

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

Feb 10, 2026 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 via Phone	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 checked="" 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:

George Robinson

New Members Attending and Sworn-In:

None

Guests attending:

None

Approval of previous meeting's minutes:

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

Anthony advised that the Department of NH Quarterly meeting will be held on March 7, 2026, in Laconia; all the details for the meeting and who to RSVP to is on the detachment calendar on the website.

Anthony then read off the list of Department officer position openings that need to be filled by the March meeting. Below is a copy of Cody Dumont's, Department Commandant, email message with all the explanations that were shared tonight. *Anthony* asked if anyone was interested in any of these roles, with no reply.

“Per the by-laws our department needs officer nominations in March, and then elections at the meeting after. We had a zoom meeting about this in early January, and I was hoping a few Marines would volunteer to fill the open positions. As of today, these positions are not filled. A few positions are conditionally filled, but others are not. I would like the officers to be active in their role, and not in name only. Also, I would like to have a member from each detachment filling a role, currently all but 2 roles are from the Dillon detachment. Here is the current status

- Commandant
 - Currently Cody Dumont (Dillon Detachment)
 - Will accept the nomination if the other roles are filled.
- Sr Vice Commandant
 - Currently Reggie LeClair (Dillon Detachment)
 - Willing to stay in role, but not willing to move into Commandant in 2 years
 - I believe the person in this role needs to be preparing to succeed the Commandant

- Also need to be able to coordinate fundraising events across the department.
 - Reggie has done a great job volunteering when the office was vacated, and I am eternally grateful for his help and assistance.
 - I would like to start a good line of succession, and that begins with Sr Vice being prepared to assume the role of Commandant.
- Jr Vice Commandant
 - Vacant
 - This role is the Recruiter and needs to be ready to help plan and coordinate recruiting events, booths at fairs.
- Judge Advocate
 - Currently Robert McCain (Twin State)
 - Willing to stay in the current role.
 - This role is responsible for the maintaining of all by-laws in the department and any judicial proceeding should the need arise.
 - The past two years have been very heavy in this area, and I am very grateful for his contribution.
- Adjutant Paymaster
 - Currently Mike Martioski (Dillon Detachment)
 - Willing to stay in the role depending on who is in the Commandant position.
 - Mike is doing a great job for us, and I am confident that he will continue to do so.
 - However this is a very time-consuming role, and this billet has a very heavy time commitment.
- Chaplin
 - Vacant
 - This role is mainly to coordinate any Marines in need activities and any death notices.
- Sgt at Arms
 - Currently Bryan Westover (Lakes Region)
 - Willing to stay in the current role
 - This role is to maintain order in the meeting and maintain department colors.

I discussed this with Dillon detachment at their meeting on Thursday, but at this point the Dillon detachment has provided several Marines to fill these roles.

Please share with your Marines, as we need to fill all these positions by the March meeting. If these roles are not filled, I will not accept a second nomination.”

Anthony then advised that the GSD Executive meeting that was planned for 3/7/26 has been moved to 3/21/26 so that it does not conflict with the Department meeting on the 7th.

The Commandant then turned the meeting over to *Romano* so that she could explain who David French is, what his struggles are at this time, and what the request is of the detachment. *Romano* explained that David French is a long time (25+ years) member of the MCL in NH and currently a member in the Lakes Region detachment and a close personal friend of her and her late husband Tony. David and his wife were there for Tony and Marge when he was ill, always willing to help in any way they could. He has been very active in the MCL with the honor guard at the veteran’s cemetery and with toys-for-tots. David is fighting cancer and he needs to go in for surgery on February 11th to have his larynx removed and is expected to be in the hospital for ten days at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital in Lebanon, NH. He will need to learn to talk and eat all over again and it will be a long process of rehab after recovery from surgery.

Romano made a motion for the GSD 542 to donate \$1500 to David French to help support cover the cost of his surgery and recovery and special medical equipment. The motion was seconded by *White*. *Romano* added that the Lakes Region Detachment has donated \$500, the Department of NH has donated \$500, Cody Dumont has made a personal donation via the GoFundMe account set up by David’s daughter, and the Seacoast Detachment has donated as well, but she did not know the amount. *Anthony* expressed that lodging expenses would be incurred while he was in the hospital and rehab and this could help with those expenses. With no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. *Anthony* also stated that he would like to present the check to David himself, when it is convenient for him; *Romano* will find out the details and let him know.

For those that are interested to make a personal donation to the David French, *Romano* has supplied the following GoFundMe link. <https://gofund.me/e0a8692c1>

Anthony then reminded the membership of Ray Bernard, Marine who survived the battle of Okinawa in WWII, is celebrating his 100th birthday on February 21, 2026, at the Elks on Durham Road, Dover, NH from 1300 to 1600. His daughter

Linda is organizing the party, and she shared with Dick Lak of the Seacoast Detachment that what her father has said to her over the years is: "He is deeply proud of having served as a Marine on Okinawa and values the camaraderie of fellow Marines." She asked if we could help make the day a special Marine celebration for him. The Seacoast Detachment is taking the lead on the event for MCL, but if any GSD member would like to go, the address and times are shared above.

Brown then shared that at the January FUNday Breakfast a birthday card was passed around for everyone to sign and send a message to Ray on his birthday and *Brown* has mailed it to the address provided by his daughter.

Reports of Officers

Senior Vice Commandant: (Jesse Stufflebeam) –

Stufflebeam reported that he has been trying to line up the fundraising dates at Bass Pro Shops and Market Basket for 2026 since December of 2025. He had requested February 14th and 15th from Bass Pro and was requested to send in the insurance rider, which he did send in right away. Bass Pro Shops finally responded with the only available dates for 2026, as November 7th, 8th, 12th and 13th. As for Market Basket, he requested dates in the months April through August, but he does not have a reply from them yet.

At a prior event at Bass Pro Shops, he met someone from Harley Davidson that would be interested in having GSD at one of their events this year; he will be contacting them soon.

Stufflebeam then advised that he will be going to the National Mid-Winter Conference as a representative of the Department from February 25th-28th.

White asked where else could we contact to see about doing a fundraiser? He suggested Walmart; *Stufflebeam* stated he would contact the Manchester Walmart and see what is needed.

Romano suggested the Manchester Firing Line Range in Manchester, the owner there is a member of this detachment, and it would be nice if we could do an event there. *Stufflebeam* will contact them as well.

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

\$37,994.78 balance; \$2370 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 on hold, scholarships \$5,000, \$500 for Art for Veterans, and \$1000 for Delta Dogs, for a total committed \$8,490.00. Total available funds are \$27,134.78. *Stufflebeam* made the motion to accept the paymaster report, and *Coutu* seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

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

Romano stated that she had sent out emails to all unpaid members and she has received four replies via payment and there were two people that stated they no longer wanted to belong to MCL. She will do the official transmittal to National and let the SVC know so the roster can be updated. *White* stated that he was one of those people that needed to pay and gave the cash to *Anthony* with *Romano* present via phone, so that the funds could be deposited.

Brown stated that he received a check of \$37 from Hannaford from an event that happened in July 2025 and he did not know what it was about. He is going to save this check with the cash from the January breakfast 50/50 raffle and give it to *Romano* the next time he sees her.

Romano shared that she will have the dates soon from Revo Casino for our gaming dates in 2026. Note, *Romano* emailed Zurwell with these dates 2/11/26 and they are being shared here for the record. The official Charitable Gaming dates for 2026 at Revo Casino in Lebanon for GSD 542 will be May 11 – May 20.

FUNday Breakfast Report: Marge Romano and Kevin Brown

- The 50/50 raffle raised \$37. \$37 YTD in the Trade School Scholarship for 2027 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 he was asked to look into the National and Department by-laws to see regulations for the detachment having members joining the meeting via Zoom if they cannot meet the in-person meeting. After his review he could only find the memo that allows Zoom and nothing that says we can't have members join the meeting in this manner. He reached out to the Department Adjutant and Judge Advocate, the Adjutant replied that he did not know of anything stopping us from using Zoom. *Romano* stated that she went to the National website as well and her interpretation of this section is that National wants the detachments to have in-person meetings, but if there are members that cannot make it for various reasons that those members should be allowed to use Zoom to join the meeting.

Peirce next explained that he attended one of the Easter Seals Veterans Campus meetings. This meeting was a PowerPoint presentation on their marketing plans. The new interim manager would not address the issue of the staff that left even after three different groups brought it up. They are just moving past the issue and not addressing it with the veteran community. They still have 1-3 people to hire and only one of the four that were hired is a veteran. He recommends holding any donations to this organization until they work out the problem. *Romano* then mentioned that the Manchester Brigade has rescinded their donation that was slated for the Easterseals Veterans Campus in Franklin. As motioned in the December meeting by *Romano* there has been a hold put on the donation designated for the Maurice Labbe memorial paver on the Easterseals campus, until Easterseals can work out their internal issues.

Anthony asked who is advocating for the residents? Is there a work around to go above to, those that built the facility or those that funded it to get the veterans the assistance needed? *Romano* asked if we should contact the Governor to express the need to help the veterans at Easterseals. She expressed her disappointment in Easterseals for their misrepresentation of the benefits to the veterans. *Peirce* stated that the project was paid for with a lot of state funding from COVID funds. *Steffen* stated she will do some research into if there is any HUD funding involved, as she works for HUD, and see if there is anything that can be seen on that angle that would help the veterans. *Anthony* asked *Peirce* if he would be willing to contact the Governor with him. *Peirce* said that he will contact the people that he knows that have already reached out to the Governor's office and see where they stand first, before we start from square one. *Stufflebeam* suggested that we have the

letter come from the Department of NH MCL to carry more weight, and have each detachment sign it as well.

Peirce then asked if Joe Duquette would be doing the role of Chaplain at the Department level. He has been the Chaplain for DoNH, but he has not come to any of the meetings, so the Department needs to know if he will be doing the role for the Memorial Day ceremony. *Anthony* said he would reach out to *Duquette* and find out from him. The planning for the Memorial Day ceremony at the state veteran's cemetery has begun and they are collecting names for those that would like to do the firing detail for the event.

Lastly, *Peirce* asked whoever helped with Toys for Tots in 2025, to reach out to the Department Chairman for Toys for Tots to share details of what was done.

At this point, *Brown* asked if we had any update on Glen Thayer coming back and possibly taking on JVC again? *Anthony* said that Pat Anthony would be talking to him tonight, and *Romano* said the last time she talked to him, he was on the fence. *Brown* then asked if there was any news on the final outcome for the Gary Gahan situation. *Peirce* said that the reports have been sent to the National JA and their decision has been sent down. *Brown* asked if *Anthony* could share the results with the group and or membership as a whole. *Peirce* said he will check with the Department JA for what can be shared with GSD membership so that no privacy laws are broken. *Brown* stated that Gahan still shows on the roster that he works from, so if that is different now, he would like the updated information when it is available.

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

Quartermaster: (Steve White)

White stated he has all the information for all the officers to make the business cards, and he will be reaching out to a second printer to get pricing so he can compare it to the first vendor.

White then advised that he has contacted the Puritan Backroom for availability for the Marine Corps Ball in 2026. He stated that they would waive the fee for the room of \$300. They will need a deposit of \$1000 to hold the date for us. *Anthony* suggested that he gets a couple of other bids to compare before a decision on a place is made. Suggestions made were Deerfield Country Club, and Manchester Country Club. Once all the options are collected, a joint meeting with the Dillion

Detachment will be held to discuss what will be the best option and then what are the next steps to move forward.

Webmasters Report: (Jo Zurwell) –

See attached report from Webmaster. A couple of items were mentioned that were not in the attached report. *Zurwell* reminded the officers that she will need their write ups for the March 15th newsletter by March 1st. She also advised that she has set up the new Zoom account that is currently the free version. She has sent the information to *Romano* so that the payment can be made to set up the paid account so that meetings of unrestricted length can be held. Assuming this is done before the March meeting, the March meeting will be available via Zoom if someone is in need of using it.

Scouting Report: (Kayley Bass/Sara Steffen) –

Steffen did not have anything to report. *Romano* asked her if she knew anything about the canoe(s) that *Bass* was working on getting for the scouts. *Steffen* said she will reach out to *Bass* about taking over the project. She reported that *Bass* has had a lot of deaths in her family recently and she has not had time for other things. *Steffen* will check with the scout master to see if they can be there at the store when it is purchased so that they can take them right there and then, so the detachment does not need to store the canoe(s).

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

Nothing to report.

Aide De Camp : (Kevin Brown)

He shared all his information prior in the meeting, please see above sections.

Donations inbound: (Paymaster, Commandant):

Nothing to report. *Anthony* said he had a donation of \$20 but he does not know where it came from, but he has deposited it and will give the slip to *Romano* the next time he sees her.

Donation Review Committee:

Peirce stated that he was glad that the detachment had the forethought to create a relief fund as we have dipped into it a few times this year. He suggests that this idea is shared with the Department and other detachments in the state as something

they should consider doing as well, to help fellow Marines that are struggling one way or another.

Awards: (Commandant, et al) – NTR

Honor Details: (vacant) – NTR

Scholarship committee: (Jo Zurwell) -

Zurwell gave an update on the status of the scholarship committee updates to the two different scholarships. There was one major change that she thought needed membership approval as it pertained to eligibility to win the scholarship.

Zurwell then made the following motion: The scholarship committee proposes to change the eligibility of who can apply for one of GSD 542 scholarships, both academic and trade school. Change the third criteria option from any student in our service area in NH, to child or grandchild of a current military member or military veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Coast Guard, or their Reserves and National Guards. The applicant's legal residence must be within the area of membership.

The motion was seconded by *Coutu*. A discussion followed. *Stufflebeam* stated that we are a Marine organization, why are we opening it up to all the different branches of the military? *Romano* stated that the original scholarship program for the detachment was set up to be for just the children or grandchildren of members of the detachment. She continued by stating that the Department and the National scholarship programs also only have it to MCL membership.

The scholarship committee, all three members were present, (*Robinson, White, Zurwell*) agreed with the rewording of the change to the eligibility and agreed to amend the motion to remove all but U.S. Marine Corps and their Reserves of the military branches listed. With no further discussion, a vote was had and the motion passed unanimously.

Continuing Business:

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Brown delivered Eric Anthony's birthday card to him during the meeting.

For the Good of the Order

- *Steffen* discussed a little about how the detachment has supported the NH Troopers Association in the past and she would like to see a donation in 2026 to them as well. She made a motion to donate \$500 to the NH Troopers Association to be presented at a future membership meeting that can be attended by them so they can share what they do in their organization. The motion was seconded by *White*, with no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- *Robinson* suggested as a fun activity to do as a group, to attend a Red Sox game. He does group trips a lot with the teachers he works with, and he said he could research the details and costs and suggest dates if the group was interested. Everyone agreed it would be a great idea.
- Other ideas that were shared for fun activities were the Fisher Cats in Manchester and Boston Fleet Game which is Women's hockey, and ax throwing.

Closing Ceremony:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 1930.

Next meeting dates:

- The next FUNday breakfast will be on **February 28, 2026** (Sat.) at the Airport Diner, 08:00
- The next official meeting will be on Tuesday, **March 10, 2026**, at 1800 hours.

--- Jo Zurwell, Acting Adjutant

Granite State Marine Corps League
Detachment #542
Agenda – February 10, 2026

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes January 13, 2026
4. Commandant
 - a. Department of NH Quarterly Meeting 3/7 Laconia -info on calendar on website
 - b. DoNH Officer Positions openings
 - c. GSD Executive Meeting moved from 3/7 to 3/21 at ACGS
 - d. Marine in need David French
 - e. Ray Bernard, Marine, celebrating his 100 birthday on 2/21/26 1-3pm
5. Officer Reports
 - a. SVC – Jesse Stufflebeam -February Fundraiser 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 –
 - g. Webmaster – Jo Zurwell
 - h. Scouting -Kaylee Bass and Sara Steffen
 - i. Correspondence
 - j. Aide de Camp – Kevin Brown
 - k. Donations Inbound – Eric Anthony
 - l. Donation Evaluation Committee– Chris Peirce
 - m. Awards
 - n. Honor Detail
 - o. Scholarship – Jo Zurwell – Motion on changes for scholarship eligibility
6. Continuing Business
 - a. Old Business
 - b. New Business
7. For the Good of the Order – anyone have anything to share
8. Closing Ceremony
9. Next breakfast is February 28, 2025. Next Member meeting March 10th

***FUNday Breakfast
Raffle Donations 2026
for
Commandant
Trade School
Scholarship***

FOR 2026

January	\$ 37.00
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
TOTAL	\$ 37.00

Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Board Report for

February 10, 2026, GSD 542 Meeting

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

- Created calendar events for GSD Membership monthly meetings Jan-Dec 2026;
- Created calendar events for GSD breakfasts Jan-March 2026.
- Called RingCentral to try and cancel the account, emailed Eric and other officers what was told to me.
- Updated PHP version on website from 8.0 to 8.1, the older version is no longer supported.
- Updated plugins.
- Combined November meeting minutes and reports and uploaded to website.
- Created a calendar event for the NE Div Conference June 11-14
- Created a Facebook post for Veteran Crisis hotline info. Added this information to the Resources page of the website as well.
- Called RingCentral again to try and cancel the account and then sent an email to our dedicated case manager Crystal Macabolo to see if she could do anything for us with a settlement of some kinds.
- Forwarded email from Cody to detachment on 1/14/26 Zoom meeting at 7pm.
- Created a blog post for a Veterans Count flyer
- Combined December meeting reports and minutes and uploaded to website.
- Combined January meeting reports and minutes and sent out to people from the meeting and officers
- Created a SignUp Genius event for the potential President's Fundraiser event.
- Created and sent reminder email in Constant Contact for FUNday breakfast
- Updated plug-ins
- 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 January 1 – January 31, 2025

	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	12/1- 12/31/25	1/1/26 – 1/31/26
Total Website Users	152	119	173	405	759	569	540
Direct Find	67	69	101	332	656	497	481
Organic Search	77	41	66	57	97	66	45
Referral (link on another	7	9	4	5	4	6	11

site to ours)							
Organic	1	0	2	11	2	0	3
Social							

The top landing page views were as follows:

	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	12/1- 12/31/25	1/1/26- 1/31/26
Main Home page	88	73	96	192	309	261	206
Contact Us	14	6	10	13	0	0	0
Detachment Officers	22	8	18	8	23	9	0
Events	14	10	19	39	53	24	43
Resources	14	23	21	19	22	19	19
Semper Fidelis Newsletter	14	13	22	13	0	27	15
Scholarships	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scholarship Application	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Store	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Membership		7	0	0	16	0	0
Easterseals Ribbon Cutting Post			12	0	0	0	0
Mobius Mobility							19
Monthly Meeting Mins							32
NE Div Feb-Mar 2025 Newsletter							16

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
December 2025	718	280 (42%)	6 (1%)

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