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.

(b) RESOLUTION – Except as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, a vote of fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) shall resolve all issues and carry any measure.

(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.