

Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542

August 12, 2025 at 1800

Uniform of the day: MCL cover

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

Roll Call of Officers and Appointed Positions:

Commandant :	Eric Anthony	Pr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Sr Vice Cmndt :	Vacant	Pr. <input 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"/>
Acting Adjutant:	Jo Zurwell	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"/>
Quartermaster :	Steve White	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"/>
Media Liaison :	Vacant	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Scouting :	Kayley Bass/Sara Steffen	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"/>

We have a quorum.

Other Members attending:

Jim Covatis, Joey Duquette

New Members Attending and Sworn-In:

Chris Costanzo, Jesse Stufflebeam – Chris was sworn in at the July breakfast, and Jesse will be sworn in at the August breakfast. Jesse is a returning member after a couple of years away.

Guests attending:

Cody Dumont – Department of NH Commandant

Approval of previous meeting's minutes:

Kevin *Brown* made the **MOTION** to accept the previous meeting's minutes; Steve *White* seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

Filling of open officer slots – SVC and JVC

Anthony stated that we still need to fill the open positions of Sr. Vice Commandant and Jr. Vice Commandant. He asked if there was anyone interested in attendance tonight. No one volunteered. *Peirce* then mentioned that we will need to take nominations for the full slate of officers in October and November for elections in December for the term that will start in June of 2026.

Volunteers for DoNH Commandant Selection Committee

Anthony then asked if anyone would be interested in volunteering to join the search committee for a new Commandant for the Department. Steve White volunteered to join this search committee. Later in the meeting, *Dumont* (who came in after this discussion) stated that he thanked Steve for volunteering, however the committee is already set with its three members.

Funeral Honor Firing Detail

Anthony stated that in the past three weeks he has participated in three Honor Firing Details, and all seemed to be rushed to find the needed people. He would like to see members of the detachment volunteer to become part of set group of

people for the Honor Detail, so that when the need arises there is sufficient people to perform the Firing Detail. He stated that *White* had discussions with a Sargent Major from the Marine Corps Reserve that they may have some MC dress blues that they could donate to our detachment. *Covatis* raised a concern that MCL may not be able to wear dress blues in their details because it may go against MC regulations. This question was asked of Dumont later in the meeting, and he confirmed that the MCL is not allowed to wear the MC dress blues for these details, and the dress code is undress blues and if bad weather the red satin jacket.

Brad Howe of the Seacoast Detachment is the coordinator of the firing details in the state of NH per *Dumont*; if GSD would like to coordinate with Howe the names of members that are basically on call for these Honor Firing Details, that would be great.

A full detail would be of seven members to do three volleys for a 21-gun salute. *White* said that he would coordinate the apparel needed for the detail and if anyone needed anything to contact him. A conversation regarding the rifles needed for this detail was had with *Covatis*, *Dumont*, and *Peirce*. The Army Tack Commission controls all arms if we wanted to purchase or get on loan the needed rifles, however, *Dumont* suggested to *Anthony* that he contact Meleny Nagy at the Dillion Detachment as they have some rifles that could be available for use when needed.

The normal notice received for a Honor Firing Detail is three days, possibly longer in some cases, but normally there is not a lot of time to plan, so having a set pool of volunteers on call for these details would make the process flow smoothly and we would be able to send off our fellow Marines, and others that are requested of us, in the proper way.

Reports of Officers

Senior Vice Commandant: (position open at present)

Zurwell sent around the SignUp sheet for August 30+31 Bass Pro Shops fundraiser for anyone interested to sign up where they can. *Romano* stated she will come by at the end of each day to pickup the funds raised. Those on the last shift of the day will still need to count the collection and she will double count it. *Brown* reminded everyone that people come into Bass Pro Shops with their dogs, so it would be a

great idea to have some dog treats in the tote of set up materials to be passed out. *White* stated he will make sure there is a box of treats in the tote that is used for Bass Pro Shops.

Paymasters Report: (Marge Romano) – See attached report from Paymaster

\$51,591.53 balance; \$1000 in outstanding checks; committed funds \$1903 for the Dan Fedor Boy Scout Camp Campership 2025, \$500 NH Troopers Association from the fundraiser GHS Mental Health Awareness Game. *Romano* suggested that we invite a Board member from the NH Troopers Association to come to one of our meetings and tell us what they do since we have been donating funds to them over the last couple of years. *Steffen* stated she will contact them to see if someone would be able to come to a future meeting.

Covatis made a **motion** to accept the Paymasters report as stated, and *White* seconded it, vote passed unanimously.

Donations inbound: (Paymaster, Commandant):

Romano stated that we received a check for \$1675 from Chester Rod and Gun Club Charity Shoot that was put together in memory of a prior member of GSD 542 Dave Hamilton and organized by our member Dave Freschi.

FUNday Breakfast Report: Marge Romano and Kevin Brown

- The 50/50 raffle raised \$65. \$742 YTD in the Trade School Scholarship for 2026 awarding.
- Winner of the raffle was Joe Duquette
- Commandant Anthony swore-in a new member, Chris Costanzo, who shared a little about himself as he did at the Tuesday meeting.

Chaplain Report: (Joe Duquette)

Sick, Injured, Hospitalized Members :

All OK

Members / spouses recently passed away:

Ronald Sinclair passed in January 2025, and we found out from a returned birthday card.

Updates from VA Hospital: NTR

Judge Advocate: Chris Peirce

Peirce reached out to Wounded Warrior but has not heard back yet. He also reached out to VASH which is an organization that helps veterans' children and families at Christmas in the local community. He was advised that each child in VASH gets three wishes for Christmas, for gifts around \$50 in value each. Their case managers gather their wishes, and they go up on a tree for the public to grab around Veterans Day at the VA. They also get their clothing sizes and any special needs like winter coat or boots. They also stated that the larger groups have sometimes adopted a whole family, and their wishes would not go on the tree, they have had groups give winter gear, Christmas trees, a gift card for a meal, plus the gifts. So, it is really up to us what we would like to do for these local veteran families.

Junior Vice Commandant: (position open at present)

NTR

Quartermaster: (Steve White)

White will be doing an inventory of what is in the storage unit and looking at what the prior quartermaster had for uniforms and will be sending any donated uniforms to be dry cleaned and then stored at the storage unit. He will be setting up the tote(s) with the replenished supplies from *Romano* and flags, dog biscuits and all other materials needed for the upcoming fundraiser.

Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell) – See attached report from Webmaster:

See attached report for full details.

Media Liaison Report: (Vacant) NTR**Scouting Report: (Kayley Bass/Sara Steffen)**

Bass advised that she presented an award at an Eagle Court of Honor this past Saturday August 9th and it went well. *Anthony* said he would be available for future events if she would like.

She then mentioned that after several months of *Gary Gahan* trying to donate a canoe to the Boy Scouts, she was finally able to get a truck to go and pick it up and bring it to her house so that it could be used during the summer camp session. However, after looking at the canoe it is not fit to be used, the board at the bottom

of the canoe as well as the seats are rotten, and this canoe will not float and is not safe for the scouts to use. *Covatis* made a **motion** to purchase a canoe for the Boy Scouts and *Joe Duquette* seconded the motion. *Peirce* suggested using the funds we have set aside for the Dan Fedor Campership of \$1900 to be used to purchase the canoe. He checked the Bass Pro Shops website, and it looks like we would be able to purchase two canoes with the funds available. *Romano* asked *Bass* to work with *Peirce* to get a quote from Bass Pro Shops at possible reduced price. *Peirce* then amended the **motion** to not to go over the funds in the Dan Fedor Campership fund of \$1900 to make this purchase. A vote was taken, and it passed unanimously. If *Bass* needs help removing the old canoe from her property, she will let us know.

Marine for Life: (Vacant)

NTR

Correspondance : (Commandant, Paymaster, et al) Marge Romano reporting

Anthony and *Romano* will be sending out welcome letters to the new members that will be coming over from the recently closed Gormley detachment.

Romano received a handmade card from the Boys & Girls Club for the donation we made earlier this year. She passed it around for all to see.

Aide De Camp : (Kevin Brown)

- Birthday Card Program – with the cards that he sent around today for all to sign for birthdays coming up in the next month, *Brown* stated that this is the last of the card stock that he has on hand. He has contacted National for design ideas of the new cards to be used. They offered two options, and *Brown* sent them around for all to look at and voice their opinion. After some discussion, on options and qty to order, *Anthony* made a **motion** to purchase option 1 at a qty of 200 at a cost of \$2 each for a total of \$400. The motion was seconded by *White* and the vote passed unanimously. *Brown* will contact *Romano* to get the detachment credit card information to place the order.
- Common Man – Alex Ray – *White* has purchased a frame and mat to display the certificate that *Romano* has created, and he will be changing out the mat for a red instead of white, so it has MCL colors. *Brown* states that Alex is currently in Ukraine, and he is not sure if he will be in town and available to

come to the August breakfast so this certificate of appreciation can be presented to him, but it will be at the earliest time that meets Alex's schedule.

Donation Review Committee:

Anthony announced that he would like to create a committee to review all donation requests before they are brought to the membership for a vote. The goal is to have a more balanced (75% - 25% veteran to community) ratio of contributions. He is looking for volunteers for this committee. The following people volunteered for this committee: Marge Romano, Sara Steffen, Jesse Stufflebeam, Chris Peirce, and Eric Anthony. *Anthony* will be reaching out to the committee members to schedule the first meeting to discuss structure of the process for donation review.

Awards: (Commandant, et al)

Anthony asked *Dumont* if we can award a Marine of the Month to a Navy Corpsmen? *Dumont* stated that there is no monthly award, but there is a yearly award for Marine of the Year as well as Associate of the Year for all three levels, detachment, department, and division. With that, if a Navy Corpsmen is a member, then they could be awarded one of these awards depending on what membership status they have on file.

Anthony, after discussion with *Romano*, stated he would like to present a certificate of appreciation to Dave Freschi for all the work he has put into the Dave Hamilton Memorial Shoot at the Chester Rod and Gun Club. *Romano* stated she would create this certificate and that they could present it to him at the check ceremony at the club that is coming up shortly.

Honor Details: (Jim Ambrose)

See above section from the Commandant with discussion from this meeting.

Scholarship committee: (Steve White, Dennis Kearns, Tom Escandon, Jo Zurwell)

NTR

Continuing Business:

Old Business:

Covatis stated that he is still available as a bugler as needed.

New Business:

Anthony mentioned that there will be an Honor detail on 8/13/25 at 1000 at Boscawen and he will be there and *Covatis* said he would come as well.

Anthony stated that we had received the official letter of resignation for former Commandant Gary Gahan, and he passed it around for anyone that wanted to read.

Dumont announced that Dillion Detachment will be having a Poolie BBQ / Picnic on 8/16/25 at O'Dell Park in Franklin if anyone is interested to come by.

Dumont reported that the NH Gaming check has come in from the casino days in July in the amount of \$50K plus, so there will be sufficient funds to cover the Marine Corps Ball being put on by the Department of NH. He said he will start putting the planning committee to work now that funds have been confirmed.

Dumont stated that there was another committee that he would like to put together. The Boscawen Memorial Day ceremony is organized by a different group each year on a rotational basis every five years or so. In 2026 it is MCL's turn to organize the event. He is looking for a planning committee from all detachments and will take any volunteers from Granite State that would like a hand in the planning. The following people volunteered to join this committee: Steve White, Chris Peirce, and Jim Covatis as Chaplain.

For the Good of the Order

NTR

Closing Ceremony:

(Commandant, Sgt-at-Arms, Senior VC, Chaplain)

Meeting Adjourned at 1920

Next meeting dates:

- The next FUNday breakfast will be on **August 30**, 2025 (Sat.) at the Airport Diner, 08:00
- The next official meeting will be on Tuesday, **September 9th**, 2025, at 18:00 hours.

--- Jo Zurwell, Acting Adjutant

Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542

Agenda – August 12, 2025

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes July 8, 2025
3. Commandant
 - a. Filling of open officer slots
 - b. Volunteers for DoNH Commandant Selection committee
 - c. Funeral Honor Firing Detail
4. Officer Reports
 - a. Sr. Vice Comm. – Fundraising – Jo send around SignUp Sheet Aug 30+31 at Bass Pro Shops
 - b. Paymaster – Marge Romano
 - c. Chaplain – Joe Duquette
 - d. Judge Advocate – Chris Peirce
 - e. Jr Vice – vacant
 - f. Quartermaster – Steve White – tote content for fundraiser
 - g. Webmaster – Jo Zurwell
 - h. Media Liaison – vacant
 - i. Scouting -Kaylee Bass and Sara Steffen
 - j. Marine 4 Life – vacant
 - k. Correspondence
 - l. Aide de Camp – Birthday Card Program
 - m. Donations Inbound
 - n. Donations Outbound – form Committee
 - o. Awards
 - p. Honor Detail
 - q. Scholarship – Jo Zurwell
5. Continuing Business
 - a. Old Business
 - b. New Business
6. For the Good of the Order – anyone have anything to share
7. Closing Ceremony
8. Next breakfast is August 30th. Next Member meeting September 8th

Paymaster Report August 12, 2025 Meeting

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE					
\$ 51,591.53	OUTSTANDING CHECKS	AMOUNT		COMMITTED FUNDS	AMOUNT
	Building Dreams for Marines	\$ 1,000.00			
		\$ -		Dan Fedor Boy Scout Camp Campership 2025	\$ 1,903.00
				Maurice Labbe Music Student Scholarship 2025	\$ -
				NH Troopers Association from fundraiser GHS Mental Health Awareness Game	\$ 500.00
	Total Outstanding Checks	\$ 1,000.00		TOTAL FUNDS COMMITTED	\$ 2,403.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS TO DATE		\$ 48,188.53			
Deposits made after Last Meeting Date 0708/2025					
	FUNday Raffle Scholarship July 2025	\$ 65.00			
	Check from Chester Rod and Gun Club Charity Shoot	\$ 1,675.00			
	New Member Dues	\$ 40.00			
	Total Deposit to Date	\$ 1,780.00			

<i>FUNday Breakfast Raffle Donations 2025 for Trade School Scholarship FOR 2026</i>						
January	\$ 85.00					
February	\$ 54.00					
March	\$ 105.00					
April	\$ 95.00					
May	\$ 283.00	Chris Sawyer Winner donated back his half of Raffle				
June	\$ 55.00					
July	\$ 65.00					
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
TOTAL	\$ 742.00					

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

August 12, 2025, GSD 542 Meeting

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

- Updated the Officers page with latest changes in management.
- Updated the website auto forwarding of emails for officer emails
- Created and sent a July Bulletin email with upcoming events for membership
- Combined the June meeting minutes and all reports and uploaded to website.
- After meeting with the Paymaster, I updated our account that charge us monthly for their services, to pull from the checking account instead of a credit card, this will prevent having to change over the account information whenever there is a change in leadership. Constant Contact, RingCentral, GoDaddy/WordPress were all updated.
- Added DoNH Gaming Revo dates to the website calendar
- Added detachment meetings for August
- Created bulletin email per Eric for upcoming events and added items to the calendar and sent.
- Created SignUp Genius sign up form for the Labor Day Fundraiser weekend at Bass Pro Shops.
- This is not an all-inclusive list of what I did since the last meeting, but it is what best pertains to the website and social media.
- Reviewed website usage report from Monster Insights

Website: Google Analytics GA4 numbers for July 1- July 31, 2025

	1/1 – 1/31/25	2/1 – 2/28/25	3/1- 3/31/25	4/1- 4/20/25	5/1 - 5/31/25	6/1- 6/30/25	7/1 – 7/31/25
Total Website Users	124	134	168	206	145	157	152
Direct Find	71	76	107	131	82	99	67
Organic Search	45	45	52	58	51	39	77
Referral (link on another site to ours)	5	10	5	12	11	4	7
Organic Social	3	3	4	5	1	15	1

The top landing page views were as follows:

	1/1 – 1/31/25	2/1 – 2/28/25	3/1- 3/31/25	4/1- 4/30/25	5/1 - 5/31/25	6/1- 6/30/25	7/1 – 7/31/25
Main Home page	83	64	93	84	90	109	88
Contact Us	0	5	7	7	8	13	14
Detachment Officers	18	9	10	6	16	34	22
Events	13	5	12	6	0	8	14
Resources	12	8	15	15	23	15	14
Semper Fidelis Newsletter	5	0	0	11	0	5	14
Scholarships		33	27	61	5	0	0
Scholarship Application		28	26	45	6	0	0
Store					9	0	0

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