

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Department of New Hampshire
24 March 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Cherie Monnell, Commandant Kevin Brown
 Dave Dubey Tony Dube
 Cody Dumont Daniel Fedor
 Mark Lindsley Gary Gahan
 Chris Peirce Mike Martioski
 Bob Patenaude Mike Harnisch

1. Meeting began at 11:12. Opening ceremonies were conducted by the Commandant, acting Chaplain Cody Dumont, and Sgt at Arms.
2. Roll Call of Officers: Judge Advocate, Chaplain, and Paymaster excused. All others present.
3. Roll Call of Detachments: Seacoast and Twin States absent. All others present.
4. A quorum was present.
5. Marines in Distress: Dave Dubey reported on a Demers Detachment member whose wife is facing a lengthy recovery from cancer surgery. The Marine and his family are well supported at present, but future assistance from the Department may be requested if local resources become depleted.
6. Gary Gahan moved to accept the minutes of the 23 Dec 2023 meeting as written. Cody Dumont seconded. Motion passed.
7. Commandant Monnell presented the Paymaster's Report. Current fund balance is \$16,920.28, which includes \$1,270.00 in the scholarship fund and \$9,348.30 in the Marine Assist fund. Cody Dumont moved to accept the Paymaster's Report. Mike Harnisch seconded. Motion passed.
8. Chaplain's Report: none
9. Fundraising: no report
10. Scholarship Report: No applications received yet. Detachments that have their own scholarship programs are reminded that they may submit one of their applicants to be considered for a Department scholarship.
11. Volunteers are needed for various duties at the Quad States convention. Commandant Monnell will host a zoom meeting in the near future.
12. We had an extensive discussion of the Department's future before proceeding with elections. The sole nominee for the position of Department Commandant has become unavailable due to health concerns. Commandant Monnell is unable to accept another term due to term limits set forth in our bylaws. No one else is willing and able to accept this position. If we do not have a Commandant, then National will take over management of our Department, including our finances. There is concern about how this may affect expenses incurred by our upcoming Quad States convention, especially as Commandant Monnell has personally signed for these expenses. Dave Dubey moved to extend Commandant Monnell's present term until 1 May 2024, which will enable her to make sure convention expenses are paid with Department funds. Cody Dumont seconded. Motion passed.
13. We will address the Commandant's position again at our quarterly meeting in June.

14. A final call was made for nominations for the remaining Department offices. There being none, nominations were closed. Gary Gahan will serve as Senior Vice-Commandant. Mark Lindsley will serve as Junior Vice-Commandant and Kevin Brown will serve as Judge Advocate.
15. Dillon Detachment offered to provide a POW/MIA table and a reader for the Quad States convention.
16. Bob Patenaude brought in a dress blue tunic and made it available to any member who wants it.
17. The Quad States convention will be held in Nashua on 19 – 21 April.
18. The next DNHMCL quarterly meeting will be held at American Legion Post #37, 5 Riverside Street, Hookset on 9 June 2024.
19. Meeting ended at 12:08. Closing ceremonies were conducted by the Commandant, Senior Vice-Commandant, acting Chaplain, and Sgt at Arms.

Submitted by Dave Dubey, Department Adjutant

Marines,

As you are aware Cherie has completed her time as Department Commandant and has earned a much-deserved rest. The problem that faces our Department is someone to succeed her in the position of Department Commandant. I agreed to put my hat in the running for this position. The first thing I would like to do, is to introduce myself to each of you. Here goes:

My name is Cody Dumont, I live in Penacook but am originally from Enid, Oklahoma. I have been married for 26 years and have 3 biological children (27, 25, 23), and have fostered children for the last 4 years. I am active as a Freemason in Blazing Star Eureka Lodge No. 11. I also volunteer to teach a class (Computer Science) to underprivileged Juniors at a charter school in Northfield. During the summer you can often find me at various car shows (57 T-bird, 27 Model T, 99 Mustang) or building swing sets for foster children by foster children. Most recently I was contacted by the United Way to help establish a veteran coalition in the Capital region to help reduce veteran suicide and provide mental health support. In addition, I am employed by a company called Tenable, we make vulnerability management software. I am often working with development teams in India, Ireland, California, Maryland, and other places around our world.

My leadership philosophy is “Leaders enable others to succeed”. Within a volunteer organization it is to never a good practice to become upset about what others can or cannot do, but be always be grateful for the gift of participation. As you can see with my bio above, I participate in many things, and I cherish every moment and organization. As Marines, we are victorious when we work together for the mission. According to National (<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/>), here is our mission:

“The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.”

To accomplish our mission at home we must work together. I hope to provide opportunities for all members to participate in activities together. I hope to create culture that enables all 7 regions of the state to embrace our Marine Corps heritage together as a department. There are a few things I believe need to be accomplished first:

1. Change the bylaws to establish a rotation of Department officers throughout the Detachments. Meaning each detachment will be assigned an officer billet for one term of service (two years). This will rotate, for example in the current term Dillon Detachment would provide the role of Department Commandant, and Gormley Detachment as Department Vice Commandant. Next term the offices would rotate. Each of the 7 Detachments would supply 1 of the 7 primary roles:

Commandant (2024-#734)
Senior Vice Commandant (2024-#832)
Junior Vice Commandant (2024-#1010)
Judge Advocate (2024-#1111)
Adjutant (2024-#394)
Paymaster (2024-#506)
Chaplain (2024-#542)

The next term would be:

Commandant (2024-#832)
Senior Vice Commandant (2024-#1010)
Junior Vice Commandant (2024-#1111)
Judge Advocate (2024-#394)
Adjutant (2024-#506)
Paymaster (2024-#542)
Chaplain (2024-#734)

And so on. Additionally, the changes in the bylaws should prevent the same person from simply rolling into the next role. Each person should be allowed to skip a term, and therefore allowing the opportunity for all members to participate, and not exhausting the goodwill of a few members. The details will need to be worked out, but something like this will help to prevent burnout and help create healthy environment for all members to participate in the leadership of our Department. This helps to ensure all members feel as they are part of the greater organization, and ensure the Department is not run select few.

2. The Department should not have any money on hand. Realistically what I mean, is the money the Department has should be approved and used according to the will and needs of the Detachments. Each time the Department wants to spend money every detachment should vote to support or not support. If the funding is not available, then we (the Department) can't do the activity. The Department should only have money to do what it needs to do, all other monies should be redistributed to the Detachments. The Detachment should keep a line item for department funding. And this money would then be transferred to the Department as needed.

Please note, all the numbers I use in this example are not real and only used for the ease of this example.

For example, let's say the Department has \$7,500. The Department will send a check of \$1,000, keeping \$500 for minor operational expenses. The Detachments will hold this money until needed by the Department. For example, if the Department decides to hold a picnic, and cost of \$700, each detachment would vote, and then if the outcome of the votes is "yes" then each detachment would send the money to the Department for sole purpose of the picnic. Any remaining monies over \$50, would then be equally redistributed to the Detachments.

3. All members need to be given a chance to vote in activities. There needs to be a proxy voting system created. Therefore if a vote at the Department is needed, then the Department officer in the Detachment would be responsible to collect the votes and return the count to the Department.

4. Department meetings will only be held in the same location once every 7 meetings. Per the bylaws, we will not be able to hold the meeting in Concord every quarter, but each detachment will be required to host a meeting.

Overall, any changes I would like to propose will be focused on engaging all members in the Department affairs. The Department should not solely be run but 6 - 9 people whom happen to drive to Concord every 3 months.