

# 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 Larry Samples

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## May 2023



Hello hullo, hi, howdy to everyone!

### From the Commandant's Desk

On 5/5, the NROTC Mid-Shipment and instructors from Villanova visited the Detachment to review our museum and get aquatinted. Younas Reinholdson organized the trip. Members from the Detachment who also participated were Fred LeClair, Doug Forsythe, Emil Messikomer Leo Burke, Jim Copeland, and myself. Great group!

Honor Flight Philadelphia, a local non-profit organization, is currently looking for World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans who would like to travel with them to Washington, DC on September 9, 2023 where they will have the opportunity to visit the memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country. Transportation, breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as a USO show will be provided at NO COST to the veterans. For more information please contact: Andrew (610) 662-1812, email ([andrew@honorflightphiladelphia.org](mailto:andrew@honorflightphiladelphia.org)).

Defibrillator, AED CPR training is scheduled for 6/4 and 6/18 at the Detachment from 0800 to 1200. Cost is \$25 per person. A sign-up sheet will be at the May Membership meeting. The training is for a two-year certification. Our trainer will be Joe Rubin.

Effective 1 July 2023, Life Membership Rates will increase as per the following: \$1,000 - 35 years of age and lower; \$800 – 36-50 years of age; \$600 – 51-64 years of age; \$400 – 65-84 years of age; \$100 – 85 years of age and higher. "I trust a word to the wise is sufficient."

Coming up . . .

- 5/25 Lionville Middle School Memorial Day Celebration: Flag Raising, Wreath Laying, Color Guard; Muster at 0800, at Lionville Middle School.
- 5/28 Marshalltown Memorial Day Parade. 1330.
- 5/28 Major Samuel Nicholas Ceremony: Philadelphia (Muster at 0930 at Detachment)
- 5/29 Downingtown Memorial Day Activities:
  - o Color Guard/Rifle Detail at Northwood 0800 and St. Joseph 0900 Cemeteries.
  - o Parade from Beaver Creek to Kerr Park 1000.
  - o Kerr Park Ceremonies 1100
- 6/4 & 6/18 Defibrillator Training: 0800 to 1200
- 6/8 Staff Meeting 1900
- 6/24 MODD Growl 1400
- 6/26 General Membership Meeting/Dave Buckta Roast: 1800.

Here's wishing you a meaningful Memorial Day!

Semper Fi,  
Larry Samples  
Commandant

**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:  
June 26, 2023 @ 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**

**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>

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA  
24 APRIL 2023**

**OPENING CEREMONIES:**

**Open: 1902**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT):**

X	Commandant	Larry Samples
X	Sr. Vice Commandant	Chris Shaw
X	Jr. Vice Commandant	Joe Rubin
X	Jr. Past Commandant	Bonnie Shaw
X	Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland
X	Chaplain (Substitute)	Fred LeClair
X	Adjutant	Bonnie Shaw

X	Paymaster	Doug Forsythe
X	Sergeant at Arms	Ken Weaver
	Trustee	Pat Powell
X	Trustee	Emil Messikomer
X	Trustee	Fred LeClair

**ACKNOWLEDMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNATARIES:** Commandant Dave Brady (Dept of PA), Gene and Sue Irvin 2<sup>nd</sup> District Vice, Dave Buckta (Associate MOY), and Bonnie Shaw (MOY)

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

- Balloting of applications for membership. Approved for Membership by the majority - Taylor Shelby
- Ceremony of Initiation.
- Introduction of new member

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Newsletter):**

- Motion to accept the minutes, subject to corrections. Jim Copeland
- Second. Gene Irvin
- Motion passed, subject to corrections. Motion Passes

**CORRESPONDENCE:** VA supplies for \$500 ordered and delivered to the VA. Letter of appreciation from the VA Chief of Volunteer services.

**REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Forsythe):**

- Motion to accept Paymaster’s Report, subject to audit. Brian Brody
- Second. Chris Shaw
- Motion passed subject to audit. Motion Passes

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS (Chaplin):**

- Report of any members or member’s family sick and in distress.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

- Commandant (Larry Samples) – Villanova NROTC Col Chicoli is the speaker. Gave us one of his challenge coins. Villanova has a robust veterans support program. We participated in the Albert E. Smith Gungho Award given to Christopher Chan. Marines Forsythe, Samples, LeClair and Myers attended (April 21<sup>st</sup>). St Joes award given on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Guidebook is ready for distribution and will be given out to those that want them.
- Senior Vice Commandant/Quartermaster (Chris Shaw) Roast set up was wonderful and the cleaning crew did a great job on Sunday.
- Junior Vice Commandant (Joe Rubin) Back from Okinawa. AED Update – it is ready and will be scheduling classes. First Aid/CPR/AED classes will be provided. Medical Certification has to be maintained.
- Junior Past Commandant/Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw)

- Judge Advocate (Jim Copeland) Bylaws have been updated. Revisions are published on the last page of the packet. Changes read by Jim. Motion by Ken Weaver, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Shaw, Motion Passed.
- Sgt at Arm - \$135 for 50/50. We have 29 members, 2 guests, and one prospective member.
- Quartermaster - \$210 \$641.21 \$300 to the paymaster. Gungho Coins available, limited number.
- Trustee (Fred LeClair) – “Beer for Brandon” Hardy at the Hardy Residence. Taps at the graveside at 1700, 1616 Mine Road, Gap.
- Trustee (Emil Messikomer) We need to have the lights repaired out back.
- Trustee (Pat Powell) Not Present

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- Bingo (Jim Copeland/Leo Burke) – Small crowds the last two bingos. Still need replacements to be trained.
- Flag Retirement – middle of May date to be announced.
- Rifle/Pistol (Dennis Brown/Mike Rapp) 16<sup>th</sup> of April for Rifle practice. Live fire pistol at Kimberton 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. 21<sup>st</sup> of May is the next pistol match at Kimberton. Muster at Mike Rapp’s 0900.
- Budget Committee (Doug Forsythe/Phil Sears) Budget updated through March 23<sup>rd</sup>. 21K net.
- Building Maintenance (Ken Weaver/Emil Messikomer) New Commandant shelving, Lighting. Setting up regular maintenance with Oliver for the HVAC.
- Fundraisers – Golf Tournament (Don Ascolese) spoke to 23 businesses. Money collections from 5 businesses. No golfers from the VFW this year but will send a swag basket. Pelican Ice, 5R Wines, Georgios. Detachment Tax ID is needed as you go out to do fundraising visits.
- VAVS – Dan Condron, looking for volunteers for red coat ambassadors and other volunteers. Need to be registered to participate. May 9<sup>th</sup> 1230, 1300 Carnival for In-patient residence.
- Memorial Day Activities (Bonnie Shaw) - 1000 at Beaver Creek Elementary School Start
- May 28<sup>th</sup>, Major Samuel Nicholas graveside ceremony Muster 0930 @ Detachment to carpool over.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> LMS (Patriots Club) Memorial Day 0840 muster at 0810. Color Guard and Rifle Detail
- Duck Race (07/04); Jerry Myers \$5 each ticket. \$4 comes back to the Detachment.
- Golf Outing (08/28/23): Jerry Myers - Downingtown Country Club NEED SPONSORS
- Chicken BBQ (10/14): Need BBQ quote for 300 chickens.
- MC Birthday Activities (11/10/23):
  - Samuel Nicholas Ceremony, Tomb of the Unknowns
  - Philadelphia Events – Battleship NJ to be possibly Faried over for the Tour by Coast Guard. Want to fill the bus.
- MC Birthday Ball (11/18): Whitford Country Club
- Video Projector and sound system donated by Brian Brody received.

#### **UNFINISHED BUISNESS:**

- Defibrillator, CPR Training (Joe Rubin) received.
- Vote to Accept Revised By-Laws (Jim Copeland) Accepted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Awards - Commandant Dave Brady awarding to Doug Forsythe, Distinguished Service Gold.
- Joe Rubin resigns effective immediately from the Jr. Vice to move back to Okinawa with his family in August.

#### **GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

Life dues are doubling as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. All Life Memberships at the current cost need to be postmarked by June 30 to get the lower rate.

Les Rouse – Kind words for Bonnie Shaw as MOY Roast. Card Received.

Dan Condron - \$600 for canteen books for VAVS. Dan Condron motions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rich Corbit Jr. Motion Passes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Albert E. Smith Graveside Ceremony: 4/29; Muster at 0900.
- NROTC Mid-Shipment visit to detachment: 5/5, 1230 (GySgt Reinholdson)
- Bingo: 05/06 & 05/20
- Staff Meeting 05/11 at 1900
- General Membership Meeting 05/22 at 1900 (Potluck at 1800)
- Major Samuel Nicholas Ceremony – Philadelphia 05/28, Muster at 0930 at Detachment
- Memorial Day Activities 05/29:
  - Applecross Color Guard 0900 (Doug Forsythe)
  - Color Guard & Rifle Ceremonies: Northwood (0800) & St. Joseph's (0900)
  - Memorial Day Parade 1000; Muster at Beaver Creek Elementary 0930
  - Memorial Day Ceremonies approximately 1100 Kerr Park

**CLOSING CEREMONIES: 2042**

**Next Meeting: 22 May 2023 @1900**

**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo

**DATE:** May 6 & 20 2023

**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, Steve Annan, Doug Forsythe, Mike and Jeanne Rapp, and Ruth Thompson, Emil Messikomer.

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

**NOTICE:** Bingo operations will be paused during the summer months and resume September 16

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leo Burke (30 hours)

**EVENT:** VA Carnival

**DATE:** May 16, 2023

**LOCATION:** Coatesville VAMC

**PURPOSE:** Handed out \$5.00 Canteen Books, to the Patients at the Coatesville V.A., as the MCL representative for the Brandon Hardy, Chester County Detachment # 286, at the Annual V.A. Carnival.

(Here's Dan sitting with all his Friends)

**MEMBERS:** Dan Condron (OIC)



**EVENT:** Villanova NROTC Marine Option

**DATE:** May 05, 2023

**LOCATION:** Villanova University

**MEMBERS:** Larry Samples, Fred LeClair, Doug Forsythe, Emil Messikomer Leo Burke, Jim Copeland, and Yonas Reinholdson

**PURPOSE:** Villanova NROTC Marine Option Midshipmen and instructors visited the Detachment to review our museum and get acquainted.



**EVENT:** Flag Retirement

**DATE:** May 15, 2023

**LOCATION:** West Chester

**MEMBERS:** Larry Samples , Fred LeClair (bugler), Doug Forsythe (chaplain), Emil Messikomer Leo Burke, Dan Condron, Jack Meighan, Shep (bingo), Don, Dale McClure (fire chief)

**PURPOSE:** Retirement ceremony for approximately 2,000 flags with a lunch afterwards at Victory Brewing,



**EVENT:** Duck Race Tickets!!

**DATE:** Now through July 4, 2023

**LOCATION:** CC MCL Chestnut Street

**PURPOSE:** We have 300 tickets available. Please include the information in our next newsletter. The cost of each ticket is \$5.00. and there will be 100 chances to win a prize, for a minimum of \$25.00. The drawing will be held on July 4th. Please contact Jerry Myers for tickets by e-mail or in person. The Detachment will receive \$4.00 for each ticket sold. Our goal is to sell all 300 tickets . We will accept check or cash. Jerry will have tickets available at our regular meetings.

**SUBMITTED** Jerry Meyers



**EVENT:** Coatesville VAMC VA2k

**DATE:** May 17, 2023

**LOCATION:** Coatesville VAMC

**PURPOSE:** Detachment Ambassador, Dan Condron, manned the Employee Sign-up Table for the Event. Participants walked around the "Outside Oval", for exercise and fellowship. (Notice that there are more signatures on my Paper, indicating that I worked harder).

**SUBMITTED:** Dan Condron



**EVENT:** Award Presentation

**DATE:** Mar 27, 2023

**LOCATION:** CC MCL Chestnut Street

**PURPOSE:** Award presentation for Kathy Van Gorder. Presenting award is Awards Chair Jerry Myers.

**SUBMITTED:** Doug Forsythe



**EVENT:** Albert E Smith Memorial Service

**DATE:** April 29, 2023

**PURPOSE:** Albert E. Smith is our namesake for Pound #179 Pa Pack. Our #1 Devil Dog. Pic of Fred LeClair Bugler, Jerry Myers, Larry Samples, Emil Messikomer, & Dennis Brown. Pic by Doug Forsythe taken today at 1000.

**SUBMITTED:** Doug Forsythe



**EVENT:** John Freeman Mackie

**DATE:** April 29, 2023

**PURPOSE:** John Mackie was a MOH recipient during Civil War. We honor each year. Pic are Fred LeClair Bugler, Larry Samples, Emil Messikomer, Dennis Brown & Jerry Myers. Pic by Doug Forsythe taken this day at 1030

**SUBMITTED:** Doug Forsythe





# Membership Update

May 8, 2023

Currently we have 161 members in our Detachment. This includes; Life, Annual Dues Paying and Honorary members. We're proud to report, all of whom are in "Good Standing". We'd like to welcome Shaun Brown as our newest life member. Shaun is the son of Joanne & Dennis Brown and an active duty soldier. Our 99 Life Members are listed as follows:

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

## Heads up for Dues paying members

Your current memberships will expire August 31, 2023. To avoid any interruption in your "good standing" in the League. I encourage you to get a jump on them by paying your dues now. All you need to do, is send a check for \$35 payable to the Cpl. Brandan Hardy/Chester County Det. 286 and giving it to Doug Forsythe our paymaster at the next meeting or mailing it to the MCL, PO Box 824, Downingtown, PA 19335. This also an excellent time to consider investing in a MCL Life Membership before your current dues expire and avoid paying annual dues altogether.

Marine Corps League life memberships are available (based on age) for members who pay dues annually that are in "good standing" (meaning you need to have paid your current year dues) 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)

<b>Volunteer Activity May 2023</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Monthly Hours</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Monthly Meeting	Larry Samples	4	20
Staff Meeting	Larry Samples	4	20
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	135
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron	10	40
Honor Guard	Albert E Smith/MOH	15	27
Golf outing	Jerry Myers	15	20
Flag retirement	Leo Burke	30	30
Building maintenance/SAA	Bonnie Shaw	0	30
Membership	Robert Strehl	4	20
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	20
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	4	20
Fundraising (Walmart, Duck Race)	Larry Samples, Jerry Meyers	25	25
Brandon Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp/Ken	8	8
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe		2
<b>Total</b>		<b>153</b>	<b>387</b>