

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Department of New Hampshire
9 June 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:	Cherie Monnell, Commandant	Gary Gahan, Sr Vice Commandant
	Kevin Brown, Judge Advocate	Kim Benoit, Paymaster
	Mike Harnish, Sgt at Arms	Cody Dumont
	Bryan Westover	Lenny LeBrun
	Tony Dube	Bob Patenaude
	Dan Fedor	

1. Meeting began at 1100. Opening ceremonies were conducted by the Commandant, acting Chaplain Gahan, and Sgt at Arms.
2. Roll Call of Officers: Chaplain and Adjutant - absent/excused. All others present.
3. Roll Call of Detachments: Seacoast absent. All others represented.
4. There were eleven members present. A quorum was present.
5. Cody Dumont was installed as the new Department Commandant by Past Dept Cmdt Monnell.
6. Cmdt Dumont had Sgt at Arms temporarily escort Past Cmdt Monnell from the room while he passed around *The Giving Tree* book and The Giving Marine plaque for members to sign as gifts for Past Cmdt Monnell. Sgt at Arms and Past Cmdt Monnell re-entered the room. Cmdt Dumont presented Past Cmdt Monnell with gifts and offered words of praise and appreciation.
7. Cmdt Dumont introduced himself and provided information on his very busy life, work and family commitments. He handed out some guidelines which he wants every member of the Department to receive, and also summarized his philosophy for the future of the Department, which included:
 - a. Have fun!
 - b. Don't recruit, instead invite people to participate in Detachment events. If they enjoy it, they will ask to join.
 - c. His role as an enabler, not a doer. He will provide support, but cannot provide the time to do all the things that his predecessors have done.
 - d. Future Dept NH meetings will be rotated to each of the Detachment areas starting with the next quarterly meeting. Each Det will host every seventh meeting, roughly, every two years. He would also propose this to be included in the Department By-Laws.

e. He would also like to amend the By-Laws to having all Department Officers nominated, not elected. Each Det would nominate a member for a specific Dept Officer position which would rotate with each 2-year term. Also amend term limits where members can't hold a second consecutive term as an officer, whether it be the same or a different position.

f. In addition, he wants all Department funds to be distributed to the Detachments, current and future funds. Should the Dept need funds, then the Dets will provide the Dept with the appropriate share. Also create an electoral college/delegate voting system so that all Dept Members have a say in Department actions and spending.

g. Cmdt Dumont would like to see the Department do more things together, like the annual Poolee Picnic, sponsored by the Dillon Det, which all the Poolees in NH and their families are invited to fun, games, food and comradery – held on August 10th in Franklin. He then encouraged the members present to inspire participation by the Detachments to do more as a department – meetings, leisure, or even build swing sets for foster kids, whatever.

h. Cmdt Dumont ended by saying that he needs assistance with funerals and scouts – if you can't do the activity personally, then you can be a great asset by being the contact person to arrange it. Anyone who would be willing to volunteer to be the Point Of Contact for either, please let Cmdt Dumont know.

Meeting Business continued:

8. Ill or in Distress: Not discussed.

9. No Chaplain's Report was presented.

10. Past Cmdt Monnell briefed the Department scholarship program for Dave Dubey. Only one complete submission was received. After some discussion as to how much to award, SVC Gahan made a **motion** to provide \$1,000 to the one and only winner of this year's Department scholarship. Tony Dube seconded. There was no further discussion, **motion passed** with all in favor.

11. SVC Gahan made a **motion** to approve the 24 March 2024 minutes as published/presented. Sgt at Arms Harnish seconded. No discussion, **motion passed**.

12. Paymaster Benoit reported that the current total account balance is \$12,480. Of that, \$1,270 is dedicated to the scholarship and \$9,348 is from charitable gaming. There was never a motion or vote on the report, as the discussion focused on that the charitable gaming funds should be spent soon and how they should be allocated for good causes. SVC Gahan expects that a similar amount will be collected again this year.

a. SVC Gahan made a **motion** to reimburse then Cmdt Monnell for \$379.76 for Mid-Winter Conference expenses. JA Brown seconded. Discussed that the budget was for \$500, **motion passed** with all in favor.

b. SVC Gahan made a **motion** to donate \$2,000 from the charitable gaming funds to Building Dreams for Marines. Past Cmdt Monnell seconded. Discussed that they now include all branches of service and will support the Berlin area. **Motion passed** by majority vote.

c. SVC Gahan made a **motion** to donate \$2,000 from the charitable gaming funds to the NH Food Bank to help with the additional need to feed children during the summer months when free/reduced lunches at school are not available. Tony Dube seconded. Discussed whether this falls under the mission of the League. **Motion passed** by majority vote.

d. SVC Gahan made a **motion** to donate \$2,000 from the charitable gaming funds to the NH Veterans Home, specifically for the Benefits Fund. Sgt at Arms Harnish seconded. Discussed different items on their “wish list” that these funds would be used for. **Motion passed** with all in favor.

13. Cmdt Dumont announced that his goal is that future meetings will be limited to 30 minutes – discuss only needed items and each Det report on what they are doing now and what are they planning. All other discussions can be done either before or after a meeting, while having a meal, etc.

14. After some discussion, it was decided that the next quarterly meeting will be held in the Lakes Region in September. Both Cmdt Dumont and Bob Patenaude stated that they are willing to look for a venue.

15. The next quarterly meeting will be held in September at a place and date to be determined.

16. The 50/50 raffle was won by Bryan Westover.

17. Meeting ended at 1230. Closing ceremonies were conducted by the Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant/acting Chaplain, and Sgt at Arms.

Submitted by Bryan Westover, acting Adjutant,
in the absence of the amazing Dave Dubey