

THE **JARHEAD** JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



[Click here to see all the St Paddy's Day pictures.](#)

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal

Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

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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
21 April (Tuesday)
Start Time 1800 or 6:00 pm
Steven's Restaurant
Watch Man Mike Bertucci will bring
his Military watches to sell.

Where Stuff Is

- #1 Celebrating St Patrick's Day
- #2 Where Stuff Is
- #3 Chaplain's Corner & Moving On!
- #4 2026 Fund Raising
- #5 PLEASE Pay You Dues
- #6 Boat Load of Booze
- #7 Boat Load of Booze
- #8 Need More Members
- #9 Poster for More Members
- #10 Welcome Aboard Andy
- #11 Welcome Aboard George
- #12 Color Guard
- #13 Eagle Scouts
- #14 Major James Capers
- #15 Memorial Picnic
- #16 Foundation Report
- #17 Links of Information
- #18 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.

SAVE THE DATES

[America All Hands Conference May 16th 1000-1300](#)

Memorial Day Picnic - 30 May (Saturday after Memorial Day)

Ride the float in Waukegan Parade on June 28th

VAC 100 Years Celebration - June 27th 1200 - 1600

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message for March 2026

Please look forward to Hank's message next time. He is currently on sick leave.

Its Time to Move On

My research reveals that Tom Smolich published the Scuttlebutt prior to Erich Richey releasing his first issue in November 2012 of the *Jarhead Journal*. After 48 issues, Erich passed his pen to me. I shared my first issue in November 2016. Since then, I have enjoyed sharing with the detachment members our activities each month. After publishing 108 issues of the *Jarhead Journal*, I'm going to pass my pen to Charles Walgreen. For me, it has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. I hope you have enjoyed my contribution to the Lake County Detachment 801 these past nine years.

Charles Walgreen, and his wife Catherine, will publish their first issue of the *Jarhead Journal* as of June 2026 when the *Jarhead Journal* will become a quarterly publication. As needed, email blasts will continue to keep the detachment informed of future activities.

Semper Fi,

Mel Ellingsen

2026 Fundraising Dates (Shake the Can)

Sat, 4/25 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco. 966 Route 59 Antioch

Sat, 5/2 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco, 885 E. Belvedere RD. Grayslake

Sat, 5/9 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco 1300 S. Milwaukee, Libertyville

Sat, 5/16 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco 900 E. Rollins Rd., Round Lake Beach

Sat, 5/30 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco 6509 W Grand Ave (Hunt Club & Grand Ave), Gurnee

Sat, 6/6 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco, 885 E. Belvedere RD. Grayslake

Sat, 6/13 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco 1300 S. Milwaukee, Libertyville

Sat, 6/20 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco 6509 W Grand Ave (Hunt Club & Grand Ave), Gurnee

Sat, 6/27 10am-3pm Jewel-Osco 900 E. Rollins Rd., Round Lake Beach

****All Members:**

Please participate in some of these dates!

These fundraisers support our various programs throughout the year such as our dinners and the Memorial Picnic!

Hopefully most of you can assist for 1-2 hours or more on a Saturday;
not really much to ask, right?

Please contact me with any questions, suggestions, etc.

Thank you!

Ed Cooper

760-533-3850

ecooper1968@yahoo.com

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 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, Andy Toth! Andy started his time in the Corps at Paris Island. Then off to Vietnam as a 0311 grunt! He left the Marines in 1967 as a Corporal (E-4) following time at Camp Pendleton. Andy lives with his wife, Rhonda, in Gurnee. They spend their retired time with their grandkids.

WELCOME ABOARD



Welcome Aboard, George Garndara! He joins us as a transfer from Det. 1408 in Chicago. Did boot camp at San Diego in 1976. Then on to Camp Pendleton with MOS 0311 and was trained as a Chaser. Discharged at a Cpl in 1979. Wanted more and retired from the US Army after serving 20 years as an M.P. (a story for after the next meeting).

Married with great and grand kids. Retired after 32 years in law enforcement. Lives in Lake Villa.



COLOR & HONOR GUARD



Color and Honor Guard

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 in the bar.

Join us when we post Colors at Mission BBQ on 16 May!

Our next event is Memorial Day at Lindenhurst; meet at 9:15.

Ed Mampe - Color Guard Commander

PH #847-641-9689



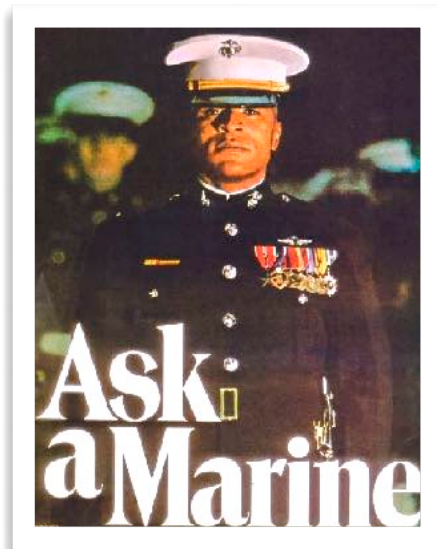
EAGLE SCOUTS



We have presented 44 Ka-Bars to new Eagle Scouts through the end of March. We have requests 17 more presentations through May.

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



Do You Remember Major James Capers?

Sure you do. This picture was used for many, many years following Vietnam as a recruiting tool. Charles Walgreen met him at a 3rd Force Recon Reunion at Camp Lejeune. Watch the news reports because Maj. Capers has been recently selected for the Medal of Honor.

Here is a link to watch a [documentary about his life](#). Use "Capers" as a password.

Also, here is a link to an article about Maj. Capers: The [Legend of Jim Capers](#): The Hero who Never was!



Spring has sprung!!!

The tulips are blooming!!!

Time to get off your Blooming Butts and get with the Program.

MEMORIAL PICNIC and COOKOUT

Saturday 30 May - 11:00 am

Foss Park

MEMORIAL -

The Members of 801 now guarding the streets of heaven will be Honored with the reading of their Names, firing a rifle Volley and playing Taps.

COOKOUT – Fun and Games begins!!

Fabulous Burgers and Brats!

Bring a Dish to pass and bag chair to sit on.

Let us know if you are attending and what dish you'll bring to pass.

HELP NEEDED - Work party to set up Canopies, Tables, Grills, Etc. -- 9:30 at the Park. Clean up crew when done.

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> _____ 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