ARTICLE ONE

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

SECTION 100 – ORGANIZATION AND AUTHORITY

(a) This organization shall be known as "Department of Tennessee, Marine Corps League."

(b) The Seal of the Department of Tennessee, Marine Corps League, will consist of the Seal of the Marine Corps League with the words "Department of Tennessee" and "Marine Corps League" on separate lines in that respective order appearing below. Letterhead stationary may vary to improve the visual appeal.

(c) The supreme legislative and policy making power of the Department of Tennessee, Marine Corps League shall be vested in the Department Convention composed of the properly selected, registered, and approved Delegates in good standing.

SECTION 101 – CONVENTION MEETINGS – The Department Convention shall meet once each calendar year, between 1 May and 15 July, unless prevented by National Emergency or other unpreventable cause. All Members in good standing are encouraged to attend the Department Conventions, and may attend any and all Business Meetings. All members who are in good standing may, within the provisions of these Bylaws, be recognized to speak and debate on issues before that Meeting. The Organization that is scheduled and approved to host an upcoming Department Convention will distribute initial information prior to 1 January before the Convention. The initial information will include as a minimum, but is not restricted to, the exact dates, the name, address and telephone number of the hotel, and the room rates. If a Convention Program Book is planned, the advertisement information will also be included in the initial information. Complete schedules and rates of the events may be distributed later, but must be sent out by the date of the Spring Department Staff Meeting. Final approval of the schedules for the Business and Committee Meetings is the prerogative of the Department Commandant.

SECTION 102 – ADMINISTRATIVE COMPOSITION – The Department Convention Committees shall consist of those committees listed in Article Four, Section 400 (b), and other committees or boards as may be determined necessary. Standing Committees will also function as a part of the Department Convention. All Committees are defined and functions described in Article Four herein.

(a) DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES – Each Detachment shall be entitled to one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each block of fifteen (15) Regular Members in good standing, or any fraction thereof. Detachment strength for this calculation shall be the total of all Regular Members in good standing as of 31 March immediately prior to the Department Convention. No Associate Memberships, Multiple Memberships or Honorary Memberships will be considered in the computation.

(b) DELEGATES-AT-LARGE – Past Department Commandants of the Department of Tennessee may choose to serve as Delegates-at-Large to the Department Convention. Delegates-at-Large will have the same rights and privileges of the regular Delegates.

(c) CREDENTIALS – Only Delegates and Alternates who have registered, had their Credentials authenticated in writing by their Detachment, had the Delegate Fee paid, and been approved by the Credentials Committee may vote in the Department Convention. Past Department Commandants wishing to serve as Delegates-at-Large may be certified by their respective Detachment, or by the Department Adjutant.

(d) DETACHMENT STANDING – Any Detachment that is in default on any payment of funds to the Department will not have Delegates approved until the default is settled in full in cash, unless previously resolved by the Board of Trustees.

(e) MEMBER STANDING – Notwithstanding the provisions of SECTION 102 (c), above, no paid member in good standing shall be deprived of his or her vote at a Department Convention.

(f) CERTIFICATION REPORT – A report certifying the approved voting strength by the Credentials Committee shall be the first item of business of the Department Convention to insure that all subsequent measures are passed by the properly certified and approved voting strength of each Detachment.

Section 103 – VOTING

(a) QUORUM – A quorum for the Department Convention shall consist of a majority of the Detachments in good standing in the Department of Tennessee. Should a Detachment fail to attend or provide accreditation for Delegates, the strength of that Detachment will not be counted, except as provided in Section 102 (e), above.

Amended 2011

(b) RESOLUTION OF VOTING: Except as may be noted elsewhere in these Bylaws, a majority of the votes cast by the registered and approved Delegates present on the floor and voting shall resolve all issues and carry any measure, except that any motion that will extend, limit or cut off debate shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast to carry the motion.

(c) DELEGATE VOTING – Each Delegate properly certified in accordance with this Article may vote for up to fifteen (15) members of that Detachment, except that the total votes of a Detachment Delegation may not exceed the total of that Detachment's strength as certified by the Credentials Committee. Delegates present may vote the strength of absent Delegates, with the approval of those absent Delegates. Additionally, a Detachment may determine to vote as a block, with the Detachment Commandant, or properly certified representative, voting the entire strength of that Detachment. This may include all regular Delegates and Alternates, and Delegates-at-Large, as determined by that Detachment. Detachments voting as a block will notify the Credentials Committee at the time of registration, and this option may be changed during the Convention by notification from the Delegation to the Convention Chair.

Amended 2010

(d) ROLL CALL VOTE – A Roll Call Vote may be called by any five (5) registered and accredited Delegates, each making a motion for a Roll Call Vote on the Floor of the Convention. No more than two (2) of the Delegates making such a motion may be from the same Detachment. Upon receipt of a valid call for a Roll Call Vote, the Chair will declare a five (5) minute recess to allow the Detachments to caucus their Delegates. Upon resumption of business, the Credentials Committee will verify the Voting Strength of each Detachment prior to the Chair conducting the vote.

SECTION 104 – ELECTIVE OFFICERS – The Department Officers to be elected at each Department Convention are the Department Commandant, Department Senior Vice Commandant, Department Junior Vice Commandant and Department Judge Advocate. No individual member shall hold more than one Department Elective Office at any one time.

SECTION 105 – NOMINATIONS

(a) The Nominating Committee will present a slate of one candidate for each elective office immediately prior to the Election of Officers.

(b) The Chair will then announce each Elective Office individually; the name of the candidate selected by the Nominating Committee, and solicit any additional nominations from the floor.

SECTION 106 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) The election of officers will be the last item of business on the agenda of the Department Convention.

(b) Prior to the election, the Department Commandant will appoint an ad hoc committee of three to supervise the election process. The committee will consist of one Past Department Commandant and two Past Detachment Commandants, if possible.

(c) The Election of Officers will be by Roll Call Vote of the properly certified Detachment Delegates, except that where there is only one nominee for a specific office, the Chair may entertain a motion for election by acclamation for that office.

(d) Installation of Officers will occur following the adjournment of the Department Convention, usually on the same day. The Department Commandant for the Convention is responsible to insure that Installing Officials and other requirements of the National Bylaws and Administrative procedures are met.

SECTION 107 – TERM OF OFFICE – All Department Elective Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, and stand for re-election.

SECTION 108 – RIGHT TO SPEAK – All registered and approved Delegates and all Department Officers, when recognized by the Chair and not expressly prohibited by Bylaws, shall have the right to speak in any discussion or debate of the Department Convention. The Chair may extend the privilege of the floor to any member in good standing on the same terms.

SECTION 109 – BIDS FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION – Any Detachment may bid for the right to host the Department Convention by submitting a written bid to the Department Convention Committee in accordance with Article Four of these Bylaws.

SECTION 110 – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION FEES

(a) A Delegate Fee must be paid to the Credentials Committee at the time of certification for each Delegate, Alternate and Delegate-at-Large. The fee may be paid either by the individual or by the Detachment, but Delegates will not be approved to vote until the fee is paid. Upon completion of certification, all Delegate Fees collected by the Credentials Committee will be turned over to the Department Paymaster. Late arriving Delegates who are otherwise approved by the Credentials Committee will pay the fee directly to the Department Paymaster.

(b) A Registration Fee shall be paid to the Host Detachment for each member attending the Department Convention or any Convention function, whether or not that member is a Delegate or Alternate.

(c) The initial charge for the Delegate Fee and the Registration Fee shall be $5.00 each. The charge for each Fee may be set by the Department Convention for the following year without requiring an amendment to these Bylaws.

SECTION 111 – RULES – The National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, the Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures shall govern the procedures of the Department Convention and all other Department Functions. A detailed listing of Rules for the Department Convention shall be included in the Department Administrative Procedures, and shall be proposed for acceptance as the first order of business following the Credentials Committee Report at the opening of the Convention. The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, shall govern the parliamentary procedures of all Department functions in all cases where they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with either the National or Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures.

END OF ARTICLE ONE