2) **Detachment Commandant.** Should the Commandant's position become vacant, the Senior Vice Commandant, if agreeable, will serve as the new Commandant for the remainder of the term. If not agreeable, the Junior Vice Commandant, if agreeable, will serve as the new Commandant for the remainder of the term. If neither one is agreeable, the Department Commandant will be responsible for finding a replacement Detachment Commandant with assistance from the rest of the Detachment Staff. If either the Senior Vice Commandant or Junior Vice Commandant serve as the replacement Commandant, they will be responsible for finding a replacement for their previous position with assistance and approval of the Detachment Board of Trustees.

(3) **Detachment Senior Vice Commandant.** Should the Senior Vice Commandant position become vacant, the Junior Vice Commandant, if agreeable, will serve as the new Senior Vice Commandant for the remainder of the term. If not agreeable, the Commandant will be responsible for finding and appointing a replacement for the vacancy, with assistance and approval of the Detachment Board of Trustees.

(4) **Detachment Junior Vice Commandant or Judge Advocate.** Should the Junior Vice Commandant or Judge Advocate position become vacant, the Commandant will be responsible for finding and appointing a replacement for the vacancy, with assistance and approval of the Detachment Board of Trustees.

(5) **Any Other Detachment Officer.** Should any other elected or appointed position become vacant, the Commandant will be responsible for finding and appointing a replacement for the vacancy, with assistance and approval of the Detachment Board of Trustees.

(6) **Causes for Vacancy.** In addition to death, resignation, or incapacity, a vacancy will occur through: (1) failure to attend two consecutive, officially-called meetings of the Detachment Board of Trustees or (2) removal from office by disciplinary action in accordance with the National Administrative Procedure.

(7) **Installation and Report of Installation Submission.** Upon appointing a member to any new position on the Detachment staff, the Department Commandant,

Detachment Commandant, or any Past Commandant, in the case of a newly appointed Commandant, will swear in the officer to the new position and submit the revised "Report of Installation" form as specified in the National Administrative Procedures.

b. **Detachment Staff Officers.** A vacancy in an appointed office, a committee chairman, or a committee member shall be filled as soon as practical by the Detachment Commandant. All such appointments shall be approved by the Detachment Board of Trustees.

## **Section 18. Term of office.**

All four (4) elected Officers shall be elected to a term of one (1) year and **may** stand for re-election for additional years. Appointed Officers may be appointed to a term of one (1) year and may continue in office in fulfillment of Detachment requirements with the approval of the Commandant and advice and consent of the Board.

## **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1. Regular Membership.** Persons who are serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps for not less than ninety (90) days and persons who are serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than 90 Reserve Retirement credit points, and United States Navy Corpsmen who have trained with FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and have earned the Marine Corps Device (clasp), worn on their service ribbon, shall be eligible for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. In addition, U.S. Navy Chaplains who are serving or who have served honorably in the United States Navy and who have earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines are eligible for membership. U.S. Navy Chaplains must have been assigned permanent duty with Marine Corps Operating Forces and have completed the appropriate sections of the Personnel Qualification Standard, both of which must be noted on the DD Form 214.

**Section 2. Associate Membership.** 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 2a below may upon application to a Detachment be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Upon acceptance associate members will pay dues in the same amount as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees.

### **a. Enrollment Criteria**

(1) Individuals must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the Armed Forces of the United States;

(2) Individuals may join who have never served in a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(3) Individuals who are serving or have served honorably in other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States;

b. **Join Detachment.** Individuals applying for associate membership must join through a Marine Corps League Detachment only. Associate members can not directly join the Marine Corps League as a “Member at Large.”

c. **Rights.** Associate members shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of a regular member unless otherwise prohibited as listed in Section 2d below.

d. **Voting**

(1) Associate members shall not vote on a regular or associate membership application;

(2) Associate members shall not participate in the nomination process and/or voting for elected officers; and

(3) The Detachment may allow an Associate Member to vote on its internal affairs if such vote does not affect a policy of the Marine Corps League, such as Bylaws or Bylaw changes.

(4) **Elected Office.** Associate members shall not hold an elective office.

**Section 3. Membership Dues and Fees.** See Article VIII, Sections 1-3, below.

**Section 4. Application for Membership.** A standard MCL application for membership will be completed for all types of membership. All items on the application must be filled out and completed and appropriate fees must accompany the application. The reverse side of the application attesting to the applicant’s Marine Corp service must also be read and signed. The sponsoring Marine Corp League member must also sign on the front side and personally verify the applicant’s service by reviewing a DD-214, or an Honorable Discharge certificate. (It is suggested there be a Membership Committee to review the USMC paperwork as assigned by the Commandant.)

**Section 5. Non-payment of dues.** Any member may be dropped from rolls of membership when required dues are not paid in accordance with [REDACTED] the National Bylaws.

**Section 6. Detachment Property.** All money, other cash instruments, books, records, supplies and equipment of this Detachment are the exclusive property of the Detachment; and at such time when the Detachment is no longer in existence will pass to the Marine Corps League Department of South Carolina, and the Marine Corp League; and shall in all cases be immediately turned over to the proper successor upon leaving office.

**Section 7. Misdemeanors, Felonies or Probation Violations.** Refer to *National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Chapter 9: Grievance and Discipline, Section 9000*.

## **ARTICLE VI. GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINE.**

The *National Administrative Procedures*, Chapter 9, shall be applied as needed.

## **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS.**

**Section 1.** These Bylaws may be amended, or altered in part, at any regular or special meeting of the Detachment by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, provided such action had been announced a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

**Section 2.** These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by a majority of members present at a Detachment business meeting, subject to the approval of the Department Judge Advocate. Two (2) copies will be sent to the Department Judge Advocate for his review and signature. No amendments, changes or alterations shall conflict with *National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures*.

**Section 3.** Bylaws should be reviewed every September after the National Convention for any changes that may have been voted and approved that affect the Detachment.

## **ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES.**

### **Section 1. Membership Dues and Fees**

a. Chapters 6 and 7 of the *National Administrative Procedures* provide detailed instructions on Membership dues and fees.

b. The Detachment Board of Trustees shall present its suggested dues rate to the Detachment membership following the National Convention no later than the October regular meeting.

c. The Grand Strand Detachment shall pay the annual dues of all members eighty-five (85) years of age or older.

### **Section 2. Life Membership.**

a. Any member of the Marine Corps League who is in good standing may become a life member upon proper payment of fees as required herein and in *National Administrative Procedures*.