

The Chester County Marine

Cpl Brandon Hardy, Chester County Detachment #286

P.O. Box 828, Downingtown, Pa 19335-0828

Detachment HQ: 610-518-5375 (leave message)

Commandant Frank Marshall

www.chestercountymcl.com

CCMarineNews@Verizon.net

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Marines and Associates:

A Message from the Commandant

Subject: ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

- We will shortly begin the 2026 golf campaign culminating in the tournament on August 31, 2026. We will need assistance with obtaining sponsors. Please take this opportunity to step up and help make this tournament a success.

Subject: Volunteers Needed for Memorial Day Rifle Squad

- As Memorial Day approaches, we prepare to honor the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Our Detachment has been called upon once again to provide the Rifle Squad for the annual veteran's parade in Downingtown, Pennsylvania.
- This is our most visible and solemn duty of the year. To ensure we represent the Marine Corps League with the precision and dignity our fallen brothers and sisters deserve, I am requesting volunteers to fill our ranks for the ceremony.
- Event Details
 - Location: Downingtown, PA (Parade Route)
 - Date: Monday, May 25, 2026
 - Reporting Time: 08:00 (08:00 AM)
- Requirements:
 - We are looking for members to serve as Riflemen: Participating in the rifle salute.
 - Whether you have marched with us for years or this is your first time volunteering, your presence is vital. We will conduct a brief drill rehearsal prior to the step-off to ensure everyone is squared away.
- How to Sign Up
 - Please email frankerm@aol.com or call me directly 717-979-0832 directly ASAP to confirm your participation. I will then forward your information to the Rifle Squad Committee.

Let's ensure Downingtown sees the Marine Corps League at its finest.

**Semper Fi,
Frank Marshall, Commandant**

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:

May 18, 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

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>

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA
23 March 2026**

Prior to the meeting: We had Kurt Fernitz from the Coatesville VA Hospital present information about benefits.

OPENING CEREMONIES:

Open: 1918

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): Present: 14 Excused:

P	Commandant	Frank Marshall
P	Sr. Vice Commandant	Bob Whetstone
P	Jr. Vice Commandant	Dave Hetrick
P	Jr. Past Commandant	Chris Shaw
P	Judge Advocate	Anthony DeBello
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	Jim Copeland
P	Trustee	Rich Corbit
P	Trustee	Jerry Myers

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

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Vicki Cloud, Ginny Topper & Susan Hernandez. Motion to accept Doug Forsythe, seconded by Dave Hetrick, passed unanimously by membership.

AWARDS: Doug presented Joe Rubin with certificate to Raymond Fisher and White Horse Machine. Mike Rapp was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with Rifle/Pistol matches and Gun Shows. Bob Whetstone was presented with a Distinguished Service Award for his assistance with the organizing of the Marine Corps Ball and managing our Membership Roster. Pat Powell was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his assistance with gun shows and Rifle/Pistol matches. He was also presented with the Armorer Award for his contribution over the past years for his donation of a rifle and accessories for our annual raffle. Dave Hetrick was presented with a commemorative NCO sword letter opener for his Marine of the Year gift.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Newsletter):

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Christmas card was received this week from one of our vendors in Philly. Civil Air Patrol wants to learn how to properly retire flags. Donohue Funeral Home would like to come give us a talk about funeral arrangements for veterans. 250th has solicited us to purchase a brick for the Tun Tavern building project. We received an award from Toys4Tots for our contribution during the 2025 campaign.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Doug Forsythe):

- Motion to accept Paymaster's Report subject to audit. Motion by: Jim Copeland
- Second, Anthony DeBello. All those in favor, say aye.
- Motion passed; subject to audit.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS (Chaplin Phil Sears): N/R

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

- Commandant (Frank Marshall):
501c3 "THE CHESTER COUNTY MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FOUNDATION, INC." is in motion and awaiting IRS approval.
- Senior Vice/Quartermaster (Bob Whetstone) N/R
- Junior Vice (Dave Hetrick) We had a request from Pron Seton to assist them in their color guard, for the Medal of Honor Grove at Valley Forge Park for 4 MOH recipients who fought at the Battle of the Bulge. 3 of our members assisted, Dave, Emil and Doug participated.
- Junior Past Commandant (Chris Shaw) The 3 next mid-winter meetings will be held in Virginia Beach, VA. Our Americanism Award was printed wrong and will be corrected at the next National Convention.
- Judge Advocate (Anthony DeBello III) N/R
- Adjutant (Bonnie Shaw): MODD wants YOU! Think about joining to help us raise funds for the Children and No-Kill Shelters around the country.
- Sgt. at Arms (Lawrence Garcia) 28 members present

- Trustee (Emil Messikomer): We need more people to step up and help out with any of our upcoming fundraising events. We need help with maintenance around the detachment. Out 162 at the park, there is a beer tasting every year. We would like to set up a table and use it as a fundraiser. The more help we get, the better fundraisers we can have.
- Trustee (Rich Corbit) N/R
- Trustee (Jim Copeland) Bingo was good \$757 with 39 players. Jackpot was hit, so next bingo may be lower attendance. Still Fun.
- Trustee (Jerry Myers) Challenge every member to fill out a form to donate to the Brandon Hardy Fund. Recognize Jack Meighan and we are happy to see him. Bill White is here and we are happy to see him.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- **Rifle/Pistol** (Dennis Brown) Meeting at the detachment Mar 22nd. Live Fire with 11 shooters. 26 April is the next live fire. Muster at Mike Rapp's house for donuts and coffee. Fort Indiantown Gap has a May 12th shooting competition. Anyone can shoot if you are a member. You have to be vetted ahead of time with Jim Diamond (SVC Dept) to be added to the list at the Gate.
- **Bingo** (Jim Copeland)
- **Building Maintenance** N/R
- **Marine Corps Ball:** Need a Ball Coordinator
- **Golf Outing:** Now on 31 August at Applecross.
- **Fund Raisers:** Begin in April
- **Rifle Raffle:** See Sign-up Sheets
 - 17-19 Apr: Oaks (**FINAL RAFFLE of the Season**)
- **Flag Retirement:** 28th March @ 1000 muster to load at detachment. 1200 ceremony at the Emergency Services Training Center.
- **VAVS:** (Jim Copeland) Need help with pretzel sales at the VA. Steve Annan will help. We do it the 1st and 4th Tuesday of the month. We will do the 5th Tuesday of there is one. We do Bingo for the shut-ins. Picnic in the summer and Birthdays in Bldg 138. You don't need to be badged to help with pretzels sales.
- **Committees:** Need Volunteers

UNFINISHED BUISNESS:

NEW BUSINESS:.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Our new associate members Vicki Cloud, Ginny Topper & Susan Hernandez their plans for the future. (Ginny Topper) We would like to restart our community salutes in Chester County. It is a one day event to salute the recruits that are leaving for the military after graduation. We would love to schedule for 2027, as this year is probably too late. Lionville Middle School is a willing venue. Jerry Myers made a motion to accept and 2nd by Anthony DeBello to support this activity. More info to come. (Susan Hernandez) In Dec we would get a group of members from the VA to go to the Salt Theater for a show. Bus trip and lunch included. (Nicole Moore) our detachment need to have a garage sale for spring cleaning. (Frank Marshall) Memorial Day Parade is our responsibility this year and we will need to meet this Mar 25th at 1800. (Dennis Brown) Packet for the District 1 Meeting is now rescheduled for May 3rd @2pm. Leadership Training 12 September at FIG. MOY society nominees need to be mailed to Dept before June 1st (Dave Brady). Jul 5 and Nov 10th for Samuel Nicholas graveside service at 1100. Fundraiser for the program at the Dept Convention, if you'd like to advertise, follow up at the Staff Meeting. NE Div conference in May 14/15. Dept Convention 17-21 June. National Convention 10-15 Aug. Joe Rubin needs to know if we intend to have a CPR/AED class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

June

6: Bingo 1700
 11 Staff Meeting 1800
 13: Summer Pound Growl 1400
 17-21: PA Dept Convention
 20: Bingo 1700
 22: General Meeting (1900, Potluck 1800) Minimum \$5 donation if you don't bring a dish.

May

2: Bingo 1700
 14: Staff Meeting 1800
 14-17: NE Div Conference
 16: Bingo 1700
 18: General Meeting (1900, Potluck 1800) Minimum \$5 donation if you don't bring a dish.
 25: Memorial Day Schedule

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: 2050

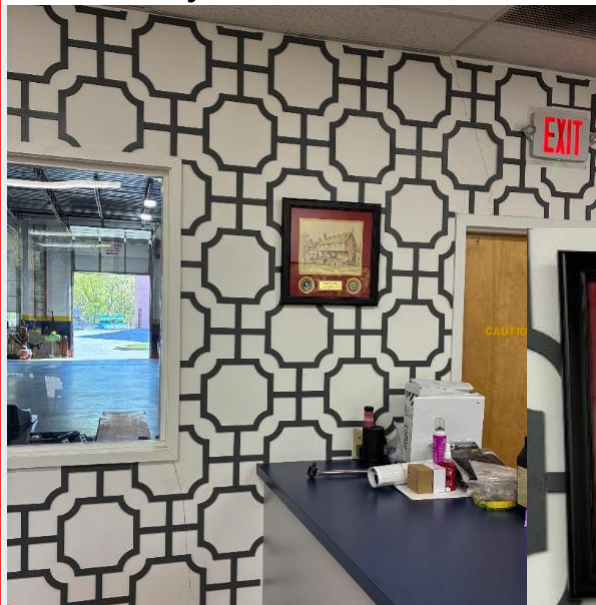
Next Meeting 27 Apr 2026 @ 1900
 4/27/2026

EVENT: Dougherty Automotive

DATE: April, 2026

MEMBERS: Bob Whetstone is pictured presenting Dougherty Automotive Services with a Tun Tavern framed picture. Dougherty Automotive donated proceeds from a 2025 event to the Detachment. Thank you Dougherty Automotive Services!

Submitted by: Bob Whetstone



EVENT: Detachment Marksmanship Practice

DATE: Apr 26, 2026

MEMBERS: Eight marksmen competed in the Marine Corps League's 25-yard pistol practice session, held at the Kimberton Gun Club. Expert instruction was provided by Pat Powell and Mike Rapp. Reach out to them or Dennis Brown if interested in attending. Ammo and firearms provided.



EVENT: Detachment Bingo

DATE: Apr 4 & 18, 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.

Volunteer Activity Apr 2026	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Frank Marshall	4	16
Staff Meeting	Frank Marshall	4	16
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	105
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic/pantry	Dan Condron	6	24
Honor Guard/events	Doug Forsythe		16
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw	6	6
Flag retirement	Doug Forsythe		
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	15	75
Membership	Bob Whetstone	2	8
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	16
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	1	8
Fundraising	Frank Marshall		
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp		
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe		
Total		72	290