

The Chester County Marine

Cpl Brandon Hardy, Chester County Detachment #286

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Commandant Chris Shaw

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A Message from the Commandant

Marines and Associates:

Spring has finally arrived. It is a time of rebirth and growth. Spring is a great time to reconnect and participate in your Marine Corps league activities.

This year, our Marine Corps League Detachment has the honor of taking the lead in organizing and coordinating the Downingtown Memorial Day Parade—a proud community tradition that honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

This is a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate the Marine spirit of leadership and service beyond self. With your help, we can ensure this year's Memorial Day Parade reflects the respect, pride, and unity our community holds for its veterans and fallen heroes.

We need volunteers for limited assignments to complete this mission. Please plan to attend our first meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 1830 at the detachment home. I hope to see you there.

**Semper Fi,
Frank Marshall, Commandant**

Note: The March newsletter has been combined with February since the Feb meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

Meetings: 4th Monday of every month @1900

430 Chestnut Street

Downingtown, Pa 19335

Entrance on Chestnut St. and rear. Park in rear of bldg.



Next Meeting:

Apr 27, 2026 @ 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 Tie
- Black Trousers
- Black Shoes & Socks
- Satin Jacket when appropriate

Marine Corps League Uniforms available online:

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

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA
28 January 2026**

OPENING CEREMONIES:

Open: 1900

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

X	Commandant	Chris Shaw
X	Sr. Vice Commandant	Frank Marshall
X	Jr. Vice Commandant	Dave Hetrick
E	Jr. Past Commandant	Larry Samples
X	Judge Advocate (Substitute)	Anthony DeBello
X	Chaplain (Substitute)	John Taylor
X	Adjutant	Bonnie Shaw

X	Paymaster	Doug Forsythe
X	Sergeant at Arms	Lawrence Garcia
X	Quartermaster	Chris Shaw
X	Trustee	Emil Messikomer
E	Trustee	Bob Whetstone
E	Trustee	Pat Powell
X	Trustee	Jerry Myers

ACKNOWLEDMENT OF GUESTS AND DIGNATARIES: District One Vice Commandant Dennis Brown and his Aide De Camp Joanne Brown, National PAO John Taylor, Jr. Past Delaware Dept Commandant Rich Corbit, MOY Dave Hetrick & AOY Joanne Brown.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: (Dennis Brown) Commandant: Frank Marshall, Sr. Vice Commandant: Bob Whetstone, Jr. Vice Commandant: Dave Hetrick, Judge Advocate: Anthony DeBello III, Jr. Past Commandant: Chris Shaw, Adjutant: Bonnie Shaw, Paymaster: Doug Forsythe, Chaplain: Phil Sears, Sergeant at Arms: Lawrence Garcia

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: N/A

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Newsletter):

- Accept the minutes, subject to corrections. Motion By: Rich Corbit
- Second, Dave Hetrick All those in favor, say aye.
- Motion passed, subject to corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Frank Marshall):

- Motion to accept Paymaster’s Report subject to audit. Motion by: Anthony DeBello Jr.
- Second, Chris Shaw. All those in favor, say aye.
- Motion passed; subject to audit.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS (Chaplin-Substitute John Taylor): N/R

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

- Commandant (Frank Marshall):
#1. motion to accept proposed budget 2025-2026 Motion to Accept as Proposed: Jerry Myers and Seconded: Doug Forsythe
#2. Motion to approve formation of the 501c3 “THE CHESTER COUNTY MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FOUNDATION, INC.” Motion by: Rich Corbit and Seconded by: Jerry Myers. Frank says he intends to steer the ship in a great direction.
- Senior Vice/Quartermaster (Bob Whetstone) N/R
- Junior Vice (Dave Hetrick) N/R
- Junior Past Commandant (Chris Shaw) Thank you to all the who have supported me during my tour as your Commandant.
- Judge Advocate (Anthony DeBello III) N/R
- Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw): N/R
- Sgt. at Arms (Lawrence Garcia) 23 members present
- Trustee (Emil Messikomer): N/R
- Trustee (Rich Corbit) N/R
- Trustee (Jim Copeland) N/R
- Trustee (Jerry Myers) Spoke to Bob Strehl and expressed his appreciation for the support for the Marine In need out there.
- Trustee (Ken Plummer) N/R

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- **Rifle/Pistol** (Dennis Brown) Meeting at the detachment Feb 22nd.
- **Bingo** (Jim Copeland) Next Bingo Feb 7th. 2nd Bingo 21 Feb.
- **Building Maintenance** Emil: Acorn came on the 16th to install the stairlift. Joe Rubin was instrumental in getting the new Hand Rail installed as well. Dave Hetrick fixed the Bingo Machine so we didn't have to pay anymore fees. Grandfathers Clock donated to the Detachment Tom O'Donnell
- **Marine Corps Ball:** N/R
- **Golf Outing:** Going with a different Golf Organization website.
- **Fund Raisers:** Begin in April
- **Rifle Raffle:** See Sign-up Sheets
 - 6-8 Feb: Oaks
 - 14-15 Mar: Morgantown
 - 17-19 Apr: Oaks
- **Flag Retirement:** N/A
- **VAVS:** Conducted Bingo and Pretzels. If you want to volunteer get a hold of Frank or Doug.
- **Committees:** Need Volunteers

UNFINISHED BUISNESS:

NEW BUSINESS: (Jerry Myers) Need to get more guest speakers. Sheryl from Mission BBQ will be scheduled in the future.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Steve Annan: Questioning Robert's Rules. He didn't like the way he was treated at the following meeting. He then asked to be excused from the meeting and was again escorted out. Dennis Brown (1DVC) will give me a copy of the new PLM list so I can make a copy for Doug. Dave Buckta returning the cable box to lower our bill.

AWARDS: Jr. Past Commandant Chris Shaw. The Chaple of the Four Chaplains award was given to Emil Messikomer. The Tom Tanner Award was given to Paige DeMarais.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

February

6-8: Oaks Gun Show
 7: Bingo 1700
 12: Staff Meeting 1800
 21: Bingo 1700
 23: General Meeting (1900, Potluck 1800) Minimum \$5 donation if you don't bring a dish.

March

7: Bingo 1700
 12: Staff Meeting 1800
 14-15: Morgantown Gun Show
 21: Bingo 1700
 23: General Meeting (1900, Potluck 1800) Minimum \$5 donation if you don't bring a dish.

April

4: Bingo 1700
 9: Staff Meeting 1800
 17-19: Oaks Gun Show
 18: Bingo 1700
 27: General Meeting (1900, Potluck 1800) Minimum \$5 donation if you don't bring a dish.

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Adjournment: 2000

Next Meeting 23 Feb 2026 @ 1900

EVENT: Detachment Bingo **DATE:** Feb/Mar 7 & 21, 2026
MEMBERS: Jim Copeland, Leo Burke, Steve Annan, Polly and Patti, Ruth, Emil Messikomer, and Bonnie and Chris Shaw and Nicole. Doug Forsythe, Dennis and Joanne Brown ran culinary operations.

EVENT: Casket Watch **DATE:** Mar 10, 2026
MEMBERS: The Detachment assisted in Honoring & Respectfully sending Life member to our Supreme Commandant. Assiting in Casket watch & the Eagle, Globe & Anchor ceremonies were, Jim Copeland, Jerry Myers, Steve Annan, Emil Messikoner & Doug Forsythe. Marines out of Folsom

Volunteer Activity Feb/Mar 2026	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Frank Marshall	4	12
Staff Meeting	Frank Marshall	4	12
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	75
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic/pantry	Dan Condron	6	18
Honor Guard/events	Doug Forsythe	8	16
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw		
Flag retirement	Doug Forsythe		
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	15	60
Membership	Bob Whetstone	2	6
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	12
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	1	7
Fundraising	Frank Marshall		
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp		
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe		
Total		74	218