



Report of the Judge Advocate..... June 2025

A. Charter Voluntary Surrender:

1. Juniata Area Detachment #687 **D6....** 11/23/2024... District Vice Commandant Sylvia reports transfer of members is ongoing. The Charter is in my possession.

B. Detachment Deactivation: None.

C. Letters of Warning: None.

1. Black Sheep Detachment #412 **D4.....** Black Sheep is in compliance with National Bylaws.

D. Disciplinary Charges: None to report.

E. Grievances: No grievances to report.

F. Documents Reviewed:

1. Six National Bylaws and twenty four Administrative Procedure Proposals submitted for approval at National Convention, reviewed.
2. One Department of Pennsylvania Administrative Procedure for approval at Department convention, reviewed.

G. Questions:

Question: 1. Ron McFarland Detachment # 524, Carlisle. Based on researching and finding the below information, in particular, the IRS "Group Exemption Letter" under the 501 (c) 4 status for the MCL means: donations are tax deductible. Let me know if you concur.

Answer: Ron, You are correct. The Marine Corps League Exemption Code number "0955" non-profit tax exempt status under IRS Code 501(c)(4).

2. Question: Do Associate members count on the roster? If not, where does it state that?

Answer: They count on the roster as Associates not regular voting members. They would need **15 REGULAR** voting members to maintain a Detachment. Associates do not get a vote or can hold an elected office.

This question was in reference to **NBL Section 945. Suspension and Revocation of Charter and NAP Section 6045**. A ruling on this question was made by National Judge Advocate Bruce Rakfeldt. The ruling is included with this report.

3. Question: Does a Judge Advocate need to be seated during a MCL meeting.

Answer: National JA response, there is nothing in the NBL/NAP stating a JA must be present. In his opinion, a meeting can proceed without a Judge Advocate present.

Semper Fidelis,

Joel Sofranko



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of the National Judge Advocate

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13 May 2025

From: Bruce R. Rakfeldt, National Judge Advocate, Marine Corps League, INC.

To: All Marine Corps League Divisions
All Marine Corps League Departments
All Marine Corps League Detachments

Subject: Ruling on NBL Section 945, A, 1 and NAP Section 6045, A, 1

Ref: (a) National Bylaws (NBL)
(b) National Administrative Procedures (NAP)

After a thorough review of the referenced sections and the history pertaining to proposed amendments to the National Bylaws and National Administrative Procedures, it has been determined that the term “regular” was added to the NAP in 2021. It was the original intent that this term be incorporated into both the NAP and the NBL. However, due to an administrative oversight, the term was not included in NBL Section 945, A, 1.

This omission will be corrected during the next revision to the National Bylaws, scheduled to take place following the conclusion of the 2025 National Convention. In the interim, I am issuing a formal ruling that **NAP Section 6045, A, 1 shall take precedence over NBL Section 945, A, 1.**

For clarity, the relevant sections are as follows:

- **NBL Section 945 – Suspension and Revocation of Charter**
 - A. Basis.** The charter of a detachment may be suspended or revoked for:
 1. The persistent failure to maintain a minimum of fifteen members in good standing.
- **NAP Section 6045 – Charter Suspension, Revocation**
 - A.** The charter of a detachment may be suspended or revoked for:
 1. The persistent failure to maintain a minimum of fifteen (15) **regular** members in good standing.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Rakfeldt,
National Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League