

Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542

Dec 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 :	Jesse Stufflebeam	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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input type="checkbox"/>
Paymaster :	Marge Romano (via Phone)	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"/>
Scouting :	Kayley Bass/Sara Steffen	Pr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input checked="" 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:

George Robinson

New Members Attending and Sworn-In:

None

Guests attending:

Cody Dumont, Brian Hanson of Worker Bees Fund, and Courtney Stairs of Veterans Count

Approval of previous meeting's minutes:

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

The meeting opened with a presentation from Courtney Stairs from Veterans Count a program of Easterseals. Veterans Count has four branches in NH, and they offer many services to all who have served in the military, regardless of service era, discharge status, or VA eligibility. They help veterans access the services and support that they need. They offer mental health counseling, care coordination, substance use treatment coordination, housing stabilization, benefits and services connection, aging and senior needs, money management, and emergency financial assistance. Their case managers go to the veteran where they are, and the veteran is not required to come into the Veterans Count office.

The Veterans Count services are free, but there may be some expense when the counselor passes the veteran over to another service, depending on the program. The only requirement is that the veteran lives or drills in NH. *Brian* Hanson from Worker Bees Fund who was also at the meeting, commented that Veterans Count is very discreet, and they understand how some veterans are disengaged and hard to get them out of their homes on any given day. *George Robinson* shared his experience when he transitioned from active duty to civilian life and he was told that the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society would be the go to place for help with the transition, but it was coming to its end of service soon. Since the Relief Society is no longer active, Veterans Count is a good replacement and in many ways an improvement.

Robinson stated he went to a Veterans Count Gala a couple of years ago and he wondered if there was any other fundraisers or events that are put on by Veterans Count. *Stairs* said that each of the four branches in the state do a gala and have events all year long. She will send the 2026 calendar to *Anthony* and *Zurwell* so that it can be shared with the detachment.

To request support, call 603-315-4354 or email at intake@vetscount.org . *Zurwell* stated that this information will be included in the newsletter and on the website.

Anthony then made a motion to donate \$1000 to Veterans Count in support of their mission. The motion was seconded by *Brown*. During discussion, *Peirce* stated that the Donation Evaluation committee is OK with this donation. With no further discussion, a vote was cast and the motion passed unanimously. There was a short break at this point to take a couple of pictures with *Anthony* presenting the check to Courtney *Stairs*.

At this point, Cody *Dumont*, Commandant of the Department of NH performed the installation ceremony for all the Granite State Detachment #542 elected officers and appointed officers. Below is a list of these officers:

- Commandant – Eric Anthony
- Sr Vice-Commandant – Jesse Stufflebeam
- Judge Avocate – Chris Peirce
- Adjutant and Webmaster – Jo Zurwell
- Paymaster – Marge Romano
- Sgt at Arms – Paul Coutu
- Quartermaster - Steve White
- Aide De Camp – Kevin Brown

Brian *Hanson* the founder of Worker Beas Fund then made a short presentation of why he started the Worker Beas Fund. From his years of volunteering at New Horizons he saw a need to help veterans who needed the services at New Horizons. He wanted to find a way to help veterans stay in their existing homes for a few more years with some alterations to the home so it would be possible. He is a building contractor and engineer by trade and thought he would use his skills to help veterans that need ramps, kitchen alternations to accommodate a scooter or wheelchair and other items that would improve their quality of life.

He partners with Veterans Count and other veteran organizations and gets donations of materials from local suppliers for all of the projects that they do. They do the work themselves so there is no labor costs. Since 2017 Worker Bees Fund have done 75 projects to help veterans.

Although *Hanson* stated that money is not a concern and he was only at the meeting to share information about who and what Worker Bees Fund is all about, *Peirce* stated that we had already approved a donation and the check was already written, so *Hanson* graciously accepted the donation of \$1000.

Dumont then shared that with his work with foster children, he finds swing set for sale online and fixes them up and sets them up for foster children at their foster parents' homes. He stated to *Hanson* that if any of the projects that he does involves children he would be happy to find and fix up swing sets for the homes and the children. *Hanson* said that was great and he would contact him if such a case came up. At that time, there was a small break to take a couple of pictures of *Anthony* and *Peirce* presenting the check to Brian Hanson of Worker Bees Fund.

At the November meeting, *Anthony* discussed the Manchester Veterans Council and their current fundraiser for the Gulf Wars Global War On Terror Memorial. He reached out to one of the Co-Chairmen of the project, Dick Anagnost, who is also a member of GSD 542, so that he could explain a little about the project, but he did not reply before the December meeting. From the flyer that *Anthony* shared at the meeting, the Manchester Veterans Council (MVC) is composed of volunteer representatives of all of the veteran organizations in Manchester. Their mission is to advise and assist the Mayor and Aldermen on veterans' affairs, organize and conduct the Memorial Day Parade, and Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance ceremony, as well as other activities related to veterans.

Any size donation is accepted, but they do have two sponsorship level donations, first is to sponsor a granite post with a 6 x 6 bronze plaque; for \$3000 the business can sponsor a granite post engraved with the company name, a message of support, or the names of veterans wished to honor. The second level is a sponsorship of a granite 12 x12 paver; for \$200 a business can sponsor a granite paver that will be incorporated into the walkway surrounding the monument.

Anthony made a motion to donate \$3000 to Manchester Veterans Council and their current fundraiser for the Gulf Wars Global War On Terror Memorial for a sponsorship level of the granite post with 6 x 6 bronze plaque. The motion was seconded by *Stufflebeam* and with no further discussion the vote was passed unanimously.

Anthony then made a motion to present a Christmas gift card of \$250 to *Susie*, for all the great service she has provided GSD #542 in 2025 as the server at the monthly breakfasts at the Airport Diner. *White* seconded the motion, with no further discussion the vote passed unanimously.

Anthony then made a motion to increase *Jo Zurwell's* monthly salary from \$200 to \$250 for all the great work that she has been doing with the website and the minutes etc. The motion was seconded by *White*, with no further discussion, a vote was taken and all were in favor with one abstention and the vote passed.

A short discussion was held about the upcoming December breakfast. The date of the breakfast has been changed from December 27th due to the holidays at the end of the month and will be held on January 3, 2026. *Anthony* stated that he has reached out to the Airport Diner to make sure they were OK with this change, so they had the proper staffing, and they had no issue. A question was asked if there will be a Yankee Swap like has been done in the past. After a short discussion there was no one that was willing or able to do the organizing of this event this year, so it was decided that there will not be a Yankee Swap this year. *Romano* mentioned that she has heard from a few people, including *Susie*, that people have not been tipping at the breakfast and someone will need to remind people to do so at each breakfast as a courtesy for the hard work that is done.

Anthony then explained about Marine *Jim Mesita* who is a local veteran in Nashua who has been having a hard time lately with his mortgage and HOA fees. *Brad Howe* from the Seacoast Detachment has been in touch with *Jim* and Veterans Count to vet his situation out. There are a lot of moving parts with lawyers and the HOA and Veterans Count has been helping *Jim* with reducing his mortgage and HOA fees so that he does not get upside down again with his financial situation.

Howe has reached out to the Department of NH MCL as well as Granite State Detachment to help support this Marine in need at this time. *Anthony* made a motion to contribute \$1533, a third of the total needed, \$4600, to Marine *Jim Mesita*. The motion was seconded by *Coutu* and a discussion was held. *Peirce* voiced his concern that when helping an individual like this that all due diligence is done to vet the situation and make sure that this person is not a repeat offender or someone that is trying to scam generous organizations out of their money. He said that it sounds like the vetting process that *Brad Howe* has done is the right way to handle things.

Dumont then added that he met with the Seacoast Detachment last night and discussed this with Dick Lak the Commandant there, he is a former lawyer, and Lak stated that no one will be receiving any funds until he is happy with what is presented as evidence of need and that this is not a repeat offender of this type of request. *Dumont* then stated that the check should be made out to and mailed to the Seacoast Detachment PO box. Once the funds are deemed fit to distribute they will send a full check to Jim Mesita. If it is found that he is not fit to receive the funds, the Seacoast Detachment will return the \$1533 back to GSD 542. With no further discussion a vote was cast and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Senior Vice Commandant: (Jesse Stufflebeam) –

Stufflebeam stated that he had talked with the contact at Bass Pro Shops about the February fundraiser and what he need to do to request the dates desired. He has this information now and will be doing as required. He will report back when the dates are confirmed. He also mailed the letters to Market Basket to request the fundraising dates wanted in 2026 by the detachment. Once he hears confirmation back from them he will advise.

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

\$46,003.47 balance; \$3,100 outstanding checks; committed funds \$1,903 for the Dan Fedor Boy Scout Camp Campership 2025 designated for one to two canoes, \$1,500 for Maurice Labbe memorial paver, \$500 Arts for Veterans, \$1,000 Delta Dog, \$1,000 Harbor Care, and \$1,000 Hometown Heros Outdoors; total committed \$6,900. Total available funds is \$36,000.47.

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

Other news from the paymaster, *Romano* presented the check of \$1,000 to the Blue Star Mothers this past Saturday December 6th. GSD 542 has been accepted by Revo Casino for 2026 at the Lebanon casino. She will be doing the application and other paperwork that Senaca from Revo Casino will be sending her by the deadline of December 15, 2025.

Romano then brought up a concern regarding the Maurice Labbe memorial paver stone at Easterseals NH in Franklin. There was a recent article in NHPR, see the link hear [NH's new veterans campus contends with a wave of resignations, resident](#)

[complaints | New Hampshire Public Radio](#) that explains the situation currently unfolding at the Easterseals NH campus in Franklin. The CEO and three other top administrators of the campus have resigned their positions recently due to lack of proper management by Easterseals for the campus to perform its mission. Please read the article for full details.

Romano made a motion to put a hold on the check designated for the Maurice Labbe memorial paver on the Easterseals campus, until Easterseals has the ability to work out their internal issues. This motion was seconded by *Stufflebeam*. Discussion was had and *Dumont* offered a different perspective, the campus is just getting off the ground and there are bound to be problems along the way, some of the veterans may not realize what is free for them to use and what is not at this point, and Easterseals is working to get everything working correctly. There are going to be growing pains, and he suggests that time and space is given to allow them a chance to deal with these starting off issues of concern. With no further discussion, a vote was cast, and it passed unanimously to put a pause on the release of the funds to Easterseals NH.

FUNday Breakfast Report: Marge Romano and Kevin Brown

- The 50/50 raffle raised \$60. \$1002 YTD in the Trade School Scholarship for 2026 awarding.

Chaplain Report: (Joe Duquette) – Absent – no report

Sick, Injured, Hospitalized Members :

Members / spouses recently passed away:

Updates from VA Hospital:

Judge Advocate: Chris Peirce –

Peirce stated that Scott from Hidden Battles will be attending the January 2026 meeting. He then shared that he had attended a Swim with a Mission donation event earlier in the day and they gave out \$2M worth of donations over several worthy veteran organizations with several they were unable to support. Which circles back to GSD 542's mission of supporting those that the Donations Committee and membership by extension have decided to support in 2025/26. He said that there are a lot of worthy causes and organizations out there, but we have to be careful not to spread the treasury too thin.

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

Quartermaster: (Steve White)

White stated he has counted the flags twice and came out with different numbers, but within the margin of error. He said he would check them again before the next fundraiser in February, but we should be in great shape for that event.

Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell) –

See attached report from Webmaster

Zurwell did mention that she had received the information needed to apply for the non-profit discount account from Zoom from *Romano* and she has started the process and is just waiting for their response. She did raise one concern that it may be rejected because Zoom has as one of its requirements that the organization be 501(3)c but GSD is 501(4)c, she will report back the results.

Romano asked *Zurwell* to contact Joe Duquette to get the contact email information for the VA in Manchester so that they can receive the newsletter as they like to print and hang up on the wall for residents to read.

Scouting Report: (Kayley Bass/Sara Steffen) – NTR -absent

Correspondence : (Commandant, Paymaster, et al) Eric Anthony reporting

McKelvie Intermediate School in Bedford, NH had their annual Veterans Day Celebration on Thursday November 6th from 9am-11:30am and *Anthony* and *Duquette* attended. *Anthony* shared a thank you letter from the school for attending and he sent around some of the student thank you cards as well for all to see the touching and moving messages.

Aide De Camp : (Kevin Brown)

- Birthday Card Program – *Brown* sent around a stack of birthday cards for all to sign so that he could mail out shortly.
- *Brown* then advised that member Chris Costanzo and his wife have COVID really bad right now and to keep them in your thoughts.
- *Brown* said that he has spoken to Glen Thayer recently and he expressed interest in coming back to meetings, but right now he is dealing with family issues.
- *Brown* then asked the status of Gary Gahan. *Dumont* stated that the Department of NH will need to do the determination meeting again because one of the three on the Board of the meeting was not technically sworn in as an active member at the time of the meeting. Per National, because of this

technicality, the meeting will need to be held again. *Dumont* stated that it will be done exactly as it was done the first time with the same results, that Gary Gahan will have a lifetime suspension for MCL.

Donations inbound: (Paymaster, Commandant):

Anthony stated that he will generate a thank you card or email to thank Marty Michaud for his donation of \$100.

Donation Review Committee:

As a follow up to prior discussions, *Peirce* stated that the Mayor of Manchester had campaigned on eliminating the homeless veteran situation in Manchester. At the time that was said there were 47 veterans provided housing in Manchester, after his first two years and just reelected Mayor, there are now 84 veterans provided housing in Manchester.

Awards: (Commandant, et al) – NTR

Honor Details: (vacant) – NTR

Scholarship committee: (Jo Zurwell) - NTR

Continuing Business:

Old Business:

White stated that he has been in touch with Remy of the Reserve Unit for the plans for Toys-4-Tots this year. They are making arrangements to pickup a truck load of toys from his company on 12/17/25 and any MCL would like to come and help load the truck they are welcome. *Coutu* asked can MCL help with picking up the various boxes of toys in our area and bring them to the distribution location. *Stufflebeam* asked if they need help at the sorting and distribution section of the process that MCL could help. *White* said that he would reach out to Remy and find out this information and get it back to all as quickly as possible.

New Business:

None

For the Good of the Order

- *Peirce* stated that the Veterans Home in Tilton is having their Christmas party this Friday December 12th, at 2pm.
- *Peirce* shared that the next VA Manchester Bingo is December 21st at 3pm and Christmas party.

- *Coutu* asked about when the wreaths at Boscawen would be put out and collected so that he could participate, and *Domont* said that the wreaths were put out at Boscawen on 12/6 and they will be collected on 1/3/26.
- *Robinson* asked if anyone had ever heard of Vet Tix <https://www.vettix.org/>. It is a website that someone can login to and register for an event and there are drawings to win the tickets for that event from all that registered.
- *Dumont* asked that all ROI and other paperwork that is due to the Department be sent to Mike Martioski at the Department.
- *Dumont* mentioned the upcoming Zoom January Department meeting they are planning to allow all of the detachments to attend as much as possible to discuss the upcoming election for a new Commandant for the Department and what the membership is expecting from the leadership.
- *Dumont* stated if anyone was interested in attending there is a NE Division Holiday party on 12/13/25 there is still space available.
- *Dumont* stated that the committee for the Memorial Ceremony will be held every other week starting in January to go over planning of the event.

Closing Ceremony:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 2016

Next meeting dates:

- The next FUNday breakfast will be on **January 3, 2026** (Sat.) at the Airport Diner, 08:00
- The next official meeting will be on Tuesday, **January 13, 2026**, at 1800 hours.

--- Jo Zurwell, Acting Adjutant

Granite State Marine Corps League Detachment #542

Agenda – December 9, 2025

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes November 4, 2025
4. Commandant
 - a. Veterans Count – Courtney Stairs
 - b. Cody Dumont – Installation of officers
 - c. Worker Bees – Brian – check presentation
 - d. DoNH Meeting – donation to Gulf War/ War on Terror Monument \$5K
 - e. Donation / Tip to Susie server at Airport Diner
 - f. December Breakfast moved to Jan 3rd Yankee swap or not?
 - g. Marine Mesita - \$1533 in Nashua needs help total \$4600 split Seacoast, GSD and DoNH
5. Officer Reports
 - a. SVC – Jesse Stufflebeam
 - 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. Scouting -Kaylee Bass and Sara Steffen
 - i. Correspondence – Eric Anthony -McKelvey School
 - j. Aide de Camp – Kevin Brown
 - k. Donations Inbound – Eric Anthony
 - i. Marty Michaud \$100 donation
 - l. Donation Evaluation Committee– Chris Peirce
 - m. Awards
 - n. Honor Detail
 - o. Scholarship – Jo Zurwell
6. Continuing Business
 - a. Old Business
 - i. Toys 4 Tots update – Steve White
 - b. New Business
7. For the Good of the Order – anyone have anything to share
8. Closing Ceremony
9. Next breakfast is January 3, 2026, Next Member meeting January 13, 2026

Paymaster Report as of December 09, 2025

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	OUTSTANDING CHECKS	AMOUNT		COMMITTED FUNDS	AMOUNT
\$ 46,003.47					
				Dan Fedor Boy Scout Camp Campership 2025 <i>designated for one canoe possibly two</i>	\$ 1,903.00
				Maurice Labbe Memorial Paver Donation Easterseals Veteran Facility Frankliin NH	\$ 1,500.00
				Arts for Veterans	\$ 500.00
				Delta Dog	\$ 1,000.00
				Harbor Care	\$ 1,000.00
				Hometown Heros Outdoors	\$ 1,000.00
Total Outstanding Checks		\$ 3,100.00			
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS TO DATE		\$ 36,000.47			
				TOTAL FUNDS COMMITTED	\$ 6,903.00
Deposits made after Last Meeting Date 11/04/2025					
FUNDAY Raffle		\$ 60.00			
Donation Marty Michaud		\$ 100.00			
Bass Pro Shops November Fundraiser		\$ 1,633.00			
	Total Deposits to Date	\$ 1,793.00			

<i>FUNday Breakfast Raffle Donations 2025 for Commandant Trade School Scholarship</i>						
<i>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	\$ 60.00					
September	\$ 80.00	Steve White Winner donated back his half of Raffle				
October	\$ 60.00					
November	\$ 60.00					
December						
TOTAL	\$ 1,002.00					

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

December 9, 2025, GSD 542 Meeting

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

- Created a blog post on website for the Homeland Heroes Thanksgiving Event.
- Created Facebook and Instagram post for MC Birthday
- Created Facebook and Instagram post for Veterans Day
- Created Instagram post for Thanksgiving (technical issue did not post on Facebook
- Created Constant Contact email to members reminding them of Flag Raising agenda for 11/10. (sent to 92, 52 opened)
- Started the process to open Zoom account, and emailed Marge with information needed to continue process.
- Combined October minutes and reports and posted to website
- Created a Facebook and Instagram post for the Marine Corps birthday day of events recap and message from Department Commandant.
- Organized emails for upcoming newsletter with pictures from recent events.
- Created a PSA email about the VA Overpayment Fraud Alert and sent to all in our contact listing. (sent to 721, 301 opened, 8 clicks)
- 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 November 1 – November 31

	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	10/1- 10/31/25	11/1- 11/30/25
Total Website Users	206	145	157	152	119	173	405	759
Direct Find	131	82	99	67	69	101	332	656
Organic Search	58	51	39	77	41	66	57	97
Referral (link on another site to ours)	12	11	4	7	9	4	5	4
Organic Social	5	1	15	1	0	2	11	2

The top landing page views were as follows:

	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	10/1 – 10/31/25	11/1 – 11/30/25
Main Home page	84	90	109	88	73	96	192	309
Contact Us	7	8	13	14	6	10	13	0
Detachment Officers	6	16	34	22	8	18	8	23
Events	6	0	8	14	10	19	39	53
Resources	15	23	15	14	23	21	19	22
Semper Fidelis Newsletter	11	0	5	14	13	22	13	0
Scholarships	61	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scholarship Application	45	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Store		9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Membership					7	0	0	16
Easterseals Ribbon Cutting Post						12	0	0

Oorah Newsletter Readership

Issue Date	Qty Sent to	Qty Opened	Qty Clicked
March 2025	751	313	17
June 2025	735	274	10
September 2025	731	299	19

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