



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•
November 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:

20 November at 7:00 PM

October 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 and sent to all the members. Pat Moquin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Arlene d'Arbonne submitted the Treasurer's Report read by Greg d'Arbonne. The General Fund Expenses reported: \$24.68 to Eversource; \$157.50 to NH Department for Dues; \$70.95 for Poppies; totaling \$253.13. Deposits reported: \$35.00 for Bobby Canada dues; \$35.00 for Brian Denehy dues; \$35.00 for Robert Knudsen dues; \$35.00 for Tom Dougherty dues; \$35.00 for Edward Zadravec dues; \$60.50 for Paid Up For Life; \$119.00 for Department of NH dues; totaling \$354.50. The Monument Fund Expenses included: None. Deposits included: None. Bruce Moran moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved.

Membership: Three members have 2025 membership fees due. 16 members have 2026 membership fees due. Kerry Spangler will notify each member of the required dues. Please pay dues as soon as possible. An email blast was sent using the mylegion.org messaging. Kerry Spangler will follow up to make sure folks have received it. 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:

- Arline d'Arbonne is sick but submitted the finance report read by her executive assistant.
- Bob Glover's arthritis is affecting his ability to travel.
- Jim Belanger's daughter Julie passed away from ALS. We will keep the family in our prayers.
- John Weidman was injured working on a Milford POW monument. He is doing much better.
- Bob Smith, last remaining WWII veteran in Hollis, fell and cut his head. He persevered and attended the weekly breakfast that morning anyway.
- Barry Reinbold and his wife are moving to an assisted living situation.
- Bruce Moran is having a difficult time with his knee. He had water on his knee and it was

removed and he is doing much better. Ann Marie fell out of bed and was in hospital. She is home now.

- Jim Pope needs cosmetic surgery to improve his eyesight but will not affect his extreme good looks.

Old Business:

- Monument: Greg d'Arbonne and Bill Graham picked up the bricks. Earth's Echo, LLC installed them in June. Remaining obligations – identify American Legion past deceased members to add to the walkway. Kerry Spangler is working the list and has about 25 names so far. We have about 200 bricks in the basement. (OPEN)

- Gutters on the Post Building: Sandbags are in. 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. Greg d'Arbonne made a request to the Scouts to help fill the sandbags. Chris Lussier offered his trailer for transporting the bags. Gutters will need to be purchased and installed. We are waiting for sand at the Brookline Transfer station to see if we can get enough to fill the 25 sandbags. Kerry Spangler will contact the DPW about using the sand. Scouts will fill them for us. We still need to look at the gutter requirements. Greg d'Arbonne stated he has sand in his backyard that can be used. He has the sandbags and will get them to the Scouts, and they will fill them for us. (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 are coming soon. Updates are on the newsletter calendar. (OPEN)

- VFW will run the ceremony at the Hollis Community Church at 11:00 on November 11th. It is a great opportunity to meet other Veterans in the community. Kerry Spangler will bring applications. Greg d'Arbonne will MC and Chris Lussier is the guest speaker.

- 3 November – Veterans in the classroom (invitation only) is at 7:40 am.
- 5 November – Operation Delta Dog graduation is at 5:00 pm at the Lawrence Barn.
- 6 November – Veterans Day Events at Hollis Brookline Middle School 7:45 am for coffee and breakfast treats followed by the ceremony at 8:15 am; Hollis Brookline High School – arrive at 9:30.
- 8 November – Poppy Drive at Brookline Transfer Station schedule:
 - 0800 – 1000 – Pat Moquin will orchestrate the setup and see if Bob Glover can support./Kerry Spangler
 - 1000 – 1200 – Greg d'Arbonne/Arlene d'Arbonne
 - 1200 – 1400 – Kerry Spangler/Dean McCollaugh
 - 1400 – 1600 – Kerry Spangler/Jim Pope and Pat Moquin will help pack up.We are confirmed for 8 November at the Brookline Transfer Station.
- 8 November Veterans Count dinner at the Sheraton Tara.
- 10 November – Hollis Primary School ceremony is at 8:45 am; Hollis Upper Elementary School at 1:00 pm for pizza followed with ceremony at 1:45 pm.
- 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. (Editor's Note: Tony Mayfield made the notification and also found that the Nashua VFW is planning on setting up there as well. Kerry Spangler will contact the Nashua VFW for further information.) We will work it next year. (OPEN)
- Insurance – Because Brookline no longer provides coverage for our building, we need to obtain the insurance. Arlene d'Arbonne will contact USAA to see if they can provide coverage for the building. Jim Pope mentioned that there may need to be a phone line installed for notifying emergency services by an 24-hour alarm system. We may want to get internet services as well. Greg d'Arbonne stated that there are no fire-suppression devices and the

building is 130 years old. Greg and Arlene will investigate. Greg d'Arbonne spoke with former State American Legion Commander, Leo Paquin, about insurance. He is putting together an estimate. 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. (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. (OPEN)

Correspondence:

- Electric bill from Eversource.

New Business:

- 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. (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. Kerry Spangler will notify the Department via Post Data Report for the increase. (OPEN)

- Greg d'Arbonne received a request from a Nashua High School North teacher to use our building for some teacher/student activities. We need to be concerned with liability for the use. We would like to support the community once we have the correct insurance policies in place. It would also be a potential revenue source for the Post. Kerry Spangler made a motion to not pursue any outside use of the building until the proper insurance policy is in place. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

For the Good of The Post:

- Chris Lussier is speaking at his church on the Sunday prior to Veterans Day. If anyone is available, go hear him speak about Veterans and Veterans Day.
- Wreaths across Brookline is 13 December; Hollis is 7 December. Space is needed to place the wreaths until the event. The Legion Hall will be an alternate to the cemetery for delivery of the wreaths if weather conditions affect the delivery. Wreaths will be placed during the ceremony. Rocks will be placed at the Jewish graves.
- Legion members attended the Operation Delta Dog Gala fundraiser event on 18 Oct. The fundraiser was an outstanding event and was a success.
- 8 November is the Veterans Count Gala at the Sheraton Tara in Nashua and there are three seats available. Notify Bruce Moran for attendance.
- Donations for the wreaths across America (Brookline) can be made to Lynn Giblin or online via link on our Facebook page.
- Conduct Buddy Checks to ensure our membership is doing okay.

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**.

- 5 November – Operation Delta Dog Graduation at the Lawrence Barn, 5:00 pm.
- 6 November – Veterans Day Events at HBMS & HBHS. Coffee and breakfast treats will be available starting around 7:45 a.m., and the assembly will begin approximately at 8:15 a.m. The high school plans for your arrival around 9:30 a.m.
- 8 November – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Poppy Sales at the Brookline and Hollis Transfer Stations.
- 10 November – Veterans Day Events at Hollis Primary School – 8:45 am, and Hollis Upper Elementary School - Pizza lunch at 1:00 pm, program at 1:45 pm.
- 11 November – Veterans Day Hollis Community Church at 11:00 am.
- 13 November – Holiday Card Challenge sorting event at Eversource
- 16 November – VFW Annual Inspection, 6:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 16 November – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 20 November – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.

Dec 2025

- 7 December – Wreaths Across Hollis Event.
- 13 December – Wreaths Across Brookline Event.
- 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

- 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.

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.

Buddy Checks for our members need to be done more timely.

**What's the difference between the Scouts and the Army?
The Scouts have adult supervision.**

Kerry Spangler
Adjutant

Post Officers

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