Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

March 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=a1g1aVdna0djMjRFYThIQUlVb1grdz09
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:

26 March at 7:00 PM

26 February Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Commander Will Collard. 14 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.

Business activities suspended for draping the Charter in honor and tribute for our departed member, Bobbie Canada. Prayer was offered for Bobbie Canada.

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: Arline d'Arbonne presented the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund Deposits reported: $1,000.00 donation from the Lions Club; $1,387.88 from VFW portion for building insurance, $35.00 for Rich Zore dues; $105.00 for Harold Ryder dues; $35.00 for Jim Pope dues; $17.50 from NH Department from dues; totaling $2,580.38. Expenses reported: $41.91 to Eversource; $63.00 to Department of NH/National for dues; $812.07 for Heating Oil from Lorden Oil; totaling $986.98. The Monument Fund Expenses included: None. Deposits included: None. Chris Lussier moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved.

Membership: 2 members have 2025 membership fees due, and 3 members have 2026 membership fees due. Current membership is 55 members (52 Active/8 PUFL/44 with 2026 dues or later, 3 due for 2026, 3 Expired/0 Pending). Reminder that the increase in membership fees to $40.00 occurs 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. Chris Lussier made a motion for approval of Tom Fencil's application for membership, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne which was unanimously approved.

Sick Call and Employment:

- Harold Ryder has dementia. He has asked if we would perform honors when he does pass away.
- Bobbie Canada passed away on 10 February. His funeral is on 2 May, burial is at 11:00 am and celebration of life is at 1:00 pm.
- Bob Glover - Kerry Spangler and Pat Moquin tried to contact him to see how he is doing. No answer.
- Tony Fowler is doing well.

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. Greg d'Arbonne reviewed the list and there are currently only 12 members to consider for bricks. (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. Sandbags are in place and we will assess from there .(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)

- Insurance – Policy was implemented and payment made. We are waiting for the policy documentation to arrive. (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. Purchasing shelving with wheels would provide more storage availability. (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. Contest starts in September with submitting names of those wishing to participate, but actual writeups are due in December. (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. Because there was no reply, the report was resent to District for input 22 January. (OPEN)

- 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. One year updated, will need to add the remaining two years. (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 set up Quicken to develop our budget for 2026 and identified the following historical items: (OPEN)
  - Recurring expenses: electric bill, heating oil, Zoom, and insurance.
  - Unpredictable expenses: flowers, electrical or facility work, flags to support cemeteries, tarp for flag pit, purchasing poppies for poppy drive, and donations to other organizations.
  - Income: donations, poppy drive, spaghetti supper, and charitable gaming if we are selected.
- Memorial Day –
  - Tony Mayfield will work scheduling the poppy sales at the liquor store plaza.
  - Need to start working on ceremony planning. (OPEN)

Correspondence:

- Letter from the Temple Beth Abraham Board of Directors thanking us for the support for the cemetery ceremonies and honoring Alan Soifert.
- Thank you letter from Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett for reaching out and offering prayer after his father who served in the US Air Force passed.
- Electric bill from Eversource.
- State and Local Tax forms submitted on 9 Feb 2026.
- Application for American Legion membership from Tom Fencil.
- Letter from Hollis-Brookline High School AP Civics class requesting support for their trip to Washington DC for the We the People Constitution Competition.

New Business:

- If we set up a Venmo account, it needs to be done with a charitable profile versus business profile done through PayPal and linked to the Venmo account. PayPal needs the Federal ID to proceed. Arlene d'Arbonne will provide the number to Will Collard. (OPEN)
- Hollis-Brookline High School AP Civics class is requesting donations to help support their upcoming trip to Washington DC for the We the People Constitution competition. Lodging and transportation costs have increased significantly (nearly $4000.00 per student), and any donations are very much appreciated for this worthwhile experience. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to donate $200.00, (amended to $500.00) to the team for the competition. Chris Lussier said that he would match the donation. Tony Fowler seconded the amended motion and it was unanimously approved to donate $500.00 to the team. The students' passion for the Constitution is outstanding, which has been observed by many of our Post members.
- Post reports and forms are coming due. We need a Scout report for the year.
  - Consolidated Post Report Form - It is for a 12 Month period. Submit to National and Dept by mid-April.
  - Post Officers Report - a. Verifies Officers are members. Signed by District Commander at Installation.
  - Annual Post Data Report - Documents the Posts Address, Contact info and dues. Submit NLT 15 April to Department
  - Post/Squadron Commander & Adjutant Form - Documents Post & Squadron Commander and Adjutant info. Submit after installation.
  - Department Convention Delegate and Alternate Form - Submit after Post determines delegates.
  - Post C&Y Report - Submit by 15 April to Department
  - Boy/Girl Scout Report (If applicable) - Submit by 15 April to Department
  - Venture Crew Report (If applicable) - Submit by 15 April to Department
  - Cub Scout Report(If applicable) - Submit by 15 April to Department
  - Memorial Service Form (Deceased Members) - Submit prior to Dept. Convention

- Direct Renewal Notice. Informs National to mail renewal notices to members. Submit to Department in March.
- NH BTLA Form A9. Documents properties exempt from tax (If applicable) - Submit to Town Clerk NLT 15 April. ((Submitted 9 Feb 2026)
- NH BTLA Form A12. Submit form with a copy of IRS form 990 (If applicable) Submit to Town Clerk NLY 1 June. (Submitted 9 Feb 2026)
- Federal Tax Form 990 was filed on line 7 Feb 2026.

- Elections will be happening in April. Nominations need to be made at the next meeting.
- We need to identify delegates to the convention.
- Veterans in the classroom at the schools will be the last Friday in March.
- America's 250th Birthday events are being planned in both Hollis and Brookline.
- Greg 'Arbonne made a proposal to set up a monthly replenishment from Lorden Oil to ensure we do not run out of oil. Greg will contact Lorden to find an agreeable program. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier made a motion to spend up to $250.00 for Flowers for Bobbie Canada's wake. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved

For the Good of The Post:

- Greg d'Arbonne read an article from the American Legion Magazine "A 21st Century Definition of Americanism." The article can be found in its entirety online at archive.legion.org. The resolution for change is in part "a steadfast and heartfelt devotion to the founding principles enduring values and civic responsibilities of the United States of America, ad devotion inspired and exemplified by those who have honorable served in uniform…" The bottom line "We must seek the level ground between the mire of reactionism and the crags of extremism." Article on Page 7.
- Tom Fencil and Kerry Spangler participated in a pinning ceremony for a USAF Veteran in Derry, NH.
- Bill Graham asked to play and sing a song that has great meaning to him, Kid Rock's "Til You Can't."
- Kerry Spangler asked about a Post Everlasting book which many posts have, that possibly an Eagle Scout candidate could begin to assemble for our Post.
- Tony Fowler brought up about the Voices of Veterans which have stories written by Veterans. Any Veteran can be submitted through the Library of Congress.
- 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 8:11 PM. The next meeting is 26 March 2026.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

Mar 2026

- 13 March – K-9 Veterans Day
- 15 March – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 26 March – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 29 March – National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Apr 2026

- 9 April – Former POW Recognition Day
- 19 April – VFW District 6 Meeting 10:00 am at the Derry Post
- 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

May 2026

- 16 May – US Armed Forces Day
- 17 May – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 May – Memorial Day
- 28 May – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Jun 2026

- 6 June – D-Day
- 14 June – Flag Day
- 21 June – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 June – 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.

Kerry Spangler
Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Will Collard - wdcollard@hotmail.com

1st Vice Commander: Pat Moquin
603-465-9593; moquininc@aol.com

2nd Vice Commander: Chris Lussier
603-591-3505; clussier@tds.net

Treasurer: Arlene d'Arbonne
603-533-8590; attilathemom@aol.com

Chaplain: Bruce Moran
603-465-1040, bruce.moran@hotmail.com

Sergeant at Arms: Jim Pope
603-673-1660; jimpope031@gmail.com

Adjutant: Kerry M. Spangler
603-233-0266; KSpang8393@aol.com

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A 21st-century definition of Americanism

Every so often, it is helpful to reexamine frequently used terms, for the sake of clarity, accuracy and relevance. This is especially true of "Americanism," one of the pillars upon which The American Legion was founded in 1919.

The Legion is among the fiercest defenders of our great country and the timeless ideals enshrined in the Constitution. Yet the language we use to express these ideals must be modernized – without changing the meaning – for our time. With this in mind, the National Executive Committee issued an updated definition of Americanism at its meeting last October in Indianapolis – the first in 63 years.

The new Resolution 30 defines Americanism, in part, "as a steadfast and heartfelt devotion to the founding principles, enduring values and civic responsibilities of the United States of America, a devotion inspired and exemplified by those who have honorably served in uniform ...."

Those values include loyalty to the Constitution, reverence for sacrifice, commitment to democratic principles, patriotic citizenship, and respect for God, country and all Americans. In short, Americanism is not about what divides us, but what unites us. You'll find the entire 441-word resolution online at **archive.legion.org,** searching "definition of Americanism."

We echo our organization's founders in believing this commitment to community, state and nation begins at home. "No man can be simultaneously a good citizen of the nation and a poor citizen of the state, or community, nor can he fully discharge his obligations as a citizen unless he preserves the ideals and traditions of American home-life at his own fire-side," the Americanism Commission told the Legion's 1925 national convention. "Therefore, it is of primary importance that The American Legion give particular attention to the promotion of family integrity and community spirit."

Our nation is a more inclusive one than early Legionnaires knew. So another line from that century-old report resonates, too, for its aspirational eloquence and applicability to civil debate: "We must seek the level ground between the mire of reactionism and the crags of extremism." Wise words, indeed.