



# Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

*For God and Country*

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033-0761 •

## February 2024 Newsletter

---

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

You can attend via Zoom: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/6205759325?pwd=a1g1aVdna0djMjRFYThlQUIVb1grdz09>

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:**

**22 February at 7:00 PM**

### **January Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Pat Moquin. 10 members were present and two guests, Jeff Jew, Scoutmaster of Brookline Scout Troop 260, and Pamela Garee, Chairperson of Brookline Scout Troop 260.

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

The members wished Bruce Moran and John Weidman a Happy Birthday as today is both of their birthdays.

Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the meeting be suspended to drape the Charter in memory of Post member Richard Simard who passed away recently; seconded by Chris Lussier and unanimously approved. The Charter Draping Ceremony was recited, and the Charter was draped. The meeting resumed.

Jeff Jew, Scoutmaster of Brookline Scout Troop 260, and Pamela Garee, Chairperson of Brookline Scout Troop 260, presented the Post with the new Charter for the Boy Scout Troop that the Post sponsors. They also handed the

member a "State of the Troop" paper detailing the accomplishments of the boys this past year. They also briefed on the numerous Scouts getting ready for their Eagle projects and boards. They thanked the Post for sponsoring the Troop.

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

**Treasurers Report:** The Treasurer's Report was read. The Post did not receive any funds in the past month. Disbursements were \$30.61 for Eversource. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Treasurers Report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Arlene d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. There is \$13,633.18 in the fund for the Monument of which the base and the brick sidewalk need to be purchased.

**Membership:** Nothing to report.

### **Sick Call and Employment:**

- The members expressed their condolences to Andy Seremeth at the recent death of his daughter.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated his father was given Last Rites and is resting at home.

- Bob Glover stated he saw Harold Ryder and his wife, and they are doing well and say hello to everyone.
- Jim Bellanger stated he is having some balance issues but is taking medication to hopefully clear that up.
- Jeff Smith stated he will have an MRI on his brain done next week.
- Jim Pope stated he will contact Richard Simard's family to ask about funeral arrangements and if the Post can provide military honors.

**Correspondence:** Nothing to report.

### **Old Business:**

- Gutters on the Post Building: Greg d'Arbonne will ask Aaron Crandlemere what he would charge for this work.
- Bricks for the Monument Walkway: Greg d'Arbonne has coordinated with the brick engravers who clarified the number of characters that can be engraved on each brick. It has been estimated that we will need 650 bricks all total for the walkway. Bob Glover will have the company that will provide the bricks call Greg so we can make sure the engravers receive the proper style of bricks they need.
- Chris Lussier stated the Hollis VFW wants to share the cost of utilities and maintenance of the Legion Hall. Bob Glover will send Chris the costs so the VFW can provide a check for half the cost of utilities and maintenance.

### **New Business:**

- The 8th Graders at the Middle School will be going to DC and will invite Veterans to speak to them prior to the trip. More details to come.
- The members discussed the need for more members to participate in activities and running the Post. Only a handful of members lend a hand to help run the Post, creating more burden on these members despite the Post having more members now than at any time since the end of WW II. Pat Moquin will develop a survey to ask members what types of activities they would participate in and what the Post should do better. Bottom Line: when the Post does activities like Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Flag Retirement, we should be getting the maximum participation since these activities are related to Patriotism. So, how do we get our fellow Veterans to participate in these activities?
- Bruce Moran stated we need to discuss how to display the Award Streamers currently adorning the Post flag in a manner that does not clutter the top of the flag.

### **For the Good of The Post:**

- Members are reminded there is a Veteran Breakfast every Wednesday at 8 AM at the Hollis Marketplace Diner. All are invited.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM. The next meeting is 22 February 2024.

## **News For & From Members**

### **Passing of Post Member Richard Simard**

Ronald E. Simard, 82, resident of Brookline, NH, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2024, at his home surrounded by his family.

Ron was born in Nashua, NH in 1941, the son of Albert and Laura Simard. He was raised in Nashua and graduated from Nashua High School, Class of 1958. After graduation, he entered the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1962. Following the discharge, he then transferred to the U.S. Army Corps until 1964.

Ron married MaryAnn in 1979 combining their two families. Together they have five children, numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ron retired from the former Sanders Associates after many years there working in the Calibration Lab. This then allowed him to spend extra time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Ron had a lifelong passion for hunting and fishing. In his later years, he enjoyed watching the deer and the birds at their home in Brookline. He continued to be an active member of Watanic Bowman, Horsepond Fish and Game, Pennassit Sportsmens Club, and the American Legion Post 74.

He was a communicant of St. Patrick's Church, Milford and will be greatly missed by his loving family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Brookline Ambulance Service, 3 Post Office Drive, Brookline, NH 03033.

### **Veterans in the 8th Grade Classrooms 5 April**

On Friday, 5 April, the Hollis-Brookline Middle School will hold its annual Veterans with the 8th Grade Class program where the Veterans talk to the 8th Graders before they go on their trip to Washington, DC. This is a great program where the students get to ask us Veterans various questions about our time in the military. The questions are wide ranging but generally focus on what we ate and what did we do while we were in the military. Your service does not have to be extra-ordinary or only wartime experience; the students want to know what we all did. It is also a great chance for you to connect with students that you may not normally meet. A great program for the students and the Veterans alike. The school asks that you arrive at the Middle School by 8:30 AM. We will speak to the students from 9 to 9:55, then, 10 to 10:55, then, lunch (provided) with the students from 11 to 11:30.

"Please be prepared to give a brief overview of who you are and where you served. Any memorabilia you have is of particular interest to the students and we encourage you to bring such items of interest to share with them. Students have prepared questions and are being encouraged to ask additional questions in response to your overview. Confirmation of your attendance would be greatly appreciated. Please call 324-5997 X 3055 or email our Senior Secretary Alexandra Harvey at alexandra.harvey@sau41.org to let us know whether you will join us or not. Again, thank you for your service and thank you for your support of our 8th grade students. We look forward to seeing you!"

### **Calendar of Events**

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

February

- 18 February: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 22 February: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting.

March

- 12 Mar: Brookline and Hollis Town Election Day, 7 AM to 7 PM
- 13 Mar: Brookline Town Meeting, 7 PM, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy
- 14 Mar: Hollis School Annual Meeting, 7 PM, Hollis-Brookline Middle School
- 16 Mar: Hollis Town Meeting, 9 AM, Hollis-Brookline High School

- 17 March: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 19 Mar: Hollis-Brookline Coop Annual Meeting, 6:30 PM, Hollis Brookline High School
- 27 March: Veterans in the Classroom with the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders at the Middle School
- 28 March: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

#### April

- 5 April: Veterans with the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, 8:30 AM, Hollis-Brookline Middle School.
- 21 April: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 25 April: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

#### May

- 19 May: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 May: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 23 May: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 25 May: VFW and American Legion Poppy distribution at each Transfer Station, 8 AM to 4 PM
- 25 May: Replace all US flags in the Brookline cemeteries, 9 to 11 AM
- 27 May, 9:00 AM Coffee with a Vet, then 9:30 AM, Memorial Day Ceremony. All in front of the Brookline Town Hall
- 27 May, 4:30 PM, wreath laying at Memorial Park, then march to Hollis Common for the Memorial Day Ceremony on the Hollis Town Common

#### **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://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew>. Thanks!

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_



## Troop 260: 2024 Annual Report

Troop 260's strength remained about the same as during the previous years, with the Troop rechartering 15 scouts. We bridged two new scouts from Pack 260, recruited one new scout from town, transferred one scout to Troop 12, and lost two scouts to attrition. No scouts aged-out in 2023. Antonio Stevens planned and executed an educational nature trail at Cider Mill trail for his Eagle project and we look forward to awarding him Eagle next year. 2024 will be a busy year for Troop 260 with four more Life scouts planning Eagle projects.



The Troop was led during the first half of the year by Thomas Watrous, serving as Senior Patrol Leader with Robert Raneiri as Assistant Senior Patrol. The Troop elected Robert Raneiri as Senior Patrol Leader for the second half of the year, assisted by William Van Uitert and Danagan Koenig. All boys did an outstanding job in these challenging positions as they honed their leadership abilities. Robert Raneiri and Thomas Watrous were elected into the Order of the Arrow (OA), Scouting's National Honor Society, and completed their Ordeals to earn full membership this fall. William Van Uitert completed his OA Brotherhood ceremony in the fall as well.

The theme for outings this year was weather-related modifications. Winter activities began with a ski trip and lockin at Pat's Peak. The scouts had planned to participate in the Klondike Derby and town Ice Fishing Derby, unfortunately trips were both canceled due to adverse weather. Weather struck again in April and our planned canoeing and fishing trip at Greenfield State Park was rescheduled as a fishing and advancement weekend at Rocky Pond. In May scouts practiced shelter building and wilderness survival skills at Camp Wanocksett. The Troop's program year concluded with a wet weekend at Pillsbury State Park.

The theme for outings this year was weather-related modifications. Winter activities began with a ski trip and

In July Troop 260 finally took our long anticipated trip to Seabase in the Florida Keys. Despite a record-breaking heat wave, ten scouts enjoyed three days of sailing and another three days of shore activities. At the end of July, eleven scouts attended Hidden Valley Summer Camp at Griswold Scout Reservation in the New Hampshire Lakes Region. Scouts made the most of their time in camp, earning a total of 36 merit badges. The scouts repeated their 2022 performance in the camp Ironman relay. Thomas Watrous, William Van Uitert, Jake Perejda, Nicolas Jew, and Tristan Scales again captured top honors among campers with a first place finish!

In August, five scouts went camping and hiking in the White Mountains with Milford Troop 1794. Scouts covered 10.5 miles but weather prevented us from achieving any summits. In September scouts re-attempted Greenfield for a weekend of fishing and camping. Weather struck again in October and our planned backpacking trip on the Monadnock Sunapee Greenway turned into a day hike and backpacking skills workshop in the Palmer Bartell conservation land. In November, the Troop repeated our traditional 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 ceremonies at CSDA and 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, and assisted the town in taking down and storing booths after town voting, helped build educational signs for Antonio Stevens' Eagle project, and ran a booth for the library trunk-or-treat event. The Troop was selected to light the Brookline Christmas tree in recognition of our 60th consecutive year of operation.



We anticipate maintaining constant strength in 2024, bridging three Cub Scouts from Pack 260 and aging out three scouts. Involvement has been high, we anticipate minimal non-age attrition. Adult membership has remained healthy with 17 active adult leaders registered with the Troop.

2024 trip plans include a group bounce at Altitude trampoline park, cabin camping at Camp Bell, a lockin on the USS Salem. Our end of year trip will be a trip to our nation's capital, Washington DC. The Troop will return to summer camp at Griswold in late July.

Troop service plans for 2024 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 Andrew Rezzarday received approval for an Eagle project, building picnic tables for the Town Hall lawn and Thomas Watrous, Robert Raneri, and William Van Uitert are all planning Eagle projects as well. We look forward to assisting all of them in their efforts..

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



# 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>.

## NH Veterans Home Mask Mandate Starting Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

Due to the recent increase in illness, starting tomorrow, Friday, January 26th NHVH will be requiring masks for all staff, volunteers, and visitors. This decision was not made lightly and was determined to be in the best interest of the safety of our residents and staff. Masks will be available at the main entrance, on units and in the Volunteer Services office (off the café area).

## Points To Ponder

### Post Officers

**Commander:** Will Collard - [wcollard@hotmail.com](mailto:wcollard@hotmail.com)

**1st Vice Commander:** Harold Ryder  
203-641-8301; [hjral74@charter.net](mailto:hjral74@charter.net)

**Treasurer:** Robert Glover  
603-465-7705; [sirclark80@gmail.com](mailto:sirclark80@gmail.com)

**Sergeant at Arms:** Jim Pope  
603-673-1660; [jimpope031@gmail.com](mailto:jimpope031@gmail.com)

**2nd Vice Commander:** Pat Moquin  
603-809-5467; [moquininc@aol.com](mailto:moquininc@aol.com)

**Chaplain:** Bruce Moran  
H: 603-465-7611; C: 603-465-1040, [bruce.moran@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce.moran@hotmail.com)

**Adjutant:** Greg d'Arbonne  
(603) 672-5830; C: 978-604-8835; [gdarbo6844@aol.com](mailto:gdarbo6844@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.*