



# Hollis VFW

## August 2025 Newsletter

Vol. 35 Issue: 8

*Serving Hollis and Brookline*

*August 2025*

*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=bIA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWTXMxZz09>; 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: 17 August @ 7:00 pm***



### **July 20th Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Open Time:** 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 8 members were present.

**Reading of the Minutes:** A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the June meeting minutes with corrections since they were published in the newsletter and sent to all members and that topics will be reviewed in the meeting. Correction was the Hollis Memorial Day Service was at 1700 hours not 1500 hours. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Post Quartermaster's Report:** The Quartermaster's Report was read. There was one deposit: \$7.62 from Interest; totaling \$7.62. Disbursements for the month were: \$200.00 for Daughters of the American Revolution for Hollis grave cleaning; \$192.00 for USPS Annual PO Box Fee (pre-authorized); and \$320.00 for cleaning services. Total expenses for a total of \$712.00. The Quarterly Report needs to be

approved by the trustees at the conclusion of the meeting. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved. Quarterly Trustee Report of Audit was submitted.

#### **Correspondence:**

- Letter commending Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) for the work supporting Veterans and their survivors. Also indicated the need for more VSOs in the state of NH.
- Letter to the DAR, Anita Walker, giving them a contribution for their efforts in cleaning the Veteran Grave Sites.
- Email received from Department VFW Adjutant Paul Lloyd with the general orders for July 2025.
- Email to Department VFW Adjutant Paul Lloyd correcting the mailing and meeting locations on

the National VFW website. Addresses have been corrected on the website.

- Email received from ZOOM for online meeting account renewal due on 20 August 2025. The total amount due is 159.40. Chris Lussier made the motion for the Post to pay ½ the fee for the renewal of the account, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved.
- Email received from the VFW store that the two Eagle Scout certificates have been shipped and will arrive on Monday, 21 July. Kerry Spangler will bring the certificates to the Wednesday Veterans Breakfast to get signatures and give to Greg d'Arbonne to pass to George Robinson for the scouts.

**Committee/Program Reports:** Reporting is now accessed through the VFVNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>.

- **Service Officer:** Nothing reported.
- **Patriot's Pen Program:** Nothing reported.
- **Voice of Democracy programs:** Nothing reported.
- **Military Descendant Scholarship** – Nothing reported
- **Americanism:**
  - 4 Jul – One member led all people attending Holman Stadium in singing God Bless America during the Nashua 4th of July celebration and fireworks.
- **Community Service:**
  - 2, 9, and 16 July – Weekly Veteran's Breakfasts in Hollis with numerous veterans from the community.
  - Donation to the DAR for the grave cleaning supplies for the grave cleanup at the cemeteries.
- **Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.
- **Youth Activities:**
  - 20 July – Greg d'Arbonne participated in the Eagle Scout Ceremony.
- **Legislative:**
  - 16 July – Members attended Cigar Night at Fulchino's Vineyard with former Senator/Ambassador Scott Brown, NH State

Senator Kevin Avar, and NH State Representative Liz Barbour.

- 18 July – Members met with US Representative Maggie Goodlander, during an Operation Delta Dog event.
- **Hospital:** Nothing reported.
- **Teach Scout:**
  - 12 July – George Robinson awarded two Eagle Scout for two new Troop 12 Scouts.
- **Homeless Veterans:** Nothing reported.
- **National Home:** Nothing reported.
- **Veterans and Military Support:**
  - 2 July – Seven members attended the funeral of USA Korean Era Veteran, Francis Lefreniere, aged 94, who was a long-time member of the Brookline American Legion. Members also provided the Rifle guard and Taps for the funeral.

**Membership:** We are going to set up a membership table at the Hollis Old Home Days in September. Chris Lussier submitted the fee.

**Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:**

- Bruce Moran had a carcinoma removed on 15 July.
- 17 July – Mark Tigert attended the funeral of a veteran friend in Eton Rapids, MI who recently passed away.

**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:**

- George Robinson stated that with the Nation's 250th Birthday coming up next year, the Post should purchase banners celebrating this event and place them at the major crossroads in both Towns, a total of 8 banners. George will investigate costs, what needs to be done and permissions that are needed. It was agreed that he attend the select board meeting to discuss. (OPEN)
- 4th July Parade in Brookline – Largest member participation for the parade in many years. (CLOSED)

- Our Day of Service event (postponed from 3 May due to weather) will occur as soon as possible to finish the safety rails and steps at a member's home. (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 it 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 will be signed and Kerry Spangler will take to the District 6 Meeting in August for District Approval. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler has developed a spreadsheet to use as a checklist for all events being worked by the Post. Assistance in identifying all the components of all events will be required. (OPEN)

#### **New Business:**

- Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler met with the Gate City Casino coordinator to get the final dates for the Hollis VFW charitable gaming (8-14 Sep) (OPEN)

#### **Good of the Order:**

- Operation Delta Dog (ODD) is hosting a fundraiser at Able Ebenezer Brewing Company in Merrimack, 10 Aug, 1300 – 1600. Dogs are welcome. Special batch of beer. The Slakas band is playing for the event. Portions of the proceeds are being donated to ODD.
- We still need to get project pictures to Jim Belanger to post on the website.

**Closing:** Bruce Moran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 16 August 2025, 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**.

#### **Jul 2025**

- 30 July: Flightless Honor Flight" held by Honor Flight New England. public lineup for greeting veterans begins at 9:00 a.m. – presentation begins at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to greet our veterans and thank them for their service to our country

#### **Aug 2025**

- 10 August – Operation Delta Dog Fundraiser at Able Ebenezer in Merrimack NH (1300-1600).
- 17 August: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 28 August: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

#### **Sep 2025**

- 11 September - Patriot Day / 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony. Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 11 a.m. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Donna Hastings, American Red Cross Volunteer
- 19-20 September – Hollis Old Home Days including Membership Drive.
- 21 September: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 25 September: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

#### **Oct 2025**

- 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.

### **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.**

**Invite other veterans to our meetings so they can see what we are all about.**

**Get VFW project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger for inclusion in the VFW website.**

**Doug Sanders, professional golfer: "I'm working as hard as I can to get my life and my cash to run out at the same time. If I can just die after lunch Tuesday, everything will be perfect."**

Kerry Spangler  
Adjutant

---

### **Post Officers**

**Commander:** Mark Tigert – 240-344-8291 [vfw11373cdr@proton.me](mailto:vfw11373cdr@proton.me)

**Senior Vice Commander:** Mark Andrews

603-732-6113; [agav8r1997@gmail.com](mailto:agav8r1997@gmail.com)

**Quartermaster:** Chris Lussier

603- 465-2676; [clussier@tds.net](mailto:clussier@tds.net)

**Service Officer:** Bruce Moran

603-465-1040; [bruce.moran@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce.moran@hotmail.com)

**Junior Vice Commander:** George Robinson

540-809-8696; [GMRobinson118@gmail.com](mailto:GMRobinson118@gmail.com)

**Chaplain:** Bruce Moran

603-465-1040; [bruce.moran@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce.moran@hotmail.com)

**Adjutant:** Kerry Spangler

603-233-0266; [KSpang8393@aol.com](mailto: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.*

## **VFW Teams Up with Aspen Dental to Improve Access to Care for Veterans and Their Families**

*Exclusive membership discount and donation program supports veteran dental health*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 25, 2025)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) announced a new relationship with [Aspen Dental®](#) to improve access to dental care for veterans and their families. Through this collaboration, VFW members will receive exclusive discounts on the [Aspen Dental Savings Plan membership](#), and Aspen Dental will provide support to the VFW Foundation to further expand veteran health care initiatives.

VFW members and their eligible immediate family members can access the discounted savings plan for \$29 per year – a 41% savings from the regular \$49 annual fee. Benefits include free exams and X-rays plus up to 30% savings on dental services with no deductibles, claims filing or waiting periods.

“This relationship directly addresses a gap in healthcare access that affects many in our veteran community. Through our collaboration with Aspen Dental, we’re helping ensure those who served have access to quality, affordable dental care,” said VFW Adjutant General Dan West.

“Veterans often face unique barriers to accessing care,” said Dr. Arwinder Judge, chief clinical officer at Aspen Dental. “This collaboration with the VFW builds on our longstanding commitment to those who have served, helping to ensure that veterans and their families can access quality, affordable care when and where they need it.”

This relationship makes Aspen Dental the VFW’s official dental provider, offering nationwide access to care. With more than 1,100 locations nationwide — many in underserved areas — Aspen Dental makes it easy for veterans to find affordable, quality care close to home. Aspen Dental practices serve more than 35,000 patients each day and eight million annually, offering accessible, high-quality care to communities across the country. With state-of-the-art technology and on-site labs at many locations, Aspen Dental offices help ensure a fast, comfortable experience for patients.

VFW members can learn more at <https://www.aspendental.com/dental-savings-plan/vfw-partnership/> or call 877.808.2776.

Aspen Dental has supported veterans for more than 10 years through its Healthy Mouth Movement, donating over \$36 million in dental care to more than 33,000 veterans and individuals in need through programs including VFW Day of Service and Smile for Your Service.



# Veteran Sailing Day

The Lakes Region Veterans Coalition (LRVC), Camp Resilience and the Lake Winnepesaukee Sailing Association (LWSA) are partnering to offer an afternoon of sailing on beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This is offered at no cost to interested Veterans!

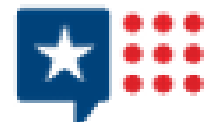
Small groups of Veterans will sail from 2PM to 5PM with experienced skippers from the LWSA and learn the basics of sailing while enjoying the beauty of Lake Winnepesaukee and the surrounding mountains. The event will end with a BBQ dinner at the LWSA clubhouse on Smith Cove in Gilford, NH.

Apply online at <https://forms.gle/Me3X8vqHc2PAyCX49> or by using the QR code below. Spaces are limited and will be given out on a first come, first served basis.



If you have problems with the online application, send an email to [info@lrvcnh.org](mailto:info@lrvcnh.org).

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**



**DIAL 988 then  
PRESS 1**





## COMMUNITY SERVICE

First, let me say thank you on behalf of President Tracy for your participation in this program. The sox hop at Kickoff was a hit and then you all helped fill the food banks in the north country at Convention. .

The next project we have for you is Operation Care for Troops. Now this is a two-fold program, as it can be reported under Veterans and Family Service or under Community Service. You also can split it and take half your hours, miles, and money on each program. This round up of products and money will be at our next Council of Administration on July 26<sup>th</sup> in Winchester. The following is a small list of items that are always asked for.

Beef jerky

Protein snacks

Protein bars

Lip balm--no petroleum please.

Small canned fruit

Small canned baked beans

Chicken Vienna sausages

Trail mix and any drink mixes

Care for troops also needs cash to help with the postage. It costs \$24.75 per box to ship and believe me, they ship an awful lot of boxes. You can go on to Operation Care for Troops online and get more ideas. The next packing is in August, so go shopping and help Care for Troops with their August packing.

Bring your goodies and or checks made out to Operation Care for Troops with you to the Council of Administration Meeting in July.

Remember this is reportable in two different projects so let's "get with the program" so to speak. Let's make Tracy happy and proud of her Auxiliaries.

Thank you, Dot Mattson

Community Activities Chairman





- *We're proud to partner with the American Red Cross to host a community blood drive at the Cathedral.*
- *The drive will be held at the Hilltop House – 10 Hale Hill Rd, Rindge, NH*
- *Your donation helps patients in need — especially if you're type O, B-, or A-. Consider making a Power Red donation if eligible.*
- *Streamline your visit: [Click here](#) to save time by filling out health questions in advance.*
- *Schedule an appointment: Call 1-800-RED CROSS or [click here](#) and enter 03461.*

*We hope to see you there — your donation could help save a life!*