

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



Every year some of us gather at Tom Mann's cousin's Toadstool Pub at 327 Waukegan Ave., Highwood, IL around lunch time. After a bit of celebration, we take out our Marine Colors (flags), empty the bar of its patrons and flag down a local Office of the Law to lead the way as we march around the block in honor of St Patrick and cousin Tom Mann, deceased member of Detachment 801, and retired Highwood Fire Department Captain. Come join us!!

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:	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

Our next meeting is scheduled for
17 March (Tuesday)
Start Time 1800 or 6:00 pm
St Paddy's Day Dinner
Steven's Restaurant

Where Stuff Is

- #1 Celebrating St Patrick's Day
- #2 Where Stuff Is
- #3 Chaplain's Corner
- #4 PLEASE Pay You Dues
- #5 Boat Load of Booze
- #6 Boat Load of Booze
- #7 Need More Members
- #8 Poster for More Members
- #9 Welcome Aboard
- #10 Color Guard
- #11 VA Visitations
- #12 Eagle Scouts
- #13 Smed Said
- #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)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message for February 2026

As February 2026 becomes part of history, we enter a season of reflection, self examination, and recommitment to our beliefs.

The 40 days leading up to the death and resurrection of our Lord, are filled with spiritual growth, self-discipline and gratitude, culminating, at least for Christians, in the promise of eternal life!

Our "salvation" was, and is assured, because our Lord suffered, died and rose to purchase that salvation and eternal life.

Lent is an especially good time to do some soul searching, and "house" cleaning and to put us on the right road and frame of mind, to embrace that sacrifice! It's a good time to give up something we enjoy doing, eating or drinking at least until Easter! Everyday during Lent I recite the verse "BE STILL AND REMEMBER I AM GOD". I also abstain from my enjoying something I like to do. A minuscule sacrifice compared to what the LORD DID FOR US.

Your "sacrifice" might entail going to a religious service of your preference on a regular basis, or a commitment to visit one or more of our shut ins, drive someone to their doctor's appointment, grocery shopping, maybe calling someone you haven't talked to in years! Maybe you'll commit to start a bible study program. But remember your "sacrifice" is between you and God no one else needs to know. That "something" you do may seem small and insignificant to you, but may mean the world to someone.

So, take the opportunity the season provides, and make a difference. Speak with your pastor, priest, advisor, or myself.

IT'S GREAT FOR THE SOUL!

Yours in prayer
Hank, Chaplain

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.

Marine Corps League



LAKE COUNTY MARINES DET. 801

HELP VETERANS, THEIR WIDOWS, AND THEIR KIDS
ZERO SALARIES – 100% TO VETS

BOAT LOAD OF BOOZE RAFFLE



GRAND PRIZE: SeaHawk-3 7'x4' 600 lbs Capacity w/ Oars & Pump
AND Jack Daniel's/Captain Morgan/Smirnoff/Patron/Bacardi (Over 50
Bottles) **2nd PRIZE:** 25 Bottles
3rd THRU 10th PRIZE: 5 Bottles or Case of Wine

1 TICKET - \$10.00
3 TICKETS - \$25.00



JULY 21, 2026 AT 7:00PM
STEVENS' STEAKHOUSE GURNEE, IL
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

10 PRIZES

DRAWING JULY 21, 2026 STEVENS' STEAKHOUSE

GRAND PRIZE: OVER 60 BOTTLES OF BOOZE & BOAT

**DELIVERY TO WINNERS WITHIN 50 MILE RADIUS OF
GURNEE.**



Every other year Detachment 801 hosts their Boat Load of Booze Raffle. All the money donated goes into the Lake County Marine Corps League Foundation. The Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 charity and the Detachment is a 501 (c) 4 charity. Money donated to either is tax deductible.

Come to a monthly meeting to get tickets from Charles Walgreen to sell or buy yourself. Or, print either page of this promo with the QR Code. Carry it with you and let a ticket buyer scan the QR Code with their smart phone. They then fill out all the info using a debit or credit card. Ticket stubs will be completed by the detachment and copies returned to the purchaser via email.

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



**WELCOME
ABOARD**



Welcome aboard Robert (Bob) Jones! Bob joined in 1965 via MCRD San Diego. He served for two years active; L/Cpl when he got out. Spent time in Chu Lai, Okinawa, Iwakuni, and Cherry Point.

Bob is retired and lives with Janice, his wife, in Chicago.



COLOR & HONOR GUARD



Color and Honor Guard

While I recover from ankle surgery, I have to stay off my foot. Our next color guard practice will be on 8 April. We will resume our normal schedule which is 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



Unfortunately no VA visits for the month of February! I contacted Kenny List, Chief of Community Affairs/Voluntary Services at Lovell Federal Health Care, and informed him that there are only 2 of us left to continue VA visits until the end of April and after that the Marine Corps League of Lake County, Detachment 801 will have to regrettably discontinue our program. He said, "he didn't want to lose us and we, who currently have badges but have expired can continue to wear these badges for a while. However, anyone else who is interested will have to go through the new vetting process that I've highlighted in the December Jarhead Journal. I have the paperwork to get you started. No other exceptions allowed. That means **no "onetime"** visits will be authorized any more.

Future visits are unknown at this time. Unfortunately with Nada having more bad days than good, I can't do this by myself so if anyone is interested in keeping this invaluable program going, please contact Linda Smolich at (847) 204-5348

However in the meantime, I have a list of some names of our own Detachment Members who are either ill or homebound and will begin to reach out to them beginning this month. Remember just like our own Chaplin, Henry Landrau, stated as his first official duty "is to remind us to look after each other because we are our brothers' keeper". Please let me know if you are aware of any of our members who I may call upon. Linda Smolich at (847) 204-5348.



EAGLE SCOUTS



We have presented 38 Ka-Bars to new Eagle Scouts through 28 February.

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

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



and

then

“SMED”

said

A few weeks ago, while watching the best amateur athletes in the world compete, I was reminded of an Eagle Scout Court of Honor years ago during a K-Bar presentation.

.....several years ago, I watched, (in awe) as a 28 year old young lady (who was quite out of her comfort zone) say to herself, “the race is over, and the winner has been declared. I will just go out and do my best, and hope I will finish”.

She was the last of 26 to participate, the winners had already been announced (on the air) by NBC, and though she was unknown to the rest of the world, was just going to perform her run, do her best and, history was made.

As we now know, Ester Ledecka, a Czech Republic snowboarder, on a pair of borrowed skis, a part time skier rated #43 in World Cup Super G, in an Olympic event she had never competed in before, stunned the world in the most incredible upset in Olympic downhill history by edging out the world’s favorites by one hundredth of a second to take the Gold Medal in the Women’s Super G during the 2018 Winter Olympics. Even more incredible, she also became the first person to win two Gold Medals at the same Winter Olympics using two different types of equipment.

When interviewed after the run, Miss Ledecka stated, “I was watching the scoreboard, they are going to change the time. Nothing was happening, I really don’t know what is happening. Okay, this is weird! Why do they scream?”

I don’t think any of us today will ever have the opportunity to race down an ice encrusted mountain with the whole world watching, but we each have the ability to ‘do our best’ in whatever we attempt. And, who knows?.....

What a great example of, ADAPT-IMPROVISE-OVERCOME

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 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 Veterans from all branches of the Services and their families.

We donated \$1,000 to a local Marine whose wife's car and a truck tangled with each other. He was very appreciative.

Semper Fi

Charles Walgreen
President
Lake County Marine Corps League 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.militaryorderofthedevildogs.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