



2016 Department of North Carolina - Annual Convention

RULES OF ORDER

1. Business sessions shall begin & end PROMPTLY, as indicated on the schedule, unless deemed otherwise by the Convention Chair and will be conducted in strict adherence to the prescribed ritual of the Marine Corps League. Delegates are expected to be on deck well in advance of the beginning of each session, so as to avoid delays or interruption.
2. Marine Corps League National & Department of North Carolina Bylaws and the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order (revised) shall prevail at all times.
 - a. The DoNC Judge Advocate shall have a printed copy or readily searchable electronic version of all pertinent references available during the convention.
3. The minimum number required to transact the regular and legal business at the Department Convention shall be one or more Delegates in good standing from a majority of DoNC detachments, as determined by the roll call of detachments during the opening session.
4. The Supreme Legislative and Policy making of the Department of North Carolina shall be vested in the Department Convention composed of the properly elected, registered, and approved Delegates in good standing.
5. Delegates, alternates, and members desiring to attend business sessions of the Department Convention must possess a paid membership card for the year and shall be registered with and approved by the Convention Credentials Committee. Certification by the Department Paymaster that a Delegate, Alternate or member is currently paid will be adequate to establish valid membership.
6. All Delegates, and Alternates shall be determined on the basis of the Detachment membership of record at National Headquarters as of 31 March immediately preceding the Convention. The Delegate voting strength of each Detachment shall be as follows:
 - a. The first ten (10) Regular members = one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate.
 - b. Each additional full block of ten (10) Regular members = one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate.
 - c. For any remaining partial block of ten (10) = one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate.
 - d. New Detachments that have received their charter, that form too late in the year to show up on the 31 March roster, shall be represented by one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate.
 - e. However, no Delegate strength of a Detachment shall be computed by including Associate members or Honorary members in such Detachment's total membership strength.
7. All registered and approved Delegates, Alternates, and members shall have the right to speak on the Department Convention floor on any matter or question before the body.
 - a. When a Delegate, Alternate, or Member desires the floor, the member shall rise, **AND WHEN RECOGNIZED, STATE HIS OR HER NAME AND DETACHMENT NAME & #.** *This procedure shall be followed each and every time.*
8. Should the Department Commandant desire to admit a visitor, he shall first declare the meeting to be under the "Good of the Order". After the visitor has been excused, the Commandant shall declare the meeting "Open for Official Business".
9. In the interest of expediting convention business, the Department Commandant may:
 - a. Limit discussion or announcements to three (3) minutes per Delegate.
 - b. Deny the floor to any Delegate who has spoken twice on a question unless he or she is the maker of the motion.
10. Delegates, and members desiring to leave the hall will salute the Sgt at Arms and then the National Colors. When the salute is acknowledged, they shall leave by the nearest exit. When re-entering, the same procedure on saluting applies.
11. The Department Judge Advocate may provide opinions on any point of order.

12. Election of Officers



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- a. The Credentials Chairman having called for "Election of Officers", no other business activities will prevail that are business-related. The election and installation of Department Officers shall be the last order of business at the Convention.
- b. Delegates shall not leave the convention hall until elections are concluded.
- c. **Nominations**
 - i. At the time of nomination of Officers, each nomination made shall be allowed no more than two (2) minutes.
 - ii. Seconds shall be allotted not more than one minute.
 1. A time keeper shall be appointed to maintain time.
 - iii. Nominees must be members in good standing of the Department of North Carolina, and the Marine Corps League.
 - iv. Each Nominee must rise and state **"if elected, I will accept the Office and will serve loyally & faithfully during the term to which I am elected."**
 - v. Absent nominees will be allowed, provided a written letter of acceptance has been received by the Department Commandant prior to the start of the Convention.
 1. Such written letters shall be provided to the Department Adjutant for inclusion in the official minutes.
- d. **Voting**
 - i. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee shall announce the attending Detachments and their strengths prior to any roll call vote.
 - ii. A roll call vote may be required and recorded upon the request of any three (3) registered and approved Delegates from a Detachment.
 - iii. The Department Commandant shall call a recess prior to any roll call vote to allow the Detachments to caucus on the question.
 - iv. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee on any roll call vote shall "Call the Roll of the Detachments" alphabetically. Should a Detachment pass, it will again be polled after all the other Detachments have been called.
- e. In the event of a challenge of the stated vote of any Detachment by a registered and approved Delegate from the Detachment, the roll of Delegates of that Detachment shall be called and each Delegate of that Detachment shall rise and be identified as an approved Delegate before casting his block of votes.
- f. A majority of the votes cast is required to elect Department Officers. When a simple majority is not obtained on the first vote, a second vote will immediately commence after a caucus (not to exceed five minutes) is called. Should a majority fail to materialize on the second or successive votes, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be dropped as a contender (after each vote) until a simple majority is achieved.
- g. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting.
- h. These rules may be changed or amended by a 2/3rds majority vote of the Convention assembled.