



2025 DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI CONVENTION



# Welcome to the Department of Mo. 2025 Convention

# Thank you to our Sponsors



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# **HISTORY, ORGANIZATION, PURPOSE AND MISSION OF THE THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**



# HISTORY

We take great  
pride in crediting  
the founding of  
the League in  
1923 to World  
War I hero,  
then Major  
General  
Commandant  
John A. Lejeune.



The League takes equal pride in the fact that its Federal Charter was approved by An Act of the Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America and signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. The League is the only Federally Chartered Marine Corps related veteran service organization in the country.



The Marine Corps  
League preserves  
the traditions and  
spirit of  
**ALL Marines**  
and select **FMF**  
**Navy personnel** \*  
who earned wear  
or who have worn  
the eagle, globe  
and anchor.

\* See 2021 National Bylaws  
Article V, Section 515





Today, the League boasts a membership of more than 50,000 men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty, Reserve Marines, honorably discharged Marine Veterans and qualified Navy FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains.



Since its earliest days, the Marine Corps League has enjoyed the support and encouragement of Marines, whether Active Duty or Reserve





# ORGANIZATION





# ORGANIZATION

**The Marine Corps League** is headed by an elected **National Commandant**, with 14 elected National Staff Officers who serve as trustees. The National Board of Trustees coordinates the efforts of 48 departments, or state entities and the activities of over 1000 community-based detachments located throughout the United States and overseas.





# ORGANIZATION

The day-to-day operations of the League are under the control of the Chief Operating Officer / National Executive Director with the responsibility for the management and direction of all programs, activities, and affairs of the Marine Corps League as well as supervising the National Headquarters staff.



# ORGANIZATION

The prime authority of the League is derived from its Congressional charter and from its annual National Convention held each August in different major U.S. cities throughout the nation.



# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



National Commandant  
T.J. Morgan  
(Washington)



# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



National Sr. Vice  
Commandant  
Russ Miller  
  
(Colorado)





# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



National Jr. Vice  
Commandant  
David Porter

(Massachusetts)



# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



National  
Judge Advocate  
Bruce Rakfeldt  
  
(North Carolina)



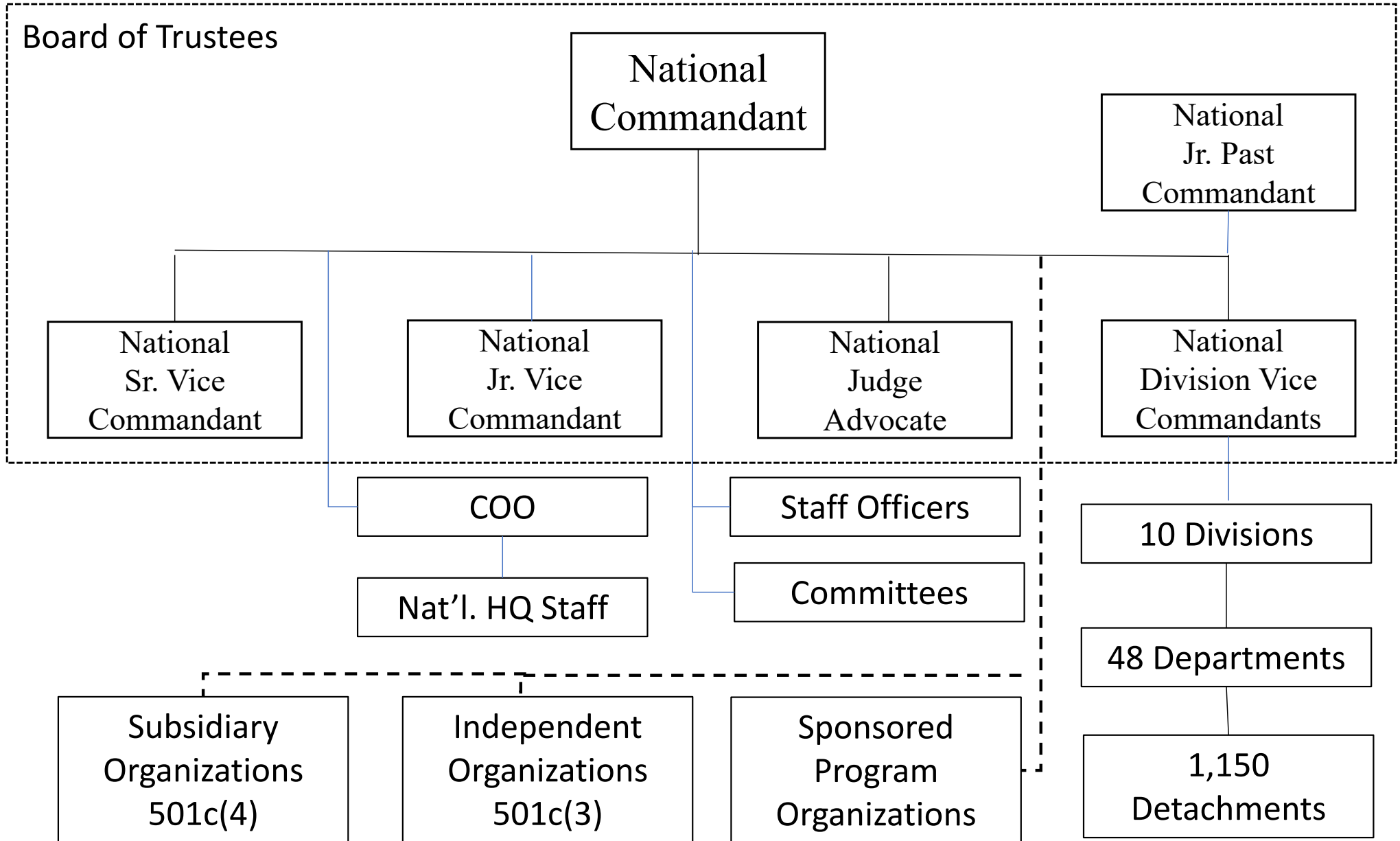
# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



National  
Jr. Past Commandant  
Warren Griffin

(Massachusetts)

# Marine Corps League National Organization







# Purpose of the Marine Corps League

- To band together those who are now serving 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.



# Purpose of the Marine Corps League

- To fit its members for the duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve ably as citizens as they served their nation under arms.
- To hold sacred the memory and history of men and women who have given their lives to the nation.



# Purpose of the Marine Corps League

- To foster love for the principles that they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic.
- To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines, uniformed and civilian, as well as to their widows and orphans.



# MISSION

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.

***Preserving Traditions... Providing Fraternity... Promoting the Future...***



# DETACHMENTS

## What is a Detachment?

### *A Detachment...*

- Is the local organization and embodiment of the League;
- Is subordinate to its Department and to National;
- Is chartered (like being franchised) by National HQ;
- Operates in their municipality as defined by their Charter;
- Is a legal entity, with its own EIN issued by the IRS;
- As a legal entity, it has certain legal rights under law –  
such as Contracting, owning Property, being Sued, etc.

# DETACHMENTS

## What are other Detachment attributes?

### *A Detachment...*

Is a 501c(4) Non-Profit, Tax Exempt Company under IRS Group Exemption 0955;

Submits its own IRS 990 Tax Return Annually;

Is Incorporated in its own State and submits annual Corporate filings per local State laws and ordinances;

Is operated according to its own Bylaws and A-Ps and complies with National and Department Bylaws.

# DETACHMENTS

**Why are Detachment considered the most important part of the Marine Corps League?**

*Because...*

Detachments are the gateway to Membership and all members are members of a Detachment;

Detachments represent the League in their communities thru programs, events, and everything they do;

Detachments stay in contact with their members;

Detachments represent their members up the "Chain."

# DETACHMENTS

**Why are Detachment considered the most important part of the Marine Corps League?**

*The biggest reason is because...*

Detachments are the local embodiment of our Mission:

***Preserve Traditions, Provide Fraternity, Promote the Future.***

When the public looks at our members and Detachments, they see Marines actively respecting our past, taking care of each other and each other's families and above all, providing and exemplifying civic Leadership.



# DETACHMENTS

## What should all Detachment do?

*A Detachment should...*

- Develop its own slate of programs and activities based on and using the existing MCL Programs that are appropriate to their size, abilities and communities.
- Raise funds to support its programs;
- Recruit new members and grow;
- Represent the League and Marines everywhere at events and ceremonies in their communities whenever possible;
- Be flexible, take advantage of new opportunities and adapt to new circumstances.

# DETACHMENTS

## What must all Detachments do?

*A Detachment must...*

Meet regularly at a day, time and place of its choosing;

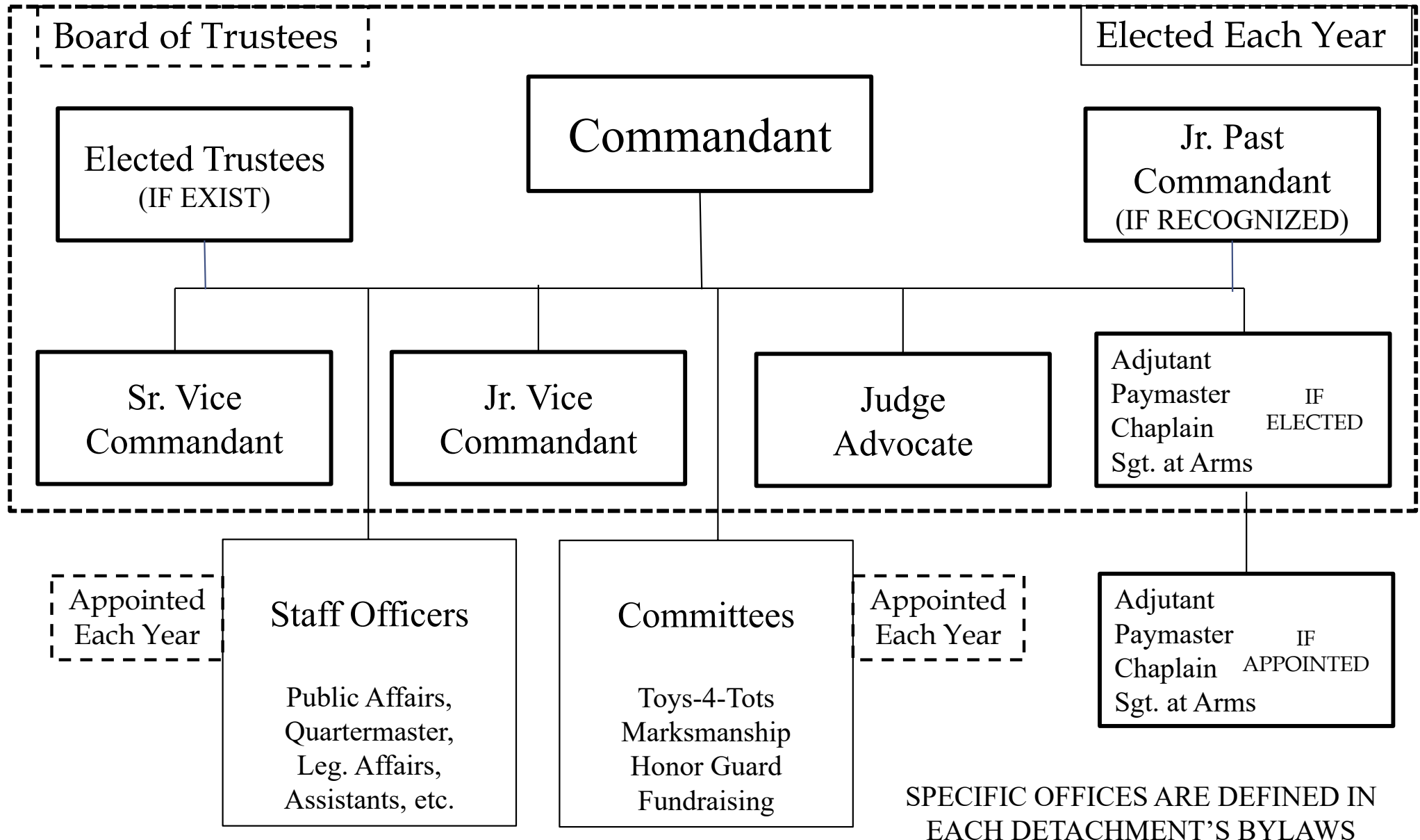
Maintain a minimum of 15 Regular voting members;

Elect & Install their officers between 1 September and 15 May every year with an ROI submitted by 30 June.

Elect a Commandant, Sr. and Jr. Vice Commandants and a Judge Advocate. (One member / one Office.)

Elect or Appoint a Chaplain, Sgt. at Arms, a Paymaster and an Adjutant. (Adjutant and Paymaster can be combined.)

# DETACHMENT ORGANIZATION



# Who is eligible for membership?

*Regular members are...*

- (1) Marines who are serving or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps or the Marine Corps Reserve;
- (2) U.S. Navy personnel who are serving or have served honorably in the United States Navy and who are serving or have served with Marine FMF units in excess of 90 days and earned the Marine Corps device worn on the Service Ribbon, or the FMFEWS or FMFQO insignia.

**(Note: (2) Revised in 2021 at the National Convention.)**



# Who is eligible for membership?

*Associate members are...*

- (1) Individuals must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the Armed Forces of the U. S.
- (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.

## **What can Associate members do or not do?**

*Associate members...*

- (1) Cannot hold any Elected office;
- (2) Cannot vote on any (R or A) member application;
- (3) Cannot participate in the nomination/election /voting process for any elected officer at any level;
- (4) Can vote in matters of internal affairs not affecting MCL policy or policy or Bylaw changes if allowed by Bylaws.
- (5) Can hold appointed offices and serve on committees.

# **Oath OATH OF MEMBERSHIP:**

## **Regular & Associate Members**

**"I, \_\_\_\_\_, (pause so the applicant can repeat) In the Presence of our Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will never bring discredit upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps. So help me God.**

# LEADERSHIP

## THE VOLUNTEER DILEMMA

- Sincere volunteer vs. someone who lobbies for a job, then doesn't do it, may disappear, and won't quit
- Must have an interest and willingness to serve
- Work and family obligations must be considered
- Rarely, does someone have all the skills and knowledge for a position at the outset – there must be a personal willingness to learn, adapt and change to succeed
- Remember one thing – Volunteering is NOT an excuse for not following the law, our bylaws or other required obligations. Volunteer means stepping forward to take on a task – but it still needs to be done correctly

# Marine Corps League Election Procedure for Department and Detachment Officers

## **1. Nominations**

- Timing: Nominations shall be opened during the regular business meeting designated for elections, as specified in the bylaws (typically the annual convention or meeting).**
- Eligibility: Only regular members in good standing may be nominated or nominate others.**
- Process:**
  - The Election Officer opens nominations for each elected office in the order listed in the bylaws (e.g., Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Judge Advocate, etc.).**
  - Members may nominate themselves or others.**
  - Nominations do not require a second.**
  - The Election Officer shall ask each Nominated officer if he /she is willing to serve in the office they are nominated for.**
  - After asking three times for additional nominations and hearing none, the Election Officer declares nominations closed for that office.**



## **2. Candidate Speeches (Optional)**

- Each nominee may be given up to 3 minutes to speak before the election for their office is held, if allowed by the assembly.**

### **3. Election Method**

- Uncontested Offices: If only one person is nominated for an office, the Election Officer may declare the nominee elected by acclamation.**
- Contested Offices: Voting shall be by secret ballot unless otherwise specified by bylaws.**
- A majority vote (more than half of votes cast, excluding abstentions) is required to elect.**
- If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the candidate with the lowest vote total is dropped and additional ballots are taken until a majority is achieved.**

#### **4. Tellers and Ballot Counting**

- The Election Officer appoints a Tellers Committee (usually 3 impartial members) to:**
- Distribute, collect, and count the ballots.**
- Report the results to the Election Officer, who announces them to the assembly.**
- The number of ballots cast, votes per candidate, and any invalid ballots must be reported.**

## **5. Tie Votes**

- In the event of a tie, another ballot is taken.**
- If two consecutive tie votes occur, the tie may be broken by lot (e.g., drawing names) if permitted by bylaws or agreed to by the assembly.**

## **6. Appointed Officers**

- Once the election process is complete the Election Officer shall ask the newly elected Commandant if he/she has appointed officers to a particular office.**
- The Election Officer shall ask each newly appointed officer if he /she is willing to serve in the office they are appointed to.**

## **7. Declaration of Election**

**-After the election and appointed process is complete the Election Officer shall declare that the elected and appointed officers of the \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment / Department are duly elected and appointed.**

## **8. Installation of Officers**

- Officers are typically installed immediately following the election or at a designated time during the meeting.**
- The installing officer may be a current or past Commandant, or a higher-level officer (Division or National).**
- All elected officers must take the Oath of Office before assuming their duties.**

## **9. Vacancies**

- Any vacancies occurring between elections may be filled by appointment or special election as specified in the bylaws.**





# Helping Veterans and their Families

American Legion Key Performance Indicators (KPI). Bravo Zulu. **MCL doesn't have KPI**





## Helping Veterans and their Families

Does the Marine Corps League help Veterans and their Families?

Color Guards

Funeral Honors

Toys for Tots

Veteran Service Officers (VSO)  
(CDCE)

VA Hospital Volunteers

Disaster Support  
Assistance

Scholarships

Transition

Youth Programs JRTOC, Scholarships, Scouting, Young Marines, & Youth  
Physical Fitness

**Yes, the Marine Corps League makes a difference in our communities every day.**

### **PROVE IT**

Detachments submit annual report form to Department.

Department combine submissions to one report to Division

Division combine for one report to National Commandant

Commandant (and NED/COO) combine 10 reports into 1 Marine Corps League KPI



## Semper Fi Store

### Red Satin Jackets

- Vendor went out of business.
- Sourced a new vendor and will make a year's worth at a time
- We ordered 600 that are being made



### White Uniform Shirt

- Vendor went out of business
- Tried Galls - expensive
- Selected new vendor and shirts are being made





## Trademark Imagery

Okay to use inside of  
Marine Corps League Logo

Not okay  
Note the cut-

out wings





## Website Disclaimer Mandatory

Must be visible on your website if you use any Marine Corps words or imagery:

“The Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem and the name Marine Corps® are registered trademarks of the USMC. The Marine Corps League supports the USMC and its veterans; however, it is not officially connected to or endorsed by the USMC, and the name and emblem are used with permission.”

**Questions**

**Discussion**