



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

January 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=a1g1aVdna0djMjRFYThIQUIVb1grdz09>

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:

22 January at 7:00 PM

December Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Post 1st Vice-Commander Pat Moquin. 13 members were present, in person or by Zoom, and one guest.

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. Dean McCollum 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 William McConnell, dues; \$35.00 for Bobbie Canada dues; totaling \$70.00. Expenses reported: \$27.62 to Eversource; \$30.95 to Department of NH/National for poppies. totaling \$58.57. The Monument Fund Expenses included: None. Deposits included: None. Chris Lussier moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved.

Membership: Two members have 2025 membership fees due. 13 members have 2026 membership fees due. Kerry Spangler notified each member of the required dues via emails and letters. Current membership is 59 members (56 Active/8 PUFL/35 with 2026 dues or later, 13 due for 2026, 3 Expired/0 Pending). Sent transfer paperwork to the four Post 200 folks living in Hollis Brookline area with return envelopes to approve the transfer. Kerry Spangler notified those members of the increase in membership fees to \$40.00 for 1 July 2026. 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.

- December birthdays: Stephen Haynes, Pat Moquin, Barry Reinbold, Will Collard, John Keicher, Chris Lussier, William Macconnell, Peter McGrath, William Moseley, Jeff Smith, and Edward Zadravec
- January birthdays: John Weidman, Bruce Moran, and Andy Seremeth.

Sick Call and Employment:

- Andy Sermeth – TIA. Thanks to his wife for making him go to the hospital. Currently on a heart monitor and being watched closely by his bride.
- John Weidman has a biopsy soon.
- Bruce Moran's wife, Ann Marie, had the first full day without pain after a reduction in pain medicines.

- Bob Glover's arthritis is affecting his ability to travel. Kerry Spangler will contact him to see how he is doing.
- Tony Fowler requires back surgery in the new year.

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 veteran names. So far, only 12 have been confirmed to have been American Legion Members. If longer term members could look at the list to see if they recognize and past members from the list. We have about 200 bricks in the basement. (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. We need to determine the placement of the sandbags and get them into position before winter sets in. Many thanks to the troop for the work. (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)
- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to order additional poppies for the drives, seconded by Pat Moquin and unanimously approved. Poppies were ordered and received. (Closed)
- Insurance – Greg d'Arbonne received a final 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) to protect the officers of the post (\$100.00). Discussion included what coverage we need and how to proceed. It was decided that the equipment coverage rider is

not advantageous. The quote for the policy with DNO is \$2875.76 per year. Chris Lussier made a motion to purchase insurance with DNO with the quote received as soon as possible, seconded by Bill Graham and unanimously approved for \$2875.76. We also need clarification on what constitutes "Special Events" regarding our coverage. The policy does include the Scout Troop and VFW meetings. We will evaluate this and other policies over the next year to see if there are better options. (OPEN)

- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to ask the VFW to share the cost of the building insurance (2875.76) less the DNO coverage (100.00) totaling \$2775.76 (\$1387.88) since they rely on the availability of the building for their use. The motion was seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (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. (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)
- 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 to add Pat Moquin as Judge Advocate. (CLOSED)
- 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)

Correspondence:

- Electric bill from Eversource.
- 2026 Membership cards were mailed to all (35) members who have paid their 2026 dues.
- Transfer requests sent to the 4 members shown in Post 200.
- Donation request from the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery Association.
- Thank You card from Bobbie Canada for the flowers for his wife's funeral and for attending the service.
- John Weidman's 2026 dues.

New Business:

- 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. (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 will set up Quicken to develop our budget for 2026. (OPEN)

For the Good of The Post:

- Greg d'Arbonne was at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. They have a Veterans History Project where they capture stories (audio/video) from veterans that may be archived in the National Archives and shared. Files are posted at LOC.gov/veteran.
- On 13 December, Kerry Spangler participated in a Veteran pinning ceremony for a Hospice patient, Anthony Ledbetter, US Army veteran. He passed away in the early morning on 15 December. Funeral was at Boscawen on 19 Dec 2025.
- 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. Helpful for recruiting and for access to your membership information.
- Wreaths across Hollis was 7 December; and Brookline was 13 December. Wreaths were placed during the ceremony. Attendance at

both events was good. Rocks were placed at the Jewish graves at Temple Beth Abraham Cemetery in Nashua as well as the ones at Pine Grove in Brookline. Lynn Giblin did an outstanding job setting and getting donations for the wreaths for this first ever Wreaths across Brookline event.

- Donations for the wreaths across America (Brookline) can be made to Lynn Giblin or online via link on our Facebook page. People can also volunteer to help on that page as well.
- 18 December, Pat Moquin provided transportation for banking and shopping for a Hollis Veteran.
- The Lion's Club Seniors Luncheon will be at Brookline Community Church on Saturday, 20 December at 12:00. Free to seniors.

- Seven members participated in the Christmas caroling sing-along with the Scouts at the Hollis Senior Center. A great time was had by all.
- Conduct and document 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM. The next meeting is 22 Jan 2026.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

Jan 2026

- 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
- 25 January – District 6 VFW Meeting, Merrimack Post.

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

Mar 2026

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

Apr 2026

- 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

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.

How do different military branches use stars?

The Army sleeps under the stars. The Navy navigates by the stars. The Air Force chooses hotels by the stars.

Everyone have a happy and safe holiday season!

**Kerry Spangler
Adjutant**

Post Officers

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