

The Chester County Marine

Chester County Detachment #286
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Commandant Bonnie Shaw

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March 2021

Hello All,

From the Commandant's Desk

So thankful we have almost all our renovations done, and our walls will be decorated once again this weekend (3/20). The floor is done, furniture is back in place and our league home is looking great!

Our Rifle Raffle will be pulled at our regular meeting and I will be excited to notify the winner. We are weighing the idea of having rifle raffle every year over winter. This has been a great fundraiser which started off slow due to COVID, but has really done well the past 3 weeks. I'm looking forward to announcing the winner.

BINGO!! Is beginning again on Saturday, April 17th. We will need to arrive a little earlier than normal to begin selling Bingo packs around 1730. Being our first session if a year, we would like to give our players additional time to get in, get their supplies and find their seats. We may have to move some tables around to make our guests comfortable their first time back. We can have 75% capacity for Bingo, which means that up to 115 people can be present. Let's spread the word and get our seats filled.

Masks will need to be worn when we are back in our League Home. At least until the COVID restrictions have been relaxed. Please be mindful of others when we are all together. This will end soon, and all our lives will return to normal, I have confidence.

We have made it through some challenges in the past year, lost some great friends and have had to cancel almost everything, but that is changing. We have many events planned this year and I can't wait to tell you all about them. Golf Outing, Chicken BBQ, MC Ball, etc. all in the planning stages.

We will be planning an open house soon to invite you all in to see our changes and updates. Until then keep an eye on the Facebook page events & announcements and email blasts to come.

Semper Fidelis
Commandant Bonnie Shaw

**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:
April 26, 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.

Summer Uniform

Summer uniform is in effect as follows:

- Red Cover
- Short Sleeve White Shirt
- 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 – February 22, 2021

Meeting Opened: 7:17 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	
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 zoom meeting because of Covid-19 restrictions and renovations of the detachment. Eight officers participated. Other members participated via zoom.

New Members:

Phil Sears applied to be an associate member; he was approved by the members present on zoom and sworn in as an associate member.

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes from 1/25/2021 were provided to members in the newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by John Abitabilo and seconded by Dave Buckta. The motion passed.

Correspondence:

None.

Paymaster Report:

The Commandant presented the paymaster's report. A motion to receive the paymaster's report subject to audit was made by John Abitabilo and seconded by Jerry Myers. The motion passed.

Members or Family Members Sick or in Distress:

None.

Report of Officers:

Commandant Shaw (Renovations): Last month we approved funds to pay \$9,500 to Extreme Epoxy, however, when they did their final walkthrough, they advised there would be additional costs due to the condition of the underlying tile. They said they could no longer provide a five-year guarantee because of the tile condition. We decided to spend \$4,000 to have the tile remediated.

The tile has been removed and three coats of epoxy garage paint with sparse flake have been applied by another company. We will have a work detail to move furniture onto the cured finished surface so the company can finish the rest of the floor. We cannot do a Marine Corps logo on the floor but we are waiting for a proof for a mat with the logo.

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 in the \$250 to \$350 range. The brochures are available online.

Jim Copeland (Bingo): Don't know what our maximum capacity will be after the renovations are completed. If we have to have six feet distancing, we could only have about 25 customers and we cannot make any money with only 25 players. Most of the other bingo games in our area are still shut down.

Commandant Shaw (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. Ken Weaver said he might have information re a new vendor and will meet with Doug and Bonnie to discuss it.

(Marine Corps Ball): It is scheduled for 11/13/2021. We're looking into selling baskets of cheer again instead of chancing off visa gift cards. Our deposit from 2020 has been rolled over for 2021.

(Renovations): Ongoing but things are looking good. We will have a detail meeting tomorrow to move furniture onto the completed portion of the floor to allow the remaining area to be finished. Jerry Myers said he has obtained two display cases and suggested that we have one devoted to Navy exhibits. Bonnie said we should think about how we want to redecorate our detachment, i.e. how we want to exhibit plaques, pictures of the Commandants, etc.

New Business:

A review of committee chairs:

Americanism: Dan Condron;

Audit: Trustees;

Budget and Finance: John Abitabilo;

Building Maintenance: Leo Burke;

Color Guard: Doug Forsythe and member to be named;

Bylaws: Jim Copeland;

Donations: Doug Forsythe;

Eagle Scouts: Larry Samples advised we have lost contact with them, he will try to re-establish it;

Flag Retirement: Leo Burke;

Fundraising:

IT/newsletter: Dave Buckta;

Investments: John Abitabilo;

Lockerbox: Doug Forsythe and Chris Shaw; Jerry Myers will help with inventory;

Marksmanship: Dennis Brown and Mike Rapp;

Medal of Honor Cemetery: Doug Forsythe;

Membership: Jim Copeland and John Abitabilo;

Memorial Day: Bonnie Shaw;

Nominating: Jerry Myers;

Scholarships: Phil Murray;

VAVS: Dan Condron;

Ways and Means:

Special Events:

Bingo: Jim Copeland and Leo Burke;

Chicken BBQ: Bonnie Shaw and Doug Forsythe;

Golf Outing: Doug Forsythe, Jerry Myers and Bonnie Shaw;

Marine Corps Ball: Doug Forsythe and Bonnie Shaw;

Marine of the Year: Jack Meighan; and

Tots for Tots: Lee Byers and Phil Murray.

Bonnie advised she has reached out to the mayor of Downingtown to offer our detachment space if needed for the ceremony celebrating the reopening of the Chestnut St. bridge in April.

Kay Croll requested that Jim Miller be mailed copies of the newsletter. John Abitabilo will handle it.

Our electric bill has been very high in part because of the need to use two electric heaters in the kitchen 24 hours a day. Bonnie encouraged members to think of ways we can reduce our electric use.

Good of the League:

The rifle raffle drawing is scheduled for 3/22/2021. Pat Powell has lined up someone to complete the assembly of the rifle.

Announcements:

None:

Closing: 8:25 PM

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 Rifle Raffle

DATE: March 22, 2021

LOCATION: Chester County MCL Detachment 286 Headquarters

SUBMITTED BY: Mike Rapp

MEMBERS: Pat Powell (OIC) Mike Rapp, Dan Condron. Bonnie Shaw, Russ Snyder, and all who sold tickets!

PURPOSE: A raffle rifle fundraiser was conducted over the past several months with the drawing to be held on March 22, 2021. Special thanks to Pat Powell who coordinated the procurement and assembly of the rifle. Also, Dan Condron and Russ Snyder who sold numerous tickets at a local gun show and Mike Rapp who sold a bunch of tickets and secured a generous donation to the League. All of these efforts are sorely needed as the pandemic has severely curtailed our fundraising efforts. Well done Marines!



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: Past National Commandant Passing

PURPOSE: It is my duty to inform you that Past National Commandant Jim Laskey passed away on 3/16/2021 about 10:00pm Eastern time. Jim suffered from a lung disease for many years and succumbed to the illness.

Jim enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960 in Boston, MA. After graduating from Parris Island, he spent two years on sea duty aboard the USS Lake Champlain and USS Essex. Duty included recover operations of Commander Alan Sheppard’s first U.S. manned outer space flight and served during the Cuba Blockade in 1961. Jim served in Vietnam as operational deployment casualty field reporter until 1967. He also served as a Military Police and Correctional Field with duty in Hawaii and New Hampshire. First Sergeant Laskey retired from 20 years of service as while stationed at Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in 1980.

A member of the Marine Corps League for 53 years, Jim served many capacities including National Commandant from 2008 to 2010. He was a mentor, leader, and guide who served the Marine Corps League and Young Marines with passionate volunteerism. His servant leadership, kind heart, and devotion to family and our Corps will be dearly missed.

Fair winds and following seas

SUBMITTED BY: Bonie Shaw

DATE: 3/16/2021

LOCATION: National

MEMBERS: Jim Laskey



2021 CCDMCL Committees

League Activities:	Chair(s)	Comment
Americanism -	Dan Condron	
Audit -	Trustees	
Budget/Finance -	John Abitabilo	
Building Maintenance -	Leo Burke	For Now - Need Replacement
Color Guard -	Doug Forsythe	New Chair David Keith?
By Laws -	Jim Copeland	
Donations -	Doug Forsythe	
Eagle Scouts -	Larry Samples	
Flag Retirement -	Leo Burke	
IT Sgt/Newsletter -	Dave Butka	
Investments -	John Abitabilo	
Locker Box -	Doug Forsythe/Chris Shaw	
Marksmanship -	Dennis Brown/Mike Rap	
Medal of Honor Cemetery -	Doug Forsythe	
Membership -	Jim Copeland & John Abitabilo	
Memorial Day -	Jim Copeland/Bonie Shaw/Mike Rapp/Glenn Gilbert	
Nominating -	Jerry Myers (Past Commandant)	
Scholarships -	Phil Murray	
VAVS -	Dan Condron	
Finance -	Larry Samples	
Special Events:		
Bingo -	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	
Chicken BBQ -	Bonie and Doug	Need Back Up
Fundraising -		Need New Chair

EVENT: Chester County MCL Extreme Makeover

DATE: March 2021

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 & Chris Shaw plus family, Ken Weaver, Dennis & Joanne Brown, Mike & Jeanne Rapp, Jim Copeland, John Abitabilo,

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.



Phil Sears Virtual Induction

New Member Spotlight Yadhia Aldhahra

Captain Yahia Aldhahraa enlisted into the Marine Corps Reserve from RSS West Chester in 2009, after completing his training, then, PFC Aldhahraa served as a Food Service Specialist with Det A, Marine Wing Support Squadron 472 in Wyoming, PA for six years. In 2012, then, Corporal Aldhahraa served in Kuwait and in 2015 deployed to Iraq as an Arabic linguist. Between these tours abroad, he completed his B.A. from West Chester University, graduating in December 2014. In August 2015, then, Sergeant Aldhahraa completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. In August 2016, he checked into 5th Battalion, 11th Marines, and served three years as a Field Artillery Officer. Since 2019, he has been assigned to George Washington University, Washington D.C. to complete an M.A. in Security Policy Studies.



U.S. Marine Circle of Trees Commemorative Rededication Ceremony

Sponsored by 7th Engineer Battalion (Vietnam), USMC



March 27, 2021
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
1601 Valley Forge Road
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania 19482
Program starting at 12 PM

For more than 70 years, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge has “kept the flame of freedom” burning brightly by educating Americans about their past and the character and virtues that will ensure the country’s future.” It was in 1949 that a farm nestled within the natural woodlands of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, just a short walk from General George Washington’s headquarters, was to become the present headquarters of The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

The mission of the Freedoms Foundation is to motivate Americans to serve a cause greater than them, inspired by the wisdom and good will of founders who could disagree yet still come together in common cause.

The Freedoms Foundation has honored the 13 Marines remembered here since the original trees and monument were dedicated in 1968. In 2012, when one of the 13 crabapple trees was discovered missing, a veteran of the 7th Engineer Battalion contacted Chris Smith, a local arborist, to replace the tree. Chris’s Father had died in Vietnam and Chris replaced the tree at no cost. He did so to honor his Father. A small ceremony was held shortly after.

In the fall of 2020, Marine veterans of the 7th Engineer Battalion (Vietnam), in consultation with Freedoms Foundation, coordinated the replacement of the aging crabapple trees with young cherry trees as well a new monument and Memorial bench on the grounds of The Freedoms Foundation. The new monument, along with the new cherry trees, will be rededicated during the Commemorative Ceremony on March 27, 2021

Volunteer Activity March 2021	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours (Feb)	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	10	30
Staff Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	8	24
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke		
VA Bingo/ Popcorn	Dan Condron		
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe		15
Golf outing			
Flag retirement	Leo Burke		
Building maintenance	Bonnie Shaw	88	215
Membership	John Abitabilo	3	9
Financial	Doug Forsythe/John Abitabilo	3	19
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	4	12
Other			
Total		116	213



Chester County Marine April 2021 EVENT Calendar

April 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
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 Socially Distant Bingo 5:30pm Jim Copeland
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Marksmanship Meeting 2:00pm Dennis Brown	26 General Membership Mtg 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30	



Chester County Marine May 2021 EVENT Calendar

May 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Socially Distant Bingo 5:30pm Jim Copeland
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 VA Bingo Dan Condron ??????????????	13 CC MCL Staff Meeting 7:00pm Bonnie Shaw	14	15 Socially Distant Bingo 5:30pm Jim Copeland
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 General Membership Mtg 7:00 pm	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

End of Newsletter