



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

April 2026 Newsletter

Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74, Brookline, NH meets the 4th Thursday of the month* at 38 Main Street Brookline. Meetings begin at 1900 hours (7PM). *Nov and Dec meeting held 3rd Thursday.

You can attend via Zoom: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/6205759325?pwd=a1g1aVdna0djMjRFYThlQUlVb1grdz09>
Meeting ID = 6205759325; Passcode: ht3w6Z or,
One tap mobile = (646) 558-8656; Meeting ID = 6205759325#

If you wish to join or have questions about the American Legion, please call one of the Post Officers.
Visit our Facebook Page at: Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74 Brookline, NH

Next Meeting:

23 April at 7:00 PM

26 March Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Commander Will Collard. 11 members were present, in person or by Zoom, and two guests (Jeff Jew and Lorrie Stephens representing the Brookline Scout Troop 260).

Colors advanced, prayers offered, POW/MIA empty chair recognized, Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble recited.

Business activities suspended for removing the draping covering the Charter in honor and tribute for our departed member, Bobbie Canada. Prayer was offered for Bobbie Canada.

Jeff Jew presented the Troop 260 Annual Report and Charter.

Minutes: Bruce Moran moved to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes since they were published in the newsletter sent to all the members and that we will be covering all items from the minutes during the meeting. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Arline d'Arbonne presented the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund Deposits reported: \$500.00 donation from Chris Lussier toward the AP Class Wash DC trip; \$45.00 for Tom Fencil dues; \$105.00 for Bob Knudson dues; totaling \$650.00. Expenses

reported: \$45.42 to Eversource; \$250.00 to Department of NH/Commander's Project for Make-a-Wish; \$135.00 for flowers for Bobbie Canada; totaling \$430.42. The Monument Fund Expenses included: None. Deposits included: None. Chris Lussier moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved.

Membership: 2 members have 2025 membership fees due, and 3 members have 2026 membership fees due. Current membership is 55 members (52 Activ1e/8 PUFL/44 with 2026 dues or later, 3 due for 2026, 3 Expired/0 Pending). Reminder that the increase in membership fees to \$40.00 occurs 1 July 2026. Please note: Only the member can renew for 3 years online. If renewing by mail, only submit the renewal for 1 year. If the three-year option is selected, the members will receive their membership card for one year, but the membership system shows the three-year enrollment.

Sick Call and Employment:

- Harold Ryder has dementia. Keep Harold in your prayers.
- Bobbie Canada passed away on 10 February. His burial is 2 May, 11:00 am and celebration of life is 2 May at 1:00 pm.
- Bob Glover – Will continue to try to contact him to see how he is doing.

Old Business:

- Monument: Remaining obligations – identify American Legion past deceased members to

add to the walkway. Kerry Spangler is working on the list and has about 167 area veteran names. So far, only 12 have been confirmed to have been Brookline American Legion Members. We need to check to see who of the 12 already have bricks at the monument. (OPEN)

- Gutters and Sandbags for the Post Building: May want to consider a way to deflect water from the outhouse roof away from the building.
 - Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to spend up to \$150.00 to purchase materials to install gutters on the outhouse section of the building, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Gutters will need to be purchased and installed. (OPEN)
 - The Scouts Troop 260 filled 20 sandbags with sand for placement around the rear basement door. Sandbags are in place and we will assess from there. The sandbags seem to be effective so far this winter. (OPEN)
- Charitable Gaming – The paperwork was submitted and accepted adding the Post to the NH Secretary of State's charitable organization list. We will now wait to see if we can get into one of the casinos schedules. (OPEN)
- Insurance – Policy was implemented and payment made. We are waiting for the policy documentation to arrive. (OPEN)
- Bill Graham mentioned that we may want to improve the storage conditions in the basement. We need to look at getting shelves or storage lockers for storing items. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that we investigate storage possibilities in preparation for the spring cleaning of the basement in March 2026. Bruce Moran seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. We will work with the Scouts to coordinate the spring cleaning. Kerry Spangler will research the costs of storage shelving or lockers. One item required is a metal container for the flags being stored for disposition. The cost of storage equipment should be around \$500.00. Purchasing shelving with wheels would provide more storage availability. . Planned meeting with the scouts on 13 April at 8:30 PM to assess the needs of all organizations concerned. (OPEN)

- Oratorical Contest – We need to investigate participating with the schools for this contest. Since the District and Department only needs names for participants early and the competition at District is in January; Department is in March, we may be able to get them involved. Monetary awards are available at each level. Department is working with the Governor to make this part of the Civics curriculum in the schools. Greg d'Arbonne has the email information for the new HBHS principal. We will work toward implementing next school year. Contest starts in September with submitting names of those wishing to participate, but actual writeups are due in December. (OPEN)
- NH Department Commander's Special Project with continued focus on children is the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Elm Street in Manchester. All funds will be used for NH people only. Each wish can cost up to \$5,000 - \$15,000. There were 100 wishes last year. Some of those included relatives of Veterans. Make a kid smile. Pat Moquin made a motion to donate \$250.00 to the Commander's Special Project, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Arlene d'Arbonne will send a check. Information is on the Department of NH website. Check sent and cleared. (CLOSED)
- Since National dues are increasing by \$5.00 to \$36.50, we need to increase our annual dues to at least cover the National cost. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to increase the annual dues to \$40.00 effective 1 July 2026. The motion was seconded by Bruce Moran and was unanimously approved. Folks who have used the 3-year option will not be required to pay the difference. Kerry Spangler will notify the Department via Post Data Report for the increase. Post data report sent 20 Dec 2025. Because there was no reply, the report was resent to District for input 22 January. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler made a motion to pay the annual membership dues for 3 years for Sister Zore at a cost of \$105.00 instead of paying them yearly. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. One year updated, will need to add the remaining two years. (OPEN)

- Bill Graham suggested that we make a budget so that we can ensure we cover all obligations throughout the year. Greg d'Arbone and Arlene d'Arbonne set up Quicken to develop our budget for 2026 and identified the following historical items: (OPEN)
 - Recurring expenses: electric bill, heating oil, Zoom, and insurance.
 - Unpredictable expenses: flowers, electrical or facility work, flags to support cemeteries, tarp for flag pit, purchasing poppies for poppy drive, and donations to other organizations.
 - Income: donations, poppy drive, spaghetti supper, and charitable gaming if we are selected.
- Memorial Day –
 - Tony Mayfield will work scheduling the poppy sales at the liquor store plaza. We have the Sunday prior to Memorial Day to use for Poppy Sales. (OPEN)
 - Need to start working on ceremony planning. (OPEN)
- If we set up a Venmo account, it needs to be done with a charitable profile versus business profile done through PayPal and linked to the Venmo account. PayPal needs the Federal ID to proceed. Arlene d'Arbonne will provide the number to Will Collard. (OPEN)
- Hollis-Brookline High School AP Civics class is requesting donations to help support their upcoming trip to Washington DC for the We the People Constitution competition. Lodging and transportation costs have increased significantly (nearly \$4000.00 per student), and any donations are very much appreciated for this worthwhile experience.
 - Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to donate \$200.00, (amended to \$500.00) to the team for the competition. Chris Lussier said that he would match the donation. Tony Fowler seconded the amended motion which was unanimously approved to donate \$500.00 to the team. The students' passion for the Constitution is outstanding, which has been observed by many of our Post members.
- Post reports and forms are coming due.
 - Consolidated Post Report Form - It is for a 12 Month period. Submit to National and Dept by mid-April. Submitted 18 April
 - Post Officers Report - a. Verifies Officers are members. Signed by District Commander at Installation.
 - Annual Post Data Report - Documents the Posts Address, Contact info and dues. Submit NLT 15 April to Department.
 - Post/Squadron Commander & Adjutant Form - Documents Post & Squadron Commander and Adjutant info. Submit after installation.
 - Department Convention Delegate and Alternate Form - Submit after Post determines delegates.
 - Boy/Girl Scout Report (If applicable) - Submit by 15 April to Department, Presented 26 Mar, sent to Department 18 April.
 - Cub Scout Report(If applicable) - Submit by 15 April to Department
 - Memorial Service Form (Deceased Members) - Submit prior to Dept. Convention Sent 18 April 2026
 - Direct Renewal Notice. Informs National to mail renewal notices to members. Submit to Department in March. Triggered by Annual Post Data Report.
 - NH BTLA Form A9. Documents properties exempt from tax (If applicable) - Submit to Town Clerk NLT 15 April. ((Submitted 9 Feb 2026)
 - NH BTLA Form A12. Submit form with a copy of IRS form 990 (If applicable) Submit to Town Clerk NLY 1 June. (Submitted 9 Feb 2026)
 - Federal Tax Form 990 was filed on line 7 Feb 2026.
- Elections will be happening in April. Nominations need to be made at the next meeting.
- We need to identify delegates to the convention.
- America's 250th Birthday events are being planned in both Hollis and Brookline.
- Greg 'Arbonne made a proposal to set up a monthly replenishment from Lorden Oil to ensure we do not run out of oil. Greg will

contact Lorden to find an agreeable program. (OPEN)

- Chris Lussier made a motion to spend up to \$250.00 for Flowers for Bobbie Canada's wake. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. (CLOSED)

Correspondence:

- Electric bill from Eversource.
- Letter from Village Brook, LLC concerning water Well Monitoring with the addition of 17 residential properties requiring the use of the well.

New Business:

- The Scouts' Spaghetti and Meatball Supper is Saturday, May 16 from 5:00 to 7:30 PM at the Brookline Community Church. Tickets \$10 per person, \$5 for Seniors, free for children under 2. See details on last page of this newsletter.
- Arlene d'Arbonne researched and found that only National can input multiple year memberships into the system. We are recommending that members wanting to use the 3-year option do the action themselves since we have no means to make the inputs. Those who have sent funds for the 3-year option should contact Arlene for further information. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier made a motion to allow the VFW to donate funds to equalize the donation being made to the Hollis Brookline High School AP Government class for their upcoming competition trip to Washington DC. Motion was seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously

approved. Check for \$6,350 was provided by the VFW to equalize the payment making the total donation of \$12,700. (CLOSED)

- Town is looking for a facility to use to store items for the food pantry. Because our storage space is limited, our facility is not suitable for the storage of food items. (CLOSED)

For the Good of The Post:

- Lucille Farwell, related to some previous members, passed away.
- Kerry Spangler participated in two pinning ceremonies for a USA Veteran in Nashua, NH and a US Navy Veteran in Merrimack, NH.
- Kerry Spangler asked about a Post Everlasting book which many posts have, that possibly an Eagle Scout candidate could begin to assemble for our Post.
- Bruce Moran asked if he could take the stationary exercise cycle for his wife to use to be able to exercise her legs. All agreed since it is not being currently used.
- Conduct and document Buddy Checks to ensure our membership is doing okay.
- Hollis Upper Elementary School Memorial Day Assembly will be on May 21st from 1:45 - 2:30 with lunch happening at 1pm for anyone who can make it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting is 23 April 2026.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are **highlighted in yellow.**

Apr 2026

- 19 April – VFW District 6 Meeting 10:00 am at the Derry Post
- 19 April – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 April – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

May 2026

- 13 May – Operation Delta Dog Graduation
- 16 May – Troop 260 Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner
- 16 May – US Armed Forces Day
- 17 May – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 21 May – Hollis Upper Elementary School Memorial Day Assembly – 1:45 to 2:30. Lunch at 1:00PM
- 25 May – Memorial Day Events in Hollis and Brookline. Times to be announced.
- 28 May – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Jun 2026

- 6 June – D-Day
- 13 Jun – Flag Retirement and American Legion Hall Cleanup Day. 1000 am until done.
- 14 June – Flag Day
- 21 June – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 June – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Jul 2026 –

- 4 July – Parades at Hollis and Brookline – 1000
- 19 July – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 July – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Please Make Sure You Renew Your Membership ASAP

If you pay annually for your membership, we ask that you renew as soon as possible so we can meet our numbers for the year now and not have to rush at the end of the year (which is June). There is also now a 3-year option. You can renew at a meeting, or you can renew online (My Legion.org), but please renew!!

News of Interest to Veterans

Help Build the Veteran Database at the NH Veterans Heritage Learning Center

At the NH State Veterans Cemetery is the "Veterans Heritage Learning Center" to help people learn about NH's rich military history. One of the active displays is the Remembrance Station where veterans or family/friends can enter an entry of their military history and other information - as much or little as they want. Photos of people and items can also be added to the entry. Please take a few minutes to enter your name and military, etc. bio info (whatever you'd like to share). OR enter a family member who is/was a veteran or a friend. Here's the link to Veteran Bio Input Form: <https://www.vhlc.org/stories-of-service-station/veteran-bio-form>.

Points To Ponder

The views expressed in the following articles are deemed interesting enough by me to include in the newsletter. I take full responsibility and the content does not reflect the opinion of the members of the Post. Please contact me if these articles offend you. – Kerry M. Spangler

Don't forget our Wednesday Morning Breakfasts at 8:00 at the Hollis Marketplace Diner. All Veterans are welcome.

Reach out to other members to encourage them to attend the meetings...the more the merrier and the more we can be aware of and accomplish with more participation.

Get any Brookline American Legion project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger for inclusion in the Brookline American Legion website and to Kerry Spangler for inclusion in the Monthly Newsletter.

Buddy Checks for our members need to be done more frequently.

**Kerry Spangler
Adjutant**

Post Officers

Commander: Will Collard - wcollard@hotmail.com

1st Vice Commander: Pat Moquin
603-465-9593; moquininc@aol.com

Treasurer: Arlene d'Arbonne
603-533-8590; attilathemom@aol.com

Sergeant at Arms: Jim Pope
603-673-1660; jimpope031@gmail.com

2nd Vice Commander: Chris Lussier
603-591-3505; clussier@tds.net

Chaplain: Bruce Moran
603-465-1040, bruce.moran@hotmail.com

Adjutant: Kerry M. Spangler
603-233-0266; KSpang8393@aol.com

E-mail addresses are for the use of the members to pass information and not to be sold or freely passed to others without formal consent of the member. No funds solicitation is authorized via e-mail.

Attention, Brookline Residents!!

Boy Scout Troop 260

Cordially invites you to our annual

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL SUPPER

All proceeds to benefit Troop 260 and the
Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74

Saturday – May 16, 2026

5:00 – 7:30 PM

At the Brookline Community Church, 2 Main St.

Tickets \$10 per person, \$5 seniors, and free for children under 2

To purchase tickets: Call 603-533-3090 or

email: brooklinetroop260@gmail.com

