



Hollis VFW

December 2017 Newsletter

Vol. 27 Issue: 12

Serving Hollis and Brookline

December 2017

The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month.

Meetings in April through September are at the American Legion Hall, 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH and begin at 7 PM.

Meetings from October through March are at the Hollis Town Hall, 7 Monument Square, Hollis, NH and begin at 2 PM.

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

Next Meeting: 17 December 2017, 2 pm, Hollis Town Hall.

November Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Commander George Robinson. 10 members present.

Membership Applications: Still waiting for Doug Arseneau to submit his DD 214 to verify eligibility.

Minutes: The Minutes of the October 2017 meeting were read. There were two corrections to the Minutes:

- The check for the cleanup of the Church after the Veterans Day ceremony was written to John Balfour, not to the Church.
- The list of those who membership has lapsed should only be Allison Carpenter, Steve Edwards and Bill Carnes. All the others listed just need to renew their membership.

Jim Bélanger made a motion that the Minutes be accepted as read, with amendments as stated; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

Quartermasters Report: The Quartermasters Report was read. Chris Lussier stated there was a deposit of \$7 from the dues payments of Bill Hebden and Bill Carnes (\$3.50 each). Chris stated he had not

deposited the funds from the Poppy Drive (\$1,097.35) or the \$25 donation the Post received recently. Expenditures for the month included Checks approved at previous meetings for a total of \$175.45. Th total in all accounts is \$16,884.89. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermasters Report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved.

Correspondence: None received.

Comrade in Distress:

- Bruce Moran: Bruce stated there was nothing new to report and he is slowly but surely mending.
- Bill Carnes: Bill's daughter sent a note stating "My father is currently residing in Blaire House in Tewksbury MA. He will be moving up to Tilton VA as soon as we can get him up there. I want to thank all of you for your wonderful support. It has been greatly appreciated. Sheryl Ellis"
- Russ Norris: Russ stated his back is getting better and he will likely not have to get surgery.
- Don Hurt: Don stated he recently had an operation and had a small stroke the next day. He

thanked the Hollis Ambulance Corps for taking care of him in this emergency. While his speech still has a slight slur, he is feeling better and slowly recovering. Bruce Moran stated he visited Don in the hospital.

- Russ Norris stated the Manchester VFW Post Commander is having some medical issues and was in ICU recently.
- Jonathan Matlock stated he was laid off recently and is looking for work. He appreciates any leads anyone can offer. Mike Reed stated he can connect Jonathan to some HR folks.

Committee reports:

- **Membership:** The members spent considerable time speaking about increasing membership and the need to recruit new members. Russ Norris stated membership is vital to the continuation of the VFW. Harold Ryder suggested we get the list of Veterans from the Middle School for all Veterans invited to the veterans Day Assembly as that would give us access to the Veterans in the community. It was also suggested we do an appeal on the community Facebook pages.
- The status of members and potential members is as follows:
 - Pat Kennedy: working on proof of Korea deployment.
 - 7 annual members renewed; 8 more to go; and the Post needs 3 new members to reach 100% goal.
 - A gentleman named Frank Pugh, Jr. may be eligible for membership.
 - The following individuals need to renew or have had their membership lapse. It is encouraged that we personally visit them to ask if they will renew:
 - Doug Andrews
 - Allison Carpenter - lapsed 5/14/2017
 - Steve Edwards - lapsed 9/26/2016
 - Mark Glidden
 - Dennis Johnson
 - Donald Narkis
 - Robert Tabachnikoff
 - John Watson
- VOD/PP: 141 essays were submitted and the top 10 of those were submitted to District. There were no entries for the VOD.

- **Teacher of the Year Awards:** K-5 and 6-8 teacher nominees have been submitted to District. Sandra Van Sciver, the Reading Specialist at the Hollis Primary School, is the K-5 nominee; Brenda Nickerson, the Library Media Specialist at the Hollis Upper Elementary School, is the 6-8 nominee.
- **Scout of Year:** Nothing new to report.
- **VSO:** Nothing new to report.
- **Police:** Nothing new to report.
- **Fire:** Nothing new to report.
- **EMT:** Nothing new to report.
- **Citizen of the Year:** Don Ryder and Bob Heyer were both discussed as possible nominees by Andy Seremeth and Jim Bélanger. Amy Carter and Laurie Miller were also brought up. Commander Robinson will contact Tom Gehan to find out who he raised as a possible nominee last year.
- **Legislative update:** Jim Bélanger brought up six pieces of legislation that may be brought before committees this year. He stated he will keep the Post updated on their progress.
- **SOPs:** There are six now ready for review.

Old Business:

- **Veterans in the classroom review:** All who attended said it went well.
- **Veterans' Day school ceremonies review:** Many members and local veterans were present. All had very positive things to say about the assemblies and veterans' relationships with the schools.
- **Veterans' Day ceremony review:** Chris Lussier will draft thank you notes for John "O" and Rev Rasmussen.
- **4 Nov poppy drive review:** Members believed that the Christmas card drive took attention away from the donation bucket. Commander Robinson suggested the Post support the drive again next year, but at events separate from our poppy drive. Laura Landerman-Garber's current intention is to conduct annual drives and rotate the card distribution among the 4 services. The Christmas card drive resulted in about 150 cards through our efforts.
- The check for the Church Hall clean-up was paid.
- District Meeting on 10 Sept: Russ Norris was reimbursed for his expenses for this event.

- District 6 Meeting report: Chris Lussier addressed the District meeting attendees about the importance of school engagement regarding patriotism and Americanism. District officers and other Posts were very impressed by Hollis-Brookline's 141 PP essays. Russ Norris emphasized the importance of reporting Post activities to ensure the Post's and VFW's story is told.

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

New Business:

- Troop 12 Eagle Scout certificate for Tyler St. Pierre: Commander Robinson will purchase the certificate when the date is set for the Court of Honor and request reimbursement after the fact.
- Steve Edwards VSO support for claim: Steve sent an e-mail to Greg d'Arbonne that the VA is working with him on his claim. He will contact Greg if there any further problems.
- \$50 check to support Robyn Nelson's expenses (printing and books) for Post historic efforts: Motion made by Jim Bélanger to give a \$50 check for historian's up-front expenses to Robyn Nelson, who will then provide receipts to show

how funds were spent; seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved.

- Weather resistant US flag bin for transfer station: Commander Robinson will let the Post know in December if there is an interested Scout. He noted that fundraising would be part of an Eagle project, but if a more junior Scout took on the project, he would have a cost estimate prepared for the Post to consider funding. He will report his findings at the December meeting or later.

For the Good of the Order:

- The Hollis Band will have a concert on 9 December, 7pm at the Hollis-Brookline High School. Admission cost is a canned good(s).
- There will be a Vetflix information event on 21 November at the Brookline Fire Department.

Upcoming Dates: Post 11373 meetings/events:

17 December, 2 pm Post Meeting, Hollis Town Hall

21 January, 2 pm Post Meeting, Hollis Town Hall

The prayer was said for the National Home.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM. The next meeting is Sunday, 21 December, 2 pm, Hollis Town Hall.

News For & From Members

Please Make Sure You Renew ASAP

If you are a member who pays 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! Thanks!

News of Interest to Veterans

VFW Releases Survey Results on TRICARE Program Changes

DOD failing to adequately communicate to millions of beneficiaries

WASHINGTON (November 29, 2017) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is releasing the results of a TRICARE survey that focused on the changes to the military health care program as mandated by the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. The 33-question survey also focused on the awareness and perceptions around the controversial cost-sharing changes in the Defense Department's Interim Final Rule, which was publicly released Sept. 28.

“The VFW survey confirmed suspicions that the Defense Department is failing to adequately communicate to perhaps millions of TRICARE beneficiaries that changes are about to occur in their health care program,” said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. “I can only hope DOD ups their game to fill in the notification gaps before the Jan. 1 implementation date.”

The survey was conducted between Oct. 26 and Nov. 8, with more than 11,800 responses tallied. Only 48 percent of respondents were aware of any TRICARE program changes, which take effect in the new year. Thirty percent of respondents identified themselves as TRICARE Prime users, but only 12 percent reported being aware that Prime co-payments for military retirees were increasing. TRICARE reports 4.6 million beneficiaries in its Prime category, and 1.94 million using either TRICARE Standard or Extra.

Also beginning Jan. 1, TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and Extra. A third of respondents stated they preferred the current cost-sharing payment method over the new flat-rate system, while 12 percent preferred the new flat-rate system, citing predictability and a perceived lowering of costs as factors. When asked to rank order considerations when evaluating costs associated with health care, 52 percent listed overall costs as the primary consideration, while only 6 percent listed predictability as their primary consideration.

When asked about pharmacy usage for maintenance medications, 47 percent reported using Mail Order as their primary method. Respondents listed cost (37 percent) and convenience (33 percent) as the top two reasons for this choice. Only 32 percent reported being informed of the recent change in policy, which now requires Mail Order users to annually opt-in to automatically refill each medication.

For demographic purposes, 86 percent of respondents identified themselves as TRICARE-eligible, and 79 percent of those reported using TRICARE as either their primary or secondary health care benefit. Regarding current status, 77 percent identified as military retirees or their dependents, 5 percent were service members or their dependents, and 3 percent were surviving spouses. Regarding wars or conflicts served, the largest cohort were Vietnam veterans at 49 percent, followed by 41 percent (Desert Shield/Storm) and 37 percent (Post-9/11). The gender split was 81 percent male, 19 percent female.

Click here to [read DOD’s Interim Final Rule and public comments.](#)

VFW Calling Campaign

The VFW Membership Department would like to make everyone aware that the VFW National Headquarters has initiated a telephone campaign through a third-party vendor to members who will expire in the month of December. The company they are using is called MDS. If a member of your department calls to inquire, please pass along this information to them.

About that Yellow Card You Received in the Mail from the VFW

You probably received a yellow postcard urging you to take some action for the VFW. This card is legitimately sanctioned by the VFW Department of New Hampshire. The purpose of the card is to solicit members support for the yearbook/directory the Department informed all Posts about a few months ago. The Department is working with a private company called PCI to publish this book for sale.

Your cooperation in providing your contact and personal information is **ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY**. Some of you may have also received an email request for the same information. Unfortunately, neither the email nor the post card are very clear about the purpose of this request and the fact that it is voluntary. So, feel comfortable in calling the phone number and providing your information, but know that doing so is voluntary.

Online Exchange Shopping a Winner

The military exchanges opened their online shopping doors to honorably discharged veterans over the Veterans Day weekend. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service said their online weekend sales more than doubled over the same timeframe last year; details were not available from the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard exchange systems. To shop online at any or all the military exchanges, you must first verify your eligibility through VetVerify.org.

Wreaths Across America NH State Veterans Cemetery Boscawen: 16 December

10:30 to 12:00 PM = Placing wreaths on graves.

12:00PM to 12:50 PM = Wreaths Across America ceremony, sponsored by NH Wing of the Civil Air Patrol



Join Us in Our Mission to
REMEMBER ♦ HONOR ♦ TEACH

Join us on
December 16, 2017
NATIONAL WREATHS
ACROSS AMERICA DAY

1030 AM-1230 PM
NH State Veterans Cemetery
110 Daniel Webster Highway
Boscawen, NH 03303



WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG

#SayTheirNames

This document explains what the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can do for you if you ever need emergency care. When it is not possible for you to go to a VA Medical Center (VAMC), you should go to the nearest hospital that has an emergency room (ER). If you are in an ambulance, the paramedics will usually take you to the closest emergency room.

What is an emergency?

A medical emergency is an injury or illness so severe that without immediate treatment, it threatens your life or health. Your situation is an emergency if you believe your life or health is in danger. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest ER right away. You *do not* need to call the VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency room.

When should I contact the VA regarding an ER visit?

You, your family, friends or hospital staff should contact the nearest VAMC as soon as possible, preferably within 72 hours of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover. Provide VA with information about your emergency and what services are being provided to you. Ask VA for guidance on what emergency charges are covered, so you can plan accordingly.

If the doctor then wants to admit me to the hospital, must I obtain advance approval from the VA?

If the admission is an emergency, advance approval is not required although prompt notification to the VA is necessary (within 72 hours). If the admission is *not* an emergency, then you must obtain advance approval from the VA.

Will I have to pay for transportation to a VA facility?

VA will assist with transportation arrangements and may be able to pay for such expenses. Contact the nearest VA Medical Center for guidelines.

If a VA bed is available and I can be safely transferred, do I have to move to the VA hospital?

Yes, if you want VA to continue to pay for your care. If you refuse to be transferred, VA will not pay for any further care.

If I am admitted to the hospital as a result of an emergency, how much will VA pay?

Depending on your VA eligibility, VA may pay all, some or none of the charges. Some highlights are listed in the next column, and you may ask your local VA Medical Center's VA Community Care Office for further eligibility guidance.

VAMC White River Jct., VT

Contact: 802-295-9363
ext. 5700

For service-connected conditions, some of the criteria that must be met are:

- Care or services were provided in a medical emergency, *AND*
- VA or another federal facility were not feasibly available, *AND*
- VA was notified within 72 hours of the admission.

For nonservice-connected conditions, some of the criteria that must be met are:

- Veteran is enrolled in the VA health care system, *AND*
- Veteran has received health care services from VA within the previous 24 months, *AND*
- Veteran has no other health insurance coverage.

How do I know if I have a service-connected condition?

A service-connected condition refers to an illness or injury that was incurred during or aggravated by military service, and has a rating assigned by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

How long do I have to file a claim for reimbursement for emergency medical care?

File your claim with the nearest VAMC quickly because time limits usually apply. For nonservice-connected care, the time limit is 90 days. Again, consult your local VA Medical Center for more information.

Will VA pay for emergency care received outside the United States?

VA will only pay for emergency care outside the U.S. if your emergency is related to a service-connected condition. For more information about care provided outside the U.S., contact the Foreign Medical Program at 1-877-345-8179, or visit the website at <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/>

How do I get more information?

Visit the VHA Office of Community Care website at <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/> for more information on emergency care for Veterans.

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: **NOV 28 2017**

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

Subj: Testing for Clonorchis Sinensis Exposure in Vietnam Veterans

To: Network Director (10N1-23)
VISN Chief Medical Officers (10N1-23)

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to conducting research to enhance the health care provided to our Nation's Veterans. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding the Clonorchis Sinesis/Liver Fluke parasite Exposure in Vietnam Veterans study.

2. The Northport VA Medical Center Infectious Disease team conducted a pilot study to detect evidence of exposure to the Liver Fluke parasite in Vietnam Veterans during the Spring of 2017. The study evaluated Veterans who ate raw or undercooked fish from the rivers of Vietnam to find evidence of past Liver Fluke parasite infection. Liver Fluke is found in fresh water fish in some regions where Vietnam Veterans served. Exposure to the parasite might be a risk factor for a rare tumor of the biliary tract. Blood samples were taken from 50 Veterans that served in Vietnam. The samples were sent to a South Korean lab recognized for developing a blood test that can measure historical infection with Liver Fluke. The testing was performed under VA research protocol. The test is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration and is not available in the United States. The test is, therefore, not available to VA. All Veterans tested in this study were notified of the results.

3. VA is currently working to validate the South Korean test and is considering a second, larger study. Additional information about the disease may be found at the following website: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/infectious-diseases/cholangiocarcinoma.asp>.

4. For questions regarding the study, please contact Dr. Ralph Erickson, Chief Consultant for Post Deployment Health Services by sending an email to Ralph.Erickson@va.gov.



Steve Young

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



ATTENTION VETERANS
FREE - CONFIDENTIAL PTSD COUNSELING
WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Are you a veteran that served in a Combat Zone?

-OR-

Are you a veteran that has experienced Military Sexual Trauma either in a combat zone OR stateside?

Are you Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Separated, Retired?

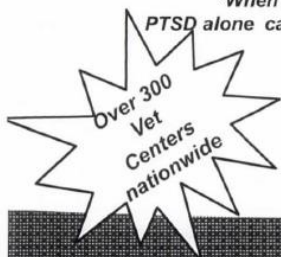
If so, you qualify for 100% CONFIDENTIAL :

FREE Individual Counseling – FREE Group Counseling – FREE Marriage & Family Therapy – FREE Couples Counseling – FREE Benefits Help & Referrals

Q: How long can I receive free Individual, Group, Marriage, Couples Counseling, and Benefits Referral services from the Department of Veterans Affairs?

A: For the rest of your life – FREE!

**When you receive services at the Vet Center, you become eligible to file for disability benefits. PTSD alone can result in a 30, 50, 70 or 100% disability rating which could supplement your monthly income for the rest of your life.*



Call or Walk-in today at:

The DC Vet Center, 1296 Upshur St, NW Washington DC 20017
202.726.5212

Email: gordon.johnson@va.gov Veterans Outreach Program

www.vetcenter.va.gov



Points To Ponder

The views expressed in the following article were 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. – Greg d'Arbonne

The Army Navy Football Game

At the beginning of the Army-Navy football game, the coin toss in made.

The Navy captain shouts, HEADS followed by the Army captain shouting LATRINES.

How children perceive their Grandparents

1. I was in the bathroom, putting on my makeup, under the watchful eyes of my young granddaughter, as I'd done many times before. After I applied my lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 72. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story.

"What's it about?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"

8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6." (WOW! I really like this one -- it says I'm only '38'!)

10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

11. Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one child.

"No," said another. "He's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

13. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and whenever we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

14. Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

15. My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over, you hear gas leaks and they blame their dog.

A Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy New Year to everyone!! See you next year!!!

Greg

Post Officers

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Do You Have an E-mail Address?

If you have e-mail access, send a message to Greg (Gdarbo6844@aol.com). 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.