

Seacoast Detachment 394 MINUTES of September 14, 2026

1900 Opening Ceremony: The Opening Ceremony was conducted by Commandant Lak and SAA McNally

Officer Roll Call & Members Present: Cmdt. Lak, present, Sr. Vice Cmdt. Howe, present, Jr. Vice Cmdt. Flagler, present, Judge Advocate Mitchell, absent, Jr. Past Cmdt Niver, absent, Chaplain Sirles, absent, SAA McNally, present, Paymaster Lombardi, present, Member Lombardi, present, Member Blanchette, present Member Case, present, Member Dow, present. Officers 3, Members 6: Total 9 Quorum of 9 Present.

Special Presentation: Veterans Count: Courtney Stairs, Liaison Officer, Easter Seals of NH /VT, presented a brief overview of the charitable works for Veterans that Veterans Count engages in NH. She distributed written information to members and answered questions. Website: VETSCOUNT.ORG ... Phone: 603-315-4354 or intake@vetscount.org

Minutes: Motion to accept August 10, 2026, meeting; Motion to Approve made by Member Blanchette and Seconded by member Lombardi; passed by unanimous vote.

New Members and Guests:

No new members or guests were present

Paymasters Report: Paymaster Lombardi

Savings Acct: \$12,683.82 Checking Acct: \$6,222.53 Combined Detach. Acct: \$18,906.35
Charitable Gaming Balance: \$128,711. 84 Total Balance: \$ 147,618.19

Motion to Accept: Member McNally, Second Member Howe: Passed Unanimously

Paymasters Monthly Compensation of \$ 366.32 reviewed and approved. Job Well Done

Motion to Approve: Member Flagler; Second Member Blanchette: Vote: Unanimous

Chaplain's Report: Chaplain Sirles Absent

No discussion held

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship Committee: The five scholarships awards of \$1,500.00 granted by the members of Detachment 394 have been received by each of the designated students. The business of the Scholarship Committee has been completed and will be inactive until recalled in January, 2027.

MCJROTC Lt/Col Drown, USMC (Ret) and M/Sgt 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. No recent communication has been received or action requested.

Communications/Website and Social Media: A brief presentation of the efforts expedited by our Webmaster Jo Zurwell to constantly upgrade our website with pictures, information, scheduled events, meeting minutes and future dates of importance. The Monthly Report submitted by Jo was sent to the members in advance of the meeting. Job well done!!

Membership JPC Bob Niver, JVC John Flagler

A summary was presented to acquaint the membership with the ongoing efforts to enhance our membership roster and our scheduled Fundraiser at two Market Baskets in Portsmouth (Woodbury Ave. and Lafayette Rd.) on Saturday, November 7th between 0900 and 1500. Please plan on volunteering and help us raise funds for our department revenues. Last year we raised \$4,500. We need 8 members per hour to man 4 doors. We have 6 volunteers so far: Howe, Dow, Lombardi, McNally, Flagler and Lak.

Correspondence: Paymaster Lombardi: Several letters requesting donations given to the Commandant.

Scouting: Nothing to Report

Public/ Information: JPC Niver/ JA Mitchell

Zoom coordinator/videographer Ken Mitchell presents “perpetual” dial-in:

Topic: Marine Corps League—Seacoast Detachment 394

Time: This is a recurring meeting ... Meet Anytime

Join from PC, Max, Linux, iOS or Android or telephone.

Dial 1-309-205-3325 (USToll)

Meeting I D: 990 4454 5492

Zoom Pass Code 932738

ZOOM WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS MEETING

Marine For Life (M4L) Maj. Brendan Tallon

Maj. Tallon's contact info is: 860-671-9362 No new information: No Discussion

No further information has been received from Maj. Tailon.

Donations and Gifts: JPC Bob Niver

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

DGC Vice-Chairman Howe presented an approved recommendation by the Committee for approval by the membership for a \$1,500.00 donation to Homeland Heroes.

Motion to Approve: Blanchette; Second: Case Vote 9

Pease Greeters:

No Discussion

Dept. of NH: Commandant Dumont informed Detachment 394 that the Department Officer's voted to grant each department in NH a donation of \$1,500.00 to be used exclusively to defray the costs of the Marine Corps Birthday Celebration. The Commandant recommended that the Detachment allocate an additional \$1,000.00 to the celebration so that all dinners ordered, off the menu, by attending members and guests will be paid out of the joint department and detachment funds. The reasoning expressed by the Commandant to support his suggestion was that "Members of Detachment 394 have contributed a great deal this year to sustain the health and prosperity of the Detachment; the Detachment can reciprocate and provide sustenance to its Marines on its birthday. Alcoholic beverages will be purchased at the individual's expense.

A motion to approve \$1,000.00 from our Detachment Account be allocated to augment the \$1,500.00 donation from the Department and the combined total of \$2,500.00 be expended at the Marine Corps Birthday Dinner to absorb the cost of every dinner ordered, off the menu, by members and their guests attending the party. Alcoholic beverages are not included.

Motion for approve: Lombardi; Second: Blanchette Vote 8/1

The recommended venue for Detachment 394 Marine Corps Birthday Dinner is The Old Salt, Hampton, NH; a social hour to commence at 1700; a short presentation ceremony at 1800 and dinner at 1830.

Motion: Lombardi; Second: Flager Vote 9

All in attendance voiced their intent to attend.

Old Business:

Comments were requested to conduct any matters that were considered Old business; no comments were presented.

New Business:

On behalf of JPC Niver, Chairman, Nomination Committee, the Commandant announced a Slate of Officers for 2027: Commandant Dick Lak, Senior Vice Commandant Brad Howe, Junior Vice Commandant John Flagler and Judge Advocate Ken Mitchell. All four candidates formerly agreed to serve. Nominations were extended to the floor; no nominations were presented by the membership.

Nominations from the floor will be considered at the October meeting ... **Elections will be held at the conclusion of our October meeting ... please plan to attend (Zoom) and vote.**

Dover Casino Photo Shoot, an enlarged mock check, denoting the actual amount that we received from the Dover Casino, with attending members and guests standing behind the check is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th at 1700. Members were encouraged to attend. A **Social Supper**, immediately following the photo shoot, was also scheduled; all members present were invited to enjoy each other's company and partake in dinner. The Commandant suggested that members and guests ordering food and soft beverages off the menu be responsible only for tipping the server \$5.00, the actual food bills would be collected, tabulated and paid for by Detachment 394.

A Motion was so made by McNally; Second: Howe Vote 9

Post Minutes Addendum: On 9/29/26, 16 Members and guests attended the photo shoot and supper social; both events were a great success; all enjoyed themselves. Seneca was very pleased with our numbers. Our server, Ajia, asked me to say a great big THANK YOU to all who attended the supper; she very much appreciated how generous you all were.

The total bill was just under \$212.00.

Good of the League:

Comments were requested from the floor, but none were offered.

FUTURE DATES:

September 15, 2026 Wednesday Breakfast at Hebert's, Portsmouth, NH

October 12, 2026: Next scheduled meeting at 1900, Post 6, Portsmouth, NH

November 3, 2026: National Election Day ... make sure that you **VOTE**

November 7, 2026; Market Basket Fund Raising Day ... **Please volunteer**

November 10, 2026: Marine Corps Birthday Dinner, The Old Salt, Hampton, NH



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

Monday September 14, 2026, 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) Sirles, Sergeant at Arms (SAA) McNally, "Marines' Hymn."

Officer & Member Roll: CMDT. ____ SR. VICE CMDT. ____; JR VICE CMDT. ____ JUDGE ADVOCATE ____
JR. PAST CMDT. ____ ADJUDANT ____ CHAPLAIN ____ PAYMASTER ____ SERGEANT AT ARMS ____
Member ____ Member ____ Member ____ Member ____ Member ____ Member ____
Member ____ Officers ____ Members ____ Total Officers & Members ____ QUORUM: YES () NO ().

Special Presentation: VETERANS COUNT: Courtney Stairs, Liaison Officer, Easterseals of NH/VT, will present a brief overview of the charitable works for veterans that Veterans Count is engaged in NH. Information will be distributed and questions will be taken.

Minutes: Motion to accept August 10, 2026, 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 Lombardi

Savings/Scholarship: \$ Checking: \$ Charitable Games balance: \$
Combined Checking Balance: \$ Total Balance: \$

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

Paymasters Monthly Compensation: Based on a submitted monthly Invoice, payment for contracted hourly employment of the Paymaster for the Month of August is TBD.

Motion to Accept ____ **Second** ____ **Vote** ____

Chaplain Report: Chaplain Sirles

- 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.
- Bob Niver had knee surgery and was subsequently admitted to Northeast Rehab. Hospital for PT. He is in Room 412 and the number for NRH is 603-501-5500; as of 9/8/26 he is still a patient. Length of stay is determined by progress.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee: The five scholarship awards of \$1,500.00 granted by the members of Detachment 394 have been received by each of the designated students. The business of the Scholarship Committee has been completed and will be inactive until January of 2027.

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 enhance our relationship in the future.

Communications/Website and Social Media: Honorary Member Web Sgt. Jo Zurwell (jozurwellto@comcast.net)

Detachment Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SeacoastMarines>

Members are encouraged to update content. Detachment Instagram site needs to be visited/utilized/followed.

Update on Detachment Social Media activity constantly enhanced. Monthly report timely submitted ... copies forwarded to members. Job Well Done

Membership JPC Bob Niver, JVC John Flager

- JPC Bob Niver (revim167@gmail.com) and JVC John Flagler (jeannot49@netscape.com)

A brief summary will be presented to acquaint the members present with ongoing efforts to enhance our membership roster. Members are reminded to volunteer for the upcoming fund raiser: **Saturday, November 7, 2026, at both Market Baskets (Woodbury Ave. and Lafayette Rd.) in Portsmouth, NH from 0900 until 1500.** Last year our efforts yielded \$4,500.00 ... for 6 hours of commitment, that's damn good. Need 8

Plan to Volunteer_____

Correspondence: Paymaster Lombardi

Scouting: Update on Scouting ... JVC Howe.

Public Information: JPC Niver & JA Mitchell

- 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

Zoom Pass Code: 932738

ZOOM WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON SEPTEMBER 14TH

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/>

No further information has been received from Maj. Tallon

Donations and Gifts: JPC Bob Niver, Chairman

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

DGC Chairman, Bob Niver, will present an approved recommendation by the committee for consideration by the membership for a \$1,500.00 donation to Homeland Heroes.

Motion to Approve _____; **Second** _____; **Vote** _____

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.

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

- The Department Commandant, Cody Dumont, has sent an email to all detachment commandants notifying each that the board of officers voted to send each New Hampshire detachment \$1500.00 to be used to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday. The email said in part "...the Board unanimously agreed to send each detachment \$1,500.00 for the Marine Corps Ball. Please use this money in the celebration of our birthday."

I immediately dispatched, on behalf of each member of Detachment 394, a very sincere THANK YOU. I believe their clear intent is for each detachment to dedicate the entire \$1,500.00 exclusively to the celebration of USMC Birthday. With a budget of that amount, we can plan some great things. Your ideas will be welcomed for discussion at the meeting.

I intend to recommend Detachment 394 augment the Department's donation with approximately another \$1,000.00 to absorb the cost of every dinner ordered, of the menu, by members and guests attending the birthday dinner. Members of Detachment 394 have contributed a great deal this year to sustain the health and prosperity of the detachment, the detachment can reciprocate and provide sustenance to its Marines on its birthday. Alcoholic beverages are not included.

Motion to Approve _____ **Second** _____ **Vote** _____

The recommended venue is the Old Salt Restaurant, Hampton, NH, Social Hour to commence at 1700; short presentation ceremony at 1800 and dinner will be served at 1830.

Motion to Approve: _____; **Second** _____ **Vote** _____

Plan to attend: _____

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chairman Niver, Nominations Committee, will present the names of the Slate of Officers for 2027, that have agreed to serve. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.
- **Dover Casino Photo Shoot** is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th. at 1700; a picture of an enlarged mock-up check with members standing behind will be taken; immediately following the shoot, I propose we have a **DINNER SOCIAL** at the restaurant in the Casino with all in attendance that would like to participate. The restaurant has a nice variety of choices on their menu, the food is good and costs are very reasonable; plus, it's Happy Hours at the time we would be there. To further entice you, and any accompanying guest, to attend, I suggest that each member and guest that orders food and a soft drink pay only \$5.00 of their submitted bill and the balance, if any, to be paid for by Detachment 394. I will ask for a Motion to approve my suggestion

MOTION TO APPROVE _____ **SECOND** _____ **VOTE**

Plan to attend shoot _____

Plan to attend Dinner _____

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:

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

FUTURE DATES:

September 16, 2026 Breakfast location for the next 4 weeks @ 0900 TBD.

September 29,2026 Dover Casino photo shoot at 1700 & Dinner Social

October 12 2026 Next scheduled meeting of Detachment 394 at 1900 Post 6

November 3, 2026: National Election Day Make sure you **VOTE**

November 7,2026: Market Basket Fund Raising Date

November 9, 2026: Scheduled meeting date of Detachment 394

November 10, 2026: Marine Corps Birthday Dinner