

# Kettle Moraine Detachment Bylaws



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1st revision: March 18, 2006

2<sup>nd</sup> revision: December 16, 2006

Kettle Moraine Detachment  
Marine Corps League  
West Bend, Wi

Oct 22 2005

Preamble

We, who served Honorably with the United States Marine Corps, have united to establish a Permanent Organization under the Laws of the National Constitution of the Marine Corps League and under the Laws of the United States of America, and the state of Wisconsin.

This organization, having been incorporated by the Congress of the United States, by an ACT signed by the President of the United States, on Aug 4, 1937, shall take over all of the Property, and Obligations and continue the affairs of the previously unincorporated Marine Corps League, pursuant to such ACT, and for the objects and purposes therein set forth, it is hereby provided as follows:

Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America

At the First Session

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven

AN ACT

To incorporate the Marine Corps League

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Major General John A. Lejeune, United States Marine Corps, Retired, honorary national commandant; Maurice A. Illch, national commandant; Roy S. Taylor, senior national vice commandant; Kenneth B. Collings, junior vice commandant; Alexander F. Ormsby, national judge advocate; Reverend John H. Clifford, national chaplain; Edward A. Walker, national sergeant at arms; John B. Hinckley, Junior, national adjutant and paymaster; John E. Brock, national chief of staff, are hereby created a body corporate of the name "Marine Corps League."

SEC. 2. That the purposes of this corporation shall be: (a) to preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps; (b) to band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service together in fellowship that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy; (c) to fit its members for the duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms; (d) to hold sacred the history and memory of the men who have given their lives to the Nation; (e) to foster love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic; (f) to maintain true allegiance to American institutions; (g) to create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civil life; (h) to aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all marines and former Marines as well as to their widows and orphans; (i) to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of peculiar interest to Marines.

SEC. 3. That the corporation: (a) shall have perpetual succession; (b) may charge and collect membership dues and receive contributions of money or property to be devoted to carrying out the purposes of the organization; (c) may sue or may be sued; (d) may adopt a corporate seal and alter it at pleasure; (e) may adopt and alter by-laws not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States or of any State; (f) may establish and maintain offices for the conduct of its business; (g) may appoint or elect officers and agents; (h) may choose a board of trustees, consisting of not more than fifteen persons nor less than five persons, to conduct the business and exercise the powers of the corporation; (i) may acquire, by purchase, devise, bequest, gift or otherwise, and hold, encumber, convey, or otherwise dispose of such real and personal property as may be necessary or appropriate for its corporate purposes; and (j) generally may do any and all lawful acts necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes for which the corporation is created.

SEC. 4. That the corporation shall, on or before the 1st day of December in each year, transmit to Congress a report of its proceedings and activities for the preceding calendar year, including the full and complete statement of its receipts and expenditures. Such report shall not be printed as public documents.

SEC. 5. That the right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act at any time is hereby expressly reserved.

Approved, August 4, 1937.

*Wm. B. Bankhead*  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

*Charles McNary*  
Vice-President of the United States and  
President of the Senate pro Tempore

*Approved*  
*Aug 4*  
*1937*  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

# Marine Corps League

Lt. General John A. Lejuene, Founder  
Incorporated by Act of Congress, 4 August 1937

ONCE  
A MARINE



ALWAYS  
A MARINE

*Having fulfilled the requirements of the Constitution and having applied for membership in the Marine Corps League, this Charter is hereby issued, this 6th day of MAY in the year 2005 to the*

KETTLE MORaine DETACHMENT #1203

*State of WISCONSIN in memory of those Marines who by their deeds and heroism, have set the Standard that is our guide today.*

Attest:

Meg Thoburn  
National Adjutant and Paymaster

Official:

Robin F. Hecker  
National Comdrant  
James J. "Joni" Turley  
National Vice Comdr.  
Department Comdr.



Charter Members:

Janis Kuehling  
Carl Ballman  
James A. Allen  
Paul K. K. K.  
Robert A. Allen  
John W. Stern  
Timothy B. Berkman  
James W. P. P.

## **Name**

- a. *The name of this organization shall be:  
Kettle Moraine Detachment #1203, of the Marine Corps League.*
- b. *Washington and Ozaukee Counties shall be the primary area of operation. Monthly Detachment Meetings will be held in West Bend, but may be permanently changed upon a majority vote of the voting membership or temporarily by the sitting Commandant.*

## **ARTICLE II. Purpose**

- a. *To preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps;*
- b. *To band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps, and those who have been honorably discharged from that service together in friendship that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy;*
- c. *To fit its members for duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve daily as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms;*
- d. *To hold sacred the memory of those who have given their lives for the Nation;*
- e. *To foster love for the principals which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic;*
- f. *To maintain true allegiance to American institutions;*
- g. *To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civilian live;*
- h. *To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines and former Marines as to their widows and orphans;*
- i. *To perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps, and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of the historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.*

### **ARTICLE III. Policy**

- a. *The Kettle Moraine Detachment shall never take part in any labor or management dispute or issue, and it shall be ever non-sectarian, non-political, and non-partisan; nor shall it be based on the grounds of race, color, creed nationality, or sex; nor shall it be used as a medium of political ambition or preferment; nor shall former or present military rank or former or present civilian position be used as the basis for special consideration or preferment.*
- b. *Nothing in the preceding subsection shall prohibit this Detachment from participating in political issues affecting the welfare of the United States Marine Corps, the national security of our Nation, or any veteran's claims for justice arising from the service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.*

### **ARTICLE IV. Membership**

- a. *Membership in this detachment, eligibility to, application for, acquiring and maintenance of, and loss of discipline correction, shall be in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws.*
- b. *Membership dues shall be \$30.00 per year and are to be paid to the Detachment Paymaster on the members' anniversary month.*
- c. *All members shall have on file with the Detachment Paymaster, or Adjutant, as designated by the Commandant, a copy of their discharge or release from active duty documentation.*

## **ARTICLE V. Officers**

- a. *The Officers of the Kettle Moraine Detachment shall consist of: Commandant, Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate, Adjutant, Paymaster, Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain, and Historian.*
- b. *Duties of the Officers shall be as follows:*
  - 1) **Commandant:** It shall be the duty of the Commandant to preside at all Detachment meetings; to enforce all rules and regulations; to appoint such officers and committees not otherwise provided for in the By-Laws; to direct the affairs of the Detachment according to the By-Laws and according to the rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Detachment Officers; to perform such other duties as usual for such office.
  - 2) **Senior Vice Commandant:** It shall be the duty of the Senior Vice Commandant to give every assistance to the Commandant. In the absence of the Detachment Commandant he will perform the duties of that office. He shall also perform other duties assigned to him by the Detachment Commandant.
  - 3) **Junior Vice Commandant:** It shall be the duties of the Junior Vice Commandant to aid the Commandant, and to create membership incentives and programs in order to ensure membership growth. He shall also perform other duties as may be assigned to him by the Detachment Commandant.
  - 4) **Judge Advocate:** It shall be the duties of the Judge Advocate to interpret National, Department, and Detachment By-Laws; to render opinions when requested by any member during any meeting. The Judge Advocate will always address Detachment Commandant whereupon the Detachment Commandant will rule on the opinion. The ruling shall be final unless appealed and put to a vote. A simple majority of the voting membership is required to reverse the ruling of the Detachment Commandant. He shall also perform other duties as may be assigned to him by the Detachment Commandant.
  - 5) **Adjutant:** It shall be the duties of the Adjutant to keep the minutes of all Detachment meetings, maintain current and accurate membership roster; answer correspondence as directed by the Detachment Commandant; publish notices of meetings to the membership as may be required; maintain records and custody of all Detachment equipment and property. He shall also perform other duties as may be assigned by the Detachment Commandant.
  - 6) **Paymaster:** It shall be the duties of the Paymaster to keep financial records of all Detachment business including records of all membership accounts; to hold all monies; pay out money only on approval of the members; to notify all members of dues/fees; to inform the membership of any indebtedness the Detachment may have

incurred. He shall also perform other duties as may be assigned by the Detachment Commandant.

- 7) Chaplain: It shall be the duty of the Detachment Chaplain to perform such duties as required by the By-Laws and Rituals of the Marine Corps League. He shall also perform other duties as may be assigned by the Detachment Commandant.
- 8) Sergeant at Arms: It shall be the duty of the Sergeant at Arms to preserve order at all meetings. He shall perform such duties as prescribed in the latest edition of the Marine Corps League Ritual, and may perform other such duties as assigned by the Detachment Commandant.
- 9) Historian: It shall be the duty of the Historian to maintain a record of Detachment activities so as others may be witness to our functions. He shall also perform such duties as assigned by the Detachment Commandant.

c. *Elections: All members in good standing are eligible for office.*

- 1) All Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, unless removed for cause, with two (2) consecutive years maximum for the Commandant, Senior Vice, and Junior Vice.
- 2) All Officers shall assume their duties upon installation.
- 3) Installation of the Detachment Officers shall be held with-in sixty (60) days of the election.
- 4) Any officer missing two (2) consecutive meetings without justifiable excuses shall be subject to removal from office, by action of the Detachment Officers. Replacements shall be appointed by the Commandant upon approval of the members.
- 5) Any member may be excused from attendance by contacting another Officer prior to the meeting. An excusable absence shall be counted as being present.
- 6) In the event of a vacancy, the Commandant shall appoint a member in good standing to fill the vacancy subject to the approval of the Detachment Officers.
- 7) Normal elections will be held at the May Meeting, however with the approval of a simple majority of a quorum at a meeting, elections may be conducted anytime beginning with the January Meeting if an exception should develop where such action is warranted. Members will be notified in writing of this fact with a minimum of three (3) days notice, prior to any election.
- 8) Nominations may be taken from the floor prior to an election.
- 9) Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of members present, and shall be conducted by secret ballot by the Adjutant and Senior Vice Commandant.

## **ARTICLE VI. Meetings**

- a. *The regular meetings to conduct official business of the Membership of the Detachment shall be held each month at a time and place designated by the Detachment Commandant with the advice and consent of a majority of the Membership.*
- b. *Special Detachment meetings may be called at anytime by the Adjutant.*
  - 1) *By the request of the Commandant.*
  - 2) *By request of 10% of the membership.*
  - 3) *By request of the majority of the Detachment Officers.*
  - 4) *The Adjutant must give seven (7) days notice of the meeting to the membership in writing.*
- c. *A quorum for any regular business meeting shall consist of at least twenty-five% (25%) of the voting membership and two (2) Officers.*
- d. *Roberts Revised Rules of Order shall be used as a guide except where otherwise provided for by these By-Laws.*
- e. *The Uniform of the Day shall be the red Marine Corps League cover for Regular Meetings. Clothing that negatively reflects on the Marine Corps, Marine Corps League or our Country shall not be permitted. A \$1.00 fine shall be imposed upon any member not in proper uniform for a Meeting.*
- f. *Members who disrespect the Flag, the Detachment, Detachment members, or use profanity shall be fined \$1.00 per occurrence payable to the Paymaster. The Chaplain shall be the final judge in such matters.*
- g. *Only Members in good standing of the Detachment shall be entitled to voting rights.*

## **ARTICLE VII. Detachment Staff**

- a. *The Detachment Officers shall meet at the discretion of the Commandant, for the purpose of preparing the agenda for the following Meeting and to assist and advise the Commandant for the good of the League.*
- b. *It shall be the duty of the Officers to legislate on all matters not otherwise provided for in these By-Laws, and to make such recommendations from time to time, as they may deem necessary for the benefit of the Detachment.*
- c. *The recommendations of the Officers shall become final only when voted on and approved of by the Membership at a Regular or Special Meeting of the Detachment.*
- d. *A presence of five (5) Officers is needed for a quorum of the Detachment Officers.*

## **ARTICLE VIII. Fundraising**

- a. *This Detachment assumes the privilege of raising Funds for its Service Work and Activities in behalf of the Marine Corps League in this vicinity, and any attempt by some other Detachment , by the State Department, or by the National Organization, to raise Funds in this vicinity, without the Written Permission of the Kettle Moraine Detachment, shall be discouraged.*

## **ARTICLE IX. Finances**

- a. *No Officer or Member shall ever obligate the Detachment financially, in any manner, without the approval of a majority of the Detachment Officers, or by mandate of the Detachment in a Regular, or Special Meeting.*
- b. *The power and authority to purchase or otherwise acquire, lease, sell convey, transfer, mortgage or assign any property rights, interests or privileges of the Kettle Moraine Detachment, shall be vested in the Membership.*

## **ARTICLE X. Grievances and Disputes**

- a. *All matters pertaining to the resolving of grievances and/or discipline against any Member of this Detachment shall be processed in accordance with Chapter Nine (9) of the National Administrative Procedures of the National By-Laws.*

## **ARTICLE XI. Amendments**

- a. *These By-Laws may be changed by a simple majority vote, of the voting Membership at a Regular or Special Meeting. Notice of the proposed amendments and nature thereof shall be issued by mail or monthly newsletter to be received by all members at least three (3) days before the amendment is voted upon.*
- b. *Wherever these By-Laws or subsequent amendments may be found to be in conflict with present or future National By-Laws, the latter shall prevail and be binding upon this Detachment as though written herein.*

## **ARTICLE XII. Proxy Votes**

- a. *Any regular Member entitled to vote at Regular or Special Meetings may vote on any issue brought before the membership by proxy. The signed, written authority of a proxy must be filed with the Adjutant prior to the meeting in which it is to be exercised.*

## **ARTICLE XIII. Committees**

- a. *The Detachment Commandant shall appoint Committees necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Detachment. A Committee Chairperson named by the Detachment Commandant shall be responsible for the Committee Reports.*
- b. *Any Member in good standing shall be eligible for appointment on a Committee, but will not exceed an elective year, unless reappointed by the succeeding Detachment Commandant.*
- c. *The Detachment Commandant shall serve as ex-officio member of the Committees.*

**ARTICLE XIV. Effective Date**

- a. *These By-laws become effective immediately upon acceptance by the Kettle Moraine Marine Corps League in Regular Meeting Assembled, with the approval of the Department of Wisconsin.*

We, Rev. Paul Bollmann, Commandant of the Kettle Moraine Detachment, and Jason Waier, Judge Advocate of the Kettle Moraine Detachment, do hereby Certify that the foregoing By-Laws of the Kettle Moraine Detachment were approved, unanimously at the Regular Meeting of the Membership, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Signed:

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Rev. Paul Bollmann  
Commandant

Attested:

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Jason Waier  
Judge Advocate

March 18, 2006

Change 1

From: Kettle Moraine Detachment Adjutant

To: Kettle Moraine Detachment Membership

Subj: Changes to Kettle Moraine Detachment By-laws approved by the Membership during the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 regular Meeting.

Ref: (a) Kettle Moraine Detachment By-laws dated October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Encl: New page insert.

1. Summary of Changes

a. Article IV section (c)

“No one shall obtain membership in the Detachment without first providing a copy of a valid DD214 to the Detachment Paymaster or Adjutant as designated by the Commandant.”

b. Article IX section (a)

“No Officer or Member shall obligate the Detachment for more than one hundred dollars (\$100) without the approval of a majority of the Detachment officers, or by mandate of the Detachment at a regular or special meeting.”

Approved:

Charlie Keller  
Kettle Moraine Detachment  
Judge Advocate

December 16, 2006

Change 2

From: Kettle Moraine Detachment Adjutant

To: Kettle Moraine Detachment Membership

Subj: Changes to Kettle Moraine Detachment By-laws approved by the Membership during the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 regular Meeting.

Ref: (a) Kettle Moraine Detachment By-laws dated October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Encl: New page insert.

2. Summary of Changes

a. Article IV section (b)

“Membership dues shall be adjusted and revised by majority vote of the Members at regular monthly Meetings as needed, and are to be paid to the Detachment Paymaster on or before the Members anniversary month.”

b. Article V section (c) subsection (7)

“Normal elections will be held during a regular monthly Meeting of the Detachment as early as January, but no later than April. Members will be notified in writing with a minimum of thirty (30) days notice prior to any election”

Approved:

Charlie Keller  
Kettle Moraine Detachment  
Judge Advocate

KMD013 04/07/07