



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033-0761 •
January 2024 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=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:

25 January at 7:00 PM

December Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Post Commander Will Collard. 11 members were present and no guests.

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

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 received \$70 from dues, and \$49.50 from National. Disbursements were \$21.90 for Eversource and \$159 for dues. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Treasurers Report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Kerry Spangler and unanimously approved. The Post also received a donation for a brick from the Koenig family. 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:

- Harold Ryder and his wife have been ill.
- Will Collard reported his father-in-law is now in an assisted living facility.
- Jim Bellanger reported he was in the Emergency room after an all day stay. He has been battling ear infections so bad that he had no balance and needed to use a walker and could not drive and was dizzy all the time. He was on medication and is getting better. He is also scheduled for cataract surgery in both eyes and can't drive at night until that's done sometime in March.

Correspondence: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- Gutters on the Post Building: The quote received was too much to pay so we will ask Aaron Crandlemere what he would charge.
- Greg will check with the brick engravers after the holiday to see if they are able to reduce the font size slightly to accommodate the lettering we need. Bob Glover will ask a supplier for the price they will charge for the actual bricks.

New Business: Nothing to report.

- Dues will be going up \$5 next fiscal year (July 2024). There was discussion that there seems to be no input from the Legion Membership to the National Headquarters on

issues like increasing dues. Greg d'Arbonne will speak to the State Commander the next time he is in a meeting with him.

their generous donation of the parts, material, and labor to provide electricity for the Holiday Card shed.

For the Good of The Post:

- Chris Lussier asked the members to sign a thank you letter to Wilson Technologies for

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM. The next meeting is 25 January 2024.

News For & From Members

Passing of Post Member Andy Seremeth's Daughter

The Post sends their sincerest condolences to Post member Andy Seremeth and his family at the passing of his daughter. She had been diagnosed with stage 4 uterine cancer in September. She lived in the Atlanta area with her family. We send our prayers to Andy and his family.

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

January

- 21 January: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 25 January: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting.

February

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

March

- 17 March: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 27 March: Veterans in the Classroom with the 8th Graders at the Middle School
- 28 March: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

April

- 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: _____

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>.

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Shifting Military Demographics

By 1Lt Kevin Keegan, Source: [As America Celebrates Its Veterans, the Population Is Younger, More Diverse and Shrinking | Military.com](#)



**Majority
are Gulf
War Vets**

A recent [report from the Pew Research Center](#) notes that those who have served since the first Persian Gulf War now make up 43% of America's 18 million veterans, or 7.8 million people. The group eclipsed veterans from the Vietnam era in 2016; Vietnam vets today make up just 30%, or 5.6 million, of the veteran population. Fewer than 4% are from the Korean War era, and 119,550 remain from World War II, shy of 1% of the population.

With the shifting demographics, more women, Hispanic and Black adults, as well as those under age 50, will make up larger portions of the population in the coming years. The share of female veterans is expected to be about 18% of veterans by 2048, while Hispanic and Black persons each will be about 15% of the population, up from 9% and 13% respectively. About 28% of today's veterans are younger than 50. In 25 years, those in that age bracket are expected to make up 34% of the veteran population, according to the report.

The changes come as the Defense Department and the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) have made commitments to broaden diversity and better serve veterans across all demographics in an effort to better serve their populations and retain service members.

Earlier this year, the White House ordered the Cabinet departments to establish teams to ensure that agencies adhere to equity initiatives and outcomes that benefit all employees and customers. The VA's equity team is aimed specifically at working to ensure that minority veterans who receive health care or apply for benefits receive equal treatment under the law.

The focus was based in part as a result of a lawsuit by a Black Marine veteran, Conley Monk Jr., who alleges the agency denied claims from Black veterans at higher rates than whites.

The Pentagon launched a number of initiatives this year to accommodate its changing force in efforts to retain personnel and adapt to a new demographic of active-duty personnel who are largely younger, married and female.

The Defense Department has lengthened parental leave, instituted and expanded child care programs to make it easier for families to serve, increased pay, and adopted new programs to provide for lower-income personnel.

The VA [announced a number of initiatives recently to improve health care and services for veterans](#), including a new ad campaign aimed at attracting more veterans to VA health care services and encouraging them to apply for benefits.

As part of the announcements, the VA extended free health care and nursing care to all World War II veterans who aren't already receiving services from the VA, about 10,000 former troops.

The VA also announced that it would cover the cost of medical care for family members diagnosed with Parkinson's disease who lived at [Camp Lejeune](#), North Carolina, from August 1, 1953, to December 31, 1987. The risk of Parkinson's is 70% higher for veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune during that period.

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

Being popular on Facebook is like sitting at the cool table in the cafeteria of a mental hospital.

I just realized that I haven't done the "Hokey Pokey" in over 10 years. I guess when you get older, you just forget what it's all about.

Post Officers

Commander: Will Collard - wcollard@hotmail.com

1st Vice Commander: Harold Ryder

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Treasurer: Robert Glover

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Sergeant at Arms: Jim Pope

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2nd Vice Commander: Pat Moquin

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Chaplain: Bruce Moran

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