

## **Seacoast Detachment #394 Minutes of the 20 Nov 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, excused; Junior Vice Commandant (JVC), John Flagler, present; 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, present; SAA, Randy McNally, present; Chap George Lombardi, present. There were ten voting members (Corson, Dow, Flagler, Gahan, Howe, Lak, Lombardi, McNally, Mitchell, Niver ). The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. There was a quorum.

### **Minutes:**

- A motion to accept the 9 Oct Minutes from the meeting was made by JPC Niver and seconded by Marine Gahan. The motion passed with no dissenting votes cast.

**New Members and Guests:** There were no guests.

### **Paymaster Report:**

- The checking account balance is \$15,577.53; the savings account balance is \$9,480.59.
  - 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 SAA McNally 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 had nothing significant to pass.
  - He indicated that he has had some email problems lately that may have resulted in missing updates.
- 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 report separately which included:
  - June 2023: cadets participated in the New England Cadet Leadership Course this summer at Naval Station, Newport, RI. They participated in numerous character-building events during the weeklong training; high ropes confidence course, Army physical training circuit, sailed the Tall ship Lynx, toured a Cape Cod Coast Guard Station,

paintball competition, and small unit leadership experience at the University of Rhode Island Outdoor Recreation Department.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1021284599321061&set=pcb.1021285362654318>.

- July 2023: Winnacunnet MCJROTC added MSgt Derrick Wise to the program. He instructed previously at Beverly HS MCJROTC.
- September 2023: Cadets assisted the Hampton Chamber of Commerce with Seafood Festival support.
- September 11 2023: Cadets performed color guard in support of American Legion Post 35 Global War on Terrorism 911 Ceremony.
- October 2023: MCJROTC Color Guard supported Exeter Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and conducted a leaders' reconnaissance hike up Mt Major.  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1056224469160407&set=pcb.1056224749160379>.
- November 10 2023: Cadets performed color guard at State Capitol in support of NH Marine Corps League.
- November 11 2023: Cadets performed multiple color guards around the Hampton area in support of American Legion Post 35 Veterans Day ceremonies.  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1062739025175618&set=pcb.1062739631842224>.
- November 19 2023: Cadets joined 6 other JROTC schools at Salem, MA for the Second Annual Devil Dog Challenge. Consisting of five grueling physical activity events, ranging from multiple obstacle courses, Marine Corps Combat Fitness Test and the JROTC Raider Gauntlet Course.
- December 2023: Preparing to support Hampton Holiday Parade and the American Legion Post 35 Wreaths Across America.

#### **Communications/Website:**

- Detachment Web Sergeant Jo Zurwell dialed in via Zoom and demonstrated the upgrades to the Detachment website.
  - Jo's presentation was well received and many questions were answered.
- 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 professed the value of recruiting Associates who have helped tremendously in all Detachment events.
- JPC Niver also 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:**

- JPC Niver indicated that articles have been submitted for publishing but none so far have appeared in the local press.
  - Adjutant Corson suggested that Bob get in touch with American Legion Post 35 (he is a member) to see how they successfully get their events published.
- All else is as it appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

**Marine for Life(M4L):**

- No report was provided.

**Donations and Gifts:**

- Paymaster Dow reported that Marine Bill Cormier recently donated \$250.00 to the Detachment.
  - A vote was taken where it was decided that \$75.00 would go to the Savings account and \$125.00 would go to the checking account.
  - The residual funds will be used to pay Marine Cormier's yearly dues.
- Adjutant Corson reminded all present that October meeting guest Michael Wilson, USN (Ret) suggested the Detachment consider the Veterans Legal Justice Fund as a worthy recipient of Detachment donations.
  - Adjutant researched the organization and recommended that the Detachment donate to this worthy cause.
  - Cmdt agreed to consider the donation at the December meeting.
- 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:**

- Adjutant, as one of his final duties while Cmdt, presented Marine Gahan with the Detachment Marine of the Year award for his outstanding contributions to Detachment fund raising and bringing a dedicated Web Sergeant onboard to increase the Detachment's online presence.

**Honors:**

- Marine Gahan indicated the flag raising at the Capitol on the 10<sup>th</sup> went off perfectly to include the color guard provided by MCJROTC Winnacunnet.
  - Governor Sununu was present and indicated that his son decided to join the Marine Corps and was due to report to Boot Camp shortly.
- JA Brad Howe indicated that all firing details (three) went off well on Veterans Day and thanked the participants: Cmdt Dick Lak, Paymaster George Dow, Chap George Lombardi, M4L

representative LtCol Matt Hobert, JA Brad Howe and Marines Dennis Pomper, Rich Pettengill, Jay Tennant, Mark Lindsley and Chip O'Connor.

- All rifles performed without malfunction, a tribute to the Detachment Armorer Chap George Lombardi.
- There was one misfire but it was later attributed to a defective blank round.
- As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

**Pease Greeters:**

- JPC Bob Niver indicated that there is a pickup in flights and that the Detachment should consider going down as a group to greet troops.
  - Individual participation is also encouraged.
- As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

**Dept. of NH (DNHMCL):**

- Marine Gahan urged the Detachment to become more involved in planning for the Quad-state next year hosted by the DNHMCL.
  - Ideally, the Detachment should provide 4 or 5 committee members to existing committees or form a committee from Seacoast to help out.
- Marine Gahan also urged attendance at the Joint Installation on 3 December at the Common Man restaurant in Concord.
- As appears in the Agenda, nothing else to add.

**MODD #349:**

- Pound Keeper Brad Howe indicated that there are no new members and that the pound is effectively defunct due to non-participation.
  - Brad also indicated that without Pound #349, NH will not be able to form a Pack (takes two Pounds to make a Pack).
  - Detachment members were urged to consider joining the Pound to rejuvenate it.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- JPC Niver administered the oath of office to elected officers: JVC John Flagler and JA Brad Howe.
  - SVC elect Ray Maher was not present but will be sworn in at a later date.
- Cmdt asked Chap George Lombardi, SAA Randy McNally and Paymaster George Dow to stay in their appointed officer positions for another year.
  - All agreed to remain for another year in their appointed officer positions.
  - A vote was taken and all members concurred with the Cmdt's appointments.
- Cmdt asked Marine Corson to assume duties as Adjutant.
  - Marine Corson agreed to perform the Adjutant duties for a year.

- A vote was taken and all members concurred with the appointment of Marine Corson to be Adjutant.
- Marine Bob Niver will remain as JPC.
- All else is as it appears in the Agenda.

**Good of the League:**

- Marine Gahan indicated that Granite State Detachment collected over \$3,600.00 at a Veterans Day fund raiser event outside a local Market Basket.
  - Marine Gahan recommended Seacoast Detachment consider doing something similar.
- Marine Gahan reported that Marine Jim Ambrose volunteered to serve Thanksgiving Dinner at the NH Veterans Home.
- Adjutant indicated that M4L rep Matt Hobert had been promoted to LtCol in the Marine Corps Reserve.
- 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 11 Dec 2023 @ 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 13 Dec 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.

**Closing Ceremony:** Cmdt Lak, acting SVC Howe, SAA McNally and Chap Lombardi conducted the closing ceremony at 2030. The 50/50 raffle (\$14.00) was won by Paymaster Dow 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**

**Monday 20 Nov 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) Vacant; Chaplain (Chap) \_\_\_\_; Paymaster \_\_Web Sergeant \_\_\_\_; Quorum\_\_  
\_\_\_\_Members \_\_\_\_Guests \_\_\_\_

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the 9 Oct 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.
  - <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=874828147300041&set=pcb.874828577299998>

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

- 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).
  - 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)

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

- Update on Membership activities.

**Correspondence** (Junior Past Cmdt Corson ( [Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com](mailto:Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com) )):

- Nothing significant to report.

**Scouting** (Junior Past Cmdt Corson ([Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com](mailto:Geoffrey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com) )):

- Nothing significant to report. .

**Public Information** 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/u/adKUOqOWyu>

- 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):

- 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** (Junior Past Cmdt Geoff Corson):

- Certificate of Appreciation sent to AMTECH LLC for large donation.
- Certificate of Appreciation awarded to the Totons, Mainly Printing for longstanding support of the Detachment.
- Certificates of Commendation awarded to Marines Jim Ambrose and Ken Mitchell.
- 2023 MOY and AOY award presentation.
- Member input solicited.

**Honors** (Junior Past Cmdt Geoff Corson):

- Update on status of ceremonial firearms (Chaplain George Lombardi).
- AAR for 10 Nov flag raising (Marine Jim Ambrose).
- After Action Report (AAR) for 11 Nov firing details (SVC Brad Howe).
  - Thanks to all Marines who participated: Dow, Hobert, Howe, Lak, Lombardi, Pettengill, Pomper, O'Connor, Tennant.
- AAR for 12 November Manchester Marathon (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.
  - 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.



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- 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.
- Joint Installation 2023, 3 Dec 2023, Common Man Restaurant, Concord, NH.
  - Sign up sent separately.
- 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](mailto:marineamazon@comcast.net) with questions or phone 207-752-0025.

**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:**

- AAR on Marine Corps Birthday/75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations (JVC Ray Maher and JPC Bob Niver)
- Annual Swearing in for Elected Officer Positions (SVC, JVC, JA).
- Nomination of appointed officers: Paymaster, Chaplain, etc.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

- AAR for Veterans Day fundraiser (Marines Gary Gahan/Jim Ambrose).
- Volunteer opportunities to help veterans (Marine Jim Ambrose).
- Marine Matt Hobert has been promoted to LtCol, USMCR.
- Member and Committee Chairs input solicited.

**FUTURE DATES:**

- Next monthly meeting: 11 Dec 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. We will be having our regular meeting and all safety protocols will be adhered to.

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