



The Few. The Proud.

The DuPage MCL Detachment 399

mcleague399.org

Meeting at DuPage Memorial VFW Post #2164 · 0N731 Papworth Rd. · Wheaton, IL 60187

2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

Officers

Commandant: M Albertus
 Sr Vice Comdt: P Beaudion
 Jr Vice Comdt: H Quiroga
 Paymaster/Adjutant: V. Cobbett
 Chaplain: D. Kenyon
 Judge Advocate: R Kollias
 Sgt at Arms: R Gaden
 Assistant: M Mikulecky
 Jr Past Commandant: J. Olejnicki
 Trustee: vacant (2023)
 Trustee: J. Meschi (2024)
 Trustee: L. Olson (2025)
 Trustee: C. Wingard (2026)

Committee Chairs

Bingo: R. Gaden
 Color Guard: R Gaden
 Eagle Scout: D. Kenyon
 Fund-Raising: L. Olson
 Historian: D. Igrisan
 News Memo:
 V. Cobbett/ D. Igrisan
 Picnic: G. Bormann
 Quartermaster: R. Kollias
 Scholarship: V. Cobbett
 Special Awards:
 J Olejnicki/V Cobbett
 TFT: D Bowman/R Kollias
 VAC: J. Meschi
 Valentine Party: L. Bellow
 Web Sgt: J. Stanovich

Website

www.mcleague399.org

To contact any officer:

websgt@mcleague399.org

FEB 2 GROUNDHOG DAY!
FEB 28 #399 General Meeting begins 1930, *Zoom* access;
 Board meeting begins 1830
MAR 17-19 Dept 3rd Staff meeting and Training Session
MAR 28 #399 General Meeting begins 1930
 1st round Officer **Nominations**, *Zoom* access;
 Board meeting begins 1830

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT #399

Hello fellow Marines, It was great to see everyone after the Holidays. Glad to see everyone was doing well. We are exploring new ways and opportunities for fund raising and recruiting new members for our detachment. Having fund raising tickets for booze raffles, meat raffles, Gun raffles were just some thoughts; if you have ideas bring them to the next meeting. More good news as we are going to buy our own laptop, a step in the right direction. Hoping to see everyone on February 28th meeting. Semper Fidelis, Merrill Albertus



2022 TOYS FOR TOTS

"EVERY CHILD DESERVES A LITTLE CHRISTMAS"

Thank you to all of our #399 members and their families who volunteered for the 2022TFT campaign. The annual success of DuPage County depends on you and your generous donation of time. Co-ordinator: Diane Busman

Assistant co-ordinator: Rita T. Kollias

Detachment members and their Family Volunteers: Nadia Baran, Linda J. Bellow, Emanuel Bucur, Chuck Bruser, Anthony Cobbett, Benjamin Cobbett, Victoria Cobbett, Roger Gaden, Russell Gaden, Lynne Grezek, Cortney Heiman, CWO4 Patrick J. Kackert, Brian Kollias, Robert Kulseth, Javier Martinez, John Meschi, Larry Olson, Nikola Prvulov, Hector Quiroga, Ronald Sassano, Richard Schie, John Schmitt, Ed Weingartner, Charles Wingard, Charles Wingard, jr., and Darlene Wingard. (We apologize if any names were omitted.) Ms Busman reported there were a total of (171) volunteers for the entire campaign. The local impact for DuPage County included 84,917 toys distributed to 44,127 children and approximately 500 Families; over 70 charitable organizations assisted; and 53 events to donate toys.

DEPARTMENT OF IL MCL THIRD STAFF MEETING (19 March) and TRAINING SESSION (18 March)

The Dept Third staff meeting will be held at **Ramada by Wyndham**, (3281 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL 62702); use **(217)-523-4000** for reservations and **mention the MCL Training**. Lodging will be reimbursed for all training attendees through an MCCC grant.

Friday night, a corned beef and cabbage or Italian beef dinner will be available for \$12. Contact Renee McGuan: rsm1455@yahoo.com or 815-751-1455 and mail checks to 35C colonial Manor, Highland, IL 62249 to reserve your dinner.

Saturday, 0900-1600, a training session will be presented to learn everything you always wanted to know about Officer duties: Commandant, Sr Vice, Jr Vice, Chaplain, Paymaster, Sgt-at-Arms, and JA. A representative from IDVA will be speaking before the training begins and available for questions or concerns. At the conclusion of the day, a presentation on preparing MOY submissions will be presented. A stipend for mileage and meals will be provided.

Sunday, the Department Staff meeting begins at 0830 and will allow you to learn about all of the Department activities and committees and meet fellow Marines from around the state. If you are able, do attend this informative weekend.

SCHOLARSHIPS 2023

The Dept IL MCL Scholarship may now be *submitted electronically*. Instructions are available on the Illinois Marine website. Also, *the date for submission has changed to 1 March*.

#399 Detachment scholarship instructions are unchanged.

National MCL scholarship information can be obtained online.

Any questions, contact Department scholarship and Detachment scholarship Chairwoman Victoria Cobbett: text 630-330-2571 or email v.cobbett@comcast.net or telephone 630-257-6423 and leave a message.

NATIONAL MCL The Marine Corps League National Scholarship program, www.mclnational.org is open to all Marines and their family in the USA seeking an undergraduate degree. Requirements for applying and other FAQ's may be found at: <https://www.mclnational.org/youth-development-programs.html>. Questions regarding the Program may be directed to Mike Rainbolt, mike@1040Quick.com, Phone: 609-744-5684.

DEPARTMENT IL MCL The Barbara M. Olejnicki Memorial Scholarship program is a grant that is available to Department of IL MCL, MCLA, & MAL members family who are IL High School Seniors. The Application may be emailed or postal mailed and must be received by **1 March 2023**. Instructions may be downloaded at: <https://theillinoismarine.com/>.

DETACHMENT #399 MCL The Sgt. Thomas Gilbert Memorial Scholarship program is a grant that is available to detachment members and family. Application & Instructions may be downloaded at: www.mcleague399.org. Hardcopies are available by request at every meeting. If you are planning to pursue or currently are obtaining any type of educational advancement whether scholastic or technical or vocational, apply for the scholarship. Your information is kept confidential and secure. All applications must be postmarked no later than **30 June 2023**. No online applications are accepted; postal mail only.

SECOND DISTRICT MEETING

The Commandant, Sr vice, Jr vice, and Adj/Paymaster attended the second district MCL meeting on 21 January at the American Legion hall in Arlington Heights. Several successful fundraising ideas from other detachments were shared. Commandant Albertus gave a review of our detachment activities and events. Sr vice Pete Beaudion and Jr vice Hector Quiroga contributed ideas and suggestions for fundraising and membership. The need for members to attend the department convention June 22-25 and especially on Saturday 24 June to vote for the leadership of this department was emphasized.

DETACHMENT ELECTIONS

Your detachment needs you to step forward. Think about getting involved in your detachment! YOU CAN DO IT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. The meeting on 21 MAR 2023 is the first round of officers' nominations for 2022-2023. Second round of nominations and election of officers is at our 25 APR 2023 meeting. Would you like a copy of duties of each office? Look at learning about each office or, moving up in office? Our DUPAGE COUNTY DETACHMENT MCL BY-LAWS lists duties of each office.

MEMBERSHIP

R.I.P. We had two members that answered their last roll call during December last year:

Marine J. Andrew "Andy" Doyle - answered his last roll call 10 DEC 2022

Marine Bernt A. "Bret" Monsen Jr., answered his last roll call 27 DEC 2022



Andy was sworn into DuPage Marines on 27 JAN 1998, became a Life Member on 6 FEB 2002

Detachment Offices held: Sr. Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate,

Committees: Comptroller, Membership, Public Relations

Activities: Valentine's Day Parties, Corn Roast, Elmhurst Elmfest, Downers Grove Fest, Wheaton Fest, Delegate to Dept. of IL State Conventions



Bernt was in the Marines 1953-1961, Korea, MOS 0323 Recon MOS 0341 Mortarman, Cpl.

Bret was sworn into DuPage Marines on 9 MAY 1979, became a Life Member on 4 SEPT 1980

Activities: Corn Roast Booths-DuPage County Fair, Elmhurst Elmfest

Members who were sworn in to MCL 399 over Twenty Years Ago:

Daniel E. Igrisan – 34 years, sworn in 21 February 1989

Richard A. Anderson - 23 years, sworn in on 22 February 2000

Fredrick H. Schwerdtner - 34 years, sworn in on 21 February 1989

PRAYER LIST

Please keep Pete Beaudion, Marty Bourgeois, John Burlace, Charlie Castino, Mike Deegan, the Gaden Family, Roland Johnson, Kyle Michael Koener, Vito Markas, Mike Mikulecky, Richard Nazimek, Terry Owens, Harper Orbell, Sharon Passero, Read Rogers, and Thomas Stuckey in your thoughts and prayers. **Many of our members have long term illnesses or disabilities** and a word of good cheer may brighten their day; some have recent illnesses or hospitalizations and are on their way to recovery. Some of the names on our prayer list have lost their Marine and some are in long-term residences away from family and friends and some are precious family members and some are friends of the detachment.

Some of our members wish to remain anonymous, but still need to be in our prayers.

DUES

All annual dues HAVE expired! If you have any difficulty paying your dues, contact Paymaster Cobbett (630-257-6423 or 630-330-2571) and confidentiality will be maintained. Membership is carried on the roster for two years and then remove by National MCL. Marines take care of their own.

Consider becoming a Life Member – After One (1) year of membership, any member can become a Life Member of the Marine Corps League.

Life Membership costs:	Age Group	\$
	0 – 35	\$500.00
	36 – 50	\$400.00
	51 – 64	\$300.00
	65 – Over	\$200.00

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Congratulations to Javier Martinez who has been nominated for VFW National Teacher of the Year. Javier

received his undergraduate degree in Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and was commissioned as an Officer in the Marine Corps. He served on active and reserve duty in the USMC from 1982-1992 attaining the rank of Captain. He later earned a graduate degree in Education from Aurora University in Illinois and he has taught at Kaneland High School since 2007. His areas of expertise include: World History, Foundations of American Democracy, Armed Conflict & International Relations, US History, and American Studies. He further makes an impact as a school council advisor and athletic coach. He encouraged and directed their education through travel projects to American Military cemeteries in Europe and Civil War battlefields throughout the USA, along with motivational classroom teaching skills. His students not only toured these sites and received a real-time experience in history, but learned to serve as they tidied-up and policed the historical sites they were visiting. He has been the coordinator for the USMCR Toys for Tots program for over a decade. He currently serves as one of only eight national trainers for the Medal of Honor Society's Character Development Pro-

gram which trains teachers in how to use the stories of Medal of Honor Recipients to teach students to live the Core Values exhibited by our nation's heroes. We commend his accomplishments and wish him the best with the selection committee. Pictured above, Commander Robert Rose VFW Post 5819 presenting Javier with first certificate of award and advancement to Department level with Aux Sr Vice President Cobbett.



Remember to wear your Red Fore & Aft Cover!

SEMPER FIDELIS



Improvise!

Adapt!

Overcome!