

Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542

July 8

,2025 at 1800

Uniform of the day: MCL cover

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

Roll Call of Officers and Appointed Positions:

Acting 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 :	Vacant	Pr. <input 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:

Steve White, Art Kidd, Pauly Labbe, Pat Anthony, Jim Covatis, Mary Ann Diekmann, Joey Duquette, Sara Steffen

New Members Attending and Sworn-In:

NTR

Guests attending:

Cody Dumont -DoNH Commandant, John Nelson. *Nelson* shared that he wanted to come and check out the detachment meeting, he was a Marine Corps officer 2010-2014 as combat engineer and left as a Captain.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes:

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

Anthony stated that there are several positions open at this point that need to be filled and asked the members present if any were interested in the Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, or Quartermaster positions. *Peirce* then clarified for all that the SVC's main responsibility is fundraising, and JVC's main responsibility is membership.

Anthony then nominated Steve White for Quartermaster, and this was seconded by Paul Coutu. Steve was asked if he would be willing to volunteer his time to this role. *White* said he would be willing to be Quartermaster if voted in. A vote was taken of the membership, and the nomination motion was passed unanimously. *White* stated he is honored to serve and will get started tomorrow.

There were no volunteers at this time for SVC and JVC.

The floor was then turned over to Cody Dumont, Commandant of the Department of New Hampshire. *Dumont* performed the installation ceremony of Eric Anthony as the new Commandant of the Granite State Detachment. *Anthony's* term will expire in June 2026 as he is completing the balance of the prior Commandant's term.

Dumont then continued with some Department business for the detachment members. He advised all that when he became the Commandant for the Department, he was very clear that he would only be doing one two-year term. So, he is looking for volunteers to find the next Commandant for the Department with a term that will start halfway through 2026. Because the Department only meets quarterly, the search needs to start now. Nominations will need to be made at the September and December meetings and a vote to be had at the March 2026 meeting, for the new person to take office in April/May of 2026. He would like three people on this committee, and not all from the same detachment. At this time, no one volunteered to be on the Commandant Search Committee.

Dumont then discussed the upcoming Marine Corps 250th Birthday Ball that is scheduled for November 10th in Franklin, NH at the new Easterseals campus. This event will be at no cost to attendees. When members sign up, they will not need to pay anything, however if a non-member registers that person will need to pay a \$50 deposit that they will receive back when they arrive at the ball. This process is to ensure that if someone says they are going they will show up or they are out \$50, which will be easier for planning purposes with a good head count. He is looking to form a committee to do the planning and finding of the speakers for the birthday ball. He is looking for three speakers and he has the keynote speaker already in mind and he has laid out what he would like for the other speakers that the committee members will need to try and locate. He would like one member from each detachment to be on this committee. Sara Steffen volunteered to be on the committee for the Marine Corps Ball.

Dumont then opened the floor to questions from members. *Covatis* asked where the Department of NH meetings are held quarterly? *Dumont* answered that they rotate location each meeting to a different detachment so that members from all over the state can attend at least one meeting and voice any questions or concerns. September's meeting will be at the Dillion Detachment in Bow, and the December's meeting will be at the Granite State Detachment.

Brown then stated that he received an email from Mike Martioski and the way it was worded concerned him that he would be unavailable for an extended period of time and he wanted to make sure he was OK. *Dumont* explained that Mike and his wife were going on an extended vacation that they would be driving across the country and visiting several states so he would not be available.

With no other questions, *Dumont* then went onto advise everyone that the NH Charitable Gaming dates at the Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH for the ten days set aside for the Department of New Hampshire will be July 20-July 29. He then transitioned into a discussion on the cost to cover the Marine Corps Ball. They selected the Easterseals new location in Franklin, NH because the entire campus is veteran geared with housing, hotel, services and hospitality. The Department voted at the last meeting to use the funds raised from the casino dates mentioned above to cover the cost of the ball. There was some concern that the funds received from the NH Charitable Gaming could be used to host a ball of this nature. The Department researched with various officials at the NH Charitable Gaming as well as with a Senator that wrote the bill for this law, and all asked stated that the funds received were to be used on anything that followed the mission and traditions of the charity receiving the funds. As the MCL holds a Marine Corps ball every year in some capacity, this would qualify as a long-standing tradition and therefore acceptable to use the funds received from the NH Charitable Gaming. Easterseals and even Revo will help to promote the Marine Corps Ball for the Department to get the word out about the event. The hotel that is on the Easterseals campus is reserving 50% of their rooms for the night of the ball, which is not covered by the Department.

Dumont then stated that the MCL would still be raising the flag at the state house on the morning of the Marine Corps' birthday and then there will be a breakfast nearby and there will be the traditional Marine Corps luncheon and then the Department event in Franklin that night. So, it is going to be a full day of Marine recognition, connection, and enjoyment.

Dumont then yielded the floor back to *Anthony* and thanked him for the time.

Reports of Officers

Senior Vice Commandant: (position open at present)

Marge Romano reported that \$3,111 was raised during the Market Basket July 5th fundraiser.

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

\$58,880.80 balance; \$4000 in outstanding checks; Revo Casino Charitable Gaming check of \$39,880.80 is on hold until cleared by the bank; Total available funds \$13,097.00 See attached report for full details of deposits made and committed funds. Market Basket fundraiser for July 5th raised \$3,111.00, see the attached report for breakdown per store and door.

The Goffstown Varsity Softball game fundraiser raised \$241 with the proceeds agreed for half to go to the State Troopers and half to GSD 542 and be used for veterans with mental health issues. *Steffen* shared the background behind this fundraiser with the above information as mental health issues are close to her family and we appreciate her sharing her story. *Romano* made a **motion** to bring the total for the NH Troopers share of this fundraiser, \$120.50 up to \$500 or \$379.50 as a donation to the NH Troopers, the motion was seconded by *Pat Anthony*, voted unanimously and passed.

Chaplain Report: (Joe Duquette)

Sick, Injured, Hospitalized Members :

All in good health.

Members / spouses recently passed away:

Dan Fedor, NTR

Updates from VA Hospital:

NTR

Judge Advocate: Chris Peirce

He reported that he is working with the Department of New Hampshire for a grievance to be filed with National MCL.

He attended an all-day summit with DMAV for homeless veterans. The good news is that units are opening up around the state, a Kingston Veterans Residence with 6 units just opened, and Manchester just opened 15 housing units, and the 29 units at the Easterseals campus in Franklin have veterans moving in already.

Anthony attended the opening of the Kingston Veteran House; he was told by the director that at this time **there are still two openings** there for qualified veterans

(this information would be good for our members to know in case we should run across a veteran with a housing need!). *Anthony* stated that also attending the ceremony was Executive Councilor John Stephan who told him his son was a Marine, and *Anthony* said he would be contacting him for his son's information to ask if he would be interested in joining the Marine Corps League.

Peirce attended the Operation Mercury Hike at Camp Carpenter recently and it was well attended.

Junior Vice Commandant: (position open at present)

NTR

Quartermaster: (Vacant)

NTR – new Quartermaster Steve White was nominated, and voted in tonight, he will start learning his requirements and get started on what he needs to be doing.

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)

No updates, most scouts are at camp right now per *Steffen*.

Marine for Life: (Vacant)

NTR

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

From the check of \$1000 that was donated to the Boys and Girls Club recently; a letter was received with a personal thanks from the director.

A letter was received from Wounded Warriors looking for donations or partnerships. *Peirce* stated the detachment has been talking about partnering with them for some time, but nothing has been done about it yet. He said he would reach out to Chris the organizer there to get some ideas of how the detachment could partner with them on an event this year.

Aide De Camp : (Kevin Brown)

- Birthday cards have been passed around to attendees to sign so he can send out to recipients.
- He received a notice of death card from the sister of member Bill Wentworth and he asked if there was a master file for the members that these types of things are stored. *Romano* stated that she had these files, so *Brown* gave the card to her.
- The FUNday breakfasts have been held at the Airport Diner monthly for years. He would like to invite the owner of the restaurant, Alex Ray, to come to one of the breakfasts so the detachment can show appreciation for all that he has done for GSD 542. He had been in contact with his office, and Ray is currently in Ukraine but should be back by the end of the month and hopes to attend, but nothing is certain yet. After a short discussion it was decided that a Good Citizenship Award would be presented to Alex Ray, and *White* stated he would donate the funds to have the certificate matted and framed. *Brown* also suggested that the detachment could make a donation to one of Alex Ray's veteran-based charities in NH as a thank you.
- He thanked everyone for coming out to volunteer at the Market Basket fundraiser on July 5th.

Donations inbound: (Paymaster, Commandant):

NTR

Donations outbound:

NTR

Awards: (Commandant, et al)

NTR

Honor Details: (Jim Ambrose)

NTR

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

NTR

FUNday Breakfast Report: Marge Romano

- The 50/50 raffle raised \$55. \$677 YTD in the Trade School Scholarship for 2026 awarding.

Continuing Business:

Old Business:

- *Romano* reminded everyone about the Dave Hamilton Memorial Shoot that is happening this Saturday July 12th, with the proceeds being donated to GSD. She asked *Zurwell* to send out a reminder email to all as well and asked *Dumont* to send out to all of the detachments in NH.
- *Romano* mentioned that dues are coming up in September so she will be sending out an email in August with *Zurwell*'s assistance to all of membership; *Zurwell* said it was not a problem.
- *Peirce* made a **motion** to order 3000 flags per the quote received for the flags that are distributed during the fundraiser events to bring out stock back up, the motion was seconded by *Covatis*, after a vote the motion passed unanimously. *Romano* will place the order soon; the lead time is about a week. *Romano* will also inquire about the cost for all branches of the military flags as those flags are helpful to have if a donor shares personal stories about a family member in another branch of service.
- *Romano* advised all that the Building Dreams for Marines Annual Golf Tournament is on August 13th and a couple of volunteers are needed. She will be manning the "Money Hole" with her daughter.
- *Romano* made a **motion** to donate \$2000 to Building Dreams for Marines, *White* seconded the motion, and after a vote the motion passed unanimously. With this level of donation, it will make GSD 542 a sponsor of this event in Hollis, NH in August.

New Business:

- Sara Steffen has volunteered for the Marine Corps Ball Committee with the Department.
- The Department meeting in December will be held at GSD at the place of our choice. Per *Dumont* a date and location will need to be selected and let him know. The detachment will provide lunch at 1pm and then the meeting will be held after. Will need space for about 15-30 people. Last year at the December meeting they stuffed stockings for a local hospital pediatric ward

in Concord, so this could be done again to a local group in need. *Peirce* said he will look into VASH and see how many kids.

- Toys-4-Tots need to have the boxes registered with the Londonderry distribution center. *Covatis* asked if the toys stay in NH and *White* said the toys are sorted by age at the location in Londonderry and he believes the toys stay local. *Steffen* said she has experience with this program and is willing to help if information is needed.
- *Covatis* asked if the detachment still has a bugle and a bugler? No. He has offered his services as needed for Honor Details and he just needs one day to get his uniform in order. He uses electronic recordings with the bugle, but the sound is comparable to a live player.

For the Good of the Order

- *Peirce* shared that the NH Fisher Cats will be having a Veterans Day on July 27th, he will send the flyer to *Zurwell* to be shared on the website and in email. *Zurwell* said she would distribute once received.

Closing Ceremony:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 1940

Next meeting dates:

- The next FUNday breakfast will be on **July 26, 2025 (Sat.)** at the Airport Diner, 08:00
- The next official meeting will be on Tuesday, **August 12th, 2025**, at 18:00 hours.

--- Jo Zurwell, Acting Adjutant

**Granite State Marine Corps League
Detachment #542**

July 8, 2025 at 1800

Uniform of the day: MCL cover

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Roll Call of Officers and Appointed Positions:

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Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542

Agenda – July 8, 2025

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Installation of Commandant
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes June 10, 2025
4. Referendum
5. Election of interim officers
6. Officer Reports
 - a. Sr. Vice Comm. – Fundraising
 - b. Paymaster
 - c. Chaplain
 - d. Judge Advocate
 - e. Jr Vice – vacant, anything to report
 - f. Quartermaster – vacant – anything to discuss – tote content for fundraiser
 - g. Webmaster
 - h. Media Liaison – vacant
 - i. Scouting
 - j. Marine 4 Life – vacant
 - k. Correspondence
 - l. Aide de Camp
 - m. Donations Inbound
 - n. Donations Outbound
 - o. Awards
 - p. Honor Detail
 - q. Scholarship –
7. Continuing Business
 - a. Old Business
 - b. New Business
8. For the Good of the Order – anyone have anything to share
9. Closing Ceremony
10. Next breakfast July 26th. Next Member meeting August 12

Paymaster Report July 08, 2025 Meeting

[illegible]

<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						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
TOTAL	\$ 677.00					

Saturday, July 05, 2025			
Market Basket	Bedford Outside	\$	564.00
Market Basket	Bedford	\$	640.00
Market Basket	Hooksett Door 1	\$	1,024.00
Market Basket	Hooksett Door 2	\$	517.00
Market Basket	Manchester	\$	366.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$	3,111.00



Kingston Veterans Residence Ribbon Cutting Program

**186 Main Street, Kingston NH
Housing Support New Hampshire, Inc.**



**Wednesday, July 2, 2025
10:30 AM**



1. Opening/Welcome: Frank Cousins, Treasurer

2. Invocation:

Jeffrey Robie, Clergy and Neighbor
Canon Mark Pearson, Rector Trinity Church –
Air Force Major, Civil Air Patrol

3. Messages: Senator Jeanne Shaheen
(Justin Troiano, Staff)
Senator Maggie Hassen
Congressman Chris Pappas

4. Recognition:

Project Team:

Chris Novelli, Architect

Kathleen Lingenberg, Development Consultant

Builder: Clint Gendreau, Pinebrook Construction

5. Funders:

Newburyport Bank

Service Credit Union Impact Foundation

Pentucket Bank

Hamptons Real Estate

6. Message: Robert Irvine Foundation

7. Attending:

NH and District 14 Representative Pam Brown

NH District 34 Mark Pearson

Executive Councilor John Stephen

Executive Councilor Janet Stevens

James Champion, Rockingham County Sheriff's Office

John Pramberg, Trustee - Kingston Library

and Trustee of Trust Funds

8. Remarks:

State Representative Kenneth Weyler (35 years)
Retired Air Force Colonel & Vietnam Veteran

Rob Dapice, Executive Director/CEO New Hampshire
Housing

Julie Vose, MHA, OTR/L, FACHE Interim Medical Center
Director, Manchester VA Medical Center

9. Flag Raising:

Civil Air Patrol, the Civilian Auxiliary of the USAF,
Essex County Squadron,
Captain Christopher Logan

10. Ribbon Cutting:

11. Building Tours



Also Invited:

Governor Kelly Ayotte

Senator William Gannon

Kingston Board of Selectmen

Kingston Planning Board

Kingston Building Inspector

Kingston Chief of Police Joel Johnson

Kingston Fire Chief Graham Pellerin

Rockingham County Commissioners



*You are invited to celebrate
the opening of the
Kingston Veterans Residence!*



Housing Support Inc. and Housing Support of New Hampshire

<https://housingupport.org>

Project funded by:



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
HOUSING**



Newburyport Bank
COMMUNITY BANK

With special thanks to Paul LePere - the Hamptons Real Estate



Housing Support Board of Directors

Robert Jones, President

Frank Cousins, Treasurer

Karen Pollastrino, Clerk

Max Laguerre

James Kelcourse