



Hollis VFW

April 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 4

Serving Hollis and Brookline

April 2026

The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month at 7 PM. Meetings are at the American Legion Hall, 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH.

You can also attend via Zoom at: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86999020485?pwd=blA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMXZz09>
Meeting ID = 86999020485; Passcode: q47TDf, or, by Phone = (646) 558-8656; Meeting ID = 86999020485#.

If you wish to join or have questions about the VFW, please call one of the Post Officers.

Next Meeting: 19 April 2026 at 7:00 pm

March 15th Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 9 members and no guests were present.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Greg d'Arbonne to dispense with the reading of the December meeting minutes since they were published in the newsletter and sent to all members and that topics will be reviewed in the meeting. Bruce Moran seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: General Fund beginning Deposits included: \$18.38 for Interest; voided outstanding check \$50.00; and \$50.00 from overpayment from American Legion Post 74; Total deposits: \$118.38. Disbursements for the month were: \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; and \$300.00 to Alsfield Tax Service for Post tax filing; Total expenses were \$620.00. The Relief Fund Deposits: none; Total Deposits: \$0.00. Disbursements: None; Total Relief Fund expenses: None. Venmo Deposits: None. Deductions: None. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be

accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- Request from Trevor Duval for support for the AP Civics class trip to Washington DC to present cases in We the People competition defending and demonstrating their passion for the US Constitution.
- Letter from Bill Swartz, Temple Beth Abraham Cemetery Board of Directors thanking the Post for our service to our country and also for supporting the ceremonies honoring SSG Allen H. Soifert and other veterans buried in the cemetery.
- Letter from Rabbi Jon Shapiro Savett thanking us for the letter about his father's passing signed by many members.
- Operation Delta Dog sent us a certificate thanking us for our 4-Star support and requesting potential support for 2026.
- Tax Form 990 filed
- Emails from Paul Lloyd:
 - March Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
 - 990N Information.

Committee/Program Reports: : Reporting is now accessed through the VFWNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>. These reports include any submitted since last meeting. (134 reports to date with 1131 hours of service).

- **Service Officer:** Community Hospice House visit
- **Community Service:**
 - 11 Mar - Weekly Veterans' breakfast.
- **Americanism:**
 - Mar 14 - Presented Freddie Olson with the Hollis Memorial VFW Post 11373 Citizen of the Year award.
 - Mar 14 - Post members made appearance at the town meeting in uniform and led the assembly in the collective Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Youth Activities: Nothing reported.**
- **Legislative:** Nothing reported.
- **Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.
- **Veterans and Military Support:**
 - 9 Feb – 6 members attended the pinning ceremony for Bobbie Canada at the Merrimack Hospice Facility
 - 24 Feb – 1 member attended a pinning ceremony for Patricia Prince, a Navy and Air Force Veteran.
 - 6 Mar – 1 member attended a training session with the NH Hospice We Honor Veterans training to lead pinning ceremonies for veterans nearing end of life.
 - 7 Mar – 1 Member attended a Pinning Ceremony for a Korean War US Marine Ed White.
 - 8 Mar – 1 member attended a pinning ceremony for a US Navy and Airforce Veteran Wiley.
- **Homeless Veterans:**
 - Nothing reported.
- **Hospital:**
 - 9 Feb – 6 members visited Bobbie Canada at the Merrimack Hospice Facility
 - 24 Feb – 1 member visited Patricia Prince, a Navy and Air Force Veteran at the Derry Hospice Facility.

- 7 Mar – 1 Member visited a Korean War US Marine Ed White in the Hospice program at his home.
- 8 Mar – 1 member visited US Navy and Airforce Veteran Wiley at the Merrimack Hospice Care Facility.
- **National Home:** Nothing reported.
- **Voice of Democracy programs:** Nothing reported.
- **Patriot's Pen Program:** Nothing reported.
- **Teach Scout:** Nothing reported.
- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** George Robinson finalized the application to be given to the Hollis-Brookline High School, which is essentially the same as last year's application with clarification on one question. The school had contacted George Robinson asking if we were doing the award this year and if they could get the application by the 30 January. It was agreed to provide the application to the school. The scholarship was posted on the school website the first week of March. The due date for submission is April 8th.
- **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 93.18% with 41 current members compared to prior year of 44 members.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- American Legion Member, Bobbie Canada, passed away on 10 February. Service is on 3 March and burial/celebration of life are scheduled for 3 May.
- Mark Tigert wrenched his knee skiing.
- Bruce Moran is wearing a heart monitor.

Remember National Home: Prayer was said for the National Home and residents.

General Orders: As distributed by the Department and District and posted on the Department website.

Old Business:

- Chris Lussier reported that he was notified that there will be an opening ceremony on the 250th 4th of July beginning with a parade. Kick off ceremony at Monument Square. Chris Lussier will be the Master of Ceremony and Bruce Moran will be presenting his "Old Glory" recitation. Both the Hollis and the Brookline

parade begin at 1000. Hollis Town Band has a concert on 1 July. We need to determine who is doing each of the parades. (OPEN)

- Kerry Spangler proposed changes to the By-Laws to indicate meetings being the 3rd Sunday each month except for June being the 4th Sunday because of the conflict with Father's Day. Jim Belanger seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler has drafted the changes and sent the draft with the monthly Newsletter for review for approval at the July meeting No comments received. Final copy signed and Kerry Spangler submitted to Department Adjutant Paul Lloyd. (Email from Paul Lloyd on 7 April provided a copy of the bylaws approved by National.) (CLOSED)
- George Robinson stated the SSGT Alan H. Soifert Memorial monument at the Hollis-Brookline High School is beginning to lean forward. In the summer, we need to look at fixing the memorial by lifting it and providing a more solid base. A Scout has volunteered to take on the project. He has been asked to provide a list of materials and will work on the monument when the weather warms up. (OPEN)
- Citizen of the Year: Presentation was made during the 14 March Hollis Town Meeting. Because she could not attend the town meeting, a group went to the Gould Tavern to present the award to her. (CLOSED)



- District Meeting is 25 January at the Merrimack VFW Post. Kerry Spangler will assemble the

district report for presentation at the meeting. (Editor's Note – Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather)(CLOSED)

- Mark Andrews presented information on Operation High Flight (501 3c), a non-profit organization to support veterans, children's hospitals, first responders and inner-city youth through mentoring and other activities. The operation is looking for a store front and hangar space to support the program and is soliciting donations to support this program. A process is in place to identify folks that can be supported by the organization. Many methods are being investigated to obtain nominations. A-10 simulator is being built to support the Aviation 101 course as well as those that cannot fly in the airplanes. OHF is looking for a \$15,000 donation to support flying missions. Any of our donations will only support NH veterans. Primary support is for mental health counselling to be mindful of the present and not reflect on the past or worry about the future. Flights will occur March through October each year. OHF is also applying for grants while also looking for funds as a kickstart to operations. Other organizations, such as Easter seals, can nominate veterans to support. Funds are needed by end of March to begin flying operations in April and will be targeted towards veterans. Mark Tiggert made a motion to purchase 50 flights, seconded by Chris Lussier, amended to donate in three payment increments (\$5000, \$5000 and \$5000) as funds are available seconded by Sean Brady, with first payment immediately, and the remaining to be voted on prior to each payment every other month which was unanimously approved. Check was presented to Mark Andrews. Because Mark Andrews was unable to attend the meeting, a discussion on further payment was postponed until the April meeting. (OPEN)
- The check for John Balfor for cleaning the church hall after the Veterans Day Ceremony still has not cleared. Chris Lussier found that the check was not given since he is no longer doing the cleaning at the church. The check was voided and funds returned to the account. (CLOSED)

- Elections – Nominations to keep all current officers in position were made and accepted by each of the members. Greg d'Arbonne nominated Sean Brady for the Judge Advocate position, seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler agreed to accept the appointment as adjutant for another year. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier identified something about our Venmo account. It is currently set up as a business account and needs to be changed to a charitable account with a non-profit profile with PAYPAL. The change will be worked after the tax forms are filed. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier spent \$300.00 for the accountant for tax form filing authorized at the previous meeting. (CLOSED)

New Business:

- Because of the national requirements for students to participate in the We the People competition to use specified travel and lodging, Chris Lussier suggested we support the AP Civics class trip to Washington DC where they present cases in We the People competition defending and demonstrating their passion for the US Constitution. After discussion, Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay for the transportation costs totaling \$11,700.00, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler made a motion to purchase the 6 Services' Flags and 2 sets of poles and bases for Hospice Program We Honor Vets pinning ceremonies at a total cost of \$645.00, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. (OPEN)
- Memorial Day Ceremonies – Greg d'Arbonne suggested we identify the guest speaker and MC for both the Brookline and Hollis Memorial Day Ceremonies. Ceremony agenda will be like last year.

Good of the Order:

- Operation Delta Dog thanked the Post by letter for being a 4-Star sponsor in 2025 and

requested support in 2026 with their expansion of services. George Robinson suggested that we challenge other posts to donate and then match up to \$25,000 to potentially get more veterans served. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion for the adjutant to send the challenge to District 6 to donate with up to a \$25,000 match from Post 11373, seconded by George Robinson and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler will send an email to the District 6 Commander to issue the challenge to local posts. (OPEN)

- Our sponsored veteran and dog from Operation Delta Dog, Hershey and Avi who will graduate with the next class of ODD. Congratulations to Hershey and Avi and we look forward to attending the graduation ceremony on 13 May 2026.
- Brookline Town Hall is being condemned. They are reaching out to potentially use our Post building for meeting space. We need to determine number and timing of meetings, liability issues, and utility cost share. All present agreed that we should help, if possible, and establish an hourly rate. Greg d'Arbonne will follow up with the town.
- The Singing Vets have a function at a fund raiser for Homeland Heroes in Windham on 28 Mar 2026.
- Operation Care for our Troops is soliciting donations. If they could come to present their offerings, we will make consideration at our next meeting.
- Scout Troop 260 is hosting their spaghetti supper on 16 May. See the Flyer on page 8.

Closing: Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 19 April 2026, at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH, and by Zoom.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

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 – Scout Troop 260 Spaghetti Supper
- 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 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). You can renew at a meeting, or you can renew online (<https://www.vfw.org/OMS/QuickRenew.aspx>), 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 as 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 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 VFW project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger and/or to Kerry Spangler for inclusion in the VFW website and newsletter.

**How do you know if there's an Air Force pilot at your party?
Oh, don't worry. He'll tell you as soon as he walks in.**

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 603-219-9963 cdr11373@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander: Mark Andrews

603-732-6113; agav8r1997@gmail.com

Quartermaster: Chris Lussier

603- 465-2676; clussier@tds.net

Service Officer: Bruce Moran

603-465-1040; bruce.moran@hotmail.com

Junior Vice Commander: George Robinson

540-809-8696; GMRobinson118@gmail.com

Chaplain: Bruce Moran

603-465-1040; bruce.moran@hotmail.com

Adjutant: Kerry Spangler

603-233-0266; KSpang8393@aol.com

Post Mailing Address: VFW Post 11373, c/o Commander, PO Box 1012, Hollis, NH 03049

Post Website: <http://www.hollisvfw.org/>

E-mail addresses are for the use of the members to pass information and not to be sold or freely passed to others without formal consent of the member. No funds solicitation is authorized via e-mail.

The time is now to start thinking of potential VFW Day of Service Projects set to kick off 2 May 2026.



**STILL
SERVING**
VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2026

NEW ALTERNATIVE CAPS!



FOR POST, DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT

Attention, Brookline Residents!!

Boy Scout Troop 260

Cordially invites you to our annual

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL SUPPER

All proceeds to benefit Troop 260 and the
Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74

Saturday – May 16, 2026

5:00 – 7:30 PM

At the Brookline Community Church, 2 Main St.

Tickets \$10 per person, \$5 seniors, and free for children under 2

To purchase tickets: Call 603-533-3090 or
email: brooklinetroop260@gmail.com

