

Granite State Marine Corps League

Detachment #542

Nov 4, 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 type="checkbox"/>	Ex. <input checked="" 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 (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 type="checkbox"/>	Abs. <input checked="" 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:

Pat Anthony, Joey Duquette, Tom Escandon, George Robinson

New Members Attending and Sworn-In:

None

Guests attending:

None

Approval of previous meeting's minutes:

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

Anthony shared a flyer with everyone from the Manchester Veterans Council and their current fundraiser for the Gulf Wars Global War On Terror Memorial. He stated that he would like the detachment to make a donation to this cause but did not have any other information than the flyer. One of the Co-Chairmen of the project is Dick Anagnost, who is also a member of GSD 542. *Anthony* is going to contact Dick and ask him to come to a future meeting to advise the membership on all the details of the project and answer any questions.

Anthony then stated that member Jim Ambrose will be volunteering at the Veterans Home in Tilton again this Thanksgiving to help serve dinner. If anyone would like to join Jim, to contact him for the details. *White* said he might be available and will reach out to Jim.

Zurwell then stated that Mike Martioski from the Department of NH sent out a message about a program from Homeland Heroes Foundation. This program offers a Thanksgiving meal with the trimmings to veterans, but people will need to sign up to receive the meal. She then stated that a blog post has been added to the GSD website with all the details and deadline to sign up with the link to do so.

Anthony then checked in with everyone to make sure they were all set for this coming Friday/Saturday fundraiser at Bass Pro Shops. *Romano* stated that she will not be able to do her shift that she thought was Saturday 12-3. *Coutu* then said he was available 9-12 on Saturday if needed. (*Zurwell* checked SignUp Genius after the meeting to find that the open shift is Friday 12-3pm and found that *Romano* had not signed up as she had thought, so there was only the one shift to be filled).

Anthony then checked in with the cake escort group for the Maine Expeditionary Brigade on November 10th. He stated that the doors open at 10:30am and he was instructed that the cake escort team should arrive at 10am. Currently *Anthony* is assigned to cut the cake, but he is going to ask Paul Janes to see if he will do this honor as he will be in his dress blues. There was a discussion on the uniform attire for this group, and it was determined that it will be long sleeve with epaulettes, black pants, metals & ribbons, cover, and black shoes.

Anthony shared that Paul Coutu has joined the GSD Honor Detail Firing Squad and that *Anthony* used funds from the discretionary fund to pay for Paul's required uniform for this detail. This was considered an incentive to join the detail because it is an expense to the member otherwise, and this may help some members to volunteering. *Brown* then mentioned that there is a MCL Ceremonial Guard Ribbon for doing the honor firing detail and these should be presented more frequently by the detachment or department. *Coutu* then asked if all the rifles are in one location or if each member needs to store their own. His question was answered from several people that the rifles are stored all in one location.

Robinson shared with the membership that his school, McKelvie Intermediate School in Bedford, NH is having their annual Veterans Day Celebration on Thursday November 6th from 9am-11:30am. The veterans are treated to a light breakfast, performances from the school chorus and quintet, and then they break up into small groups of 5th and 6th graders, and the students will ask all kinds of questions of the veterans. Anyone interested was asked to talk with him after the meeting. *Zurwell* stated she would send out an email to all members on Wednesday.

Anthony concluded with a discussion of the Toys 4 Tots program and GSD involvement this year. He stated that he was not involved with it last year, so he deferred to *White* who was part of the group last year as well as with his employer. *White* stated that collection boxes are put out at different locations in schools and offices around the area and then the Marine recruiters go around and pickup the boxes and deliver them to the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army stores all the toys and sorts them into age groups and then screens those interested in getting free toys for their children to make sure they qualify. The person is then given an appointment time to come down to the distribution center and with a helper selects the toys. *Romano* stated that she has a contact name of the person that was the

contact last year and they will advise if the person has changed and advise the current contact.

Reports of Officers

Senior Vice Commandant: (Jesse Stufflebeam) –

Stufflebeam stated that the fundraiser is this coming Friday and Saturday, November 7th & 8th. The tote is ready to go with everything that will be needed for the event. He then stated that the Department of NH Marine Corps Ball is on Monday November 10th and all the details for the event can be found on the Department's website. <https://nhmarines.org/marine-corps-250th-birthday-ball/> There was some discussion on the tin pictures that is being offered by the Department that will be onsite and a separate purchase, and the desire to have a standard photographer onsite to take full color photographs during the event of attendees. *Anthony* stated he would reach out to Cody Dumont to stress our interest in having this additional photographer.

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

\$46,769.19 balance; no outstanding checks; committed funds \$1903 for the Dan Fedor Boy Scout Camp Campership 2025 designated for one to two canoes. She asked *Anthony* to reach out to Kaylee Bass to see when these canoes will be purchased as these funds have been sitting in the account for over six month. Total available funds is \$43,366.19.

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

Brown asked *Romano* what she would like us to do with the end of day funds on Friday and Saturday for the Bass Pro Shops fundraiser. *Romano* asked that *Brown* hold onto the funds at his home on Friday night and count them as normal and record them on the tally sheets, and count Saturday as normal, she will come by BPS on Saturday afternoon to pickup proceeds from both days. He agreed.

Romano then discussed the current government shut down and the effects this is having on the local food banks. *Romano* made a motion to make a donation of \$1000 to the VA Medical Center Food Bank and seconded by *White*; after some discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. *Romano* asked *Duquette* if he would be able to pickup the check from her and deliver it to the VA Food Bank so there is no delay in them receiving it. He agreed.

Stufflebeam then stated that he would like to be the one to present the check to the Meals on Wheels for Veterans and have someone take a picture for the newsletter. *Romano* stated this was a great idea and she would get him the check. *Stufflebeam* also forwarded an email to *Romano* with all the donations that were approved at the last meeting that she cannot find because she has been recovering from an unexpected surgery.

FUNDay Breakfast Report: Marge Romano and Kevin Brown

- The 50/50 raffle raised \$60. \$942 YTD in the Trade School Scholarship for 2026 awarding.

Chaplain Report: (Joe Duquette) -

Sick, Injured, Hospitalized Members :

- Marge Romano is doing well and recovering from surgery of a broken femur from a fall. Marge joined the meeting via phone and sounded in great spirits and looking forward to being able to drive again.
- Petralitos – Ellen is doing well with her new medications and John is now retired and taking care of Ellen.
- Pauly Labbe – she is in good health and Mary Ann Diekmann is helping her out with rides to the grocery store and hair and other appointments.

Members / spouses recently passed away:

Updates from VA Hospital:

Judge Advocate: Chris Peirce – Absent -NTR

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

Quartermaster: (Steve White)

White stated we have plenty of flags. He found more in the storage unit recently when he was getting the tote ready for this coming fundraiser. He will get a count of the flags after this weekend so we know when we will need to order more, but he thinks we are good for a while. He received some challenge coins and ribbons to be added to the storage unit, and he passed out a couple of the challenge coins to newer members that did not have one already. He also stated that the uniform inventory is good and he is just waiting for the rest of his uniform to arrive.

Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell) –

See attached report from Webmaster

After *Zurwell*'s report, *Romano* suggested that we start doing our meetings with the option to join via Zoom. *Zurwell* stated that she had just been discussing this with *Anthony* and was going to make a similar suggestion. She stated that right now we use Ring Central for the detachment phone number, and this has a virtual meeting option with it, but it is very complicated to run. The cost for Ring Central is \$36.47 monthly, and she stated that Zoom offers a 50% discount for non-profits and their annual rate is approximately \$160 so with the discount it would be approximately \$80. *Romano* made a motion to have Jo Zurwell cancel the Ring Central account and open a Zoom account with the said non-profit discount, the motion was seconded by *White*, and the motion passed unanimously. *Zurwell* stated she may need some additional information from *Romano* to get the account set up with Zoom as they require proof of non-profit status. The detachment should be able to start using the Zoom account option at the December or January meeting.

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

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

Romano stated she has not been to the post office box since the last meeting because of her injury and recovery.

Aide De Camp : (Kevin Brown)

- Common Man – Alex Ray – *Brown* stated he is going to ask Alex to come to one of our detachment monthly meetings to share with us what he is working on and how we might be able to help within our scope.
- Birthday Card Program – he forgot the cards at home, so he will bring next month for everyone to sign.
- Lastly *Brown* stated that he had given several items that were found in storage back to Gary Gahan as they did not pertain to MCL or the detachment specifically and thought they should go back to their original holder. He was informed by Gary that he had gone through the items and about 2/3 of the items he would be returning to *Brown*. *Brown* said he has gone through these items and given the MCL items to *White* to put into the storage unit, challenge coins, and ribbons, and the Devil Dog items he will

give to Bryan Westover. Westover is trying to get the Devil Dogs in NH back up and running and to have a meeting after the membership meetings instead of an additional meeting that needs to be scheduled.

Donations inbound: (Paymaster, Commandant):

Anthony mentioned to the membership that Pat and Eric's Financial Advisor, Marty Michaud will be making a donation to the Granite State Detachment. The details have not been worked out yet, but he will advise us of the dollar value and when this happens.

Donation Review Committee:

Romano stated that Revo Casino wanted a short description of who and how much the detachment had given YTD and what we planned to donate before the end of the year as this will impact on their decision process for selecting those to award casino days in 2026. She has sent a detailed email to him this morning. *Robinson* then stated that with his work with the VFW in Hollis, they are also on the casino listing of non-profits, and they always hype up the information they send in with photos of how they are helping veterans to help get their name added to the coming year of awarded dates. *Zurwell* asked what the date of the deadline for the application for 2026 is and *Romano* stated she is working with Seneca from Revo Casino with what he needs and when, but she did not have an exact date.

Awards: (Commandant, et al) –

Romano reported that National MCL had received and cashed the check for the life membership for Ellen Petralito. She will make the award and then a day and time will need to be determined of when we would like to present this award to her.

Honor Details: (vacant) –

Anthony stated that Brad Howe, from the Seacoast detachment, is the organizer of the Firing Details currently in the state. He is looking for shooters for the November 11th Veterans events in Portsmouth, three events in the morning.

Scholarship committee: (Jo Zurwell)

Zurwell confirmed that George Robinson and Steve White and herself will be the scholarship committee members. She advised that she will send out to the committee by the end of the year the current application and process so that the information can be reviewed and updated for the 2026 award year. Then a meeting

can be set up and discuss the process and what needs to be done for the coming year.

Continuing Business:

Old Business:

Stuffelbeam stated that the food for the Department of NH Meeting will be ordered from Jersey Mikes with sandwiches, chips, and cookies for 36 for \$315.30. He will pick up soda, water, ice cream, salad, and will bring a coffee pot and cremes etc. from his work, and *Zurwell* will purchase the plates, bowls, napkins, and plastic wear. *Zurwell* will contact Cody Dumont at the Department so that they can send out notices to all the detachments in the state to RSVP to herself by December 1st.

New Business:

None

For the Good of the Order

- *Romano* stated she has the wooden flag in her car and will be bringing it to Granite State Engraving to have a small plaque added to it for the raffle item at the Marine Expeditionary Brigade Luncheon.
- *Robinson* asked if the detachment had ever been involved with Holiday Cards to deployed members of the military. He explained that someone in Hollis, where he is from, started this over 15 years ago and it has grown each year and is now a national program. The Education Department in each state house across the country suggests this to their schools for the kids to do each year. The program has children write a holiday card to someone that is deployed in the US military, and they work with the needed offices to make sure these cards get to the deployed. *Robinson* thought that this might be a good thing to add to our fundraiser tables in 2026 to collect all year and then they can be sent out at the holiday season.
- *Romano* mentioned that the wreaths for Boscowan Cemetery program will be looking for volunteers soon as we get closer to the holiday season. She will get the information to *Zurwell* so that the information can be shared with membership.
- *Anthony* has a member of his church that is an active duty Marine. He is working out the details now, but they are working on sending a care package

to him, his name is Steve Daly. Eric will circle back on this at the next meeting.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 1945

Next meeting dates:

- The next FUNday breakfast will be on **November 29, 2025** (Sat.) at the Airport Diner, 08:00
- The next official meeting will be on Tuesday, **December 9, 2025**, at 18:00 hours.

--- Jo Zurwell, Acting Adjutant

Granite State Marine Corps League

Detachment #542

Agenda – November 4, 2025

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes October 14, 2025
4. Commandant
 - a. Gulf War Monument Fundraiser
 - b. Homeland Heroes Foundation Thanksgiving Meals – volunteers
 - c. Nov 7-9: Bass Pro / ready? Signups complete?
 - d. Nov 10th: Marine Expeditionary Brigade team readiness (uniforms, timeline for cake escort, questions?)
 - i. Paul Janes: lead or cake escort?
 - e. GSD Firing Squad progress (Paul Coutu now joins with full uniform)
 - i. Brad Howe is requesting shooters for a Nov 11th detail
 - f. Toys 4 Tots
5. Officer Reports
 - a. SVC – Jesse Stufflebeam
 - b. Paymaster – Marge Romano
 - c. Chaplain – Joe Duquette
 - i. Marge?
 - ii. Petralitos? Health? Contact?
 - iii. Pauly Labbe? Health, transportation needs?
 - 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
 - j. Aide de Camp – Kevin Brown
 - k. Donations Inbound
 - l. Donation Evaluation Committee– Chris Peirce
 - m. Awards
 - i. Petralito award?
 - n. Honor Detail

- o. Scholarship – Jo Zurwell
- 6. Continuing Business
 - a. Old Business
 - i. Dec 6 Dept. Meeting
 - 1. lunch prep?
 - 2. Web notice for other detachments?
 - b. New Business
- 7. For the Good of the Order – anyone have anything to share
- 8. Closing Ceremony
- 9. Next breakfast is November 29th. Next Member meeting December 9, 2025.

Paymaster Report as of November 04, 2025

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE		OUTSTANDING CHECKS	AMOUNT	COMMITTED FUNDS	AMOUNT
\$ 46,769.19					
<i>Total Outstanding Checks</i>		\$ -		Dan Fedor Boy Scout Camp Campership 2025	\$ 1,903.00
				<i>designated for one canoe possibly two</i>	
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS TO DATE		\$ 43,366.19		Maurice Labbe Memorial Paver Donation Easterseals Veteran Facility Franklin NH	\$ 1,500.00
Deposits made after Last Meeting Date 10/14/2025				TOTAL FUNDS COMMITTED	\$ 3,403.00
Total Deposits to Date					

FUNDay Breakfast
Raffle Donations 2025
for
Commandant
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	\$ 80.00	Steve White Winner donated back his half of Raffle			
October	\$ 60.00				
November					
December					
TOTAL	\$ 942.00				

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

November 4, 2025, GSD 542 Meeting

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

- Posted on Facebook Veteran's guild to government shutdown
- Create email in Constant Contact for upcoming meetings and changes and sent
- Added a blog post to add the NE Division newsletter Oct-Nov 2025 and posted on Facebook and Instagram to link back to it.
- Combined the September meeting agenda, minutes, paymaster report, and website report into one file and uploaded to the website.
- Added Ladies monthly lunch to the calendar for Pat A. for Oct, Nov, Jan.
- Updated calendar events for Executive Meeting to 11/29/25 from 12/6/25, and updated November member meeting from 11/11/25 to 11/4/25. Added Department of NH meeting to calendar for 12/6/25
- Updated plugins, cleared emails
- 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 October 1 – October 31

	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	10/1- 10/31/25
Total Website Users	168	206	145	157	152	119	173	405
Direct Find	107	131	82	99	67	69	101	332
Organic Search	52	58	51	39	77	41	66	57
Referral (link on another site to ours)	5	12	11	4	7	9	4	5
Organic Social	4	5	1	15	1	0	2	11

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	10/1 – 10/31/25
Main Home page	93	84	90	109	88	73	96	192
Contact Us	7	7	8	13	14	6	10	13

Detachment Officers	10	6	16	34	22	8	18	8
Events	12	6	0	8	14	10	19	39
Resources	15	15	23	15	14	23	21	19
Semper Fidelis Newsletter	0	11	0	5	14	13	22	13
Scholarships	27	61	5	0	0	0	0	0
Scholarship Application	26	45	6	0	0	0	0	0
Store			9	0	0	0	0	0
Membership						7	0	0
Easterseals Ribbon Cutting Post							12	0

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