

# THE **JARHEAD** JOURNAL

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

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



Thank You certificates were presented to all our volunteers during our October Officer Installation Dinner.



Smedley Richard Butler presents a challenge coin to his staff as he relinquishes command to Jerry Pedrin.



Jerry Pedrin (left), newly installed Commandant, accepts the detachment colors from now Junior Past Commandant, Smedley Richard Butler.

Mel Ellingsen is the new Marine of the Year and joins the winners from past years at the Officer Installation Dinner.

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

### The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

[editor@lakecountymarines.com](mailto:editor@lakecountymarines.com)

(847) 274-8144

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

#### 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  
20 November starting at  
1900 (7 PM).**

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

The mystery is that we need more pictures from your Marine Corps personal photo album. Please bring those images of yourself (it works best that way) to our November meeting and I'll make a copy during the meeting. \_editor

#### 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? Maybe you

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

### Greetings to all members of "The Best Damn Detachment in the Nation"

This is my first time addressing all of you as your new Commandant. I must say at the start, this is a little scary. Since being sworn in last month I have been in a whirlwind of activity that has still not stopped. This is normally the busiest time of the year for the detachment and the busiest time of the year for me at home. If I get through this I think I will have a handle on things. I haven't located the light at the end of the tunnel yet but I am expecting it soon.

First of all, I would like to welcome my entire Staff to the table. We will not be able to handle the affairs of Detachment 801 without all of you. We also will need help from all of you on the sidelines. As I have said before, we will only remain the best if we do our best to keep the detachment that way. Our new members of the Staff are Oliver Davidson, our Sr. Vice, and Nada Sydow, our Jr. Vice. Neither of them have been in a leadership role with the detachment and they will need assistance from time to time. I can only hope that you give them the same assistance that you gave me when I was in their respective chairs.

We have a lot of things going on this next couple months that I want to give you an over view of first. The people in charge of these various areas will be giving you more detailed information about their activities later in their presentations.

The color guard is having numerous activities this month and would love to see you show up for their support. There are activities in Fox Lake at the Toys for Tots breakfast, The Miss Lake County/Toys for Tots event at CLC to crown the Lake County Queens, presenting colors at the VA for the Marine Corps birthday, and firing a rifle volley at Lindenhurst for the Veteran's ceremony there.

The Toys for Tots campaign has kicked off and has been two fundraisers so far. The fundraisers will continue each Saturday until the final one on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Gurnee Mills. Let's all turn out and assist the children with a better Christmas than last year.

I have told the staff and now I will tell all of you. I welcome ALL advice you may have on making the detachment the best it can be. I will listen to all of your ideas and hear them with an open mind. That does not mean that I will act on each of them. I will still do what I think is best until I find another way of doing things. I do not want to discourage anyone from giving advice or ideas as that only narrows our options. If I find that most of you think my decision is not right, then I will make corrections to get in line with the majority. This detachment belongs to all of us and together we will guide it onward and upwards.

With all these things in mind, I wish all of you good health, and look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

Semper Fi  
Jerry Pedrin  
Commandant 847-687-6663

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS**

**Greetings to all members of the detachment.**

It is with great pleasure that I present you with the totals for the fundraising efforts we have done so far this year. We are off to a great start and it looks like we will do well this year again for the children of Lake County. We have scheduled events for the rest of the Saturdays from now until December 16th in an effort to bring joy to the faces of all the children in need that we can reach.

On Sunday, October 15th, we had our first fundraiser at the Jewel in Highland Park. It was a fairly nice day except for the wind. Our efforts were well received and we ended up collecting \$1,800 dollars for the day. We spoke with the manager there and he has already agreed to give us the Saturday before Mother's day for our fundraising next year.

On October 28, 2017, we had our second fundraiser at the Jewel in Fox Lake. Here the weather was quite different and not quite as friendly. The wind and temps were not doing us any favors that day. We still found at the end of the day that we had collected \$1,600.

The rest of the Toys for Tots fundraisers are all on Saturdays. They are all from 10 am to 3 pm. They all will be outside except for the last two which will be Hawthorne Mall and Gurnee Mills which will be the last two in December. Here is the schedule of the remaining dates and locations:

November 11---Jewel---Belvidere Road just east of Rte 83, Grayslake

November 18---Jewel---Milwaukee Ave just south of the car dealerships, Libertyville

November 25---Jewel---Hunt Club Road just south of Grand, Gurnee

December 2---Jewel--just east of Rte 83 on Rollins Road, Round Lake Beach

December 9---Hawthorne Mall--Entrance near Macys and Mariano's, Vernon Hills

December 16---Gurnee Mills--Entrance just to the southwest of Bass Pro Shop

We are looking for as much participation as we can get on these days. The more people there, the more money we get is usually the situation. Even if you can't stay the entire time we would love to have you for as long as you can stay.

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER  
November 2017**

November, a month to celebrate, remember and give thanks.

Hard to believe that 2017 is almost done! Despite all the challenges and opportunity we've had to date, our LORD, has seen to it that we have all the tools we need to cope.

As Marines, it's our time to celebrate our Corps birthday, a time to come together as proud marines to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and wish our beloved Corps, and each other happy birthday and well wishes.

November is also the month when a grateful nation takes a moment to remember and thank our veteran of all wars and conflicts and their families, for their selfless sacrifice. To thank those currently serving, and remember those who have gone home to be with our LORD.

November is also the month to give special thanks to our LORD, for his blessings, his GRACE and his MERCY, it's a time to set aside strife, and give thanks as a family. When we gather around the table filled with the bounties the LORD has provided, pray for those who are less fortunate! Pray for those who have gone through natural, and man made disasters. Pray for our country, and for wise leadership.

I encourage you to go to Him in prayer every day, to bend your knees and open your heart. I further encourage you to get into "His Word". There you will find the answers you are seeking and the comfort you need. Regardless of the month or time of year, in good times and bad, He's only a prayer away. Go to Him, He's waiting! GOD BLESS YOU,

Semper Fi, Hank Landrau



and

then

**SMED**

**said;**

**ADAPT! INNOVATE! OVERCOME!**

And just when you thought, "I'll not have to read through another of his monthly articles, here he comes again!"

Well, you are partially correct, this will not be a regular feature in the Jarhead, however from time to time (with your continued encouragement... or not,) I will contribute to Mel's missive.

I promise these will be shorter than those in the past, maybe just a mention of a newly found place to have dinner. Speaking of which, just this week tried "Taco Night" at the Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Waukegan, (north of Sunset, west of Lewis Ave.) on Wednesday evening. From 1600 to 2000 hrs. all you can eat tacos (chicken, beef or fish) for only \$6.00. 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 old farts. We will be back!

For several years I have encouraged other of you Detachment members to send in contributions to the Jarhead. I am living proof that contributors don't have to have any journalism talent to qualify, but you certainly (just by being Marines) have ideas and opinions to share with the rest of us, however, let's keep it civil by not getting into 'politics' please. There is an overabundance of that already in the media.

Send your ideas 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 out to play in the yard!

Semper Fidelis!

Smedley

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



### VA HOSPITAL VISITATION TEAM

The hospital visit team met at the VA hospital twice this month and visited the patients there. Our meeting dates and times are the first and fourth Thursday of each month at 1:30PM. We meet in the cafeteria and form up into groups depending on how many people we have present.

There are three different areas that we try to visit each time. The first building is 133, the main building for general medical problems. The second is building 134. This building is for long term medical patients who need frequent medical care.. The last area is called the green houses. This area is for long term medical people who don't necessarily need continuous care but have no other place to go.

We have a girl scout troop that makes sun catchers for our visits nearly every month. They learn a little about the Veterans and then recognize them with the sun catchers they make. The girl scout troop is lead by a Navy Corpsman who works at the medical center.

We really make a difference to the people who are hospitalized there. Some of them get no visitors and look forward to seeing us twice a month. they are always eager to tell us of their adventures while in the service or for the long term people, just heir adventures over the last week or so.

We try to give each service member a little something from their branch of the service that we are able to get from the various recruiters. They are always happy to get something that reminds them of their service days.

If you would like to visit the Veterans to see what we do or would like to join our little rag tag band of brothers feel free to contact Warren Blacklock. He is the current leader of the band and will be more than happy to give you a more expansive view of the visits.

Jerry Pedrin  
Commandant 847-687-6663

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



### Our Schedule for November and December

11/4-- Toys 4 Tots Breakfast

11/5-- Teen Pageant - College of Lake County

11/9-- V. A. Hospital  
Post and Retrieve Colors  
Marine Birthday/Veterans Day  
Burke Hall – Building # 1000  
Butler- Pedrin- Mann- Sydow- Mampe

11/11-- Lindenhurst War Memorial (Starts at 1100)  
Fire Volle  
Butler- Seyler- Mann- Sydow- Engle- Mampe- Burns-Richards

12/24-- Bears Game  
Present Colors  
1200

Al Seyler , Commander

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801**



**Scheduled Eagle Scout Presentations**

**November and January**

- Nov 25 Spencer Quitin Oakley, Troop 46, 3:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, (Ellingsen)
- Nov 25 John Horace Draa, Troop 71, 4:00 PM, Adler Park Lodge Libertyville, (Homan)
- Jan 6 Kyle Waggoner, Andrew Walther and Matthew Musacchio, Troop 46, 3 PM, First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest 700 Sheridan Rd. Lake Forest
- Jan 7 Eric Ostick, Troop 96, 3 PM, St. Gilbert School Multi-purpose Rm, 231 E. Belvidere Rd., Grayslake.

## **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

Now that we have had the installation of the Board of Directors and Officers, the Foundation will meet to to set our goals for the coming year.

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

A meeting was held with the Sgt. Major and new Commanding Officer of MACG 48 in late October to make them aware of how we can help. They were very interested in the League and we feel the working relationship with 48 will be improved.

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



10 November 2017

### A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Seventy-Five years ago today, after months of fighting at Henderson Field and along Edson's Ridge, Marines on Guadalcanal spent the night of 10 November 1942 planning and preparing. Although the Battle of Guadalcanal would continue for three more months, the plans laid on our Corps' most sacred day became integral to the amphibious campaigns that followed. Success at Guadalcanal proved to be the turning point that ultimately paved the way for Allied victory in the Pacific. Those warriors defended their positions in brutal conditions against a formidable enemy – and triumphed. Through every major conflict our Nation has seen since the Revolution, Marines performed their duty with utmost courage, devotion, and raw determination. Their valiant deeds in the face of overwhelming challenges give us confidence and inspire us to meet the trials of today. As we pause to celebrate the birth of our Corps this year, we honor the legacy that was passed down to us and we recommit ourselves to carrying those traditions into the future.

This November 10th marks 242 years of warfighting excellence. At places like Trenton, Tripoli, Chapultepec, Belleau Wood, Guadalcanal, Chosin, Khe Sahn, Fallujah, Sangin, and so many others, Marines have fought with an inner spirit – a spirit that bonds us, binds us together as a cohesive team. It's that intangible spirit that has formed the foundation of our warfighting reputation for the past 242 years. Now it's our responsibility to ensure we honor and carry on that legacy. The American people expect a Corps of men and women who are committed, selfless, willing to sacrifice, who epitomize honor, courage, commitment, virtue, and character. We owe our Nation and our predecessors no less.

Today, as we celebrate our 242nd birthday, we must remember who we are, where we came from, and why we're here. We must remember the past, honor those who are no longer with us, focus on today's battles, and get ready for tomorrow. We can and will prevail as we always have, in any clime and place. But we must prevail together, united by the unyielding spirit in each of us that makes our Corps unique – that willingness to put our Corps and fellow Marines ahead of ourselves. Victory in battle comes through the integrated efforts of many – teamwork. We value the sacrifices and contributions of every Marine and Sailor, as well as our family members without whose support we would not be able to accomplish our mission. And we remain committed to being our Nation's Expeditionary Force in Readiness that sets the standard for honor, discipline, and courage. I am proud of each and every one of you.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Neller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Robert B. Neller  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

***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**