

# 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

[www.chestercountymcl.com](http://www.chestercountymcl.com)

[CCMarineNews@Verizon.net](mailto:CCMarineNews@Verizon.net)

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## October 2023



### Board of Trustees (eff:1/1/2023)

#### Trustees

Pat Powell

Fred LeClair

Emil Messikomer

### Elected Officers (eff: 1/1/2023)

Commandant Larry Samples

Sr. Vice Chris Shaw

Junior Vice Joe Rubin

Jr. Past Com Bonnie Shaw

Judge Adv Jim Copeland

### Appointed Officers

Adjutant Bonnie Shaw

Service Officer Doug Forsythe

Paymaster Doug Forsythe/Phil Sears

Chaplain Rich Corbitt

Sgt. at Arms

### A Message from the Commandant

At the recent Walmart fund raiser, Janet Yost made donation but also talked about her video on You Tube, "Thank You Veterans by Janet Yost". Check it out and send her your comments at: [yost.janet@gmail.com](mailto:yost.janet@gmail.com). She would like to hear from our veterans.

A local Scout (Aaron) is doing his Eagle Project to support Coatesville VA Veterans by organizing a holiday food drive. He would like your support by providing a food box to be distributed in December. An informational flyer with the details will be available at the membership Meeting on 10/23. You can contact him directly at (610) 241-6434 or email at [goaaron34@gmail.com](mailto:goaaron34@gmail.com). Of note:

- We had our annual Chicken BBQ on 10/14. It didn't go too well because of the weather, but mainly because we didn't sell enough chicken dinners. Leftover chicken were donated to the Coatesville Homeless Shelter.
- We also had fund raisers in October at Walmart, Shady Maple, and we participated in the Downingtown Food Fest on 10/15.
- We are participating in the Gun Show in Oaks on 10/20 to 10/22. We are selling Raffle Tickets for the AR-15.
- The Flag Retirement Ceremony was cancelled on 10/4, due to not having enough people show up to help. This takes a lot of man power. We have 3.000+ flags to be retired.
- National Cancer Awareness Day is November 7th. The Detachment made a donation for \$500 to show support.
- Open nominations for upcoming elections will be held at our general meetings on Oct. 23, Nov. 27, and December 18th. Volunteer to serve! It's your detachment.
- Samuel Nicholas Challenge Coins \$10 and Rifle Raffle Tickets \$20 are available for purchase. The drawing for the AR-15 Rifle and/or cash will be at our March 25th meeting.

#### Coming up in November:

- TBD - Flag Retirement Ceremony (Leo Burke)
- Nov. 04 - Bingo: 1700
- Nov. 05 - Marine Sunday: Oakland's Cemetery – West Chester
- Nov. 09 - Executive Board Meeting: 1800
- Nov. 10 - Marine Corp Birthday #248
- Nov. 10 - Philly Events (Flag Razing at Independence Hall, etc.)
- Nov. 10 - Samuel Nicholas Ceremony: Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
- Nov. 18 - Marine Corps Ball: Whitford Country Club, Downingtown, 1700 to 2200
- Nov. 19 - Defibrillator/AED Class: 1200 (Joe Rubin)
- Nov. 27 - General Membership Meeting: 1900 (Potluck at 1800)

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:  
November 27, 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](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 (until Nov 4)**

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  
25 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**OPENING CEREMONIES: 1906**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): (12) Officer's Present (1) Excused**

X	Commandant	Larry Samples
X	Sr. Vice Commandant	Chris Shaw
X	Jr. Vice Commandant	Rich Corbit Jr.
X	Jr. Past Commandant	Bonnie Shaw
X	Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland
	Chaplain	Rick Corbit III
X	Adjutant	Bonnie Shaw

X	Paymaster	Doug Forsythe
X	Sergeant at Arms	Leo Burke
X	Quartermaster	Chris Shaw
X	Trustee	Emil Messikomer
X	Trustee	Fred LeClair
X	Trustee	Pat Powell

**ACKNOWLEDMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNATARIES:** 1stSgt Pardee from the Folsom USMC Reserve Unit  
District 2 VC Gene Irvin & Asst. Sue Irvin  
District 1 VC Dennis Brown & Asst. Bonnie Shaw

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

- Name and background information; Sgt. at Arms escorts applicant outside meeting room.
- Balloting of applications for membership. Approved for Membership by the majority
- Ceremony of Initiation.
- Introduction of new members

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

- Motion to accept the minutes, subject to corrections. Rich Corbit
- Second. Fred Leclair
- Motion passed, subject to corrections.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** VAVS letters for assistance to our veterans.

**REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Forsythe):** We purchased 3 high yield CDS for our accounts. Monthly Audit has been done.

- Motion to accept Paymaster's Report, subject to audit. Brian Brody
- Second. Gene Irvin
- Motion passed subject to audit.

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS (Chaplin):**

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

**REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

- Commandant (Larry Samples)
- Senior Vice Commandant/Quartermaster (Chris Shaw) NR
- Junior Vice Commandant (Rich Corbit, Jr.) NR
- Junior Past Commandant/Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw) Rifle Raffle
- Judge Advocate (Jim Copeland) NR
- Paymaster (Doug Forsythe) Given
- Sgt. at Arms (Leo Burke) NR

Chaplain (Rick Corbit III) Excused

- Trustee (Fred LeClair) Veterans Museum in Media \$300 donation by your group receives lunch.
- Trustee (Emil Messikomer) NR
- Trustee (Pat Powell) NR

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

- Rifle/Pistol (Dennis Brown/Mike Rapp) Next Pistol Live Fire 29 October
- Defibrillator/AED Training: (Joe Rubin) Last Class canceled due to no sign ups. October Sundays can be done.
- Budget Committee (Doug Forsythe/Phil Sears) Budget Almost Complete. Making sure our donations are included in the budget.
- Bingo: (Jim Copeland/Leo Burke) Pretty Successful Bingo, 38 Present. Ladies Wallet was lost but we found it in the dumpster and she donated \$100 to the detachment. Monies put into Bingo Jackpot.
- Building Maintenance (Emil Messikomer) NR
- Fundraisers:
  - Shady Maple Fund Raiser: 10/7 and 10/21, 090 (Joe Rubin) 0830 to 1400
  - Downingtown Fall Rest, 10/15, 1100-1600 (Bonnie Shaw)
  - Rifle Raffle, 1500 tickets, \$20 QR Code) (Pat Powell/Bonnie Shaw)
  - Oaks Gun Show: 10/20-10/22, Need volunteers (Pat Powell, Mike Rapp) Bonnie 10/22
- Golf Outing: 8/5/24, Downingtown Country Club (Don Ascolese)
- Chicken BBQ: 10/14, \$15 QR Code (Doug Forsythe/Bonnie Shaw) All arranged, 300 meals
- Warminster Honor Grove Ceremony. We are doing the color guard. 30 Sep
- SE Veterans Center Color Guard, 9 November

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Flag Retirement: TBD, 1<sup>st</sup> week in 4 October (Leo Burke) @1100

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Reading Royals Ice Hockey: 12/9, 1900 Santander Arena, \$100 for 10 tickets, Military Appreciation Night
- Yuengling Brewery Trip: M-F 1 hr. tour, or Sat 1/2 tour.
- Emil Messikomer nominated Joe Rubin and accepted as Trustee

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

- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Streamer from National Convention.
- Jr. VC award for Membership
- District One Vice Dennis Brown traveled to all the detachments to make sure we are all on the same page. 30<sup>th</sup> September October Fest (Delaware Cnty Detachment). PennDelphia Veterans parade Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. John Mazzalone Parade has been cancelled (All-Divisions Det), Sent info out to Det about the FirstAid/CPR/AED classes. District 1 Meeting 18 February, location to be announced. Proposed District Ball will be discussed for 2025.
- Fred LeClair donated a portrait of the USS Alfred to the detachment.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Chicken BBQ 10/14
- Downingtown Fall Fest: 10/15, 1100-1600
- Bingo: 10/7 and 10/21, 0500
- Shady Maple Fund Raiser: 10/7 and 10/21, 0900
- MCL Fall Meetings, 10/20-10/21, Indiantown Gap
- Oaks Gun Show: 10/20 -10/22
- Brian Brody's grandson will be playing locally in a soccer match if members want to attend.

- Navy Day: 10/27
- Marine Sunday: 11/5, Oakland's Cemetery West Chester
- Maine Corps Birthday 11/10 BUS TRIP \$35 By Check to Les or Doug
  - Samuel Nicholas Ceremony
  - Philly Events
  - USS New Jersey Lunch
- Veterans Day 11/11
- Marine Corps Birthday Celebration, 11/18; Whitford Country Club

**CLOSING CEREMONIES:**

**Next Meeting: 23 October 2023 @ 1900**

**2010 Adjourned**

**EVENT:** MODD Donations at VAMC Coatesville

**DATE:** Oct 16, 2023

**PURPOSE:** Albert E Smith, Pound 179 of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs made a significant donation of needed clothing and supplies to the Coatesville VA Veteran Services on 16 October. This will be done on a quarterly basis. Those in attendance were Larry Samples, Fred LeClair and Steve Annan.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Larry Samples



## "Calling all Members!!

We are looking for more members to step-up and get involved with the inner workings of the detachment. We have about 10% of our detachment membership, doing the work for the rest of the 170+ members. We are one of, if not the largest, detachment in the state and we need to show our willingness to get involved to accomplish the mission of the Marine Corps League. With so few involved, it causes burn-out among those that do all the work, so we would appreciate more help from the masses.

Elections are in December, so for the next 3 months we will be calling for nominations of officers. Each position is available for nomination, as we do not assume . If more than one person is nominated, then a vote for that position will happen to decide the winner. Officer descriptions for positions elected/appointed and what their responsibilities are. If you would like to help on a committee or other activity, that would be appreciated as well."

### The Elected officers and their duties are:

**Commandant** - Presides at all Detachment meetings, serves as advisor to all committees and is in direct charge of all functions of the Detachment.

**Sr. Vice Commandant** - Assists the Commandant and acts in his/her behalf during the absence or illness of the Commandant.

**Jr. Vice Commandant** - Assumes the responsibilities of the Commandant or the Sr. Vice Commandant if either or both are not available. Acts as Membership Chairman and is responsible for the growth of the Detachment. Oversees Guidebook and Peer Mentoring Program.

**Judge Advocate** - Interprets the By-Laws of the Detachment, Department, and National Marine Corps League. Also ensures that meetings are run in accordance with the Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order.

**Trustee(s)** – Are responsible for overseeing the operation of the Detachment and conduct an annual audit of the books and financial records within 30 days after the annual election.

### The Appointed officers and their duties are:

**Adjutant** - Keeps a complete record of all meetings, in a ledger or log. Keeps records of membership and handles all transmittals. Keeps necessary Corporate Minutes to satisfy state legal requirements. Additionally, maintain and send group emails for Officers, update documents, such as Guidebook.

**Chaplain** – Informs the membership of any member or member's family that is ill or in distress and visits same, if possible, or asks other members to do so. Maintains a prayer list of members and family in sickness or distress. Reports the death of any member to the Detachment, Department, and National on the appropriate form. Provides pastoral support for the conduct of Detachment functions. Is responsible for the Fallen Marines Ceremony. He also coordinates the flower fund and sympathy card program.

**Paymaster** - Serves as Treasurer of the Detachment and keeps an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of the Detachment. Also prepares and files the required tax returns and corporate registration and renewal with the state and federal government.

**Sergeant-at-Arms** - Responsible for the set-up of the premises for all meetings. Shall preserve order at all meetings. Ensures only qualified members enter meeting room by establishing a position at the main entrance asking all parties to initial next to their name on the master membership roster. Sells 50-50 raffles. Responsible for the security and maintenance of all weapons owned by the Detachment as well as all equipment stored in the Detachment shed. Maintains an inventory of all Detachment weapons and equipment.

**Junior Past Commandant** - This officer is the immediate past Commandant and serves to provide guidance and counsel to the standing Detachment Commandant and other officers.

**Service Officer:** is responsible for activities classified as “for the good of the League”

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Bonnie Shaw.

**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo **DATE:** Oct 7 & 21, 2023

**PURPOSE:** Bingo operations continue. Please consider assisting Saturday night.

**MEMBERS:** Jim Copeland, Leo Burke, Steve Annan, Emil M, Bonnie and Chris Shaw, Polly and Patty, Joanne and Gunny Brown, Ruth

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

**EVENT:** De VA Volunteer Awards

**DATE:** Jun 16, 2023

**PURPOSE:** Dan Condron, Tom Tanner & Doug Forsythe received a pin for 1000 hours each for volunteer service to the VA.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Doug Forsythe

# Membership Update

October 16, 2023

Presently we have 173 members in our Detachment. This includes Life, Annual Dues Paying and Honorary members.

I'd like to recognize Pauline Ross (Coatesville) and Joanne Brown (West Chester) as our newest Detachment members. Please welcome and congratulate Pauline and Joanne at your earliest opportunity.

## Expired Memberships

I'd like to thank those members who paid their 2024 membership dues prior to the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Unfortunately, we have approximately 20 members whose memberships are now expired. Reminders were mailed in September. If you received a lapsed dues letter and have not sent in your payment. I encourage you to pay your 2024 dues as soon as you can. As a result of the recent \$2 increase accessed by the PA Department the 2024 dues have increased to \$37.

To restore your "Good Standing" Please make your check for \$37 payable to: Cpl. Brandon Hardy/Chester County Det. 286 and giving it to Doug Forsythe at the next meeting or mailing it to:

Cpl. Brandon Hardy/ Chester County Detachment 286  
Marine Corps League  
PO Box 828  
Downingtown, PA 19335.

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



## Current Detachment Life Members

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

(M) Denotes member of "Multiple" Detachments (per National)

If you're in good standing and interested in becoming a Life Member, please contact Bob Strehl (Det. Membership Chair) at (215) 421-2465, [strehlrl@gmail.com](mailto:strehlrl@gmail.com) or Doug Forsythe (Dey. Paymaster) at (610) 656-1389, [dforsythe007@gmail.com](mailto:dforsythe007@gmail.com)

<b>Volunteer Activity October 2023</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Monthly Hours</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Monthly Meeting	Larry Samples	4	40
Staff Meeting	Larry Samples	4	40
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	180
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron	8	102
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe		65
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw		48
Flag retirement	Leo Burke	8	40
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	2	44
Membership	Robert Strehl	4	40
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	30
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	2	34
Fundraising	Larry Samples	-	69
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp/Ken	-	20
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe	-	2
<b>Total</b>		66	754



**J&L Historical** @Jason\_R\_B... · 8h :  
Marine Corps Colonel Henry Pierson Crowe is not only the proud owner of the most exquisite mustache in Marine Corps history, he's a hero to boot.

- Navy Cross 🚢
- Silver Star 🇺🇸
- 2 Legions of Merit 🎖️
- 4 Bronze Stars 🌟
- 2 Purple Hearts 💜
- Served in 3 wars 🕒





**\$1800  
Value**

# RIFLE RAFFLE

To Assist the Chester County Detachment of the Marine Corps League to carry out their mission to serve Veterans, their Families and the Community.

**DEADLINE to Purchase: 24 March 2024**

**DRAWING: 25 March 2024**

- Must be able to Pass a Background Check.
- If you do not pass the background check another winner will be selected
- Must be a PA Resident to Win the Rifle, but will be eligible for Cash Prizes.

**Payment QR Code**



**GOOD LUCK!**

(Need Not be Present to Win—Notified With 24 Hours)