

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



Since 1 December through 25 January, the Eagle Scout Presentation Team will have presented 21 Ka-Bars and Good Citizen certificates to Eagle Scouts. Here are pictures from some of these presentations.

Here's a link to watch Bob and Linda Stack's CBS-TV news clip of their annual Navy Recruit Christmas Day dinner. [Click here.](#)

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

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(847) 274-8144

www.lakecountymarines.com

Detachment Officers

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Commandant: | Tom Koncan |
| Senior Vice-Commandant: | Ed Cooper |
| Junior Vice-Commandant: | Randy Christopher |
| Judge Advocate: | |
| Paymaster: | Nolan Webster |
| Adjutant: | John Jezioro |
| Chaplain: | Hank Landrau |
| Asst. Chaplin | MGYSgt. Wayne Carle |
| Sgt. at Arms: | Carter Mitchell |
| Asst. Sgt. of Arms | Andres Morales |
| Color Guard Commander: | Ed Mampe |
| Quartermaster: | Frank Contee |
| Va Hospital Visits: | Linda Smolich |
| Junior Past Commandant | Charles Walgreen |
| Web Sgt.: | Mel Ellingsen |
| VAC Rep: | Oliver Davidson |

Our next meeting is scheduled for
20 January (Tuesday)
Start Time 1800 or 6:00 pm
(Special Start Time)
Steven's Restaurant

Where Stuff Is

- #1 Ka-Bar Presentations
- #2 Where Stuff Is
- #3 Christmas Party
- #4 Chaplain's Corner
- #5 Sr. Vice Commandant Message
- #6 Toys for Tots Report
- #7 PLEASE Pay You Dues
- #8 We Need More Members
- #9 Poster for More Members
- #10 Color Guard
- #11 VA Visitations
- #12 VA Visits New Policy
- #13 Eagle Scouts
- #14 Foundation Report
- #15 Links of Information
- #16 More Links

If you are not getting my emails with the meeting minutes, email me, John Jezioro at jezfamily11@ameritech.net or text me at 847-807-0736 and we'll get it worked out.

_John Jezioro, Adjutant.

[Click to Pay Your Dues Here.](#)

SAVE THE DATES

St Paddy's Day Meeting and Party - 17 March (normal meeting day)

Memorial Day Picnic - 30 May (Saturday after Memorial Day)



Christmas Party Rescheduled

Because of our last minute need to reschedule our December Meeting from the 16th to the 23rd, we decided to hold our Christmas Party after the January Meeting on the 20th. January is the most boring month (except for Bears Playoff wins), but not for us. WE ARE GOING TO PARTY!!!

Bring Your Significant Other

- **UGLY SWEATER CONTEST - MALE AND FEMALE**
- **SNOWMAN PINATA**
- **SNOWBALL FIGHT**
- **LARGE BALL OF "THINGS" TO DIG OUT**
- **DET. 801 BAND**
- **XMAS SONGS**
- **OUTSTANDING MAGIC ACT**
- **COOKIES AND CANDY TO NIBBLE**
- **FREE NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS**
- **ALCOHOLIC DRINKS- YOYO (YOUR ON YOUR OWN)**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message for December 2025

The holiday season is a very special time of year and here's hoping that all have had a very special and enjoyable time with family and friends.

Let's also not forget the religious aspects of the season and thank the Lord for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us; including allowing us the privilege of living in a free society where we are able to express our religious beliefs in an open manner of our choosing. Just take a look at the chaos around the world.

2026 is going to bring new challenges, both in our professional, personal and our League's life; but our faith, perseverance and trust in our beliefs will guide us through.

So---upward and onward!

Semper Fi!

Joe Womack

Chaplain

Greetings and Salutations from the Sr. Vice Commandant

As our fundraising campaign for 2025 comes to an end, we've raised over \$10,000!

This would not have happened without the outstanding efforts and dedication of our Members who volunteered.

Thank you to all that contributed their valuable time to greatly assist in successful fundraising in 2025!

Semper Fi!

Ed Cooper
Sr. Vice Commandant

OUR SPECIAL TOYS FOR TOTS PLACES

Detachment 801 did it again !!!

Child Advocates Center, Zacharia Child Sexual Abuse Center and A Safe Place (Battered Woman's Shelter) cannot, by law, divulge the number, age or sex of the kids they are housing. MACG 48 Toys for Tots coordinator would not give Toys without that information. Also T4T does not have anything for kids older than 11. In the past, Detachment 801 has filled that void.

The Staff Sgt. in Charge at MACG 48 made it worse. We were not allowed to touch any boxes, toys or money when we tried to collect at Walmart . "His Marines would do it all".

Improvise Adapt Overcome

Ed Cooper finally convinced the Staff Sgt. to allow toys. They would not deliver. We were not allowed to deliver. The Special Places had to pick up.

A few of our Members kept some boxes from last year and manage to collect some Toys. We had plenty of Toys for up to age 11.

We requested up to \$2,000 from the Foundation, and they approved, to buy presents for the older kids--

Hair Dryers, make-up Kits, Basket Balls, Shaving Lotion Kits, Backpacks etc.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED !!!

Detachment members, with super hearts, made donations. The Duck Inn gave us \$1,100 they collected from the change from the Gaming Machines.

We amassed \$3,176 total.

We went shopping at Walmart in Zion. We spent \$1,887.36.

We have remaining \$1,288.64 for next year!

OOORAH !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Membership Renewal

Annual Notice

Expires 31 August



Renew today with your local Detachment Paymaster

From the PAYMASTER - Nolan Webster

If you are a regular member of the detachment, your \$35 annual dues and now being collected. Please keep in mind that only \$7 of your \$35 stays in the detachment. You can always pay in cash at one of our meetings or mail us a check to PO Box 7732, Gurnee, IL 60031. [Or, click on this link to pay via debit or credit card.](#) You can also upgrade your membership to a Life member after paying your 2026 dues. The link to pay dues has all the information about Life membership. We will start sending out email 'reminders' directly to regular members whose dues are in arrears in a few weeks.

A CALL TO ACTION FOR OUR DETACHMENT

WE NEED MORE MEMBERS

Strength in Unity and Numbers

As members of the Best Damn Detachment, we have shared experiences that forge bonds unlike any other. Our camaraderie as Marines and Corpsman, built on mutual respect and understanding, provides a unique support system. Now is the time to extend this haven to others who have served but have yet to find the Marine Corps League

Why We Need to Expand

Each new member enriches our detachment with their individual stories, skills, and perspectives. By growing our numbers, we not only strengthen our solidarity but also enhance our ability to support one another. Imagine the wealth of experiences and knowledge that could be shared, the new friendships that could blossom, and the collective wisdom that could guide us all.

Benefits of a Larger Detachment

- **Greater Support Network:** More members mean more resources and support for each of us. Whether someone needs advice, companionship, or assistance, a larger group can provide a stronger safety net.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** New members bring fresh viewpoints and ideas, which can help us tackle challenges in innovative ways.
- **Enhanced Activities:** With more hands-on deck, we can organize more events, outings, and activities that cater to a wider variety of interests.

How to Find New Members

Recruiting new members requires a proactive approach and a genuine desire to connect with others. Here are a few strategies to consider:

Start with Your Networks-Church, Social media, Your local Watering Hole

Think about that guy wearing the USMC cover you see while shopping or that USMC flag flying on a house down the street. Or, that car in the Walmart parking lot with the USMC decal on the window. Pick up a handful of applications at the next meeting and leave them on car windows and front doors. Print the following poster and get it into your favorite bar.



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR
BIRTHDAY ALL YEAR
LONG. IT WILL BE 250
YEARS ON 10 NOVEMBER
2025.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR MARINES AND FMF CLERGY & CORPSMEN!

We are the Lake County Marines Corps League
Detachment 801. We meet on the third Tuesday
starting at 1830 at Steven's Restaurant - Gurnee.

Check us out at

SEMPER FIDELIS





COLOR & HONOR GUARD



Color and Honor Guard

Our Color Guard will Present Colors at these activities:

The color guard has practice on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, at the American Legion in Gurnee starting at 1830.

Ed Mampe - Color Guard Commander

PH #847-641-9689

CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FHCC VISITS



Nada and I had VA visits on December 16 and I have to say that Nada does an excellent job interacting with our Veterans. We gave away veteran hats and placed Santa Claus decorations on their windows (prepared by Cassie & Kathi Seyler)

Carol and Ed Mampe bought Veteran cards so we can hand them out during our visits. This will let them know that the Marines of Detachment 801 were here to see them and care about them.

Our next visit is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13. We will only have one (1) visit this month.

We normally visit the VA on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month and if anyone is interested to please contact me.

Respectfully,

Linda Smolich
847-204-5348

ATTENTION - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REGARDING VA HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

All our team members should have received a letter from Kenneth List, Chief, Community Affairs, stating effective October 1, 2025 all volunteers for periods of longer than six months are required to complete a more thorough background check and receive a new type of ID badge called a PIV badge. This new ID badge will be valid for five (5) years. This is part of a nationwide change to ensure the safety of their patients. This is the same background check their employees receive. As part of this background check, I have the information we need to get started.

1. We need to fill this information out and return to the VA. After they have received our information, they will send us a questionnaire (via our email address) that we have to complete online. Help is available if anyone needs assistance in this process. Please contact Jiji Joseph at 224-610-3714. Our current badges are valid until April, 2026. We are allowed to continue to volunteer until this time. So we have until now until April to get this accomplished. It is mandatory that we all go through this new process if we want to continue to volunteer.

2. We need to make an appointment with DMV for a Real Illinois State ID with a Star on it or a passport. The fee is \$20.00. We need to bring all original copies of our birth certificate, social security card, driver's license or regular state ID, and a copy of a recent bill paid that can verify our home residence.

3. After we've received our Real Illinois State ID or passport, we need to contact Jiji Joseph at 224-610-3714 to schedule an appointment with her, our new photo pic & and fingerprint appointment to save us extra trips to the VA. She's located at 3001 Green Bay Road, Building 135, Room 257 in North Chicago.

4. It's also mandatory for FHCC to have a flu vaccination. We can have this done at the VA in Employee Health with an appointment. If we had our flu vaccine done elsewhere, we need to bring a copy of verification from where we received the vaccine. If we do not wish to get the flu vaccination, we need to sign a form and we will be required to wear a mask when we volunteer. No covid vaccination is required.

I know this is a whole lot for us to do and if anyone has any questions, I'll be more than happy to try and assist.

We meet in the canteen area the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. We still would like to invite anyone from our Detachment to attend a one-time visit until April, 2026 (afterward you must go through this new process also). You must have had a flu shot and wear a mask to ensure the safety and well-being of our Veterans and their families. This will provide for a safe and successful volunteer experience. Anyone who might be interested? Please contact Linda Smolich at (847) 204-5348.

[Click here and scroll down to download the application.](#)



EAGLE SCOUTS



Did you read the first page????

We will present 18 Ka-Bars during December and January!

We're always looking for help making these presentations. Can you walk, talk, chew gum and wear a white uniform shirt?

Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144 Eagle Scout Program Chair

Lake County Marine Corps League Foundation

Officers and Directors

President- Charles Walgreen

Treasurer- Nolan Webster

Secretary- Jerry Pedrin

Directors

Jim Sroka, Ed Mampe, Ed Cooper,

Hank Landrau, Al Seyler and Randy Lund.

Our foundation was very busy during December and approved the following donations:

- 1.) \$1,250.00 to Christian Liberty Academy for a Christmas Eve luncheon/ dinner for 50 Great Lakes Naval Recruits.
- 2.) Up to \$2,000.00 to supply items for three groups in Lake County of kids over 11 years old of which Toys For Tots does not assist.
- 3.) \$2,000.00 for a detachment member for a down payment on a new car (our Marine walked away from a total loss of car without injury).
- 4.) \$1,000.00 donated to a detachment member who had a family loss to cover funeral arrangements.

The foundation continues to need all of the detachment member's participation in selling Boat Load of Booze tickets to help with our mission statement of helping all branches of services and their families.

Semper Fi

Charles Walgreen
President
Lake County Marine Foundation

Related Military Links to Click

Honor Flight Lake County

Midwest Veterans Closet

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Marine Corps League Headquarters

Illinois Marine

VFW Action Corps Weekly

American Legion

Sgt Grit

PTSD Resources

Past copies of the Jarhead Journal can be viewed here:

www.lakecountymarines.com/newsletters

Marine Corps League (MCL) Resources

Websites:

www.mclnational.org – MCL national website – **SHIPS STORE**

www.mcleaguelibrary.org – MCL national public documents / resources

www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library - Password (DD2), library holds meeting minutes, forms, national bylaws / administrative procedures manuals to include MCL uniform guidance and MCL awards guidance, etc.

_____ <https://theillinoismarine.com> _____ Department website

_____ <https://lakecountymarines.com> _____ Detachment website

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/mclnational - MCL National

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064587650733 Chicago Area MC Co-Council

www.facebook.com/groups/67134899955 2nd District Facebook

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068070852934 Department Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/48678176402 Detachment Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/mclhonorguardandcolorguard - MCL Honor Guard / Color Guard

www.facebook.com/groups/447677227018622 - MCL National Membership Committee

www.facebook.com/groups/mcluniforms - MCL Uniforms Buy-Sell-Trade

www.facebook.com/groups/mclconnections - MCL Connections (MCL members only)

www.facebook.com/groups/usmccollectibles - USMC Sell Your Sh**!

Other:

www.youtube.com/themarinecorpsleague - Click “subscribe” for new content

www.instagram.com/hqmcl – MCL national Instagram

www.militaryorderofthedevidogs.org – MODD Kennel website

www.nationalmcla.org – MCL national Auxiliary

www.linkedin.com/company/marine-corps-league - MCL national LinkedIn

We encourage you all as members to visit these websites and social media pages. Take a look around and know all the resources available to you on these platforms. Please share this information with all members not only in leadership positions, but your Detachment members.

*Questions about any of these resources can be addressed directly to the **MCL** National Public Relations Committee for assistance.*

publicrelations@mcleague.org