

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



Linda Smolich won the Ugly Sweater contest for the gals.



Andres Morales won the Ugly Sweater contest for the guys.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

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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:	Oliver Davidson

Our next meeting is scheduled for
17 February (Tuesday)
Start Time 1830 or 6:30 pm

Steven's Restaurant

Where Stuff Is

- #1 Ugly Sweater Contest Winners
- #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 Color Guard
- #10 VA Visitations
- #11 VA Visits New Policy
- #12 Eagle Scouts
- #13 Foundation Report
- #14 Links of Information
- #15 More LInks

If you are not getting my emails with the meeting minutes, email me, John Jezioro at jezfam11@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 January 2026

It is with a humbled heart that I accept our Lord's calling to be your chaplain once again. I would like to thank our Marine brother Joe Womack, for his years of dedicated. Service on our behalf. I also want to pray and ask for prayers for him and his family. May our Lord and Savior bless them and keep them.

I also want to ask for prayers for our beloved detachment, leaders and members. At this moment in our history, we have the opportunity to do good for our detachment, our league and our community. It is up to us together, to chart pour course. Let this new year, be a new beginning, to refocus and double our efforts for the good of our detachment! This may mean lending our talents, time and efforts to funding raising, visiting our hospitalized, and home bound warriors, and saying "present" on committees and special events! We all must commit to do our part, and together we will succeed!

I look forward to finishing Joe's term in office, and serve you to the best of my ability with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Semper Fi,

Hank Landrau

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 DETACHMENT 801

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 info 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:

Presented Colors and Escorted the contestants at the Lake County Girls Pageant.

The next color guard has practice 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, there were no VA visits during January! Future looks a little bleak at the moment, however, what I'd like to do is reach out with a phone call to our own Detachment Members who are ill or homebound. I would also send them a card from our whole Detachment. Carol suggested I could send the cards she and Ed Mampe bought for our veterans on our VA visits. It's extremely important to let all our own members know that we think & care about them too!

If you are home bound, give Linda a phone call.

I'm in the very beginning process of getting vetted again. I just filled out an application for regular employment. (Yes, you read this correctly) It's mandatory that all volunteers have to do this. I heard it's a very long process and I will keep everyone posted. Covid vaccines are no longer required; however you must have a flu shot and proof is required. You must also have a Real Illinois State ID (with a Star on it) or a passport in order to proceed with the vetting process.

Future visits are unknown at this time ... so if anyone is interested in keeping this invaluable program going, please contact

Linda Smolich at (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 continued 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



We have presented 37 Ka-Bars to new Eagle Scouts through 31 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

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

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.

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](http://theillinoismarine.com) _____ Department website

_____ [https://lakecountymarines.com](http://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