

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal

Published Quarterly

Editor: Charles R. Walgreen

editor@lakecountymarines.com

(847) 400-7706

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:	Andres Morales
Asst. Sgt. of Arms	Carter Mitchell
Color Guard Commander:	Ed Mampe
Quartermaster:	Frank Contee
Va Hospital Visits:	Linda Smolich
Junior Past Commandant	Charles Walgreen
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen
VAC Rep:	Tom Koncan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3- Quartermaster's Corner
- 4- Membership Renewal
- 5- Shake the Can Fundraising
- 6- 2026 Independence Day Parade
- 7- Boat Load of Booze Raffle
- 8- Congrats to Our Winners!
- 9- Pottawatomie Trails Powwow
- 10- 9/11 Memorial Service
- 11- Detachment Elections
- 12- Congratulations, George!
- 13- Eagle Scouts
- 14- Poster for More Members
- 15- Welcome Aboard
- 16- Welcome Aboard
- 17- Remembering James Rinehardt
- 18- Foundation Report
- 19- North Chicago Public Education Foundation
- 20- Marines History Corner
- 21- Links
- 22- MCL Resources

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.

SAVE THE DATES

Detachment 801 Officers Installation and Awards Dinner -
OCTOBER 20, 2026 at 6:00PM

251st Marine Corps Birthday - Gurnee Post 771 - NOVEMBER 10

Veterans Day at Lindenhurst - NOVEMBER 11

QUARTERMASTER'S CORNER

From the Quartermaster's Corner

I have challenge coins, ribbons, shirts, and a few covers available. If you have any desire for the above items, please feel free to contact me either by calling or texting me at (904)535-7336, or by emailing me at Fcontee@hotmail.com.

Please provide me sizes for shirts, if I do not have what you need, I will order what is needed at my earliest. SF, Frank Contee - Quartermaster

Officers Installation and Awards Dinner

On Tuesday, October 20th starting at 1800 (6:00pm) our annual Officers Installation and Awards Dinner will begin. This is when we take the time to recognize all those members who have contributed their time and effort to make our detachment the Best Damn Detachment in the Nation. The Marine of the Year will be recognized as well.

Will you join us? We need to know if you and your significant other will attend. Please let us know, ASAP. You can reply to this email or call Mel Ellingsen 847-274-8144 or let any of our detachment officers know and they will relay that info to us. It's better to RSVP now, even if you are not sure. We'd rather have more than not enough food. We understand that sometimes your plans must change at the last minute. So, PLEASE get back to us ASAP, certainly before October 14th.

Semper Fi,
Mel Ellingsen

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.

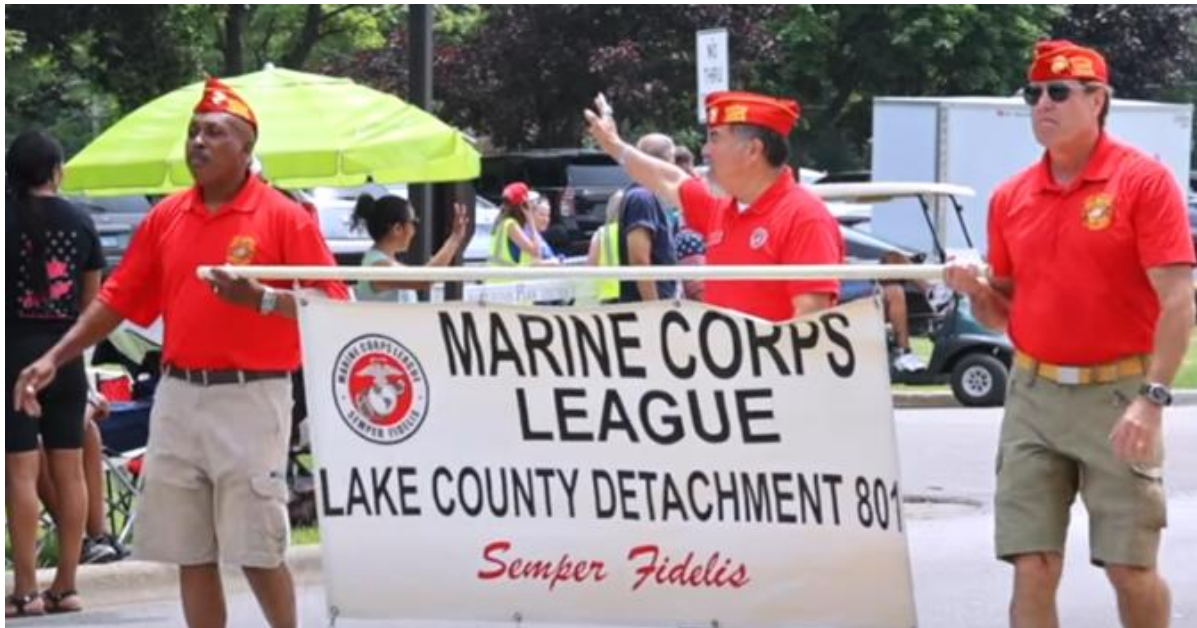
SHAKE THE CAN FUNDRAISING EVENTS



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

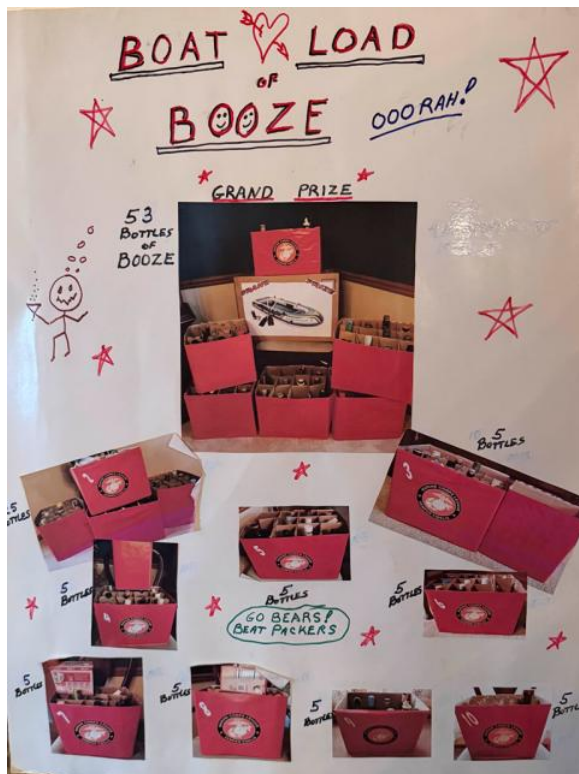
2026 WAUKEGAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xZCj576FTkSXDWcg8>



BOAT LOAD OF BOOZE RAFFLE

July 21, 2026 - Gurnee, IL



CONGRATS TO OUR WINNERS!

- 1. Chesty ticket # 703**
- 2. Steve Schdler # 152**
- 3. Dave Johnston # 1079**
- 4. Chesty # 653**
- 5. Ed Mampe # 2062**
- 6. Nick Pantaleo # 1429**
- 7. Michael Khouy # 556**
- 8. Doyle Knowles # 1733**
- 9. Nicki Butkus # 1424**
- 10. Warren Blacklock # 321**



Nick Pantaleo # 1429



Warren Blacklock # 321



**Michael Khouy
556**



**Dave Johnston
1079**



**Nicki Butkus #
1424**

POTAWATOMI TRAILS POWWOW

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/7P8rvRbXidmift4ZA>



Presenting colors at the powwow.



Recruiters: John Jezioro, Charles Walgreen, & Frank Contee

9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE IN LIBERTYVILLE

September 11, 2026



Our detachment members Lake County Sheriff John Idleburg and George Gandara



Mayor Donna Johnson (2nd from right in red dress) and keynote speaker Captain Anthony P. Barnes (in middle with striped tie).

Retired US Navy Captain Anthony P. Barnes was stationed in the White House bunker on September 11, 2001, as the Deputy Director for Presidential Contingency Programs.

DETACHMENT ELECTIONS

September 15, 2026

The following members were elected to a one year term for the following positions and will be installed on October 20th at our Officer Installation Meeting and Dinner starting at 1800 (6:00PM).

Commandant- Alfred Seyler (ELECTED)

Senior Vice Commandant- George Gandara (ELECTED)

Junior Vice Commandant- Andres Morales (ELECTED)

Judge Advocate- Peter Karlovics (ELECTED)

Junior Past Commandant- Thomas J. Koncan Jr. (APPOINTED)

Adjutant- John J. Jezioro (ELECTED)

Paymaster- Nolan D. Webster (ELECTED)

Chaplain- Henry Landrau (APPOINTED)

Quartermaster- Frank Contee (APPOINTED)

CONGRATULATIONS, GEORGE!

GEORGE GANDARA
*** NAMED ***
**ILLINOIS
VETERAN**
— OF THE YEAR —

In proud recognition of your exceptional service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to Illinois veterans and your community.

GEORGE R. GANDARA
U.S. MARINE CORPS & U.S. ARMY VETERAN
POST COMMANDER – VFW POST 8741 (LIBERTYVILLE)
SERGEANT AT ARMS & CHAPLAIN
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION – LAKE COUNTY
PROUD MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION,
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, AMVETS, AND MORE

SERVICE ★ LEADERSHIP ★ COMMITMENT

State of Illinois
2025-2026
"Serving Our Community with Resilience"
**Veteran
of the Year**
Presented to
George R. Gandara
Scott Swanson
State Adjutant General
Eugene Blackwell
State Commander



EAGLE SCOUTS



KA-BAR PRESENTATIONS TO EAGLE SCOUTS

I'm writing this in early September and for the first time in many years there are no scheduled Eagle Scout presentations. We presented 13 Ka-Bars and certificates since July 1st; 4 at troop 72 just recently. Quartermaster Frank Contee has joined the Eagle Scout Team making his first solo presentation on August 1st. If you can walk and talk while chewing gum, call me to join our team. Just a reminder, we presented 78 Ka-Bars last fiscal year 2026.

Mel Ellingsen - (847) 274-8144



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR
BIRTHDAY ALL YEAR LONG.
IT WILL BE 251 YEARS ON
NOVEMBER 10, 2026.



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 6:30PM at Steven's Restaurant - Gurnee.

Check us out at

SEMPER FIDELIS



WELCOME **ABOARD**



Welcome Aboard, Daniel Adornetto! Daniel served in the Marine Corps in duty stations at RTC Great Lakes, Fort Sam Houston, Camp Pendleton, San Diego, and VA Great Lakes. His highest rank is petty officer 3rd class.

WELCOME **ABOARD**



Welcome Aboard Enkh-Orgil (EO) Sumberdariya, who was sworn in September's meeting. Enlisted 2017-2023 MOS Motor T 3532/ MSG 8156 was stationed San Diego, CA., Ft Leonard Wood, MO., Camp Pendleton, CA., Beirut, Lebanon, Quantico, VA., Rabat Morocco. He lives in Round Lake and is a full time college student.

REMEMBERING JAMES RINEHARDT

On August 4th, James Rinehardt, Life member of Detachment 801 reported to his final duty station. Jim was among a handful of Marines that joined the detachment back in 2002-2003. The family moved to Olympia Fields a few years ago. Speaking with Debbie, Jim's wife, she is planning a Celebration of Life in North Carolina where many of their family now reside.



So today we learned of the passing of one of the most amazing people I have ever had the pleasure and privilege to know! Jim Rinehardt was a valiant Marine Corps veteran. He served in the Vietnam War as a Crew Chief on various helicopter types. He was injured by shrapnel wounds I believe three times. He was the sole survivor of a crash where the helicopter went over the side of a carrier into the sea. He worked for years in the insurance industry and retired from there. He and his wife Deb raised two wonderful sons and had a wonderful life together. I first met Jim in April of 2008 when I stepped in to run our store in Wadsworth, IL. I had arrived in late March of that year and Jim came in when he returned from the south in April. I often joked that I had no idea where this guy came from but I wished that I could find more of him! He had a true can-do spirit and seemed to have only one setting, all ahead full, all of the time! He and I had kind of a running Star Trek thing going where one of us would always be saying "Dammit Jim" about something! I guess that it was a good thing that we were both named Jim, lol. I am going to stop here as that seems appropriate under the circumstances.

Jim, please know that we loved you and will miss you, we wish you smooth sailing into your destiny!

Marine Rinehardt, Fair Winds and Following Seas, Brother!!

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.

The Boat Load of Booze was a success because of all of you selling tickets that ultimately will have a direct positive impact on a veteran's life needing assistance. The raffle raised \$11,970.00 for the foundation. I personally have been honored to serve two 1-year terms as the Foundation president. Let's give the incoming president our support to continue the mission.

Semper Fi

Charles Walgreen

President

Lake County Marine Corps League Foundation

North Chicago Public Education Foundation

At our August 18th meeting, Jeff Morse, Tracy Horwich, Navy Commander Scott Mowrey, and Navy Chief Santos, all supporting the North Chicago Public Education Foundation (NCPEF), spoke about the benefits this program has on possible recipients joining ROTC and ultimately the DoD.

At our September 15th meeting, detachment members voted and approved a \$500 donation to the NCPEF and several detachment members donated \$100 each to the program.

North Chicago Public Education Foundation

Making College Possible



OUR MISSION

North Chicago Public Education Foundation strives to create long-term economic vitality for the community of North Chicago by providing educational opportunities for D187 families. We do this through college scholarships and other programs that leverage partnerships and community engagement.

WARHAWK LANCER SCHOLARS

Scholarships are awarded to graduates of North Chicago Community High School to attend College of Lake County for up to three years as they earn an Associate Degree or Certificate, or prepare to transfer to a four-year institution.

In addition to full tuition, the scholarship provides a stipend for living expenses, a book stipend, a new computer, and the ongoing support of a counselor.

Three-year completion rates at community college are under 35%. With the tuition and wraparound support Warhawk Lancers receive, our completion rates are near 60% and climbing.

IN PARTNERSHIP

Our Scholars

Scholars select their own program of study. Current scholars are studying nursing, cybersecurity, education, welding, and more.

Education Partners

College of Lake County has created a last-dollar scholarship program, allowing our program to maximize our enrollment and impact.

Our Donors

Our generous partners, including individuals, foundations, and corporations, are providing critical funding to increase access to education.

OPPORTUNITY FOR NJROTC CADETS IN NORTH CHICAGO

With the support of donors like you, North Chicago Public Education Foundation is offering a Warhawk Lancer Scholarship to a graduating NJROTC cadet. With community support, we expect this scholarship to be offered annually.

For your contribution to be directed to the NJROTC Warhawk Lancer Scholarship, please indicate "NJROTC" in donation acknowledgement section online.

JOIN US WITH YOUR SUPPORT

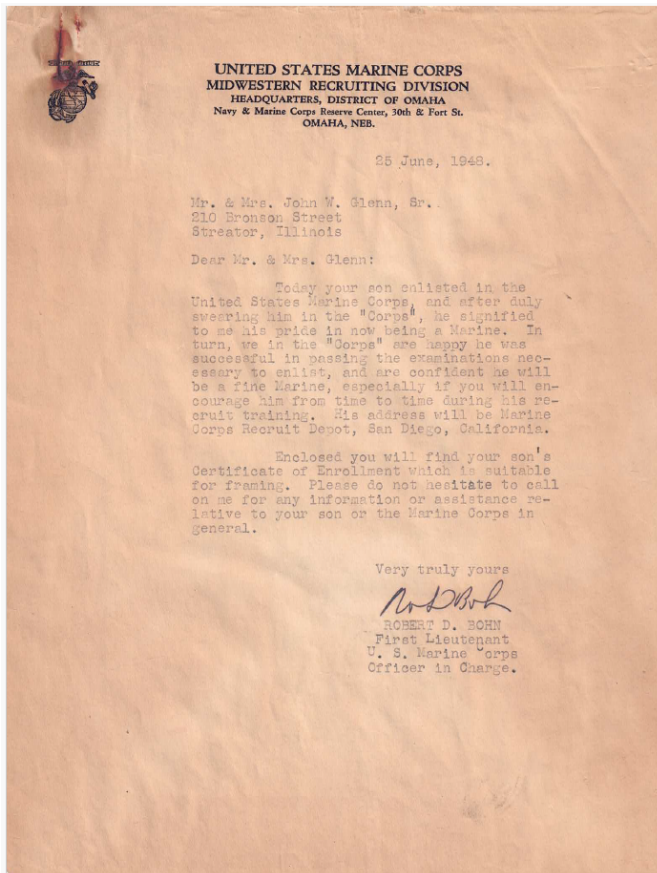


<https://ncpe.foundation>

MARINES HISTORY CORNER

Artifacts Courtesy of George Gandara

Another Marine named John Glenn joined the Marines in 1948 and his First Lieutenant Robert D. Bohn signed his papers. This First Lieutenant ended up as a Major General. He supported operations during Iwo Jima and Okinawa in 1945 and received Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V. He then served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War.



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