

**Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542**  
**Meeting** November 12th **,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:	Glen Thayer (temp. Acting)	Pr. <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input checked="" 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:	Marge Romano	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Quarter Mstr:	John Petrilito (resigned) Antwon Scott acting QM	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input 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"/>
Scouting:	Kayley Bass & Sarah Steffan	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Marine 4 Life	Glen Thayer	Pr. <input checked="" 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: (Kevin Brown)** Pat Anthony, Pauly Labbe, Antwon Scott, Art Kidd, Marge Romano, Steve White, Joey Duquette.

**Applications for Membership:** Peggy Fedor

**Swearing in of new members:** new member Glen Thayer Sr.

**Adjutant Report:** (Eric Anthony) minutes for October were moved for acceptance, seconded (Steve White) and voted approved unanimously.

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

Thank you notes received from Blue Star Mothers, Manchester Food Bank

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Paymasters Report: (Marge Romano)**

see Marge's attached PM Report

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Chaplains Report: (Joe Duquette)**

Dan Fedor passed. A beautiful funeral service in a small Catholic Church in Hooksett was attended by well over 100 mourners including several #542 GSD members.

Bob Broulette passing was also noted by Chaplain Joe Duquette.

**Quartermaster: (Antwon Scott)**

**NTR**

**Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell)** see the Webmaster report, and I will attach it to the minutes before posting to website.

**Scouting Report: (Kayley Bass & Sarah Steffan)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Marine for Life: (Glen Thayer)**

**NTR**

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

**Gary:** \$415 raised at Bass Pro fundraising event

**Donations outbound:** these came up informally in **Other Business** discussion: see below for particulars.

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

**NTR**

**Honor Details: (Jim Ambrose)**

**NTR**

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

See below --- Fedor Campership award to local Scouting.

**Other business:**

**Marge:** Blue Star Mothers provides a number of volunteer opportunities:

- VA Hospital volunteer program;
- Gold Star Flags:
- Wreathes on Boscowen Vet. Cemetery graves

**(Other Business cont'd: )**

**Marge and Gary** met with Nancy Millette who administrates a Mobile Food bank serving Manchester Homeless, and presented her with a check to support that work.

**Gary** suggests creating a scholarship in Dan Fedor's name, a \$1000 "campership" to be applied within local scouting troops. (Kevin Brown is an Eagle Scout as is Brian Duquette, Joey's brother). After some discussion a motion was made ---  
**MOTION: \$1500 for camperships in Dan Fedor's name; Glen T. seconds; PASSED unanimously.**

**Gary:** we have \$2000 from the Department NH Charitable Gaming funds to give out to organizations of GSD's choosing. **Jo:** RocaKids Club \$1000? **Sarah S. :** Friends of Anya (grieving children: Sarah, herself a widow, is familiar with this organization)

**MOTION: (by Jo Z.) \$1000 to RK, \$1000 to Friends; Paul C. seconds; PASSED --- 3 officers, Gary, Michelle and Joe D. & 3 non officer members agreed, Glen, Paul C. and Antwon S.**

**MOTION: for the Boy's & Girl's Club of Manchester to receive \$500; Michelle V. seconds; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Glen:** will check on the City (Manchester) **Veteran's Council** for the possibilities of how we might coordinate activities and fundraising with them.

**Gary:** Marine Corps Ball report and photos (to be posted on our website). (**Eric A.**) ---There was one incident which was not reported, but which I witnessed and thought remarkable in how quickly and smoothly it was handled: the Marine sitting at our table to my left (who I had my back to as I was talking to someone else) suddenly began choking on his piece of steak; fortunately, sitting next to him was a **Navy Corpsman** who immediately recognized the situation, had him bend over and gave him the Heimlich maneuver which propelled the steak out --- basically saved his life right there! The wait staff came over, cleaned up the mess, and, no

big deal, everyone, including the Marine and the Corpsman just went along having a good time like nothing had happened!

**Gary:** reported on the success of November 10<sup>th</sup> early morning flag raising. All were glad to participate, expressing relief that it was not as freezing as last year.

**Sarah Steffan** and her two children were honored to go onto the roof of the Statehouse with Gary to raise the American and Marine Corps flags from there. Governor Sununu also attended and officiated, noting he now has a son who is an active duty Marine and the pride he has in his son's choice of service. He also mentioned that the **Army** has their flag ceremony, catered, in a cozy upstairs room in the Statehouse while us **tough guy Marines** prefer to be in formation outside! (E.A.)

**Glen: Toys for Tots** --- this program is being run in Manchester by SSgt. Remy Waldren; Glen is in charge of our participation (so any interested should contact him). Steve noted the efficacy and rewarding nature of the program as those toys are delivered; and said Verani Construction was probably the largest local donor. Michelle offered to put out a "Sign up Genie" --- so far Marge, Steve and Glen are involved.

**Michelle V.** thanks all volunteers at the recent fundraising sites (Mkt Basket and Bass Pro. Gary noted it is a challenge to staff these 3 hour shifts.

**Kevin B.** proposed that we somehow recognize **Paul Coutu's** extra efforts on fundraising days, ferrying and assembling our equipment to and from the MCL Bluebird storage facility. And he thought it was time we stock up on those small flags which are so popular with the kids at our fundraising events.

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

**Next meeting date announced: 18:00 hours December 10, 2024**

**--- Eric Anthony, #542 Adjutant**

**Subject:** Paymaster Report for Minutes  
**From:** Marjorie Romano <margemar70@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 11/20/2024, 10:13 AM  
**To:** Eric Anthony <anthonyduo@earthlink.net>

Hi Eric:

My apologies for the tardiness of this information - I just returned from Virginia.

As of meeting date of November 12 2024

Checking Account Balance \$15,868.38  
Committed Funds for Scholarships \$7,000  
Outstanding checks \$9.89  
Total Available funds as of November 12, 2024 \$8,858.49

Have a great day, Marge

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

November 12, 2024, GSD 542 Meeting

**Communications:**

Since the last meeting were either done on the website and/or added to social media.

- Created a blog post for McKelvie Middle School Veterans Day event, and posted on social media.
- Created blog post for the passing of Dan Fedor and posted on social media.
- Uploaded a list from Gary and a few other names, plus the updated roster from Marge to Constant to make sure all new members and those interested were receiving our emails.
- Sent out Constant Contact reminder email for the Corn Maze on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>
- Composed email in Constant Contact for Marge to be sent out to members for a new ID card.
- Composed email in Constant Contact for Dan Fedor's interment
- Updated plugins
- Cleared emails
- Reviewed website usage report from Monster Insights

**Website:**

Google Analytics GA4 numbers for October 1 – October 31, 2024

	4/9- 5/14/24	5/15- 6/30/24	7/1- 7/31/24	8/1- 8/30/24	9/1- 9/30/24	10/1- 10/31/24
Total Website Users	252	173	118	337	116	165
Direct Find -typing in URL	148	93	68	93	56	77
Organic Search	81	71	44	49	52	74
Referral (link on another site to ours)	3	7	6	6	7	6
Organic Social Media search	20	2	0	8	1	8

The top landing page views were as follows:

	4/9- 5/14/24	5/15- 6/30/24	7/1- 7/31/24	8/1- 8/31/24	9/1- 9/30/24	10/1- 10/31/24
Main Home page	133	123	87	89	70	109
Contact Us		10	5	18	8	0
Detachment Officers	27	12	9	0	0	19
Events	17	14	5	17	13	11
Membership	23	17	11	15	14	12
Payment Submissions				16	6	0
Resources	8			0	23	15
Semper Fidelis Newsletter			21	24	9	12

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