Seacoast Detachment #394 Minutes of the 12 Sep 2023 Meeting at 1900:

1900 Opening Ceremony: The Opening Ceremony was conducted by Commandant (Cmdt) Geoff Corson, acting Sergeant at Arms (SAA) Glenn Blanchette and acting Chaplain (Chap) George Dow.

Officer Roll Call: Cmdt Geoff Corson, present; Senior Vice Commandant (SVC), Brad Howe, present; Junior Vice Commandant (JVC), Ray Maher, absent; Judge Advocate (JA), Dick Lak, present; Junior Past Commandant (JPC), Bob Niver, present; the Adjutant (Adj) vacant; the Paymaster, George Dow, present; the Web Sergeant, vacant; SAA, Randy McNally, excused; Chap George Lombardi, excused. There were ten voting members (Blanchette, Cannon, Corson, Dow, Flagler, Howe, Lak, Mitchell, Niver and Pomper) and three guests (Bryan English, Cherie Monnell and Eric Sirles). The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. There was a quorum. Immediately following the roll call, Commandant Monnell addressed the membership and requested support for the upcoming Quad-State conference scheduled for Spring 2024 in Nashua. Commandant Monnell also emphasized the next Department Quarterly meeting on 24 Sep and urged maximum attendance. Cmdt Corson asked Cmdt Monnell whether or not Department will hire Granite State webmaster Jo Zurwell for their website. Cmdt Monnell said Department of NH MCL will hire Jo for their website.

Minutes:

• A motion to accept the 14 Aug Minutes from the meeting was made by Marine Cannon and seconded by Marine Blanchette. The motion passed with no dissenting votes cast.

<u>New Members and Guests</u>: There were two new members (English and Sirles, previously listed as guests) and one additional guest (Department Commandant Cherie Monnell). Prospects English and Sirles, after providing appropriate credentials and payment of dues, were duly sworn in as a Regular member (English) and as an Associate member (Sirles).

Paymaster Report:

- The checking account balance is \$16,992.52; the savings account balance is \$8,630.43.
 - Of the checking account balance, \$6,029.11 remains from the Charitable Games earnings.
 - A motion was made to accept the Paymaster's report by Marine Lak and seconded by Marine Blanchette. The motion passed with no dissenting votes cast.
- Further discussion on distribution of Charitable Gaming commission funds appear in the Donations and Gifts paragraph later in the minutes.

Chaplain Report:

- Marine John Cannon updated membership on his cancer screening.
 - John has an MRI scheduled and other invasive procedures to determine cause of blood in his urine.
- Marine John Flagler updated membership on his cancer surgery recovery.
 - Surgery was 100% successful.
 - Last infusion for chemotherapy was on 7 Sep.
- Marine Bob Niver indicated that Marine George McCreary had a fall and has been removed from his long term care facility and is in rehab for his injuries.
 - A status report on his current injuries and prognosis for recovery is unavailable.

All other reports are in the Agenda and no new other updates were provided at the meeting.

Committees:

Scholarship:

- JA Dick Lak briefed that all applicants for a 2024 scholarship (5 total) have received their payments.
 - The last applicant, MCJROTC Winnacunnet alumnus William Nowak, sent a thank you note that the Cmdt read to assembled members (copy of note sent separately).
- JA dick Lak indicated that the Scholarship Committee is in recess until next Spring.

MCJROTC:

- Cmdt reported the reporting aboard of assistant to LtCol Drown, MSgt Derrick Wise, USMC (Ret).
 - o MSgt Wise looks forward to working with the Detachment.

Communications/Website:

- Hiring of Jo Zurwell as webmaster was discussed, to include pricing.
 - Membership that was present thought this might be a good option given low price and current neglect of website.
 - New member Bryan English also offered to help as his wife has significant experience in this area.
 - Decision on way to go will be made at October meeting.
- Cmdt introduced the idea of using an application for mass emails called IContact that allows emails to all registered members with different features that enhance delivery to users.
 - o Cmdt routed to members present info paper on capabilities of IContact.
 - All present agreed to consider this option.
 - Cmdt cautioned that it will still require upkeep, mostly to keep email contact list up to date.
 - Decision will be made as the membership is better informed.
- Marine Mitchell again conducted the Zoom portion of the meeting and has given the Detachment access to a UNH account for future use.

Membership:

 Marine Niver indicated that membership calling cards are available and that those desiring any can contact him for ordering.

Correspondence:

As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Scouting:

- DNHMCL still looking for a Scouting chair.
- All else is as listed in the Agenda.

Public Information:

• As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Marine for Life(M4L):

• As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Donations and Gifts:

- Cmdt proposed donation to Maine Veterans Home (MVH).
 - o Discussion ensued on which home to support (there are 6 of them).
 - Cmdt indicated that the donation would go to the general fund to be applied as MVH deems necessary.
 - Proposed donation was for \$500.00, seconded by SVC Howe.
 - The vote was unanimous for approval with no dissenting votes cast.
- Cmdt proposed donation to MCJROTC Winnacunnet.
 - o Discussion ensued on what the money would be used for.
 - Cmdt assured all members present that funds would be used to support MCJROTC upkeep and events that are not covered by the school.
 - Proposed donation was for \$350.00, seconded by Marine English.
 - The vote was unanimous for approval with no dissenting votes cast.
- Marine Mitchell proposed a donation to Troop 154, Durham, NH for purchase of American Flags to decorate veteran graves, an ongoing, longstanding Troop tradition.
 - Discussion included the availability of flags from other sources and whether or not the Troop had exhausted those sources.
 - Marine Mitchell indicated that other sources were queried, and that currently, the Troop did not have any donors.
 - o Proposed donation was for \$350.00, seconded by JA Dick Lak.
 - The vote was unanimous for approval with no dissenting votes cast.
- JPC Niver indicated that all future requests for donations should be run through a Donations and Gift Committee that he volunteered to chair.
 - Discussion included the merits of such a committee and the process.
 - Point was made that sometimes deliberations in committees slow the process of awarding.
 - Regardless, membership agreed the idea had merit and JA Dick Lak and SVC
 Brad Howe agreed to be on the committee.
 - Point was made that Det Paymaster also needs to be involved in order to ensure the committee that funds are available for a specified donation and that they do not run afoul of donation guidelines (i.e. Charitable Games proceeds must be spent on NH organizations/causes/individuals).
 - Henceforth, all recommendations for Donations/Gifts need to be routed to the committee chair, Marine Bob Niver for deliberations by the committee.
- Cmdt will prepare forwarding letter to all recipients of donations.
- All else is as it appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Awards:

• As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Honors:

- SVC Howe gave an AAR of the firing detail at the 11 Sep 2023 rededication of the Post 35 GWOT memorial in Hampton.
 - o Detail performed flawlessly in pouring rain.
 - Detail members included: Marines Jim Ambrose, Geoff Corson, Brad Howe (NCOIC), Mark Lindsley, Chip O'Connor, Rich Pettengill and Dennis Pomper.
 - JPC Bob Niver took pictures (passed separately).

Pease Greeters:

• As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Dept. of NH (DNHMCL):

• As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

MODD #349:

 There will be a Growl before the October meeting starting at 1800 and a vote at the November meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Cmdt again emphasized replacement/supernumerary for current Detachment Paymaster.
 - Personnel authorized to access our accounts are down to just the Paymaster with two other members listed who are currently not active in Detachment activities.
 - More volunteers are needed soonest.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nomination committee for elected officers did not have any new nominations for next year's slate of officers.
- Cmdt solicited nominees from the floor.
 - o There were no new nominees from the floor.
- Nominations for elected officers and a vote will be conducted at the October meeting as the last order of business per Article IV of the Det Bylaws.

Good of the League:

• Marine John Cannon agreed to contact inactive members who appear on our rolls to attempt to generate new interest in Detachment activities.

• Cmdt Corson lauded Marine John Flagler for being the keynote speaker at the Wall that Heals (Vietnam War memorial replica) that he attended thanking him for representing the Detachment so well even after a recent chemo treatment.

Future Dates:

- As listed in the Agenda and including the below:
- Next monthly meeting scheduled for Monday 9 Oct 2023 @ 1900.
- Wed. Breakfasts @ 0900 at The Golden Egg (https://www.facebook.com/thegoldeneggdiner) 72 Mirona Rd., Portsmouth, NH 03801.
- Rochester Veterans Council Lunch @1130 suspended until further notice. https://rochesterveteranscouncil.vpweb.com/
- "Together We Served luncheon" https://www.gyrenes.org/ @ 1130 U.S. Marine Corps, New Hampshire & Southern Maine continues at Strafford Farms, Dover, NH
 (https://www.straffordfarms.com/) on 13 Sep 2023. All Marines, FMF Navy Corpsmen and Chaplains and Spouses are welcome "Membership is Free." Time for the Gathering of Gyrenes 1130 on the second Wednesday of each month. Regular meetings are held and all safety protocols are adhered to.
- 23 Sep (Saturday) Seacoast Veterans Conference (https://www.facebook.com/SeacoastVeteransConference/).
 - Marines Dick Lak and Rich Pettengill will attend.
 - Maj Matt Hobert will be in attendance also.
 - All others are invited to attend per their individual schedules.
- 23 Sep (Saturday) Run for the Fallen, Waterville Valley (https://www.runforthefallennh.com/).
 - NCOIC is SVC Brad Howe.
 - Volunteer shooters are still needed.
- 7 Oct (Saturday) Apple Harvest Day, Dover (https://www.dovernh.org/apple-harvest-day).
 - o Application for booth received and approved by Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce.
 - Committee chair is Cmdt Corson.
 - Need volunteers to man the booth.
- 10 Nov (Friday) MC Birthday/75th Anniversary celebration (Location TBD).
 - Coordinator/committee chair is still needed.
 - o JPC and JVC have volunteered to be co-chairs.
- 11 Nov (Saturday) Veterans Day (firing detail(s) John Paul Jones Park/Kittery Estates/Goodwin Park).
 - Need firing detail NCOIC(s) and shooters.

<u>Closing Ceremony</u>: Cmdt Corson, SVC Howe, acting SAA Blanchette and acting Chap Dow conducted the closing ceremony at 2130. The raffle (\$14.00) was won by Marine Glenn Blanchette who donated it back to the Detachment.



Seacoast Detachment #394

https://www.seacoastmarines.org/

Marine Corps League (MCL)

https://www.mclnational.org/

PO Box 690, Kittery ME 03904-0690

Tuesday 12 Sep 2023 Monthly Meeting Agenda Portsmouth American Legion Post 6 96 Islington Street, Portsmouth

Uniform of the Day: Seasonal Uniform (Undress Uniform - Short Sleeve) or MCL Cover.

Official of the Day. Seasonal Official (Offices Official)
1900 Opening Ceremony: Commandant (Cmdt) Corson; Chaplain (Chap) Lombardi, Sergeant at Arms (SAA) McNally "Marines' Hymn."
Officer Roll Call by SAA: Cmdt; Senior Vice Commandant (SVC); Junior Vice Commandant (JVC); Judge Advocate (JA); Junior Past Commandant (JPC); Adjutant (Adj) <u>Vacant;</u> Chaplain (Chap); PaymasterWeb Sergeant <u>Vacant;</u> QuorumMembersGuests
Minutes: Motion to accept the 14 Aug minutes (sent separately). Motion Second Vote
 New members and guests: Swearing in of new members if present. Welcome guests who are considering membership. Paymasters Report (Paymaster George Dow (george1845816@comcast.net)): Picnic Summary (detailed list sent separately): Expenses (Food, Drinks, rent of facility, etc.): \$576.89 Revenue (Donations, Raffle, etc.): \$501.00 Net Loss: \$75.89 Savings/Scholarship: \$ Checking: \$ Motion Second Vote
 Chaplain Report (Chap George Lombardi (geo-usmc@comcast.net)): Marine Pettengill being evaluated for knee replacement. Marine Cannon being evaluated for various serious, possibly cancer conditions. Update on Marine John Flagler cancer recovery.

Update on members in sickbay or in need of pastoral support.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee (JA Dick Lak (<u>Dick lak@comcast.net</u>)):

Update on Scholarship activity.

MCJROTC (LtCol Eric Drown (edrown@warriors.winnacunnet.org)):

- New member of MCJROTC Winnacunnet team: MSgt Derrick Wise, USMC (Ret): <u>dwise@warriors.winnacunnet.org</u>
- Update on MCJROTC activities/events.
 - o https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=874828147300041&set=pcb.874828577299998

Communications/Website and Social Media (Vacant):

- Replacement Web Sergeant needed.
 - Those interested please notify Cmdt, SVC or JVC.
 - Granite State Det Webmaster (Jo Zurwell) has been in contact with Cmdt.
 - Jo has volunteered her service to our Det.

- Estimate of costs to Detachment are needed before a decision is made on whether to contract a Webmaster.
- Detachment has two facebook pages.
 - https://www.facebook.com/SeacoastMarines (old one, has significant historical content).
 - https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcl394/media (new one, has more recent content).
 - o Detachment members are encouraged to update content.
- Detachment Instagram site needs to be visited/utilized/followed.
 - https://www.instagram.com/marinecorpsleague394/

Membership (Marine Bob Niver (revim167@gmail.com) and Ray Maher (maher-nh@comcast.net)):

Update on Membership activities.

Correspondence (Cmdt Corson (Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com):

- Thank you note from Liberty House (copy sent separately).
- Note from Marine Dean Walker (copy sent separately).

Scouting (Cmdt Corson (<u>Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com</u>)):

Nothing significant to report. .

Public Information Bob Niver (revim167@gmail.com).

- Update on PIO activities.
- Zoom coordinator/videographer Marine Ken Mitchell.
 - New Zoom "perpetual" dial-in:

Topic: Marine Corps League - Seacoast Chapter Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://unh.zoom.us/j/99044545492

Or Telephone:

Dial: +1 309 205 3325 (US Toll) Meeting ID: 990 4454 5492

International numbers available: https://unh.zoom.us/u/adKUOqOWyu

Marine for Life (M4L) (Cmdt Corson (Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com):

- Maj Matt Hobert, M4L Representative Northern New England (NH/ME/VT) recently attended a changing of the guard for New Hampshire Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR) where Bruce Thompson relinquished his duties as State Chair to Mike Pacheco.
 - o Maj Hobert shared that it was outstanding to connect and network with many of the State of New Hampshire and Non-Profit Veterans Resource Points of Contact (POCs) while in attendance.
 - Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR) promotes cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.
- M4L Northern New England (NH/ME/VT) on Linkedin ®: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5145719/

Donations and Gifts (Paymaster George Dow):

- Per last month's meeting, donations were made to Easter Seals NH (Vet Campus); Liberty House for homeless/recovering veterans and Post 6.
 - o Paymaster will provide full details on current Charitable Games proceeds balance.
- Recommendations for other charitable organization(s) are encouraged (Cmdt Corson).
 - Cmdt recommends a donation to Maine Veterans' Homes (MVH) per 14 Aug Det meeting discussion.
 - Data sheet sent separately.
 - MVH (there are 6 of them) website: https://mainevets.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwoqGnBhAcEiwAwK- OkcThHtwFjAsuC8wtDByQ584wcd2imp1xqhwfNjUe2qg6iCz4vAd0QBoCy7lQAvD_BwE
 - If approved, funds will come from other than Charitable Games proceeds.
 - o Cmdt also recommends a donation to MCJROTC Winnacunnet for their programs.
 - Funds from Charitable Games proceeds can be used.
 - Marine Ken Mitchell recommends a donation to Scout Troop 154 Durham, NH.



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- Funds will be used to purchase American Flags for the purpose of decorating Veterans' graves in the town of Durham.
- Requested amount is \$350.00.
- Funds from Charitable Games proceeds can be used.
- JPC Bob Niver has suggested resurrecting the Donations and Gifts Committee.
 - Since Marine Frank Wisinski died, the Donations and Gifts Committee has not existed to accept and review suggestions for donations and gifts.
 - This procedure brought some order to the awarding of donations and gifts, rather than having members make recommendations from the floor at meetings.
 - If the Committee is approved, contact Cmdt Corson to volunteer as chair or member.

Awards (Cmdt Geoff Corson):

Members input solicited.

Honors (Cmdt Geoff Corson):

- Update on status of ceremonial firearms (Chaplain George Lombardi).
- After Action Report (AAR) for 11 Sep GWOT memorial rededication (SVC Brad Howe).
- More firing detail volunteers needed.

Pease Greeters https://peasegreeters.org/

- Individuals (not groups) can now greet flights per new instructions that were sent separately and are restated below.
 - Upon arrival at the airport, Greeters must sign in on the Greeter Log. The Log will be maintained in the coffee area.
 - Please wear your Greeter name tags.
 - Mask wearing is now optional while at the airport.
 - Please... no hugs or shaking hands unless a Troop initiates it and the Greeter is comfortable. Fist bumps are allowed.
 - Maintain Social Distancing during interaction with the troops.
 - Try to stay outside as much as possible.
 - o Greeter gear: shirts, hats, ID, etc. may be worn at the airport.
 - As individuals, you are not allowed to give anything to the troops other than the cut out stars with the prose. This includes food and any personal items: hats, scarves, coins.
 - No solicitation of any items from the troops, such as: pins, coins or patches.
- Pease Greeters has resumed sending flight alerts.
 - o There is a significant increase in flights due to ongoing troop movements triggered by European turmoil.

Dept. of NH (DNHMCL) http://nhmarines.org/: https://www.facebook.com/MCLNHMARINES/

- Honors and Scout Chairs still needed.
 - o Interested applicants need to contact DNHMCL Commandant Cherie Monnell.
- Department next Quarterly, Sunday September 24th at 1100 in Concord, NH.
- PLM Roster review.
 - Due date 31 Dec 2023.
- Quad State 2024 (19-21 April 2024).
 - o Email with details and attachment sent separately.
 - o Teams needed.
 - Flyer for hotel reservations sent separately.
- GySgt Ruchin (WW II vet) celebration of Life, 7 Oct (invitation sent separately).
- Department of the Navy and Department of Justice Announce Voluntary
 Elective Option for More Efficient Resolution of Camp Lejeune Justice Act Claims (sent separately).

- Natural Disaster one pager (sent separately).
- Pre-Holiday tours to Vietnam (sent separately).

MODD #349 (Pound Keeper Brad Howe):

- Pound meeting at 1800, Sep, Oct, Nov.
- Update on MODD 349 activities.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Need volunteer alternates (supernumeraries) Bill Payers authorized to access the Detachment's accounts and write checks.
 - Goal is to have one primary and three alternates.
 - Needed for when the Paymaster is out of town/out of pocket.
 - o Will train to be replacement/substitute Paymaster.
- Input from membership requested.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Report of Nominating Committee (JPC Bob Niver):
 - The Nominating Committee has met and reviewed the Detachment roster for possible nominees for Commandant and SVC.
 - Each committee member agreed to contact members for the vacant positions.
 - October is the meeting for elections as the last item of business.
- Second call for 2024 Elected Officer Positions from the floor (Cmdt Corson).
- Member and Committee Chairs input solicited.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

- Renewing efforts to contact inactive members and reach out to them (Marine Gary Gahan).
- Marine John Flagler, and Vietnam vet was the keynote speaker at the "The Wall that Heals" (Vietnam war memorial replica) visit to Sanford, ME on 7 Sep (https://thewallthathealssanfordme.org/).
 - o Cmdt attended in support of the Wall that Heals and Marine John Flagler.
 - Flyer for the event sent separately.

FUTURE DATES:

- Next monthly meeting: Monday, 9 Oct 2023.
- Wed. Breakfasts @ 0900 at TBD.
- Rochester Veterans Council Lunch @1130 suspended until further notice. https://rochesterveteranscouncil.vpweb.com/
- "Together We Served luncheon" https://www.gyrenes.org/ @ 1130 @ Strafford Farms, Dover, NH https://www.straffordfarms.com/. U.S. Marine Corps, New Hampshire & Southern Maine will have their next monthly meeting on 13 Sep 2023. All Marines, FMF. Navy Corpsmen, and Chaplains and Spouses are welcome "Membership is Free". Time for the Gathering of Gyrene's 11:30 AM on the second Wednesday of the month. We will be having our regular meeting and all safety protocols will be adhered to.
- 23 Sep (Saturday) Seacoast Veterans Conference (https://www.facebook.com/SeacoastVeteransConference/).
 - o Marines Dick Lak (coordinator), Rich Pettengill has volunteered.
 - o Recruiting materials are needed.
 - Maj Matt Hobert, USMCR will also attend in his capacity as M4L Representative Northern New England (NH/ME/VT).
- 23 Sep (Saturday) Run for the Fallen (https://www.runforthefallennh.com/).
 - Need firing detail NCOIC and shooters.
- 7 Oct (Saturday) Apple Harvest Day https://www.dovernh.org/apple-harvest-day).
 - Application for booth and certificate of insurance received and approved by Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce.
 - o Location of booth is tentatively the same as last year per AHD coordinator.
 - Need coordinator/committee chair.
 - Need volunteers to set up and man the booth.
- 10 Nov (Friday) MC Birthday/75th Anniversary celebration (Location Post 7 American Legion, Rochester).
 - Need coordinator/committee chair.
 - Bob Niver and Ray Maher have agreed to be co-chairs for the 75th anniversary ceremony and are heading up a committee of 3-4 members.
 - There have been no Committee chair or member volunteers to date.



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- 75th Anniversary detailed planning is not on track for meeting specific deadlines to make this a memorable celebration.
 - Absent dedicated members for the 75th Anniversary Committee, scale and scope of the celebration will need to be curtailed or canceled all together.
- 11 Nov (Saturday) Veterans Day (firing detail(s) John Paul Jones Park/Kittery Estates/Goodwin Park).
 - Need firing detail NCOIC(s) and shooters.

Closing Ceremony: Cmdt. Corson, SVC Howe, Chap Lombardi, SAA McNally.