



Marine Corps League

Diamond State Detachment, Inc.

Department Of Delaware

BYLAWS

Revised 2020

Per

National Section 900-Bylaws

# Marine Corps League



## Marine Corps League

Diamond State Detachment 704  
P.O. Box 676 - Lewes, DE 19958

Diamond State Detachment, Inc

Department of Delaware

## **BYLAWS** **Revised 2020**

### **PREAMBLE**

In the name of the beneficent God of all, we who have honorably served, or are now honorably serving our Country in the United States Marine Corps, for the common good of this nation, and all the nations and people of our world, and in order that the fundamental rights and freedom of every person may be preserved, to foster interest in the affairs of the United States Marine Corps, to protect and advance the welfare of wounded and disabled Marines and their dependents, and for the further purposes set forth hereinafter, do solemnly and firmly associate ourselves together in a nonprofit corporation known as the Marine Corps League , Diamond State Detachment, Inc, and order and establish these bylaws.

# **Diamond State Detachment 704**

## **BYLAWS**

### **Name**

**Section 100..** The name of the corporation shall be the Marine Corps League. (MCL). The Marine Corps League is a non-profit corporation incorporated by an Act of the Seventy-fifth Congress of the United States of America at the First Session, begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fifth day of January 1937, and approved August 4, 1937.

### **Mission Statement**

**Section 105..** 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.

### **Oath of Membership**

"I, (Your Name), In the Presence of 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 League, so help me God.

# BYLAWS

## Article I

### Section 1 – Authority

The Supreme legislative and policy-making power of the Detachment shall be invested in the Detachment membership.

**Section 2. Bylaws.( Sec. 905)** Each detachment shall adopt bylaws and may adopt administrative procedures that are consistent with the Department and National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. The bylaws and administrative procedures shall be approved by the Department Judge Advocate. In the absence of a jurisdictional department, the National Judge Advocate shall be the approving authority.

**Section 3. Members (Sec. 910).** Each detachment shall be the sole judge of its membership, providing said person meets the requirements per MCL National Bylaws of Article V, Section 515 and Section 520.

### Section 4. Ineligible Members (Sec.520)

a. If there is reason to believe a member of the Marine Corps League does not meet the qualifications to be a member, this (these) reason(s) must be submitted in writing to the Detachment Commandant, who will appoint the Detachment Judge Advocate who will investigate the charge as presented. Unless,

(1) The person to be investigated is the Detachment Commandant, the request will be given to the Detachment Senior Vice Commandant for action, or

(2) The person to be investigated is the Detachment Judge Advocate, the Detachment Commandant will appoint a Past Detachment Commandant to hold the investigation.

b. If the investigation determines that the member does not have the necessary qualifications to be a member, the officer who is investigating will present a written report of the investigation, with a draft of a disciplinary charge to the members of the Detachment Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall file a charge with the Department Judge Advocate in accordance with National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Nine.

### Section 5. Detachment Officers.(Sec.920) Each detachment shall:

a. Elect a commandant, a senior vice commandant, a junior vice commandant, and a judge advocate each year; and

b. Elect or appoint an adjutant, paymaster (or adjutant/paymaster), chaplain, and sergeant-at-arms.

c. A detachment may have such additional elected and appointed officers as required by the detachment bylaws.

d. All elected officers shall be regular members of the detachment in which they are elected.

e. At the will of the detachment, associate members may serve in appointed offices only.

f. **Term Limits.** Each elected officer shall be elected for a term of one year and may be

reelected for additional terms as provided in the Detachment Bylaws. Appointed officers shall serve a term that expires when the installation after the annual election occurs and may be appointed to additional terms.

## Article II

### Section 6 Vacancies (Sec.925)

#### . 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.

## **Article III**

### **Section 7. Meetings.(Sec.930)**

The Detachment Charter or Copy, the National Colors, the Detachment Colors and a Bible shall be displayed at all regular business meetings.

a. **Quorum.(Sec.835)** The Detachment shall have ten (10) members present and in Good Standing to transact business at the regular meetings and two of those must be elected officers.

**Section 8. Detachment Board of Trustees.(Sec.935)** The elected officers of the Detachment shall be the Board of Trustees. However, a Detachments authorized to appoint the outgoing Junior Past Commandant to serve a one-year term as a member of the Detachments Board of Trustees.

### **Section 9. Election of Officers (Sec.940)**

a. The nominations for office will be held in November each year at the Detachments regular meeting.

All nominations will be made from the floor and seconded. Nominees will accept or decline the nomination at that time.

b. Any time throughout the year, were a change in any Officer(s) position, that new officer(s) must be sworn in accordance with Administrative Procedures and a new "Report of Installation" form must be submitted for those positions that changed

c. Any time throughout the year, were a change in any Officer(s) position, that new officer(s) must be sworn in accordance with Administrative Procedures and a new "Report of Installation" form must be submitted for those positions that changed.

### **d. Bonding**

All Detachment Officers handling Detachment monies shall be bonded. The Detachment Commandant and Detachment Adjutant and Paymaster (or Adjutant/Paymaster, as applicable) and all those designated by the Commandant to handle monies are covered under a "Blanket" bond of \$10,000 with \$1,000 deductible paid for by the National Headquarters.

**Section 10. Parliamentary Authority.(Sec.960)** Each detachment shall use the current edition of

*Roberts Rule of Order Newly Revised* which shall govern in all cases to which they are

applicable and in which they are not in conflict with the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Department Bylaws, and any special rules of order National may adopt. In the event of a conflict, the ruling authority is the National Bylaws, then the National Administrative Procedures, then *Roberts Rule of Order Newly Revised*

## Article IV

### Members

#### Section 8 – Categories of Membership (Sec.515)

A: Regular Membership. Only the following may be regular members of the MCL;

- (1) **Marine** who are serving or have served honorably\* in the United States Marine Corps or the United States Marine Corps Reserve;
- (2) **U.S. Navy Corpsmen** (i) who are serving or have served honorably\* in the United States Navy and who have trained with Marine FMF units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps device (clasp) worn on the Service Ribbon, (ie; Southwest Asia Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, etc) and (ii) who earn the Warfare Device authorized for FMF Corpsmen. U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman must have satisfactorily completed the Field Medical School (FMSS), have been permanently assigned to an FMF Command and have completed the appropriate sections of the Personnel Qualification Standard, both of which must be noted on the DD Form 214. An award of the Fleet Marine Force Ribbon (FMF Ribbon) (1 Sep 1984-30 Sep 2006) or the Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist Qualification (EFMFWS) Badge (1 Oct 2006-present) may serve as prima facie evidence of eligibility; and
- (3) **U.S. Navy Chaplains** who are serving or have served honorably\* in the United State Navy and who have earned the FMF Badge serving with Marines. 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 and both of which must be noted on the DD Form 214. An award of the Fleet Marine Force Ribbon (FMF Ribbon) (1 Sep 1984-31 Dec 2005) or the Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer (FMFQO) Insignia (1 Jan 2006-present) may serve as prima facie evidence of eligibility.

**Note\*** - “**Served Honorably**” is determined by the last DD Form 214 or certificate of discharge that the applicant received. A General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable.

b. **Associate Member.** 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 (1) 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.

(1) **Enrollment Criteria**

- (a) Individuals must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the Armed Forces of the United States;
- (b) Individuals may join who have never served in a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- (c) Individuals who are serving or have served honorably in other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(2) **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.”

(3) **Rights.** Associate members shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of a regular member unless otherwise prohibited as listed paragraphs (4) and (5) below.

(4) **Voting.**

- (a) Associate members shall no vote on a regular or associate membership application;
- (b) Associate members shall not participate in the nomination process and/or voting for elected officers; and
- (c) A Department or Detachment, by provisions in the by-laws and/or administrative procedures, 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 By-Laws or By-Law changes.

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

- a. **Honorary Member.(515)** Detachments, Departments, and the National Headquarters may, at the discretion of the respective commandant, issue honorary membership to those persons who have been of extraordinary service to the Nation, the United States Marine Corps, or the Marine Corps League. The honorary member will not be entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits available to a regular or associate member. A suitable certificate will be issued to honor the occasion by the organization making the award. Payment of dues or initiation fees is not required; however, an honorary member will not be entitled to the official publication of the Marine Corps League except as dired by the National Board of Trustees or paid subscription. All “Honorary Memberships” are for a one-year period only and must be renewed each year by the Detachment, Department, or National.

**Section 9 - Good Standing**

All members shall be in good standing in the Diamond State Detachment.

(A) Except when:

- (a) Required dues are not paid, on or before membership expiration as is shown on the members card; or



(b) Under suspension as punishment upon the adjudication of Guilt as is provided in the National Administrative Procedures.

### **Section 10 - Rights of Members**

No member shall be deprived of any rights and privileges in the Diamond State Detachment except for non-payment of dues or other indebtedness, unless the member shall first be charged, tried, and found guilty in accordance with the provisions of the National Bylaws and Administrative procedures.

### **Section 11 - Life Members**

All Regular or Associate Members of the Marine Corps League in Good Standing may become life members of the Diamond State Detachment and the Marine Corps League.

Life Members are those who have paid their dues as prescribed by the National Marine Corps League and are exempt from further dues.

### **Section 12 - Dual Members**

Those members who hold membership in more than one Detachment. -They are classified as regular members in each Detachment they belong to and can vote and hold office in each one at the same time. (BUT WHEN THEY GO TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION THEY CAN ONLY VOTE WITH THEIR OLDEST DETACHMENT UNLESS IN WRITING THEY SELECT ANOTHER DETACHMENT).