

# THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Jerry Pedrin, Commandant ([Commandant@lakecountymarines.com](mailto:Commandant@lakecountymarines.com))

[www.lakecountymarines.com](http://www.lakecountymarines.com)



Mark Weisner presents us with a check for Toys for Tots from Five Star Firearms in Zion.



Lori Staben presented the detachment a "Thank You" plaque from the Young Marines.

## 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:	Art Castillo
Asst. Sgt. at Arms:	Clint Chia
Chaplain:	Hank Landrau
Quartermaster:	Al Blut
Asst. Quartermaster:	Scott Bastean
Historian:	(open)
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen

**Our next meeting is Monday 18  
December starting at  
1900 (7 PM).**

**Fellowship starts around 1830  
downstairs at  
Primo Resturant  
720 Milwaukee Ave.  
Gurnee, IL**

**Last Month's Mystery Marine was Bobbie  
Briggs. She was also the oldest Marine at  
our USMC Birthday Celebration!**



#### Where Stuff Is

1. Cover page, recent highlights
2. Officers, this list
3. Commandants' and
4. Chaplain's Chat
5. Junior Past Commandant
6. VA Hospital Visitation
7. Color & Honor Guard
8. Eagle Scout Report
9. Foundation Board and Committee members
10. General Nuller's Birthday Message
11. Links to other Veterans Web Sites

Who is this Marine?

**COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS**

**Greetings to "The Best Damn Detachment in the Nation"**

As I sit down to write to you for the second time as your Commandant. I thought I would take a little time to reflect on our last meeting. I know the meeting ran a little longer than the usual meeting. I had no control over how long our guests spoke and guess we should set some guidelines for that.

Our first guest was Mark Weisner from Five Star Firearms in Zion. Mark brought us a check for Toys for Tots in the amount of \$500 in memory of our Past Commandant, Mike Decker. We want to thank Mark for the check and consideration.

Our next two guests were two ladies from Equestrian Connection in Lake Forest. They came and presented a program to the group that all Veterans can use at no cost to them. Families are also included in this program. The program works with horses and the connection they have with people. I encourage everyone to check out this program on Wednesdays from 6 PM to 7 30PM each Wednesday. Equestrian Connection is located at 600 N. Bradley Road, Lake Forest, IL. Their phone number is 847-615-8696. For more information, please call me.

The last guest was Mike Ruffner, 2nd Dist Commandant. Mike spoke about things happening in the coming months and invited all of us to attend. There will be notifications put out for those events prior to their happening for anyone wishing to attend.

We also welcomed two new members aboard. They are James Richardson and Leroy Rosenberg. Both men seemed genuinely interested in getting involved with our detachment and we will extend every opportunity to them to be a part of our detachment in the coming months.

From time to time I will try to have people come to our meeting and present things that I feel will be of interest to the members of our detachment. If they interest you, great; if they don't, maybe the next one will.

Our Toys for Tots fundraisers are almost over for this year. We only have three more to do and only one of these is outside. Let's see if we can get a good turnout for the last three. The Hawthorne Mall and Gurnee Mills are always fun times for everyone attending.

We should also take advantage of the opportunity we have at Primo's with the bar. There are few other places in the County where you can buy a bottle of beer for \$4, or a mixed drink for \$5. I would encourage all of you to come early or stay a while after the meeting for a little fellowship with the members and get to know them. It always helps to make the newcomers feel at home and it is great for them to know that they are thought of and that they made the right decision by joining our detachment. It is also a way of saying to the management that we appreciate the fact they don't charge us for the space and that they go out of their way to help us with almost everything we ask of them.

I know the winter has not been too harsh so far but the cold wind, low temps and snow are coming. If you have clothing that you no longer need feel free to bring it to the meeting and we will get it to Veteran's Closet so it can be distributed to the Vets who really need them.

Semper FI,  
Jerry Pedrin  
Commandant 847-687-6663

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

DECEMBER 2017

The twelfth month of the year holds special significance to most of us. It's not merely the last month of the year, but one, which makes us pause and review the preceding eleven months. We look back and examine our accomplishments, as well as those areas we didn't do as well as we expected.

We also look forward to things we want to accomplish, such as that special vacation with family or just with our significant other, or we look forward to buying that special item we've been saving for, we say, "This is the year." As we get older, time becomes more precious our "bucket list" becomes even more important!

In December, unlike any other month we get caught up in the frenzy and commercialism of giving and receiving gifts. There is nothing inherently wrong with giving and receiving, its one of the few thing we do that gives us a lot of pleasure and whether you are a Christian or not you will get caught in the excitement.

In addition it's a time of the year when we are not afraid to both proclaim and show our love for family and friends. Of course it's fitting to do so, since the whole season is a celebration of love.

In November we gave thanks for what we have received, in December, we have an opportunity to share not just material things, but our selves as well. To share our time with "shut-ins," volunteer to feed the hungry, share the joy of giving to those less fortunate, to name a few. A lot of us take time to remember the birth of our LORD AND SAVIOR and the "reason for the season," but whatever your religious preference or no preference, it is, at least for the majority of us, a joyous season and time.

So, enjoy the season and all its promises for the future!

God bless you and your family

Semper Fi,

Hank Landrau



## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



and

then

**SMED**

said;

**ADAPT! INNOVATE! OVERCOME!**

Okay! I missed it again! "Taco Night Tuesdays" at the Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Waukegan, (on Hawthorne just off Lewis Ave) are on Tuesday, not Wednesday evenings, as I reported here last month. From 1600 to 2000 hrs. all you can eat tacos (chicken, beef or fish) for only \$6.00. They have both corn and flour shells. Is served 'buffet style' (you serve yourself), but you can also enjoy \$2.00 tap Miller High Life or \$4.00 Margaritas while waiting in line. Friendly staff and the tacos were very good. There was even a band in the bar area. All ages, from toddlers to us 'more seasoned' individuals. We went back last Tuesday!

Coming up at SALUTO's Restaurant in Gurnee on 15-December at 1800 hours, an UGLY SWEATER contest. All Detachment members have been invited (no admittance fee). Dig out that old UGLY sweater you would never wear and see if it qualifies for the UGLIEST one of the evening. Prizes (gift cards) will be awarded for the UGLIEST ones. This is not an official MCL Detachment event, but SALUTO's has consistently been one of our best Toys for Tot's benefactors. Bob has not only filled toy boxes for us, but also has donated checks to us for Toys for Tot's. He has supported our program, now it is time to support his.

Your Color Guard stopped and enjoyed their 'meat lovers' pizza a couple of weeks ago while dropping off a couple of Toys for Tot's boxes after Color Guard Practice. (We are always looking for additional members, by the way.)

C'mon out. Bring a toy to throw in the box, and join us for food and drink. See if anybody has a sweater any UGLIER than that favorite one of yours.

ADDRESS: 7680 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, ILL. (on the North side of Grand Ave.)  
PHONE: 847/356-6900

Grab your best girl and come out for a fun evening. See you there??

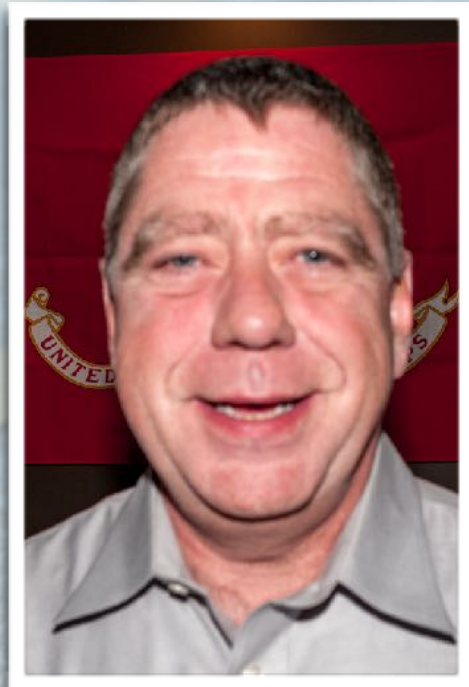
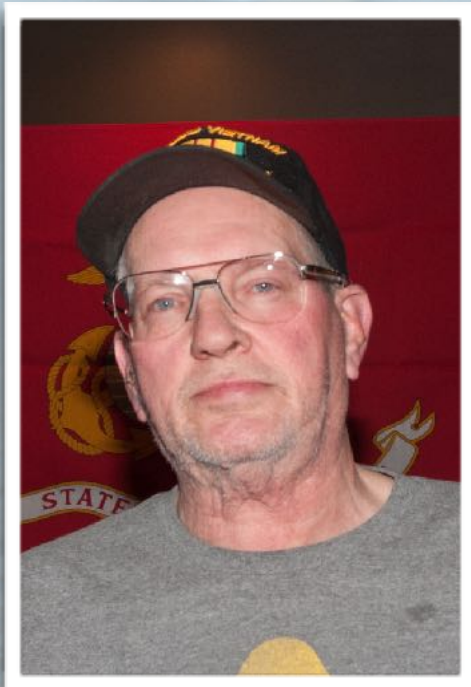
Send your items (pictures / articles?) for 'The JarHead Journal' to;  
Commandant Gerry Pedrin at [gpedrin@aol.com](mailto:gpedrin@aol.com)  
and/or  
Mel Ellingsen at [mel-ellingsen@comcast.net](mailto:mel-ellingsen@comcast.net)

'Nuff said. I'm going back to my Crossword Puzzle!

Semper Fidelis!

Smedley (847/648-6859)

## WELCOME ABOARD



LeRoy Rosenberg (left) was drafted and served in the USMC from 1966 to 1968. He started at MCRD San Diego and spent time at Camp Pendleton, Vietnam and Okinawa ending up as a Corporal. Then in 1980 he joined the Navy and learned to sail. He has two sons, eight grandchildren, is retired and lives in Bristol.

James Richardson (right) joined the Corps in 1985 also seeing boot camp at MCRD San Diego. He left the Marines as a sergeant in 1990 after serving at El Toro, the Congo, Thailand and Camp Lejeune. He is married, retired and lives in Lake Villa.

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



### VA HOSPITAL VISITATION TEAM

The hospital team was given a bit of a rest this month and only did one visit to the wards to see the Veterans. Thanksgiving came on the second Thursday that we would have visited so we passed that date up. It was felt that the day would be better spent with our own families and being thankful for what we have.

On the 9th, the team went to the homeless shelter and there celebrated the Marine Corps birthday with a little over 40 Veterans. Six of them were Marines. We had brought along a full sheet cake and it took no time at all for the cake to be eaten. We were told we could return anytime we wanted as long as we brought cake with us.

We then went to the individual wards of the hospital and handed out cupcakes in the Marine colors to all the patients and nursing staff. The patients and staff were equally grateful for the cupcakes and the wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

We also handed out sun catchers showing various Thanksgiving items that were made by the Girl Scout troop in Beach Park. We have been lucky enough to have the Girl Scouts make a sun catcher for every holiday and on the months with no holidays they come up with something to surprise us.

We are always looking for more detachment members to go with us on our rounds to visit the Vets. We go on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. We meet in the cafeteria about 2 pm and divide up into groups. We usually spend 2 - 2 1/2 hours visiting the patients. We enjoy the time we spend with them as much as they do. If you are interested contact Warren Blacklock, Greg Cummings, Nada Sydow, Al Blut, Bob Hames, Al Seyler or myself and we will be happy to show you what we do. And you can judge for yourself if it something you would like to do on a part time or regular basis.

Jerry Pedrin 847-687-6663

## **KICK-OFF the NEW YEAR**

January is a gloomy time of year. Holidays are over--winter has set in--nothing to look forward to--

*Great time for a PARTY !!!*

**DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT THE JANUARY  
15TH MEETING**

**FOOD IMPORTED FROM EXOTIC PLACES**

**TANTALIZING TO THE TONGUE**

**START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT**

**MEMBERS ONLY - NO SPOUSES or GUESTS**





## COLOR & HONOR GUARD



### COLOR / HONOR GUARD

The Color Guard presented Colors at the Stevenson High School Hoops for Heroes Military Appreciation game vs. Mundelein.

On December 24<sup>th</sup> we will present Colors at noon in Soldier's Field for the kick off of the "Who gives a damn bowl" featuring the Chicago Bears vs. Cleveland Browns. Yes, —we will have plenty of antifreeze.

January is a great time to join us.

We start out practicing the Basics:

- Rifle Manual of Arms
- Flag Manual
- How to March-----Left-Right-Left-Right
- Casket Manual
- Volley

After practice, we go to Stevens to discuss what we did right, wrong and solve all the World's problems.

Talk to any of team at the Meeting or give me a call. 847-220-1525.

Al Seyler  
Commander



# **EAGLE SCOUTS**



## **Scheduled Eagle Scout Presentations December and January**

- Dec 30 TBD, 3:00PM, Church of the Latter Day Saints-Buffalo Grove. (Ellingsen)
- 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, 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)
- Jan 27 William S. Blanchard and Gabriel Bradford Harding, Troop 675, 3:00 PM, Antioch Township Center 1625 Deep lake Rd., Lake Villa.

## **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's new Board will meet in January after the Holidays.

We want to have another "BOAT LOAD of BOOZE" Raffle starting early next year. Let's start collecting Bottles of Booze donations now.

There are no new Veteran needs that we are aware of at this time.

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



## EC's **RECONNECT** Program

**Introducing RECONNECT — combat veterans coming together to build trust**

What a historic moment as we welcome combat veterans to Equestrian Connection! They come together to talk over their experiences and to connect with our "four-legged therapists." It's an alliance between people and horses, managed by professional counselors and staff, and paying off in ways beyond mere medicine's ability.

- HORSEBACK RIDING
- GROOMING HORSES
- GROUP or INDIVIDUAL
- ACTIVE DUTY and FAMILY MEMBERS

EC's **RECONNECT** program held Mondays and Wednesdays.  
Call for available times.

 **Equestrian Connection**  
600 N. Bradley Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045  
847.615.8696  
[www.equestrianconnection.org](http://www.equestrianconnection.org)

**Editor's Note:**

At our November meeting, representatives from Equestrian Connection shared with us the details of their RECONNECT program for both active duty and veterans. There is no charge for your participation. Please call them for details at 847-615-8696.



***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**

**Honor Flight McHenry County**

**Honor Flight Lake County**

**Marine Corps League Hdqtrs**

**Illinois Marine**

**Sgt Grit**