

# The Chester County Marine

Cpl Brandon Hardy, 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 IXXI, Issue 9



## October 2022

### From the Commandant's Desk

Hello All,

Hope all are well. We have a busy beginning to our November as usual. I'm not going to try not to bore you too much with the details, but I'm all about keeping you informed, so here goes.

The Marine Corps Ball letters are in the mail, but instead of tickets being enclosed in the envelope, we are asking that you call Doug or me to RSVP this year. We are requesting a response by November 5th. We apologize for the cost of \$62/per person, but in the rising cost of food we are just breaking even at that price. If you can then send a check to our detachment address, PO BOX 828, Downingtown PA 19335, or get a hold of Doug and he can process a credit card payment electronically on Square. Additional info in the Letter.

The week of the birthday is a busy schedule (see below). Please let me know if you have any questions.

Nov 5th - (1700) Bingo

Nov 9th - (1800) Rehearsal for MC Ball at Whitford Country Club

Nov 10th - (0600) @ Hershey Mills - Philadelphia Birthday activities. Bus Transportation arranged, Pay Les Rouse \$30/pp Takes us all around Philly

Nov 11th - (0800) @ Lionville Middle School Veterans Breakfast and Ceremony

Nov 12th - (1700) @ Whitford Country Club, Marine Corps Ball RSVP by Nov 5th

Nov 16th - (1900) Staff Meeting due to Birthday week activities

We need a final head count for the bus transportation to, around and back from Philly on the Marine Corps Birthday. Les Rouse needs everyone's payment at the General meeting to secure the bus. If I've missed anything, we will go over it at Monday's General Meeting October 24th.

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:  
November 28, 2022 @  
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 Cpl Brandon Hardy/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 (Until 05 Nov)**

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>

# September minutes will be published in the November newsletter. Stand by.

**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo

**DATE:** Oct 1 & 15, 2022

**LOCATION:** CC MCL Chestnut Street

**MEMBERS:** Leo Burke, Jim Copeland, Joanne Brown, Dennis Brown, Mario & Della Sheryl, Polly Ross and Pat Grubb, Bonnie Shaw, Chris Shaw, Doug Forsythe, Mike and Jeanne Rapp, Charmaine, and Ruth Thompson, Steve Annan

**PURPOSE:** Bingo was held in July with an earlier start time. Attendance for both events were in the low 20s.

**Attention:** Runners are needed for bingo, will take any sort of ambulatory movement. Kitchen needs help too – See Joanne.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke (15 hours)



**EVENT:** Live Fire Practice

**DATE:** Sept 25, 2022

**LOCATION:** Rapps House and Kimberton Range

**MEMBERS:** Dennis Brown, Chris Shaw, Mike Rapp, Emil M, Pat Powell, Phil Sears, others

**PURPOSE:** Marksmanship team practice

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jeanne Rapp

## Life Member Passing – Rest in Peace Jerry Ross

Jerome Samuel Ross, Sr., age 81, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2022.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Marie Teresa (O'Brien) and William Henry Ross on December 24, 1940. Jerry was married to the love of his life, Joyce Lynn (Adams) Ross for 59 years and together raised their five children. He graduated from Villanova University ROTC and worked as a Certified Public Accountant throughout his career. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and retired from service as Captain in 1966. He continued to keep his Corps near and dear to his heart and continued to be involved in the Marine Corps League of Chester County.

Funeral arrangements have been planned for Friday, October 28, 2022, at Saints Philip & James Catholic Church, 107 N. Ship Road, Exton, Pennsylvania, 19341 with visitation from 9:30AM to 10:45 AM followed by 11:00AM mass of Christian burial. Interment will be immediately following mass at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield, Pennsylvania.



**EVENT:** Detering Farewell Picnic Picnic      **DATE:** Oct 16, 2022  
**LOCATION:** Rapps home,      **PURPOSE:** Say farewell.  
**MEMBERS:** Numerous



**EVENT:** Rifle Raffle  
**DATE:** Oct 21, 2022  
**LOCATION:** Gun Show, Oaks PA  
**PURPOSE:** Raise funds  
**Members:** Mike Rapp  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Jeanne Rapp



## NOTICE TO THE DETACHMENT

Again this year, our Detachment has been honored by the Department of PA to raise a garrison flag at Independence Hall on the Marine Corps Birthday, 10 November 2022. The flag raising will occur at 0800 on the 247th anniversary of the birth of the Marine Corps. The uniform of the day will be red cover, long sleeve white shirt, black tie, black trousers, black shoes, red satin jacket, if approved by the Chairman of the Samuel Nicholas Memorial Committee.

Detachment members will muster with the Chairman of the Samuel Nicholas Memorial Committee, Doug Forsythe, and Color Guard at 0600 Hershey's Mill near the tennis courts. Enter the complex at the main gate, 1500 Greenhill Road, West Chester, PA. When you arrive at the guard station, mention that you are with the MCL and catching a bus at the tennis courts. Those wishing to ride the bus should pay the \$30.00 bus fee in advance by check, payable to Marine Corps League. Check should be given at a Detachment meeting or mailed to either Les Rouse (1066 Kenneth Way, West Chester, PA 19380) or Richard Corbit, Jr. (1097 Lincoln Drive, West Chester, PA 19380). Payment must be received prior to 1 November. Those not wishing to travel by bus will muster at the flag poll at Independence Hall promptly at 0730. It is an honor to participate in raising the flag on this occasion. We hope you will be able to join us.

After the flag raising, those participating with the Detachment will be given a private tour of the interior of Independence Hall by a park ranger. Following the tour, all those wishing to march two blocks to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution will form up and march as a group to place a wreath at the Monument.

Following the ceremony, those traveling by bus will board the bus and be transported to Friend's Meeting House at 4th and Arch Streets where a ceremony will be held at the grave site of Maj. Samuel Nicholas, First Commandant of the Marine Corps. We expect representatives from Headquarters Marine Corps in DC, Headquarters Marine Corps League, VA, Northeast Region Marine Corps League, Department of PA Marine Corps League, and District 1 Detachments Marine Corps League.

Those who have not opted to travel on the bus should transport themselves to 4th and Arch Streets, about 3 blocks from the Monument. (if there is room on the bus, you may be able to ride on the bus.)

After the ceremony at Samuel Nicholas's grave site, there are decisions yet to be made regarding the time period following the ceremony, such as a visit to the Battleship New Jersey, the Olympia at Penn's Landing, the Philadelphia Coast Guard Station on the Delaware River, as well as several choices for lunch. Those who wish to stay for and help with the lowering of the garrison flag at Independence Hall will return to Hershey's Mill on the bus.

This could be considered a practice run for the 250th Birthday of the Marine Corps 10 November 2025. Wouldn't you like to tell your grandchildren that you participated!

Semper Fi,

Doug Forsythe, Chairman  
Samuel Nicholas Memorial Committee  
Marine Corps League  
Department of PA

# Membership Update

October 21, 2022

We have 100 Life Members in our Detachment (91 Marine & 9 Associate members). A delayed congratulations to Emil Messikomer III who became a life member a couple months ago. Please congratulate Emil.

John Abitabilo	Robert L. Dormer	Thomas M. Logan	Mark A. Peterson	James G. Snyder
Cheryl Armstrong	Joseph E. Dulin Jr.	Bill Mackey	Michael Pollack	Bob Spano
Tony C. Armstrong	Craig S. Evans	Michael B. Maginnis	Patrick B. Powell	William E Stellfox
Lee C. Beyer	Gary N. Fay	George March	Michael Rapp	Robert G. Stone
Brian L. Brody	Daniel V. Fitzpatrick Jr.	James Mazzone	Jack Ribble	Robert L. "Bob" Strehl
Dennis Brown	Rogers C. Flanigan	Mike McCarty	Jerry Ross	Peter R. Supplee
Daniel W. Bullock III	Douglas R. Forsythe	Jim McIlhenney	John M Ross	Steven W. Talley
Leo Burke	Eric Fussenegger	Charles G. McMahon	Les Rouse	Tom Tanner
Gerard (Jed) F. Burns	Jamie W. Goncharoff	John "Jack" Meighan	Patrick Rundle	William H. Tomlinson
John J. Ceschan	Donald Goodwin	Emil Messikomer III	Robert Saenz Jr.	Kathy A. Van Gorder
Daniel J. Condron	Bob Gross	David B Messinger	Larry L Samples	Elmer S. "Van" Van Gorder
James Copeland	Louis Guernsey Jr MD	Donald W. Meyer	Jeff Sanders	Robert D Wagner III
William J. Corcoran	Michael Guyer	James J. Miller	Mario M. Scherl	Mark A. Wahn
Kay M. Croll	David Hetrick	Richard J. Morrow	Kenneth Schweitzer	Dennis P. Walsh
Henry A. "Hank" Detering	Eugene Irvin Jr	Dave Mundy	Phip Sears	Ken Weaver
John DiMatteo	John E. Hinckley	Phillip Murray	Bonnie Shaw	Charles T. Wertz Jr.
Gerry DiNunzio	Leif Jacobsen	Jerry D. Myers	Chris Shaw	Bob Whetstone
Dominic DiSciuillo	Joseph J. Kay	Louis Stephen "Lou" Netta	Raymond E. Sheldon	William E. Woodward
James Donegan	Walter Kutz	John F. O'Brien	William F. Shields	James Yocum
Robert F. Donovan	Fred LeClair	George R Partridge Jr	Walter W. Simcox, Jr.	Allen Yusko

## Reminder 2023 membership dues for non-life members were due on September 1, 2022

We still have a few members who have not paid their 2023 dues. Reminders were emailed to you on 10/21. If you received an email and have not previously responded, please contact Doug Forsythe our Paymaster at your earliest opportunity or send in your check for \$35 to the paymaster at PO Box 828, Downingtown, PA 19335.

Lastly, if you'd like to avoid the hassle of annual dues altogether. Marine Corps League Life memberships are available (based on age) for members in good standing (which means you need to have paid your 2023 dues previously as follows:

Over 65	\$200
51-65	\$300
36-50	\$400
35 and below	\$500

If you have any questions related to Life Membership applications or your individual dues. Please contact Bob Strehl (Membership Chair) at (215) 421-2465, [strehlrl@gmail.com](mailto:strehlrl@gmail.com) or Doug Forsythe (Paymaster) at (610) 656-1389, [dforsythe007@gmail.com](mailto:dforsythe007@gmail.com)

## FY 2022 Membership in Review

During fiscal year 2022 (Sept. 1, 2021 thru Aug. 31, 2022) the Cpl. Brandon Hardy/Chester County Detachment 286 experienced exceptional growth. As a result, we were recognized by the Department of Pennsylvania MCL at last June's Annual State Convention with a 1<sup>st</sup> place award as the Category Detachment III (greater than 100 members) having the largest growth in the previous year. Here's a summary of membership changes in our Detachment occurring during fiscal year 2022:

**Total Reported Membership as of 9/1/21: 147 members\***

\*This 8/31/21 membership number of 147 members included 20 members who were administratively removed from the MCL National and Detachment Rosters during the year for the following reasons:

- 14 Members had deceased prior to FY 22 and not previously reported and/or dropped by National (result from administrative confusion due to the Covid epidemic)
- 4 Members were let go for nonpayment dues in 20/21/22. These individuals had ignored numerous reminders, calls and Detachment attempts to restore their good standing.
- 2 Members who moved out of state prior to FY 22 & choose not to continue their Detachment membership

**Total Reported Membership as of 8/31/22: 157 members**

2022 Changes:

- New Members added: 16 members
- Members restored to good standing: (Payment of lapsed dues) 13 members
- Deceased during 2022: 1 member
- Addition of new Honorary Members: (Mr & Mrs Warren Hardy) 2 members
- New Life Members: (100 total/new record) 14 members
- Members in "good standing" as of 8/31/22: 157 members (100%)

**Job Well Done!** Kudos to all in overcoming the strong headwinds caused by the administrative reduction of 20 former members during FY 2022 (a result of reporting confusion caused during Covid during 2020 & 2021) to grow by 28 members, 30 if you include our new Honorary Members.

**Bottom line:** Our Detachment's membership is healthy, growing and stands ready to continue supporting the Detachment in its mission of assisting local veterans and the community. Semper Fi.

## 2022 Detachment 286 Officers and Standing Committees

<b><u>Elected Officers:</u></b>				
Commandant	Bonnie Shaw	(267) 934-9583		
Sr. Vice Commandant	Larry Samples	(610) 269-9067		
Jr. Vice Commandant	David Keith	(302) 388-4229		
Past Commandant	Jerry Myers	(610) 721-2112		
Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland	(215) 823-9856		
Trustees:	Emil Messikomer	(610) 213-3036		
	Pat Powell	(610) 952-5045		
	Chris Shaw	(267) 934-9538		
<b><u>Appointed Officers:</u></b>				
Adjutant	Rich Corbitt III	(267) 776-6709		
Service Officer	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389		
Paymaster	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	Phil Sears	610 563 7349
		(267) 776-6709		
Chaplain	Rich Corbitt III	6709		
Sgt. At Arms	Ken Weaver	(484) 356-6132		
<b><u>Standing Committees:</u></b>				
			<b>Assistant</b>	
Americanism	Dan Condron	(610) 458-0797	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Audit	Trustees	n/a	<b>n/a</b>	
Budget/Finance	Larry Samples	(610) 269-9067	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Building Maintenance	Leo Burke	(610) 913-6212	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
By Laws	Jim Copland	(215) 823-9856	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Color Guard	David Keith	(302) 388-4229	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389
Det. By Laws	Jim Copeland	(215) 823-9856	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Det. Donations	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Eagle Scouts	Larry Samples	(610) 269-9067	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Flag Retirement	Leo Burke	(610) 913-6212	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Investment	<b>Open</b>		<b>Need Chair &amp; Members</b>	
IT Sgt/Newsletter	Dave Buckta	(610) 827-1928	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Marksmanship	Dennis Brown	(610) 692-4782	Mike Rapp	(610) 405-4161
Medal of Honor Cemetery	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Membership	Bob Strehl	(215) 421-2465	Yonas Reinholdson	(612) 360-6305
Memorial Day	Jim Copeland	(215) 823-9856	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Nominating	Jerry Meyers	(610) 721-2112	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Quartermaster (Ships Store)	Chris Shaw	((267) 934-9538	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Scholarships	Phil Murray	(610) 636-2204	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
VAVS	Dan Condron	(610) 458-0797	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
<b><u>Special Events:</u></b>				
Bingo	Jim Copeland	(610) 883-0283	Leo Burke	(610) 913-6212
Chicken BBQ	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	<b>Need Committee Members</b>	
Fund Raising	<b>Open</b>		<b>Need Chair &amp; Members</b>	
Golf Classic	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	Jerry Myers	(610) 724-2112
Marine Corps Ball	Bonnie Shaw	(267) 934-9583	Bob Whetstone	610) 696-3495
Marine of the Year	Jerry Meyers	(610) 721-2112	<b>Need Volunteer</b>	
Rifle Raffle	Bonnie Shaw	(267) 934-9583	<b>Need Committee Members</b>	
Toys for Tots	Lee Byer	(610) 633-9322	Phil Murray	(610) 636-2204



Volunteer Activity October 2022	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	8	82
Staff Meeting	Bonnie Shaw	8	74
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	195
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron		16
Honor Guard	David Keith		56
Golf outing	Jerry Myers		223
Flag retirement	Leo Burke	28	56
Building maintenance/SAA	Bonnie Shaw		26
Membership	Robert Strehl	2	100
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	30
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	3	31
Fundraising	Larry Samples	27	193
Brandon Hardy Ride	Mike Rapp		18
<b>Total</b>		118	1,138

Commandant, Bonnie Shaw  
Sr. Vice Commandant, Larry Samples  
Jr. Vice Commandant, David Keith  
Jr. Past Commandant, Jerry Myers  
Judge Advocate, Jim Copeland  
Adjutant, Jack Meighan  
Chaplain, Rick Corbit



Paymaster, Doug Forsythe  
Sergeant at Arms, Ken Weaver  
Trustee, Pat Powell  
Trustee, Emil Messikomer  
Trustee, Chris Shaw  
Trustee, Doug Forsythe

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Members,

We would like to invite you to attend our 2022, 247<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Ball, November 12th. This year we will be hosted by the Whitford Country Club, 600 Whitford Hills Rd, Exton, PA 19341. We look forward to comradery, food, and fun.

Our guest speaker will be Colonel Phillip Ash. Colonel Ash is the Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Corps District. Over his stellar 33-year career he has been assigned Nuke School all the way through to his current billet with recruiting. I hope you make it to hear this dynamic speaker. He never disappoints.

Our entertainment will be a DJ, Marine John Taylor, who serves as Sgt-at-Arms with the Pennndelphia Detachment.

I realize this is a last-minute mailing and we tried to keep the costs down, but in this current economy it is \$62 per person. Please let us know by November 5<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend. Please call Doug Forsythe (610-656-1389) or Bonnie Shaw (267-934-9583) to RSVP. Please send Checks made out to CCDMCL and mail them to Marine Corps League, PO Box 828, Downingtown PA 19335.

The schedule of events with approximate times are listed below.

1700 (5pm) -	Gather/Cocktail Hour
1800 (6pm) -	Ceremony
1830 (6:30pm) -	Dinner
1930 (7:30pm) -	Guest Speaker
2000 (8pm) -	Dancing and Entertainment DJ John Taylor

Our Entrée choices are below. When you call, please give us name(s) of your guests and their entrée selection. With short time constraints, please give Doug or me a call to RSVP with your choice.

Braised Beef Short Ribs                       North Atlantic Salmon                       Chicken Carbonara

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you can attend.

Semper Fi!

Commandant Bonnie Shaw

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Detachment: 430 Chestnut Street, Downingtown PA 19335 • 610-518-5375 • [chestercountymcl.com](http://chestercountymcl.com)  
Mailing Address: Chester County Detachment #286, P.O. Box 828, Downingtown PA 19335-0828

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# Smedley Butler Society

## of the Marine Corps League of Chester County



The Chester County Detachment of the Marine Corps League is always striving to do more and be more to our surrounding community. The Smedley Butler Society (SBS) has been established to further enhance our commitment to our members, their families, friends, and our community. Donations to the SBS will give us the ability to continue to carry out this mission.

This giving opportunity is outside the realm of our regular dues and as these donations grow, the interest received will be used for community outreach, veteran's direct assistance, scholarships and other membership approved expenditures. We are also preparing for the future, including events beyond our control. For example, at some point we may need to relocate our detachment. This may involve leasing space or purchasing our own property and we must prepare for such possibilities. Our regular fundraising opportunities will continue as soon as we are permitted to do so and those funds will continue to be part of our outreach activities and current home maintenance funds. Funds collected under this SBS program will be deposited into our Smedley D. Butler Home fund account.

Our principle will not be spent. It will continue to build until \$100,000 is reached. Then any interest gained will be used towards our community programs and activities. Principle limits may be increased as needed.

Our future as a detachment, to carry out our mission as assigned, depends on our ability to be present in this community. We must be unwavering in our commitment and our duty is clear.

We ask that you consider donating to the Smedley Butler Society and becoming a sustaining member by pledging an Annual Monetary Contribution or a One Time Gift to assist us in this mission.

*There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. ~ Smedley D. Butler*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: **CCDMCL**

Annual Contribution

One Time Gift

\$100     \$200

\$500     \$1000

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that your privacy is of the utmost importance to us and we will not share your information and will only use it for official business. All Contributions are tax deductible where allowed by law. Once processed, a copy of this form will be returned to you for your records.

<b>OFFICE USE:</b>	Check#: _____	Check Date: _____	Check Amount: _____
	Deposit Date: _____	Donation Ltr Date: _____	