

# THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant ([Commandant@lakecountymarines.com](mailto:Commandant@lakecountymarines.com))

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

On 16 September we elected our 2025-2026 Officers and we started saying Thank You to our members who have volunteered on committees. **We continue saying Thank You at our Officer Installation and Dinner Meeting on 21 October starting at 1800.** Our FY26 elected Officers and appointed Chairs will be installed.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE  
ATTENDING - CALL 847-274-8144**



## 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:	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  
21 October (Tuesday)  
Start Time 1800 or 6:00 pm  
Steven's Restaurant

#### Where Stuff Is

- #1 FY26 Officer Install and Dinner
- #2 Where Stuff Is
- #3 Chaplain's Corner
- #4 Det 801 250th Celebration
- #5 Other 250th Birthday Gatherings
- #6 PLEASE Pay You Dues
- #7 We Need More Members
- #8 Poster for More Members
- #9 Color Guard
- #10 VA Visitations
- #11 Eagle Scouts
- #12 & #13 And then Smed Said
- #14 Foundation
- #15 & #16 Various Links to Good Scoop

If you are not getting my emails with the meeting minutes, email me, John Jezioro at [jezfamily11@ameritech.net](mailto: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

Detachment 801 250th USMC Birthday  
Celebration on 10 November 1800  
Gurnee American Legion Post 771

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

## **Chaplain's Message for September**

Spiritually, September stands for Harvest, Grounding and Alignment. It's the month where lessons learned begin to settle, clarity arrives after a season of growth, and the wisdom you have cultivated asks you to slow down and take a deep breath.

Covid---unfortunately it's back in the news again. Be vigilant and get your Covid shot followed closely by the Flu vaccine. Several people have reported receiving both vaccines simultaneously that have produced a great level of discomfort and bad side effects. Be cautious and aware.

Be cognizant of your neighbor and offer help when needed. More importantly---thank God for his blessings and don't forget to take care of yourself.

Semper Fi!

Joe Womack

Chaplain



**LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**250TH USMC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!**  
**10 NOVEMBER 2025**

Join your Marine and Corpsman brothers and sisters as we celebrate the 250th USMC Birthday on 10 November 2025 starting at 1800. Yes, we're gathering on Monday evening (the actual 250th birthday) at the Gurnee American Legion Post 771 2nd floor. We will read General John A. Lejeune's 1921 Birthday Message, cut the 250th Birthday Cake, view the Commandant's 250th Birthday message, enjoy some pizza and raise a glass to toast our beloved Marine Corps.



## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

**The 250th USMC Birthday occurs only once in your lifetime. Don't miss this opportunity to attend a 250th Birthday Ball.**



**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:



**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	\$92.50
SINCO/OFFICER	\$100	\$102.50
RETIRED/CIVILIAN	\$105	\$107.55



FOR ASSISTANCE, CONTACT:

SGT MAJ RODRIGUEZ (SITE:SGTMAJ) 847 688 7029 EXT 203 OR EMAIL: ESTEBAN.RODRIGUEZ@USMC.MIL  
SGT BLAIR (S & TRAINING) 847 688 7020 EXT 236 OR EMAIL: KIMBERL.BLAIR@USMC.MIL



## LAKE REGION POST 703

### US MARINE CORPS 250<sup>TH</sup> 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 8<sup>TH</sup>, 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



# 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

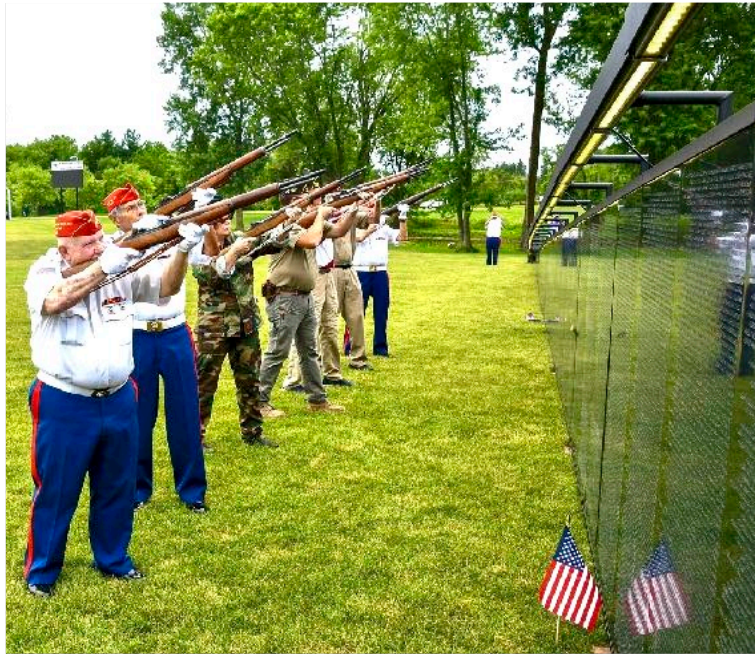
**SEMPER FIDELIS**







## **COLOR & HONOR GUARD**



### **Color and Honor Guard**

Our Color Guard will Present Colors at these activities:

- 10/10 Grant High School Football Game honoring Veterans
- 11/8 Toys for Tots Breakfast - Fox Lake American Legion
- 11/10 Victory Lakes Assisted Living
- 11/11 Lindenhurst Veterans Memorial
- 11/12 Round Lake Orchestra Salute to Veterans

The color guard has practice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (2) visits this month in September. There were four (4) of us, Nada Sydow, Carol & Ed Mampe and myself on September 9th. Unfortunately Joe Womack is in Wisconsin for 5 weeks & Warren Blacklock isn't able to attend. On September 23rd it was Carol & myself as Ed had a VA appt that day. We visited the entire 4<sup>th</sup> floor ward. We have orders not to enter any room that has the door shut; however there was a nurse that said I'll knock for you and we were introduced as the "Marine Ladies" to the three young Navy recruits that were injured in boot camp. Carol said, "I guess some rules are meant to be broken". An Army vet said, we don't have any Army volunteers like the Marines do! We also encountered an Army veteran that said he just came from visiting his Marine buddy and if we would be sure to see him ... and we certainly did. Had a great day and enjoyed every visit.

Our next visits are scheduled for Tuesdays, October 14th and the 28th. 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.



## EAGLE SCOUTS



Here is Joe Wallace getting ready to help this new Eagle Scout cut his Eagle Scout Cake!

We're always looking for help making these presentations.

Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144 Eagle Scout Chair



and

then

**“SMED”**

said ....

## CoCoRaH

Most, or many folks traveling this far south only think of Florida as, UNIVERSAL-DISNEY-BEACH! Coming for family vacations, these three things are topmost in their minds. Florida is a little more complicated than that! The second largest growing state in the Union, (just behind Texas, in consternation to some residents already here) is a land of alligators, snakes and insects, some of which are nearly as large as some birds. It is also a land of elevated temperatures and high humidity, sometimes bringing on some pretty extensive rainy weather. In fact, as I write this, it is currently raining. Yesterday we had  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of rain. Seven days ago, we had one half inch. On the eighth of this month, we had one and three quarter inches.

How do I know all of this? Well, I belong to a group named "Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network (CoCoRaHS, established 17-June-1998).

I have had an interest in cloud formations and weather since back in Eighth Grade Science Class when my instructor (Ruth White) introduced a session in weather and actually coached me in constructing a functional barometer. I was hooked! Many years later, (2006) when invited to join a fledgling group of volunteers from the University of Colorado in Fort Collins, I jumped at the opportunity. One of Chicago Meteorologist Tom Skilling's assistants visited and coached me in correctly setting up an all-weather rain gauge to record and submit daily accumulations. My daily readings along with others from all across the Nation were submitted online to be recorded and forwarded to the National Weather Service and from there to Meteorologists in cities across the U.S. to be used in their televised weather reports.



and

then

**“SMED”**

said ....continued

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.

Incidentally, yesterdays (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,  
Al Seyler and Nolan Webster.**

We received no requests for assistance this past month.

Semper Fi,

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](http://www.lakecountymarines.com/newsletters)**

# Marine Corps League (MCL) Resources

## Websites:

[www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org) – MCL national website – **SHIPS STORE**

[www.mcleaguelibrary.org](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org) – MCL national public documents / resources

[www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/mclnational) - MCL National

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064587650733](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064587650733) Chicago Area MC Co-Council

[www.facebook.com/groups/67134899955](https://www.facebook.com/groups/67134899955) 2<sup>nd</sup> District Facebook

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068070852934](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068070852934) Department Facebook

[www.facebook.com/groups/48678176402](https://www.facebook.com/groups/48678176402) Detachment Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/groups/mclhonorguardandcolorguard](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mclhonorguardandcolorguard) - MCL Honor Guard / Color Guard

[www.facebook.com/groups/447677227018622](https://www.facebook.com/groups/447677227018622) - MCL National Membership Committee

[www.facebook.com/groups/mcluniforms](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcluniforms) - MCL Uniforms Buy-Sell-Trade

[www.facebook.com/groups/mclconnections](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mclconnections) - MCL Connections (MCL members only)

[www.facebook.com/groups/usmccollectibles](https://www.facebook.com/groups/usmccollectibles) - USMC Sell Your Sh\*\*!

## Other:

[www.youtube.com/themarinecorpsleague](https://www.youtube.com/themarinecorpsleague) - Click “subscribe” for new content

[www.instagram.com/hqmcl](https://www.instagram.com/hqmcl) – MCL national Instagram

[www.militaryorderofthedevidogs.org](http://www.militaryorderofthedevidogs.org) – MODD Kennel website

[www.nationalmcla.org](http://www.nationalmcla.org) – MCL national Auxiliary

[www.linkedin.com/company/marine-corps-league](https://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](mailto:publicrelations@mcleague.org)**