

DECEMBER
MEETING CHANGED
TO TUESDAY, 23RD
OF DECEMBER
1800!!!

CHRISTMAS PARTY
RESCHEDULED TO
20 JANUARY 1800.

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Tom Koncan, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



Commandant Tom Koncan cuts the cake, oldest Marine is Art Castillo, youngest Marine is Andres Morales. [Click here for more pictures.](#)



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:	Joe Womack
Asst. Chaplin	MGYSgt. Wayne Carle
Sgt. at Arms:	Carter Mitchell
Asst. Sgt. of Arms	Andres Morales
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 December (Tuesday)
Start Time 1800 or 6:00 pm
(Special Start Time)
Steven's Restaurant

Where Stuff Is

- #1 250th Celebration
- #2 Where Stuff Is
- #3 Christmas Party
- #4 Chaplain's Corner
- #5 Sr. Vice Commandant Message
- #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 Toys for Tots
- #13 & #14 And then Smed Said
- #15 Various Links to Good Scoop
- #16 More Llnks

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 DATE

16 December 1800

Detachment Christmas Party



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don We Now Our UGLY Sweater!!!!

Det. 801 used to go to Saluto's for a Toys 4 Tots party. We had great fun there, but they have now closed so we will have our own Christmas party! When our December 16 meeting ends, the party begins!! Meeting starts at 6:00 PM.

Bring your spouse or significant other for the festivities.

What to expect-----

Ugly sweater contest - Prizes for winning male and female.

Xmas piñata

Large ball of "things" to unwrap

Det. 801 band!! 1st. appearance

Christmas songs – let's sing along

Exciting magic act

Free non-alcoholic drinks (on your own for alcohol)

Cookies to nibble

Let's all laugh and enjoy the joys of the season!!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Message for November 2025

November honor's several groups and causes, most notably Veterans Day and Remembrance Day on November 11; which commemorates military veterans and war dead. This year is significantly more special because it being the 250th Anniversary of our beloved Marine Corps. Here's hoping that you have all been able to celebrate this milestone in your own way.

Spiritually, it symbolizes, remembrance, introspection and transition and as the year winds to a close; a time of reflection on life and death. On a more positive note, it's time for giving thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us including the start of the holiday season.

This has been a very good year for our league and we should take pride in our accomplishments. Thanks go out to all who have contributed and supported our success.

Enjoy the holidays!

Semper Fi!

Joe Womack

Chaplain

Greetings and Salutations from the Sr. Vice Commandant

As our fundraising campaign for 2025 comes to an end, we've raised over \$10,000!

This would not have happened without the outstanding efforts and dedication of our Members who volunteered.

Thank you to all that contributed their valuable time to greatly assist in successful fundraising in 2025!

Semper Fi!

Ed Cooper
Sr. Vice Commandant

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:

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 didn't make it to Lovell on the 2nd Tuesday due to many personal schedule conflicts. Of course, Thanksgiving got in the way as well.

We will be back at the VA on the 9th and again on the 23rd so please join us.

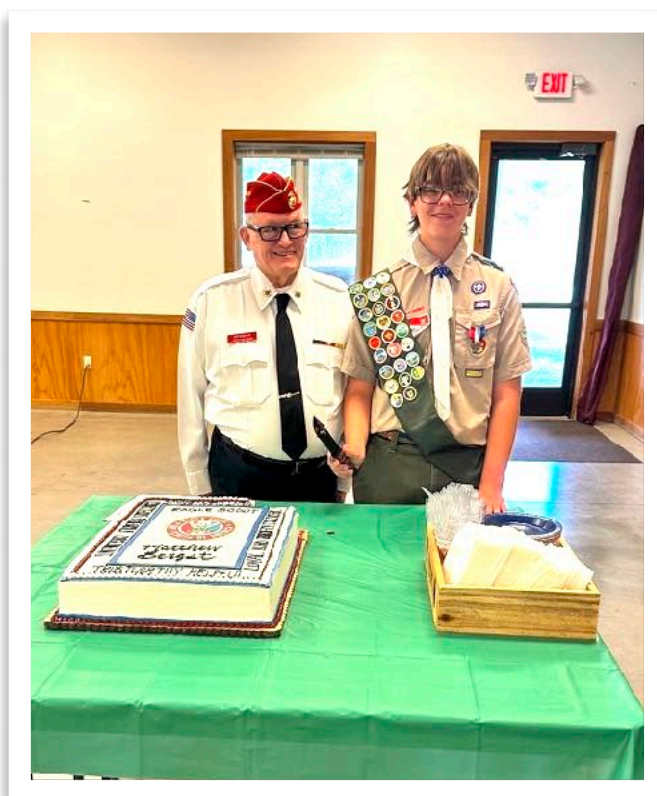
We normally visit the VA on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month and if anyone is interested to please contact me. I certainly hope I have a better December to report on.

Respectfully,

Linda Smolich
847-204-5348



EAGLE SCOUTS



Joe Wallace with a new Eagle Scout!

We have eleven Eagle Scouts scheduled through 4 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 Chair

FALL CLASSIC GOLF OUTING

Detachment 801 held a golf outing at the Shepherd's Creek Golf Course back in October. The results of play and trophy presentation will be made at our December 16 meeting.

CHRISTMAS TIME AT OUR "SPECIAL PLACES"

There are several organizations that are not eligible to sign up to receive toys because they are, by law, barred from disclosing any information about their occupants. These organizations are Lake County administered facilities for sexually abused children and battered women shelters. Det. 801 has been getting toys for them as our "special places". Last year the staff approved giving a \$2000 donation to MACG 48 and up to \$1000 to support our "special places". We would replace the money in our normal spring and summer fund raising.

It was a tough challenge, but a small group of hard-working members went to work and pulled it off. We not only got the toys but did not use the \$1000 from the Detachment. In fact, we gave an additional \$616 to our Toys 4 Tots account.

This year is an even bigger challenge. The MACG 48 coordinator will not give us any boxes or allow us to do anything. "His Marines will do it all."

Ed Cooper has done a great job in finally getting the S/Sgt to deliver some toys to our "special places". However, Toys 4 Tots will not have anything for kids over the age of 11. The Foundation has voted to allow us up to \$2000 to buy things for the older kids. Backpacks, hair dryers, beauty things for girls. Socks, socks, socks!! Girls don't just wear them on their feet. They use them as gloves, hair ties, belts and purses!

We will again go shopping at the Zion Walmart where we get tax free, discount and grant. They open a special register to check up through and assign associates to help us shop.

At our last meeting members began making donations for our "special places". If you would like to make a donation to help, make out your check (or cash) to Lake County Marines Foundation or Det. 801 and earmark it for "special places".

WE WILL ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION!!



“DIX”

“PIX”

PAINTING the FENCE

It took a while to determine the best job I ever had was as Technical Advisor for The Christie Group, Inc. in Elk Grove Village. When Tom J. interviewed me, I asked what would be the limitations to my responsibilities, he shrugged his shoulders and his neck disappeared. (He was a former High School wrestling coach) He stated, “What?? “Do I look technical? “That is what I am hiring you for. “Two rules- Always make the boss look good, and never lie to a customer.” That had never happened to me previously. I grabbed that job!

Oh, sure, he would often ask why I had done something a certain way, but when presented with the reason(s), he never corrected me. He just nodded his head and said, “Okay, now I understand.” In all the years I reported to him, this procedure was followed, and we never had a misunderstanding. Never!

Ever since Seventh Grade Wood Shop class, I had followed Mr. Bjorlin’s instructions that before beginning any project, “make out a plan of procedure”! For the next seventy years, I have pretty much followed Mr. B’s rule whether at home, in the Marine Corps or working in other jobs.

When working with a customer and presented with a problem, regardless of what had been implemented prior to my visit, I formulated a plan of procedure, starting with step number one. On several occasions, when beginning from where the customer had left off, I had to eventually backtrack due to a step being omitted. This wasted time for us both, so after several mis-steps, I always followed my original plan of procedure. (Start with step one and follow through, in order.)

That was usually compromised in “The Corps” due to the fact that whether it was a Corporal or an Officer the order came with their directions on how to implement the task. I was always instructed to perform it their way. I was seldom allowed to “Adapt – Improve – Overcome”. When I did “A-I-O” there was usually some heavy explaining required. It became a game; when can I, or cannot because will it come back and bite me.



“DIX”

“PIX”

PAINTING the FENCE-part 2

How does this all relate to the title of this missive? I will try to explain. In later years, and being more independent (sometimes spelled s-u-r-l-y), I was given a task with instructions on how it should be implemented. I would reply; “There are a number of ways to paint a fence; (1) left to right, (2) right to left, (3) top to bottom, (4) with the grain, (5) against the grain, etc. etc. “ As long as the fence is painted, why do you care which procedure is used? “If it has to be done your way instead of mine, and as long as the results are the same, paint the damn fence yourself!”

Occasionally, someone will approach me in the middle of a project and offer to assist and I usually refuse their help. Because I am following my “plan”, each step is in sequence. With their assistance, the sequence steps always become entwined and something is invariably omitted, requiring my going back to correct it. It is usually much more efficient to complete the task solo than to reformulate a new plan of procedure for two to follow. If my plan is going to require help, I will request it before starting, and, with a different plan.

In The Corp’s and in private life, anyone reporting to me was always allowed to perform the given task their way once the objective had been thoroughly explained and the results would match my expectations. Occasionally, one of them would show me a better, and faster result.

This may not be the correct way, but it certainly is not the wrong way. It is just my curmudgeonly way. It has worked for me over seventy years, so I will persist. I rest my case!

See all of you next month?

**Semper Fidelis my friends.
Smed**

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.**

Our foundation was very busy last month and approved the following donations:

- 1.) \$1,250.00 to Christian Liberty Academy for a Christmas Eve luncheon/ dinner for 50 Great Lakes Naval Recruits.
- 2.) Up to \$2,000.00 to supply items for three groups in Lake County of kids over 11 years old of which Toys For Tots does not assist.
- 3.) \$2,000.00 for a detachment member for a down payment on a new car (our Marine walked away from a total loss of car without injury).
- 4.) \$1,000.00 donated to a detachment member who had a family loss to cover funeral arrangements.

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 all branches of services and their families.

Semper Fi

Charles Walgreen
President
Lake County Marine 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.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