

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
CCMarineNews@Verizon.net

Volume IXXI, Issue 9



November 2022

From the Commandant's Desk

Hello All,

Now that our November craziness is over, we've had a little time to decompress. Thank you to everyone who has labored behind the scenes to make our activities a success.

I would like to thank Les Rouse for his 27 years of organizing our November 10th Birthday trips to Philadelphia. I love how he has been able to make every trip memorable and this year was terrific! The Parks Department surprised us with coffee and donuts and a private tour of Independence Hall. We conducted our ceremonies at the Revolutionary War Tomb of the Unknowns and the graveside of our First Commandant of the Marine Corps Major Samuel Nicholas. After a short stopover at Tankies (formerly Cookies), we gathered again with the Parks Dept and many of their veterans. We all shared lunch and they had a Birthday cake to celebrate with us. Our day culminated with a trip to the Coast Guard Station where their members had a presentation, tour of two boats and a Birthday Cake presentation. We had a great time and very appreciative of the day.

What can I say about the Birthday Ball? We had a great time. It began with lovely harp music by Beverly Buckta during our cocktail hour. Our guest speaker, Colonel Philip Ash, could not speak more highly of his time with us. He is a dynamic speaker and I think he could have spoken for an hour and we would not have been bored. Doug Forsythe received an authentic Marlowe and White NCO sword from several members of the Detachment. Ken Weaver had the idea and invited several of us to participate. Dave Buckta has been chosen as our Associate Member of the Year. Well deserved and he will make a great flagship member of the Associate MOY committee. This still sounds strange, but I was named the Marine of the Year. I am humbled and thank you to all the past Marines of the Year for your vote.

Please note that at the December meeting we have our final officer nominations and election. If you have any nomination suggestions, please feel free to put them forward at the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Commandant Bonnie Shaw

**Meetings: 4th Monday
of every month @1900**

430 Chestnut Street
Downingtown, Pa 19335
Entrance on Chestnut St.
Also park in rear of bldg.



**Next Meeting:
December 19, 2022 @
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 – October 24, 2022

Meeting Opened: 7:02 PM

Roll Call of Officers:

Officer	Member	Present
Commandant	Bonnie Shaw	X
Sr. Vice-Commandant	Larry Samples	X
Jr. Vice-Commandant	David Keith	
Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland	X
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry Myers	X
Adjutant	Rich Corbit, III	
Paymaster/Trustee	Doug Forsythe	X
Chaplain	Rick Corbit	X
Sergeant at Arms	Ken Weaver	X
Service Officer		
Trustee	Chris Shaw	X
Trustee	Pat Powell	
Trustee	Emil Messikomer	X

Nine officers present.

Doug Forsythe described the sinking of the U.S.S. A.T. Dorchester on 2/3/1943 by a German submarine during World War II and the heroism of four U.S. Army Chaplains who gave their life jackets to other crew members. The chaplains were last seen with their arms linked and their heads bowed in prayer. The Chapel of the Four Chaplains at Valley Forge continues to carry the message of the four chaplains - two Protestants, a Catholic and a Jew - inter-faith cooperation and selflessness. To this end, the chapel has established the Legion of Honor program to honor individuals who demonstrate the spirit of inter-faith cooperation.

Emma DeSimone, Constituent Services Advocate for Pennsylvania State Senator Katie Muth, read the senatorial declaration citing Dave Buckta's military service as a Commander in the U. S. Navy and Doug presented Dave with the Legion of Honor on behalf of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. Doug also spoke of Dave's work with the detachment, particularly as the detachment's IT administrator.

New Members:

Anthony DeBello, III, and Andrew Smiles completed applications for membership, presented their DD-214s and paid their dues. Their memberships were approved by a vote of the members present and they were sworn in as members of the detachment.

Jay Browning and Mark Griego, who had previously been sworn in as members of the detachment but had not had the opportunity to introduce themselves, described their service in the Marines and their backgrounds.

Correspondence:

The Coatesville VA Medical Center patients and staff thanked the detachment for a contribution of coffee and the cookout on 10/3/2022. Our detachment auxiliary and the Smedley D. Butler detachment also participated in the cookout.

Paymaster Report:

Doug Forsythe presented the paymaster's report for September 2022. The General Smedley D. Butler Memorial Foundation account had a balance of \$11,490.26; the twelve-month CD had a balance of \$48,328.18. The business account which is used for every day checking had a balance of \$35,777.05.

A motion to accept the paymaster's report subject to audit was made by Gene Irvin and seconded by Dan Condron; the motion passed. Jerry Myers made a motion to transfer 50% of the money in the business account into the Smedley D. Butler Memorial Foundation account which was seconded by Chris Shaw. The motion passed.

Doug advised the golf outing grossed about \$35,000 and after expenses cleared about \$22,000.

Members or Family Members Sick or in Distress:

Commandant Shaw informed the detachment that member Jerry Ross has passed away from complications related to dementia. A funeral mass will be celebrated at Sts. Philip and James Church on Friday, 10/28/22 at 10:00 AM. Members should

muster at 9:45 AM at the church for casket watch and the Eagle, Globe and Anchor ceremony.

Les Rouse is currently hospitalized in Paoli Hospital for blood pressure issues. He is expected to be released tomorrow.

Kathy VanGorder advised that her husband has been hospitalized since September and she is also struggling to recover from covid. Kathy said she regrets being unable to fully participate in the detachment's activities.

Report of Officers:

The Commandant advised that the re-naming and re-chartering ceremony was held last Saturday night at the detachment. Thirteen detachment members and eight members of Brandon Hardy's family attended. The King of Prussia Mission BBQ donated the meal.

The Coatesville VA will be hosting a meeting of women veterans at our detachment on Saturday, 11/26/2022 at 11:00 AM to determine how the VA can be more responsive to the needs of women veterans.

Larry Samples advised there was a typo in the newsletter regarding the next Devil Dog Growl. The correct date for the growl will be Sunday, 12/18/2022.

Jerry Myers announced the following nominations for detachment offices:

Commandant: Larry Samples, there were no other nominations from the floor;
Senior Vice-Commandant: Doug Forsythe nominated Chris Shaw; there were no other nominations. Chris said he would accept the nomination;

Junior Vice-Commandant: Joe Ruben; there were no other nominations from the floor. Jerry said he spoke to Joe who said he would accept the nomination;

Judge Advocate: Jim Copeland said he would be willing to continue serving as Judge Advocate. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Trustees: Pat Powell and Emil Messikomer were nominated and agreed to continue serving as Trustees. Fred LeClair was also nominated and agreed to accept the nomination. Larry Samples nominated Jerry Myers who also agreed to accept the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Appointed Positions:

Chaplain: Rich Corbitt, III said he would be willing to continue serving as Chaplain;

Paymaster: Doug Forsythe said he would be willing to continue assisted by Phil Sears;

Sergeant-at-Arms: Ken Weaver agreed to continue as Sergeant-at-Arms.

There will be a second round of nominations in November and a third and final round of nominations in December. The elections will also be held in December with the new officers installed in January, 20213.

Ken Weaver advised that 31 members are in attendance with three guests. The 50-50 is \$100. Year to date with the 50-50 and money deposited in the refrigerator for drinks totaled \$806.

The Lancaster Muzzle Loading Rifle Association has donated a table for us at their January 29 & 30, 2023 gun show. Ken said he and the Commandant will be there, but they could use additional detachment members to sit at the table and sell raffle tickets for the AR-15. Ken also invited detachment members on the Marine Corps birthday to the Wyncote Golf Club in Oxford, PA from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. This will be the 17th year for this informal event. The space is donated by the golf club; there is a cash bar and cake cutting.

Chris Shaw (Quartermaster): Can order name tags for any member needing one. As of 7/25 there was \$244.25 in the box and as of 10/22 there was \$632.50.

Standing Committees:

None.

Special Committees:

Dennis Brown (Marksmanship): The next marksmanship meeting will be a live fire at Kimberton on 10/30/2022. The detachment match will be held at that time. Shooters will meet at 9:00 AM at Mike Rapp's house and then convoy to the club.

The detachment is selling raffle tickets for an AR-15 with case and accessories. The second prize is \$500, third prize is \$300, and the fourth prize is \$100. Tickets are \$20. Mike Rapp said the detachment had a table at the recent Oaks gun show to sell tickets and raised \$2,688 in ticket sales and donations.

Dan Condron (VAVS): Bingo at the VA will resume either in November or December at Building 58A or B on the fourth Thursday of the month. Dan also advised that there are no longer plans to close the Coatesville VA Hospital because nine senators came out against it.

Leo Burke (Bingo): More players are needed; we're only getting about 20 or 25 people and we need at least 40. Bingo is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

Leo Burke (Flag Retirement): Last Wednesday we retired approximately 2,000 flags.

Phil Sears (Budget): There will be a meeting of the budget committee next week. We're trying to develop a spread sheet which will tie the bank data to the bank statements.

Unfinished Business:

The Marine Corps Ball will be held at the Whitford Country Club on 11/12/22 from 5:00 PM to 10:30 PM. The ceremony will start at 6:00 PM followed by a buffet dinner. The speaker will be Lt. Col. Philip Ash, 1st Marine Recruiting District. A rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, 11/9/2022 at 6:00 PM. The Commandant thanked Bob Whetstone for his work in visiting all of the proposed venues.

New Business:

Doug reported that our detachment has been awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation ribbon and a second citation for 115.97% membership.

Doug also reported that he was the liaison for Loew's Heroes Project which assists veterans' families. Nicole Moore was selected because her husband who died on 12/26/2021 was a disabled veteran who had pancreatic cancer as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. The project involved an almost complete renovation of Nicole's home to include furniture and appliances. Doug commended Emil Messikomer for his extensive work on Nicole's home. The renovation cost has exceeded \$25,000 which was provided as a grant from Loew's Home Improvement. Our detachment provided some of the volunteers who aided the professionals who did the renovation.

Good of the League:

The trip to Philadelphia will muster at the detachment at 5:30 AM on 11/10/22 and then will carpool to Hershey Mill where we will board a bus for the trip to

ensign and raise a thirteen-star flag for the day. After the flag raising, we will receive a private tour of Independence Hall. Then we will march to Washington Square Park for a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. A second ceremony will be held at the Friends Meeting House at 4th and Arch Sts. for a ceremony at the grave of Commandant Samuel Nicholas. At 4:00 PM we will return to Independence Hall and lower the thirteen-star flag and raise the national ensign. The cost per member is \$30.

The Commandant commended Bob Strehl a member who currently lives in Michigan. Bob is our membership roster chair and it is through Bob's efforts that our dues paying membership is at 100%. Bob calls members who aren't current with their dues and reminds them that their dues are due.

The Rajant Corporation has invited us to their Veterans Day event on Friday, 11/11/2022 at 5:30 PM at their office in Malvern, PA at 200 Chesterfield Parkway. There will be an open bar and dinner; attire will be the red blazer. This year Rajant donated \$100,000 to the Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors organization.

Announcements:

There are new challenge coins available with the new name of our detachment. New polo shirts and covers are also available.

Marine Memorial Sunday will be on 11/6/22, muster at the Oaklands Cemetery at 10:00 AM. There will be ceremonies at the grave of General Smedley D. Butler.

The ladies auxiliary is in dire need of members.

On Veterans Day the detachment has three events: Lionville Middle School at 8:00 AM; Kerr Park ceremony in Downingtown at 10:00 AM and the Rajant Corporation dinner.

Closing 9:02 PM.

EVENT: Detachment Bingo

DATE: Nov 5 & 19, 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)



MODD Growl
December 18,
2022
1400

EVENT: Marine Corps Birthday Ball
LOCATION: Whitford Country Club, Downingtown PA
MEMBERS: Numerous

DATE: November 12, 2022
PURPOSE: Celebrate and remember



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 or Doug Forsythe (Paymaster) at (610) 656-1389, dforsythe007@gmail.com

2022 Detachment 286 Officers and Standing Committees			
Elected Officers:			
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	
Appointed Officers:			
Adjutant	Rich Corbitt III	(267) 776-6709	
Service Officer	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	
Paymaster	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	Phil Sears
Chaplain	Rich Corbitt III	(267) 776-6709	
Sgt. At Arms	Ken Weaver	(484) 356-6132	
Standing Committees:			Assistant
Americanism	Dan Condron	(610) 458-0797	Need Volunteer
Audit	Trustees	n/a	n/a
Budget/Finance	Larry Samples	(610) 269-9067	Need Volunteer
Building Maintenance	Leo Burke	(610) 913-6212	Need Volunteer
By Laws	Jim Copeland	(215) 823-9856	Need Volunteer
Color Guard	David Keith	(302) 388-4229	Doug Forsythe
Det. By Laws	Jim Copeland	(215) 823-9856	Need Volunteer
Det. Donations	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	Need Volunteer
Eagle Scouts	Larry Samples	(610) 269-9067	Need Volunteer
Flag Retirement	Leo Burke	(610) 913-6212	Need Volunteer
Investment	Open		Need Chair & Members
IT Sgt/Newsletter	Dave Buckta	(610) 827-1928	Need Volunteer
Marksmanship	Dennis Brown	(610) 692-4782	Mike Rapp
Medal of Honor Cemetery	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	Need Volunteer
Membership	Bob Strehl	(215) 421-2465	Yonas Reinholdson
Memorial Day	Jim Copeland	(215) 823-9856	Need Volunteer
Nominating	Jerry Meyers	(610) 721-2112	Need Volunteer
Quartermaster (Ships Store)	Chris Shaw	((267) 934-9538	Need Volunteer
Scholarships	Phil Murray	(610) 636-2204	Need Volunteer
VAVS	Dan Condron	(610) 458-0797	Need Volunteer
Special Events:			
Bingo	Jim Copeland	(610) 883-0283	Leo Burke
Chicken BBQ	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	Need Committee Members
Fund Raising	Open		Need Chair & Members
Golf Classic	Doug Forsythe	(610) 656-1389	Jerry Myers
Marine Corps Ball	Bonnie Shaw	(267) 934-9583	Bob Whetstone
Marine of the Year	Jerry Meyers	(610) 721-2112	Need Volunteer
Rifle Raffle	Bonnie Shaw	(267) 934-9583	Need Committee Members
Toys for Tots	Lee Byrd	(610) 633-9322	Phil Murray

Volunteer Activity November 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	225
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron		16
Honor Guard	David Keith	32	88
Golf outing	Jerry Myers		223
Flag retirement	Leo Burke		28
Building maintenance/SAA	Bonnie Shaw		26
Membership	Robert Strehl		98
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	30
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	4	32
Fundraising	Larry Samples	33	199
Brandon Hardy Ride	Mike Rapp		18
Total		119	1,139



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.

OFFICE USE:	Check#: _____	Check Date: _____	Check Amount: _____
	Deposit Date: _____	Donation Ltr Date: _____	