

Seacoast Detachment #394 Minutes of the 11 Dec 2023 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, excused; 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 ten voting members (Case, Corson, Dow, Howe, Lak, Lombardi, Maher, McNally, Mitchell, Niver). The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. There was a quorum.

Minutes:

- A motion to accept the 20 Nov Minutes from the meeting was made by JPC Bob Niver and seconded by JA Brad Howe. The motion passed with no dissenting votes cast.

New Members and Guests: There was one guest, Marcus Landers a perspective member. Cmdt Lak introduced the guest and Marcus provided a brief background on his time in the Marine Corps.

Paymaster Report:

- The checking account balance is \$14,573.45; the savings account balance is \$9,480.67.
 - Of the checking account balance, \$5,329.11 remains from the Charitable Games earnings.
 - A motion was made to accept the Paymaster's report by Svc Maher and seconded by JPC Niver. 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 reported that the Notification of Death for Marine John Buchalski was submitted.
 - Det Paymaster indicated that NOD transmittal for Marine Buchalski was also submitted.
- 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 indicated that illness prevented his report and presence at the meeting.

Communications/Website:

- Detachment Web Sergeant Jo Zurwell, was unavailable, but provided a detailed inventory of activity taken since the last meeting (see agenda).
- 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.
- It was pointed out that the latest MCL application (2023) for membership is now on the website.

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:

- JPC Niver indicated that he would like to submit an article about our newest Commandant when he gets his bio.
- JPC Niver indicated that American Legion Post 35 is well established in the Seacoast area thus they have had better success in getting press coverage.
- All else is as it appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Marine for Life(M4L):

- No report was provided.

Donations and Gifts:

- Adjutant Corson proposed a donation of \$500 to the Veterans Legal Justice Fund as a worthy recipient of Detachment donations.
 - JPC Niver advised all present on how those donated funds would be utilized.
 - SVC Maher seconded the recommendation and a vote was taken.
 - The donation was approved with all members present voting to award the donation with no dissenting votes cast.
- 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.
- All else is as it appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Awards:

- Chap/Ceremonial firearms armorer (George Lombardi) indicated that all the ceremonial firearms are in good shape with one held in reserve for parts.

- George did note that he suffered his first M1 thumb while servicing the ceremonial firearms, all present offered their sympathy (not really).
- The presentation of the AOY award was held in abeyance since the recipient was not present.
- All else is as it appeared in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

Honors:

- Adj Corson served as NCOIC of firing detail to honor Marine John Buchalski noting the members who participated (see Agenda) and also the proactive efforts by the Cmdt to secure a full firing detail at the last minute.
- 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):

- JA Brad Howe indicated that the Jt Installation in Concord went well and that there were 11 Department/Detachment members present.
- Cmdt Lak indicated that Seacoast needs to “pony-up” volunteers for the Quad-State in April of next year.
 - Cmdt Lak urged members who were present to consider their contribution to DNHMCL Quad-State and wanted a good showing from Seacoast Det.
- As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

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:

- JPC Niver administered the oath of office to elected officer SVC Ray Maher.
- All else is as it appears in the Agenda.

Good of the League:

- JPC Bob Niver proposed a special breakfast for 20 Dec at Partridge House in Hampton in order for sequestered resident, Marine George McCreary to participate.
 - All agreed to support.
 - JPC Niver will provide all the details subsequent to the Detachment meeting.

- All else is as it appears in the Agenda.

Future Dates:

- As listed in the Agenda and including the below:
- Next monthly meeting scheduled for Monday 8 Jan 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" <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.

Closing Ceremony: Cmdt Lak, SVC Maher, SAA McNally and Chap Lombardi conducted the closing ceremony at 2030. The 50/50 raffle (\$14.00) was won by JPC Niver who donated 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 Dec 2023 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 20 Nov 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)):

- 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 (Cmdt Dick Lak (Dick_lak@comcast.net)):

- Update on Scholarship activity.

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

- Update on MCJROTC activities/events.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=874828147300041&set=pcb.874828577299998>

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 website upgrades (jozurwell@comcast.net)
 - **Communications:**
 - Access to the original Facebook page, the one set up as an organization, has been achieved. I connected the Instagram account to Facebook, so that when I post something to Facebook it can be posted on Instagram at the same time. With the use of Meta Business Suite, within Facebook, I will be able to schedule posts for upcoming postings if something would like to be published at a later date. For example, a holiday greeting can be composed up to a month in advance of the holiday, and have it set to be posted to one or both platforms on the actual holiday. If anyone has

any events or information they would like posted to social media, please contact Geoff Corson and he will review and then forward it to me to post.

- Geoff Corson has created an account with iContact, an email marketing system. However, he created it with his personal email address and not that of the detachment, so he is trying to work with iContact in order to gain me access to the account he set up. Once access is available, I will be able to send out announcements or as Geoff has thought of doing, a monthly email to all members with what is happening with the detachment and helpful information for Marines and Veterans.
- **Website:**
 - After the tutorial of the website at the November meeting, I have made the requested fixes and additions. I have reached out to Tara Sue to start the transition process for the access to the hosting services for the website. She has granted me access, however, due to the holiday and some unexpected travel on her part, she has not been able to give me the training in using it; this is to come shortly.
 - On 12/6/23 I tried to update some information on the officer's page and found that we had a problem. The site was not allowing me to save the changes and said it could be a server or hosting issue. I have reached out to Tara Sue to have her take a look at the backend with the server and hosting side of it for the cause of the issue so we can troubleshoot a resolution. The website is up and running on the public facing side, however, any changes to the site will need to be on hold until we can resolve this issue. Normally, these types of things are found to be a conflict with something running on the site, which is an easy fix, but it could be something more complex. I will advise when this is resolved.
 - Speaking of the officer's page, as I said, I am in the process of updating this page with the new officers for the coming year. Geoff will be reaching out to each of you to determine if you would like to keep the picture currently on the site, or have it replaced with another, and for those that don't have a picture on the site currently, to supply a headshot to be placed next to your name and post.
 - I have also set up something called Google Search Console which allows us to see how our website is performing on Google when people do searches. I have also set up Google Analytics 4 or GA4, which allows us to see how users are interacting with our website. It takes a few weeks to collect enough data to make reporting accurate, so I will have more hard numbers in the January report.
 - Respectfully Submitted, Jo Zurwell, Webmaster & Social Media Manager

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

- Update on Membership activities.

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

- Nothing significant to report.

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

- Nothing significant to report. .

Public Information JPC Bob Niver (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)):

- 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):



Seacoast Detachment #394

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Marine Corps League (MCL)

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PO Box 690, Kittery ME 03904-0690

- Per suggestion from future member Mike Wilson, the Veterans Legal Justice Fund is recommended for donation: <https://www.vljnh.org/>.
- 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 award presentation.
- Member input solicited.

Honors (Adjutant Geoff Corson):

- Update on status of ceremonial firearms (Chaplain George Lombardi).
- After Action Report (AAR) for 28 Nov Boscawen firing detail in honor of TSgt and Korean War Marine veteran John Buchalski, USAF (Ret) (Adj Geoff Corson).
 - Thanks to all Marines who participated: Jim Ambrose, Geoff Corson, Dan Fedor, Gary Gahan, Dick Lak, Mark Lindsley, Dennis Pomper, Bruce "Spyder" Soiett.
- 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.
- AAR Joint Installation 2023, 3 Dec 2023, Common Man Restaurant, Concord, NH (JA Brad Howe).
- PLM Roster review.
 - Due date 31 Dec 2023.
 - Details, once known, will be provided separately.
- Quad State 2024 (19-21 April 2024).
 - Email with details and attachment sent separately.
 - Teams needed.
 - Latest flyer announcing details sent separately.
 - Please see the NHMarines.org website now has the Quad State information and that there is a link to Eventbrite for payment online.
 - <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1692030943163&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

- Please contact Cmdt Monnell at marineamazon@comcast.net with questions or phone 207-752-0025.
- 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:

- Swearing in for Elected Officer Position (SVC).

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

- AAR for Toton's firewood stacking working party (Cmdt Lak).
 - Thanks to Marine Jim Ambrose, Paymaster George Dow, JA Brad Howe, Cmdt Dick Lak and JPC Bob Niver.
- Member and Committee Chairs input solicited.

FUTURE DATES:

- Next monthly meeting: 8 Jan 2024 at 1900.
- 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 Dec 2023. 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.
 - Special Guest Speaker (invitation and RSVP instructions sent separately): Ms. Julie Weymouth, the founder and Executive Director of the Homeland Heroes Foundation (homelandheroesfoundation.org). The Homeland Heroes Foundation respects and honors all veterans regardless of branch, status, whether you are financially set or if you are destitute.

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