



**Seacoast Detachment #394**  
<https://www.seacoastmarines.org/>  
**Marine Corps League (MCL)**  
<https://www.mclnational.org/>  
**PO Box 690, Kittery ME 03904-0690**

**Monday 8 Jan 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 (Cmdt) Lak; 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) \_\_\_\_; Chaplain (Chap) \_\_\_\_; Paymaster \_\_Web Sergeant \_\_\_\_; Quorum\_\_  
\_\_\_\_Members \_\_\_\_Guests \_\_\_\_

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the 11 Dec 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](mailto:george1845816@comcast.net) )):

- Savings/Scholarship: \$            Checking: \$
  - Motion\_\_ Second\_\_ Vote\_\_\_\_

**Chaplain Report** (Chap George Lombardi ( [geo-usmc@comcast.net](mailto:geo-usmc@comcast.net) )):

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Scholarship Committee** (Cmdt Dick Lak ( [Dick\\_lak@comcast.net](mailto:Dick_lak@comcast.net) )):

- Update on Scholarship activity.

**MCJROTC** (LtCol Eric Drown ( [edrown@warriors.winnacunnet.org](mailto:edrown@warriors.winnacunnet.org) )):

- Update on MCJROTC activities/events.
  - MCJROTC cadets supported Wreaths Across America: 16 Dec 2023.  
<https://www.facebook.com/winnacunnet/posts/pfbid02uPWSczJ5hEwb5uVhtrPXcuNkZvCJ6z54NNVEeTQwzpuXcGVuz7ceLkyHfr3J7uSpl>
  - MCJROTC Marksmanship team competing in JROTC Weekly Metro League Competition
  - Metro League Shoulder to Shoulder Competition Event: 13 Jan 24 Revere, MA High School
  - WHS Alumni Association Military Honor Roll Plaque Rededication Ceremony 22 Jan 24, 1830 Winnacunnet HS. CPL JONATHAN W. CURRIER, USMC, WHS CLASS OF 2015
  - SONH Penguin Plunge – Planning, Support, and Plunge: 11 Feb 24
    - <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=874828147300041&set=pcb.874828577299998>

**Communications/Website and Social Media** (Honorary Marine Jo Zurwell ( [jozurwell@comcast.net](mailto: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 website upgrades ( [jozurwell@comcast.net](mailto:jozurwell@comcast.net) )

- **Communications:**
  - Over the last month I have posted a few messages to Facebook and Instagram about the passing of life member George McCreary, a message from the National Commandant, for the Firing Detail requested form a young Marine in NH, and posted a Happy New Years message to all. I have added images to the Gallery from the breakfast with George McCreary and of the swearing in of the new Senior Vice Commandant Ray Maher. Geoff Corson has been sending emails to the detachment members via the new iContact account for detachment information and requests.
- **Website:**
  - The officer's page is now complete. All the officers are listed with their new photos taken recently in December. Several new posts have been added to the News page, the breakfast at Partridge House for George McCreary, the passing of the same George McCreary with his obituary with link to the funeral home with the full obituary, as well as a post from 'The Portsmouth Periscope' from 1977 that was a story written in the paper about the start of the Seacoast detachment. This article image was also added to the About page next to the Charter. Work was also done to improve SEO on various pages on website. This is an ongoing process. I have also set up Google Search Console, and Google Analytics last month which allows us to see how our website is performing on Google when people do searches. Based on these tools, we have had 106 users on the website, this group of people there were 158 sessions, or the number of times a browser with this user viewed the website, and with that 158 sessions, there were 282 page views (the number of times a user went to a different page or a single page over and over again). These are good numbers to start with, and with more people coming to the site it is sure to go up. I will report on these numbers each month.
- **Respectfully Submitted**, Jo Zurwell, Webmaster and Social Media Manager.

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

- Update on Membership activities.

**Correspondence** (Adjutant Geoff Corson ([Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com](mailto:Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com) )):

- Nothing significant to report.

**Scouting** (Adjutant Geoff Corson ([Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com](mailto:Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com) )):

- Nothing significant to report. .

**Public Information** JPC Bob Niver ([revim167@gmail.com](mailto:revim167@gmail.com)).

- 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](mailto: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):

- AOY 2023 award presentation.
- Member input solicited.

**Honors** (Adjutant Geoff Corson):

- Update on status of ceremonial firearms (Chaplain George Lombardi).



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## **Marine Corps League (MCL)**

<https://www.mclnational.org/>

**PO Box 690, Kittery ME 03904-0690**

- After Action Report (AAR) for 2 Jan Memorial Rituals in honor of Marine George McCreary (Cmdt Dick Lak and Adj Geoff Corson).
  - Thanks to all Marines who participated: Marines Jim Ambrose, Earl Case, Geoff Corson, Dick Lak, Ray Maher, Cherie Monnell, Dennis Pomper and "Spyder" Soiett.
  - Special thanks to JPC Bob Niver who coordinated George's last Detachment breakfast and stayed in touch with and helped the family through their time of grief.
- 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.
  - 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 European 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**
    - Before Feb 1, 2024 is \$30
    - After Feb 1 is \$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
  - **Program Book Ad Invitation**
    - Help support the Marine Corps League and all the wonderful work we do year round with an ad in the 2024 New England Division Conference & Quad State Convention program. This program will be given out to all attendees of the event in April 2024.
    - This year we have six options for ad size:
      - Full Page Color Premium = \$325 - this will go on the inside of the front cover, and the front and back of the back cover.
      - Full Page Color = \$275

- Full Page Black and White = \$200
- Half Page Color = \$175
- Half Page Black and White = \$125
- Quarter Page Black and White only = \$75
- Eighth Page Black and White only = \$25
- Deadline to place an order and get artwork sent in is March 1, 2024. Help support the MCL in NH and get out there and sell these ad spaces to local businesses or for your own business.
- 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>
- Granite State Det 542 has an initiative to expand their Fun Day Department-wide.
  - Details to follow.

**MODD #349 (Pound Keeper Brad Howe):**

- 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.
  - Will train to be replacement/substitute Paymaster.
- Input from membership requested.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Proposal from Marine Gahan to create some memento of Marine George McCreary to be made as a part of the detachment since he was a life member and so active at one time (Marine Gary Gahan).
- Per recommendation from Marine Gary Gahan the proposal is to match GS Det 542's donation of \$2,500.00 to the Homeland Heroes Foundation ([homelandheroesfoundation.org](http://homelandheroesfoundation.org)) (Marine Gary Gahan).
- Fund raising ideas at local businesses (Marine Gary Gahan).
- Member and Committee Chairs input solicited.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

- AAR for special breakfast for Marine George McCreary (JPC Bob Niver).
  - Thanks to all who participated: Marine Jim Ambrose, Marine Earl Case, Adj Geoff Corson, Paymaster George Dow, JA Brad Howe, Cmdt Dick Lak, LtCol Matt Hobert, Chap George Lombardi, SVC Ray Maher and JPC Bob Niver.
- AAR for Christmas day visit to NH Veterans' Home (Marines Jim Ambrose and Gary Gahan).
- Member and Committee Chairs input solicited.

**FUTURE DATES:**

- Next monthly meeting: Monday, 12 Feb 2024 at 1900.
- Wed. Breakfasts @ 0900 at TBD.
- Winnacunnet HS Alumni Association Military Honor Roll Plaque rededication ceremony, Winnacunnet HS, Hampton, NH, 1830, 22 Jan 2024 (invitation sent separately).
- 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 10 Jan 2024. 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.

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

## **Seacoast Detachment #394 Minutes of the 8 Jan 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, excused; Junior Vice Commandant (JVC), John Flagler, absent; Judge Advocate (JA), Brad Howe, present; 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 eleven voting members (Blanchette, Corson, Dow, Gahan, Howe, Lak, Lombardi, McNally, Mitchell, Niver, Pomper ). The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. There was a quorum.

### **Minutes:**

- A motion to accept the 11 Dec Minutes from the meeting was made by SAA McNally and seconded by Chap Lombardi. The motion passed with no dissenting votes cast.

**New Members and Guests:** There were two guests, LtCol Eric Drown, USMC (Ret), MCJROTC SMI Winnacunnet HS and Mike Wilson a perspective member. Cmdt Lak introduced LtCol Drown who provided a brief background of his time in the Marine Corps.

### **Paymaster Report:**

- The checking account balance is \$13,877.54; the savings account balance is \$9,508.67.
  - 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 Chap Lombardi 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:**

- Chap Lombardi thanked all who participated in memorial services for Marine George McCreary.
  - Det Paymaster indicated that NOD transmittal for Marine McCreary was submitted.
- Adj Corson asked members present if they had heard from JVC John Flagler who is undergoing cancer treatment.
  - Adj Corson indicated his attempts to contact John were unsuccessful.
  - Chap indicated he would follow up.
- No other members had any new updates.

### **Committees:**

#### **Scholarship:**

- Cmdt Dick Lak indicated that the Scholarship Committee is in recess until next Spring.

#### **MCJROTC:**

- LtCol Drown provided a detailed report of MCJROTC Winnacunnet activities to include links to Winnacunnet HS facebook excerpts of Cadet events.
  - LtCol Drown indicated that MCJROTC uses the school Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/winnacunnet/>) to post MCJROTC activities.
  - He further indicated that there were 60 students enrolled in the MCJROTC over the year, but that the school uses a tri-semester system thus not all students return for more than one semester.
  - He further invited Seacoast Det participation in a 22 Jan event at Winnacunnet High School where a plaque will be re-dedicated that honors Winnacunnet HS alumni who died while on active duty.

### **Communications/Website:**

- Detachment Web Sergeant Jo Zurwell, was unavailable, but provided a detailed inventory of activity taken since the last meeting (see agenda).
- Adj Corson reiterated that members need to visit all social media platforms in order to keep abreast of Detachment events.
  - Adj Corson also indicated that the Web Sergeant had done a phenomenal job in upgrading the Seacoast Det's online presence.
- Marine Mitchell again conducted the Zoom portion of the meeting and has given the Detachment access to a UNH account for future use.

### **Membership:**

- JPC Niver indicated that business cards that were ordered are not available yet.
- JPC Niver also emphasized fund raising to include adopting some of Granite State Det's techniques.

### **Correspondence:**

- Paymaster Dow indicated that the Detachment received a Christmas card from Associate Member Tara Sue Clark.

### **Scouting:**

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

### **Public Information:**

- JPC Niver indicated that he is still working on an article about our newest Commandant.
- JPC Niver again thanked all participants in Marine McCreary's breakfast at his retirement home days before his untimely death.
- JPC Niver lamented the fact that nobody took pictures of George's final ceremonies and suggested that the Detachment designate a duty photographer for all Detachment events.
  - All members present concurred that this was a good idea.

**Marine for Life(M4L):**

- No report was provided.

**Donations and Gifts:**

- Nothing Significant to Report.
- As decided at the 12 Sep Det meeting, all future recommendations for Donations/Gifts need to be routed to the committee chair, JPC Bob Niver for deliberations by the committee.

**Awards:**

- Quartermaster Dennis Pomper was awarded the Detachment Associate of the Year for 2023 for all of his hard work and volunteerism.
  - The presentation was made by Adj Corson who was Cmdt at the time for Dennis' period of superlative service.

**Honors:**

- Chap/Weapons custodian indicated that all rifles are in good operating condition except one that has been reserved for replacement parts.
- All else is as it appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

**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 wants a count of those interested in attending either for one day or the duration of the conference.
  - Cmdt Lak urged members to form a group to attend together.
    - Cmdt Lak also indicated that if there were costs to be borne by participants, the Detachment could help defray expenses.
- Marine Gahan made a motion to purchase a full page ad in support of the Quad-State.
  - JPC Niver seconded the motion.
  - A vote was taken and all present concurred with the purchase.

**MODD #349:**

- Pound Keeper Brad Howe indicated that the Pound will be deactivated after the Quad-State in April due to non-participation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Marine Gahan proposed that Detachment create a memento to honor Marine George McCreary's long years of service to the Detachment.
  - One suggestion was to purchase a plaque in George's name to be presented to the Partridge House where he spent his last days.
- Marine Gahan described the Pennies for Pounds fundraiser coordinated by a member of Granite State Det.
  - Marine Gahan suggested that Seacoast Det follow Granite State's lead and match their donation of \$500.00 in support of this fundraiser that benefits veterans.
  - Cmdt Lak indicated that he would take it under advisement.
- Marine Gahan further detailed how Granite State Det raised money and proposed Seacoast Det follow suit by contacting local businesses (i.e. Kittery Trading Post, Market Basket) in order to set up fund raising tables.
  - Cmdt Lak indicated that recent attempts at recruiting at local events did not produce significant monetary or recruiting results but did help inform the public about ongoing Detachment outreach.
  - JA Howe pointed out that participation in these events comes with a cost and that the last event (Apple Harvest Day, Dover) resulted in a financial loss to the Detachment.
  - Chap Lombardi asked Marine Gahan about his ability to get volunteers from Granite state Det's members who have more participating members than Seacoast.
    - Marine Gahan indicated that it may be possible to partner with another organization and share revenue gained with them.
    - He also suggested that members recruit family members and neighbors in fund raising if there were insufficient numbers of Seacoast member volunteers.
    - He further suggested that possibly MCJROTC Winnacunnet cadets could help in the fund raising.
    - Lastly, he said that if Seacoast is interested in similar fundraising plans, they need to move quickly to ensure access at a local venue as these posts often go quickly to other organizations.
    - Cmdt Lak asked JPC Niver whether or not he would spearhead such an effort.
      - JPC Niver demurred indicating he would participate along with others.

### **Good of the League:**

- Marine Gahan gave an AAR of a Christmas Day visit to the NH Vets Home in Tilton conducted by Marines of Granite State and the Patriot Riders.
  - Dual member Marine Jim Ambrose participated as well.
  - All veterans were especially pleased with this gesture.
- Guest Michael Wilson thanked Det members for the donation to the veterans legal justice fund.
- JPC Niver again thanked all participants at George McCreary's last breakfast.

### **Future Dates:**

- As listed in the Agenda and including the below:
- Next monthly meeting scheduled for Monday 12 Feb 2024 @ 1900.



- Wed. Breakfasts @ 0900 at the Golden Egg (<https://www.facebook.com/thegoldeneggdiner>) 72 Mirona Rd. Portsmouth, NH.
- 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 10 Jan 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.
- Monday, 22 Jan 2024, 1830, Winnacunnet HS plaque rededication honoring Winnacunnet alumni who died while on active duty.

**Closing Ceremony:** Cmdt Lak, Acting SVC Corson, SAA McNally and Chap Lombardi conducted the closing ceremony at 2030. The 50/50 raffle (\$17.00) was won by Marine Gahan who donated part of the proceeds back to the Detachment.