

# 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)

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## December 2023



### A Message from the Commandant

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 12/7:

On morning of Sunday, 7 December 1941, an attack force of 183 Japanese naval aircraft attacked ninety-four ships of the United State Navy at Pearl Harbor. 2,403 Army, Navy and Marines were killed. This day will forever live in infamy.

THIS IS NOT MY JOB!

This is a story about four people named "Everybody", "Somebody", "Anybody", and "Nobody". There was an important job to be done and "Everybody" was sure that "Somebody" would do it. "Anybody" could have done it, but "Nobody" did it. "Somebody" got angry about that because it was "Everybody's" job. "Everybody" thought "Anybody" could do it, but "Nobody" realized that "Everybody" wouldn't do it. It ended up that "Everybody" blamed "Somebody" when "Nobody" did what "Anybody" could have done.

If you can't join us at a regular General Membership Meeting, perhaps you can drop us a line. We would love to hear from you.

"You can't change the cards you were dealt . . . just the way you play your hand."

From all of us at the Brandon Hardy, Chester County Detachment #286, have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year!

Upcoming in January, 2024:

- 1/6 & 1/20 Bingo, 1700
- 1/11, Executive Board Meeting, 1800
- 1/11 & 1/20 MCL-PA Winter Meetings
- 1/22 General Membership Meeting: 1900 (Potluck 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:  
January 22, 2024 @ 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.

#### 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  
27 NOVEMBER 2023**

**OPENING CEREMONIES:**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): 13 Officers 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	Lawrence Garcia
X	Quartermaster	Chris Shaw
X	Trustee	Emil Messikomer
X	Trustee	Fred LeClair
X	Trustee	Pat Powell
X	Trustee	Joe Rubin

**ACKNOWLEDMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNATARIES:** Dennis Brown Dist 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Comdt, Asst. D1VC Bonnie Shaw, MOY Bonnie Shaw, and AOY Dave Buckta

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Dorian Dugas approved and sworn for regular 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 Jr
- Second. Fred LeClair
- Motion passed, subject to corrections.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Card from Jim Diamond and his wife for our donation to Breast Cancer @ the October Fall Dept Meeting, Several letters from the VA Medical Center for our generous donations monetarily, clothing and sundries.

**REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Forsythe):**

- Motion to accept Paymaster’s Report, subject to audit. Bonnie Shaw
- Second. Kathy Van Gorder
- 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): Flag Retirement on 1 November went well, Thanks Leo. Marine Memorial Sunday 5 November, had a great showing and ceremonies. The Tun 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Project. Trip to Philly 10 November was a great day and activities. Performed our duties for Commandant Samuel Nicholas, Revolutionary War Memorial, TUN Sign, Coast Guard Center and USS New Jersey. We received at the Ball a Certificate of Appreciation from NEVC Mike Waluk for our help with the NE Conference in NJ.
- Senior Vice Commandant/Quartermaster (Chris Shaw) Calling all Dogs to join the MODD Devil Dogs \$243.91 sales.
- Junior Vice Commandant (Rich Corbit, Jr.) No Report
- Junior Past Commandant/Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw) Ball went well and the entertainment was appreciated.
- Judge Advocate (Jim Copeland) No Report
- Paymaster (Doug Forsythe) reports that Emil Messikomer was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the West Chester Foundation.
- Sgt. at Arms (Leo Burke)
- Chaplain (Rick Corbit III)
- Trustee (Fred LeClair) No Report

- Trustee (Emil Messikomer) No Report
- Trustee (Pat Powell) No Report
- Trustee (Joe Rubin) No Report

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Rifle/Pistol (Dennis Brown/Mike Rapp) Live Fire at Kimberton 26 November – 8 shooters present. Next meeting at the detachment on 17 December. Trying to get matches closer to the East side of PA. Fulsome US Reserve center reopening. Fort Indiantown Gap has guarded access and requires a reason to be there with ID.
- Bingo: (Jim Copeland/Leo Burke) This Saturday, 12/2 @1700. Moose has given us permission to put a flyer up for our bingo advertisement. They will give us their flyer here to support them.
- Building Maintenance (Emil Messikomer) In progress, emergency lights and exit signs.
- Fundraisers:
  - Rifle Raffle, 1500 tickets, \$20 (QR Code) (Pat Powell/Bonnie Shaw)
  - Oaks Gun Show: Dec. 15-17, (Pat Powell, Mike Rapp) Need OIC & Volunteers
    - Friday: 1300-1900 – Don Ascolese (1-4pm) Julie Wylie (4-7pm) Doug, Bob, & Emil (Time?)
    - Saturday: 0900-1700 – Jim Copeland (9-12) Doug, Emil & Joe (Time?)
    - Sunday: 0900-1600 – Chris & Bonnie Shaw (9-12) Doug, Emil & Joe (Time?)
- Golf Outing: 8/5/24, Downingtown Country Club (Don Ascolese) Locked in D'Ambrosio for Platinum Sponsorship.
- MCL Fall Meetings, 10/20-10/21, Indiantown Gap (Chris Shaw, Bonnie Shaw)

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominations of Officers for 2024, Second Round: Nominations for November completed.
- Brian Brody suggests we make a donation to rebuild Tun Tavern.

#### GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

- Les Rouse presents the Commandant/Detachment with a Pennsylvania Flag. The Parks Dept is in very much support of our Detachment.
- Fred LeClair
- Bob Strehl's son promoted to LtCol and he is checking to see if there are any Marines that need out assistance.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Marine Reserve Training Center Open House:: 12/3, 1300-1500
- Bingo: 12/2 & 12/16 1700
- National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: 12/7
  - Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, 1200, \$33
- MODD Growl: 12/9, 1400
- Executive Board Meeting: 12/14, 1800
- MCL Delaware County Detachment Breakfast: 12/17, 0800-1100
  - General Membership Meeting: 12/18, 1900 (Holiday/Christmas Party) BRING A COVERED DISH

#### CLOSING CEREMONIES:

**Next Meeting: 18 DECEMBER 2023 @ 1900**

**EVENT:** Member Visit  
**DATE:** Nov 28, 2023  
**PURPOSE:** Visiting Elmer Van Gorder at the CLC Coatesville.  
Pictured: Jim Copeland-Dan Condrón-Van & Mini-Van.  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Dan Condrón



**EVENT:** Funeral Musician **DATE:** Dec 08, 2023  
**PURPOSE:** The 1st Sgt Pardee, from the reserve unit in Folsom, PA requested a bugler from Detachment #286 for the funeral of World War II Marine, 98-year-old Cpl. Milton "Moon" Gysin at the burial site, Green Mount Cemetery, West Chester, PA on 8 December 2023. Fred LeClair volunteered as bugler to work with two Marines from Folsom, PA for the burial service.  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Fred LeClair

**EVENT:** VA Pretzel Sale **DATE:** Nov 28, 2023  
**PURPOSE:** The Copeland/Condrón Mean Marine Machine, selling Pretzels for V.A. Volunteer Services.  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Dan Condrón



**EVENT:** VA Bingo

**DATE:** Dec 14, 2023

**PURPOSE:** On Thursday Dec. 14th: Leo Burke, Jim Copeland, Dan Condron from our Detachment, along with Claude Falcone, from the Smedley Butler Detachment, hosted the MCL's Monthly Bingo, for the Patients in Bldg. 59A, at the Coatesville V.A.M.C.

Every Month, on the 2nd Thursday, we provide \$5.00 Canteen Books, as Prizes, and snacks & ice cream, afterwards.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Dan Condron



**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo

**DATE:** Dec 2 & 16, 2023

**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:** Toys for Tots

**DATE:** Dec 10, 2023

**PURPOSE:** Doug Forsythe supported the Limoncello Restaurant in Chester Springs Toys for Tots fundraiser, Donate 3 toys and get a free family meal.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Beverly Buckta



# Membership Update

December 12, 2023

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years to all! As the year draws to an end, we have 172 members in our Detachment. This includes Life, Annual Dues Paying and Honorary members and I'd like to recognize Dorian Dugas (Chester Springs) and Pauline Ross as our newest Detachment members. Please welcome aboard and congratulate Dorian and Pauline at your earliest opportunity.

## Expired Memberships

Unfortunately, we have approximately 10 members whose memberships are now expired. If you received a lapsed dues letter, email or phone call and have not sent in your payment. I encourage you to do so as soon as you can. 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, are 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](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	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, [strehlr@gmail.com](mailto:strehlr@gmail.com) or Doug Forsythe (Dey. Paymaster) at (610) 656-1389, [dforsythe007@gmail.com](mailto:dforsythe007@gmail.com)



<b>Volunteer Activity December 2023</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Monthly Hours</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Monthly Meeting	Larry Samples	4	48
Staff Meeting	Larry Samples	4	48
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	225
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron	12	118
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	4	78
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw		48
Flag retirement	Leo Burke		80
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	2	48
Membership	Robert Strehl	4	48
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	38
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	3	40
Fundraising	Larry Samples	-	69
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp/Ken	-	20
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe	20	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>930</b>



**\$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)