

Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542

August 13, 2024 at 18:00

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 type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Paymaster:	Marge Romano	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Quarter Mstr:	John Petrilito	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sgt at Arms:	Paul Coutu	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>

New Members and guest: (Kevin Brown)

Bill Rodgers, Joey Duquette, Thomas Escando, Capt. Arthur Kidd, Kayley Bass, Glen Thayer

After the detachment opening ceremonies, new member **Glen Thayer** gave a presentation explaining his duties and highlights of his military career (Music MOS) as Trumpeter for the Marine Corps Band in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Senior Vice Commandant: (Michelle Vanvalkenberg)

Michelle: We need two more slots to be filled for August 24-25 fundraiser at Bass Pro in Hooksett. (Eric Anthony offered to take the afternoon slot, 13:00-1500). Only one more fundraiser remains: Veteran's Day.

Paymasters Report: (Marjorie Romano)

See Paymaster Report attached.

Marge reports that she is looking into, and now has electronic control of our account. As of 7/23/24 the balance in our account was \$21,618.08; as of today, Aug. 13th, it is \$17,512.50, with net available \$17,387.50.

Various thank you letters have been received from our Scholarship recipients. MCL #542 sent a thank you to the Rigsbys (\$327 donation) masterfully written by Marge (in my opinion --- E.A.).

Lastly, Marge notes that September 1st is the renewal date for paying the membership fee.

Chaplains Report: (Joe Duquette)

Gary Gahan gave the Chaplain report in Joe's excused absence.

John Bogdanowicz Funeral: Gary attended and gave the eulogy. There was a Marine honor detail. Gary will also be assisting the widow with VA benefits to see if she may be eligible for DIC.

Don Sopranof needs transportation for shrapnel surgery to Roxbury MA VA Hospital this Thursday.

Quartermaster: (John Petrilito)

NTR

Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell)

Jo explained facets of the new “Granite State Marines542” new Facebook page which she worked on and is now in place for our, and the public’s interaction. Hopefully this will bring us some notice and recognition on the web and help recruit new members. She also explained how web traffic works; and how that may be enhanced to our advantage.

At this point in the meeting an induction ceremony was conducted for new member **Arthur Kidd**. Gary recommended his book, a personal account of his time and events during his Marine service as a Captain.

Media Liaison Report:

NTR

Scouting Report: (Dan Fedor)

Dan gave a short account of the Ceremonies of Honor for Eagle Scout. Eric Anthony read an excerpt of the speech (Respect/Yellow footprints) he gave as MCL representative at one in Nashua, noting the similarities in Marine service and Scouting.

Marine for Life: (Vacant)

NTR

Correspondance: (Commandant, et al)

NTR

Donations inbound: (Paymaster, commandant, et al)

NTR

Donations outbound:

NTR

Awards: (Commandant, et al)

NTR

Honor Details: (Jim Ambrose)

NTR

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

NTR

Other business:

- 1. MOTION: (Dan Fedor) to change our #542 meeting time from 18:30 to 18:00** on the second Tuesday of the month. This was seconded by **Glen Thayer**. After discussion of the motion which included the daylight benefit for older members who may be driving to the meetings in winter, the motion passed with unanimous consent by those present.
- 2. Dan Fedor** mentioned, as a fundraising idea, a CORN MAZE; said he knew of one we could perhaps coordinate with.

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

Next meeting date announced: September 10th, 2024 at 18:00

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES:

(From #542 Officer's Sept. 7th meeting)

AGENDA ITEMS for September 10 regular meeting

- Chris Peirce presentation on **Venmo** for fundraising use by our unit.
- Dan Fedor presentation of **Corn Mazes** as a possible social activity for #542 members, families and guests.
- Marge will explain **Dog & Horse therapy** program as a funding possibility.
- Kevin Brown would like to invite **Bedford Food Bank** to our meeting to present their work in that community: possible funding from #542?

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

August 13, 2024, GSD 542 Meeting

Communications:

The July Oorah! Newsletter was sent out on July 7th. We sent it to 769 email addresses and had a 46.5% open rate of the email and a 2% click rate on something within the email. The top visited links were, (10) to home page of our GSD website, (10) obituary of Gerald Tanguay, (9) GSD new Facebook page, (7) to nhmarines.com or the Department of NH, (6) Veterans Creed, and (6) to Run to Home Base.

Reminder that the new Facebook page has been created to replace the old one that was hacked and could not be retrieved. The address of the new Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/GraniteStateMarines542>. The July Oorah! Newsletter was posted on Facebook and there was a post for July 4th. We need to get more people to like the new page as we had several hundred people on the last page and currently only a handful on the new page. It will take time to build it back up, but it can be done.

Website:

Google Analytics GA4 numbers for July 1, 2024-July 31, 2024

	2/13-3/10/24	3/11-4/8/24	4/9-5/14/24	5/15-6/30/24	7/1-7/31/24
Total Website Users	1257	146	252	173	118
Direct Find -typing in URL	182	88	148	93	68
Organic Search	47	28	81	71	44
Referral (link on another site to ours)	1014*	6	3	7	6
Organic Social Media search	14	14	20	2	0

*Unsure where our website is placed that we had 1014 visits from that site. Will try to find out.

The top landing page views were as follows:

	2/13-3/10/24	3/11-4/8/24	4/9-5/14/24	5/15-6/30/24	7/1-7/31/24
Main Home page	1148	134	133	123	87
Contact Us		12		10	5
Detachment Officers			27	12	9
Events	31	17	17	14	5
Membership	23		23	17	11
Resources		21	8		
Scholarship page	35	13	42	2	
Scholarship Application	33		73	4	
Casino Nights	16	14			
Semper Fidelis Newsletter					21

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