

# 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)

Volume XXIII, Issue 2



## March 2024



### A Message from the Commandant

"A Celebration of Life & Going Home" funeral services were held for Tom Logan, MCL Life Member. The Detachment participated in a Casket Watch and Eagle Globe & Anchor Ceremony on March 7, visitation. On March 8, funeral services were held at Grove Methodist Church and Gravesite Ceremonies were held at Philadelphia Memorial Park, Veterans section. Tom proudly served his country in the Pacific during WW II and in the Korean War.

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony was held for Jack McGovern, BSA Troop 23, on March 3. The Detachment presented Jack with the MCL "Good Citizenship Award". This award is only presented to those Scouts who attained the rank of Eagle.

The Detachment participated in the Morgantown Gun Show and March 9 and 10. Rifle tickets were sold and donations were accepted. Members who participated were Pat Powell, Joe Rubin, Chris Shaw, Bonnies Shaw and Larry Samples. Thank you!

The Brandon Hardy Highway Dedication will be held on Friday April 26, at 10:00 am at Octorara High School. Please plan on attending and show our support.

The Detachment will be hosting the MCL-PA Leadership Training Course on Saturday, April 27. A few of our members will be attending for the extensive training on current policies, procedures of the Marine Corps League.

"Espirit de Corps" simply means that no Marine ever lets another Marine down.

April Calendar:

4/5: Gold Star Spouses Day

4/6 & 4/20: Bingo, 1700

4/11: Executive Board Meeting, 1800

4/22: General Membership Meeting: 1900 (Mission BBQ 1800)

4/26: Brandon Hardy Highway Dedication: Octorara High School, 1000

4/27: MCL-PA Leadership Training at Detachment

4/28: Albert E. Smith & John Mackie Memorial Ceremonies

4/28: "Beers for Brandon" 1800 at Hardy's Residence

4/30: Chester County's Women Veterans Luncheon/Seminar 1200-1500

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:  
April 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**

**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  
26 FEBRUARY 2024**

**OPENING CEREMONIES: Sr. Vice Chris Shaw Presiding**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): 10 Present – 4 Excused**

E	Commandant	Larry Samples
P	Sr. Vice Commandant	Chris Shaw
P	Jr. Vice Commandant	Rich Corbit Jr.
P	Jr. Past Commandant	Bonnie Shaw
P	Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland
P	Chaplain	Phil Sears
P	Adjutant	Bonnie Shaw

E	Paymaster	Doug Forsythe
P	Sergeant at Arms	Lawrence Garcia
P	Quartermaster	Chris Shaw
P	Trustee	Emil Messikomer
E	Trustee	Bob Whetstone
E	Trustee	Pat Powell
P	Trustee	Joe Rubin

**ACKNOWLEDMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNATARIES:** District 1 Vice Commandant Dennis Brown, Assistant D1VC Bonnie Shaw & D1VC Aide de Camp Chris Shaw. District 2 Vice Commandant Gene Irvin & Assistant D2VC Sue Irvin

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

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

- Motion to accept the minutes, subject to corrections. Joe Rubin
- Second. All those in favor, say aye. Brian Brody
- Motion passed, subject to corrections.
- Audit status.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** VA Donation Letters x 3, cash, pretzels in January and February

**REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Phil Sears):**

- Motion to accept Paymaster’s Report, subject to audit. Rich Corbit Jr.
- Second. All those in favor, say aye. Brian Brody
- Motion passed subject to audit.

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS (Chaplin):**

- Report of any members or member’s family sick and in distress.
- 2023 new member Thaddeus Atkin passed last week. We provided funeral services on Thursday, 2/22 at Collins Funeral Home in Oxford. 5 members participated. \$200 donation was received from his family for our efforts.
- WWII and Korea veteran & member Tom Logan passed away Friday, 2/23. Awaiting funeral information.
- Prayers for Brian Brody’s wife Deborah after diagnosis of Stomach Cancer.
- Welcomed Mike Rapp and Chris Shaw back from their medical issues.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

- Commandant (Larry Samples): Absent
- Senior Vice/Quartermaster (Chris Shaw) No Report for SV but Quartermaster has additional inventory.
- Junior Vice (Rich Corbit) N/R
- Junior Past Commandant/Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw) N/R
- Judge Advocate (Jim Copeland) N/R
- Sgt. at Arms (Lawrence Garcia) N/R
- Trustee (Emil Messikomer) N/R
- Trustee (Pat Powell) Absent

- Trustee (Joe Rubin) N/R
- Trustee (Bob Whetstone) Absent

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

- Rifle/Pistol: (Dennis Brown) Live Fire March 24<sup>th</sup> (Meeting at Mike Rapp's House at 0900)
- Bingo: (Jim Copeland) 37 attendees last Bingo
- Rifle Raffle: (Bonnie Shaw) Per Phil Sears, we are at about 60% sales from last year.
- Scholarships: (Emil Messikomer)
- Building Maintenance: (Emil Messikomer)
- Golf: (Don Ascolese) Awards have been handed out.
- AED/CPR Classes: (Joe Rubin)
- Fund Raisers:
  - Shady Maple Farm Market Approximately \$2400
  - Walmart Parkesburg: 5/11, 1000-1700

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Less Rouse presented us with a piece of teak decking from the Battleship NJ. Need to set up a ValPak meeting to set it up.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:** Department Scholarship program will be set up for \$500. Cut off for submission is 31 May. Roll Call for Thaddeus Atkins and Tom Logan. 5 March – Coffee Cup Diner Veteran's Breakfast 0700. 17 March Delaware County Detachment Breakfast begins at 0800.

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

- Bingo: 3/2 & 3/16, 1700
- McGovern Eagle Court of Honor: 3/3. 1500. CCC BSA, One Scouting Way - Exton
- MODD Growl: 3/9, 1400
- Morgantown Gun Show: 3/9-3/10
  - Sat. 0900-1700
  - Sun. 0900-1600 – The Shaw's
- Executive Board Meeting: 03/14, 1800
- MCL-PA Department Spring Meetings: 3/15-3/16 – Indiantown Gap
- General Membership Meeting: 03/25, 1900 (Potluck 1800)
- Oaks Gun Show: 4/5-4/7
- Albert E. Smith Ceremony: 4/27
- MCL-PA Leadership Course: 4/27
- Beers for Brandon at the Hardy Residence 1800 4/28 – All are Welcome to attend.

#### **CLOSING CEREMONIES:**

**Next Meeting: 25 March 2024 @ 1900**

**EVENT:** MODD Donations to VA Coatesville

**DATE:** Mar 20, 2024

**PURPOSE:** The Devil Dogs dropped off needed donations to the VA Voluntary Services. Attending were Emil Messikomer, Doug Forsythe, Larry Samples, Steve Annan.

Gina Cybator, the VA coordinator, is shown on the far right.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Larry Samples



**EVENT:** Flag

**DATE:** Jan 26, 2024

**PURPOSE:** Authentic flag flown over the Tomb of the 1000 Unknowns at Washington Square Park Phila. PA

**SUBMITTED BY:** Doug Forsythe

**EVENT:** Sweetheart Lunch

**DATE:** Feb 14, 2024

**PURPOSE:** On

**SUBMITTED BY:** Dan Condron

**EVENT:** VA Bingo

**DATE:** Mar 2024

**PURPOSE:** Bingo was held at the VA. Leo Burke, Dan Condron and Jim Copeland

**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo

**DATE:** Mar 2 and 16, 2024

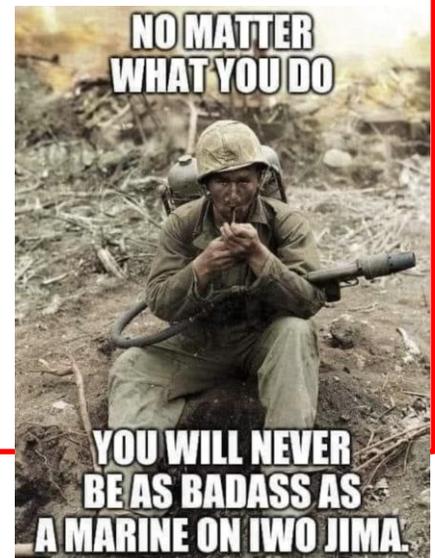
**MEMBERS:** Bingo was held two weekend in March. Jim Copeland, Leo Burke, Steve Annan, Polly and Patti, Don Ascole, and Ruth provided logistical support and Bonnie and Chris Shaw, Dennis and Joanne Brown ran culinary operations.

**EVENT:** Camp Shady Maple Fundraiser

**DATE:** Feb 10, 2024

**PURPOSE:** Here are a couple of pics from the fund raiser we had at Shady Maple Farm Market in East Earl on 2/10. Participants were Joe Rubin, Emil Messikomer, Jim Copeland, Leo Burke and Larry Samples. Great fund raiser and many great people!

**SUBMITTED BY:** Larry Samples, Joe Rubin, and Doug Forsythe



**EVENT:** Detachment Officer Installation

**DATE:** Jan 22, 2024

**PURPOSE:** Brandon Hardy/Chester County Marine Corps League Detachment 286 held its 2024 officer installation Refer to the minutes for participant names and offices

**SUBMITTED BY:** Yonas Reinholdson

# Membership Update

March 10, 2024

Currently we have 169 members in our Detachment. This includes Life, Multiple Detachment, Annual Dues Paying and Honorary members all of whom are in "Good Standing".

Since our last meeting, Marine's Thaddeus Aktin Jr. (Kirkwood) and life member Tom Logan (Exton) reported to the Supreme Commandant. Both were long time members of the Marine Corps League. Tom was a veteran of WWII and Korea. In fact, there's a picture on the wall of the Det Headquarters taken of him at the Chosen Reservoir. Tom was a very active Detachment member and VA Hospital contributor. Fair winds and following seas Marines, you will be missed. Semper Fi!

## Current Detachment Life Members

John Abitabilo	Rogers C. Flanigan	Jim McIlhenney	Chris Shaw
Stephan Annan	Gary N. Fay	Charles G. McMahon	Raymond E. Sheldon
Cheryl Armstrong	Daniel V. Fitzpatrick Jr.	Emil Messikomer	William F. Shields
Tony C Armstrong	Douglas R. Forsythe	David B Messinger	Walter W. Simcox, Jr.
Lee C. Beyer	Eric Fussenegger (M)	Dave Mundy	Andrew Smyles
Brian L Brody	Lawrence Garcia	Phillip Murray	James G. Snyder
Dennis Brown	Jamie W. Goncharoff	Jerry D. Myers	Bob Spano (M)
Shaun Brown	Donald Goodwin	Louis Stephen "Lou" Netta	William E Stellfox
Daniel W. Bullock III	Bob Gross	John F. O'Brien	Robert G. Stone
Leo Burke	Louis Guernsey Jr MD	George R Partridge Jr	Robert L. "Bob" Strehl
Gerard (Jed) F. Burns	Michael Guyer	Mark A. Peterson	Ryan Strehl
Thomas Cain	David Hetrick	Micheal Pollock	Peter R. Supplee
John J. Ceschan	John E. Hinckley	Patrick B. Powell	Steven W. Talley
Daniel J. Condron	Mark Holton	Michael Rapp	Tom Tanner
James Copeland	Eugene Irving Jr. (M)	Jack Ribble	William H. Tomlinson
Richard Corbit Jr.	Leif Jacobsen	John M Ross	Kathy A. Van Gorder
William J. Corcoran	Steven Jackson	Les Rouse (M)	Elmer S. "Van" Van Gorder
Kay M. Croll	Joseph J. Kay	Joe Rubin	Robert D Wagner III
Henry A. "Hank" Detering	Walter Kutz	Patrick Rundle	Mark A. Wahn
John DiMatteo	Fred LeClair	Robert Saenz Jr.	Dennis P. Walsh
Gerry DiNunzio	Glenn Lewiski	Larry L Samples	Kenneth Weaver
Dominic DiSciullo	Bill Mackey	Jeff Sanders	Charles T. Wertz Jr.
James Donegan	Michael B. Maginnis	Mario M. Scherl	Robert Whetstone
Robert F. Donovan	George March	Kenneth Schweitzer	William E. Woodward
Robert L. Dormer	James Mazzone (M)	Phil Sears	James Yocum
Joseph E. Dulin Jr.	Mike McCarty	Bonnie Shaw	Allen Yusko
Craig S. Evans	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 (Membership Chair) at (215) 421-2465, [strehlrl@gmail.com](mailto:strehlrl@gmail.com) or Doug Forsythe (Pay Paymaster) at (610) 656-1389, [dforsythe007@gmail.com](mailto:dforsythe007@gmail.com)

Volunteer Activity March 2024	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Larry Samples	4	8
Staff Meeting	Larry Samples	4	8
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	30
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron	6	6
Honor Guard	Doug Forsythe	6	10
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw		
Flag retirement	Leo Burke		
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	4	6
Membership	Robert Strehl	3	6
Financial	Doug Forsythe	3	6
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	3	6
Fundraising	Larry Samples	24	24
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp/Ken	-	
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe		
<b>Total</b>		87	110

# Coffee Cup Veterans Breakfast Dates

- ◆ January 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 @7am
- ◆ February 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ May 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ June 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ July 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ August 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 @7am
- ◆ September 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ October 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ November 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 7am
- ◆ December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 @ 7am

SPONSOR A VETS BREAKFAST FOR  
\$10.00!

Note: breakfast begins at 7 am for those who would like to join in the camaraderie with other veterans. For those who do not, the breakfast will be honored all day on the assigned date!