

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, ILLOWA DETACHMENT

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

SECTION 1 The name of this Detachment shall be THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, ILLOWA DETACHMENT, chartered by and under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Corps League.

SECTION 2 The purposes of the association shall be: to preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps; to band those honorably discharged from the “Marines” together in fellowship, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy; to fit it’s members for the duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms; to held sacred the history and memory of the men who have given their lives to the Nation; to foster love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic; to maintain true allegiance to American institutions; to create a bond of comradeship between those in service and those who have returned to civil life; to aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines and former Marines as well as to their widows and orphans; to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

SECTION 3 It shall be the policy of this Detachment to never take part in any labor or management dispute or issue, and it shall not ever be non-sectarian; non-political and non-partisan, nor shall it be used as a medium of political ambition or preferment. Preferment by reason of present or former military rank or by reason of former or present civilian position shall not be countenanced.

SECTION 4 The emblem to be adopted by this Detachment of the Marine Corps League shall be round in shape, containing in the center thereof a replica of the United States Marine Corps emblem, surrounded by the words, “Semper Fidelis Marine Corps League.”

ARTICLE II

Membership

SECTION 1 Only persons who are serving or who have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, on active duty for not less than ninety (90) days, and persons who are serving or who have served in the Marine Corps Reserve and have earned not less than ninety (90) reserve retirement credit points, and persons who have served or are serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device or Warfare device worn on the service ribbon authorized for FMF Corpsmen, shall be eligible for membership in the Marine Corps League, Illowa Detachment.

SECTION 2 No person otherwise qualified will be considered for membership unless he or she has presented a membership application accompanied by his/her dues for one year, and is sponsored by a member of the Illowa Detachment, whose dues are fully paid and who is in good standing. [*hereafter "his" shall be gender neutral and mean "his/her"]

SECTION 3 In the case of a recently discharged person (within one (1) year), the Illowa Detachment dues for the first six months of membership may be waived and the dues for the remaining six months are pro-ratable.

SECTION 4 Members of this Detachment shall be disciplined for violation of these Bylaws and the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Marine Corps League.

SECTION 5 Any member of this Detachment that performs any act which would tend to bring the Marine Corps League or any part thereof into disrepute with the public shall be disciplined as outlined in Article Ten of the National Bylaws.

SECTION 6 The Adjutant shall submit to the Detachment Staff the name of any member who refuses or neglects to pay any indebtedness due to the Detachment within thirty days after formal demand has been made by the Adjutant. The Staff shall decide definitely with thirty days thereafter whether the member shall be dropped or retained on the roster.

SECTION 7 Any member may be expelled for cause from the Detachment by a three-fourths vote of the entire Detachment Staff.

SECTION 8 Resignation of any member shall become effective upon written notice to the Commandant or Adjutant of the Illowa Detachment, who in turn shall announce said resignations at the next regular meeting.

SECTION 9 The names of all persons who sign the Detachment Charter will be classified as charter members.

ARTICLE III

Organization

SECTION 1 Officers: The elective officers of this Detachment shall be a Commandant, a Senior Vice-Commandant, a Junior Vice-Commandant, an Adjutant, a Paymaster, a Judge Advocate, a Sergeant-At-Arms, and a Chaplain. If necessary, the offices of Adjutant and Paymaster may be combined, and the offices of Sergeant-at-Arms and Chaplain may be combined if necessary.

SECTION 2 The elective officers and the three Executive Committee Members will serve as the Detachment Staff.

SECTION 3 A simple majority of the elected officers and Executive Committee Members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Detachment Staff.

SECTION 4 The Detachment Commandant may appoint additional officers as deemed necessary. All such appointive officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Detachment Commandant and may be removed, and/or replaced by the Detachment Commandant at any time.

SECTION 5 In the event of a vacancy in the office of Commandant, the Senior Vice-Commandant shall automatically succeed to the office Commandant.

SECTION 6 In the event of a vacancy in any other elective office, the Detachment Commandant shall appoint a member from the membership roster of the Detachment for the remainder of the term of office so vacated.

SECTION 7 In the event of the office of Commandant and Senior Vice-Commandant becoming vacant simultaneously, the remaining elected officers shall meet in a special session as soon as possible thereafter, and elect from the membership roster of the Detachment a member to fill the said vacancies for the remainder of the term of office so vacated. The presiding officer at such a meeting will be the senior Detachment officer present.

ARTICLE IV

Elections

SECTION 1 The officers and Executive Committee Members of this Detachment shall be elected as follows: A nominating committee appointed by the present Commandant, consisting of at least three members, shall be appointed in December for the purpose of submitting a slate of officers and Executive Committee Members. The most recent past Commandant shall serve on this committee as chairman of the same; the nominating committee, through its chairman, will present to the membership the nominations for the various offices at the January meeting, at which time nominations will then be opened from the floor. All persons nominated by the nominating committee and by nominations from the floor will be recorded by the Adjutant, and a ballot prepared; those persons so nominated will come up for election at the February meeting, at which time the election shall be by ballot, by those present and qualified to vote; the persons receiving a majority of the votes cast being the declared elected. In the case no election is had on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on each succeeding ballot shall be dropped, in case of ties, balloting shall continue until said tie is broken; the officers so elected will be installed not later than the April meeting and commence their duties forthwith.

Section 2 The Adjutant will be charged with the responsibility of forwarding a list of the names of the persons so nominated for each office, to each of the active members of this Detachment at least two weeks prior to the election meeting.

ARTICLE V

Qualification of Officers

SECTION 1 No person shall be eligible to hold office or be appointed to any committee of this Detachment unless that person is an active, paid up member in good standing.

SECTION 2 No officer or Executive Committee Member shall receive any compensation for any service rendered to this Detachment unless authorized by the members at a duly constituted meeting.

SECTION 3 No officer or Executive Committee member shall be allowed any unexcused absence from regular Detachment Meetings. In case of unexcused absence, the name of the officer shall be reported to the Detachment Staff for review, and their

findings shall be reported to the general membership at the next regular meeting. After two unexcused absences, the Detachment Staff shall declare that the office in question is vacant, and a special election to fill said office shall be held at the next regular meeting. An unexcused absence shall be determined by the Commandant, or the Senior Vice-Commandant, and may be submitted in advance of a regular meeting or immediately following a regular meeting.

SECTION 4 Removal of Officers. When a Detachment Elective Officer fails to carry out the duties of his or her office or by his or her actions, brings discredit to this Detachment, said officer may be removed by a vote of a quorum of elected Detachment officers.

ARTICLE VI

Authority and Duties of Officers

SECTION 1 In addition to the specific duties of the individual Detachment Officer, as hereinafter stated, it shall also be said officer's duty to acquire a working knowledge of the Bylaws. The specific duties of these elected officers shall be:

- (a) **Detachment Commandant** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Commandant to preside over all Detachment meetings and Detachment Staff Meetings. In addition, the Detachment Commandant shall:
 - (1) Observe and enforce the observance of the Illowa Detachment, Department of Iowa and the National Constitution and Bylaws.
 - (2) Direct to all Officers and Members of this Detachment such orders as are not in conflict with these bylaws and are necessary for the proper conduct of business.
 - (3) With the Detachment Paymaster; or Adjutant-Paymaster, have custody of all funds and property of this Detachment, subject to the supervision of the Detachment Staff.
 - (4) Appoint such standing committees as are deemed necessary.
 - (5) Represent the Detachment at all social functions and ceremonies in such a manner as will enhance the dignity, honor, and prestige of this organization. If the Commandant is unable to attend any such functions, he or she may appoint a qualified replacement to represent the Detachment at said function.
 - (6) Perform such other duties as are directed from time to time.

(b) **Detachment Senior Vice-Commandant** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Senior Vice-Commandant to:

- (1) Give all possible aid and assistance to the Detachment Commandant, and in the event of a vacancy in the office of Commandant, shall assume the duties of that office.
- (2) Give all possible aid and assistance to the Detachment Junior Vice-Commandant to develop programs and incentives that will result in continuous membership growth.
- (3) Perform other such duties as directed by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

(c) **Detachment Junior Vice-Commandant** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Junior Vice-Commandant to:

- (1) Assume leadership and the position of Chairman of the Membership Committee. Guide and direct all such membership growth programs and incentives which shall come under consideration or implementation.
- (2) To assume the responsibility for the direction of all social activities of the Detachment.
- (3) Perform other such duties a directed by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

(d) **Detachment Adjutant** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Adjutant to:

- (1) Keep the minutes of all regular Detachment meetings and any other Detachment meetings and perform such duties as are usually assigned to recording secretaries.
- (2) See that the minutes and other records of the Detachment are properly maintained and preserved.

(3) Perform other such duties as may be assigned to him by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

(e) **Detachment Paymaster** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Paymaster to:

- (1) Keep proper and necessary financial records for the recording all business of the Illowa Detachment, Marine Corps League, including a correct record of all membership accounts.
- (2) Be a co-holder with the Detachment Commandant of the funds and property of the Detachment, keeping a correct record of all financial transactions.
- (3) Shall notify all members of their indebtedness to the Detachment.
- (4) Shall deposit all monies and securities in a bank, agreed upon between the Detachment Commandant and Detachment Paymaster. Expenditures shall only be made by check, signed by the Detachment Paymaster or the Detachment Commandant
- (5) Shall receive all monies due the Detachment from all sources, entering the same upon the record , showing the amount and source from which it was received.
- (6) Shall forward all membership applications, renewals, and changes to National Headquarters with the appropriate monies. Shall forward to the Detachment Commandant a copy of the quarterly Detachment Membership Roster as received from National Headquarters.
- (7) Shall surrender all monies, books, papers and all other property belonging to the Detachment to the successor in office.
- (8) Perform other such duties as may be assigned by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

(f) **Detachment Judge Advocate** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Judge Advocate to:

- (1) Act as legal counsel of the Illowa Detachment, Marine Corps League.
- (2) Advise all Detachment Officers concerning the laws of the Marine Corps League.
- (3) Shall render opinions on all questions pertaining to aforesaid laws that may arise upon request.
- (4) Shall advise all members and Officers of the proper proceedings of each Detachment meeting.
- (5) Perform other such duties as may be assigned by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

(g) **Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms to:

- (1) Assume the responsibility of ascertaining the eligibility of all present to sit in the meetings as members in good standing.
- (2) Shall have charge of all properties of the Detachment.
- (3) Preserve order at Detachment meetings.
- (4) Shall deputize such Deputy Sergeants-At-Arms as may be necessary for the proper performance of such duties assigned.
- (5) Perform other such duties as may be assigned by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

(h) **Detachment Chaplain** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Chaplain to:

- (1) Perform such duties in a spiritual nature as are required by the laws and rituals of the Marine Corps League.
- (2) Perform other such duties as may be assigned by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

(i) **Detachment Staff** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Staff to:

- (1) Act as an Auditing Committee upon call of the Detachment Commandant who shall audit the books of the Detachment Paymaster and shall report their findings to him or her.
- (2) Act in observance of Article V, Section 4.
- (3) Act in observance of Article III, Section 7.
- (4) Act in observance of Article VII, Section 10.
- (5) Authorize all expenditures and shall not create any indebtedness beyond the income of the Detachment, nor disburse funds for purposes not essential to the objects of the Detachment.
- (6) Hold meetings at the discretion of the duly elected Commandant, at a place designated by the Commandant.
- (7) Hold special meetings when called by the Commandant of the Detachment, or by written request of five members of the Detachment in good standing.
- (8) Receive committee reports and recommendations, and shall submit to the Detachment in regular meeting, recommendations which it has approved affecting the administrative or activities policy of the Detachment.

- (9) Name the delegates and alternates to the State and National Conventions.
- (10) May submit recommendations to the Detachment, which in their opinion, shall be for the good of the Detachment; for its consideration and action.
- (11) Perform other such duties assigned to them by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

(j) **Detachment Committee Members** – It shall be the duty of the Detachment Committee Members to:

(1) Serve as advisors to the Detachment Commandant and other officers of the Illowa Detachment. (2) Attend all meetings of the Detachment Staff. (3) Perform other such duties assigned by the Detachment Commandant from time to time.

ARTICLE VII

Finances

SECTION 1 The dues of this Detachment shall not be less than that set by National Headquarters and the Department of Iowa but may be in such additional amount as determined by the Illowa Detachment. Membership dues shall be collected from each new member before said person is identified as a member of this Detachment and before the Paymaster shall be permitted to forward to National Headquarters the name of the new member.

SECTION 2 The Detachment Paymaster will issue checks for the amounts required to satisfy each active member's dues to the National and State offices of the Marine Corps League.

SECTION 3 Detachment Revenue – The revenue of this Detachment shall be derived from:

- (a) Annual Membership Dues.
- (b) Any other sources designated by the Detachment Commandant, the Detachment Staff, or the General membership of the Detachment.

SECTION 4 Fund Raising – The Detachment shall not conduct any fund raising project(s) in any metropolitan area where there are one or more Detachments without the consent of said Detachment(s). Any Detachment(s) opposing any such proposed project(s) shall file immediate objections through the proper chain of command.

SECTION 5 Detachment Fund Raising – It in any metropolitan area, there is more than one Detachment, and it is desired by a Detachment(s) to conduct a fund raising project(s) said Detachment(s) shall advise all other Detachments in said area of its intentions and request approval. Any Detachment(s) opposing said project(s) must file objections within 15 days to the Detachment(s) proposing the project(s) and with the Detachment Commandant. The Detachment Commandant’s decision will stand unless appealed higher through the chain of command.

SECTION 6 Fund Raising activity (s) shall not violate any Federal, State or Municipal Law (s) or Ordinance(s) or reflect discredit upon the Marine Corps League.

SECTION 7 All Disbursements from this Detachment shall be made by check. Each check shall be signed by the Paymaster or the Commandant.

SECTION 8 The fiscal year of this Detachment shall commence on July 1 and terminate on June 30 of each year.

SECTION 9 No monies shall be received by this Detachment unless paid in to the Paymaster and no disbursements greater than \$100 shall be made unless such disbursements have been authorized by the Detachment Staff.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

SECTION 1 The Detachment shall meet regularly on the Forth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., local time in a place designated by the Detachment Commandant. The meeting shall be held in a location that will lend itself to conducting the serious business of our Detachment. SECTION 2 The date, time, and location of regular meetings may be changed by a majority vote of the membership in attendance at any regular meeting, with the Adjutant to notify all members within ten days of said regular meeting, of the new date, time and meeting place of the Detachment.

SECTION 3 At the regular meeting, a quorum will constitute a minimum of six (6) members, including one (1) elected officer, then and there present and available to vote on the issue to be presented before the Detachment.

ARTICLE IX

Amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws

SECTION 1 The Constitution and Bylaws of the Detachment may be changed or amended after submission of a written proposal to the Adjutant, bearing the signatures of five members in good standing.

SECTION 2 Proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be read at the first regular meeting after being filed, and then laid over until the next regular meeting for discussion and action.

SECTION 3 A two-thirds affirmative vote of those members in good standing and present shall be necessary to carry any amendment affecting the Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 4 Proxy votes will not be accepted.

SECTION 5 No amendment shall be put to a vote unless written notice shall have been sent to each member of this Detachment by mail (USPS) or electronic mail (e-mail) at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which any amendment is to be voted on, said notice to state the proposed amendment.

SECTION 6 All meetings of this Detachment shall be conducted according to the handbook "Ritual" as promulgated by the Marine Corps League.

SECTION 7 Robert's Revised Rules shall govern in any case not covered by these Bylaws, the National Bylaws, the National Constitutions and the National Ritual.

SECTION 8 The Constitution and all existing Bylaws of the Department of Iowa, Marine Corps League, adopted or enacted prior to this date are hereby repealed. This Constitution and Bylaws shall be in full force and effect hereafter.

I hereby certify that the above Constitution and Bylaws are true and exact copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Illowa Detachment, Marine Corps League .adopted on 28th day of February , 2013.

Date: 1 March, 2013

Clarke C. Barnes

Clarke C. Barnes, Judge Advocate