



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

October 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:

23 October at 7:00 PM

September Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Post Commander Will Collard. 12 members were present, in person or by Zoom, and one guest (Department of NH Commander Wayne Perra..

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

Special Guest: Department Commander Wayne Perra addressed the Post.

Membership - Post was at 103% membership for 2025, outstanding job. Currently, Post 74 is at 58% for 2026 which is above Department average pending other renewals.

Training all American Legions positions is important. We have not trained new officers well, historically. Department officers will train district officers; district officers will train Post officers or anyone that wishes to go.

Adjutant – 27 September @ 1000 Sweeney Post 2. Included will be training on required and available forms and documentation on mylegion.org, processing membership, reports, navigation of mylegion.org.

Junior Vice Commander – 11 October @ 1000 Sweeney Post 2 - social media, Facebook, Website, budgeting.

Department College – 8-9 Nov @ 0800-1600 at Rollingford Post. Guest speakers, guest trainers.

Historian – 20 December 1200-1400 at Post 43.

Remaining officers will be later. Trying to get younger members involved.

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.

Will Collard asked what we are doing to get younger folks involved in the Legion. Need to alleviate the viewpoint of historical Legion reputations (smoking and drinking). Use the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) to talk to new potential members about all the good things the Legion does. In town hall meetings, report from the CPR and it becomes part of the public record. Highlight all the projects the post is doing. Ensure the folks know who you are and what you do.

If you have any questions, please contact him directly.

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. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Arlene d'Arbonne presented the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund Expenses reported: \$23.88 to Eversource; \$63.00 to NH Department for Dues; totaling \$86.88. Deposits reported: \$35.00 for William McConnell dues; \$35.00 for Barry Reinbold dues; totaling \$70.00. The Monument Fund Expenses included: None. Deposits included: None. Greg d'Arbonne moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Pat Moquin, and unanimously approved.

Membership: Three members have 2025 membership fees due. 29 members have 2026 membership fees due. Kerry Spangler will notify each member of the required dues. We just received 2 renewals. 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 received it. Current membership is 60 members (57 Active/30 with 2026 dues, 3 Expired/0 Pending). Please note: if the three-year option is selected, the member will receive their membership card for one year but the membership system shows the three-year enrollment. The Post address on the National Website has been corrected, so that should reduce some of the problems with members' renewals by mail. Alfred Courchane has not received his 2026 membership card. Kerry Spangler will follow up on this.

Sick Call and Employment:

- Bob Glover is not doing well enough to come to the meeting. The rain is affecting his arthritis, and he has a lot of pain.
- Jim Belanger was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation.
- John Weidman was injured working on a Milford POW monument. He is improving and back to joking around.
- Bob Smith, last remaining WWII veteran in Hollis, broke his femur and had surgery to repair. He is currently waiting for a room at one of the rehabilitation facilities. (Editor's note: He is in the Nashua Rehabilitation Center (formerly Premier) and beginning his therapy).

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. Still need to look at the gutter requirements. (OPEN)

- Bruce Moran Memorial Bridge: Remaining work includes rails down the steps. (Editor's Note: Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler will add the handrails 29 August.) Project is complete (CLOSED)

- 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.

• 1000 – 1200 – Greg d'Arbonne/Arlene d'Arbonne

• 1200 – 1400 – Kerry Spangler/

• 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.

• Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that we donate our poster board of pictures of the Brookline to the Brookline Historical Society Museum. Bruce Moran seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Jim Pope can ensure the poster board is given to the society. (OPEN)

• 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.) (OPEN)

Correspondence:

• Email from Brookline City Hall that they will no longer cover our insurance costs for the building.

New Business:

• Greg d'Arbonne discussed what to do with the old pictures that were replaced. Greg and Arlene d'Arbonne will take them to a donation center or the still-good table at the transfer station. (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. (OPEN)

• Kerry Spangler made a motion that the Post pays the 1st year dues for new members to get them in the door which was seconded by Chris Lussier. Subsequent discussion identified an amendment to add attendance of 3 meetings before paying. Because different people's circumstances may preclude them from attending meetings or if their interest fades, it may not have the desired result. It was determined that if a member wanted to join and could not afford the dues, we would address it on a case-by-case basis. The motion was withdrawn by Kerry Spangler. (CLOSED)

• 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. (OPEN)

For the Good of The Post:

• A Viet Nam memorial is being built. If asked, we can support them for their event.

• Donations for the wreaths across America 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 7:32 PM. The next meeting is 25 September 2025.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

Oct 2025

- 19 October – VFW District 6 meeting, 10:00 am, Pelham VFW.
- 19 October – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 23 October – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

Nov 2025

- 3 November – HBHS Veterans in a Classroom – 7:40 am first session begins (Invitation only)
- 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.
- 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

- 13 December – Wreaths Across America events.
- 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.

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.

Why are there no knock-knock jokes about the American military?

Because freedom rings!

Post Officers

Commander: Will Collard - wdcollard@hotmail.com

1st Vice Commander: Pat Moquin

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Treasurer: Arlene d'Arbonne

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Sergeant at Arms: Jim Pope

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2nd Vice Commander: Chris Lussier

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Chaplain: Bruce Moran

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