

# The Chester County Marine

Chester County Detachment #286  
P.O. Box 828, Downingtown, Pa 19335-0828  
Detachment HQ's: 610-518-5375 (leave message)

**Commandant Jerry Myers**

Volume XVII, Issue 3/4 Dave Buckta, editor

**March/April 2020**



[CCMarineNews@Verizon.net](mailto:CCMarineNews@Verizon.net)

[www.chestercountymcl.com](http://www.chestercountymcl.com)

**Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
of every month @1930**  
430 Acorn Lane  
Entrance on Chestnut St.  
Also park in rear of bldg  
Downingtown, Pa 19335

**Next TENTATIVE Meeting-- Date: May 18, 2020 @ 1930**

**From the Commandant's Desk**

## **Welcome Marines, FMF Corpsman, FMF, Chaplains, Associates**

We have all been in quarantine for several weeks now. None of us could have imagined something like this would happen. If there is one important lesson we have learned, it is being prepared for what could happen in an emergency. We all can relate to not being prepared in different ways. I want to list some of the areas that our Detachment should consider for now and in the future.

(A) Are we prepared for any transition? Who is second in command including committee chairs?

(B) Is our Insurance information available to all officers? Is our coverage adequate? We need to keep a copy in the safe.

(C) We need a list of all that have keys and combinations to the two safes.

(D) Are all important documents, By-Laws, etc. labeled and in a secure place as well.

(E) We need to have a written copy or video of our Detachment F&E, as well as Ship store inventory. This information should be placed in the safe as well.

(F) Are there any outstanding commitments that need extended or cancelled; Scholarships, etc.

(G) Bank accounts and any checks should be accounted for with any updated signature changes if necessary. My suggestion is that we keep a copy of the latest bank statements and signature forms in the safe.

(H) I am suggesting that we start a "Sign in" Register for any and all members to be created. This system is currently being used at the Department level and I think we should do the same. With this register we can track all entries by date and time and purpose of visit. I will also request Alan Myers, our tenant, to comply with this program.

With any potential disaster we need to have a plan. With these suggestions as well as any other suggestions, we need to develop OUR PLAN OF ACTION. With the Coronavirus having the ability to attack any one of us at any time, I think we need to take action ASAP. Please review these suggestions and make any additional suggestions or comments.

Once we have your comments or suggestions we will ask for your vote to implement OUR plan. Please reply to this e-mail if you have any ideas. We are not sure when we will be able to have another Membership meeting, so please respond ASAP so that we can move forward.

If you know of anyone that needs help in any way, please contact me. May God Bless all of those that have been infected with this virus. We will be living in a different environment in the future. I will keep everyone posted as to the appropriate time to resume our meetings.

**Semper Fidelis – Jerry**

## Liaisons

### **American Legion #475**

Tom Logan 610-696-3323

### **Auxiliary**

Joanne Brown

Jim Copeland 610-518-3444

### **DAV #90**

Ken Schweitzer 610-489-2703

### **Marksmanship**

Dennis Brown 610-692-4782

### **Military Order of the Purple Heart**

Doug Forsythe 610-656-1389

### **Spring City Vets Home**

Ken Schweitzer 610-489-2703

### **Viet Nam Veterans of America Chapter 436**

Ken Schweitzer 610-489-2703

### **VFW #845**

Jim Copeland 610-883-0283

### **W. Chester Veterans Council**

Jim Copeland 610-883-0283

Doug Forsythe

### **WCU SVG Scholarship Fund**

## **Winter Uniform**

Winter uniform is effective 15 Oct, 2019 as follows:

- Red Cover
- Long Sleeve White Shirt with Tie
- Black Trousers
- Black Shoes & Socks
- Red Blazer or Satin Jacket when appropriate

**Marine Corps League Uniforms available online:**

<https://www.mclnational.org/store.html>

Dave Buckta is publishing the CC Marine Newsletter.  
Please send all of your newsworthy items, including  
photos and links to [CCMarineNews@Verizon.net](mailto:CCMarineNews@Verizon.net)

**EVENT:** Flag box emptied

**DATE:** April 06, 2020

**LOCATION:** CC MCL HQ, Downingtown, PA

**SUBMITTED BY:** Doug Forsythe

**MEMBERS:** Doug Forsythe

**PURPOSE:** The community continues to respect the flag by filling up our disposal box.



## **NEWSLETTER POLICY**

Chester County Marine, the only publication paid for by Chester County Detachment MCL #286, is published monthly as a service to the membership and other interested organizations. We will reprint any article deemed to be newsworthy and not political. The editor reserves the right to modify any items selected for printing.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of National MCL, Inc., Pennsylvania MCL, Inc. or the Chester County Detachment. All members and other interested parties are invited to submit articles for publication.

## **VA Welcome Kit**

[https://www.va.gov/va\\_welcomekit\\_color.pdf](https://www.va.gov/va_welcomekit_color.pdf)

6/11/2020

## Minutes From Meeting on – February 24, 2020

**Meeting Opened:** 7:30 PM

### Roll Call of Officers:

Officer	Member	Present
Commandant	Jerry Myers	X
Sr. Vice-Commandant	Bob Campagna	X
Jr. Vice-Commandant	Bonnie Shaw	X
Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland	X
Jr. Past Commandant	Doug Forsythe	X
Adjutant	Jack Meighan	X
Paymaster	Larry Samples	X
Chaplain	Dan Condron	
Sergeant at Arms	Leo Burke	X
Service Officer		
Trustee	Chris Shaw	X
Trustee	Pat Powell	
Trustee	John Abitabilo	X

10 officers present.

### New Members:

Marine Veteran Matt DiDonato provided an application and paid his dues. He presented an old DD-214 reflecting his initial enlistment. Matt will provide a subsequent DD-214 at the next meeting at which time his membership will be voted on by the detachment members.

Mike Rapp introduced his neighbor Louis H. Guernsey, Jr., Major General USA, retired, who will submit his application for associate membership at the next general meeting. General Guernsey served a year in Iraq.

Doug Forsythe announced that another application for membership has been denied.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

The minutes from 1/27/2020 were provided to members. A motion to receive the minutes was made by Jim Copeland and seconded by Hank Detering. The motion passed.

**Correspondence:**

Doug advised he had received an announcement that the National MCL Northeast Division Conference will be held on 5/1 and 5/2/2020 in Indiantown Gap. Doug recommended that the detachment make take out a one-half page ad for \$60 in the conference program. Jim Copeland made a motion to pay for the ad, which was seconded by Tom Tanner. The motion passed.

**Paymaster Report:**

Paymaster Samples presented the paymaster's report. A motion to receive the paymaster's report subject to audit was made by Doug Forsythe and seconded by Bob Campagna. The motion passed.

**Members or Family Members Sick or in Distress:**

It was noted that former Commandant P.X. Kelly passed away on 12/28/2019.

Bill Kennedy continues to struggle with heart and kidney issues; doctors are attempting to balance his medications. Jed Burns' wife Cindy has stage 4 cancer. Members were asked to remember Bill and Cindy in their prayers.

**Report of Officers:**

Doug advised that yesterday the annual banquet of the Military Order of the Purple Heart was held at St. Anthony's Lodge. There were approximately 150 guests, which was the largest turnout the organization has ever had. Scholarships were presented to Jenna Mulhern a sophomore track star from Henderson High School and Tyriq Lewis a senior from Downingtown West High School.

The banquet also featured the presentation of a National Citation to veteran Bill Pinamont.

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge will host a dinner next Saturday honoring Marine Bob Lohr, who was instrumental in the success of the Toys for Tots for more than twenty years. Bob will be receiving the George Washington Medal. The detachment has paid for a table and still has four seats open.

**Standing Committees:**

Bob Campagna (golf tournament): Sponsors are needed for the tournament.

**Special Committees:**

Dennis Brown (Marksmanship): The second marksmanship meeting of 2020 was held yesterday at the detachment. The next marksmanship meeting will be live fire at Uncle Bobby's on 3/22/2020. There will be a live fire meeting at the Kimberton range on 4/5/2020; we will meet at

Mike Rapp's house and convoy to the range. The Delaware County pistol match will be held on 4/25/2020.

Larry Samples (Eagle Scouts): There are 161 Eagle Scouts in the class of 2019. We will be presenting Marine Corps League Good Citizenship awards to them at a location and on a date to be announced.

John Abitabilo (Budget & Finance): We currently use Quick Books but are in the process of moving our finances over to an Excel spreadsheet, which will save the detachment approximately \$70 a month. John met with Bill Stellfox today and Bill said he will continue to assist with the detachment's finances and taxes until the end of our fiscal year.

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

Commandant Myers advised that a 2600 lb. safe has been donated to the detachment by Charmaine Fedick; it cost \$1,200 for professional movers to transfer the safe from a closet in a home in Phoenixville to the detachment; the cost was paid by Doug Forsythe. Hank Detering made a motion to reimburse Doug for \$1,200. The motion was seconded by Tom Tanner and passed on a vote of the members present.

Two bids have been received for cleaning the ductwork at the detachment; the first bid was for \$3,000 and the second bid was for \$380. Jerry asked for a motion to authorize the payment of \$380 for the cleaning. George Partridge made a motion to authorize the payment of \$380; Jim Copeland seconded the motion which passed.

A field day will be held at some point in the future after the ductwork is cleaned and the weather gets a little warmer. John Abitabilo will be the Officer in Charge; about fifteen members will be needed for about three or four hours.

Bids are starting to come in for renovations to the ladies' room. Doug and Bonnie are serving as co-chairs for this project. Plans include making one of the stalls handicap accessible and widening it to 36 inches. Old rugs will be removed and paint applied. The lighting will be changed to LEDs and new ceiling tiles installed.

**Good of the League:**

Tom Tanner was presented with the 2020 Tom Tanner Putting Others Above Self Award. It is anticipated that in the future other detachment members will be given this award. Tom has been a member of the Marine Corps League for more than 25 years, has served as the Commandant of the Smedley Butler Detachment, has been Marine of the Year, Department of Pennsylvania Commandant and Department Marine of the Year as well as detachment Devil Dog of the Year.

Dennis Brown said that a bottle of sand from Iwo Jima has disappeared from the detachment and asked if anyone knew what happened to it. Doug Forsythe said it had been placed along with other military memorabilia in a display case, which Jed Burns made for the Coatesville VA

Hospital. Doug will retrieve it and return it to the detachment. Dennis reminded members that no items, displays, etc. should be removed from the detachment unless the membership is notified.

Ken Weaver asked that the detachment provide a color guard for Our Community Salutes, which is a ceremony at Octorora High School honoring citizens from Chester County who have enlisted in the Armed Forces. The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, 5/5/2020 with Ken as MC. Brandon Hardy's mother Jill Hardy has asked the detachment to provide a color guard. Ken said the attendance last year was disappointing so he hoped that detachment members could turn out this year.

### **Announcements:**

The Northeast Division meeting this year is sponsored by the Department of Pennsylvania and will be held on 3/20 and 3/21 at Indiantown Gap. The Northeast Division is comprised of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Closing: 8:15 PM

## **Marine Fun Facts – New Tropical Uniform (military.com)**

The Marine Corps Tropical Combat Uniform is a rapid-dry, breathable uniform to be worn for prolonged periods in wet, jungle environments as an alternative to the current Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform and the Marine Corps Combat Boot. This month, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), published a request for proposals to industry to manufacture the uniforms, with plans to get them into troops' hands by the final quarter of this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

"This new tropical uniform allows Marines to be more comfortable and less fatigued while focusing on the mission at hand," Lou Curcio, MCSC's tropical uniform project officer, said in the release.

The tropical uniform effort is a result of the U.S. military's increased emphasis on the Pacific region in an effort to prepare for a potential war with China. The Army finalized the design for its Improved Hot Weather Combat Uniform last year.





**EVENT:** Jim Bud McCullough Funeral (VVA)

**DATE:** Mar 23, 2020

**SUMMARY:** VVA436 MONDAY March 23rd 1145 Holy Cross Cemetery Yeadon, Pa. Doug Forsythe color Guard

**LOCATION:** Holy Cross Cemetery Yeadon, Pa

**MEMBERS:** Doug Forsythe

**SUBMITTED BY:** Doug Forsythe



**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo

**DATE:** March 07, 2020

**LOCATION:** CC MCL Chestnut Street

**MEMBERS:** Leo Burke, Jim Copeland, Dave Mundy, Mike & Jeanne Rapp, Joanne Brown, Dennis Brown, Pat Powell, Deb Allen Mundy, and Lisa Sundin, Doug Forsythe, Charmaine, Mario & Della Sheryl.

**PURPOSE:** Bingo operations are suspended during the pandemic.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke

(35 volunteer hours)

## CC MCL HQ Field Day Volunteers Needed

Marines and Associate Members,

As you know, before the current coronavirus situation we were planning on a Field Day in the Detachment HQ. We are still going to do this, but the timing will be based on when the stay at home order is lifted by Governor Wolf. With that being said, we are going to go with Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, June 6, (9 AM to 2 PM) as tentative dates. Of course, the health and safety of all will determine what dates are ultimately chosen. Lunch will be provided.

John Abitabilo will be heading up this effort. At your earliest convenience, no later than April 30, please let John know ([johnabitabilo@gmail.com](mailto:johnabitabilo@gmail.com)) date(s) you can participate -May 30 and/or June 6 AND your preference if both dates are options for you.

From there John will publish a plan including needed supplies, etc

**EVENT:** Monthly Bingo - Shut Ins

**DATE:** No bingo

**LOCATION:** VA Coatesville, Bldg 59A

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke

**MEMBERS:** Dan Condron, Leo Burke, and Mike Rapp

**PURPOSE:** VA Popcorn and bingo suspended during the pandemic

**EVENT:** Awards Ceremony

**DATE:** February 24, 2020

**LOCATION:** CC MCL Chestnut Street

**MEMBERS:** Detachment personnel attending the 24Feb meeting.

**PURPOSE:** Award presented to Tom Tanner 'Putting Others before Self" trophy.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke



**EVENT:** Book Donation

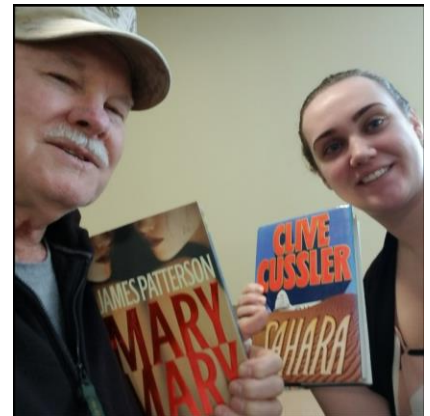
**DATE:** March 02, 2020

**LOCATION:** Whitehall Veterans Home, Spring City, PA

**MEMBERS:** Doug Forsythe

**PURPOSE:** Three boxes of books were donated today to the Whitehall Veterans Home Spring City Accepting was Allisia of Whitehall. 2 hrs volunteer time.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Doug Forsythe



**EVENT:** Pendelphia Detachment Installation of Officers

**DATE:** March 07, 2020

**LOCATION:** Philadelphia, PA

**MEMBERS:** Doug Forsythe

**PURPOSE:** District #1 Vice Cmdt Geo Souder & Doug Forsythe installing Elected & Appointed Officers.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Doug Forsythe





# Marine Corps League National Commandant – COVID Status

14APR2020

Marines

Just an update on my health. I am free of any symptoms at this time. I am however waiting to be retested just to make sure I'm now negative for the virus. I want to thank everyone for their get-well cards, emails and texts. They are greatly appreciated. Make no mistake Marines, this virus can be and is deadly. If you get any symptoms, shelter in place away from your family and please notify your Detachment so they can assist you with anything you may need.

That being said, I am up and working dealing with all current League issues. Your National Board is on top of everything and will continue to lead as we go through this. All upcoming decisions will be made with the health and welfare of our membership in mind.

Semper Fidelis Marines,

Dennis Tobin

National Commandant/CEO Marine Corps League

## CC MCL Life Membership as of July 2019

Lee C. Beyer	Rogers C. Flanigan	James J. Miller	William F. Shields
Dennis Brown	Douglas R. Forsythe	Richard J. Morrow	Walter W. Simcox, Jr.
Daniel W. Bullock III	Jamie Goncharoff	Dave Mundy	James G. Snyder
Leo Burke	Donald Goodwin	Phillip Murray	Bob Spano
Gerard (Jed) F. Burns	Bob Gross	Jerry D. Myers	William E. Stellfox
John J. Ceschan Jr.	Michael Guyer	Louis Stephen Netta	Robert G. Stone
Daniel J. Condron	Albert B. Harper Sr.	John F. O'Brien	Robert L. "Bob" Strehl
James Copeland	John E. Hinckley	Jay F. Patton	Peter R. Supplee
William J. Corcoran	Leif Jacobsen	Mark A. Peterson	Tom Tanner
Kay M. Croll	Steven G. Jefferis	Julius Pinter	Steven W. Talley
Henry A. Detering	Joseph J. Kay	Patrick B. Powell	Kathy A. Van Gorder
John DiMatteo	William G. Keers	Michael Rapp	Elmer S. Van Gorder
Gerry DiNunzio	Walter Kutz	Jack Ribble	Mark A. Wahn
Dominic DiSciullo	Fred LeClair	Les Rouse *	Dennis P. Walsh
James Donegan	Thomas M. Logan	Patrick Rundle	Albert R. Wertz
Robert F. Donovan	Bill Mackey	Larry L. Samples	Charles T. Wertz Jr.
Robert L. Dormer	Michael Maginnis	Robert Saenz Jr.	William E. Woodward
Joseph E. Dulin Jr.	Jim McIlhenney	Jeff Sanders	James Yocum
Craig S. Evans	Charles McMahan	Mario M. Scherl	
Gary N. Fay	John "Jack" Meighan	Kenneth Schweitzer	
Daniel V. Fitzpatrick Jr.	Donald W. Meyer	Raymond E. Sheldon	* Life Mbr Delaware Det.

If you are interested in becoming a MCL Life Member. Memberships are available for all those in "good standing." Just send your check for the appropriate amount and proof of age to Larry Samples, Det. Paymaster. Rates are based on your current age as follows:

Over 65	\$200
51-64	\$300
36-50	\$400
35 & Below	\$500

If you have any questions regarding life memberships. Please contact Bob Strehl, Sr. Vice.

6/11/2020 ([rlstrehl@hotmail.com](mailto:rlstrehl@hotmail.com)) or 215-421-2465 or Larry Samples, Paymaster.



CC MCL Newsletter

Volunteer Activity	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours (Mar/ Apr)	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Jerry Myers	-	30
Staff Meeting	Jerry Myers	26	44
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	35	110
VA Bingo/ Popcorn	Dan Condron	-	43
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	-	-
Golf outing	Bob Campagna	-	8
Chicken BBQ	Bonnie Shaw	-	-
Flag retirement	Leo Burke	2	2
Building maintenance	Leo Burke	-	6
Membership	John Abitabilo	-	3
Financial	Larry Samples	-	5
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	8	16
Other	Doug Forsythe	2	2
<b>Total</b>		65	269



# Chester County Marine May 2020 EVENT Calendar

## May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
					<p>Octorara High School is <b>CANCELLED</b></p>		<p><b>WAWA</b> <b>Parkeburg</b> <b>?????????</b> 1000 – 1400 Larry Samples</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
				<p>CC MCL Staff (VIRTUAL) Meeting 6:30pm Jerry Myers</p>			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	<p><b>General Membership Mtg</b> <b>?????????</b>  7:30pm Jerry Myers</p>						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
		<p>VA Popcorn Dan Condron  ?????????????</p>					
31							



# Chester County Marine June 2020 EVENT Calendar

## June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Walmart Exton</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">??????????</span> 1000 – 1400 Larry Samples  <b>Bingo???</b> <b>5:30pm</b>  Jim Copeland
7	8	9	10 VA Bingo Dan Condron  ??????????????	11 CC MCL Staff Meeting 6:30pm Jerry Myers	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 <b>Bingo???</b> <b>5:30pm</b>  Jim Copeland
21	22 <b>General Membership Mtg</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">??????????</span>  7:30pm Jerry Myers	23 VA Popcorn Dan Condron  ??????????????	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**End of Newsletter**