

Seacoast Detachment #394 Minutes of the 11 Mar 2024 Meeting at 1900:

1900 Opening Ceremony: The Opening Ceremony was conducted by Commandant (Cmdt) Dick Lak, Sergeant at Arms (SAA) Randy McNally and Chaplain (Chap) George Lombardi.

Officer Roll Call: Cmdt Dick Lak, present; Senior Vice Commandant (SVC), Ray Maher, present; Junior Vice Commandant (JVC), John Flagler, present; Judge Advocate (JA), Brad Howe, excused; Junior Past Commandant (JPC), Bob Niver, present; the Adjutant (Adj) Geoff Corson, present; the Paymaster, George Dow, present; the Web Sergeant, Jo Zurwell, excused; SAA, Randy McNally, present; Chap George Lombardi, present. There were twelve voting members (Blanchette, Corson, Dow, Flagler, Hobert, Lak, Lombardi, Maher, McNally, Mitchell, Niver, Pomper). The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. There was a quorum.

Minutes:

- A motion to accept the 12 Feb Minutes from the meeting was made by SVC Maher and seconded by JPC Niver. The motion passed with no dissenting votes cast.

New Members and Guests: There was one guest, Robert “Bob” Pierce who is considering membership.

Paymaster Report:

- The checking account balance is \$12,822.44; the savings account balance is \$9,817.93.
 - Of the checking account balance, \$4,829.11 remains from the Charitable Games earnings.
 - A motion was made to accept the Paymaster’s report by SAA McNally and seconded by Chap Lombardi. 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:

- Chap Lombardi indicated that he reported to the Department Chaplain Det members who have passed away in the last year in order for them to be honored at the Quad-State convention.
- JVC John Flagler updated members on the status of his condition/treatment.
 - John is cancer free and no longer receiving treatments.
- Adj Corson updated members on the status of Marine Rich Pettengill who recently underwent surgery and is still recovering at home.
- No other members had any new updates.

Committees:

Scholarship:

- SVC Maher indicated that he and Cmdt Lak will meet with MCJROTC SMI, LtCol Drown, on 25 Mar to help promote scholarship applications among MCJROTC cadets.
 - Cmdt Lak indicated that he will bring printed copies of the 2024 applications to the meeting for distribution to the cadets.
 - SVC Maher also indicated that, with this meeting, another goal will be to re-energize the MCJROTC/Seacoast Det working relationship in future endeavors.

MCJROTC:

- No Report was provided prior to the meeting.

Communications/Website:

- Detachment Web Sergeant Jo Zurwell, was excused, but provided a detailed inventory of activity taken since the last meeting (see agenda).
- Adj Corson indicated that links to Det events and other relevant items are now included in the monthly agendas. .
- SVC Maher and Cmdt Lak commented on the vast improvements to the Det's online profile as a result of the Web Sergeant's ongoing efforts.
- Marine Mitchell again conducted the Zoom portion of the meeting and has given the Detachment access to a UNH account for future use.

Membership:

- SVC Maher indicated that all business cards that were ordered previously have been distributed.
- JVC Flagler indicated that he has recruited two prospects for membership in the Seacoast Det.
 - Both prospects are former members of Dept of Maine Det 1341.
 - One of the two prospects is a former SVC for Det 1341.
- JVC Flagler also brought Camp Lejeune contaminated water applications for both members and their family members exposed to Camp Lejeune water.
 - Applications were handed out to interested members.
 - Adj Corson indicated that the VA website link for this program will be posted on the Det website.
- JPC Niver again emphasized fund raising to include setting up at the Portsmouth Market Basket to solicit donations and recruit members.
 - Bob suggested 29 June as the date and asked members who were present if they would be willing to volunteer.
 - Eight members present agreed to support the 29 June event.
- JPC Niver also indicated that he is working on updating the Det brochure used for recruiting but needs more input.
 - Ideas for the brochure were shared among members present.
- JPC Niver and other members suggested the Det needs to do more communal events.
 - One suggestion was to sponsor a Saturday breakfast which would better encourage working members and their family members' attendance.
 - Another suggestion was to repeat last year's pizza-night dinner event.

Correspondence:

- Paymaster Dow indicated nothing significant to report.

Scouting:

- Adj Corson indicated nothing significant to report.

Public Information:

- JPC Niver asked all members present if they had seen the article about our newest Commandant.
 - Nobody present had seen the article.
- JPC Niver said that he would work on a human interest article and submit it for local publication.

Marine for Life(M4L):

- LtCol Hobert indicated that April will be his last month as M4L rep N. New England.
 - His replacement is Capt (Maj Sel) Brendan Tallon, USMCR who will assume his new duties on 1 May 2024.
 - Capt Tallon's contact info is: Brendan.tallon@usmc.mil or Brendan.j.tallon@gmail.com, cell phone: 860.671.9362.

Donations and Gifts:

- Paymaster Dow indicated no new donations or gifts.
- JPC Niver indicated no new recommendations for donations have been received.

Awards:

- Nothing significant to report.

Honors:

- Chap/Weapons custodian indicated that one of the ten rifles that the Det has stewardship of is down for parts.
 - The downed ceremonial firearm is down due to a bent firing rod that the Weapons custodian will attempt to repair.
- Cmdt Lak indicated that the St. Thomas High School memorial for Capt Casey was standing room only with lines out the door.
 - Cmdt Lak further indicated that the funeral director expressed regrets that he could not fit in a Det memorial service as there were too many competing services and not enough time.

Pease Greeters:

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

Dept. of NH (DNHMCL):

- Cmdt emphasized participation in Quad-State in April.
 - Cmdt Lak is still looking for a count of those interested in attending either for one day or the duration of the conference.

- Cmdt Lak made a motion to cover Quad-State expenses for any member willing to attend.
 - JPC Niver and Chap Lombardi seconded the motion.
 - A vote was taken with one member dissenting.
 - The motion was passed by majority vote.

MODD #349:

- No report was provided.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Cmdt Lak directed that further discussion on a \$2,500.00 donation to Homeland Heroes be discontinued.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cmdt Lak provided a report of the 28 Feb breakfast of GS Det JVC Martioski's presentation on conducting broadcasts for NH Dets on local TV stations and Det websites.
 - Cmdt Lak conducted an informal poll of those present on the value and investment in this effort.
 - Members offered reservations based on prohibitive time investment, finding enough volunteers and the limited reach of such broadcasts based on local restrictions.
 - Members present did agree to support a onetime broadcast to highlight Seacoast Det to the GS Det's/DNHMCL current audience.
 - A motion was made on this course of action seconded by JPC Niver and SVC Maher.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes recorded.
- All else is as it appears in the Agenda.

Good of the League:

- Nothing significant to report.

Future Dates:

- As listed in the Agenda and including the below:
- Next monthly meeting scheduled for Monday **8 April 2024 @ 1900.**
- **Wed. Breakfasts @ 0900** at Mainely Local Yolks (<https://www.mlyberwick.com/>) 43 Route 236, Berwick, ME 03901.
- Rochester Veterans Council Lunch @1130 suspended until further notice.
<https://rochesterveteranscouncil.vpweb.com/>
- "Together We Served luncheon" @ 1130 U.S. Marine Corps, New Hampshire & Southern Maine continues at Strafford Farms, Dover, NH (<https://www.straffordfarms.com/>) on **13 Mar 2024.** 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.

Closing Ceremony: Cmdt Lak, SVC Maher, SAA McNally and Chap Lombardi conducted the closing ceremony at 2030. The 50/50 raffle (\$18.00) was won by Paymaster Dow who donated all of the proceeds 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

Monday 11 Mar 2024 Monthly Meeting Agenda
Booma American Legion Post 6
96 Islington Street, Portsmouth, NH

Uniform of the Day: Seasonal Uniform (Undress Uniform – Long Sleeve) or MCL Cover.

1900 Opening Ceremony: Commandant (Cmndt) Lak; Chaplain (Chap) Lombardi, Sergeant at Arms (SAA) McNally, "Marines' Hymn."

Officer Roll Call by SAA: Cmndt. ____; Senior Vice Commandant (SVC) ____; Junior Vice Commandant (JVC) ____; Judge Advocate (JA) ____; Junior Past Commandant (JPC) ____; Adjutant (Adj) ____; Chaplain (Chap) ____; Paymaster __Web Sergeant ____; Quorum____
____Members ____Guests ____

Minutes: Motion to accept the 12 Feb minutes (sent separately and also available at: <https://www.seacoastmarines.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Combined-Jan-8-2024-Agenda-Minutes.pdf>).
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)):

- Savings/Scholarship: \$ Checking: \$
 - Motion____ Second____ Vote____

Chaplain Report (Chap George Lombardi (geo-usmc@comcast.net)):

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

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee (SVC Ray Maher (raymaher@icloud.com)):

- 2024 Scholarship Application is now online:
<https://www.seacoastmarines.org/our-work/awards-scholarships/mcl-scholarships/>

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

- Update on MCJROTC activities/events.

Communications/Website and Social Media (Honorary Marine Jo Zurwell (jozurwell@comcast.net)):

- Detachment facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SeacoastMarines>.
 - Detachment members are encouraged to update content.
- Detachment Instagram site needs to be visited/utilized/followed.
 - <https://www.instagram.com/marinecorpsleague394/>
- Update on Detachment Social Media activity (jozurwell@comcast.net):
 - **Communications:**
 - The last month has been a little quiet, but I have posted on social media accounts the upcoming Free Skiing event for veterans. I also posted a message from the VA about an outage that impacted the healthcare system on Facebook and Instagram.
 - **Website:**

- Over the last month I have uploaded the February meeting minutes with agenda to the website, added the weekly breakfasts to the events calendar, as well as added the next two upcoming BOT meetings to the calendar.
- I have updated the theme and needed plugins as well as continued working on SEO improvements on the website.
 - Doing this increases the security of the website as well as allowing it to run more smoothly.
- I have also updated the Department of NH website to reflect the new Commandant for the Seacoast and his contact information instead of Geoff Corson's information.
- **Other:**
 - I was asked to help with updating the existing Seacoast membership brochure.
 - In the coming month, I will be collecting information about what will be removed and what will be added to the brochure and then supply an updated version.
- **Respectfully Submitted**, Jo Zurwell, Webmaster and Social Media Manager

Membership (JPC Bob Niver (revim167@gmail.com) and JVC John Flagler (jeanot49@netscape.com)):

- Detachment business cards that were previously ordered are now available from SVC Ray Maher.
- We are looking at doing a fund raising/recruiting event on Friday, 29 June at a Market Basket to raise funds and to recruit new members.
 - Site to be determined, hours, 9-3.
 - We will need volunteers to man the tables for 3 or 6 hour shifts and need a commitment before moving forward.
 - Who can help out?
- Update on Membership activities.

Correspondence (Paymaster George Dow (george1845816@comcast.net)):

- Update on correspondence received.

Scouting (Adj Geoff Corson (Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com)):

- Nothing significant to report. .

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

- PIO has submitted article on current Cmdt to local press.
- 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/j/99044545492>

- Update on PIO activities.

Marine for Life (M4L) (LtCol Matt Hobert (matthew.hobert@usmc.mil)):

- M4L Northern New England (NH/ME/VT) on LinkedIn @: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5145719/>

Donations and Gifts (Paymaster George Dow, Donations and Gift Chair Bob Niver):

- All future recommendations for Donations and Gifts need to be routed to Marine Bob Niver for deliberations from the Donations and Gifts Committee.

Awards (Adjutant Geoff Corson):

- Member input solicited.

Honors (Adjutant Geoff Corson):

- Update on status of ceremonial firearms (Chaplain George Lombardi).
- After Action Report (AAR) for Capt Casey memorial events (Cmdt Dick Lak).
- More firing detail volunteers needed.



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PO Box 690, Kittery ME 03904-0690

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.
 - 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.
 - There is a significant increase in flights due to ongoing troop movements triggered by Overseas turmoil.

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

- Honors and Scout Chairs still needed.
 - Interested applicants need to contact DNHMCL Commandant Cherie Monnell.
- Quad State 2024 (**19-21 April 2024**).
 - **Venue:** Sheraton Nashua
 - 11 Tara Boulevard, Nashua NH
 - 603 888-9970
 - **Deadline to make hotel reservations is March 28, 2024**, be sure to use Quad State 2024 DNHMCL for special pricing.
 - **Convention Registration**
 - \$35.
 - **Meal Selection**
 - Banquet **April 20th** -Choice of:
 - New York Strip for \$56 or
 - Roasted Farm Chicken for \$54
 - Deadline to Register **March 28, 2024**
 - Further Details and sign up options on Department website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-new-england-division-conference-quad-state-convention-tickets-723937997037?aff=oddtcreator>.
 - The Detachment purchased a full page color add for the Quad-State for \$275.00.
- Other Department events can be viewed at the following link: <https://nhmarines.org/events/>

MODD #349 (Pound Keeper Brad Howe):

- Update on MODD 349 activities.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Proposal to donate \$2,500.00 to the Homeland Heroes Foundation (<https://homelandheroesfoundation.org/>) (Marine Gary Gahan).
 - CONOPS for increasing donation revenue to meet this mark (\$2,500.00).
- Input from membership requested.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Report on Granite State Detachment Marine Mike Martioski's presentation to Board of Trustees and weekly breakfast group on 28 Feb 2024 to produce repeated local television news productions highlighting the Marine Corps League, DNHMCL and New Hampshire Detachments (Cmdt Lak).
- Member and Committee Chairs input solicited.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

- Member and Committee Chairs input solicited.

FUTURE DATES:

- **13, Mar; 20 Mar; 27 Mar; 3 Apr** Wed. Breakfasts @ 0900 at TBD.
- **13 Mar 2024** "**Together We Served** luncheon" @ 1130 @ Strafford Farms, Dover, NH <https://www.straffordfarms.com/>. U.S. Marine Corps, New Hampshire & Southern Maine will have their next monthly meeting on. All Marines, FMF, Navy Corpsmen, and Chaplains and Spouses are welcome "Membership is Free". Time for the **Gathering of Gyrene's** 1130 on the second Wednesday of the month.
- **24 Mar 2024** DNHMCL BOT meeting, American Legion, Concord, NH: <https://nhmarines.org/events/>.
- **8 April 2024** Next monthly meeting: Monday, at 1900.
- **21-24 April 2024**, DNHMCL hosted Quad-State convention, Nashua, NH, Sheraton Hotel, 11 Tara Boulevard, Nashua NH: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mhtsi-sheraton-nashua/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>.
- **27 May 2024** Memorial Day Parade, York, ME (firing detail) (?).
- **? Jun 2024**, Lady of the Sea Monument rededication, Hampton, NH (firing detail) (?).
- **8 Jun 2024**, Market Square Day, Portsmouth, NH (?): <https://proportsmouth.org/events/market-square-day/>
- **29 Jun 2024**, Market Basket fund raiser/recruiting event (?).
- **21 Sep 2024**, Run for the Fallen, Waterville Valley, NH (firing detail) (?): <http://www.runforthefallennh.com/>
- **21 Sep 2024**, Service Credit Union, Seacoast Veterans Conference, Portsmouth, NH (?): <https://seacoastveteransconference.com/>
- **5 Oct 2024** Apple Harvest Day, Dover, NH: Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce (?): info@news.dovernh.org
- Other Detachment events can be viewed at: <https://www.seacoastmarines.org/events/>.

Closing Ceremony: Cmdt. Lak, SVC Maher, Chap Lombardi, SAA McNally.