



SITREP

LEHIGH VALLEY DETACHMENT 296

[HTTP://WWW.LVMCL.COM](http://www.lvmcl.com)

DETACHMENT MEETINGS:
Every 4th Wednesday @ 1930
EMAUS FIRE CO. No. 2
1017 Pennsylvania Ave
Emmaus PA 18049

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

• *Commandant*

Marie "Ria" Mattix

• *SR Vice Commandant*

Bill Stoudt

• *JR Vice Commandant*

John Eyer

• *Judge Advocate*

Cory Shellhamer

• *Adjutant/Paymaster*

Dave Newcomer

• *Chaplain*

Joseph Malia

• *Sergeant at Arms*

Rondell Anderson

• *Web Sergeant*

Jason Smith



MEMORIAL DAY...A BRIEF HISTORY

"Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays."

Follow the link below to read the article in its entirety

<https://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/history.asp>

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. "Memorial Day History." *US Department of Veterans Affairs*, 20 July 2015, www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/history.asp.

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

Congratulations Howard Schaeffer



Detachment member and current National Chaplain Howard Schaeffer was presented the Distinguished Citizen Award Gold on behalf of Marine Corps League National Commandant Dennis Tobin. Howard is also the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Chairman of the Board, President of the Marine Corps League Foundation as well as President Elect of the Greater Lehigh Valley Association of Realtors and has served as LV Detachment 296 Sr Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate, and the past Director of the Pennsylvania Marine Corps League Foundation.

On 1 MAY 2021, members of Detachment 296 attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew C Conrad where he was presented the Good Citizenship Award on behalf of Department Commandant Robert Ziltz. Also presented were a Flag, along with the MCL Detachment 296 Eagle Scout Medal and Detachment challenge coin.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

16 May Flag Placement for Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery, 14:00 At Cemetery

23 May & 29 August Marine Rose and Recruitment, Emmaus Farmer's Market, 10:00-13:00 at Downtown Triangle

29 May in cooperation with Emmaus Veterans Committee, Firing at Emmaus Remembrance Garden, 09:30 at Remembrance Garden

30 May in cooperation with Emmaus Veterans Committee, Firing at Emmaus Local Cemeteries, time and location TBA

31 May Memorial Day Parade and Veterans Salute. Meet at Emmaus High School 08:30. Parade is subject to weather cancellation, however Veterans Salute will be rain or shine

Note: Breakfast will be provided for those attending Firing on 30 May, by Citizens Fire Co No 2. Likewise, they will serve lunch after Memorial Day Ceremonies

SCUTTLEBUTT FROM THE FLEET

Follow the link below to find out what is happening now in the FMF:

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2021/05/03/marine-corps-inspector-general-suspended-from-duties-pending-third-aav-investigation/>

If you would like to submit something to *The SitRep*, please contact me via email or text. I welcome any input you, as a Detachment, may have. My apologies in advance if I have omitted any matters of importance for this month's edition and ask that you let me know if I have done so.

Semper Fi Marines!

Ria Mattix

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484-788-2980

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Citizens Fire Co No 2 Emmaus, PA 28 April 2021

Marine Corps League Det 296

Minutes are as follows:

Roll Call of Officers finds all present except Paymaster Newcomer. His status EXCUSED

Application for Membership: NONE

Motion was requested to accept previous month's minutes. Motion was made and seconded

For: 16 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Correspondence:

Member Bob Longenberger's family forwarded a Thank You card, (Darrell & Connie), with thanks for members stopping by on his 96th Birthday. The card had enclosed a gift of \$150.00. Chaplain Malia will express Detachment's thanks

Annual Convention Dept of Pennsylvania dates 16-20 June. Along with that a motion was made and seconded to subscribe to a 1/4-page ad for convention program. Cost \$50.00

For: 16 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Northeast Division Conference dates 4/5 June, in Harrisburg/Hershey

Motion was made and seconded to cover registration fee, now and in the future for Marine Corps League events

For: 16 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Leadership Course will be attended 15 May by Commandant Mattix and Sr Vice Commandant Stoudt

National Convention will be held In August

Report of Paymaster: Tabled for last item of business

Sick and In Distress:

Chaplain Malia reports his lifelong friend's wife has an early cancer diagnosis. Past Commandant Smith's family members continue with various health struggles. Please keep all these individuals in your prayers

Report of Officers:

Past Commandant Smith advises some parties with some felonies are eligible for membership

Standing Committees: NONE

Roster is in process of being updated

Unfinished Business:

Jr Vice Commandant Eyer reports on following events and dates:

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Young Marine Organization matter is closed

New Business:

Eagle Scout Ceremony honoring Matthew Conrad will be held Saturday 1 May. Commandant Mattix is attending and asking for others to attend

Forms required by the Marine Corps League Website are in process including roster and other documents

Detachment email and Dropbox are under study by Judge Advocate Shellhamer. Purpose: better communication, fiduciary openness, and transitional information, as well as sharing of information. Recommendation is we switch to Google G-drive. Motion was made and seconded we do so

For: 16 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Paymasters Report:

Our account was audited by our incoming Officers. A discrepancy was noted. The belief was that the result was from oversight in record keeping, particularly relating to automatic withdrawals and our debit card, rather than theft. Last month our balance was \$18,464.54 including the CD. Current balance is \$8686.73 and \$3377.84 in the CD account. Motion was requested to accept these results and figures and move forward. Motion was made and seconded

For: 15 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Member David Guldin offers our Membership through his business, free medical related tattoos

Good of the League:

Congratulations Howard Schaeffer who was awarded, from the National Commandant, the Gold Distinguished Citizens Award. Award was presented by Commandant Mattix on behalf of National Commandant Dennis Tobin

Chaplain Malia informed Membership that the Naval Relief Fund is now the SEMPER Fi & America's Fund. Information attached to hard copy minutes

A Disabled Vietnam Marine was misrepresented in a real estate transaction in the amount of his entire purchase. A local realtor is reaching out for volunteers and financial assistance to rectify his current situation. It is suggested we reach out to other Marine Corps related organizations for assistance. A Motion was made and seconded that we donate \$1000.00

For: 12 Against: 4 Abstentions: 0

Announcements: NONE

Respectfully Submitted

Fred R. Babcock

Life Member