



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

December 2025 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:

18 December at 7:00 PM

November Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Post Commander Will Collard. 10 members were present, in person or by Zoom, and no guests.

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

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: Arlene d'Arbonne presented the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund Deposits reported: \$35.00 for Kathleen Catania dues; \$35.00 for Wayne Lefevre dues; \$942.00 for Poppy Sales; totaling \$1012.00. Expenses reported: \$24.94 to Eversource; \$63.00 to Department of NH/National for dues. \$159.90 to Kerry Spangler for ZOOM account reimbursement; totaling \$247.84. The Monument Expenses included: None. Deposits included: None. Bruce Moran moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Pat Moquin, and unanimously approved.

Membership: Three members have 2025 membership fees due. 15 members have 2026 membership fees due. Kerry Spangler will notify each member of the required dues. Please pay dues as soon as possible. Kerry Spangler has the 2026 Membership cards for those who have paid. After the December meeting, he will mail out those who have not attended meetings or weekly breakfasts. He needs a roll of stamps to cover the postage. Bruce Moran made a motion to purchase a roll of 100 stamps, seconded by Chris Lussier and unanimously approved. Current membership is 59 members (56 Active/41 with 2026 dues or later, 3 Expired/0 Pending). Please note: 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:

- Bob Glover's arthritis is affecting his ability to travel. Kerry Spangler will contact him to see how he is doing.
- The following correction (in red text) was made to Oct 2025 minutes with regard to Barry Reinbold and Nancy moving to an assisted living situation **They hope to move to The Huntington in Nashua by July 1 of next year. Huntington is a continuing care facility that they would be able to move into assisted living as the need arises.**
- Bruce Moran's knee is doing much better.

- Tony Fowler requires back surgery soon. He is meeting with a surgeon on 24 Nov.

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 25 names so far. We have about 200 bricks in the basement. (OPEN)
- Gutters on 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. The Scouts Troop 260 filled 20 sandbags for placement around the rear basement door. We need to determine the placement of the sandbags and get them into position before winter sets in. (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)
- Veterans Day ceremonies were a success. (CLOSED)
 - The ceremony at the Hollis Community Church on November 11th was well attended. The Daughters of the American Revolution provide a fantastic luncheon after the ceremony. Chris Lussier was the guest speaker and delivered a heartfelt message.
- 3 November – Veterans in the classroom was enjoyed by many.
- 5 November – Operation Delta Dog graduation at the Lawrence Barn was inspirational.



- 6 November – Veterans Day Events at Hollis Brookline Middle School and Hollis Brookline High School were sensational. The band provided some great music. The welcome by all the students as Veterans entered was very touching.
- 8 November – Poppy Drive at Brookline Transfer Station exhibited the generosity of the community with their donations. Pat Moquin commended Dean McCollaum and Kerry Spangler for spending their entire day for the drive.
- 8 November – Veterans Count dinner at the Sheraton Tara.
- 10 November – Hollis Primary School and Hollis Upper Elementary School presented outstanding ceremonies for the Veterans. Handmade cards were presented to each Veteran in attendance.



- Tony Mayfield was given the 8 November date and time for Poppy Sales at the plaza with the liquor store in Brookline.
- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to order additional poppies for the drives, seconded by Pat Moquin and unanimously approved. Poppies were ordered but have not been received. (OPEN)
- Tony Mayfield made the notification and found that the Nashua VFW is planning on setting up there as well. We will work it next year. (OPEN)

- Insurance –Greg d'Arbonne received a quote from Leo Paquin. Greg forwarded the quote to Pat Moquin for review. The coverage is for building coverage, liability, and contents. DNO coverage is common for 501c(3) is common to protect the officers of the post (\$698.00). Discussion included what coverage we need and how to proceed. The quote for the whole policy with DNO is \$3100.00 per year. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to purchase the insurance with DNO with the quote received, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. We will evaluate this and other policies over the next year to see if there are better options. Will Collard recommended trying to put the building on the historical building list. (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. (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. (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. (OPEN)

- 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. (OPEN)

Correspondence:

- Electric bill from Eversource.

New Business:

- Kerry Spangler made a motion to nominate Pat Moquin for Judge Advocate for the post. He accepted the nomination. In the event there is a conflict of interest between his 1st Vice-Commander position and Judge Advocate, he must recuse his role. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler will submit the election report. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler stated the people using the church are parking in our American Legion parking lot and it needs to be addressed. Since the town owns the church and rents it out, they should agree to cover any situation arising from their rental. Greg d'Arbonne will bring it up to the Brookline Town administrator. He will also bring it up to the insurance agent to see if we need to cover the situation. We need a letter that holds us harmless from any incidents arising from their rental of the church property and them using our parking lot. We may also need to place signage that shows our parking lot is private property and parking is prohibited. (OPEN)

For the Good of The Post:

- Wreaths across Brookline is 13 December at 12:00 pm; Hollis is 7 December at 1:00 pm. Some members are on call to help unload the wreaths when they are delivered. Wreaths will be placed during the ceremony. Greg d'Arbonne will be the master of ceremony. Rocks will be placed at the Jewish graves.
- Kerry Spangler suggested that members download the American Legion "Legion +" application to their phones. This application has their membership information (card and membership payments) as well as a QR code for adding new members to the post.
- Kerry Spangler found 5 at-large Post 200 members living in Hollis and Brookline. He sent an email to four that had email addresses to see if they would like to transfer to Post 74. He will send a letter to the fifth person.

- Conduct Buddy Checks to ensure our membership is doing okay.
- We need to capture various events that need to be documented on our annual Consolidated Post Report. Topics include: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Media and Communications, Veterans Employment and Education, Americanism, Children and Youth, Internal Affairs and Membership, and Community Service.
- Will Collard has donated a Google Chromebook for use by a member. It is easy to use for a senior member.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting is 20 November 2025.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

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

Dec 2025

- 7 December – Wreaths across America Hollis event, 1:00 pm.
- 13 December – Wreaths Across America Brookline events, 12:00 pm.
- 16 December – Christmas Carols at the Hollis Seniors Center, 7:00 to 8:00 pm.
- 21 December – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 18 December – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

Jan 2026

- 25 January – District 6 VFW Meeting, Merrimack Post.
- 18 January – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 22 January – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Feb 2026

- 15 February – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 28 February – 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.

Whenever a soldier goes to the bathroom, their rank changes to loo-tenant.

**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; atillathemom@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.

Wreaths Across America is coming to Brookline!

Our goal is to place a wreath on all the Veteran's graves this December. Please consider sponsoring a wreath or giving a cash donation.

**Ceremony and Wreath Laying
December 13, 2025 12PM
Pine Grove Cemetery
To Sponsor a wreath(s)**

**[http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/NH0052)
/NH0052**



**WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA
Cash Donations**

accepted on Venmo:



Questions or want to sign up to help?

Email:

wreathsasscrossbrookline@gmail.com

TRICARE Open Enrollment 10 November – 9 December



TRICARE Enrollment Now Open: TRICARE Open Season began Nov. 10 and will run through Dec. 9, giving eligible beneficiaries the chance to enroll in or change health plans for 2026. Active duty members and those with TRICARE For Life are not affected. Beneficiaries can make changes online through milConnect, by phone or by mail, and should verify their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information. Changes made during this period will take effect on Jan. 1. [Read more.](#)