

# 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 Chris Shaw**

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

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Volume XXIV Issue 4



## April 2025



### Elected Officers (eff: 1/27/2025)

Commandant	Chris Shaw
Sr. Vice	Frank Marshall
Junior Vice	Ian Dugas
Jr. Past Com	Larry Samples
Judge Adv	Jim Copeland

### Appointed Officers

Adjutant	Bonnie Shaw
Service Officer	Doug Forsythe
Paymaster	Doug Forsythe/Phil Sears
Chaplain	Phil Sears
Sgt. at Arms	Lawrence Garcia

Members of the Detachment,

### A Message from the Commandant

Let's pause for a moment to remember our namesake Corporal Brandon Hardy. His family has a gathering every year which they call "Beers for Brandon". It is an open invitation to our detachment to attend. If you are interested, please contact the Adjutant for further information.

In the early morning hours of 28 April 2006, at the Haditha Dam area in Anbar Province, Iraq, Brandon was on an aid and assist mission. His section was sent out to retrieve a disabled vehicle. After the mission was accomplished and the team now returning to base camp, the vehicle in which Brandon was a passenger, struck an IED. Three of the five passengers of the Humvee were mortally wounded. Corporal Brandon Hardy was Killed In Action, along with two other Marines, Sergeant Lea R. Mills, Brookville, FL and Sergeant Edward G. Davis III, Antioch, IL. Sergeant Davis was posthumously promoted to Staff Sergeant.

### **In History:**

On April 27, 1805, First Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon and seven other Marines, along with Greek and Arab forces, who were under the command of American Consul William Eaton raised the American flag over the fortress at Derne, a pirate stronghold in Tripoli. This was the first time the American flag had been raised over a conquered fortress in the Old World. Two Marines were killed and another was injured in the assault on the city.

The April meeting was postponed to the 29th, 1800 potluck and meeting at 1900, out of respect for those that would like to attend the Beers for Brandon gathering.

There are fundraising events that are coming up in the month of May. Please read the minutes and see the events in May that need volunteers. We will be short handed due to members going on vacation. Downingtown Memorial Day events and Major Samuel Nicholas graveside honoring will be shy of help. Please contact the Commandant if you can help.

26-29 June is the PA Department Convention. All members are encouraged to attend. You don't have to stay at the hotel, if you prefer to commute every day and night. You can just travel daily, up to you. The deadline for reservations is 4 June. The Agenda hasn't been published yet, stand by.

If you plan to move up to Devil Dog in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, you need to complete the advancement form and submit it to the Pound Dog Robber no later than 1 June. You must be present at the Dept Convention to advance from Pup to Devil Dog, unless you have received a waiver from the Pack Leader of Pennsylvania. Contact the Dog Robber for additional information.

Semper Fi and hope to see you at a future meeting.

Commandant Chris Shaw

**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:  
May 19, 2025 @ 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
- Satin Jacket when appropriate

**Marine Corps League Uniforms available online:**

<https://www.mclnational.org/store.html>

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

24 March 2025

## OPENING CEREMONIES:

Opening: 1900

## ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): 11 Present - 3 Excused

P	Commandant	Chris Shaw
P	Sr. Vice Commandant	Frank Marshall
E	Jr. Vice Commandant	Ian Dugas
E	Jr. Past Commandant	Larry Samples
P	Judge Advocate	Jim Copeland
P	Chaplain	Phil Sears
P	Adjutant	Bonnie Shaw

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

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNITARIES:** MOY'25 Emil Messikomer, AOY'25 Phil Sears, 1<sup>st</sup> District Vice Dennis Brown, Asst. John Taylor and National PAO Chair and his Aide De Camp Joanne Brown, and 2<sup>nd</sup> District Vice Gene Irvin and his Aide De Camp Sue Irvin. Guests Judge Advocate Oliver Francis and John Taylor. Rich Corbit, Delaware Dept Commandant is in attendance as well.

**Applications for Membership:** Jeanne Rapp applying as associate member, sponsored by Mike Rapp

**Balloting for New Member.** Sergeant-at-Arms escort petitioner to rear out of sight.

**Introduction of new member(s) and guests.** Jeanne was approved and sworn in as an associate member.

**Correspondence:** Thank you from Coatesville VA for Pretzels. We have a request for a Marine Funeral detail on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Awards:** Emil Messikomer receives an NCO Sword award for all his MOY award. AOY Phil Sears receives his tiny pistol award. These awards were provided by Dennis Brown.

**Commandant:** Thank you to all the members who participated in the Gun Show in Morgantown Rifle Raffle sales. US Open Semi Pro Soccer match color guard did a great job. Tickets are still available. There is a bogus email string going around from the Chief Devil Dog for gift cards, it's a scam.

**Senior Vice Commandant:** Be nice to each other, we are all brothers and sisters and we should support each other not tear each other down.

**Junior Vice Commandant:** N/R

**Junior Past Commandant:** N/R

**Judge Advocate:** N/R

**Adjutant's Report:** Acceptance of Minutes from the last month's Meeting subject to corrections. Motion from Gene Irvin and 2nd by Dave Hetrick. Approved by membership. Minutes will be provided as soon as possible.

**Paymaster's Report:** Review and to Approve subject to Audit. Motion Approve: Gene Irvin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Copeland, passed subject to the audit on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1800.

**Chaplain's Report:** Members Ailing & in Distress Report: Larry Samples was sent a card. Joe Rubin's son is not well. Russ Snyder has a medical condition and he is currently in the Reading Hospital ICU.

**Sergeant-At-Arms:** N/R

**Trustees:** Emil Messikomer receives an NCO Sword award for all his MOY award. AOY Phil Sears receives his tiny pistol award. These awards were provided by Dennis Brown.

### **Committee Reports**

**Bingo:** Leo/Jim – Bing had a good turn out. Took in \$480 for last bingo. Jackpot is still rolling. Still looking for replacements for Leo and Jim. They would like to retire. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**

**Rifle/Pistol Team:** Dennis Brown/Mike Rapp First live fire was yesterday 23 March. Next will be 27 April meeting at Mike Rapps house 0900. Ammo is supplied.

**MC Ball:** Nov 15<sup>th</sup> Whitford CC?

**Memorial Day:** We are paying for one bugler \$50. Jim Copeland will be reading Logan's Orders. We are in charge next year.

**Golf Outing:** We need volunteers. Please share the PDF of the Golf Outing Trifold to get sponsors and/or players. Deadline: 15 August 2025.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Les Rouse received confirmation that we do have our slot for the flag raising on the Birthday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. Dennis Brown: Dept created a coin for the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday and 80<sup>th</sup> Dept Anniversary. Coins are \$10 each. National needs all email addresses so that they can contact you. Upcoming Quarterly Report are due the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, instead of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Dept is looking for Paymaster, Jr. Vice and Adjutant. If interested go to the Dept Convention in June.

### **FUNDRASING:**

Oaks Gun Show 4-6 April, Need Volunteers. FINAL sale before the drawing in April.

**4 Apr** 1300-1600: Doug & Email  
1600-1900:

**5 Apr** 0900-1300:  
1300-1700:

**6 Apr** 0900-1230:  
1230-1600:

Commandant Shaw/Adjutant Shaw took the Samuel Nicholas coins to National Mid-Winter (27 Feb – 1 Mar) and sold at the MODD Lucky Dog's Table. 99 coins were sold and split 50/50 with Kennel. Will also go to the Dept 26-29 June (Split 50/50 with PA Pack) and again at National Convention to sell.

We need additional Fundraising Ideas. We've lost a few opportunities for fundraising, so we need additional ideas going forward.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Good of the League:** Please continue to send photos for the newsletter. Gene Irving, dept scholarship program went into effect. We need applications on the fillable form. He has 3 applications already, deadline 31 May. Steve will be purchasing toiletries for the Coatesville VA Hospital.

**Announcements:** Dues are due NLT 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Quarterly Reports due 9 Jun, 1 Sep, & 1 Dec. Bring non-perishable food to the detachment for our ongoing Coatesville VA Food Pantry donations.

**Upcoming events:** If you know of a local event we can participate in, let us know.

### **April:**

4-6 - Oaks Gun Show – Need Volunteers – Sign-up under fundraising.

5 - Bingo Jackpot is \$800 and rolling.

10 - Staff Meeting @ 1800

13 - Albert E Smith & John Mackie Memorial ceremony @ Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill PA

19 - Bingo

28 - General Membership Meeting – Potluck @1800 – Meeting @1900 – **Conflict** with the Beers for Brandon

### **May:**

3 - Bingo 2025

8 - Staff Meeting @ 1800

- 17 - Bingo
- 25 - Major Samuel Nicholas ceremony @1100
- 26 - General Membership Meeting – Potluck 1800 – Meeting @ 1900 **Conflict** with Memorial Day

**June:**

- 7- Bingo – The Shaw's will not be present so no Food Manager on site.
- 12 - Staff Meeting @ 1800
- 14 - Pound 179 Growl @1400
- 21 - Bingo
- 23 - General Membership Meeting – Potluck @1800 – Meeting @1900
- 26-29 - Dept Convention @ Penn Harris Hotel Camp Hill – Growl TBD on 27th

Next Meeting: 24 March 2025 @ 1900

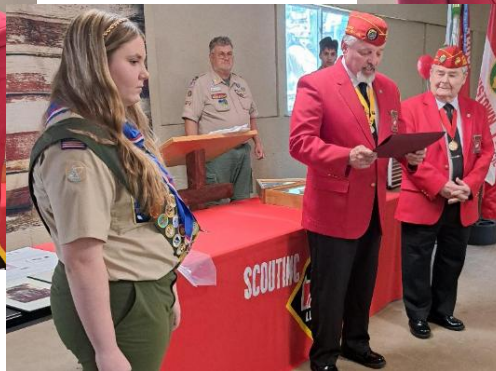
**Adjournment: 1954**

**EVENT:** Color Eagle Scout Award

**DATE:** April 2025

**SUMMARY:** Awarded the Good Citizenship Award to Eagle Scout Cheyenne Pedrick. Presented by Commandant Chris Shaw and Jr Past Commandant Larry Samples. Photography by Adjutant Bonnie Shaw .

**SUBMITTED BY:** Bonnie Shaw



**EVENT:** Detachment Bingo

**DATE:** Apr 5 & 19, 2025

**MEMBERS:** Jim Copeland, Leo Burke, Steve Annan, Polly and Patti, Ruth, Emil Messikomer, and Bonnie and Chris Shaw. Doug Forsythe, Dennis and Joanne Brown ran culinary operations.

<b>Volunteer Activity April 2025</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Monthly Hours</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Monthly Meeting	Chris Shaw	4	16
Staff Meeting	Chris Shaw	4	16
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	105
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic	Dan Condron	10	10
Honor Guard/events	Doug Forsythe	4	16
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw	4	18
Flag retirement	Joe Rubin/Leo Burke		
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	10	40
Membership	Steve Annan		6
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	12
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	3	12
Fundraising	Chris Shaw		
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp		
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe		6
<b>Total</b>		73	257