

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Jerry Pedrin, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

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Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Gerald Pedrin
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Oliver Davidson
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Nada Sydow
Judge Advocate:	Peter Karlovics
Paymaster:	Ed Mampe
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
Sgt. at Arms:	Clint Chia
Asst. Sgt. at Arms:	Art Castillo
Chaplain:	Hank Landrau
Quartermaster:	Al Blut
Asst. Quartermaster:	Scott Bastean
Librarian:	Gary Braun
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen

**Our next meeting is Monday
15 December starting at
1830 (6:30 PM).**

**We're serving dinner to members
only.**

**Primo Resturant
720 Milwaukee Ave.
Gurnee, IL**

**Last Month's Mystery Marine was Rich
Brayer.**



Where Stuff Is

1. Cover page, recent highlights
2. Officers, this list
3. Commandant's Chat
4. Commandant's Poem
5. Toys for Tots Recap 2017
6. Chaplain's Report
7. And then Smed Said...
8. Welcome Aboard
9. VA Hospital Visitation
10. Color & Honor Guard
11. Eagle Scout Report
12. Special Occasion Dinner
13. Foundation Board and Committee members
14. Thank you from Robert and Linda Stack

Who is this Marine?

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

Ladies and Gents.

The past couple weeks have been very busy and a lot of good was accomplished that benefited many young people here in the County. I am glad to have been a part of those activities. I am amazed each and every year at how much the detachment has done for the people of this County. I am proud to be a part of this group and overwhelmed to think that you thought I should be the one to lead you during these times. I will continue to try to live up to your expectations.

Jerry Pedrin

Commandant 847-687-6663

Marine Corps League



Meritorious Unit Commendation

(Department level)

Presented to

LAKE COUNTY DET. # 801 FOUNDATION

In recognition and appreciation of your outstanding and generous donation to the Department of Florida's Disaster Relief Fund. Your donation went to Marine Corps League Members who were the victims of Hurricane Irma in the Florida Keys. Your selfless act of support has directly enhanced these veteran's quality of life by enabling them to know that someone cares for them and they are not alone or forgotten. The caring and compassion shown by your unit for our brothers and sisters in the Marine Corps League upholds the highest standards and best interests of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League and the Department of Florida.

Awarded this 1st day of December 2017

George L. Mont, Department Commandant
Frank Glasford, Department Senior Vice Commandant

Members in good standing during the period are authorized to wear the Department Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon.

Your Foundation moved decisively and authorized a \$5,000 donation to help the MCL Members in Florida who lost their homes to hurricane Erma. We received the above from the Commandant, Department of Florida, Marine Corps League.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

While collecting and delivering all the toys this past couple weeks I came to the realization that Santa must be a Marine. I placed a call to the proper people and discovered some very interesting facts(or at least facts to some.) _____ Jerry Pedrin, Commandant 847-687-6663

Santa is a Marine

Christmas now is over and the wrappings put away.
The reindeer all are stabled and their stalls are filled with hay.
Santa is back at home now, drinking eggnog and standing tall.
But you do know how close you came to having no Christmas at all.

Santa was in his warehouse loading up his toys and gear,
And never gave a moments thought to the dangers lurking near.
A meteor had fallen out of space into his sky,
It came crashing thru his ceiling and struck him in this thigh.

Well, he knew his leg was broken because it was bend in funny ways,
And he wondered how he would manage in the hectic coming days.
He had to get the toys out; that he could not deny.
But he felt that task impossible with the bone sticking from his thigh.

Then he suddenly remembered a Marine Unit down the way.
Their training was almost over and they were put in reserve today.
He finally got his cell phone from the pocket in his jeans,
And he dialed up the number by some unconventional means.

As he spoke to their Commanding Officer he explained his hasty call
But their C.O. said "Don't Worry" we will be there one and all.
So they gathered up their humvees, their trucks, and all their gear
And headed to the North Pole; they actually were quite near.

They loaded trucks, their tanks, and planes and shouted out with joy
No Child would wake up Christmas morn without a sack of toys.
NORAD was called to clear the skies. Policemen cleared the roads.
Marines branched out in all directions to deliver their precious loads.

With the help of Elves and Santa their Mission turned out right.
Each child was left with toys and games; all delivered that Christmas night.
All the North Pole was thankful that the Mission went so well.
The Marines all felt honored by Santa's request as well.

But how do you thank such a figure; the most important they had seen.
So in the early dawn at North Pole City Hall, They made Santa "A Marine."
Now some swear it never happened and others swear it's true.
But what really counts is what you believe, deep down inside of you.

There is little doubt a Mission like this is the biggest you ever seen.
And the only one to "get er done " is a United States Marine.
So as you go about your duties; no matter how routine
Remember your Mission in life is just to be "A United States Marine."

Toys for Tot Activity 2017

We have finally gotten thru another year and now it is time to set back and evaluate how well we were able to complete the things we planned on doing for the year. For the most part I believe we have done about 90% of the things we planned. There were a few hiccups along the way but for the most part we did really well. Now it is time to plan for the year ahead.

We did a great job collecting for the Toys for Tots program this year and actually made a little more money than last year. This was only done with the help of all of you that came out week after week and stood in the wind and cold to shake the can. While we had a few times that were not so smooth we were able to overcome the adversity and ended up doing well in spite of the setbacks.

We were able to give MACG 48 another check of \$16,000. This was after needing to buy flags to pass out during the events. Col Gondek and GySgt Brake were impressed with our report to them and the check they received.

We were also surprised by the amount of toys that we were able to collect this year. Several locations called two or three times to empty the boxes we placed there. Toy Keeton and his group did a fine job collecting all the boxes they did. They were out about one third longer this year picking up toys.

We even went to the Marine warehouse and about 15 of us sorted and boxed over \$40,000 worth of toys a week before Christmas for MACG48. They were extremely busy bringing in and sending out requested toys. We had a very tiring but productive day at the warehouse and a lot of us went home with sore muscles but smiles on our faces.

GySgt Brake then gave us an early Christmas present. He said he had several THOUSAND toys left over, that he had not gotten requests for them, and could we use some. Needless to say, we could not leave that many toys in a warehouse when there were kids that needed them. We rented a U Haul and took FOUR fully loaded 17-foot truckloads from their warehouse and distributed them to various agencies and families in the County.

Allendale was the first agency to benefit from these newly found treasures. A U Haul truck full of toys and a vehicle full of Marines to unload those toys visited them. There were over 100 people at the center and each one received at least 5 toys, games, hats, mittens, gloves, or scarves. There were also some lollipops that just happened to be dropped off for all of them. While on the way there, a little bit of assistance was given to Eric Sideman and his cause for PADS centers. The Marines used the truck to deliver toys and other items that Eric had no other way of getting to the people in Lindenhurst.

The Child Advocate Center in Gurnee was also visited by a group of mysterious Marines and a truckload of toys and other items were delivered to them. Zacharia Center was next on the list. Twice Marines visited them. Each time with enough boxes of goodies that their front lobby was completely filled.

The next recipient on our list was A Safe Place in Zion. We called them and asked how many toys and such they had room for. We then took a truck load of toys and such to them that completely filled their storage area. They could not believe the amount of stuff we brought them. They were extremely pleased that we thought of them.

Toys and such were also dropped off for Hank Landrau to deliver to people that his church knew were in need. Another member's church had several families that were experiencing hard times and could also use some assistance. Seven of the large T4T boxes were filled and delivered to the church to dispense to their members along with lollipops for the kids.

Two cities in the County indicated that they could use toys and such for some of their families in need. One City was sent two truckloads and the other City got one full truckload. There was also a group of about a dozen families that were having a hard time and needed some assistance in another City. There was a bunch of us who delivered toys and such to them two nights in a row until about 10PM. We believe we got everyone we had been informed of and got toys and other gifts to them all before Christmas.

Jerry Pedrin
Commandant 847-687-6663

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The new year is upon us. Some of us are ready for the challenges and opportunities it will bring; others are lagging behind in their preparations.

Regardless of our state of preparedness, we must start and end our endeavors with prayer for guidance, motivation and encouragement!

In all we plan and do, we must first go to our GOD for HIS blessings.

A new year brings with it endless possibilities. Pray to your God for good health so that you may take advantage of them and reap the rewards, which you richly deserve.

Pray to your God, so that He may show you how you can serve your brothers and sisters, neighbors and strangers, and show HIS love through you!

Pray to your God, for wisdom so that you may discern good from evil and therefor be righteous.

Pray to your God for the continued growth of our League and detachment, for its leaders and members.

Pray to your God for honest and courageous leadership at all levels of our government.

Finally, pray to your God in thankfulness for His mercy and grace.

BE RICHLY BLESSED, SEMPER FI.

Hank Landrau, chaplain 847 652-7764

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



and

then

SMED

said;

ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

This episode was recently related to me by a teacher.

"Here is my story: "So, I definitely DID NOT 'stay in my lane' today!

"Every day when I arrived at school and left, I observed the tattered United States flag dangling halfway up/down the flag pole, hanging upside down by one grommet. Yes, even in the dark. Obviously no one took it down each night or noticed, and I thought to myself every time, 'someone needs to take care of that! How disgraceful!'

"Today, I couldn't get into the building because our school ID's stopped working for some reason last week and would not unlock the doors when we swiped them. So, I had to turn around from my usual door and trudge back down the steps to another door and as I turned to go, I looked up and saw that pitiful flag still hanging there and again thought, 'someone ought to do something!'

"Then I decided that I've said that to myself enough times, and so today that someone is going to be me!

"I walked over to the flagpole, dropped all my 'teacher' bags at its base and spent about five minutes untangling the rope from the pole and brought that poor flag down. I tucked it under my arm and made my way to the building. One of the Assistant Principals saw me, and I told her, 'I was tired of seeing our flag displayed so disgracefully'. She responded, 'the custodian is supposed to take it down each night'.

"I thought, but had to bite my tongue because I wanted to say, 'yes, so why isn't he told to do his job?', or 'that still doesn't excuse the poor condition of this flag!' But I refrained and walked into the building and deposited the flag on the office counter where I was directed to place it.

"During my afternoon break I happened to stop in the office again to discover the flag still in a heap where I had left it. While I was waiting, I folded it. The other Assistant Principal walked by and I asked if it was 'okay for me to take this flag to ensure it was disposed of properly' to which he said, 'yes'.

"So, I have this flag to give to the Marine Corps Detachment to be properly disposed of with dignity and respect.

"Now I guess I'll count how many days it takes before the flagpole is again flying a flag correctly.

"Happy New Year Marines!"

IT ONLY TAKES ONE SLIGHTLY PEEVED INDIVIDUAL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

'Nuff said. I'm going to go polish my Harley!

WELCOME **ABOARD**



Welcome aboard Charles Butrim of Lake Geneva, WI. Chuck joined the Navy starting at Great Lakes in 1969. As a Corpsman, he was retired as a Chief (HMC) after serving 22 years in the Navy. Aside from Vietnam, Chuck pulled duty stations at Camp Pendleton, Philadelphia Naval Hospital, Hawaii, American Embassy London England and Great Lakes Corps School. He is retired and married.

CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FHCC VISITS



VA HOSPITAL VISITATION TEAM

The VA team met a milestone this month. It was ten years ago that the detachment started visiting the patients at the VA hospital. Things were a little different in those days. The Navy and Veterans Hospital had just combined and things were a hassle. There were three computer systems to combine into one for starters. We were not going to let their problems get us down and set up our own guidelines for our visits. It has been 10 years and we are still going strong. We owe a lot to the men who started this mission and have kept it going all this time. Hats off to you ladies and gents.

We were welcomed warmly as we visited the patients on our first visit of the month. The patients were all given a little extra something as we spoke to each of them. The Purple Heart detachment of Lake County had given commissary chit books to be handed out to all the patients. These were in addition to our usual goodies.

Our second visit was after Christmas but that did not mean anything to the patients. They still were very glad to see us. There were not many patients in the hospital this time as most had been sent home for Christmas and the new patients had not eaten enough goodies and fruitcake to get sick yet. It is always nice to visit the patients but is even better when we find the hospital nearly empty. That means that everyone is feeling well and don't need to be there for us to visit. We are waiting for the day that we have no one to visit on the wards. That will truly be a blessing to all.

If you wish to join us at our visits on the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 1:30 PM feel free to ask one of the team. We are always looking for new people.

Jerry Pedrin, Commandant 847-687-6663



COLOR & HONOR GUARD



COLOR / HONOR GUARD

December 8th - The Color Guard presented Colors at the Stevenson High School "Hoops for Heroes" basketball game. We performed before the Girls game and the Boys game. Free pizza was provided.

December 24th - The Color Guard presented Colors at the Chicago Bears vs. Cleveland Browns game at Soldier's Field. It was cold and snowy but we had a great time. When the Bears came out of the tunnel on to the field, about half of the team came over to us, shook our hands, and said "thanks for your service". You don't hear about that on the news. One creep from Cleveland took a knee during the Anthem.

January is a great time to join the Unit as we will be starting the New Year with the Basics. See me or any of the team members.

Al Seyler
Commander 847-220-1525



EAGLE SCOUT'S



Scheduled Eagle Scout Presentations January

- Jan 6 Kyle Waggoner, Andrew Walther and Matthew Musacchio, Troop 46, 3 PM, First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest 700 Sheridan Rd. Lake Forest, (Seyler)
- Jan 7 Eric Ostick and Frederick Klett, Troop 96, 3 PM, St. Gilbert School Multi-purpose Rm, 231 E. Belvidere Rd., Grayslake.(Butler)
- Jan 21 Dalton Joseph Nitto, Troop 96, 3:00 PM, St Gilbert Church 301 E Belvidere Rd Grayslake, Multi-purpose Room (Located through the gym entrance) (Stack)
- Jan 27 William S. Blanchard and Gabriel Bradford Harding, Troop 675, 3:00 PM, Antioch Township Center 1625 Deep lake Rd., Lake Villa. (Barclay)

SPECIAL OCCASION



**DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT
THE
JANUARY 15th MEETING
1830
(Members only)**

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

Lake County Detachment Marine Corps League Foundation, Inc Officers

President-	Al Seyler
Treasurer-	Mel Ellingsen
Secretary-	Jerry Pedrin

Directors

Jim Sroka, Richard Butler, Ed Mampe, Warren Blacklock and Joe Wallace.

The Foundation received a request for financial aid to repair a broken water pipe from the well to the house from a fellow Marine. After securing several estimates, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to pay the contractor directly. The amount was \$4,000.00.

The Board will meet in January to establish goals for the New Year. We will also finalize plans for the "Boat Load of Booze" raffle.

Larry Lingen, and Al and Charlotte Blut collected the first bottles of Booze.

Purpose of the Foundation as a 501 3 (c) tax exempt organization is to provide comfort, support, financial assistance and educational aid to improve the quality of life for military personnel in all branches of the United States Armed Forces and veterans who have served and their families.

If you know or hear of any Veteran or Family that could use some assistance, contact us.

Semper Fi

Al Seyler
President
847-220-1525

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

To the Directors and Board Members of the *Lake County Marine Corps League Det 801 Foundation* from *Robert and Linda Stack*:

Thanks very much for your financial support of the *2017 U.S. Navy Recruits' Christmas* event; hosted at *Christian Liberty Academy*. We hosted 50 recruits for the day.

This year we added a fallen comrades (aka missing man) table. Mel Ellingsen delivered the fallen comrades speech before dinner was served (photos attached).

Some media coverage was provided by *CBS 2 WBBM-TV* and the *Daily Herald* as follows:

CBS 2 TV Broadcast:

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/video/3782963-christian-liberty-academy-host-50-navy-sailors/>

Daily Herald Article:

<https://www.dailyherald.com/amparticle/20171225/news/171229449/>



Related Military Links

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

(Updated 2/28/17)

Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission

(Updated 2/28/17)

VFW Action Corps Weekly

American Legion

Honor Flight McHenry County

Honor Flight Lake County

Marine Corps League Hdqtrs

Illinois Marine

Sgt Grit