



# Leatherneck Knowledge



Published by: Marine Corps League  
Central Illinois Leatherneck Detachment #988  
Volume 20, Edition 04 April 1, 2020

CENTRAL ILLINOIS LEATHERNECK DETACHMENT # 988

## Commandant

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

May 12 June 9 July 14 August 11  
September 11 October 13 November 10 December 8

## COMMANDANT'S CORNER

This year has started out with the world fighting again a terrible epidemic. As we have retreated into our homes and practice social distancing. This is a Time to take great care in what we do and how we act so as not to spread this Virus. We will not be meeting on April 14, 2020 for this reason. The May meeting will be decided at a later date depending upon the status of the virus we all Are battling. I will be reaching out to the Detachment members this month. Our New Detachment Polo Shirts are at the embroidery shop. As soon as I pick them Up I will let everyone know. Memorial Day is next month and if the Bloomington Has a parade with our new Detachment Polo Shirts it would be outstanding if we Could participate as a Detachment. Just keep this on your calendar for now as Our next event. Please be care, safe and reach out to someone if in need or just to Talk if needed. Semper Fi!

Central Illinois Leatherneck Detachment #988



**Detachment Commandant**

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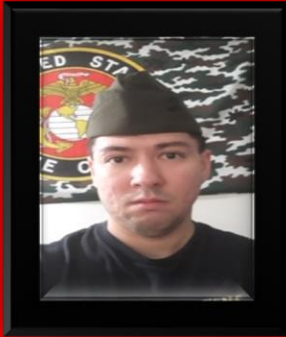
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**Sergeant of Arms.**

Eian Poblador  
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**Paymaster/Adjutant**

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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  
Todd Harmon    Eian Poblador    Michael Douglas    James King    Daniel Metz  
Richard Parker    Mark McNeely    Brandon Kleckner    Gina Keller    Wyatt Miller

**Membership Statistics**

**Life Membership**

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

**Detachment Awards**

**Veterans Service Officer**

2018 Membership Streamer  
 2019 Membership Streamer  
 2019 Dept. of IL. 75<sup>th</sup> Convention Streamer  
 2019 National Convention Streamer  
 2019 National Meritorious Unit Citation  
 2019 National Americanism Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.

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.

**PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA PROMOTION CODE**

We now have a promotional code from Papa John's as a fundraiser for our Detachment. Anyone can use this code as many times they wish and save 30% on their pizza order. Out of the 30% the Detachment will receive 10% per order. Every quarter we will receive a check in the mail. The checks will be mailed to your Detachment Commandant but addressed to Central Illinois Leathernecks and then of course deposited into the Detachment banking account. The promotional Code is: **DET988**. Give this code to everyone you see and talk to. Everyone loves pizza and saving money along with helping local veterans. So, pass the word to one and all.

**DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS FUND RAISERS**



This is the Marine Corps League Department of Illinois 75<sup>th</sup> 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  
14030 Lara Trace  
Bloomington, Illinois 61705  
Email: [kkeller64@yahoo.com](mailto:kkeller64@yahoo.com)  
Cell: 1(618)554-1540

Department of Illinois – Marine Corps League  
Senior Vice Commandant

**RAFFLE**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

**APRIL 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. Awaiting new dates.

25 – 26

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS 3<sup>RD</sup> STAFF MEETING  
HAS BEEN CANCELED TO DUE THE CORONA VIRUS.

**MAY 2020**

**DATE**

**EVENT**

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF DATES AND TIME.

**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.**

**MARINE OF THE YEAR FOR 2019**

**AT THE MARCH 2020 MEETING THE DETACHMENT  
NOMINATED AND VOTED ON THE MARINE OF THE YEAR  
FOR 2019. A VOTE WAS TAKEN AND KEVIN D. KELLER WAS  
CHOSEN BY A UNANAMOUS DECISION.**



## 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 FREE 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](https://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](http://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/](http://www.usmc-mccs.org/services/career/marine-for-life-network/)



### **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](http://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](http://www.focusmarines.org)

Call: 314-243-4140

email: [help@focusmarines.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.marineea.org)

email: [ExecDir@MarineEA.org](mailto: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](http://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

## [From the National Marine Corps League Website](#)

### [Coronavirus \(covid-19\) info](#)

Please know that our headquarters continues to serve as best we can remotely.

Moving forward, the Ship's Store ordering is temporarily closed until we can normalize operations.

We do expect the Mail, UPS, and FedEx receiving to be affected by the overall change in operations and are working to provide continuity or to temporarily halt the flow of paperwork. Remember that Report of Officer Installations can be emailed.

While the Marine Corps League is not an expert regarding the Coronavirus, we want to provide some resources you can refer to:

[President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America](#)

[White House Updates](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[Center for Disease Control](#)

[Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[Visit Our Library for Additional Information](#)





**Take a coffee break**  
and help support injured and seriously ill members  
of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

50% OF ALL PROFITS BENEFIT  
SEMPER FI FUND | AMERICA'S FUND  
"Supporting those who serve our great nation"

**JARHEAD JAVA**  
100% COLOMBIAN ARABICA COFFEE  
- BOLD ROAST -

100% Colombian Arabica  
Gourmet Coffee

12 CUPS

Our mission is simple: provide exceptional 100% Colombian Arabica gourmet coffee while providing support and assistance to those who serve our great nation. With your purchase, Jarhead Java will donate 50% of all profits to the Semper Fi Fund and its program, America's Fund.

To find out more about our coffee and our mission: [www.jarheadjava.com](http://www.jarheadjava.com)  
Check out our Facebook page for tastings at MCX locations.

TO BENEFIT  
SEMPER FI FUND | AMERICA'S FUND

Get social with us  

## Jarhead Java

Jarhead Java has teamed up with the Marine Corps League! Jarhead Java has a new shopping page and is offering FREE SHIPPING! Please go to [jarheadjava.com](http://jarheadjava.com) and select the flat rate box containing the items you desire, and then use the coupon code MCL at checkout for FREE SHIPPING! We will then make a cash donation for each order placed using that code to the Marine Corps League - this as well as our regular donation of 50% of profits to the Semper Fi Fund/America's Fund to support our wounded heroes from ALL branches of our military. Jarhead Java is 100% Colombian Arabica - "BOLD ROAST" - coffee. Great coffee for a great cause!

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## WHAT WE DO

The Marine Corps League is proud to support our Marines in many areas. We have 10 Divisions covering 48 Departments, and over 1,140 Detachments in communities across the Country.

We support the [Toys for Tots](#) efforts working with the [Marine Corps Reserve](#) and [Toys for Tots Foundation](#) to raise millions of dollars for the youth of America, collect and distribute millions of toys all across the United States.

The Marine Corps League provides funeral honors support to over 10,000 funerals per year. This support allows the Marine Corps (Active and Reserve) to focus more of their resources on mission preparation.

The Marine Corps League supports the [Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation](#), [Semper Fi Fund](#), [Navy Marine Corps Relief Society](#), [Mack's Marines](#), and the [Young Marines](#).

We have several scholarship/award programs including the [Merchant Marine Academy](#) Marine-Option Honor Graduate, [Marine Corps University](#) Lt-Gen Lejeune (uh-jern) Leadership Award, Delta Dental Scholarship, and college scholarships through the [Marine Corps League Foundation](#).

One of our most critical missions is assisting transitioning Marines and their families in support of the Marine Corps' [Marine for Life](#) program.

With our partners at the [Marine Corps Association and Foundation](#), we produce the [Marine Military Expositions](#) including [Modern Day Marine Expo](#), [Marine West Expo](#), and [Marine South Expo](#).

The Marine Corps League produces a quarterly publication called the Semper Fi Magazine.

**We have many programs supporting our Marines, their families, and our community:**

**Veteran Service Officers (VSO)**

**Scouting/Eagle Scout Program**

**Marine Roses Program**

**POW/MIA Remembrance**

**Rifle and Pistol Competition Matches**

**Volunteer Assistance Veterans Service (VAVS)**

**Color Guards**

**THE END**