

The Chester County Marine

Cpl Brandon Hardy, Chester County Detachment #286

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Commandant Frank Marshall

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A Message from the Commandant

Marines and Associates:

As Memorial Day approaches, we pause as Marines, veterans, families, and citizens to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Their sacrifice secured the freedoms we enjoy today and reminds us that liberty has always come at a great cost.

For members of the Marine Corps League, Memorial Day is more than a holiday—it is a solemn commitment to remember our fallen brothers and sisters and to support the veterans who continue to carry the burdens of service long after their uniforms are retired Semper Fidelis

**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:

June 22, 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.

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>

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA
27 April 2026**

Prior to the meeting: We had the Huf family give a presentation from Donahue Funeral Home. They let us know what we are entitled to as Veterans when it comes to our funeral arrangements.

OPENING CEREMONIES:

Open: 1901

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (ADJUTANT): Present: 14 Excused: 0

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	Rich Corbit (Substitute)
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: Matt Coons works for Vanguard and is in the MCR in NY (Possible new member).

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: Anthony DeBello Jr.
- Second, Jim Copeland. All those in favor, say aye.
- Motion passed, subject to corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE: Civil Air Patrol wants to learn how to properly retire flags. Will be arranged at the next Flag Retirement Ceremony. Thank you notes from the Coatesville VA for all the donations of non-perishable items for the Pantry.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER (Doug Forsythe): General Checking Account Balance \$20,852.52. The Rifle Raffle brought in \$16,224, less expenses.

- Motion to accept Paymaster's Report subject to audit. Motion by: Rich Corbit
- Second, Gene Irvin. All those in favor, say aye.
- Motion passed; subject to audit.

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

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

- Commandant (Frank Marshall): Thank you to those that participated in support of our Rifle Raffle. Thank you to Pat Powell for his generous donation of the Rifle Package for this years Raffle. The Foundation IRS Paperwork is a challenge, but we are moving forward. Steve Annan asked to review the budget and annual audit report. Frank let him know he is welcome to come in and review it when it can be scheduled.
- Senior Vice/Quartermaster: (Bob Whetstone) N/R
- Junior Vice (Dave Hetrick) We had an opportunity to honor a Navy Veteran at St. Anthonys this past week. Two Rifles have been cleaned and stowed back in the safe.
- Junior Past Commandant (Chris Shaw) Quartermasters report, started with \$417.71 in the box. \$200 given to Paymaster, \$217.71 left, but after tonight's sales \$287.71 left in the box.
- 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 (Rich Corbit - Substitute) 38 members present

- Trustee (Emil Messikomer): We need bodies for our upcoming fundraisers. There will be plenty of opportunities in the next few months. Two at Walmart per month, Texas Roadhouse, and Lione's Grill.
- Trustee (Rich Corbit) N/R
- Trustee (Jim Copeland) N/R
- Trustee (Jerry Myers) Duck Race Tickets for sale now. See him to purchase.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- **Rifle/Pistol** (Dennis Brown) Meeting at the detachment April 26th Live Fire with 8 shooters. 24 April is the next live fire. Muster at Mike Rapp's house for donuts and coffee. Anyone can shoot if you are a member or their spouse.
- **Bingo** (Jim Copeland) \$650 with 33 players.
- **Building Maintenance:** A key Lockbox has been established on the wall in the office. There is a 3 digit combination lock. The front door hydraulic closure has been repaired.
- **Marine Corps Ball:** Need a Ball Coordinator and guest speaker if anyone has a suggestion.
- **Golf Outing:** Now on 31 August at Applecross. Golf Brochures have been completed and will be available soon.
- **Fund Raisers:** Begin in April
- **Rifle Raffle:** Will be Drawn tonight after the meeting.
- **Flag Retirement:** TBD in June @ 1000 muster to load at detachment. 1200 ceremony at the Emergency Services Training Center.
- **VAVS:** (Jim Copeland) Dan Condron went to the meeting, but not a lot of information was brought in. We need to present Wegman's with their award from last year for their participation in the BBQ Picnic. We sell pretzels every Tuesday and the proceeds stay with the VAVS for use for the Coatesville VA Veterans.
- **Committees:** Need Volunteers

UNFINISHED BUISNESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Dave Buckta LMS has invited us May 21 at 0830 for their Memorial Day Ceremony. Scholarships will be presented during May for DHSE and STEM Academy on 21 May.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Beers for Brandon 28th April @1900. Jill Hardy has established a foundation in Brandon's name. When you enlist and graduate from Boot Camp you can receive a \$1000 scholarship for your incidentals. \$168K has been given out so far. July 18th is the Motorcycle Ride for Brandon. Dennis Brown, District 1 meeting will be held at the Detachment Sunday May 3rd @ 1400, with Food and Drink. Would appreciate attendance from detachment members. Department meeting in June will be at the Kalahari Resort in the Northeast. Pat Powell is donating 1940/1950 Guidon with the Leather eyelets and a 1914 recruiting poster with a Marine running for display.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

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.

July

- 4: Bingo 1700
- 9: Staff Meeting 1800
- 18: Bingo 1700
- 27: General Meeting (1900, Potluck 1800) Minimum \$5 donation if you don't bring a dish. Rifle Raffle Draw.

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Adjournment: 2051

Next Meeting 18 May 2026 @ 1900

EVENT: Detachment Bingo **DATE:** May 2 & 16, 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: Flag Retirement Ceremony

DATE: May 08, 2026

Summary: 0845 hours: Load Flags to be Retired into pickup, (7 large bags, 1 small T-Shirt bag)
0905 hours: Team depart to West Chester Fire Training Center
0940 hours: Regroup at West Chester Fire Training Center, unload & ready for Ceremony
0950 hours: Civil Air Patrol Team arrives
10:00 hours: Flag Retirement Ceremony begins
Reading of the Honor,
Salute and Playing of Taps,
Retirement commenced,
Flags not designated for retirement are properly folded and stored.
10:45 hours Flag Retirement Ceremony Concluded

In attendance: Marine Doug Forsythe, Marine Emila Messikomer, Marine Dennis Brown. Associate Joanne Brown, Marine Dave Hetrick, Marine Kenneth Plummer, **Civil Air Patrol Team:** Captain Paul Kretschmar, 1st Lieutenant Matthew Gledhill, Five Cadets, and four (4) family members.

Next scheduled Flag Retirement Ceremony is Saturday, June 27th.

Submitted by: Joe Rubin



EVENT: Leo Burke Birthday

DATE: May 9, 2026

MEMBERS: Leo Burke recently celebrated his 90th birthday.
Happy birthday Marine!



Volunteer Activity May 2026	Point of Contact	Monthly Hours	Year to Date
Monthly Meeting	Frank Marshall	4	20
Staff Meeting	Frank Marshall	4	20
Bingo	Jim Copeland & Leo Burke	30	135
VA Bingo/ Popcorn/Picnic/pantry	Dan Condron	6	30
Honor Guard/events	Doug Forsythe		16
Golf outing	Bonnie Shaw	8	14
Flag retirement	Joe Rubin	18	
Building maintenance/SAA	Emil Messikomer	15	90
Membership	Bob Whetstone	2	10
Financial	Doug Forsythe	4	20
Newsletter/website	Dave Buckta	1	9
Fundraising	Frank Marshall		
Bran. Hardy Mem	Mike Rapp		
Toys for Tots	Doug Forsythe		
Total		92	364