

# 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 7



## August 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,

We had a terrific August so far. We've added a few more members, including one from the great state of TX. He will be joining us on Zoom in September during our meeting to be sworn in.

Our National MCL Convention was this past week with Dennis and Joanne Brown in attendance. Dennis gave the Commandant's report for me since I was unable to attend. From all reports, photos and videos posted on social media, it looks like a great convention. Looking forward to hearing what the Browns have to say about it.

Our Golf Classic in the name of Corporal Brandon Hardy was an extreme success. We had 120 golfers. The generosity of the players was very beneficial to our fundraising. The numbers are still being added up as of the publishing of this newsletter, but as soon as we have the full accounting, we will share it with membership. Definitely worth repeating through the future. Golfers were happy, venue was happy, weather was perfect. Thank you to all the volunteers before, during, and after the event.

The first Bingo of the month was well attended, and a great time was had by all. Our regular kitchen staff was not available that weekend, so we adapted and still managed to have a limited menu for the evening. Bingo is again this Saturday, the 21st, and we will be up and running in the kitchen as usual. Thanks for all those who have and do help in our kitchen and during Bingo. If this keeps up, we may need to add a few more tables and chairs for additional players.

We now look forward to our Open House and Rededication on September 25th from 1300 to 1600. We welcome all of our members to come to the Detachment and see all the changes we have made over the last year. Our home is brighter, cleaner, and very much refreshed. Refreshments will be available, and the rededication ceremony will happen at 1500. Feel free to come by at any time during the open house and we invite you to attend the ceremony. Hope to see you all there.

Until then, Semper Fidelis and stay well.

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:  
September 27, 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 – July 26, 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	
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	

Nine officers present.

### New Members:

Jerry Myers made a motion to accept Julie Wiley as an Associate Member. The motion was seconded by Rich Corbitt and approved by a vote of the members present. Julie, who is Kathy Van Gorder's daughter, was sworn in as an Associate Member.

### Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The minutes from 6/24/2021 were provided to members in the newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jim Copeland and seconded by Larry Samples. 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 Tom Tanner and seconded by Larry Samples. The motion passed.

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

Leo Burke advised that Mario Scherl, who is the alternate bingo caller for the detachment's bingo games, was in a serious automobile accident in which he suffered a fractured sternum. Mario is recovering at home.

Bob Campagna is still suffering pain in his neck and is awaiting the results of an MRI.

Jeff Sanders said he attended the funeral of his good friend Brian Gallagher, 38, with whom he went to boot camp on the buddy system. Jeff asked the detachment to remember Brian in their prayers.

## **Report of Officers:**

Commandant Shaw offered a rundown on the detachment's activities in July:

7/5: We had a well-attended memorial service at the grave of the Marine Corps' first commandant Major Samuel Nicholas in Philadelphia. Also in attendance were the Department of Pennsylvania Commandant Dave Brady, the Division Vice-Commandant Mike Waluk, Col. Ash who is the officer in charge of recruiting in the Philadelphia/ New York areas, the colonel's aide-de-camp and a sergeant major.

The next memorial service at Major Nicholas' grave will be on 11/10/2021.

7/10: Our first recruiter/poolee get together, in which members of the detachment met with and discussed their Marine Corps experiences with the poolees, was held at the detachment. We had at least 25 poolees, six of whom were shipping out that Sunday. In addition, about twelve parents attended. There were five recruiters and a reservist present and they spoke about their careers, MOS, reasons for joining the Marine Corps, etc. Three of the Marine recruiters who attended joined our detachment that day. The event was very well received and we hope to have one of these get togethers every quarter with the next one tentatively scheduled for 10/30/2021.

7/17: Bingo night, more volunteers and players needed. Bingo is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

7/18: Liberty Union dine and donate which netted us \$150.

The national convention is scheduled for 8/8 thru 8/13/2021 in Springfield, Illinois. Dennis Brown will represent the detachment.

The Commandant also advised that detachment dues are due by 8/31/2021.

Jerry Myers said we need volunteers to work at the golf tournament on 8/16/2021.

(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.

Doug Forsythe reported that he and three other members of the detachment served as a color guard at the French Creek Golf Club for the Folds of Honor which is a non-profit national organization that helps veterans, their spouses, and families. The detachment received a donation of \$250.

### **Standing Committees:**

None.

### **Special Committees:**

Leo Burke (Bingo): Still need volunteers; the jackpot is up to \$600. The kitchen will be closed for the next bingo.

Leo Burke (Flag Retirement): Will be rescheduling the flag retirement, watch your e-mail.

Jerry Myers (Golf): The tournament will be held on 8/16/2021 at the Applebrook Country Club.

Doug Forsythe (Chicken BBQ): It will be held on the second Saturday in October which is 10/9. Tickets go on sale on 9/1/2021. 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. The social hour begins about 5:30 PM with the ceremony starting at 6:30 PM.

Dennis Brown (Marksmanship): A live fire meeting was held yesterday at Kimberton with five people; the next live fire/meeting will be held at Kimberton on 8/22/2021. 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. Extra weapons are available, and ammunition is provided.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Jerry discussed plans for sustaining memberships and encouraged members to consider enrolling and hoped this could be finalized at the next general meeting. Jerry made a motion that we execute this sustaining membership program at the next meeting; Jim Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Forms to participate in the program will be mailed electronically.

Jerry also advised we have recently extended our lease for another five years.

### **New Business:**

Jerry urged the members to notify the commandant if they learn of a Marine in need and a "person in the background" has offered to make a donation to assist them.

Active Marine reservists can be members of a MCL detachment and do not have to pay dues until they leave the Marine Corps.

A locksmith is being sought to change the locks and place a deadbolt on the rear door.

## Good of the League:

The Commandant thanked Ken Weaver for his work in changing lights in the detachment. Ken and his wife spent about 12 hours on this project. Ken advised that there are more lights to be changed which he will gradually complete.

Bonnie said that, when the flag box was emptied this week, a small flag still wrapped in plastic was discovered with an authentication card indicating the flag had been flown over the USS Arizona with the date it was flown. The flag will be retained in our museum.

Jerry Myers has learned of a recruit at Parris Island who is having hard time and could use some encouragement. Anyone willing to drop him a note should contact Jerry.

## Announcements:

MCL calendars are still available for \$30; see Doug.

Closing 8:08 PM.

**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo **DATE:** August 7 & 21, 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 held two times in August with 37 in attendance for each session.  
**Attention:** Runners are needed for bingo, will take any sort of ambulatory movement. Kitchen needs help too – See Joanne.  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke (40 hours)

**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

S/F  
Jerry

**EVENT:** Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Tristan Eversmeyer, BSA Troop 56

**DATE:** Aug 21, 21

**LOCATION:** St. Peter's Celebration Center, West Brandywine, PA

**PURPOSE:** The Chester County Detachment #286 presented Tristan Eversmeyer with the MCL "Good Citizenship Award" certificate. It's always an honor to recognize America's future leaders for earning the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Aware. The Court of Honor ceremony was very impressive.

**MEMBERS:** Bonnie Shaw, Doug Forsythe, Chris Shaw, Larry Samples (OIC)

**SUBMITTED BY:** Larry Sample  
8 volunteer hours



**EVENT:** Helping a Marine in Need (Gift Cards)

**DATE:** August 08, 2021

**LOCATION:** Pottstown, PA

**PURPOSE:** Presentation of three \$100.00 Walmart gift certificates to Charlette in Pottstown PA. Her husband Dennis is a Marine and soon will be deployed to Afghanistan. The family moved to Pottstown from Alabama in order to be near Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. Their daughter has a serious medical issue. We hope to have Dennis visit our Detachment prior to Deployment.

**MEMBERS:** Jerry Meyers and Doug Forsythe

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jerry Myers



**EVENT:** Flag Retirement

**DATE:** August 05, 2021

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

**PURPOSE:** Approximately 1,000 flags were properly disposed with full honors including bugle taps. Included in the ceremony were 4 very large flags. Ceremony is on the grounds of the Arch Street Meeting House at 4th and Arch Streets in Philadelphia.

**MEMBERS:** Leo Burke, Jim Copeland, Michael and Jeanne Rapp, Lee Beyers, Walt Simcox, Phil Sears, Doug Forsythe

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke and Jeanne Rapp (36 hours)



# 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.

**EVENT:** Annual Golf Outing

**LOCATION:** Applecross Country Club

**PURPOSE:** Our Golf Classic in the name of Corporal Brandon Hardy was an extreme success. We had 120 golfers. The generosity of the players was very beneficial to our fundraising. The numbers are still being added up as of the publishing of this newsletter, but as soon as we have the full accounting, we will share it with membership. Definitely worth repeating through the future. Golfers were happy, venue was happy, weather was perfect. Thank you to all the volunteers before, during, and after the event.

**MEMBERS:** Lots

**DATE:** August 16, 2021

**SUBMITTED BY:** Bonnie Shaw



<b>Volunteer Activity August 2021</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Monthly Hours (Aug)</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Monthly Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	10	80
Staff Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	8	72
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	40	146
VA Bingo/ Popcorn	Dan Condron		
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe		63
Golf outing	Jerry Myers	120	180
Flag retirement	Leo Burke	30	58
Building maintenance	Bonnie Shaw	10	270
Membership	John Abitabilo	4	28
Financial	Doug Forsythe/John Abitabilo	4	46
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	5	41
Other – Boy Scouts	Larry Samples	8	22
<b>Total</b>		239	1,006



# Chester County Marine September 2021 EVENT Calendar

September 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>No Bingo</b></p>
5	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;"><b>Labor Day</b></p>	7	8	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;"><b>CC MCL Staff Meeting</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">7:00pm Bonnie Shaw</p>	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;"><b>Bingo 5:30pm</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Jim Copeland/ Leo Burke</p>
<p style="color: red; margin: 0;"><b>MODD Growl</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">1400</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Larry Samples</p>	20	21	22	23	24	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;"><b>CC MCL Open House</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">1300-1600</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">Bonnie Shaw</p>
26	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;"><b>General Membership Mtg</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">7:00 pm</p>	28	29	30		



# Chester County Marine October 2021 EVENT Calendar

October 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <b>Bingo</b> 5:30pm  Jim Copeland/ Leo Burke
3	4	5	6	7 	8	9 <b>Chicken BBQ</b> 1200 – 1700  Bonnie Shaw
10	11	12	13	14 <b>CC MCL Staff Meeting</b>  7:00pm Bonnie Shaw	15	16 <b>Bingo</b> 5:30pm  Jim Copeland/ Leo Burke
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 <b>General Membership Mtg</b>  7:00 pm	26	27	28	29	30
31 						

End of Newsletter