



Hollis VFW

December 2023 Newsletter

Vol. 33 Issue: 12

Serving Hollis and Brookline

December 2023

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=blA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUmVWTXMyZz09>; 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 December

November Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 8 members were present and one guest, Captain (USAFR) Mary Riddle, daughter of former member Maggie Riddle.

Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes since they were published in the newsletter; seconded by Jim Bélanger and unanimously approved.

Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. The Post received \$35 in EFTs from National, \$316 from donations at the Grape Festival, \$150 in donations toward the shed project, and \$2.87 in bank interest, for a total of \$503.87. There were two disbursements: \$95 to Jim Bélanger for the website Annual Dues, \$105 for the building permit for the shed, \$1734.32 for building materials for the shed, \$2,518.18 to reimburse Greg d'Arbonne for shed material he bought, and \$31.50 to National for dues from the Post, for a total of \$4,484.44. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read,

pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved.

Membership: Nothing to report.

Correspondence:

- The Post received a thank you letter from Veterans Count for the Post's donation to their "Salute Our Soldiers (SOS) dinner fund raiser.
- The Post received a letter from a group called Medical Foster Home that encourages people to open their homes to Homeless Veterans.
- The Hollis Selectboard and Hollis Historical Society are starting to plan for the US 250th Birthday in 2026. They sent a letter to the Post asking if the Post wants to work on this project with them.
- The Post received tickets for the "30 Guns in 30 Days" raffle from the Department of New Hampshire VFW. Chris Lussier will provide tickets to those who ask for them.

Committee Reports: The Patriots Pen essays have been submitted to District. There were no Voice of Democracy submissions.

Old Business:

- Veterans Day and Veterans in the High School Civics class were considered very successful by the members in attendance.
- The Post still needs to do an After-Action Review about Memorial Day.
- On 19 December starting at 7 PM, Troop 12 will conduct Caroling at the Hollis Senior Residence. The Post will participate with the Troop.

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.

New Business:

- Wreaths Across Hollis: The members discussed this event sponsored by Al Fulchino to put wreaths on the graves of Veterans buried in Hollis. Mark Andrews made a motion that the Post donate \$500 to this; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne. During the discussion of the motion, Chris Lussier, Mark Tigert, Mark Andrews, and Mary Riddle stated they would make personal contributions as well. The total would be \$940. The motion was passed unanimously, and Chris Lussier will present the check to Al Fulchino for \$940. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post participate in this activity, seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved. Once a date is established, Greg will get the word out to the members.
- Mark Andrews stated we need to have a way people can donate to the Post via electronic devices such as PayPal, Venmo, etc. as many people no longer carry cash. Chris Lussier made a motion that the Post establish a Venmo account through our checking account for this purpose; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

- Chris Lussier stated Steve Keough, a Veteran living in Hollis, passed away. Steve had been living with Brian Wilson's family. Brian is a big supporter of our Post and Veterans and the Post members feel this can be an opportunity for us to honor a fellow Veteran, Steve, and Veteran supporter, Brian. The wake will be on the 2nd of December and the burial in Boscawen on 4 December.

Comrade in Distress:

- Bob Smith was not feeling well so he did not attend the meeting. The members wished him a speedy recovery.
- Chris Lussier stated his father's pain they have been trying to figure out for many months is related to his prosthetic knee and the knee needs to be replaced.
- Bruce Moran stated his wife is gaining strength each day thanks to new therapies she is receiving. HE is hoping she continues to progress as she will be able to get out and about eventually.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated his father is doing better cognitively now that he is back in his home. His father and mother are receiving 24-hour assistance at home now.

For the Good of the Order:

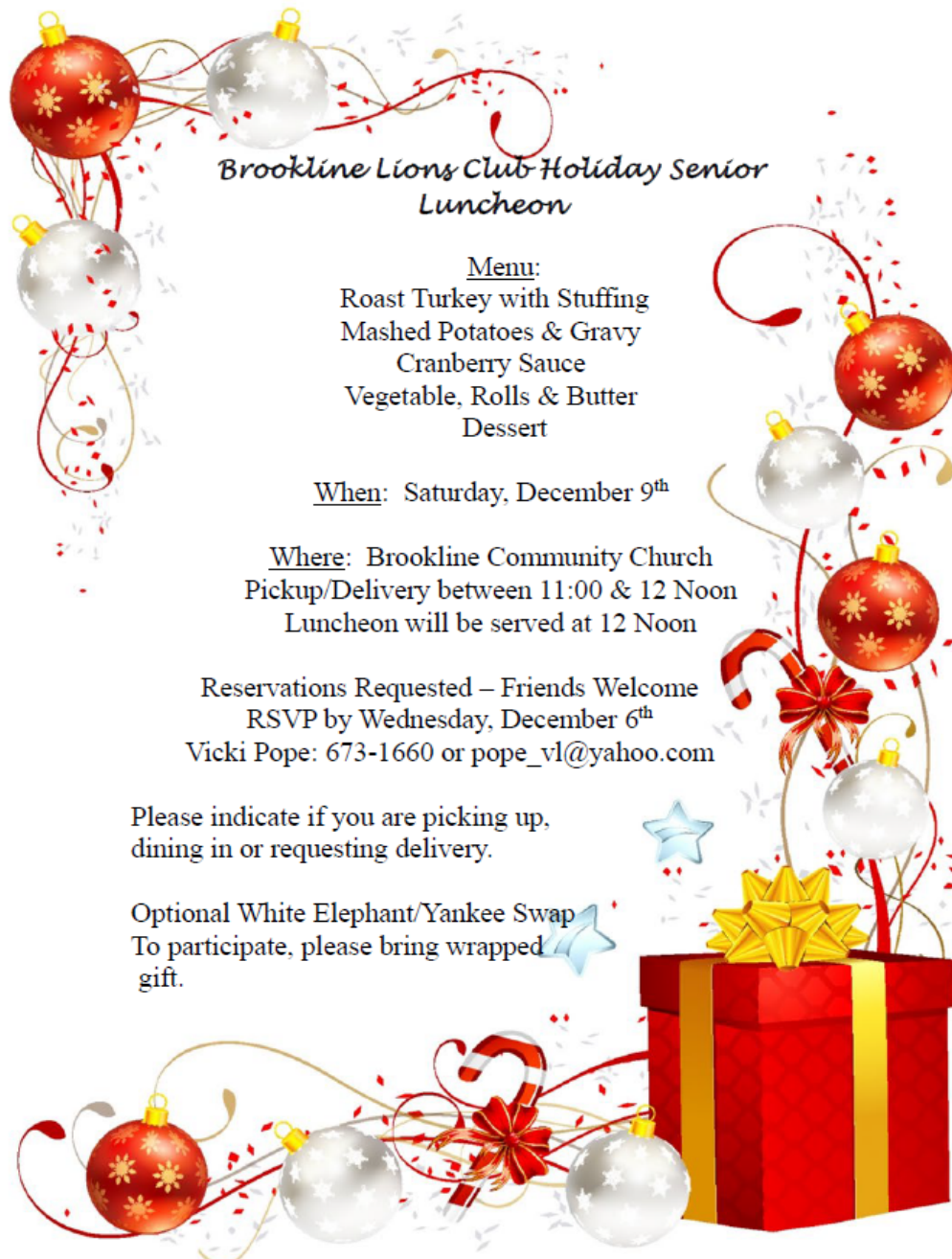
- Chris Lussier, Kerry Spangler, Bruce Moran and Greg d'Arbonne participated in a ceremony at Eversource in Manchester. Chris, Greg, and Bruce said it was a great event and were glad they participated.
- Chris Lussier, Bruce Moran, and Arlene d'Arbonne participated in a Flag Etiquette class for students and teachers at the Hollis Upper Elementary School. Chris and Bruce said it was very well received.
- Mary Riddle, daughter of former Post member Maggie Riddle, and a nurse working on her DNP and a Captain in the Air Force Reserves, spoke to the members to update them on what she has been doing since she was sworn into the Air Force at our Veterans Day ceremony a few years ago. She is working on her Doctorate Nurse Practitioner (DNP) and her thesis is on how to get therapy dogs to Veterans easier than the

process is today. She thanked the Post for the assistance and connection with Delta Dog and others. She said she wants to push for legislation that will allow a “navigator to help Veterans get a service dog” much easier and with less red tape than the process today. She said the process is archaic and too burdensome for the Veteran and their family and slows down them getting a service dog. As was the tradition of her

mother, Mary brought cookies and other refreshments for the members. The members told Mary that if she ever qualifies for the VFW, we will gladly welcome her to our Post.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM. The next meeting is 7:00 PM, Sunday, 17 December at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

News For & From Members



Wreaths Across Hollis, 17 December, 1 PM, Hollis Common

There will be a laying of wreaths on Veteran headstones at various cemeteries in Hollis on 17 December. The event will start at the Common in the center of Hollis at 1 PM. The Post will be participating in this event with a Color Guard, Taps, and support to the event. Please join us that day to remember and honor our departed comrades.

Patriots Pen Results Announced

The results of the District 6 Patriots Pen competition were recently announced, and our Post entrants won second and third place in the District. Congratulations to Melody Marino (2nd Place winner) and Livie Ward (3rd Place winner), students at the Hollis-Brookline Middle School.

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

December

- 9 December: Brookline Lions Club Holiday Senior Luncheon, 12 Noon, Brookline Community Church (see flyer on next page).
- 17 December: "Wreaths Across Hollis, 1 PM, Hollis Common.
- 17 December: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 19 December: Christmas Caroling, 7 PM, the Hollis Senior Residence.
- 21 December: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting.

January

- 21 January: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 25 January: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting.

February

- 18 February: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 22 February: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting.

March

- 17 March: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 27 March: Veterans in the Classroom with the 8th Graders at the Middle School
- 28 March: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

April

- 21 April: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

- 25 April: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

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 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>.

News of Interest to Veterans

List of Discounts for Veterans

At this link you can find discounts for Veterans: <https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

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>.



DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



DontFeedTheSharks.org

What is a "Claim Shark"?

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Who are the Claim Sharks?

- Trajectory Medical
- Vet Benefits Guide
- Veterans Guardian
- VA Claims Insider
- Telemedica

- Patriot Angels
- Veteran Care Services
- VetComm
- VA Claims Academy
- Vet Assist

Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- Attorneys assisting with Camp LeJeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees



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. – Greg d'Arbonne

Top Ten Country Western Songs.

10. You're the Reason Our Kids Are Ugly (a real song by Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty)
9. I Ain't Never Gone To Bed With an Ugly Man/Woman But I Woke Up With A Few
8. If The Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know It's Me
7. I've Missed You, But My Aim's Improvin'
6. Wouldn't Take Her To A Dogfight 'Cause I'm Scared She'd Win
5. I'm So Miserable Without You It's Like You're Still Here
4. My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend And I Miss Him
3. She Took My Ring and Gave Me the Finger
2. She's Lookin' Better with Every Beer

And the Number One Country & Western song is....

1. It's Hard To Kiss The Lips At Night That Chewed My Ass All Day

And if you play a country song backwards, you get your truck back, you get sober and your dog comes back to life...

With the rise of self driving
vehicles, it's only a matter of time
until there's a country song where
the guy's truck leaves him



I'm Not Going Outside



**Until The Temperature Is
Above My Age.**

**MY NEIGHBOR JUST YELLED
AT HER KIDS SO LOUD THAT
EVEN I BRUSHED MY TEETH
AND WENT TO BED.**

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert - (240) 344-8291, vfwhollis11373cdr@proton.me

Senior Vice Commander: Mark Andrews
(603) 732-6113; agav8r1997@gmail.com

Quartermaster: Chris Lussier
(603) 465-2676; clussier@tds.net

Service Officer: Bruce Moran
(H: 603-465-7611; C: 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: Greg d'Arbonne
(603) 672-5830; C: 978-604-8835; gdarbo6844@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.