

Seacoast Detachment #394 Minutes of the August 11, 2025 Meeting at 1900:

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

Officer Roll Call: Commandant (Cmdt) Dick Lak, present; Senior Vice Commandant (SVC), Brad Howe, Present, Junior Vice Commandant (JVC), John Flagler, present ; Judge Advocate (JA), Ken Mitchell, present; Junior Past Commandant (JPC), Bob Niver, present; the Adjutant (Adj) Vacant; Paymaster, George Dow, present; the Web Sergeant, Jo Zurwell, excused; Sergeant at Arms (SAA), Randy McNally, present; Chaplain (Chap) George Lombardi, present. Members were present: Glen Blanchette, Eric Sirles, and Jared Short. There were eleven voting members (Lak, Howe, Flagler, Mitchell, Niver, Dow, Lombardi, McNally, Blanchette, Sirles and Short). There were 4 Officers and 7 members present. The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. There is a quorum.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: A check in the amount of \$ 2,000.00 was presented to the Director of “I got Bridged” from our Charitable Gaming Funds.

Minutes:

- A motion to accept July 14, 2025, Minutes was made by JVC Flagler and seconded by Member Blanchette. The motion passed with no dissenting vote cast.

Paymaster Report:

- The checking account balance (Detachment) is \$7,300.96, the checking account balance (Charitable Games earnings) is \$66,174.83 for a combined checking account balance of \$73,475.79.
- The savings account balance is \$11,332.55
- Total balance (Det Checking, Charitable Games Checking, Savings) is: \$84,808.34.

A motion was made to accept the Paymaster’s report by Member Blanchette and seconded by SAA McNally. The motion passed with no dissenting vote cast.

Chaplain Report:

- Dennis Pomper is still convalescing at home; he has a well-established schedule of PT. Noticeable progress in improved mobility; He is adamant that he will be driving soon. He enjoys hearing from members by phone: 603-205-0529.

Committees:

Scholarship:

- The Scholarship Committee has completed its scholarship applications reviews and selections for 2025 and is currently in recess until revised in early 2026. The membership wants to thank the Chairman, Ray Maher and his committee for a job well done.

MCJROTC:

- LtCol Eric Drown, USMC (Ret) CO and Msgt. Derrick Wise, USMC (Ret) have been advised that Detachment 394 stands ready to assist the MCJROTC should the need arise. The Detachment has established a good working relationship with the CO and NCOIC and will make every effort to continue to build on our progress.
- The Detachment has received an email from MSgt. Wise advising us that the MC JROTC is planning to enhance its competitive marksmanship equipment this coming Fall. Most of the required funding will come directly from the Marine Corps and the Town of Hampton, but a remaining balance may still be imposed on the MC JROTC. Currently the estimate is approximately \$1500.00. I assured MSgt. Wise, if he submits a request for financial assistance in that amount, the Detachment would be pleased to consider providing necessary funding from our Charitable account to eliminate any balance.

Communications/Website:

- Detachment Web Sergeant Jo Zurwell, was excused, but provided a detailed inventory of activity taken since the last meeting.

MEMBERSHIP:

A brief summary was presented of ongoing efforts to enhance the number of members that Detachment 394 carries on its roster.

Correspondence:

- Paymaster Dow indicated that there were several pieces of correspondence received and given to the Commandant for his action

Scouting:

- Nothing significant to report.

Public Information:

Zoom Coordinator/videographer JA Ken Mitchell ... Zoom “perpetual” dial-in:

Topic: Marine Corps League—Seacoast Chapter

Time: This is a recurring meeting anytime

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

Or Telephone: Dial: + 309 205 3325 (US toll)

Meeting ID: 990 4454 5492

MARINE FOR LIFE (M4L): Maj. Brendan.Tallon (Brendan.tallon@usmc.mil Brendan.i.tallon@gmail.com)

Contact information: cell phone 860 671 9362

M4L Northern New England (NH/MENT) on LinkedIn

To date, no Marine being discharged has contacted Detachment 394

DONATIONS AND GIFTS: JPC Niver

All future recommendations for Donations and Gifts need to be routed first to JPC Niver, Chairman, Donation and Gifts Committee, for review, deliberations, determination and recommendation by the Committee to the members at a regular monthly meeting.

A discussion was held to inform the members how a civic/community organization can qualify to become a recognized Charitable Organization (CO) by statute in New Hampshire. The organization submits required documentation to the NH Secretary of State, which in turn submits the information to the IRS. If the IRS determines the organization meets the requirements, it designates the organization a Chapter 501 C (3) or (4) non-profit charitable organization and any donation given to that organization is tax deductible. The NH Secretary of State assigns a number to the organization, and it is designated a CO.

A second discussion was held informing the members how a CO can become a **Licensed Charitable Organization (LCO)**, selected by the NH Lottery Commission, and eligible to receive Charitable Gaming Funds from a selected NH casino during a calendar year. Every year that a CO or LCO wants to be designated a LCO for the coming year, must submit an application (CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION APPLICATION) and hopefully be selected by the NH Lottery Commission; the LCO granted a license is then assigned up to 10 gaming days at a designated NH Casino and entitled to receive gaming revenue allocated by state statutes and distributed to the LCO. About 300 licenses are awarded annually by the Lottery Commission; for 2026, it is estimated that over 1000 CO and LCO will apply to be designated a LCO for 2026. We have formulated a Mission Plan to enhance the prospect that Detachment 394 will be selected a LCO for 2026.

HONORS:

Members may nominate marines and others for consideration for a selected honor.

Pease Greeters:

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

Dept. of NH (DNHMCL):

Commandant of the Department, Cody Dumont, has requested Detachment 394 to consider attending the statewide 250th Marine Corps Ball on November 10, 2025. Any correspondence or emails received from the Department that requests distribution to members or action by an officer is also distributed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Comments were requested from the members present; none were received.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Detachment 394 has been invited to the Dover, NH, REVO Casino for a photo shoot with a “Giant Check” in the amount that we received from the casino back in April.

Good of the League:

- Comments were requested from the members present; none were given.

Future Dates:

- **10 September** ... next Wed breakfast location: TBD
- **8 September** ---Next Detachment monthly meeting
- **10 November** ... Marine Corps 250th Birthday Dinner, Old Salt, Hampton, NH



Seacoast Detachment #394
Marine Corps League (MCL)
PO Box 690, Kittery ME 03904-0690

Monday August 11, 2025, Monthly Meeting Agenda
Booma American Legion Post 6
96 Islington Street, Portsmouth, NH

Uniform of the Day: Seasonal Uniform (Undress Uniform – Short 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 ____; Member ____ Member ____ Member ____ Member ____ Quorum ____ Officers ____ Total Officers & Members ____

Minutes: Motion to accept July 14, 2025 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: \$	Charitable Games balance: \$
Combined Checking Balance: \$	Total Balance: \$	

Motion ____ **Second** ____ **Vote** ____

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

- Dennis Pomper Still convalescing at home; well established schedule of PT. Noticeable progress in improved mobility. Enjoys hearing from members by phone: 603-205-0529.

Committee Reports

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

- The Scholarship Committee, 2025, is currently recessed until January 2026.

<https://www.seacoastmarines.org/our-work/awards-scholarships/mcl-scholarships/>

MCJROTC (LtCol Eric Drown, USMC (Ret) CO and Msgt. Derrick Wise, USMC (Ret).

- MCJROTC has been advised that Detachment 394 stands ready to assist them should the need arise. The Detachment has established a good working relationship with the CO and NCOIC and will make every effort to continue to build on our progress. <https://www.seacoastmarines.org/news/winnacunnet-mcjrotc-quarterly-update/>

Communications/Website and Social Media (Honorary Marine Web Sgt Jo Zurwell (jozurwellto@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/follow.
Update on Detachment Social Media activity (jozurwell@comcast.net)

Membership JPC Bob Niver JVC John Flager

- JPC Bob Niver (revim167@gmail.com) and JVC John Flagler (jeanot49@netscape.com):
A brief summary will be presented to acquaint the members present with ongoing efforts to enhance our membership roster.

Correspondence (Paymaster Dow)

- Update on correspondence received.

Scouting

- Update on Scouting activity.

Public Information (JPC Niver)

- Zoom coordinator/videographer Judge Advocate 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

Marine for Life (M4L) Maj Brendan Tallon (Brendan.tallon@usmc.mil or Brendan.j.tallon@gmail.com):

- Maj Tallon's contact info: cell phone: 860.671.9362.
- M4L Northern New England (NH/ME/VT) on LinkedIn @: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5145719/>
- Recently received a call from LtCol Hobert informing me that he is aware of two Marines that will soon be discharged that may need help from us as they plan to relocate to the seacoast area.

Donations and Gifts: JPC Bob Niver

- All future recommendations for Donations and Gifts need to be routed first to JPC, Bob Niver, Chairman, Donation and Gifts Committee, for review, deliberations, determination and recommendation by the Donations and Gifts Committee to the members at a regular monthly meeting.
- **Discussion:** A quick review of the donations Detachment 394 has granted in 2025; encourage members to take the initiative to become more familiar with local organizations that would qualify as eligible (501 C (3) or (4), that is registered with the NH Department of State, that has been found eligible to receive charitable funding because they have established a history of serving communities, charitable organizations, religious organizations, special needs sports groups, animal protection and service groups, and, of course individuals in need). It is relatively easy to verify any of the aforementioned organizations: A Google search is often more than sufficient; if a state agency is involved, go directly to their website. One compelling caveat: “All funds raised through charitable gaming in New Hampshire are intended to fund charitable endeavors within the New Hampshire community.” Said caveat was written in a Quarterly Report that I received from the Investigation & compliance Division, New Hampshire Lottery Commission.
- **Discussion:** A Second open floor discussion will be focused upon information that we were given at the Revo Casino, photo shoot in Dover, Tuesday evening, from Seneca A. Bernard, Director of Operations, Revo Casino Group. As I stood in front of him, he reminded me that we must file a new application (CHARITABLE

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION APPLICATION) to be considered a recognized Charitable Organization (CO) and hopefully be granted a License for 2026 and be assigned up to ten gaming dates in 2026 and receive a casino gaming funds check within fifteen days subsequent to are assigned dates. He also intimated that he anticipates a substantial increase in first time applicants; he stated that it could be in the range of a thousand. He closed his comments by saying Revo Casino Group is mandated to provide gambling profit funding to a little over three hundred licensed CO. We have our work cut out for us; we need to devise a Mission Plan to enhance our prospect of being selected for a 2026 license and assigned gaming dates.

Honors

- Members may nominate Marines and others for consideration for a selected honor.

Pease Greeters

- Individuals (not groups) can now greet flights per new instructions that were sent separately and are restated below.
- Please wear your Greeter name tag.
- 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 Distance during interactions with the troops.
- Try to stay outside as much as possible.
- Greeter Greer: 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 such as pins, coins or patches.
- Pease Greeters has resumed sending flight alerts.

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

- The Department Commandant, Cody Dumont, has requested any member of Detachment 394 that has an interest in attending the department Marine Corps 250th birthday ball to let Commandant Lak know and he will contact Commandant Dumont

OLD BUSINESS:

- **BYLAW INFRACTION:** Section 401 of our Bylaws requires the Commandant, at the July meeting, to appoint a nominating committee of five members, chaired by the Junior Past Commandant, "for the purpose of selecting a slate of officers to be proposed for election," I did not comply. Since our July meeting, I have, via email, appointed JPC Bob Niver Chairman. We have exchanged ideas about securing nominees for selection at our August meeting. Section 401 also requires that a slate of officers "be presented by the nominating committee in August." At our meeting on the 11th, Chairman Niver and I will improvise and modify our nominating process. Chairman Niver asserts that there are three nominees for officers next year: Dick Lak, Commandant, Brad Howe, Senior Vice-Commandant and Ken Mitchell for Judge Advocate. With a little bit of luck, we may be able to achieve a full slate of four officers and comply with Section 401.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We have a very important question to answer: Do we have a picnic on August 16, or do we not have a picnic on August 16, that is the question?

SVC Howe recently received a phone call from PNSY Security Chief, who told Brad because of increased activity at the base, and critical personnel, who are charged with vetting the entire list of names that we submitted for entry onto the base to attend the picnic, are absent, creating a situation, that in all probability, the list will not be completely vetted, therefore, the entire list may be rejected and no one will be allowed entry on August 16th.

Senior Vice-Commandant Howe is ... literally ... busting his ass ... to find an acceptable alternative if need be. We have spoken together and he feels confident that he will, contrary to probability, have a plan, to be announced Monday evening.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

- Comments will be taken from the membership present for open discussion.

FUTURE DATES:

- **13 August , 2025.** Wednesday breakfasts @ 0900 at TBD.
- **8 September, 2025:** Next scheduled Detachment 394 monthly meeting
- **16 August, 2025:** annual Detachment picnic at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard ???????
- **10 November, 2025:** Marine Corps 250th Birthday Dinner at the Old Salt, Hampton, NH

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