



The Few. The Proud.

The DuPage MCL Detachment 399

mcleague399.org

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



2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

1 Apr	Illinois Elections
6 Apr	Veteran baby shower, 260 S Washington St Carpentersville,
15 Apr	Tax Day
20 Apr	EASTER
22 Apr	#399 General Meeting begins 1930, Zoom access; Board meeting 1830 DETACHMENT ELECTIONS
26 Apr	Spring Staff, Bloomington
27 May	#399 Detachment Installation of Officers & Dinner
6-7 Jun	Department Convention, Crystal Lake
24 Jun	#399 General Meeting begins 1930, Zoom access; Board meeting 1830

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT #399

Dear Marines and Navy Corpsmen,
We are more than a force—we are a family. Look out for one another, both in and out of uniform. Check in, have each other's backs, and never hesitate to lend a hand or ask for help. Our strength lies in our unity, and no Marine or Corpsman stands alone.

Stay sharp, stay strong, and take care of each other.

Semper Fi,
Hector Quiroga, Commandant

ELECTIONS 2025-2026

DuPage Marine Corps League is looking for a few good Marines and Associate Members. You are needed. The second round of nominations and election of officers is at our 27 April 2025 meeting. Join us and think about a position for yourself. Some members have double or triple duty as an elected or appointed Officer and a Committee Chair. If you wish to become more involved, perhaps a Committee membership is the way to begin. Bingo at Hines Hospital long term care facility, the TFT annual campaign, the DuPage County Veterans Day program, or the volunteer picnic committees always need help. The Eagle Scout and Fund Raising Committees need reliable volunteers; and any of the listed committees could use another volunteer. Ask the Commandant or current Committee chair about joining a committee. You can make a difference. Look at moving up in office and learning about each office. Would you like a copy of duties of each office? The Dupage County Detachment by-laws lists the duties of each office. Or contact Judge Advocate Dan Igrisan at deiggy1@gmail.com for a copy of by-laws or ask at the meeting. The current roster of nominations for the 2025-2026 year is:

2024-2025

OFFICERS

Commandant: H Quiroga
Sr Vice Comdt: R Kollias
Jr Vice Comdt: U Beaudion
Paymaster/Adjutant: V. Cobbett
Chaplain: D. Kenyon
Judge Advocate: D Igrisan
Sgt at Arms: R Gaden
Assistant: M Mikulecky
Jr Past Commandant: J. Olejnicki
Trustee: L. Olson (2025)
Trustee: C. Wingard (2026)
Trustee: E. Weingartner (2027)
Trustee: J. Meschi (2028)

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

COMMANDANT HECTOR QUIROGA
SR VICE COMMANDANT RITA KOLLIAS
JR VICE COMMANDANT CHARLES OBRZUT
PAYMASTER VICTORIA COBBETT
JUDGE ADVOCATE DANIEL IGRISAN
ADJUTANT VICTORIA COBBETT
(elected or appointed)
CHAPLAIN DONALD KENYON
SGT AT ARMS ROGER GADEN
TRUSTEE (4 YEAR TERM) LARRY OLSON (2025-29)
JR PAST COMMANDANT JOHN OLEJNICKI

Join our detachment meeting in person on 22 April at the Wheaton VFW Post or join virtually on zoom.
Bring your enthusiasm and ideas and accept a nomination or volunteer for a committee.
The editor of this newsletter would certainly appreciate handing over this opportunity to another member.

THE TUN

The tun tavern is being rebuilt; Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation, Inc. 501(c)(3).For information: www.thetun.org

EAGLE SCOUT NEWS



On Sunday 9 March 2025 at the First Presbyterian Church, 715 N Carlton Ave in Wheaton there was held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for two new Eagle Scouts, Corey Ostensen and Patrick Zapf. ES Chairman Donald Kenyon and PDC Victoria Cobbett presented to each new Eagle Scout the MCL Good Citizenship Award & an USMC Ka-Bar.

Pictured left to right is: Cobbett, Ostensen, Zapf, and Kenyon.

On Tuesday 15 April 2025 in Wheaton there will be an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. It will be held at St. Michael's Catholic Church at 310 S. Wheaton Ave. in Wheaton. We will be presenting the MCL Good Citizenship Award & a USMC Ka-Bar to a new Eagle Scout.
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.

HINES BINGO

Bingo resumed on 16 March 2025. There were approximately 35 veterans in attendance. Five DuPage volunteers assisted the veterans with their gaming. The word on the street is that DuPage Marines are their favorite bingo hosts! There is no Bingo in April as the third Sunday is Easter. The next Bingo is 18 May 2025. Please 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.

**03-16-25 Brittney Michor, Gunny Gaden,
Elizabeth Gaden, Lynn Grezek, John Meschi**

**MCL NEWS****NATIONAL**

The National MCL link has all sorts of information for the Marine Corps League, <https://www.mcleague-library.org/member-library/>.

CENTRAL DIVISION CONFERENCE**The Illinois MCL hosted the 2025 Central Division Conference.**

MCL and MCLA members from the six states in the Central Division, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky attended the Conference. Our detachment had excellent representation with seven members attending: Gary Cobbett, John Olejnicki, Donald Kenyon, Charles Obrzut, Beth Olejnicki, Kathleen Obrzut, and Victoria Cobbett. The Conference was held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 411 S Larkin Avenue, Joliet, IL 6036. USMC Ninth District Commanding Officer Colonel Aaron C. Lloyd was the guest of honor and keynote speaker. The MCJROTC cadets from Romeoville HS, instructed by program Director MsGy Sgt Couturier, opened the Joint services with their Color Guard and the 2/24 reserve unit post-



ed Colors at the banquet. The 250th birthday of the USMC was celebrated at the closing banquet along with a cake cutting ceremony. Our own Chaplain Don Kenyon was recognized as the oldest Marine in attendance and was presented a slice of cake after Col Lloyd. It was a successful and enjoyable conference.

DEPARTMENT OF IL

The ILLINOIS MARINE is the department website: <https://theillinoismarine.com/>

You can access information about all things Marine Corps League. The 81st Department Convention will be held at Crystal Lake Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Crystal Lake, IL on June 6-7, 2025. The room rate is

96.00 + 14% tax = \$109.44. Call the hotel directly to use the MCL rate. Our detachment is allowed 12 delegates. It is not a far drive, so perhaps plan to attend on Saturday.

DETACHMENT

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

FUNDRAISING

We hope you are participating in the new fundraising effort of flower bulbs in spring and fall **Share the link** with your family and friends and acquaintances and they will share the link with friends and they will share the link with friends and so on and so on! That is how we will succeed. Click on the link and look for your favorite flowers. This program is an easy way to beautify your yard and assist your detachment.

<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/marketplace/seller/profile/shop/DupageMarines>

MEMBERSHIP

DuPage Marines are looking for Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and USN Chaplains! Make sure you get credit for being the recruiter/sponsor. (5) new members recruited in a commandant year rates the Detachment Recruiter Ribbon

ANNUAL DUES

If you pay annual dues, all expire annually on 31 August of each year, regardless of the month you joined!. Renewal notices have been mailed. 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.

Effective 1 JULY 2023, the Life Membership Fees increased as follows:

\$1000.00	35 years of age and lower
\$800.00	36-50 years of age
\$600.00	51-64 years of age
\$400.00	65-84 years of age
\$100.00	85 years of age and higher

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES: APRIL

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

*Russell "Russ" Kamradt, First Commandant 48 years, 30 April 1977

[5 May 1977 Charter Member]

*Michael "Mike" McNeice, (First Sr. Vice Commandant) 48 years, 30 April 1977

[5 May 1977 Charter Member]

*Charles W. "Chuck" Wingard 46 years, 11 April 1979

*John Burlace 39 years, 15 April 1986

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

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

PRAYER LIST

The prayer list for hope and healing of members and family include Merrill Albertus, Marty Bourgeois, John Burlace, Charlie Castino, Elizabeth Gaden, Roland Johnson, Kyle Michael Koener, Vito & Amy Markas, Mike Mikulecky, John Meschi, Mara Myrick, Richard Nazimek, Terry Owens, Harper Orbell, Sharon Passero, Read Rogers, John Schmitt, and Thomas Stuckey.

"Remember them in your thoughts and prayers" (Psalm 9:1).

If you need an address for a card or a phone number for a 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, but MARINES TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN!

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

1. A baby shower for Military veterans will be held at (Brix on the Fox), 260 S Washington St Carpentersville, IL, 60110 on 6 April beginning 1230. The event has been supported by the VFW Auxiliary, WMA, Hines Hospital, MCL #399, and various other groups. This is the sixth year of this outstanding event that was first established by a woman Marine.

2. Pictured below: #399 Life Member Chris Hecklinger



DuPage Marines Life Member and Proud Father Chris Hecklinger has provided an update on his son Hunter who is studying to becoming a Navy Corpsman.

"I spoke to him last week, he is in his fourth week of 18 weeks of Corpsman School. He is doing well, a lot of testing and Lab work and hands on training. He is hoping upon completion he will be going to ATF advance technical field. It would be an addition 28 weeks of training, or search and rescue technical training. Frog man medic. I had a moment during business to see him. He looks good, looks strong, and he is a beast. He misses home, but loves what he is doing. We couldn't be more proud of his then we are. He made the right choice joining the Navy. He will make a great Corpsman (Doc)."

What a wonderful legacy for Chris!

Remember to wear your Red Fore & Aft Cover!

Improvise!

Adapt!

Overcome!

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