



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street •
PO Box 761 Brookline, NH 03033-0761

April 2023 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.
Click here to visit our Facebook Page at: Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74 Brookline, NH

Next Meeting:

27 April at 7:00 PM

March Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Post Adjutant Greg d'Arbonne. 8 members present and one guest, Chris Lussier, Quartermaster of the Hollis VFW Post, and his dog "Bandit."

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

Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes since they were published in the March newsletter and sent to all the members; seconded by Jim Pope and unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: The Treasurer's Report was read. The Post received \$35 from dues and a reimbursement of \$25 from the Department of New Hampshire. Disbursements for the Post were \$62.22. Jim Pope made a motion that the Treasurers Report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

Sick Call and Employment:

- Commander Will Collard was not present at the meeting because he and his wife, Jessica, had to rush to Florida as Jessica's father fell and was in critical condition. The Post remembered Jessica's father in their prayers.
- Jeff Smith is doing well after his recent surgery.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated he is doing well after his recent cardio ablation.
- Jim Bélanger's brother, Richard Bélanger, is in his last days. The Post remembered Richard in their prayers.
- Post members asked how Harold Ryder is doing. We will reach out to him.
- Kerry Spangler's sister is extremely ill. The Post remembered her in their prayers.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated the American Legion Department of New Hampshire Commander, Charlie Arkwell, passed away on 16 March 2023.

Membership: Justin Adams needs to pay his dues.

Correspondence: Bob Glover stated there was a donation of \$100 toward the Monument in memory of Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Robert Delia.

Old Business:

- Spaghetti Dinner, 13 May: We need sponsors for the event. Every member of the

Post needs to find a sponsor to help fund the event. Any questions should be directed to Greg d'Arbonne.

- The Middle School will be hosting Veterans with the 8th Grade class, as had been done before the pandemic, on the 31st of March. All Veterans are invited.
- Bruce Moran stated we should produce a way to display the various streamers that hang off our Legion flag as the streamers are so numerous they are too crowded to give any distinction. The members discussed ideas and will discuss them again at next month's meeting.
- The flagpole outside the Legion Hall needs a new POW/MIA flag and the flags will not come down. A repair of the ropes and pulleys is needed ASAP.

New Business:

- At the April meeting, nominations for Post Officer positions will be voted on. The slate of Officers nominated is:
 - Commander = Will Collard
 - First Vice Cdr = Harold Ryder
 - Second Vice Cdr = Pat Moquin
 - Treasurer = Robret Glover

- Chaplain = Bruce Moran
- Historian = Arlene d'Arbonne
- Adjutant = Greg d'Arbonne
- Sergeant at Arms = Jim Pope
- The American Red Cross is offering classes on suicide prevention. If anyone is interested, you can find the information online. Greg d'Arbonne briefed the members on the "Vetworking" events the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) holds that bring Veterans of all Services together, and is a great way for them to connect. Greg stated he feels the key to suicide prevention is for Veterans to connect so they know someone cares about them.

For the Good of The Post:

- The funeral service for Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Robert Delia will be on 26 March at 1 PM.
- There will be an event on 26 March to honor Jim Bélanger's service to the community. All are invited.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next meeting is 27 April 2023.

News For & From Members

Death of Jim Bélanger's Brother Richard

Our condolences to Post member Jim Bélanger and his family upon the death of his brother Richard. Richard was a Korean War Veteran.

Spaghetti Dinner to Raise Funds for the Post, 13 May

Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner Supper to raise funds for our Post and the Brookline Boy Scout Troop 260 is quickly approaching (13 May from 5 to 7:30 PM). This is a very important event for both organizations and really needs everyone to help in some very important ways.

The most important thing we need everyone to do is find sponsors/advertisers for the event!!! We cannot emphasize this enough. There is a placemat that each attendee will receive and on the placemat are advertisements. We ask that each Legion member find a business and ask for them to buy an advertisement on the placemat. As you find businesses to sponsor/run an ad, please contact Greg d'Arbonne, 603-672-5830, so he can get the information to the business.

Additionally, if you can volunteer some time to sell tickets, help cook, or help deliver meals to those who cannot get to the church, please let Greg d'Arbonne know.

Again, we need everyone's help for this important effort. Thanks!!



Tickets:
\$10 Adults
\$5 Seniors and Children 12 & under
FREE for Children 2 & under
To reserve tickets:
Call: (603) 672-5830 or
Email: fundraisertroop260@gmail.com
Delivery available for Brookline and Hollis

Interested in Scouting?



**Brookline Boy Scout Troop 260
and the
Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion
Post #74**

**Cordially invites you to
Our Sixth Annual
SPAGHETTI SUPPER
All Proceeds to benefit
Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion
Post #74 and Troop 260
Saturday May 13, 2023
5:00-7:30 pm
at the Brookline Community Church
2 Main Street Brookline
Walk-ins are welcome**



In case you are wondering what the Boy Scout Troop does, here's their Annual Report. Please help the cause of our Post and the Troop by supporting the Spaghetti Dinner and finding sponsors. Thanks!!

Troop 260: 2022 Annual Report

Troop 260's strength remained about the same as during the previous two years, with the Troop rechartering 15 scouts after the natural process of scouts leaving and joining scouting. We bridged one new scout from Pack 260 in the spring and recruited two new scouts from town. Two veteran scouts aged-out of the program. One scout distinguished himself by earning the rank of Eagle this year: William Scales before graduating from Hollis-Brookline High School and heading to the Maine Maritime Academy. William's Eagle project was constructing and building an Outdoor Classroom at Richard Maghakian Memorial School. We are immensely proud of William and his accomplishments as Troop 260 now boasts 34 Eagles.



The Troop was led during the first six months of the year by William Van Uitert, serving as Senior Patrol Leader, and Robert Raneiri and Thomas Watrous serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. During the subsequent six months, Thomas Watrous served as Senior Patrol Leader and Robert Raneiri served as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. All boys did an outstanding job in these challenging positions as they honed their leadership abilities. William Van Uitert was elected into the Order of the Arrow (OA), Scouting's National Honor Society, and completed his Ordeal to earn full membership this fall.

Returning from the COVID hiatus, the Troop's outdoor program was back to its normal levels in 2022. Winter activities began with a ski trip to Pat's Peak where beginners through experts enjoyed the good skiing conditions. Scouts next participated in the Klondike Derby, in

which they served as a sled team while competing with scouts from other troops in basic scout skills in the snow. In February, scouts planned to do ice fishing at Rocky Pond, one of our favorite annual activities but it was canceled due to weather conditions.

In the spring, Troop 260 joined fellow scouts from Hollis's Troop 12 in spending a night of indoor climbing at Vertical Dreams during an overnight lock-in. In April the Goose Patrol did an overnight campout at Rocky Pond in Hollis. In late April, the Troop did a hike and campout at Mt. Washington. Before school let out the boys went on a White Water Rafting trip in Western Mass and camped at Horace Moses Scout Reservation-Russell MA. The Troop program year concluded with a canoeing and bouldering trip to Pawtucketaway State Park for scouts and new parents.

Troop 260 sent 12 Scouts for seven days of Scouting at Hidden Valley Summer Camp, July 31 – Aug 6th at Griswold Scout Reservation in the New Hampshire Lakes Region. The Scouts had an enjoyable time and did activities such as water jousting, rifle shooting, kayaking card games, archery, fishing, blacksmithing, knots & lashings, fingerprinting nature and a hike to summit Mt. Shannon. It was a hot week with 95° days and an evening storm that required a weather evacuation to the dining hall. The highlight of the week was the camp Ironman relay with swimming, canoeing, and running legs completed by Andrew Rezzarday, Thomas Watrous, William Van Uitert, Nicolas Jew, and Marshall Langlois. Troop 260's team captured top honors among campers with a first place finish!



At the end of August the Troop returned to Griswold Scout Reservation for a small boat sailing and a campout. In September the scouts did a one day bike trip on the Nashua Rail Trail. The October trip included 8 miles of backpacking on the Monadnock Sunapee Greenway. For November, the Troop had a fall campout at Fort Friendship at Camp Carpenter and hosted Troop families for an outdoor Thanksgiving Feast. The year concluded with a December overnight lock-in at Hampshire Hills, joined by fellow scouts from Troops 465 and 12.



Troop 260 participated in community involvement and service year round. Troop 260 sent scouts to assist the American Legion with refreshing flags at the town cemetery, Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremonies at Town Hall, and a flag retirement.

We marched in the Fourth of July parade. Troop 260 maintained Route 130 with several road cleanups, helped collect 3700 items for the town and regional food pantries during the annual Scouting for Food drive, assisted the town in taking down and storing booths after town voting, and helped the conservation commission build trails near Bohannon Bridge.



In 2023 we plan to bridge two Cub Scouts from Pack 260 and are recruiting two interested 5th grade boys. No active scouts will turn 18 in 2023 and involvement has been high, we anticipate minimal attrition. Adult membership has remained healthy with 15 active adult leaders registered with the Troop.

2023 trip plans include skiing at Pat's Peak, the Town Fishing Derby, the District Klondike Derby, a Wilderness Survival weekend, and an extended fishing weekend. The highlight of 2023 will be our July trip to the national Sea Base High Adventure Camp in the Florida Keys. 12 scouts will be split into 2

crews and embark on three days of live-aboard adventure at sea on a sailboat. The adventure will include days of snorkeling, kayaking, paddle boarding and a visit to historic Florida Keys sights. The Troop will return to summer camp at Griswold in late July.

Troop service plans for 2023 include maintaining our section of NH Route 130, participation in the American Legion Memorial Day activities, and returning to the Brookline 4th of July parade. The Troop will respond to other requests for assistance from town organizations when asked. Life Scout Antonio Stevens received approval for an Eagle project, building an interpretive nature trail at Pout Pond. He has begun fundraising with a goal to begin building in the summer and we look forward to assisting him.

As always, Troop 260 thanks the Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74 for their support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey Jew and Pamela Garee
Scoutmaster and Committee Chair,
Brookline BSA Troop 260



Pillars of Freedom Brick Donation Form

Please print clearly using capital letters only. (Text will be ALL capital letters when engraved.)

- A maximum of 15 characters per line, and a maximum of 3 lines of text per brick is allowed.
- Spaces, hyphens, and punctuation are considered characters.
- Text will be centered on the brick, top to bottom and left to right.

Donor Information

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

April

- 16 Apr: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 27 Apr: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

May

- 21 May: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 May: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 27 May: Distribution of Poppies at Town Transfer Stations
- 29 May: Memorial Day. 0930 Brookline Ceremony. 1700 Hollis Ceremony.

June

- 22 June: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 25 Jun: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall – change due to Father's Day on the regular meeting day.

July

- 4 July: 4th of July Parade in Brookline, assemble at 9:30 AM at Legion Hall.
- 16 July: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 27 July: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

Please Make Sure You Renew ASAP

If you pay annually for your membership, please renew ASAP so we can meet our numbers for the year now and not have to rush at the end of the year (which is June). You can renew at a meeting or renew online at https://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLRENEW+webtrn=wr_memberdata+ml=LANSA:XHTML+part=TAL+lang=ENG#legion-org-header. Thanks!

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. – Greg d'Arbonne

The Washington Post Editorial Board Wants Veterans to Forfeit Earned Benefits

Below is in response to the editorial by the Washington Post concerning Veteran Benefits that you will find after the response. I wrote a sarcastic response on my Facebook page about the Post article if you want to read it, but I feel the VFW response is more than adequate to address this issue. By the way, this is another example of why every Veteran should be a member of some veteran organization. Without your support, organizations like the VFW, American Legion, and many, many more would not be able to fight for what we earned from our Service. If you know Veterans who do not belong to a Veteran organization, encourage them to join our Post. - Greg

VFW Executive Director Ryan Gallucci: 'If the editorial board is so worried about moral responsibility, maybe they should pick up a weapon and stand a post'

WASHINGTON (April 4, 2023) — Yesterday, The Washington Post Editorial Board suggested America balance its budget on the backs of veterans. The VFW has heard these tired arguments before but was shocked to see them endorsed by an institution like the Washington Post.

According to their public bios, none of the 10 members of The Washington Post Editorial Board have spent a single minute serving this country in uniform unlike those who have earned the benefits the Board quickly dismisses as charity and essentially a waste of public money. The impudence with which these individuals enthusiastically signed their names to criticize the care and benefits our service members earn, while enjoying the very freedoms our service members defend, should bring shame upon them as both journalists for a once-revered institution like The Washington Post and as fellow Americans.

This lazy opinion piece from The Washington Post Editorial Board is a recycled compilation of anti-veteran talking points against which the VFW has fought for years. The VFW would have welcomed the opportunity to refute these unjustifiable points if approached to do so. Yet, those of us who represent millions of veterans are now forced to react to hatchet journalism. Had the elitist Editorial Board chosen to reach out to anyone who assists veterans in navigating these hard-earned benefits, they may have learned about the true hidden costs of more than 20 years of war, and why our nation's commitment to care for both the visible and invisible wounds of war is crucial to our long-term national interest.

If The Post's esteemed Editorial Board wants to take a shot at veteran benefits, they should at least provide original thoughts and ideas, and not the scraps of other writers or proposals that the VFW dismantles on a regular basis. Veterans' benefits cost more than they did in years past. That is the price of war. It is also the price of peace and the price of defending misguided free speech – such a paradox for those of us who swore to defend the very Constitution that protects such vitriol.

However, this cost is not only a reflection of more Americans surviving the battlefield, but it is also our country recognizing the inherent danger of military service. Last year, the Honoring Our PACT Act rightfully expanded toxic exposure benefits to veterans who have suffered debilitating illnesses, some dating all the way back to the 1950s. Does The Washington Post Editorial Board prefer these veterans, their families and survivors continue to suffer in silence as they have for years? Should those who defend the very institution and profession that printed these words continue to suffer and die because it might be too expensive?

It is laughable that the employees of one of the richest individuals in the world have the audacity to suggest disabled veterans should be the persons responsible for balancing the federal budget – instead of their wealthy billionaire benefactors who notoriously skirt their tax liabilities.

You would think with all the collective Ivy League degrees held by The Washington Post Editorial Board they would understand basic economics. Instead, they recommend that veterans be subjected to means tests or outright forfeit their earned benefits if they manage to constructively cope with these life-altering disabilities.

Sadly, it seems those degrees only served to inspire the Editorial Board to take the easy way out and renege on promises made to veterans, their family members and survivors. If the Editorial Board is so worried about moral responsibility, maybe they should pick up a weapon and stand a post.

Ryan Gallucci is the executive director of the VFW Washington Office where he is responsible for the organization's legislative advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and the VFW's global network of benefits representatives who are accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans, eligible family members, and survivors in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of benefit claims before the agency.

THE POST'S VIEW

Opinion Veterans deserve support. But one benefit program deserves scrutiny.



By the [Editorial Board](#)

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April 3, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. EDT

America must keep faith with its military veterans. We owe the greatest debt to those who risked their lives to keep us free.

But the promises America has made to the women and men who have served in uniform are due for a review. The budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs has grown at a dramatic pace since 9/11 — from roughly \$45 billion in 2001 to more than \$300 billion this year.

Many factors contribute to a sharp rise in veteran spending — the aging of post-9/11 veterans, numerous enhancements made by Congress to existing benefit programs, and a more muscular outreach by the department to alert veterans to the care and benefits on offer. In addition, the veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and other post-9/11 conflicts have higher disability rates compared with all veterans, the result of improved battlefield medicine and a broader understanding of the array of service-connected injuries and disabilities.

If we owe our veterans every support, we also owe them a measure of fiscal responsibility. Today, we offer suggestions about how to carefully prune the department's kudzu-like spending growth.

Follow Editorial Board's opinions



The department's budget is composed chiefly of two parts: Roughly half provides health care to veterans — and that budget has grown in recent years with inflation in the medical sector and amid a broad bipartisan recognition that VA clinics and hospitals were for too long poorly funded and managed. The reset over the past decade took too long to put in place, but it has been met with positive reviews.

The VA pays disabled veterans monthly stipends according to the level of service-related injury. Payments rise, on a scale of 1 to 100, from minor injuries to complete impairment.

The ratings were established in 1945 and in many cases have not changed in decades. That means payments are generally based on the ability to perform work most needed generations ago, or what the Congressional Budget Office described as “manual or physical labor.” The skill sets needed and jobs available today — in an information and service economy — are in many cases different from those needed in the months and years after World War II.

Disability payments based on those ratings go to veterans tax-free and continue, with some exceptions, for the entirety of a veteran’s life, and they are paid regardless of whether the recipient is working. Helped by sustained public campaigns (and credits for employers in the tax code), most veterans return to the civilian workforce after their service and are more likely to be employed today than nonveterans. Disabled veterans return to the workforce at nearly the same rate as veterans without disabilities. By contrast, Social Security disability payments go only to those who cannot work.

Also on the Editorial Board’s agenda

- The misery of Belarus’s political prisoners should not be ignored.
- Biden has a new border plan.
- The United States should keep the pressure on Nicaragua.
- America’s fight against inflation isn’t over.
- The Taliban has doubled down on the repression of women.
- The world’s ice is melting quickly.

Over the next eight years, disability payments to veterans (and their survivors) are expected to rise by nearly half, from \$130 billion a year to \$192 billion a year. At the same time, the number of veterans receiving disability payments is expected to rise more modestly, from 5.7 million to 6.3 million, or slightly more than 10 percent, over the same period.

Though the Department of Veterans Affairs revises its disability ratings from time to time, Congress should consider a broader modernization of the disability ratings system. And lawmakers should consider means-testing disability benefits for veterans who are high earners. The Congressional Budget Office estimates limiting payments for veterans who earn more than \$170,000 a year would save \$253 billion over the next decade. Congress could alternatively tax the benefits, or some portion of them, particularly for new recipients with high incomes.

None of these steps would be politically easy. Proposing and voting for new benefits for veterans have long been among the few policy areas that both Democrats and Republicans support. We also know that the array of benefits offered by the VA plays an important role in attracting and retaining the all-volunteer force — especially in an era of low unemployment and rising wages in the civilian sector.

But the moral responsibility Americans have to those who fought for the country is of diminished value if it does not align with the fiscal responsibility Americans have to keep their financial house safe and sound.

When a pilot discovers a spider in the cockpit



Post Officers

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