



Marine Corps League
Office of the National Judge Advocate
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8 August 2017

From: National Judge Advocate Johnny Baker

Subj: Official National Judge Advocate Ruling on Membership Dues

Encl: (1) Membership Process

Background. Recently, a Marine Corps League member in good standing requested a ruling concerning the Membership Dues. The member stated that on page 10, of the Summer 2017 edition of the "Semper Fi" magazine, stated the following:

New Members:

Members who join between July – December

Pay \$25.00 and expiration date will be September 1 (of following year.)

Example: Member who joins July – December 2017 will expire in September 1, 2018.

Members who join between January – June.

Pay \$15.00 and expiration date will be September 1 (of following year.)

Example – Member who joins January – June 2018 will expire in September 2018.

The member stated that this was in violation of our National Bylaws and should be corrected.

Upon receiving the request to review this policy, I have reviewed the National Bylaws, Section 610. The following is Section 610(d) that specifically applies to this question:

"SECTION 610 - MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES -

(d) The membership year and the annual dues shall expire on the 31st day of August of each year. New members joining the MCL between August 31st and the last day of February will pay the full amount of the current National Dues + \$5.00 Initiation fee; new members joining between 1 March and August 30th, will pay ½ half the current National Dues + \$5.00 Initiation fee. The Current Annual renewal rate will be due on the 31st day of August of each year."

Ruling. The ruling in this particular case is as follows. We must follow specifically what is listed in our National Bylaws, Section 610(d).

Therefore, any new member joining the Marine Corps League between 31 August (of each year) and the last day of February (of each year), shall pay the full membership rate plus the \$5.00 initiation fee. At today's rate, that would be \$20.00 plus \$5.00, totaling \$25.00 for a new member who joins between 31 August through the last day of February of each year.

Also, any new member joining the Marine Corps League between 1 March (of any year) until 30 August (of each year), shall pay the one-half of the full membership rate plus the \$5.00 initiation fee. At today's rate, that would be \$10.00 plus \$5.00, totaling \$15.00 for a new member who joins between 1 March through 30 August of each year.

Note – this same ruling applies to Members at Large (MAL).

I will request that National Chief Operating Officer place another article in the next Semper Fi magazine to explain the National Bylaw.

This ruling would apply to all MCL Detachments and its members as well as all Members at Large joining the Marine Corps League during the above listed dates.

Attached in Enclosure (1) is an update from the National Headquarters that will further explain the membership process.

Request that all Division's National Vice Commandant ensure the widest dissemination of this ruling.

Respectfully Submitted,



Johnny Baker
National Judge Advocate

Cc: Richard Gore, Marine Corps League National Commandant
Wendell Webb, Marine Corps League National Senior Vice Commandant
Dennis Tobin, Marine Corps League National Junior Vice Commandant
James Laskey, Marine Corps League National Junior Past Commandant
Robert Borke, Marine Corps League Chief Operating Officer
National Vice Commandants (All Divisions)
Past National Commandants
C. O. Smith, MODD Chief Devil Dog

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

8 August 2017

Please note 31 August is not recognized by the Database, it defaults to 1 September as the renewal date. Your membership expires as of 1 September not 30 September

Renewals: Members with an expiration date of July 2016 – December 2016
Pay \$20.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2017
Members with an expiration date of January 2017 – June 2017
Pay \$10.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2017
Members who expire in July 2017
Pay \$20.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2018
Going forward all members who expire 1 September 2017 will pay \$20.00 each year.

New Members: Members who join between August 31st – the last day of February
Pay \$25.00 and expiration date will be 1 September (of following year)
Example: Member who joins August 31st (2017) – End of February 2018
will expire in 1 September 2018

Members who join between March 1st – August 30th
Pay \$15.00 and expiration date will be 1 September (of current year)
Example: Member who joins March 1st – August 30th (2018) will expire
in 1 September 2018

Going forward all members will expire 1 September and pay \$20.00 each year for renewal
This will be the New Member guidelines going forward, this is not temporary.

Reinstatements: Members who are reinstating (**Reinstating members are members who have been delinquent more than a year and do not want to pay all back due and keep their length of membership, they will get a new enrollment date**)

Members with a reinstatement date of July 2017 – December 2017
Pay \$20.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2018
Members with a reinstatement date of January 2017 – June 2017
Pay \$10.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2017
Going forward all members who expire 1 September will pay \$20.00 each year for renewal.

MAL: Members with an expiration date of July 2016 – December 2016
Pay \$30.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2017
Members with an expiration date of January 2017 – June 2017
Pay \$30.00 and new expiration date will be 1 September 2018
Going forward all members who expire 1 September -will pay \$30.00 each year