

**Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542**  
**Meeting June 12th ,2024 at 18:30**

**Opening Ceremony: Commandant, Sgt-at-Arms, Chaplain**

Roll Call of Officers and Appointed Positions:

|                |                        |   |   |                               |
|----------------|------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Commandant:    | Gary Gahan             | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sr Vice Cmndt: | Michelle Vanvalkenburg | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jr Vice Cmndt: | Vacant                 | Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Judge Advoc:   | Chris Peirce           | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jr Past Cmndt: | B J Byers              | Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ex. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adjutant:      | Eric Anthony           | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chaplain:      | Joe Duquette           | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paymaster:     | Vacant                 | Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quarter Mstr:  | John Petrilito         | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sgt at Arms:   | Paul Coutu             | Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ex. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Webmaster:     | Jo Zurwell             | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Media Liaison: | Vacant                 | Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scouting:      | Dan Fedor              | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marine 4 Life  | Vacant                 | Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Aide De Camp:  | Kevin Brown            | Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>            | Abs. <input type="checkbox"/> |

**New Members and guest:**

**New members: Kayley Bass; Sussanah Rak; “Doc” Bill Rodgers**

**Guest speaker: Steve White (homeless vets programs)**

Gary, at this point notes: Jay Ruais, Manchester Mayor and Kevin Galeais (sp.), Navy League official are also potential new members; but not official yet.

**Senior Vice Commandant: (Michelle Vanvalkenberg)**

**NTR**

**Paymasters Report: (Vacant)**

Balance: \$20,573.36 (See Paymaster Report attached)

Marge Romano: new protocol is that two persons, authorized, shall count cash receipts (such as after fundraising events). Also noted, that as a matter of etiquette, it is a bad appearance to be counting cash in public at these events: fundraisers should just amass the cash in the secure containers at each post.

Eric: deviations in the final balance can (as Gary has pointed out) can result from the intake including foreign coinage and currency (mostly Canadian), which throws the count off until the exchange rate is determined.

**Chaplains Report: (Joe Duquette)**

**Joe:** John Bodanovich is sick. Gerry Tanguay passed away: he was a police officer and car dealer.

**Quartermaster: (John Petrilito)**

**NTR**

**Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell)**

See **Webmaster's Report** attached

**Jo:** (in meeting remarks) notes that “we have been unpublished by Facebook”, and, that is probably due to being hacked. She will look into the best way to get us reinstated (appeal or just start a new page were two suggestions).

## **Media Liaison Report:**

### **NTR**

Click or tap here to enter text.

## **Scouting Report: (Dan Fedor)**

Gary & **Dan Fedor** gave out the good citizenship award and (MCL #542) challenge coins at scouting meetings they have recently attended.

Kaylee (new member and Asst. troop Scoutmaster): One week campout costs \$580. Camperships are available based on need.

Gary: it is a simple application. Camp Carpenter on the last weekend of summer: maybe MCL #542 could pay for the event?

## **Marine for Life: (Vacant)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

## **Correspondence: (Commandant, et al)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

## **Donations inbound: (Paymaster, commandant, et al)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

## **Donations outbound:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

## **Awards: (Commandant, et al)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

## **Honor Details: (Jim Ambrose)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Scholarship committee: (Gary Gahan, Kevin Brown, Dan Fedor)**

**Gary:** \$6000 given away so far to two winners. While he is proud of our organization's success with this, \$20,000 for one person should be our ideal goal here.

**Other business:**

**Gary:** I want to suggest we get tablecloths rather than those framed banners (which always blow down): cost --\$100. Further needs include:

- Wooden flags (made by Denis Mitchell). We should have about 7 of these to use at different fundraising posts. We have 3; need to buy 4 more.
- Baseball caps for sale?
- Polo shirts for sale?
- Collection Jars for \$
- Additional large plastic trunks for each post to store equipment in during fundraising.

The cost for these extra supplies would be about \$1500 – 3000 depending on discounts. Gary and Joe P. will coordinate on these purchases

**Motion:** Dan makes a motion to approve the above needed equipment; Kevin B. 2nds the motion.

**Discussion:** Gary explained some of the particulars

**Motion approved unanimously**

**Gary:** I would like to introduce Steve White, a local realtor who knew Frank Diekman and collaborated with Toys for Tots.

Steve: I am interested in possible (real estate/housing) solutions to veteran homelessness. In conjunction with Mayor Ruais of Manchester, I would like to build tiny houses near VA hospitals (since this is where many homeless vets set up camp to get their healthcare). Ideas are: sell bricks ( personalized "pavers"). Steve added it would be good to get a local celebrity such as Gen. Bolduc to get this

started and publicized. Steve also agreed to join MCL #542 to work with us and our funds on this.

**Gary:** Let's move "funday" breakfast to July 6, 2024 at Belmont Hall in Manchester (Airport Diner unavailable for that date) so we are not conflicting with our fundraising efforts on June 29<sup>th</sup> (which would otherwise be the meeting date).

**Motion: re: Dieckman Scholarship renaming & related initiatives**

**Kevin B.:** Regarding the Dieckman Scholarship, I move to rename this scholarship the **Gary Gahan Scholarship** in recognition of all the work he has done to build this detachment.

Dan Fedor 2nds

**Discussion: Kevin:** make this money available to trade schools as well. Make unions aware of \$ availability. Also guidance counselors should know about this Scholarship; perhaps set up presentations with them. We should have online applications ready.

**Passed unanimously.**

**Motion: Dreams for Marines**

**Gary;** propose \$2000 for Dreams for Marines.

**Discussion: Gary** – this charity deals with home renovations for disabled Marines. **Marge:** An example of this was my husband's receiving help from DFM. They built ranges, an elevator, modified our house; gave Tony independence. \$17,000, all work done and paid for by DFM. This charity makes a big difference in Marines and their families lives. And it is open to all veterans, not just Marines.

**Joe Duquette 2nds;**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Motion: Homebase \$**

**Marge R.:** Richard Marsh walk (sponsored) takes place every year, going from the NH Veterans Home to the cemetery at Boscowen on July 27<sup>th</sup>. He is also writing a book on the NH cemetery, "Place in the Pines".

**Discussion: Marge:** This charity serves the vet suicide program.

**Gary 2nds;**

**Passed unanimously**

**Honor Flight Announcement:**

**Gary:** “Please save this Father’s Day June 15<sup>th</sup> for a few hours to honor our WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans who will be on an escorted flight from Manchester Regional Airport to see the memorials in Washington DC” (quoted from Gary’s earlier email) . Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please arrive around 6:30am at Manchester Airport. There will be validated parking.

**Membership Ceremony: the three new members (listed above in the roll call) were inaugurated and welcomed into our unit.**

**Closing Ceremony: (Commandant, Sgt-at-Arms, Senior VC, Chaplain)**

**Next meeting date announced:        July 9th, 2024**

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

June 12, 2024, GSD 542 Meeting

**Communications:**

It is my belief that our Facebook account has been hacked. The last post that was posted on the account was on May 14<sup>th</sup>. When I went onto the page on the 15<sup>th</sup>, I received a notice that the page was unpublished. I filed an appeal to the appeal board at Facebook because it said that we had violated their Community Standards. However, when they replied, they said that the issue is not with them and to try a few other things to resolve the problem. When these other things were tried, nothing was found to have been helpful. The kicker that made me believe that the account was hacked is when I went to the settings page, page setup page, and the page status page. There are contradictions in the information that is provided: The first message states in the block for Community Standards “Good News, no violations to show.” Then in the second message block for Restrictions “Your Page has been unpublished due to continued Community Standards violations.” Plus, Instagram, that is linked to our Facebook account and owned by the same company, is not affected, which most likely would have been shut down as well if there were actual violations.

At this point, my recommendation would be to close this account if possible and open a new business account. The name will not be able to be the same, but we will have a presence on Facebook again. If we get a new Facebook, we will need to get a new Instagram account as they are connected. I have never tried to connect different base accounts, so will try that first, otherwise will need a new account as well for Instagram.

**Website:**

Since the last report, the new BOT officers have been updated and added back onto the website. The monthly meetings and breakfasts for the next couple of months have been added to the calendar.

Google Analytics GA4 numbers for April 9, 2024 – June 9, 2024

|   | 2/13-3/10/24 | 3/11-4/8/24 | 4/9-6/9/24 |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Total Website Users                     | 1257         | 146         | 396        |
| Direct Find -typing in URL              | 182          | 88          | 192        |
| Organic Search                          | 47           | 28          | 124        |
| Referral (link on another site to ours) | 1014*        | 6           | 8          |
| Organic Social Media search             | 14           | 14          | 22         |

The top landing page views were as follows:

|                | 2/13-3/10/24 | 3/11-4/8/24 | 4/9-6/9/24 |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Main Home page | 1148         | 134         | 198        |

|                         |    |    |    |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|
| Contact Us              |    | 12 |    |
| Events                  | 31 | 17 | 25 |
| Membership              | 23 |    | 36 |
| Resources               |    | 21 | 13 |
| Scholarship page        | 35 | 13 | 43 |
| Scholarship Application | 33 |    | 77 |
| Detachment Officers     |    |    | 36 |

Respectfully Submitted, Jo Zurwell, #238602, Webmaster & Social Media Manager