

# 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](http://www.chestercountymcl.com)  
[CCMarineNews@Verizon.net](mailto:CCMarineNews@Verizon.net)

Volume XVIII, Issue 4



## April 2021

### Board of Trustees (eff: 1/1/2021)

Commandant	Bonnie Shaw
Sr. Vice	Larry Samples
Junior Vice	Dan Fitzpatrick
Jr. Past Com	Jerry Myers
Judge Adv	Jim Copeland

### Appointed Officers

Adjutant	Jack Meighan/Mike Rapp
Service Officer	Doug Forsythe
Paymaster	Doug Forsythe/Jerry Ross
Chaplain	Dan Condron
Sgt. at Arms	Ken Weaver

Hello All,

### From the Commandant's Desk

We've had a lot to be thankful for this month with the Reopening of the Chestnut Street Bridge, dedicated to Downingtown resident Bill Mason, and the restart of Bingo. It's been a great month.

We were sad to hear the passing of one of our past Commandants and charter member Steve Jefferis. He was crucial to the restoration of our Detachment Charter when it was almost lost some years back, which we are forever grateful. Our charter has been draped in his memory.

Our Golf Classic is well underway with sponsorships and donations beginning. We encourage members to bring in at least one sponsor or foursome to support this fundraiser.

The Brandon Hardy family's foundation donated \$2000 to our Detachment during the Rifle Raffle. This made our total sales for the rifle raffle \$9140 with the bulk of the sales coming in the month of February and March 2021. This fundraiser began in September 2020 and I believe if it was a Non-COVID year, we could have attended more festivals, events or gun shows where we could have sold many more tickets. We are discussing repeating this raffle every year.

BINGO IS BACK! We had great attendance for our first Saturday back! We can have 75% capacity according to current COVID guidelines and we look forward to increasing our numbers. In May we will have Bingo on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. That would be May 1st and 15th. Hope to see you there.

The Dept of PA MCL Leadership School is being scheduled again. The first class is May 15th, 0800 to 1700 at the Dept of PA Home in Fort Indiantown Gap. If you would like to attend let me know and I can forward you the details. Class size limited to 24. The fee is \$20/person with coffee, snacks and lunch provided. This fee is being subsidized by the Department and will have to go up in the future. I have volunteered our Detachment to host this Leadership Class in the future, for members in Eastern PA to attend. Additional Info on those sessions coming soon.

NE Division MCL Conference Deadlines are fast approaching. If you plan to attend the Conference and/or banquet (June 4th/5th ) let me know by April 26th.

The Dept of PA Convention is June 16th to 20th. I need to have a Banquet/Delegate count by May 7th. Stay Well and Stay Safe,

Semper Fidelis

Commandant Bonnie Shaw

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



**Next Meeting:  
May 24, 2021 @ 1900**

VA Welcome Kit  
[https://www.va.gov/va\\_welcomekit\\_color.pdf](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](mailto: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 – March 22, 2021

**Meeting Opened:** 7:10 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	
Sergeant at Arms	Ken Weaver	X
Service Officer		
Trustee	Chris Shaw	X
Trustee	Pat Powell	X
Trustee	John Abitabilo	X

Ten officers were present; some members participated via zoom. Retired Navy and Vietnam veteran Corpsman Bob Whetstone was a guest. He was encouraged to apply for regular membership.

### New Members:

Mark Monroe, a Marine Iraq veteran, applied for membership via zoom. He previously provided a copy of his DD-214 and an application; his dues have also been paid. Mark, a Willistown Police Officer, was honorably discharged in 2006. He was approved by a vote of the members present and sworn in as a member of the detachment.

### Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes from 2/22/2021 were provided to members in the newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jim Copeland and seconded by Doug Forsythe. The motion passed.

## **Correspondence:**

A thank you note has been received from the family of Robert Nichols.

## **Paymaster Report:**

Doug Forsythe presented the paymaster's report and announced that we are in the black with our bills paid and a balance of \$23,264 in the business account. A motion to receive the paymaster's report subject to audit was made by Jerry Myers and seconded by Jim Copeland. The motion passed.

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

Ellie Dunn, a charter member of the detachment's auxiliary, has died.

## **Report of Officers:**

Commandant Shaw advised that the major renovations are almost completed.

## **Standing Committees:**

None.

## **Special Committees:**

Jerry Myers (Golf): The tournament will be held at the Applecross Country Club on 8/16/2021. Members were encouraged to solicit donations, golfers and sponsorships.

Doug Forsythe (Color Guard): This Saturday, 3/27/2021 there will be a rededication of a memorial to the 13 members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division who were killed in a training accident in Vietnam. The memorial is near the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge National Park. Our detachment will be responsible for providing a firing detail and folding the flag. Members of the Smedley Butler Detachment will also participate along with members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineers Association and other dignitaries. Muster will be at 1100 and the ceremony will take place at 11:30 AM.

Doug Forsythe (Chicken BBQ): We will be holding it on the second Saturday in October. A different vendor is being considered.

(Marine Corps Ball): It is scheduled for 11/13/2021 at the Coatesville Country Club. A Bill Haley tribute band will provide entertainment. Our deposit from 2020 has been rolled over for 2021. We are hoping to attract members of other detachments to attend.

Dennis Brown (Marksmanship): The first marksmanship meeting was held yesterday, 3/21/21. Our numbers are starting to dwindle, we are now down to seven or eight shooters. The next marksmanship meeting will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April in the detachment at 2:00 PM.

Jerry Myers and Doug Forsythe discussed the detachment's insurance policy which will come due in May, 2021. They are looking into a new policy with Art Miller of Miller Insurance.

Leo Burke (Flag Retirement): A flag retirement ceremony will have to be held soon at the Fire Academy in West Goshen.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The commandant advised the detachment has adopted the family of a former recon Marine who presently works as a private contractor preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. The family have four children one of whom has severe medical issues. The child's medical condition has caused the family to move to Pottsgrove, PA so the child can be treated at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The Department of Pennsylvania Foundation has sent us gifts cards which Jerry Myers will deliver to the family. Their situation was brought to our attention by the Recon Marine Foundation out of Honolulu.

### **New Business:**

The sign at the rear entrance to the detachment is being renovated by the Commandant and will be reinstalled upon completion.

Jerry Myers said that the detachment last year submitted an application nominating Doug Forsythe as the department's Marine of the Year. Last year Doug came in second and Jerry said he wanted to nominate Doug again this year. The nomination was unanimously approved by the members present.

### **Good of the League:**

The Commandant advised that Brandon Hardy's parents, Warren and Jill not only purchased twenty tickets for the rifle raffle but they made a \$2,000 donation from the Brandon Hardy Foundation to our detachment.

Kay Croll and Dennis Brown asked to be named as detachment representatives at the Department of Pennsylvania convention.

Dennis Brown pointed out the detachment's deceased members' plaque was last updated in 2019.

Ken Weaver asked about hanging the uniforms which used to be on the walls of the detachment. The Commandant said she felt that the uniforms deserve to be returned to the walls but must be properly displayed in shadow boxes. Jerry Myers said he will have the boxes made by his son and grandson and will pay for the work.

### **Announcements:**

Mission BBQ is offering a free lunch to any veteran on 3/29/2021.

Closing: 8:02 PM

**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo

**DATE:** April 17, 2021

**LOCATION:** CC MCL Chestnut Street

**MEMBERS:** Leo Burke, Jim Copeland, Joanne Brown, Dennis Brown, Deb Allen Mundy, and Lisa Sundin, Mario & Della Sheryl, Polly Ross and Pat Grubb, Bonnie Shaw

**PURPOSE:** Bingo operations resumed this past Saturday. 40 players attended the inaugural with Mario calling the balls and Leo & Jim ensuring a smooth and efficient operation. A good time was had by all. Come on out and give socially distant bingo a try – you might win a few \$\$\$\$\$.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke

**EVENT:** Chester County MCL Rifle Raffle

**DATE:** April 15, 2021

**LOCATION:** Gordon's Sporting Goods, Eagle, PA

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jerry Myers

**MEMBERS:** Pat Powell, Jerry Myers

**PURPOSE:** The transfer was made today 4/15/2021, at Gordon's Sporting Goods in Eagle. The winner Albert Fermamento and Pat Powell are pictured. Thanks to Pat for making this possible. All went well!



**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:** Flag Retirement

**DATE:** 4/9/2021

**LOCATION:** West Chester Fire Department Training Center, West Chester PA

**PURPOSE:** Approximately 1,000 flags were properly retired. Detachment members were called to attention, taps played, and flags disposed.

**MEMBERS:** Leo Burke (OIC/bugler), Squad leader Jack Meighan, Chaplain Jerry Myers, Trucker Lee Beyer, Larry Samples, Walt Simcox and Fire Dept Doug McClure. Smedley Butler Dominic D'Alessandro

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke

28 volunteer hours

**EVENT:** Circle of Trees Dedication

**DATE:** 3/27/2021

**LOCATION:** Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, PA

**PURPOSE:** 7th Engineer Battalion (Vietnam) Circle of Trees was rededicated on the grounds of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge near Phoenixville, PA on 27 March 2021. The grove of crabapple trees was replaced with cherry blossoms. Members from several Marine Corps League Detachments participated including Gen. Smedley D. Butler (Color Guard); Chester County (Rifle Squad, Flag fold detail & Bugler); George Pron-Paul Seton (Chaplain), Lehigh Valley & Keystone Headquarters.

**MEMBERS:** Doug Forsythe, Jack Meighan, Dan Fitzpatrick, Mike Rapp, Jim Copeland, Tom Tanner, Pat Powell, and Jerry Myers

**SUBMITTED BY:** Doug Forsythe



**EVENT:** Chestnut Street SEPTA Bridge Opening

**DATE:** April 1, 2021

**LOCATION:** CC MCL HQ, PA

**SUBMITTED BY:** Doug Forsythe

**MEMBERS:** Doug Forsythe, and Jerry Myers

**PURPOSE:** Unit personnel were on hand for the grand opening of Bill Mason Bridge on Chestnut Street. **Can you find Doug?**





# 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.

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## **New Member Spotlight Mark Monroe**

Mark Monroe joined the United States Marine Corps immediately upon graduation from high school in 1999. He served eight (8) years and did one tour in Iraq in 2004. While in the Marine Corps, he was a 3531, Motor Transport Operator. Since separating from the Marine Corps, Mark have been serving as a police officer in Chester County. He is married with one child and enjoys boating, hunting, and the outdoors.

<b>Volunteer Activity</b> <b>March 2021</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Monthly Hours (Feb)</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Monthly Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	10	40
Staff Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	8	32
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	30
VA Bingo/ Popcorn	Dan Condron		
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe		15
Golf outing	Jerry Myers	35	35
Flag retirement	Leo Burke	28	28
Building maintenance	Bonnie Shaw	15	230
Membership	John Abitabilo	3	12
Financial	Doug Forsythe/John Abitabilo	3	22
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	4	16
Other			
<b>Total</b>		136	425



# Chester County Marine May 2021 EVENT Calendar

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



# Chester County Marine June 2021 EVENT Calendar

June 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	<b>5</b> <b>Socially Distant Bingo</b> <b>5:30pm</b>  Jim Copeland
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  CC MCL Staff Meeting  7:00pm Bonnie Shaw	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Devil Dog Growl</b> 1400  Larry Sampes	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Socially Distant Bingo</b> <b>5:30pm</b>  Jim Copeland
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>General Membership Mtg</b>  7:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

End of Newsletter