

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 Bonnie Shaw

www.chestercountymcl.com
CCMarineNews@Verizon.net

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February 2021

From the Commandant's Desk

The past few months have been a marathon around the league home. It has been quite an undertaking. The water damage we had a few years ago, caused this remediation effort and we have had our carpet removed due to it. We have spent many hours cleaning, moving furniture, and improving.

Among the improvements have been a complete painting of all walls in the main and auxiliary room. Thanks to a generous donation by Jerry Myers and Kathy VanGorder, this painting plan was completed quickly.

Once the carpet was removed it was discovered that a large section of the main room had tiles beneath. These tiles were determined to be too unstable to complete the planned epoxy flake floor we had planned, so a decision was made to remove the tiles which was completed last week. This cost overrun kept us from having the floor completed as we had budgeted. To keep cost close to what was approved by membership, we chose another contractor and plan.

The same contractor that removed the tiles, offered to refinish the floor and staff voted to accept that proposal. The floor is in progress of being finished with a garage floor epoxy paint with a sparing flake finish and sealing clear coat on top. I believe this is the most cost-effective way to complete this project as close to budget as we are able.

I look forward to showing all members our improvements and hope everyone will be as impressed with them as we are. This has been quite an involved project and I would like to thank all members who have participated to get us through so far.

As a heads up, we will need a working party on Saturday, February 27th beginning at 9am. We will be moving furniture and appliances to the newly completed section of the floor so the rest of the unfinished floor can be completed the first week of March. This means we will have to clean, wipe down everything before we can put it onto the new surface. We cannot drag items across the new floor to keep from damaging it, so lifting will be necessary. I look forward to seeing anyone who would like to help.

We look forward to resuming our activities soon and hope with all these improvements to our League Home, it will encourage you to come by and check it out. We will be announcing an open house for the membership and community to reintroduce us to the area and get our name out to the public.

Fundraising is key and we need to get back to it as soon as possible. If you know of a corporation you believe would be interested in donating our detachment, please get in contact with myself or another staff member so we can forward a donation letter and brochure. The past few months have been a marathon around the league home. It has been quite an undertaking. The water damage we had a few years ago, caused this remediation effort and we have had our carpet removed due to it. We have spent many hours cleaning, moving furniture, and improving.

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Our February 22nd meeting will be all virtual on Zoom and instructions have been forwarded to you via email. We are on Facebook as well and post updates and announcements almost daily. My goal is to increase our public profile, membership, and boost our fundraising.

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*Respectfully and Semper Fidelis,
Bonnie Shaw,
Commandant, CCDMCL*

**Meetings: 4th Monday
of every month @1900**
430 Acorn Lane
Downingtown, Pa 19335
Entrance on Chestnut St.
Also park in rear of bldg



**Next Meeting:
March 22, 2021 @ 1900**

VA Welcome Kit
https://www.va.gov/va_welcomekit_color.pdf

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

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.

Winter Uniform

Winter uniform is in effect 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>

Minutes From Meeting on – December 21, 2020

Meeting Opened: 6:55 PM

Roll Call of Officers:

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

This was a hybrid meeting because of Covid-19 restrictions. Present at the detachment were Commandant Myers, Senior Vice-Commandant Bonnie Shaw, Junior Past Commandant Forsythe, Trustee Chris Shaw and Dave Buckta. Attending via Zoom were Adjutant Meighan, Sergeant-at-Arms Weaver, and Trustee Abitabilo. Seven officers participated. Also in attendance was member Leo Burke.

Doug Forsythe (Nominations): The Nominating Committee recommended the following members for detachment offices (3rd announcement):

Commandant: Bonnie Shaw;
 Senior Vice-Commandant: Larry Samples;
 Junior Vice-Commandant: Dan Fitzpatrick;
 Judge Advocate: Jim Copeland;

Minutes From Meeting on – January 25, 2021

Meeting Opened: 6:55 PM

Roll Call of Officers:

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

This was a hybrid meeting because of Covid-19 restrictions. Present at the detachment were Commandant Shaw, Senior Vice-Commandant Samples, Junior Past Commandant Myers, and Trustee Chris Shaw. Attending via Zoom were Adjutant Meighan, Paymaster/Trustee Forsythe, Chaplain Condron, Judge Advocate Copeland and Trustee Abitabilo. Nine officers participated. Other members participated via zoom.

It was reported that detachment member Albert Harper, Sr. has reported to the Supreme Commandant.

New Members:

None.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes from 12/21/2020 were provided to members in the newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Doug Forsythe and seconded by Jerry Myers. The motion passed.

Correspondence:

None.

Paymaster Report:

Paymaster Forsythe presented the paymaster's report. As of 12/31/2021, there is a balance of \$48,336.09 in the Smedley Butler account, and \$16,235.19 in the business account. The checking account has a balance of \$25,331.75 as of 1/25/2021. A motion to receive the paymaster's account subject to audit was made by Jerry Myers and seconded by Chris Shaw. The motion passed.

Members or Family Members Sick or in Distress:

None.

Report of Officers:

None.

Standing Committees:

None.

Special Committees:

Jerry Myers (Golf): The Applecross Country Club has our golf tournament scheduled for 8/16/2021. Jerry encouraged all members to attempt to line up one hole sponsor for \$250. This year we will have fewer white bag items but have those items be worth more. All members are encouraged to join the golf committee and help out. Jerry and Dave Buckta will update the flyers advertising the tournament.

Since Belfor Property Reconstruction, Inc. has been so generous in assisting the detachment in our remodeling work and removing old carpet and furniture, the detachment will offer them a free platinum golf outing package. This is the least we can do considering that Belfor probably did \$10,000 worth of work for free on our detachment home, and they have promised to return when we're ready to move everything back. We will also be sending them a contribution in kind letter for tax purposes.

Doug Forsythe (Chicken BBQ): We might be looking for a new vendor to see if we can get a better price. It will be scheduled about the same time of year.

Bonnie Shaw (Marine Corps Ball): It is scheduled for 11/13/2021. Our deposit from 2020 has been rolled over for 2021. We're considering some ideas for the entertainment; Jerry Myers suggested that Bill Haley, Jr., the son of Bill Haley and the Comets founder, has a tribute band. He usually charges \$3,000 a show but will charge us \$2,000 because Jerry knows him through

Pottstown Rotary Club. Jerry acknowledged that \$2,000 is a lot of money and said, if we had a hard time coming up with the money, he would come up with the difference.

Bonnie said she felt \$2,000 for a two or three-hour show is a lot of money, but a decision does not have to be made tonight.

New Business:

Regarding the renovations to the detachment, Bonnie advised that five quotes have been obtained for doing the floor. The quotes ranged from \$9,500 to \$16,000. All five firms who provided quotes visited the detachment and did their own measurements on the floor which is approximately 4,000 square feet. The most expensive quote came with a two-year guarantee while the lowest quote from Extreme Epoxy came with a five-year guarantee. Doug and Jerry visited Extreme and examined their floor and were impressed with the finish and workmanship. Extreme also advised they would impregnate the Marine Corps emblem on the floor for no extra cost. Bonnie, Jerry and Doug recommended that Extreme Epoxy be given the job.

Jim Copeland made a motion to accept the estimate of Extreme Epoxy for \$9,500 which was seconded by Fred LeClair. The motion passed.

The hole in the floor question has not been resolved yet; landlord was supposed to send a maintenance worker to examine it. A former Pepperidge Farm engineer said it is an old flour chute which is no longer usable. It will have to be filled with concrete before the floor can be done.

The Commandant said she and her daughter will paint the hump in the parking lot and seal the stone on the steps and entry.

Good of the League:

The rifle raffle drawing is scheduled for 3/22/2021. An email blast will be sent out regarding purchasing raffle tickets. Purchasers must be Pennsylvania residents and be able to pass a background check.

Unfinished Business:

Tom Tanner advised that past National Commandant and Department of Pennsylvania Commandant Lamar Golden passed away. His funeral service is scheduled for the same day as Al Harper's so the department was advised that our members would be unable to attend Commandant Golden's.

Al Harper's funeral service will take place at the James J. Terry Funeral Home in Coatesville on Friday 1/30/2021 at 10:00 AM.

Rich Corbit was introduced by John Abitabilo. Rich said he is moving to the area from Lewes, DE where he is finishing his term as Commandant and is looking forward to joining our detachment.

New Business:

A “clear the clutter crew” is needed to decide on items to be discarded before the floor can be done as well as move furniture, equipment, etc. Additionally, we will need a re-decorating committee to decide on the placement of photos, furniture, etc. after the floor is done.

Good of the League:

Doug Forsythe announced that gold cards and life member pins have been received for John Abitabilo, Alan Yusko, and Bonnie and Chris Shaw. Also, Jack Meighan’s engraved Marine of the Year medal has also been received.

Dan Condron advised the detachment is \$2,000 behind to the VAVS for bingo, popcorn, etc. Dan made a motion to send \$500 to the VAVS for canteen books; Doug Forsythe seconded. The motion passed.

An email blast will be sent out telling members how to sign up for covid vaccinations with the Coatesville VA Hospital.

Announcements:

The newly elected officers attending either in person or via zoom were sworn in by Doug Forsythe. Sworn in were the following:

Commandant	Bonnie Shaw
Senior Vice-Commandant	Larry Samples
Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland
Junior Past Commandant	Jerry Myers
Trustee	Chris Shaw
Trustee	John Abitabilo
Trustee	Doug Forsythe

Also sworn in were the following appointed officers:

Adjutant	Jack Meighan
Chaplain	Dan Condron
Paymaster	Doug Forsythe.

Elected and appointed officers who were not present will be sworn in at a subsequent meeting.

The change of command ceremony was held in which former Commandant Jerry Myers passed the colors to Commandant Bonnie Shaw.

Commandant Shaw thanked the detachment for her election and expressed her desire to make Detachment 286 into the most active detachment in the state, if not the country. She discussed some of her ideas to increase membership and has asked Mike and Jeanne Rapp to become the detachment's Public Relations and Information Officers. Bonnie urged detachment members to consider where we want the detachment to be in the future.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the following members and associates:

Chris Shaw, Ken Weaver, Bill Stellfox, Dan Condron, Dennis Brown, Lisa Sundin, Deb Mundy, Lee Beyer, Pat Powell, Jeanne Rapp, Mike Rapp, Jack Meighan, Dave Buckta, Larry Samples, Leo Burke, Joanne Brown, John Abitabilo, Bonnie Shaw, Jim Copeland, Dan Fitzpatrick, Doug Forsythe, and Kathy Van Gorder.

Distinguished Service Awards with Distinguished Citizen Medals were awarded to the following members and associates:

Jack Meighan, Larry Samples, Joanne Brown, John Abitabilo, Bonnie Shaw, Jim Copeland, Doug Forsythe, Kathy Van Gorder, and Dan Fitzpatrick.

Doug Forsythe also received the Tom Tanner award. Mike Rapp received the first Associate Member of the Year Award.

Closing: 8:45 PM

EVENT: Honor Guard Request for Marine Robert Nichols **DATE:** February 10, 2021
LOCATION: St Agnes Cemetery, West Chester
SUBMITTED BY: Mike Rapp
MEMBERS: Leo Burke (bugler), Mike Rapp, Pat Powell, Tom Tanner, Doug Forsythe, Jerry Myers, Jim Copeland, Larry Samples
PURPOSE: Flag folding, taps, and rifle team service. Robert was 87 years old and had served as Honor Guard a number of years ago. He has lived in Westtown for over 50 years

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: Installation of Officers & Awards

DATE: Jan 25, 2021

MEMBERS:

- Commandant Bonnie Shaw
- SrVice Cmdt Larry Samples
- JrVice Cmdt Dan Fitzpatrick
- Judge Advocate Jim Copeland
- Trustees John Abitabilo, Chris Shaw, Pat Powell
- Adjutant Jack Meighan, Mike Rapp (Asst)
- Sgt of Arms Ken Weaver
- Paymaster Doug Forsythe, Jerry Ross (Asst)
- Chaplain Dan Condron

PURPOSE: 2021 officers were sworn in and special awards given; Doug Forsythe – Tom Tanner award (2020), Mike Rapp – Associate of the year (2020). Numerous personal awards.

LOCATION: Det 286 HQ, Downingtown PA

SUBMITTED BY: Jerry Myers

Bonnie Shaw our new Commandant's installation 1/25/2021



EVENT: Al Harper Service

DATE: Jan 29, 2021

MEMBERS: Nearly the entire detachment in PA.

PURPOSE: We paid tribute to our fallen brother Al Harper. Al was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps for 9 ½ years, including a 6 month extension for the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was a member of the security forces during the Suez Canal Crisis in 1956, heserved in Guam, Mediterranean Cruises, Divisional Drum & Bugle Corps, a graduate of the Army Rangers School and a member of the prestigious Marine Drum & Bugle Corps of Marine Barracks, Washington DC. Al was an active member of the Chester County Marine Corps League for over 30 years serving as an officer, maintained the locker box, and a year as Commandant. Al was active at the state level too. He was a member of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, American Legion and VFW. Al lived an active life and did plenty of charitable work for veteran's groups.

LOCATION: James J. Terry Funeral Home, Coatesville PA

SUBMITTED BY: Dave Buckta, Picture Beverly Buckta



EVENT: Detachment Bingo

DATE: None

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 Fedick, Mario & Della Sheryl.

PURPOSE: Bingo operations are suspended during the pandemic.

SUBMITTED BY: Leo Burke

EVENT: Chester County MCL Extreme Makeover

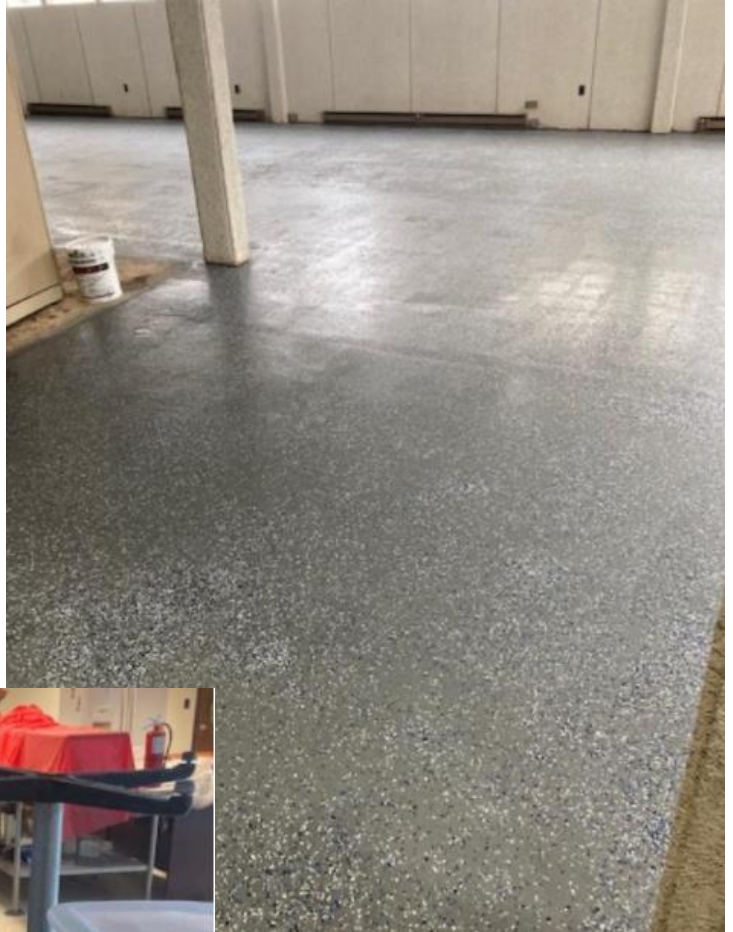
DATE: Nov20 - Jan21

LOCATION: CC MCL HQ, PA

SUBMITTED BY: Bonnie Shaw, Jerry Meyers

MEMBERS: Dave Buckta, Charmaine Fedick, Doug Forsythe, Jack Meighan, Jerry Myers, Larry Samples, Bonnie Shaw, Chris Shaw, Ken Weaver

PURPOSE: Lots of activity and effort into improving the Headquarters building inside and out – See the Commandant's message for details



Attn: Membership

We have just received new Large & X-large Red Golf Shirt In the Footlocker. Several members were turned away due to not having their size. They will be on sale at the next in person membership meeting Cost is \$30.00 S/F

Semper Fidelis,
Douglas R. Forsythe
Foot Locker OIC
District #1 JrVice Cmdt
610-827-9281

All non-life regular and associate members

Please pays your dues if you have not already done so (due Sept 2020),

Contact John Abitabilo with questions.



December 30, 2020

Mr. Douglas Forsythe
Chester County Marine Corps League 286
P.O.Box 828
Downingtown, PA 19335

Dear Doug:

RS

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove, I'd like to thank you, and your organization, for your donation of \$50 to sponsor the Pennsylvania area wreath (in memory of Smedley Butler, USMC) and the Virginia area wreath (in memory of Chesty Puller, USMC) during our annual Wreaths Across the Grove program on December 12, 2020. Your group's support of this annual event is deeply appreciated.

The Medal of Honor Grove contains 54 areas of natural woodland and is designed as a living memorial to the 3,507 recipients of our nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. A section of the Grove is designated for each of the 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. In 1985, the Ancient Order of Hibernians erected a 53rd monument dedicated to the more than 150 Recipients of the Medal of Honor who had no home state. Most of these men, if not all, joined our military as immigrants from other countries. There is also a Chaplains' Memorial honoring the 9 military chaplains who have earned a Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor Grove honors not only those who have received the medal, but also those who have worn and currently wear our country's uniform. More importantly, the Grove stands as a living inspiration to all Americans, especially our nation's youth, that there are choices in life that can make any of us a hero by doing what is right, regardless of the cost.

Again, thank you for your support and wishing you and yours a great 2021!

Sincerely,

Elaine Matt
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Directors
Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove

Volunteer Activity February 2021	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours (Feb)	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	10	20
Staff Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	8	16
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke		
VA Bingo/ Popcorn	Dan Condron		
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	15	15
Golf outing			
Flag retirement	Leo Burke		
Building maintenance	Bonnie Shaw	76	127
Membership	John Abitabilo	3	6
Financial	Doug Forsythe/John Abitabilo	13	16
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	4	8
Other			
Total		129	197



Chester County Marine March 2021 EVENT Calendar

March 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	Bingo??? 5:30pm Jim Copeland
7	8	9	10 VA Bingo Dan Condron ?????????????	11 CC MCL Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Bonnie Shaw	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Bingo??? 5:30pm Jim Copeland
21	22 General Membership Mtg 7:00 pm	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

End of Newsletter



Chester County Marine April 2021 EVENT Calendar

April 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Bingo??? 5:30pm Jim Copeland
4	5	6	7 VA Bingo Dan Condron ????????????	8 CC MCL Staff Meeting 7:00pm Bonnie Shaw	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Bingo??? 5:30pm Jim Copeland
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 General Membership Mtg 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30	

End of Newsletter