THE ILLINOIS MARINE
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
SEPTEMBER 2024

DEPARTMENT COMMANDANT

Greetings Marines,

First, thank you all for the kind expressions of sympathy on the passing of my mother. My Marine sisters and brothers came through in support of me just like blood family.

Second, thank you to all the attendees at National Convention for keeping me up to date on all that went on. Congratulations to the new National Officers. I'm sure they know the Department of Illinois will support them as they hold the rudder to guide the Marine Corps League in the future. Last but not least thank you to the Department Staff for covering the Central Division zoom meetings.

The new Bylaws and Administrative Procedures have been posted in the library. Take a look and see what has changed. If you are like me every time, I look at them there is something to learn and not just from the added/changed sections.

Call to Staff has been sent and Staff is rapidly approaching. A little different format as it will be a one-day affair. We'll try it and see if it works. Mid-Winter Conference in Arlington, Va is next. I heard last year there were attendees that said there was nothing to do or anywhere to eat. Maybe not exactly close to the hotel but the Metro transit system in D.C. is very easy to use. Get out and explore. I traveled from Alexandria, Va. To Arlington every day and felt safer than in St. Louis or Chicago.

We have new items that must be addressed, **THE ILLINOIS MARINE needs an editor. Here** is an opportunity for a Marine to step up and make a huge contribution, training will be afforded. Marine 250 is almost here and will draw a lot of attention to us. This will be a prime opportunity for recruiting. Attend all the public events you can with the tri-fold brochures (available thru National Headquarters) The Officer and Committee roster has been posted. I did take the liberty of plugging Marines in to some committees where I thought they might be a good fit. If you find yourself assigned to a committee, contact the Chair and ask how you can help. All Chairpersons should review the roster for any changes to be made.

We are all in this together and together we can make it work! Old Corps now; GUNGHO!!

Semper Fidelis

Randy Webber

SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT

Greetings, Marines.

Fundraising is a major duty of the Senior Vice Commandant. This year, I am working with a company that will allow the option of online fundraising as well as actual physical raffle tickets. It is a computer-generated program for weekly cash winnings. No complex score-keeping is necessary.

In addition, the new website has a donation system. It is very efficient for sending transmittals and paying member dues and works equally well for donations. **Why not try it out and budget a donation from your detachment to the Department for the 5 Illinois Department of VA Veteran Homes in Illinois?** A group donation from the Department would be a worthy expense from each detachment. Donate what you can, and it will be given in one grant to the veteran homes.

Also, an important change in the many department bylaws that were updated, amended, and adopted at the June 2024 Convention is there will only be two staff meetings each year: one in the fall season and

one in the spring season. All of the information found in the Illinois Marine newsletter and more is available at these gatherings including information about fundraising. Try to attend to learn more about the 2024-25 happenings in the Department of Illinois MCL and fundraising options available.

Semper Fidelis, Victoria Cobbett

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Another year of excellent essays were received by the Scholarship Committee. Two applicants were qualified to receive the 2024 Department scholarship grant:

1. Catrina Louise Irby sponsored by her grandfather fromTobin-Naniga #85

2. Brandon Tanner Lewis sponsored by his father fromTobin-Naniga #85

They were invited to read their essay at the Convention and both essays were warmly received. The two awardees and their families were also invited to lunch with Commandant Ron Burns and the Scholarship Committee. We wish them well with all their future endeavors. Congratulations to Catrina and Brandon!

The Scholarship committee consists of John Olejnicki, Harry Fanning, and Victoria Cobbett.

FUNDRAISING

The new FLOWER POWER fundraising effort is underway. Order your fall planting flower bulbs and fundraise for your detachment at the same time. Send the order form to family and friends. We can do this!
The link is ACTIVE! http://DupageMarines.fpfundraising.com
It is easy to fill your yard with beautiful flowers. Daffodil, iris, hyacinth, tulip, crocus, & allium, to name a few, all thrive in zone 5 which is Chicagoland. They return year after year and when planted according to the directions, remain true to their colors and are not invasive.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT

Greetings Marine Corps League Members,

I would like to take a minute and introduce myself to you. My name is Brent Bacon, and I am the new Jr Vise Commandant for the Department of Illinois. I am part of the DeKalb County Marines #847 Detachment. I am excited for this opportunity to grow into this position and help in any way that I can to promote our great organization. As Jr Vice, one of my tasks is membership, in particular recruitment and retention. Recruitment can be a challenge as we all know, and it takes all of us to achieve this goal of new members.

What does your Detachment do for recruiting in your respective areas? This topic comes up at all levels of the League. Does your Detachment have interactions with the community on a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or annual basis? Getting out in the community Is a great way to show that we are invested, most of the time seeing someone with the League cover on can generate some great conversations, and from those conversations comes new members. You are the ambassador of the Marine Corps League; your Detachments interactions within the community will help pull new members, might bring back in older members. Keeping up on social media and showing off your detachment events is an easy way to accomplish this mission. It's also a great way to spread the events that you have to the rest of the Department. Maybe what you are doing at your Detachment hasn't been thought of in others.

On the topic of social media, get ahold of your local radio, and TV stations when you have events. Sometimes they can even plug in your events for little to no cost. Set a member up as your Detachments

media relations point person and collectively come up with a list of your areas TV and radio stations contact information.

Get creative with your events, try things that haven't been done before. Are you active in parades within your area? These are great events for people so see the League and are easy for our members that want to participate yet can't march with the colors. Signage on a float and a handout to give to the crowd goes a long way. Just some ideas that have been brought up in recent meetings are: Car Shows, setting up a booth displaying your Detachment. Sporting events with the same idea of displaying your Detachment. Sponsoring a youth sports team getting you information into the parent's hands as a sponsor, find out when memorials are held at monuments and post the colors. Participate in Eagle Scout award ceremonies. It's closer than you think, Toys-4-Tots is right around the corner, does your detachment host events? These are just some ideas that have been floated around. I encourage you to try and venture outside of just of mouth and get involved.

The start of the new fiscal year means yearly membership is coming due. How do you communicate this to your Detachments? Do you use emails, USPS invoices, social media outlets, phone calls, texts? During the membership drives is also a good time to send out an update to your Detachment members to let them know of current events, new officers, Detachment milestones. A newsletter, or postcard sent to members you haven't seen at a meeting in a while might just be the motivation they need to return. To the members that do not participate in the Detachment meetings, what is stopping you? Have you reached out to the officers and expressed your concerns or views of why you're not there?

The goal for this year is to achieve over 100% membership. It's going to take everyone working cohesively to achieve this goal. We all can do our part and better the Marine Corps League as a whole. The 250th Birthday of the Marine Corps is right around the corner, use that to our advantage and start preparing. We are here to help in any way that we can, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to the year ahead of us.

Semper Fi,
Brent Bacon

DEPARTMENT PAYMASTER

The Detachment paymasters have provided new ways to go paperless electronically submitting forms and payments.

Members can go to the National Website to the Member Library to keep their address and emails updated.

Why emails? We can react to changes or information to the membership as well as reduce the cost of mailings.

Semper Fi!
Mike Ruffner

250 Years of the Marine Corps

Stay up to date on our plans for the 250th Marine Corps Birthday, and let us know what you want to see as we mark this historic occasion. 250 Years of the Marine Corps (marineheritage.org) Your generous gift shows Marines everywhere that you stand with them — and that you will help share their history with the public through the efforts of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

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

Because of you, Marines from all generations have a place to gather and share memories of

their service with family, friends, and each other. They come to the Museum to share experiences with family, often for the very first time, to reminisce with old friends and to remember those they've lost.

There is no other place like our National Museum. And you make it all possible.
I hope you will plan a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps to experience the honored history and stories of our Corps firsthand.
Thank you for keeping Marine Corps history alive. We are grateful for your support!

Semper Fidelis,

James W. Lukeman
Major General, United States Marine Corps (Ret)
President and CEO, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

Illinois Marine 250 Events

Check for updates at www.chicagomarines.com or Marine Corps Coordinating Council of

Illinois Group page on LinkedIn and Facebook

Sample Volunteers opportunities:

Marine Week July 2025
Marine Events at Sporting Events 2025
USMC Birthday Ball in Illinois
Cake Cutting at Capitol and Daley Center
Marine Meet & Greet at Navy Pier or Soldier Field
Multiple Marine Community Color Guards from USMC, MCL, MCJROTC, Young Marines

Website to donate chicagomarines.com

IL HB0612 passed both IL Houses. Once signed by the governor these will be the changes…

Change 1 – beginning Tax Year 2024 WWII veterans are exempt from paying property taxes up to the first $250,000 of equalized assessed value (~$750,000 market value). Amounts over that will be taxed. Example if the assessment is $300,000 the veteran will pay tax only on the $50,000. This section would impact veterans next year

Change 2 – Good Bye going over the Cliff! For veterans rated 70% or more the first $250,000 of equalized assessed value (EAV) is exempt from taxes. Previously, if the property was valued over the $250,000 EAV (again about $750,000 market value) the veteran would no longer be eligible for the exemption. This would be effective immediately

Change 3 – Surviving Spouse of a veteran who died because of service-connected illness or injury and is in receipt of DIC (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation) are exempt from property taxes for the first $250,000 EAV. Subject to the new definition of a veteran.

Change 4 – Veteran is now defined as an Illinois Resident who served in the Active Armed Forces or State Active Duty, A member of the Illinois National Guard or US Reserve Forces, and has a service-connected disability from the VA. For those with National Guard Duty it must be with the IL National Guard.
The veteran of a surviving spouse in receipt of DIC Must have been an otherwise qualifying

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resident in the state of Illinois. In other words, if the veteran was a resident of Wisconsin and died in Wisconsin, the spouse could not claim the benefit even if in receipt of DIC
Also, the definition change does not specify that the veteran had received an honorable discharge. Just that he/she is in receipt of VA Disability at the qualifying rate.
Change 5 – This change in the law does not entitle persons to protest previous tax assess

Meet your local Marine Recruiters!

Marine Corps Recruiting Command wants Marine Veterans to know their local Recruiters. Marine Veterans can help support the Corps!

Here are the POCs at each of our Recruiting offices. Would appreciate a cc or to-line email to SgtMaj Eirich and I on initial introductions so we are tracking who the detachment personnel are in each area and for relationship-building purposes. The SNCOICs will be the primary POCs for coordination of efforts in these areas:

RSS Carpentersville, SSgt Churchill,
Britt.Churchill@marines.usmc.mil

RSS Chicago Heights, SSgt Fagan,
James.Fagan@marines.usmc.mil

RSS DuPage North, SSgt Banda,
Chance.Banda@marines.usmc.mil

RSS Lake County, SSgt Salinas,
Amilcar.Marroquinsalinas@marines.usmc.mil

RSS McHenry, SSgt Witte,
Joanna.Witte@marines.usmc.mil

RSS North Center, SSgt Courtney,
Timothy.Courtney@marines.usmc.mil

RSS Oak Lawn, SSgt Gallegos,
Esteban.Gallegos@marines.usmc.mil

RSS Oak Park, SSgt Yang,
Stacy.Yang@marines.usmc.mil

RSS Palatine, GySgt Villanueva,
Demetrio.Villanueva@marines.usmc.mil

RSS Plainfield, Sgt Mendez,
Michael.Mendez@marines.usmc.mil

RSS Rockford, SSgt Navarre,
Bryce.Navarre@marines.usmc.mil

RSS Saint Charles, GySgt Lowery,
Andrew.Lowery@marines.usmc.mil

RSS South Chicago, SSgt Ramirez,
Eduardo.Ramirez@marines.usmc.mil

Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Illinois once in a lifetime event, that you should not miss!

Super Bowl New Orleans will be the Official Start of Marines 250 and the official end will the Commandant's USMC Ball in Washington DC

Navy/Marine Corps will have a Special Event in Philadelphia, PA in October which also expected to be the opening of the Tun (Tun Tavern Replica near the original location)

HQMC has 6 Marine Weeks planned

- Atlanta GA
- Austin TX
- Boston MA August 2025
- Chicago IL July 2025
- Los Angelos CA
- Nashville TN

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Warning Order Chicago Marine Week – at this time (Subject to Change) would be during the first half of July. Details need to be worked out with local Marine Reserve Units, Active Marine Units as well as the City of Chicago.

CURRENT COMMUNICATION – The Marine Corps Coordination Council has a website ChicagoMarines.com, LinkedIn and Facebook as well as the Marine Corps League Department of Illinois website theIllinoismarine.com and their Facebook Page to keep All Illinois Marines Up to Date with Current Information.

So, what is the Ask to you?

•Contact your State Senator regarding United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Memorial Highwat on a section of Interstate 80. (it was approved by the House)

•Send us Stories and pictures of Local Marine Heroes from Illinois, please send names, dates an accurate story for possible PR during Marine 250.

•We need to know USMC Veteran owned Businesses with Point of Contact, address, phone number, email address and type of business.

•We need to know Corporate Leaders that are Marine Veterans with Point of Contact, address, phone number, email address and type of business.

•We want to know Marine Veteran Educators with Point of Contact, address, phone number, email address and school.

•Help us fill out the Calendar of Marine Related Events – Social, Informal or Formal (ie. USMC Birthday, Landing at Okinawa, TET Offensive, OIF/OEF, Local Parades)

•Local Marine Corps League, Women Marine Association, Montford Point Marine Association, Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps or Young Marines who have "Organized" Color Guards – the plan is to have the Presentation of Colors at every Professional Sporting Event on Saturday or Sunday when they are in town.

•We are looking to have 2 "official" USMC Cake cuttings Daley Center in Chicago and Springfield State Capitol (need volunteer to take Point).

•Donations – individual or corporation sponsors for Marine Week 2 receptions (Corporate TBD) go to ChicagoMarines.com contact page under donation or mail checks to Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Illinois, 40557 N Minena St, Antioch, IL 60002

•Donations to the Illinois Department of Illinois 5 Veteran Homes (Go to TheIllinoisMarine.com Donation Page)

•Proclamations to be posted on our website – we will have a recommendation for proclamation that you can use in your community at the village, city and county level proclaim the Historic Contributions of the Marines from their Community with 250 years of loyal and dedicated service.

•Do you have Marine License Plate for your Vehicle or Motorcycle?

•Participate in Community Relations Projects, School Presentations, etc.

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MANPOWER

•Looking for new members for the Coordinating Council – no dues, meeting is done online on 2nd Monday 1800 usually last 30 minutes and the best part No Pay! Major Part is the distribution of grant funds from the Illinois Marine License Plate Program

•I have 2 Volunteers since we initially mentioned Marine 250, but now is the time to step up to support the Marine 250 Events, especially during Marine Week. Go to ChicagoMarines.com website and contact us section.

We can be found on Facebook, LinkedIn, ChicagoMarines.com or email ruffnermb@outlook.com

Other websites Or Coming Soon!

The Tun Legacy Foundation (Active)
Navy Marine Corps 250 (Active)
Marine 250 Government (Coming Soon)
Marine 250 (Marine Heritage Museum Coming Soon)

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Department of Illinois Marine Corps League

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(800) 254-5438

WalgreenHealthSolutions.com

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The Strength of our Department Depends on our Members

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Indicate whether you want to Support the ILDVA Veterans Home, Department Scholarship Fund, Marine 250 or General Fund

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Providing information to and about:

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