

The Chester County Marine

Cpl Brandon Hardy, Chester County Detachment #286

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Commandant Larry Samples

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CCMarineNews@Verizon.net

Volume XXII, Issue 11



November 2023



A Message from the Commandant

"THE TUN" IS GOING TO HAPPEN! The reconstruction of The Tun Tavern is in the works. It is scheduled for a grand opening on Nov. 10th, 2025, in time for the 250th Marine Corps Birthday. It will be located about 250 feet from the original location. Click on the link to Thetun.org for further information.

An article in the November issue of Leatherneck Magazine features the first Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major Samuel Nicholas. The article, with Fred LeClair's input, is about the ceremonies we conduct at his gravesite three times a year.

Our Flag Retirement Ceremony was held on 11/1. Over 3,000 flags were formally retired. Our thanks to Leo Burke and all that participated. This ceremony takes many hands to make this happen.

Marine Sunday was held on 11/5 at the Oakland's Cemetery in West Chester. Along with Smedley Butler Detachment, we honored three Marines who served our country: Major General Smedley Butler, Dr. Charles E. Swope, and E. Reilly Aikman.

Our Marine Corps Birthday, led by Les Rouse, was celebrated by many on 11/10 in Philadelphia. The thirteen star flag was raised at Independence Hall. A visit and ceremony was held at the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier Monument. Samuel Nicholas, the Marine Corps First Commandant, was honored at special ceremony. A visit to the United States Coast Guard Station was conducted. And a visit to the USS New Jersey was highlighted by lunch served in the Mess Hall by Mission BBQ. Les Rouse presented a New Jersey Flag and a Pennsylvania Flag, which were flown over the Unknown Soldier Monument, were presented to the U. S. Coast Guard and USS New Jersey. The lowering of the thirteen star flag was conducted at 1600.

Our Marine Corps Ball was held on 11/18, at the Whitford Country Club. We had a great turnout. A "Certificate of Appreciation" for appreciation and esteemed gratitude for our service, was presented to our Detachment by Mike Waluk, NE Division Vice Commandant. The "Associate Marine of the Year" award was presented by Dave Butka to Mike Rapp for his many contributions to our detachment. The "Marine of the Year" was awarded by Bonnie Shaw to Chris Shaw for his many contributions. Congratulations to Mike and Chris!! The entertainment was provided by the Jimmy Mack Band.

Open nominations for upcoming elections will be held at our general meetings on 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 Rifle and/or cash will be at our March 25th meeting. Upcoming in December:

- 12/5 & 12/16 Bingo: 1700
- 12/7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12/9 MODD Growl: 1400
- Executive Board Meeting: 1800
- 12/15 to 12/17: Oaks Gun Show, Volunteers needed!
- 12/18 General Membership Meeting: 1900 (Potluck 1800)

Semper Fi,
Larry Samples
Commandant

**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 18, 2023 @
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.

Winter Uniform

Winter uniform is in effect as follows:

- Red Cover
- Long Sleeve White Shirt with Black Tie
- 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
23 OCTOBER 2023**

OPENING CEREMONIES:

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): 12 Present – 2 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
	Trustee	Fred LeClair
X	Trustee	Pat Powell
X	Trustee	Joe Rubin

ACKNOWLEDMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNATARIES: 2nd District Vice Gene Irvin & Assistant Sue Irvin, 1st District Vice Dennis Brown and Assistant Bonnie Shaw, MOY Bonnie Shaw & AOY Dave Buckta

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

- Name and background information; Sgt. at Arms escorts applicant outside meeting room. 4 associates Polly Ross, Nicole Moore, Joanne Brown, & Stella Ross– 1 regular Chad Maloney. All of them were approved and sworn in by Dennis Brown, District 1 Vice.
- 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. Jim Copeland
- Motion passed, subject to corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE: Alpha Bravo Canine Thank You Letter for our donation of \$125.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Doug Forsythe):

- Motion to accept Paymaster’s Report, subject to audit. Jim Copeland
- Second. Brian Brody
- Motion passed subject to audit.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS (Chaplin):

- Report of any members or member’s family sick and in distress. Jim Copeland reports that Mario and Della Scherl are having issues. Card will be sent.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

- Commandant (Larry Samples): The VA gave us a note about Aarons Eagle Project with is a food donation Eagle Scout Project.
- Senior Vice Commandant/Quartermaster (Chris Shaw): October 23rd the Beirut Bombing happened. Donation from the det to the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.
- Junior Vice Commandant (Rich Corbit, Jr.): 23 signed up for the bus trip. Bus will leave at exactly 0630 from Hershey Mills parking lot. Use the main entrance at Hershey Mills and tell them you need to go to the tennis courts. Don Ascolese suggested bringing Mason along as the bugler for the Nov 10th bus trip.
- Junior Past Commandant/Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw): Elections Nominations begin tonight.

- Judge Advocate (Jim Copeland): No Report
- Paymaster (Doug Forsythe): filed
- Sgt. at Arms (Leo Burke) 23 member Present
- Chaplain (Rick Corbit III)
- Trustee (Fred LeClair)
- Trustee (Emil Messikomer): No Report
- Trustee (Pat Powell): Rifle Raffle needs large flags at the table. Small Flags and lollipops would be good.
- Trustee (Joe Rubin): No Report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Rifle/Pistol (Dennis Brown/Mike Rapp): Next mtg Sunday, 29 October meeting at 0900 @ Mike Rapp's house (Ammo and Weapons supplied if needed)
- Defibrillator/AED Training: 11/19, 1200 (Joe Rubin)
- Bingo: (Jim Copeland/Leo Burke) Jim Copeland reports \$217 with 18 players. Need Trainees to take over from Leo and Jim.
- Building Maintenance (Emil Messikomer) Exit lights are going to be replaced.
- Fundraisers:
 - Chicken BBQ: (Doug Forsythe/Bonnie Shaw) 60 meals taken to the homeless shelter, 13 to police officers, and donors
 - Shady Maple Fund Raisers: (Joe Rubin) \$2400 collected. Not again until January 2024. Joe Thanked helpers.
 - Downingtown Fall Fest: (Bonnie Shaw) About \$170 in donations.
 - Rifle Raffle, 1500 tickets, \$20 QR Code) (Pat Powell/Bonnie Shaw) \$3000 sales at the Gun Show 10/22
 - Oaks Gun Show: (Pat Powell, Mike Rapp)
- Golf Outing: 8/5/24, Downingtown Country Club (Don Ascolese) \$4770 Sponsorships \$10,000 Sponsorship levels \$380 Closest to the Pin, \$400 putting contest, \$219 to Det., \$100 Table Sales, \$19290 total. \$120/pp \$30 dinner/pp. 72 contracted golfers for next year. \$2000 for Hole in One prize.
- Marine Corps Birthday: 11/10/23, Philadelphia Events, Samuel Nicholas Ceremony (Color Guard Uniform: MCL White Shirt, Dress Blue Trousers, Black Tie. Black Trousers for those not in color guard.
- Marine Corps Ball: 11/18/23 (Doug Forsythe, Bonnie Shaw) Email will be send out again.
- MCL Fall Meetings, 10/20-10/21, Indiantown Gap (Chris Shaw, Bonnie Shaw)

UNFINISHED BUISNESS:

- Flag Retirement: 1 November @ 1030 meet at the Detachment, (Leo Burke)

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominations of Officers for 2024, First Round: Complete for October
- Don Ascolese suggested a Marketing Budget. Ads in the paper, Donations Stands at Businesses. Home Depot veterans discount. Watch using your personal information online and could have your identity stolen.
- 1 November Fort Indiantown Gap will require 2 forms of Military ID or other DOD ID Card.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Gene Irvin award from Dept Americanism Award. Bonnie Shaw awarded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Bingo: 11/4, 1700
- Marine Sunday: 11/5, Oakland's Cemetery West Chester @ 1000
- Executive Board Meeting: 11/9, 1800
- Maine Corps Birthday 11/10

- Samuel Nicholas Ceremony
- Philly Events (Flag Raising, etc.)
- Veterans Day 11/11
- Marine Corps Birthday Celebration, 11/18; 1700-2200, Whitford Country Club
- General Membership Meeting: 11/27, 1900 (Potluck 1800)

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Next Meeting: 27 November 2023 @ 1900

EVENT: West Chester University Color Guard

DATE: Nov 4, 2023

PURPOSE: The Detachment provided a color guard for the home football game against Kutztown University. In attendance were Doug Forsythe, Fred LeClair, Rich Corbitt and Dan Condron.

SUBMITTED BY: Doug Forsythe



EVENT: Marine Corps Birthday Ball

DATE: Nov 18, 2023

PURPOSE: Flag The Marine Corps Birthday Ball was held at the Whitford Country Club to celebrate the 248th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Chris Shaw was selected the Marine of the Year and Mike Rapp was selected the Associate of the Year.

SUBMITTED BY: Bev Buckta



EVENT: Flag Retirement

DATE: Nov 1, 2023

PURPOSE: Flag retirement was held at the West Chester Fire Training Facility. Approximately 2,000 flags were properly retired. Leo Burke (OIC and bugler), Dan Condron (Chaplain), Dan McClure (Fire safety), Doug Forsythe, Emil Messikomer, Jim Copeland, Dennis and Joanne Brown, Larry Samples, Joe Rubin and wife Sunshine. Lunch was held at Victory Brewing after the event. (40 hrs)

SUBMITTED BY: Leo Burke/Joe Rubin



EVENT: Detachment Bingo

DATE: Nov 4, 2023

MEMBERS: Jim Copeland, Leo Burke, Steve Annan, Emil M, Bonnie and Chris Shaw, Polly and Patty, Joanne and Gunny Brown, Ruth. Only one bingo due to USMC Birthday Ball.

SUBMITTED BY: Leo Burke (15 hours)

Membership Update

November 6, 2023

Happy Belated 248th Birthday Marines! We have 171 members in our Detachment. This includes Life, Annual Dues Paying and Honorary members.

I'd like to recognize Charles "Chad" Maloney (Newtown Square) and Joanne Brown as our newest Detachment members. Please welcome aboard and congratulate Chad at your earliest opportunity.

Detachment Membership Guidebook

Our Detachment Guide Book contains a plethora of information about the Marine Corp League and our Detachment related to how both operate and valuable information to members. Its directory has been recently updated to include more contact information (addresses, websites, phone numbers, etc.) of organizations which may be of interest to members. If you have any organizational contacts who you feel could be of interest to our membership. Please send them to me at: strehlrl@gmail.com and I will include them in the next revision.

Expired Memberships

Unfortunately, we have approximately 14 members whose memberships are now expired. Reminders were mailed in September and again in October. 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, in a hardship situation or your personal situation may have changed. Please contact Bob Strehl (Det. Membership Chair) at (215) 421-2465, strehlrl@gmail.com or Doug Forsythe (Det. Paymaster) at (610) 656-1389, 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	Douglas R. Forsythe	Emil Messikomer	William F. Shields
Tony C Armstrong	Eric Fussenegger (M)	David B Messinger	Walter W. Simcox, Jr.
Lee C. Beyer	Lawrence Garcia	Dave Mundy	Andrew Smyles
Brian L Brody	Jamie W. Goncharoff	Phillip Murray	James G. Snyder
Dennis Brown	Donald Goodwin	Jerry D. Myers	Bob Spano (M)
Shaun Brown	Bob Gross	Louis Stephen "Lou" Netta	William E Stellfox
Daniel W. Bullock III	Louis Guernsey Jr MD	John F. O'Brien	Robert G. Stone
Leo Burke	Michael Guyer	George R Partridge Jr	Robert L. "Bob" Strehl
Gerard (Jed) F. Burns	David Hetrick	Mark A. Peterson	Ryan Strehl
Thomas Cain	John E. Hinckley	Micheal Pollock	Peter R. Supplee
John J. Ceschan	Mark Holton	Patrick B. Powell	Steven W. Talley
Daniel J. Condron	Eugene Irving Jr. (M)	Michael Rapp	Tom Tanner
James Copeland	Leif Jacobsen	Jack Ribble	William H. Tomlinson
William J. Corcoran	Steven Jackson	John M Ross	Kathy A. Van Gorder
Kay M. Croll	Joseph J. Kay	Les Rouse (M)	Elmer S. "Van" Van Gorder
Henry A. "Hank" Detering	Walter Kutz	Joe Rubin	Robert D Wagner III
John DiMatteo	Fred LeClair	Patrick Rundle	Mark A. Wahn
Gerry DiNunzio	Glenn Lewiski	Robert Saenz Jr.	Dennis P. Walsh
Dominic DiSciullo	Thomas M. Logan	Larry L Samples	Kenneth Weaver
James Donegan	Bill Mackey	Jeff Sanders	Charles T. Wertz Jr.
Robert F. Donovan	Michael B. Maginnis	Mario M. Scherl	Robert Whetstone
Robert L. Dormer	George March	Kenneth Schweitzer	William E. Woodward
Joseph E. Dulin Jr.	James Mazzone (M)	Phil Sears	James Yocum
Craig S. Evans	Mike McCarty	Bonnie Shaw	Allen Yusko
Rogers C. Flanigan	John "Jack" Meighan		

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

EVENT: Funeral Detail

DATE: Nov 4, 2023

PURPOSE: Dan .Funeral support for Marine Cpl Pierce at the Donahue Funeral Home. Leo Burke played taps.

SUBMITTED BY: Leo Burke (3 hrs)

Volunteer Activity November 2023	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Larry Samples	4	44
Staff Meeting	Larry Samples	4	44
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	15	195
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron	4	106
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	9	74
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw		48
Flag retirement	Leo Burke	40	80
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	2	46
Membership	Robert Strehl	4	44
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	34
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	3	37
Fundraising	Larry Samples	-	69
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp/Ken	-	20
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe	-	2
Total		89	843

Saved Round

By Kipp Hanley



PATRICK J. HUGHES

HONORING THE FIGHTING QUAKER—The first Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major Samuel Nicholas, may not receive the attention that other Marine legends have garnered over the years.

However, the exploits of the "Fighting Quaker" mean a lot to the city of Philadelphia where he was born and raised. Each year, on Nov. 10, members of the NROTC programs of Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania provide a color guard and assist in laying a wreath next to Nicholas' headstone. The Marine Corps League Department of Pennsylvania helped get the headstone installed in 2013 near the site of the traditional Quaker unmarked grave where Nicholas was buried after his death in 1790.

MCL Chester County Detachment trustee Fred LeClair, who was the founder of the Pennsylvania MCL's Samuel Nicholas Memorial Committee, worked with members of Philadelphia's Quaker leadership to get the headstone placed at the site of their Arch Street Meeting House. Before the headstone was placed, local Marines would informally honor Nicholas by jogging over to the Meeting House at dawn on the Marine Corps' Birthday.

In addition to holding a ceremony at the site of the headstone, representatives from various Philadelphia-area MCL detachments also celebrate Nicholas by raising a 13-star colonial flag at Independence Hall and visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier. The MCL also conducts ceremonies to honor Nicholas on Independence Day and Memorial Day.

This year, LeClair is hoping to honor Nicholas on the famed battleship USS *New Jersey* (BB-62), which is permanently docked on the Delaware River.

The site of Nicholas' headstone lies little more than a



PATRICK J. HUGHES

musket shot away from where he recruited the nation's first Marines in 1775 at Tun Tavern and Conestoga Wagon Tavern, which he managed. Nicholas served as Commandant during the Revolutionary War, leading several successful military efforts in the Bahamas and in Princeton, N.J.

"Major Samuel Nicholas played a vital role in shaping the Marine Corps," LeClair said. "The Marine Corps League honors him by promoting and preserving the interests and traditions of the Marine Corps."

"The Marine Corps is steeped in history," added Captain Jeanbry Torres, Marine Officer Instructor for the Philadelphia NROTC Consortium. "As a recent instructor at Officer Candidates School, I understand that we cannot continue excelling without knowing about where we started." 🇺🇸



**\$1800
Value**

RIFLE RAFFLE

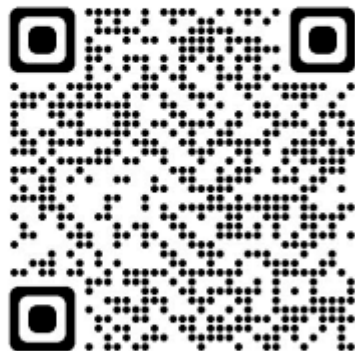
To Assist the Chester County Detachment of the Marine Corps League to carry out their mission to serve Veterans, their Families and the Community.

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)