

# 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)  
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## July 2021

Hello all,

Seems like the month of July has just flown by. From tributes to fundraisers, from Recruiting Brunch to Adding new members, it's been a great month.

It began on July 5th when we had out graveside service to Major Samuel Nicholas, our 1st Commandant of the Marine Corps. It was attended by our Northeast Division Vice Commandant, Mike Waluk and his lovely wife. The Commanding Officer of the 1st Marine Corps District, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Colonel Phillip Ash accompanied by Major Victor Bockman and SgtMaj Carlos Orjuela also attended and/or participated in the ceremony. OIC was District One Vice Commandant Doug Forsythe and Marine Fred Leclair narrated the ceremony. I encourage everyone to attend out November 10th ceremony. Our mandate is to attend his graveside 3 times per year, Memorial Day, Independence Day and the Marine Corps Birthday.

July 10th, we hosted a Brunch for the Recruiters, Poolees (Delayed Entry Pool) and their parents. This was a well-attended event which included GySgt Brake and several local recruiters from around the area. Many of our members spoke a little about their reasons for joining the Marine Corps and what they have gained from becoming a Marine. SSgt Yonas Reinholdson was our point of contact for this activity, and I would consider it a great success. We will be adding this to our quarterly events. It's our hope that this will enhance our membership and make sure those seeking and succeeding in becoming Marines, know what our mission is and that we are here for them for life. Three recruiters joined our detachment because of this event.

Bingo was back on the 17th after about a month's absence due to the July 4th holiday weekend. It was well attended, but we could certainly use more help and players. It's a great night of entertainment and friendship.

The following day, the 18th, we had a Dine and Donate at the Liberty Union restaurant in Chester Springs. We received a little more than 15% of the proceeds for the day. We will announce additional Dine and Donate fundraisers soon and we hope to see you there.

Next up is the Membership Meeting on July 26th. We will again have a Potluck meal @ 1800 before the meeting begins at 1900. Bring a dish that you would like to share. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

- Gold Outing August 16th – Need more players!
- National MCL Convention August 8th to 13th, Springfield IL
- Dues are Due before September 1st – All dues paying members are due at the same time now, not by the month you joined. This is a change from a few years back.

Semper Fidelis  
Commandant Bonnie Shaw

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



**Next Meeting:  
August 23, 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 – June 24, 2021

Meeting Opened: 7:04 PM

### Roll Call of Officers:

Officer	Member	Present
Commandant	Bonnie Shaw	X
Sr. Vice-Commandant	Larry Samples	X
Jr. Vice-Commandant	Dan Fitzpatrick	X
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	

Nine officers present; Leo Burke served as the Sergeant-at-Arms.

A pot luck dinner was held before the meeting.

Following the dinner, Chaplain Lauren Meiswinkel of American Legion Post 134 in West Chester spoke about the history of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains which honors four Army chaplains who perished when the USS Dorchester was torpedoed in the North Atlantic in 1943. The chaplains gave away their life jackets to soldiers who did not have one. Jerry Myers was given the Legion of Honor Award from the chapel which is given to individuals who perform acts of selfless service in their local community. PA State Senator Carolyn Comita presented Jerry with a citation from the Pennsylvania Senate recognizing his honor.

## **New Members:**

There were three applicants for membership: Marines Rick Corbit and David Hetford and Robert L. Whetstone, a Navy Corpsman who served with Marines in Vietnam. All three presented their DD-214s and applications and paid their dues. All were approved by a vote of the detachment members present and sworn in as members.

## **Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

The minutes from 5/24/2021 were provided to members in the newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dan Condron and seconded by Kathy Van Gorder. The motion passed.

## **Correspondence:**

None.

## **Paymaster Report:**

Doug Forsythe presented the paymaster's report. A motion to receive the report subject to audit was made by Dan Condron and seconded by Fred LeClair. The motion passed.

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

Tom McGinley of the Smedley Butler Detachment recently passed away. Dan Condron said Tom always helped out at bingo at the Coatesville VA Hospital and was well respected for his work there.

Bob Campagna is ill at home; a get-well card will be sent.

## **Report of Officers:**

Commandant Shaw: Doug Forsythe has been elected to replace George Souder as District One Vice-Commandant.

## **Standing Committees:**

None.

## **Special Committees:**

Jim Copeland (Bingo): Bingo has been doing well. There was a little confusion regarding the kitchen money and the bingo money but that has been resolved. Bingo is on the first and third Saturdays from 5:30 PM to about 9:30 or 10:00 PM. There will be no bingo on 7/3.

Jerry Myers (Golf): Donations are doing well but we need golfers. The tournament will be held on 8/16/2021 at the Applebrook Country Club. Chris Shaw will assist in organizing the tournament.

Doug Forsythe (Chicken BBQ): Bonnie and Doug are the chairs. It will be held on the second Saturday in October which is 10/9. We will need a work party in the morning to set up; Doug and Lee Byers will pick up the soda, ice, etc. Jonathan Stoltzfus from Rock'n J BBQ will handle the food preparation.

(Marine Corps Ball): It is scheduled for 11/13/2021 at the Coatesville Country Club. A Bill Haley tribute band will provide entertainment. We are hoping to attract members of other detachments to attend. Tickets are \$50 a person, \$90 a couple. The menu will feature salmon and carved beef.

Dennis Brown (Marksmanship): The first live fire was held yesterday; ten members participated. The next live fire/meeting will be held at Kimberton on 7/25/2021. We will meet at Mike Rapp's house at 9:00 AM and then caravan to Kimberton Fish and Game. You don't have to be a member of the detachment to shoot on our team.

Dan Condron (VAVS): Obviously because of the pandemic, volunteer hours and donations at the Coatesville VA Hospital dramatically decreased last year. There is still no fund raising or volunteer activity allowed. Hoping things return to normal later this year. If you have a volunteer badge for the VA, you have to get a new one. As of a month ago, there were only 62 resident patients at the hospital.

Leo Burke (Flag retirement): There will be a flag retirement ceremony on 7/9.

### **Unfinished Business:**

There were no suggestions for edits to the by-laws so structure and grammatical changes will be made which will not change the text of the by-laws. Upon completion, the by-laws will be republished.

### **New Business:**

Bonnie Shaw: League renovations are ongoing. We have had three sessions to recover the chairs. There are additional chairs in storage, but we anticipate that we will have enough fabric to cover all of them. Doug Forsythe's uniform has been placed in a shadow box and we will probably obtain additional shadow boxes every quarter. Mike Whelan, who helps us with our golf outing, has provided the shadow box.

Bonnie also reported that the Marine Corps League convention was 6/16 to 6/20/21. On behalf of the detachment, she donated \$500 to the Children's Hospital Fund and challenged other detachments to meet or exceed the \$500. The Young Marines matched our donation. It is tradition to donate money to the local children's hospital where the national convention is held.

A representative from PADogsforVets.org related a story in which a veteran's service dog trained to alert him to either a cardiac or diabetic issue alerted the parents of a child nearby that their son was about to have a diabetic episode. Bonnie said she was so moved that she suggested that our detachment donate \$500 to this organization. Tom Tanner made a motion to donate \$500 to the PA Dogs for vets organization, which was seconded by Chris Shaw, the motion passed.

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs recommended that all Pennsylvania veterans register at [DMVPA.GOV](http://DMVPA.GOV) for information regarding, discounts, counseling, health, etc.

It was decided at the convention that the guidelines for Americanism Albums only need to adhere to the national guidelines. Dan Condron explained that the album serves as a history of a detachment's activities over the past year.

District One Past Vice-Commandant George Souder received a Distinguished Service Medal at the convention. Bonnie has been appointed to the board of the Pennsylvania Marine Corps Foundation and as Assistant Watch Dog for the Pennsylvania Military Order of Devil Dogs. (Woof woof?)

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

Mike Rapp advised that Victory Baptist Church, which is on Route 113, is having a free lunch and concert on 7/4/2021 at 11:45 AM honoring veterans and active-duty military personnel.

Bonnie advised that the detachment will host a continental breakfast on Saturday, 7/10/2021 at 9:00 AM for the Downingtown Marine recruiters and their recruit poolies and the applicants' parents.

### **Announcements:**

There will be a grave side ceremony on Monday, 7/5/2021 at 11:00 AM honoring Samuel Nicholas, first Commandant of the Marine Corps at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch Sts., Philadelphia, PA. Representatives from the Marine Corps, PA Department and national MCL will be present.

Closing 8:12 PM.

**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo **DATE:** July 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. Doug Forsythe, Mike and Jeanne Rapp, Charmaine, and Ruth Thompson  
**PURPOSE:** Bingo was conducted only once due to the holiday.  
**Attention:** Runners are needed for bingo, will take any sort of ambulatory movement. Kitchen needs help too – See Joanne.  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke

**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

*Marines, We need your help with the Golf Outing on 8/16. Please reach out to fellow Marines and friends and put together a foursome for this event. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year! All it takes is for each of us to make this a priority and find Four Golfers, we need at least 80 to make this a successful outing. Donations are also welcome.*

S/F  
Jerry

**EVENT:** Funeral Detail

**DATE:** July 8, 2021

**LOCATION:** King of Prussia, PA

**PURPOSE:** Detachment personnel supported the funeral service of Chosin Reservoir survivor LT Anthony Cassanelli including a rifle squad.

**MEMBERS:** Pat Powell, Mike Rapp, Jack Meighan, Larry Samples, Jim Copeland, Doug Forsythe, Jerry Myers, Dan Fitzpatrick

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jeanne Rapp  
16 volunteer hours



**EVENT:** Duck Race Raffle Drawing

**DATE:** July 18, 2021

**LOCATION:** Duck Pond

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jerry Myers

**MEMBERS:** See winners below. Net \$455 for CC MCL plus gifts!!!



- \$25.00 Gift Certificate WAWA #2333
- \$25.00 Gift Certificate Elenor Russell Gift Shop # 2357
- \$25.00 Gift Certificate Arleonne # 2292
- Mission BBQ Gift Basket # 2367
- \$50.00 Gift Card Danny Bee Funky # 2271
- \$25.00 Gift Card WAWA # 2497
- \$25.00 Gift Card Target # 2232
- \$20.00 Stainless Steel Tumbler
- \$50.00 Carpet Cleaning products My Dads Carpets

- Dan Borowiec
- MCL
- John Abitabilo
- MCL
- Charmaine Fedick
- MCL
- Lisa Snyder
- MCL
- MCL

**EVENT:** Liberty Union Fundraiser

**DATE:** July 17, 2021

**LOCATION:** Chester Springs, PA

**PURPOSE:** A portion of Sunday's proceeds were donated back to the Detachment.

"It was such a pleasure meeting you on Sunday! And you guys did a great job rounding up the troops! I hope everything was great for you and your crew. I had off yesterday, however today I was able to calculate the total... \$882.55!!! That comes to \$132, however we will round it up to \$150."

**SUBMITTED BY:** Bonnie Shaw

**EVENT:** Nicholas Remembrance Ceremony

**DATE:** July 5, 2021

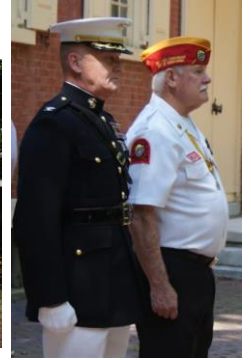
**LOCATION:** Philadelphia

**SUBMITTED BY:** Bonnie Shaw

**PURPOSE:** Participants included Col. Phillip Ash, Major Victor Bockman and SgtMaj Carlos Orjuela, NVC Mike Waluk, Department of PA Commandant Dave Brady, and members of the Chester County Detachment: Commandant Bonnie Shaw, Chris Shaw, Fred LeClair, Jim Copeland, DVC Doug Forsythe and ADVC Jerry Myers.

Ceremony is on the grounds of the Arch Street Meeting House at 4th and Arch Streets in Philadelphia.

**MEMBERS:** See above



**EVENT:** Four Chaplains Award

**DATE:** June 28, 2021

**LOCATION:** CC MCL HQ

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jeanne Rapp

**PURPOSE:** Jerry Myers received the Legion of Honor award from the Order of Four Chaplains at the June membership meeting. Jerry is pictured with his wife Martha.





# Attn: Membership

All non-life members...please pay your dues for 2022 by August 31, 2021 by sending a check for \$35, payable to "CCDMCL." Here is the mailing address:

Marine Corps League  
Chester County Detachment #286  
P.O. Box 828  
Downingtown, PA 19335-0828  
Attn: Paymaster

Don't forget that life membership is available to members in good standing at the following rates:

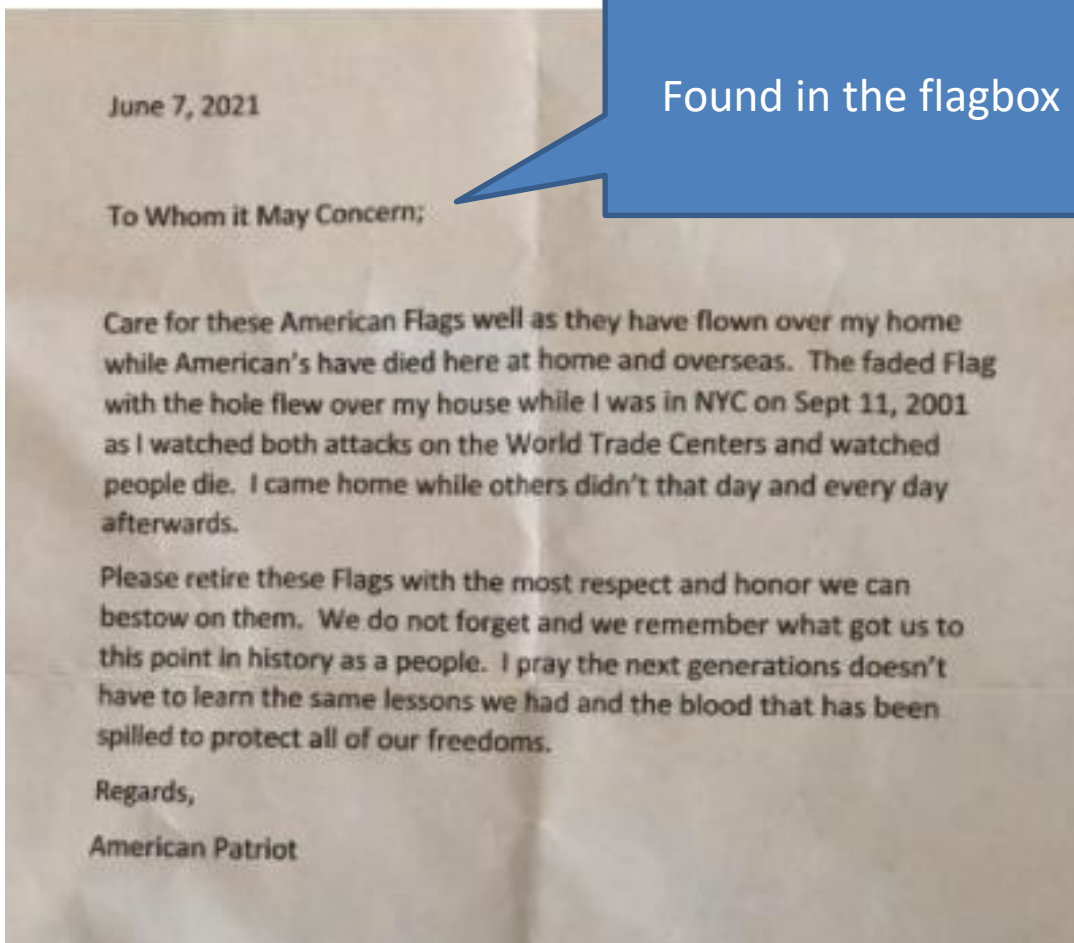
Up to age 35-\$500

36-50-\$400

51-64-\$300

65-over-\$200

Contact John Abitabilo at [johnabitabilo@gmail.com](mailto:johnabitabilo@gmail.com) for details.



<b>Volunteer Activity July 2021</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Monthly Hours (July)</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Monthly Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	10	70
Staff Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	16	64
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	16	106
VA Bingo/ Popcorn	Dan Condron		
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	20	63
Golf outing	Jerry Myers	15	60
Flag retirement	Leo Burke		28
Building maintenance	Bonnie Shaw	10	260
Membership	John Abitabilo	8	24
Financial	Doug Forsythe/John Abitabilo	4	42
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	6	36
Other – Installations	Doug Forsythe		14
<b>Total</b>		105	767



# Chester County Marine August 2021 EVENT Calendar

August 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7  <b>Bingo 5:30pm</b>  Jim Copeland/ Leo Burke
8	9	10	11	12  <b>CC MCL Staff Meeting</b>  7:00pm Bonnie Shaw	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21  <b>Eagle Scout Court of Honor</b>  1400 Larry Samples  <b>Bingo 5:30pm</b>  Jim Copeland/ Leo Burke
22	23  <b>General Membership Mtg</b>  7:00 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



# Chester County Marine September 2021 EVENT Calendar

September 2021						
<a href="#">◀ Aug 2021</a>						<a href="#">Oct 2021 ▶</a>
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <b>Bingo</b> 5:30pm  Jim Copeland/ Leo Burke
5	6	7	8	9 <b>CC MCL Staff Meeting</b>  7:00pm Bonnie Shaw	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 <b>Bingo</b> 5:30pm  Jim Copeland/ Leo Burke
19 <b>MODD Growl</b>  1400  Larry Samples	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 <b>General Membership Mtg</b>  7:00 pm	28	29	30		

**End of Newsletter**