



The Few. The Proud.



The DuPage MCL Detachment 399

mcleague399.org

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

OFFICERS

Commandant: M Albertus
 Sr Vice Comdt: H Quiroga
 Jr Vice Comdt: P Beaudion
 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: J. Meschi (2024)
 Trustee: L. Olson (2025)
 Trustee: C. Wingard (2026)
 Trustee: E. Weingartner (2027)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

WEBSITE

www.mcleague399.org

2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

4 May Vietnam Veterans Vigil, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield
19 May MCL #399 Bingo at Hines Hospital
27 May Memorial Day (observed)
28 May #399 Installation & Buffet Dinner BEGINS 1930
13-16 June Dep IL MCL Convention, Northfield Inn, Springfield
16 Jun MCL #399 Bingo at Hines Hospital
25 Jun #399 General Meeting begins 1930

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT #399

Hello Fellow Marines.

Congratulations to your 2024-25 elected officers. They will be sworn in at the detachment meeting on 28 MAY 2023.

Commandant:	Hector E. Quiroga
Sr. Vice Commandant:	Rita T. Kollias
Jr. Vice Commandant:	John M. Schmitt
Judge Advocate:	Daniel E. Igrisan
Adjutant/Paymaster:	Victoria L. Cobbett
Sgt. At Arms:	Roger C. Gaden
Chaplin:	Donald J. Kenyon
Jr. Past Commandant:	John R. Olejnicki
Trustee (2025):	Larry J. Olson
Trustee (2026):	Charles W. Wingard
Trustee (2027):	Ed Weingartner
Trustee (2028):	John P. Meschi

I want to thank everyone for having the confidence in me to be the commandant these past two years, I truly enjoyed the time in office. The slate of new officers will take place May 28 at 6:30 pm with a catered dinner to begin at 7:pm. I hope to see everyone there. Thank you again.

Semper Fidelis Merrill Albertus

MAY DETACHMENT MEETING INSTALLATION AND BUFFET

There will be not be a full meeting on 28 May, but rather a simple opening ceremony, installation and presentation of special awards. By consensus, bi-annual member and volunteer awards will be presented at the July meeting.

If you will attending the installation dinner, please RSVP Vicki (630-330-2571 or v.cobbett@comcast.net) by text or email so the food order might be accurate.

6 April 2024 – Romeoville HS MCJROTC program hosted the Physical Fitness Test contest. Master Gunnery Sergeant Jonathon Couturier, who spoke at our 26 March meeting, is the CO of the program and oversaw the contest. Invited guest judges included our PDC Victoria Cobbett (boys & girls push-ups) and Chaplain Donald Kenyon (boys & girls 50-60 yard shuttle/dash).



Vicki Cobbett MGySgt Jonathon Couturier, Don Kenyon



Judge Victoria Cobbett

HINES BINGO

Bingo at Hines VA Hospital is becoming more popular with the inpatient veterans. The April bingo was another successful afternoon of gaming. There were (8) volunteers: Lynne Grezek, Roger Gaden, Elizabeth Gaden, Sherri Walsh, Pat Weingartner, Larry Olson, Brittany Michel and Virginia Carino. Next bingo is Sunday, 19 MAY 2024. come join the fun Upcoming dates are:

19 May 2024 16 June 2024 21 July 2024 18 August 2024

DuPage Marines are reserved for the third Sunday of each month through 2024. Join us to bring some cheer to our fellow Veterans in long-term hospital care. Muster at 1345 and game with the inpatient veterans until 1530. Contact Roger Gaden (630) 854-9587 for further information or questions.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our own Marine Sarah Tholotowsky. Marine Tholotowsky graduated from Firefighter/Paramedic school and is a probationary FF/EMT for the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District on 8 APR 2024. Vicki Cobbett attended the ceremony and provide these pictures.



Marine Sarah Tholotowsky with fellow Probies



Vicki Cobbett, Sarah Tholotowsky, Chief Krestan

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on Saturday 20 APR 2024 at the Gary United Methodist Church, 224 N. Main Street in Wheaton IL. The MCL Good Citizenship Award and a USMC Ka-Bar were presented to Eagle Scouts Benjamin Adkins and Harvey Fiorato by Donald Kenyon & PDC Victoria Cobbett.



Photo above with Eagle Scouts Benjamin Adkins and Harvey Fiorato

A new Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be held on Wednesday, 15 MAY 2024 at 1900 at the Gary United Methodist Church's sanctuary, 224 N. Main St. in Wheaton. We will be presenting the MCL Good Citizenship Award & an USMC Ka-Bar to the Eagle Scout.

May 11, 2024 at 1500, Presenting to three Eagles Scouts the MCL Good Citizenship Award at Grace Community Christian Church, 2770 Montgomery Road in Aurora.

ES Chair Don Kenyon will need assistance - please contact Chairman Kenyon if you can assist, Cell: 630-561-8741 or E-Mail: dskenyon@sbcglobal.net

FUNDRAISING

Chairman Olson has Flag/Rose fundraising events scheduled at **Bartlett Jewel on 4 May** from 1000-1400. The **Wheaton Jewel (Schmale & Geneva Roads) has been changed to 23 May** which is Memorial Day weekend so there may be further updates on that location. **The 4 May Bartlett date is final**; a reminder email will be sent about both dates.

PLEASE COME ON OUT YOUR DETACHMENT NEEDS YOU! Contact Larry Olson: call or text: 630-569-7395, e-mail: OLY18@comcast.net

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships Programs for 2024 are available at the detachment, department and national levels. They are:

1. The DuPage Marines Sgt. Thomas Gilbert Memorial Scholarship program, www.mcleague399.org available to detachment members and family Applications are due by 30 June of the current year.
2. The Dept. of Illinois Barbara M. Olejnicki Memorial Scholarship program, www.theillinoismarines.com available to any High School senior Illinois MCL family member Applications are due by 1 March of the current year.
3. The Marine Corps League National Scholarship program, www.mclnational.org, open to all Marines and their family in the USA.

Application & Instructions for the **detachment scholarship** may be downloaded at: www.mcleague399.org
Hardcopies of the packet are available by request at every meeting from Vicki Cobbett (v.cobbett@comcast.net)

If you are planning to pursue or currently are obtaining any type of educational opportunity 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 2024! No online applications are accepted; postal mail only.

A huge Thank You to Member Lynne Grezek for another generous donation to our scholarship fund in memory of her brother, Wayne Grezek.

MCL NEWS

NATIONAL MCL

The National MCL link has all sorts of information for the Marine Corps League.

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library/>

DEPARTMENT OF IL MCL

The ILLINOIS MARINE is the department website: <https://theillinoismarine.com/> You can access information about all things Marine Corps League. Contact information: The Illinois Marine, 1005 Prairie Street, St. Charles, IL 60174-3638, Phone: 630 564-1804 fax: 630 377-9638

Email: usmc1962@comcast.net (Don Haines) or lori@bwbgraphics.com (Lori Boyle) to place news articles.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS: Think about all the activities and events from 2023 and recognize special effort. Talk to Merrill about completing an application for a department award. Then send any nominations for awards to Dept Jr Vice Commandant V. Cobbett (or give to her at a meeting). We need to recognize our outstanding members and their actions.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Scheduled **14-16 June 2024** at Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL., Phone: 217 523-7900. Room rate 96.00 + 14% tax = \$109.44. Call the hotel directly to use the MCL rate.

We are allowed 11 delegates from #399 to vote for any motions or elections.

DETACHMENT MCL

The DuPage Marines detachment website is: mcleague399.org. If you have information or suggestions for content, email to Dan Igrisan (deiggy1@gmail.com) or Vicki Cobbett (v.cobbett@comcast.net) or maybe volunteer to become our social information chairman.

Our Marine for Life (M4L) representative is Captain Jennifer Slown USMCR. Jennifer transferred into DuPage Marines last year. She is also a member of WMA IL-2, the Naperville American Legion and Naperville VFW. On 21 April, she was awarded the **2024 Naperville American Legion Citizen of the Year**. Detachment member and State Representative Stephanie Kifowit presented her with a Certificate of Recognition from the Illinois House of Representatives. Congratulations, Jennifer!



PRAYER LIST

The prayers for hope and healing of members and family include Merrill Albertus, Marty Bourgeois, John Burlace, Charlie Castino, the Gaden Family, Roland Johnson, Kyle Michael Koener, Vito & Amy Markas, Mike Mikulecky, Richard Nazimek, Terry Owens, Harper Orbell, Sharon Passero, Read Rogers, John Schmitt, and Thomas Stuckey. Remember them in your thoughts and prayers. If you need an address for a card or a number for a phone call, contact Chaplain Don Kenyon or Adjutant Vicki Cobbett. Some of our members wish to remain anonymous, but still need to remain in our prayers. Marines are proud and stubborn!

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

DuPage Marines are looking for Marines! Make sure you get credit for being a recruiter/sponsor. Five new members recruited in a detachment year (May 1- April 30) rates the Detachment Recruiter Ribbon.

ANNUAL DUES

If you pay annual dues, all expire annually on 31 August 2023, regardless of the month you joined!. This means renewal notices will be arriving soon. You are very important to our detachment. Anyone can experience financial problems, don't be so proud. If you have difficulty paying your dues, please contact Paymaster Vicki Cobbett, (v.-cobbett@comcast.net, or text 630-330-2571) and confidentiality will be maintained.

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Members who were sworn in to our detachment over twenty years ago:

- ★ Norman V. Mareci 45 years, 9 May 1979
- ★ Michael D. Peters 34 years, 21 May 1990
- ★ John R. Olejnicki 25 years, 25 May 1999
- ★ Richard J. Schie 24 years, 23 May 2000

Members who were sworn in to our detachment over fifteen years ago:

- ★ Donald L. Kenyon 15 years, 26 May 2009
- ★ Michael Gilbert 13 years, 12 May 2011

Members who were sworn in to our detachment over ten years ago: None

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

- ☒ COME ONE, COME ALL TO YOUR DETACHMENT INSTALLATION ON OUR REGULAR MEETING NIGHT OF 28 MAY AT 6:30 PM. Homemade deserts or hors d'oeuvres are welcome. Enjoy an evening with friends and family and meet your new detachment officers. Bring a potential member to meet us at our best!
- ☒ Try to check on one other whether by phone, visit, or mail. MARINES TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN!
- ☒ Send me your MCL events and photos for the newsletter
- ☒ Remember to wear your Red Fore & Aft Cover

Improvise!

Adapt!

Overcome!