

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



McHenry County Marine Corps League
Invites
Veterans, Veteran Families
and Community Supporters
to the
250th Anniversary Celebration of the
United States Marine Corps Birthday
with a Special Salute to the
250th Army and Navy Anniversaries

November 8th, 2025
Crystal Lake Holiday Inn
6:00 PM til Midnight
800 Rt 31 Crystal Lake Illinois
Ceremony with Dinner Followed by Dancing
<https://www.mchenrycountymcl.com/birthday-ball/>
Phone: (815) 575-8386



WELCOMING ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM THE MILITARY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS



JOIN US IN OUR CELEBRATION OF:
250
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
1775 - 2025
CROWNE PLAZA CHICAGO O'HARE
8440 NORTH RIVER ROAD, ROSEMONT, IL 60018
FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2025
6PM-12AM

TICKET PRICES:	CASH/ZELLE	ONLINE
E-SENIOR	\$90	\$92.40
SINCO/OFFICER	\$100	\$102.50
RETIRED/CIVILIAN	\$105	\$107.55

TICKETING LINK:



FOR ASSISTANCE, CONTACT:

SGT MAJ RODRIGUEZ (SITE/SGT MAJ) 847 688 7129 EXT 203 OR EMAIL ESTEBAN.RODRIGUEZ@USMC.MIL
SGT BLAIR (S 3 TRAINING) 847 688 7290 EXT 296 OR EMAIL KENNETH.BLAIR@USMC.MIL

Save the Date - 10 November
2025 for our own Lake County
Detachment 801 250th USMC
Birthday Celebration-Gurnee
American Legion - 1800 - 2nd
floor.

Detachment Officer Nominations will open again at our next meeting on 16 September followed by the election. The following members have been nominated:

Commandant: Tom Koncan, Sr. Vice: Ed Cooper, Jr Vice: (open), Adjutant: John Jezioro, Paymaster: Nolan Webster, Judge Advocate: (open).

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

editor@lakecountymarines.com

(847) 274-8144

www.lakecountymarines.com

Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Tom Koncan
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Ed Cooper
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Allan Perez
Judge Advocate:	Peter Karlovics
Paymaster:	Nolan Webster
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
Chaplain:	Joe Womack
Asst. Chaplin	MGYSgt. Wayne Carle
Sgt. at 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:	Oliver Davidson

Our next meeting is scheduled for
16 September (Tuesday)
Start Time 1830 or 6:30 pm
Steven's Restaurant

Where Stuff Is

- #1 250th Birthday Celebrations
- #2 Where Stuff Is
- #3 Chaplain's Corner
- #4 Shake the Can & Paymaster
- #5 We Need New Members
- #6 Poster to copy and Distribute
- #7 Color & Honmor Guard
- #8 VA Hospital Visits
- #9 Toys for Tots Breakfast
- #10 Eagle Scouts
- #11 Welcome Aboard
- #12 And then Smed Said
- #13 Foundation
- #14 &15 Various Links to Good Scoop

Nominations for next year's officers will occur again on 16 September meetings. The elections take place on 16 September.

If you are not getting my emails with the meeting minutes, email me, John Jezioro at jezfamilly11@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

Next ***Shake the Can*** 6 September 1000 - 1500 See page 4.

Next Meeting 16 September 1830 — Stevens

Officer Installation and Dinner 21 October 1800 - Stevens

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message for August

The Dog Days of Summer are almost behind us, the evenings will soon be getting cooler and there will be a fresh breeze in the air. It is now time to look forward to what lies ahead.

Recent visits to Veterans at Captain James A. Lovell, Federal Health Care Center has opened my eyes to how fragile our health truly is. To hear the heart-warming stories of these individuals, rather they be Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines; and providing some modicum of support, is truly refreshing. Let us all take some time out of the day to thank the Lord for the good health we enjoy.

Finally, if you are aware of a member who is down and needs a quick boost or pick me-up, don't hesitate to give me a shout and I will gladly follow up.

Semper Fi!

Joe Womack

Chaplain

From Ed Cooper-Sr. Vice Commandant

2025 Fundraising Dates and Locations - **“Shake The Can”**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Sat, 9/6	10am-3pm	Jewel-Osco 3124 N Lewis Ave, Waukegan
Sat, 9/20	10am-3pm	Jewel-Osco 900 E Rollins Rd., Round Lake Beach
Sat, 10/4	10am-3pm	Jewel-Osco 1300 S. Milwaukee-Libertyville

Call Ed with your questions: (760) 533-3850

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

On 23 August our Honor Guard stood guard at detachment member Col. James Swab's funeral. We also fired a rifle volley. We learned a few things about Jim's service of 31 years in the Corps from his family.

The Marine officer behind President John Kennedy is Capt. James Swab, CO Marine Detachment, aboard the USS Oriskany on 6 June 1963.

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



We had one (1) visit this month on August 26th. There were four (4) of us, Nada Sydow, Warren Blacklock, Joe Womack and myself. We all thoroughly enjoyed our time with our veterans.

We visited with a 95 yr old Marine and attached is a pic I was allowed to take with his permission. As you can see there were a lot of smiles.

Our next visits are on Tuesday, September 9th. We meet in the canteen area at 1:00 pm. We would like to invite anyone from our Detachment to attend a one-time visit. You must be Covid vaccinated and a flu shot to ensure the safety and well-being of our Veterans and their families. This will provide a safe and successful volunteer experience. Anyone interested? Please contact Linda Smolich at (847) 204-5348.

LAKE REGION POST 703

US MARINE CORPS 250TH BIRTHDAY

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO CELEBRATE A GREAT CAUSE. THAT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY, NATION, AND THOSE IN NEED. THE MARINE CORPS RESERVES HAVE OPERATED THE TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WE WILL ALSO CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY. AS THEY SAY OORAH, LET'S GET IT DONE.

TOYS FOR TOTS FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025

703 US HWY 12 FOX LAKE, ILLINOIS 60020

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 0700, CEREMONY STARTS AT 0800 WITH BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW.

**\$10.00 A PLATE WITH A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY
OR \$15 WITHOUT NEW TOY.**

WE WILL HAVE SEVERAL RAFFLE PRIZES

WITH A SPECIAL RAFFLE PRIZE OF A

HAND CRAFTED US MARINE CORPS RING.

SEMPER

FIDELIS





EAGLE SCOUTS



Here is Charles Walgreen with three new Eagle Scouts and family.

We're always looking for help making these presentations.

Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144 Eagle Scout Chair

WELCOME ABOARD



Welcome aboard Donald Perini. After a few memorable weeks at Paris Island, the Corps shipped Don off to beautiful Hawaii for three years. He was assigned MOS 0331-Machine Gunner and returned to the mainland as a LCpl. in 1961.

Don and his wife, Joanne, are retired, live in Kenosha and have grandchildren.



and

then

“SMED”

CoCoRaHS

As an aside, while in Illinois, we were also supposed to record snowfall depths. This was somewhat more of a challenge as reports were to be submitted at the same time each morning. Many times it was blowing and snowing in early mornings, but I duly went out and measured snow depths at a dozen locations in the backyard and then did an averaging to take into account some instances of drifting. (Another reason my neighbors believed they lived next door to a “crazy”) Also; after measuring the gauge accumulation, we were to take the gauge indoors and melt the snow to determine the water content. This, I did and reported. A week or so later, I received an e-mail questioning my water content figures. I replied that, “During the twelve plus years employed in the Research & Development Labs at Abbott Laboratories, we had a rule that ‘When in doubt, throw it out’ if the expected results were in complete dis-array from the expected”. About a month later, I received another e-mail stating, they “had not taken into consideration the difference in Colorado dry snow and the higher moisture content relative to mid-western snow”. They were “amending their snowfall model to compensate!” It was great to realize an observation from just one volunteer could incur a change in how data was recorded.

I obviously had to close my station (#IL-LK-28) after eighteen years when we moved, but opened a new one (#FL-PS-88) here. I still love cloud formations! Nothing better than sitting in the lanai watching, and listening to the thunderstorms roll through. Quite a light show. Hope I can continue for another eighteen. Also, hope to visit all of you again next month.

Incidentally, yesterday's (24-August) rainfall measured 0.76 inches.

Semper Fidelis my friends.

SMED

Lake County Marine Corps League Foundation

Officers and Directors

President- Charles Walgreen

Treasurer- Mel Ellingsen

Secretary- Jerry Pedrin

Directors

**Jim Sroka, Ed Mampe, Warren Blacklock, Col. Jim Swab,
Al Seyler and Nolan Webster.**

The Board met on 26 August and reviewed / approved the 2024 financials and the 2025 financials to date. The Board also listened to a proposal by my high school age daughter who wants to use social media to bring attention to local veterans informing them of all the benefits their service has made available to them.

Charles Walgreen
President

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