

Granite State Marine Corps League

Detachment #542

Sept. 9

,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:

Jesse Stufflebeam, Pat Anthony, Joey Duquette, George Robinson, Tom Escandon

New Members Attending and Sworn-In:

Guests attending:

Cheri Monnell -Past Department of NH Commandant, 51st CCDD Donald Garland

Approval of previous meeting's minutes:

Anthony made the **MOTION** to accept the previous meeting's minutes; *Peirce* seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

Anthony introduced everyone to Cheri Monnell for those that did not know her and *Monnell* introduced her guest, Donald Garland 51st CCDD Devel Dog. *Garland* shared a little bit about himself and that he was a former original member of the Granite State Detachment and retired from the Marines after 30 years and now lives in Virginia. He only visits NH a couple of times a year, and this time it coincides with a GSD meeting so he thought he would drop in. He was welcomed by the group.

Anthony shared that long-time members John and Ellen Petralito are dealing with Ellen's advanced stage Alzheimer's and that is why they have not been to meetings lately. *Anthony* made a motion to extend a life membership to Ellen Petralito, as John is already a life member, for all their efforts and participation in years past. The motion was seconded by *Peirce*. *Romano* stated that based on the age bracket that Ellen is in, the rate for a life membership for her is \$400. There being no additional discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. *Anthony* also asked *Romano* to do up a frameable certificate to be given to John and Ellen. She agreed to create one.

Peirce then explained a little about the Liberty House, being one of the only transitional halfway houses for veterans in NH, and they are having their annual Veterans Day Breakfast fundraiser on November 8th in Derry. See New Business below for details on the motion that was presented.

Peirce mentioned an idea that he had for the flagpole and solar light that was purchased 4-5 years ago that is currently sitting in storage. When he was recently at the Easterseals Campus in Franklin, NH he met with the Catholic priest in charge of the cemetery that is right behind the Easterseals campus. The priest was planning to do a fundraiser to obtain a flagpole for the cemetery. *Peirce* mentioned to him that he may know of a flagpole and not do anything until he got back to him. His idea is to have GSD 542 donate the flagpole and solar light to the cemetery and have it up and flying before Veterans Day. See New Business for the presented motion.

Anthony then shared what he would like to see for the Honors Detail within the detachment. He would like to see this section have more organization, training, and M1's, and find several people that would be interested in being on call for any firing honor details that are needed. He is going to ask Jim Ambrose, dual member of GSD and Seacoast detachments, to see if he would be willing to take on this task. *Garland* mentioned that the VA will compensate for Honor Details, and he suggested that Bob Borka from National be contacted for more information. *Peirce* then stated that the real problem is not getting the M1's, it is storing them. It was mentioned that Seacoast and Dillion detachments have rifles. *Peirce* then stated that the VFW in Franklin, that he is a member of and is a few miles from the Boscowan Cemetery, has 15 rifles and he thinks GSD could work out something with the VFW post to use these rifles when needed as they are not being used all that often at the present time. *Peirce* stated he will talk with them to see what can be done. *Anthony* took a call for hands of those interested in being part of this Honors Detail – Jesse Stufflebeam, Steve White, Kaylee Bass, and Eric Anthony. *Garland* mentioned that there is training on firing details for the proper form and process on the National website and stated the detachment should stay within the guidelines.

Romano then stated that she is on the Manchester Expeditionary Brigade luncheon planning committee. She shared that an email will be going out soon with registration information for the luncheon that will be held on November 10th at 11am to about 2:30pm and will be at the Derryfield Country Club and will be \$50 per person. She recommends if someone plans to attend, to sign up when the email comes out as they expect registration to fill up quickly this year as it is the 250th anniversary.

Anthony stated he had been in discussions with Jesse Stufflebeam about the open positions and if he would be interested in any. From the result of this conversation, *Anthony* appointed Jesse Stufflebeam as the new Senior Vice Commandant who will fill the remainder of the current term with elections in October and November for the term to start in June 2026. *Stufflebeam* graciously accepted the appointment and will start to get himself acquainted with the position. All at the meeting thanked him for accepting the position and wished him well.

Reports of Officers

Senior Vice Commandant: (position open at present) – NTR

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

\$50,493.00 balance; \$200 in outstanding checks; committed funds \$1903 for the Dan Fedor Boy Scout Camp Campership 2025 designated for one to two canoes. She reported that the detachment raised \$1062 from the Bass Pro Shops Labor Day fundraiser. Membership renewal have been coming in and currently have \$175 received.

To see the full details from the Paymaster, see the attached report.

Romano was asked at the Executive Committee meeting from 9/6/25 for a couple of items and she shared this information with membership next. The preliminary dates to ask Market Basket and Bass Pro Shops for fundraising events in 2026 were discussed and she has a form letter that she will adapt to both stores and send them out to each once their window opens for acceptance of requests for 2026 in December of 2025. She will do up the draft letters and get approval from *Anthony* before sending.

Secondly, she was asked to get pricing for service flags from the vendor that the American flags are purchased from. The initial non-formal quote from Fully Promoted was \$5.60 each for a quantity of 50 for each of the 6 military branches; pricing may be lower if ordered in larger quantity. *Brown* stated it was not worth looking for other vendors as the pricing would be the same. *White* mentioned that from the inventory that he recently did, there are several branches of military flags, and he can get a count for what is in storage before a decision of purchasing any is made.

Lastly, *Romano* stated that she was contacted by the Revo Casino in Lebanon for GSD to come up for a photo op on September 23rd from 5:20-5:30pm. This will help keep GSD in the minds of Revo Casino in a positive light when they are selecting the non-profit organizations for 2026, and it reinforces the commitment the detachment has in this program and how the funds can benefit the mission of the MCL and the detachment. She asked if anyone was interested in attending this with her and *Anthony (Eric & Pat)* to let her know.

Donations inbound: (Paymaster, Commandant):

Romano stated that recently *Eric & Pat Anthony, Joe & Joey Duquette*, and herself went to the Chester Rod and Gun Club to have a check presentation from them to the detachment for the proceeds from the Dave Hamilton memorial shoot event. Pictures will be in the upcoming GSD newsletter.

FUNDay Breakfast Report: Marge Romano and Kevin Brown

- The 50/50 raffle raised \$60. \$802 YTD in the Trade School Scholarship for 2026 awarding.
- Winner of the raffle was Jesse Stufflebeam

Chaplain Report: (Joe Duquette)

Sick, Injured, Hospitalized Members :

He talked to John Petralito recently and found out that they are going to a lot of doctor appointments , but that Ellen is doing well considering. All other members are doing well.

Members / spouses recently passed away:

Updates from VA Hospital:

The next VA Bingo afternoon will be on September 21st at 1pm. If interested in joining in to help out, join Joe in the VA parking lot just before 1pm and will all go in together.

Judge Advocate: Chris Peirce

Peirce reported that he recently attended SWIM with a Mission event that has over 60 veteran organizations at the summit. He shared copies a couple of documents

with various veteran resources that he obtained from attending. He also spoke to the coordinator for Wounded Warriors and was told there are a couple of events coming up that we could partner with them on, Fright Night in October, or a Christmas Caroling show, or we could come up with a different event. This is for networking purposes not fundraising.

Junior Vice Commandant: (position open at present) – NTR

Quartermaster: (Steve White)

White stated that he did an inventory of the storage unit this past Sunday with *Stufflebeam* and he will get the inventory typed up so it is clear what is there and what we may need to get. He will be checking all the chairs, easels, and stands to make sure they are functioning correctly. *Anthony* asked for a list of recommendations from *White* of what needs to be replaced or updated, such as the display screen that has the names of the organizations the detachment supports, as at least one of those does not exist any longer.

White mentioned that there are three wooden flags in the storage unit and that is just money sitting in storage. These are the display wooden flags for the fundraising events. At this time, *Romano* commented that at a recent prior meeting it was approved to donate a wooden flag to the Manchester Expeditionary Brigade that they could raffle off at the luncheon in November and to put a EGA or message on the bottom. *Peirce* recommended that we use one of the wooden flags from storage and purchase a brass plaque and inscribe a message on it for the 250th anniversary. All at the meeting thought this was a great idea.

Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell) –

See attached report from Webmaster

Media Liaison Report: (Vacant) NTR

Scouting Report: (Kayley Bass/Sara Steffen)

Bass reported that there are no scheduled Eagle Courts at this time but there are a few coming up.

Marine for Life: (Vacant)

NTR

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

Romano composed and received approval from *Anthony* for the welcome letters to be sent to the new members from the Gormley Detachment after it disbanded. The five letters were sent and *Anthony* stated that he hopes that these new members will attend the meetings or breakfasts and be active members.

A reminder email was sent out to all members about membership renewal and that the dues are now due.

Aide De Camp : (Kevin Brown)

- Birthday Card Program – he sent around a stack of the newly designed birthday cards for all present to sign for those with upcoming birthdays.
- Common Man – Alex Ray – *Brown* is awaiting to hear from Ray if he will be available to attend the September breakfast.
- *Brown* then asked about the name of the trade school scholarship as it had been at one point in the name of the former Commandant Gary Gahan. But it was clarified that the name on the website and paperwork for the scholarship is Commandant Trade School Scholarship in Recognition of 1st Lt. Rogers Blood.

Donation Review Committee:

Romano stated that *Anthony, Steffen* and herself went to the NH Troopers location on August 26th for a check presentation for the donation of \$500 that was a combination of the Goffstown Softball event and matching funds from the detachment. Pictures of this presentation will be in the upcoming newsletter.

Peirce stated that the first committee meeting will be scheduled soon once schedules can be aligned. The committee members will be Chris Peirce, Marge Romano, Jesse Stufflebeam, Sara Steffen, and Tom Escandon. When they meet, he mentioned that some things will need to be remembered: operational expenses, setting up a relief fund, keeping the donations to a 75/25 split between veterans and community and then stated there are plenty of worthy veteran organization in the Manchester area to select from for donations.

Peirce then mentioned that the Manchester Veterans Council has a fundraiser currently to raise funds for a statue in a local park. *Romano* said that she has a listing of all the organizations that the detachment has made donations to in the past and she will provide that to the committee at the meeting.

Awards: (Commandant, et al) – see above for award or certificate mentioned for Ellen Petralito.

Honor Details: (vacant) – see above Commandant comments on this.

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

Continuing Business:

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- *Brown* asked if anyone knew John Nelson, who had come to a meeting a couple of months ago and shared his business information. He has been trying to get him to return his emails but to no luck. No one knew him personally.
- *Peirce* made a motion to donate \$1500 to Liberty House to be a Dog Tags Sponsor for their annual Veterans Day Breakfast fundraiser, which will allot two tickets to attend and the detachment logo on their printed materials, these tickets going to the Commandant and his wife. The motion was seconded by *White*; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- *Peirce* made a motion to donate the flagpole and solar light to the Franklin cemetery that is right behind the Easterseals Campus in Franklin, NH. The motion was seconded by *Anthony*; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Order

- *Pat Anthony* advised that there will be a ladies only lunch on September 17th at noon at T-Bones in Bedford. She will be sending out an email in the coming days.
- *Peirce* advised that the POW MIA Day in Boscawen will be on September 19th and believes that Rolling Thunder will be there and thinks it starts at 11am.
- *Escandon* wanted to comment that he has a hard time with coming to past meetings because of all the turmoil with the former commandant. He stated that he received many emails from several people including Gary, and he

does not understand how it could have been decided to make him leave the detachment and possibly at this point the MCL. He said we can all be professional and put this behind us and he recommends that Gary be allowed back but not be allowed to hold a position because he knows the history of MCL and knows a lot of people. *Peirce* stated he would discuss this more with him after the meeting.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 1915

Next meeting dates:

- The next FUNday breakfast will be on **September 27**, 2025 (Sat.) at the Airport Diner, 08:00
- The next official meeting will be on Tuesday, **October 14th**, 2025, at 18:00 hours.

--- Jo Zurwell, Acting Adjutant

Granite State Marine Corps League

Detachment #542

Agenda – September 9, 2025

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes August 12, 2025
3. Commandant
 - a. Life membership for Ellen Petralito
 - b. Liberty House Breakfast - Chris
 - c. Donation of the Flagpole and solar light to Franklin cemetery
 - d. Honor Detail
 - e. Marine Corps Ball tickets/registration on DoNH website
4. Officer Reports
 - a. Sr. Vice Comm. – Fundraising – Vacant
 - b. Paymaster – Marge Romano
 - c. Chaplain – Joe Duquette
 - d. Judge Advocate – Chris Peirce
 - e. Jr Vice – vacant
 - f. Quartermaster –Steve White –
 - 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. Donation Evaluation Committee -Eric Anthony
 - 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 September 27th. Next Member meeting October 14th

Paymaster Report September 09 2025 Meeting

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	OUTSTANDING CHECKS	AMOUNT		COMMITTED FUNDS	AMOUNT
\$ 50,493.00					
	Webmaster Maintenance	\$ 200.00			
		\$ -			
	Total Outstanding Checks	\$ 200.00			
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS TO DATE		\$ 48,390.00			
Deposits made after Last Meeting Date 08/12/2025					
FUNDay Raffle Scholarship July 2025		\$ 60.00			
Labor Day Fundraiser Bass Pro shops		\$ 1,062.00			
Renewal Member Dues to date		\$ 175.00			
	Total Deposits to Date	\$ 1,297.00			

***FUNday Breakfast
Raffle Donations 2025
for Trade School
Scholarship***

FOR 2026

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	\$ 60.00					
September						
October						
November						
December						
TOTAL	\$ 802.00					

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

October 14, 2025, GSD 542 Meeting

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

- Updated the Roster with information obtained from DoNH for new members from Gromley. Sent email to DoNH (Mike) with members we show but they do not.
- Set up Eric, Marge, and Chris to the GSD Google Calendar and added a couple of events for deadline for write up for Newsletter and next Executive meeting 9/6
- Worked on concept, design, and creating two ad options for Eric and Chris to approve for the Liberty House program.
- Created September Newsletter
- Created an email for Pat Anthony for a Ladies Luncheon at T-Bones 9/17
- Received final approval on adding Mike's fundraiser and approval on full newsletter, sent to all membership and all on CC. Moved the June newsletter link over to the archive webpage and loaded the September issue to the Resources page.
- Received final approval on the Liberty House ad, composed an email and sent the ad and logo to contact at Liberty House.
- Updated email forwarding for Quartermaster and SVC to Steve and Jesse within GoDaddy.
- Loaded all MC Birthday events shown on DoNH to GSD calendar; uploaded July and August completed minutes to the Archive Minutes webpage
- Social Media post for the Easterseals Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Sept 18th.
- 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 September 1 – September 30th

	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	8/1-8/31/25	9/1-9/30/25
Total Website Users	168	206	145	157	152	119	173
Direct Find	107	131	82	99	67	69	101
Organic Search	52	58	51	39	77	41	66
Referral (link on another site to ours)	5	12	11	4	7	9	4
Organic Social	4	5	1	15	1	0	2

The top landing page views were as follows:

	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	8/1- 8/31/25	9/1 - 9/30/25
Main Home page	93	84	90	109	88	73	96
Contact Us	7	7	8	13	14	6	10
Detachment Officers	10	6	16	34	22	8	18
Events	12	6	0	8	14	10	19
Resources	15	15	23	15	14	23	21
Semper Fidelis Newsletter	0	11	0	5	14	13	22
Scholarships	27	61	5	0	0	0	0
Scholarship Application	26	45	6	0	0	0	0
Store			9	0	0	0	0
Membership						7	0
Easterseals Ribbon Cutting Post							12

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