



Leatherneck Knowledge



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CENTRAL ILLINOIS LEATHERNECK DETACHMENT # 988

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Kevin D. Keller

Senior Vice Commandant

Rick Probus

Junior Vice Commandant

Brandon Cruz

Sergeant at Arms

Eian Poblador

Editor

Kevin D. Keller

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Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

Our Detachment meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the John H. Krause VFW Post #454 at 1006 East Lincoln Street #1, Bloomington, Illinois 61701 at 1900 hours.

Meeting Dates for the 2020

January 14 February 11 March 10 April 14 May 12 June 9 July 14
August 11 September 11 October 13 November 10 December 8

COMMANDANT'S CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR MARINES

I hope this New Year bring you health, happiness, wealth and a new year with new goals for our Detachment. We have been successful in recruiting New Members and have moved from the small conference room to the main ballroom. Our December meeting for the first time we ordered pizza for those in Attendance and it was well received by all. Our meeting is now attended on Average from 8 to 10 Marines. This is an outstanding improvement. We need to Continue to grow and improve. In March our biggest fund raiser of the year will take place along with 3rd Staff Conference for the Department of Illinois will be held in Bloomington. In June the Department of Illinois Conference will take place and August the National Marine Corps League Conference will be held in Daytona, Florida. Let's make this our best year so far. Semper Fi!!!!

Central Illinois Leatherneck Detachment #988



Detachment Commandant

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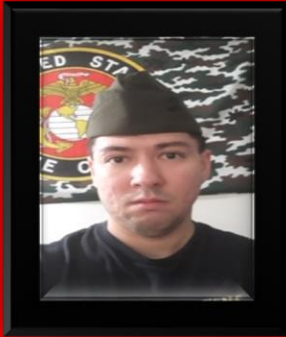
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Junior Vice Commandant

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Cell: 1(970)396-1520



Sergeant of Arms.

Eian Poblador

Email:



Paymaster/Adjutant

Dave Edwards
904 Star Drive
Heyworth, Illinois 61745
Email: die41@aol.com



Chaplin

Gina Keller
14030 Lara Trace
Bloomington, Illinois 61705
Email: illinigirl65@yahoo.com

Life Members

Rick Clem Roger Dahl Dave Edwards James Howard Kevin Keller
John Maitland Dennis Meeks Russel Radley Allen Starkey Fred Strieff
Art Wynn

Members

Richard Babica Brandon Cruz Nike Pate Andrew Swan Rick Probus
Richard Parker Daniel Metz Mark McNeely Brandon Kleckner James King
Todd Harmon Eian Poblador Michael Douglas
Gina Keller – Associate Member

Membership Statistics

Life Membership

Total Members:	24	Annual Renewal Goal: 100 %	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Costs</u>
Associate Members:	01	Percent of Goal Meet: 90 %	0 – 35	\$500.00
Active Duty:	00		36 – 50	\$400.00
Life Members:	12		51 – 64	\$300.00
			65 – Over	\$200.00

Detachment Awards

Veterans Service Officer

2018 Membership Streamer
 2019 Membership Streamer
 2019 Dept. of IL. 75th Convention Streamer
 2019 National Convention Streamer
 2019 National Meritorious Unit Citation

Chris Grant GySgt USMC
 National Guard Armory
 1616 South Main Street, Room 117B
 Bloomington, Illinois 61701
 Hours of Operation: 0800 to 1600 hours
 Phone: 1(309)827-5811



RECRUITING

If you see a Marine, ask a Marine to Join the League.

No, it is not that simple as to just ask to join our organization. If you see a Marine go over and talk to that Marine. Do not ask about joining but ask that Marine about their career so far. Ask where stationed and MOS and thanks for your service. You have to establish a connection between you and the Marine you are talking to. Remember this is to get them to talk about their service not for you to talk about yours. After a few minutes of discussion then bring up the Marine Corps League.

A key is you need to have knowledge of the Marine Corps League and you can get this knowledge by reading the bylaws and going to the National and Department of Illinois web site and reading over all the information. This way when you are asked question about the League you will have the answers. Always carry application with you wherever you go. If possible, get business cards made with your information on one side and meeting times and place on the other. This way you have both knowledge and are prepared.

Repatriation

On Tuesday December 17, 2019 three Detachments in the 4th District were honored to be part of the repatriation of PFC Jack Benson Van Zandt. Jack was born in Danville, Illinois. After graduation he moved to Indianapolis area for work and where he then joined the United States Marine Corps. Jack after boot camp and initial training deployed, landed and fought at Guadalcanal. Then Jack's unit deployed again but this time it was Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands. On November 22, 1943 PFC Jack Benson Van Zandt paid the ultimate sacrifice. It took from November 22, 1943 until October 4, 2019 for Jack to be found and his family to be notified. On December 17, 2019 at 1300 hours honors were given and a final resting place for this Marine. Danville, Urbana and Bloomington Detachment's of the Marine Corps League attended and provided a Color Guard. Also, in attendance the local American Legion, Patriot Guard Riders and the United States Marine Corps Reserves out of Terra Haute, Indiana. Approximately 20 of Jack's family members were in attendance. Rest in Peace Brother. Semper Fi!

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS FUND RAISERS



This is the Marine Corps League Department of Illinois 75th Anniversary Challenge Coin. The cost is \$10.00 each. All money goes to the Department of Illinois for funding for programs.

If interested, please contact:

Kevin D. Keller
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Department of Illinois – Marine Corps League
Senior Vice Commandant

RAFFLE

1st Prize: Your choice of a SPRINGFIELD ARMORY M1A 7.62 or \$1,000.00 CASH
Or a 2-night getaway for 2 at the Herrington Inn and Spa in downtown Geneva, Illinois

2nd Prize: SIG SAUER P320 (9mm) (or similarly priced weapon), or \$500.00 CASH
The Drawing will be held at the 2020 Department Convention, Saturday, June 20, 2020.
Ticket cost \$10.00 each. Winner need not be present to win.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2020

DATE

EVENT

6 -7 **MARINE MILITARY EXPO – MARINE WEST EXPOSITION.**
Marine West is held at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. Marine commands throughout Southern California send delegations to visit this annual exposition. Marine West showcases the latest technology and prototypes aimed at preparing today’s Marines for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st Century.

27 – 29 **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE – NATIONAL MIDWINTER CONFERENCE**
The 2020 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia.

SHERATON NORFOLK WATERSIDE HOTEL
777 WATERSIDE DRIVE, Norfolk, Va. 23510
RESERVATIONS: 1-800-325-3535
OR
CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT AT (757) 622-6664

MARCH 2020

DATE

EVENT

Annual St. Patrick’s Day run. the Detachment provides road guards. This is currently our biggest fund raiser of the year. All are needed for this event. Date to be announced. Mark your calendars.

19 – 20 **DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS 3RD STAFF MEETING**
3rd Staff meeting will take place in Bloomington, Illinois at the Best Western Plus 604 1/2 IAA Dr, Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone number is: (309) 808-0628

JUNE 2020

DATE

EVENT

17 – 21 DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CONVENTION

The Department convention take place at the Magnusson Grand Hotel and conference center Carlinville, Illinois. Take interstate 55 and get off at exit 60. Rate is \$69.50 plus 10% tax for a total of \$76.45. Complimentary breakfast included. Restaurant on site and will be Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Bar, Indoor pool and Business center Along with outside area and fitness center. Cutoff date for price is May 20, 2020. Phone number is: 1(217)324-2100 for reservations.

AUGUST 2020

DATE

EVENT

8 – 15 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2020 National Convention will be held at the:

HILTON DAYTONA BEACH

Oceanfront Resort, 100 N Atlantic Ave

Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

For reservations call 866-536-8477 with code MCL20.



TRAVEL PLANNER

Members now have access to over 600,000 lodging options worldwide, and at rates up to 65% off or more. The Marine Corp League Travel Planner sources rates from dozens of supplier channels to bring you the best rate and terms for your hotel for your specific dates. You can also book flights and other travel services right from the site. Make the Marine Corp League Travel Planner your one-stop shop for travel and SAVE Now. Also, you can get unmatched group lodging rates for weddings, reunions, team sports, or any of your special events.

Vets4Warriors

Vets4Warriors is the leading national peer support and resource connection network for veterans, service members, family members and caregivers who need answers and understanding from someone who knows what they are going through.



Marine Corps League members can use Veterans Holidays! Veterans Holidays is a “Space Available” program that offers veterans the opportunity to enjoy vacations at popular destinations around the world – for the incredibly low price of just \$349.00 US Dollars per unit, per week. Those eligible and their family and friends have access to spacious accommodations at more than 4,000 resorts, apartments, condominiums and homes in more than 100 countries. Membership with Veterans Holiday is FRRE to all veterans of the U.S. military.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE



The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that's available to anyone, even if you're not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. The caring, qualified responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances.

- Send a text message to 838255 to connect with a VA responder.
- Start a confidential online chat session at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat).
- Take a self-check quiz at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Quiz](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Quiz) to learn whether stress and depression might be affecting you.
- [Find a VA facility](#) near you.
- Visit [MilitaryCrisisLine.net](https://www.militarycrisisline.net) if you are an active duty Service member, Guardsman, or Reservist.
- Connect through chat, text, or TTY if you are [deaf or hard of hearing](#).

www.veteranscrisisline.net

Call: 800-273-8255 and Press 1

GOVX

(From their website) Patriots like you deserve the best deals and savings. That's why we built GovX exclusively for the men and women who've served our country.

Every day we work to create the ultimate members-only experience for current and former uniformed professionals, with exclusive deals on on-duty gear, apparel, technology, event tickets, travel and a lot more.

At GovX, we go beyond outstanding deals. Every month, our GovX community comes together to raise funds for a deserving non-profit in the military/first-responder space. We call it GovX Gives Back.



VETTIX.ORG

Give Something to Those Who Gave.

(From their website) Vet Tix * provides tickets to events which reduce stress, strengthen family bonds, build life-long memories and encourage service members and veterans to stay engaged with local communities and American life. We support our troops by honoring their service and providing positive family and life experiences, during and after their years of service to our country.

Vet Tix provides tickets to all branches of currently serving Military and Veterans, including immediate family of troops KIA.

Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets.

HIRING OUR HEROS

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes initiative launched in March 2011 as a nationwide effort to connect veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses with meaningful employment opportunities.

Working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's vast network of state and local chambers and strategic partners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, our goal is to create a movement across America in hundreds of communities where veterans and military families return every day.

Our digital resources include distinct resume builders for veterans and transitioning service members as well as military spouses; a jobs portal that allows veterans and service members to search for employment opportunities in America's fastest growing job markets and industries; an interactive employer best practices site; and a virtual mentorship program that connects veteran and spouse protégés with experienced mentors.

These online tools have also been integrated into the employment workshops that take place at hundreds of our fairs. Our goal is to ensure veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses are able to utilize our resources to connect with employers no matter where they are in the world.

MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK



Marine For Life Network (M4L) connects transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service. The Marine For Life Network offers Marines and family members connections to military-friendly employment, education, and other Veteran and community resources. To connect with our LinkedIn network please visit us on <https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network>.

www.usmc-mccs.org/services/career/marine-for-life-network/

Marine Corps League POC: David Ossian

email: dossian@mcleague.org



SEMPER FI FUND

Supporting Our Heroes recover, transition, & thrive. Semper Fi Fund focuses on innovative and effective programs that make a difference. They provide financial assistance and lifetime support to post-9/11 combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured service members and their families. You are not alone. From injury through recovery, comprehensive programs improve the lives of wounded veterans and address the unique needs of their immediate families.

- **Service Member and Family Support Program – Bedside Financial, Housing Assistance, Transportation Assistance, Kids Camp, Canine Program, Horsemanship Program, Adaptive Equipment, Caregiver Support & Retreats**
- **Transition Program – Education & Career Assistance, Veteran 2 Veteran Support, Apprenticeship Program, Veterans & Unit Reunions, Odyssey Retreat**
- **Integrative Wellness Program – Neuro Fitness, Specialized Equipment, Counseling, Doc's Corner, Post Traumatic Growth Video Resources, and Sports Program**
- **LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Fund for Vietnam Veterans – The program will expand the mission to care for veterans from all US military service branches who are catastrophically injured from combat operations in Vietnam.**

www.semperfund.org

Call: 760-725-3680



FOCUS MARINES FOUNDATION

The mission of Focus Marines Foundation (FMF) is to develop and administer programs for wounded warriors which will assist them in their transition from military to civilian lives. FMF developed a weeklong program called FOCUS, located west of St. Louis, Missouri. The program is conducted four times each year with a maximum of 30 per class. Participants arrive on Saturday and depart the following Saturday.

If you or someone you care about is struggling with the transition from military life to civilian life, you are not alone and there is help! Many men and women who have left the military are experiencing the same problems, like:

- **ANXIETY:** Quick to anger. The smallest things can trigger anger
- **DEPRESSION:** Lacks motivation, focus and purpose. Not working or attending school
- **ADDICTION:** Addicted to drugs, alcohol, porn or video gaming
- **INSOMNIA:** Poor or erratic sleep. Little or no sleep at night and little sleep during the day
- **ISOLATION:** Avoids public places, friends and family
- **RELATIONSHIPS:** Problems with family, friends and coworker relationships
- **NEGATIVITY:** Most things have a negative meaning, the glass is always half empty
- **SELF-DOUBT:** Lacks self-confidence and has lost pride and self-respect

www.focusmarines.org

Call: 314-243-4140

email: help@focusmarines.org

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FOUNDATION.



The foundation has a blocked scholarship fund which assists funding the Marine Corps League's Scholarship Program. These scholarships are granted to children and grandchildren of members of the Marine Corps League and its Ladies Auxiliary. Applications are encouraged by League members from every state and the local sponsoring Detachment is responsible for determining that the applicant(s) it is sponsoring have demonstrated through activities or interviews that values such as respect, attitude, patriotism and self-discipline are held.

The Foundation supports the educational activities of the **Young Marines of the Marine Corps League** and the **Youth Physical Fitness Program** of the Marine Corps League. Both of these programs have been widely recognized as being very effective in the area of drug prevention and character development. The Young Marine of the Year is awarded recognition in the form of funds to further their education. The Youth Physical Fitness National Team Competition is held annually, and top scoring male and female teams and individuals are recognized with cash awards.

The foundation provides Humanitarian Aid through grants to individual Marines and families of Marines who are in a difficult position due to circumstances beyond their control. The needs are verified by local Marine Corps League officials, who often rally local Marine Corps League members to provide additional assistance as needed.

Phone: 301.455.3362

email: president@mclfoundation.org





SEMPER K9

Marine Combat veteran founded and operated, Semper K9's mission is to enhance the quality of life for wounded, critically ill and injured members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families by providing them assistance dogs. Using rescued and donated dogs we provide service dogs for psychiatric alert and mobility challenges free of charge to wounded service members to enhance their quality of life.

www.semperk9.org

Call: 571-494-5144



The Marine Executive Association is a national, volunteer, non-profit organization of former and current active duty Marines. MEA provides resume review, job hunting tips and tools, job posting by employers, resume posting by Marines, and resume and interview coaching by volunteer Marines.

www.marineea.org

email: ExecDir@MarineEA.org

TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS (TAPS)



The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is the leading national organization providing compassionate care and survivor support services for the families of America's fallen military heroes. Since 1994, TAPS has offered support to more than 80,000 survivors of fallen military in the form of peer-based emotional support, grief and trauma resources, grief seminars and retreats for adults, Good Grief Camps for children, case work assistance, connections to community-based care, online and in-person support groups and a 24/7 resource and information helpline for all who have been affected by a death in the Armed Forces. Services are provided free of charge.

www.taps.org

TAPS Helpline: 800-959-8227 (TAPS)

SUBSIDIARY/SUBORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS

MCL AUXILLARY

MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS

MCL FOUNDATION

MARINE OF THE YEAR SOCIETY

U.S. MARINE YOUTH FOUNDATION

YOUNG MARINES

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

U.S. MARINE CORPS

VETERANS AFFAIRS

