



Marine Corps League Department of North Carolina



William E. "Bill" Brown

Judge Advocate

6 March 2026

From: William E. Brown, MCL# 342077 / LIFE# 60939
To: Judge Advocate, Department of North Carolina
Bylaws Committee Chairperson, Department of North Carolina

Subj: Proposed Department of North Carolina Bylaw Change Article Three Section 310 D

In accordance with Article Eight, Section 800, of Department Bylaws (DBL) Amendments, I am submitting the following change for consideration at the 2026 Department of North Carolina Convention.

**CURRENT:
SECTION 310 - DUTIES OF STAFF OFFICERS -**

D. DEPARTMENT PAYMASTER shall:

9. Chair the Budget and Finance Committee, unless otherwise directed by the Commandant. The Commandant shall appoint no less than three (3) members to serve on this committee. **The Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare a proposed annual budget consisting of appropriated and non-appropriated items for approval at the annual Department Convention.** The budget will be prepared utilizing the following criteria:

- a. For budgetary purposes the fiscal year of the Department shall run from June 1st to midnight May 31st of the following year.
- b. Annual expenditures shall be limited to those funds deposited from the previous fiscal year. (CH 6-25)
- c. No membership fees or Life Membership annuities collected after June 1st may be expended until after 31st May in the following fiscal year. Annual expenditures shall be distributed to the Detachments for review a minimum of 45 days prior to the Department Spring Membership Meeting. A written budget shall be submitted to the body assembled for the Department Spring Membership Meeting for review, amendment, and approval. (CH 6-25)

13. Disburse funds in accordance with the approved annual budget of the Department. Disbursement is authorized under the following circumstances:

- d. The Commandant or his authorized designated representative is authorized reimbursement, as appropriated in the annual budget, for hotel expenses, travel costs and approved air travel to the Annual National Convention, relating to the following functions when satisfactory proof of expense is presented to the Paymaster. **Payment shall not exceed the amount approved detailed in the Department budget approved by the membership at Annual Convention.**

**PROPOSED (Changes in RED):
SECTION 310 - DUTIES OF STAFF OFFICERS -**

D. DEPARTMENT PAYMASTER shall:

...



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9. Chair the Budget and Finance Committee, unless otherwise directed by the Commandant. The Commandant shall appoint no less than three (3) members to serve on this committee. **The Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare a proposed annual budget consisting of appropriated and non-appropriated items for approval at the annual Department Convention.** The budget will be prepared utilizing the following criteria:

- a. For budgetary purposes the fiscal year of the Department shall run from **July 1st** to midnight **June 30th** of the following year.
- b. Annual expenditures shall be limited to those funds deposited from the previous fiscal year. (CH 6-25)
- c. No membership fees or Life Membership annuities collected after **July 1st** may be expended until after **June 30th** in the following fiscal year. Annual expenditures shall be distributed to the Detachments for review a minimum of 45 days prior to the Department Spring Membership Meeting. A written budget shall be submitted to the body assembled for the Department Spring Membership Meeting for review, amendment, and approval **for presentation to members for vote at the annual Department Convention.** (CH 6-26)

...

13. Disburse funds in accordance with the approved annual budget of the Department. Disbursement is authorized under the following circumstances:

...

- d. The Commandant or his authorized designated representative is authorized reimbursement, as appropriated in the annual budget, for hotel expenses, travel costs and approved air travel to the Annual National Convention, relating to the following functions when satisfactory proof of expense is presented to the Paymaster. **Payment shall not exceed the amount approved detailed in the Department budget approved by the membership at Annual Convention.**

...

20. **If the Department desires to have a debit or credit card, the Paymaster or Adjutant/Paymaster or Commandant will maintain control of its usage. The use of this card will be limited to those payments where the vendor requires a credit/debit card number for security purposes or if payment is of an immediate nature. The same monetary limit restrictions apply to use of the debit/credit card as addressed in Sections 2.10 A and 3.10 D of these bylaws and require approval prior to expenditure.**

RATIONALE:

At the 2025 Department Convention the wording in sections 310 D 9 c was approved by the members, I disagreed and subsequently found that now it conflicts with not only the National Administrative Procedures where our bylaws must be consistent, but also with paragraph 310 D 9 a and 310 D 13 d above (**shown in bold**) which indicate the Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare a proposed annual budget consisting of appropriated and non-appropriated items for approval at the annual Department Convention."

The National Budget and Finance Committee's duty is "... to prepare and present to the Mid-Winter Staff Meeting and Convention a financial program and budget for the conduct of business and affairs of the League for the ensuing year and to make recommendations concerning ways and means of increasing the funds of the League." Throughout the NAP references are made to "the annual budget adopted by each National Convention".



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Our Department Budget and Finance Committee shares that duty to continuously review and recommend ways and means of increasing the funds of the department. In order to remain consistent with the National directives our Department budget must be approved by majority delegate vote. Its preparation may be agreed upon prior to but not approved until the department convention.

I reviewed the minutes of the last National BOT meeting (10Aug25) prior to the convention: the budget updates for the ensuing fiscal year are submitted to approve the budget for presentation to the membership at the convention.

There are no “delegates” at the Spring and Fall Membership meetings. Although we do have the power to vote as a majority on minor issues at those meetings, that does not include approval of the budget, elections and changes to the department bylaws.

Lastly, we have no written procedures for the use of debit and/or credit cards although they have been used in the past by previous elected officials and some paymasters. We are moving to a digital way of banking and in time almost every transaction will eliminate the use of checks. However, the same restrictions must apply and approval obtained from budgets or member vote prior to expenditure.

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Brown

Past Commandant

Air, Land NC Detachment #1257

Department of North Carolina

Mideast Division

(703) 623-5803