



Hollis VFW

December 2024 Newsletter

Vol. 34 Issue: 7

Serving Hollis and Brookline

December 2024

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=blA2NlZlNmFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMXZz09; 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: 15 December @ 7:00 pm

November Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:01 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 7 members were present.

Reading of the Minutes: The Minutes of the October meeting were read. A motion was made by Chris Lussier to accept the Minutes as read; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne; and unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. The Post received \$10.85 from Interest; \$678.01 Poppy Donations (+ \$136.64 through VENMO); \$80,079.53 from Gate City Casino; and \$500 from Brookline American Legion Post 74 for Bruce Moran Memorial Bridge materials. Also, the Holiday Card Central remaining funds of \$1,709.28 were transferred back to the General Fund. Disbursements for the month were: \$2,000.00 for the Veterans Count event;

\$2,000.00 loan to American Legion Post 74 to cover the Monument Fund brick walkway installation partial payment to Earth Echo, LLC because the Post Legion treasure was unavailable to provide the funds (subsequently reimbursed by the Legion and will be reported in December report); \$220 for cleaning services; \$5,000.00 to Operation Care for Troops; \$25,000.00 contribution to Operation Delta Dog to sponsor 1 Vet and 1 Dog; \$80.00 to the Department of NH VFW for increasing the Quartermaster bond to \$70,000.00; \$327.95 for purchase of 2 gross of small flags; and \$497.48 the VENMO transfers to the Relief fund. The Holiday Card Central fund is now closed. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence: Thank you letter from Operation Care for Troops for our donation. Request for Girl Scouts requesting donations. VFW Bank Statements.

Committee Reports:

- Patriot's Pen Program: George Robinson reported that there were no nominations for Teacher of the Year. He received 134 Patriot's Pen essays from the Hollis Brookline Middle School and 7 judges evaluated to identify the top nine to be submitted to District for judging (1 essay for every 15 received). Our Post selected a First Place Essay and to additional essays were tied for second. We will wait to announce the top three until after the District Judging is complete. George proposes to increase the awards by \$50.00 to \$150 for First Place and \$100 for the Second Place. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to increase the awards as proposed, seconded by Bruce Moran. Discussion followed with regard to use of AI for Essay development. It was determined next year we identify method for detecting use of AI generation since there is a monetary reward for the contest. Motion was unanimously approved to increase the awards.
- Voice of Democracy programs: George proposes to increase the awards for this program since there are more efforts required for this submission. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to award \$250.00 for First Place and \$150.00 for the Second Place and \$100.00 for Third place, seconded by Bruce Moran. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to increase the awards as proposed, seconded by Bruce Moran. Motion was unanimously approved to increase the awards.
- George also proposes to invite winners to the Post meeting in January or February 2025 if we have anyone advance to State finals. He could write a news article to be posted on line to give the winners more recognition while also showing how the VFW Post is contributing to the community.
- Service Officer: Nothing to report.

Membership: Kerry Spangler was sworn in as Adjutant.

Old Business:

- Casino Fund Raiser for the Post: Chris Lussier is planning on writing an end-of-year letter to the Gate City Casino thanking them and showing what the Post has been doing with the funds with pictures.
- Chris Lussier will pay the church janitor \$50 for the cleanup of the church hall; after clearing up the confusion on who was paying.
- \$25,000.00 was presented to Operation Delta Dog. It was presented during a visit by members to observe a training session with 3 Veterans with their dogs as well as a newly received dog in training. The donation was greatly appreciated.
- Greg d'Arbonne will draft a letter for review and then send it to the Towns' Welfare Departments in Hollis and Brookline and let them know that the Post will help cover any needs the Towns cannot provide for a Veteran or the spouse of a Veteran.
- Post donated \$5,000 to "Operation Care for the Troops" (OCT).
- The Annual "Support Our Soldiers" (SOS) event occurred 16 November where the Post purchased a table for ten attendees. Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber and Charlotte Troddyn to attend as our guests.

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:

- Jim Belanger indicated that the Zoom Meeting sound keeps cutting out during discussions primarily when noise occurs and it takes a few seconds to reset. Kerry Spangler will look into the problem.
- Jim Belanger as our website coordinator received a request from the Mesothelioma

and Veterans to add a link to their website from our website and they would donate \$40.00 to the Post. Jim posted the link to the website. Chris Lussier made a motion to provide the link to the website, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne. There is a concern about providing a link in exchange for money going against our policy about links on the website. It was stated there could be an expectation of reciprocity by receiving the money with no terms identified. We do not want to provide links to websites unless it is directly related to the business of our Post. There were also concerns with the validity and perceptions of supporting an organization on our website. The motion was unanimously disapproved and the link will be removed from the website.

- State Veteran's Advisory Committee is building a Global War on Terrorism monument at Boscawen Cemetery. They are selling bricks for \$250 to help fund the project. Greg d'Arbonne made the motion to purchase a brick that says "Hollis VFW Post 11373 for \$250.00 seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- Bruce Moran has to wear his knee brace for the remainder of the year and participate in physical therapy.

- Steve Kolesnik, 97-year-old WWII veteran, is in Hospice Care at the Premier Rehabilitation Center in Nashua, NH.

Good of the Order:

- The Veteran's Day ceremony was a wonderful event attended by many folks and Colonel (Ret) Sandra "Sandy" Warde, USAF and DAR New Hampshire State Registrar participated as our guest speaker.
- The Four Vets and other members visited the Premier Rehabilitation Center in Nashua and sang the service songs to three veterans housed there. It was wonderful to watch the veterans sing along. Additionally, they sang the song "America" to another resident there at the request of one of her visitors and we watched her mouth the words as we sang. Sadly, the woman passed away about an hour later.
- Bruce Moran mentioned that a Marine veteran stopped by and offered to repair the hole in his garage roof for the price of materials only.

Closing: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting is 7:00 PM, Sunday, 15 December at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

News For & From Members

Please note the new email address for Hollis VFW Post 11373 Commander in the contact information at the end of this newsletter.

Kerry Spangler, Hollis VFW Post 11373 Adjutant contact information is posted in the contact information at the end of this newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

December 5 - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm ET; NAMI Webinar event Managing Chronic Pain and Mental Health. See flyer details and registration below.

- 15 December: - Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 19 December: - Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting.

January 2025

- 19 January: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

- 23 January: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

February 2025

- 16 February: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

- 27 February: 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>.

VFW 125th Anniversary Kickoff

Commanders and Comrades, A momentous occasion is quickly approaching ... on September 29, the VFW will celebrate its 125th anniversary!

This is cause for celebration and one we should all take great pride in as the VFW has remained at the forefront in the fight for veterans for 125 years - making certain those willing to sacrifice everything for our great nation are treated with the respect they have earned for ensuring our freedom.

I'm writing to you today to make you aware of several items related to the VFW 125th Anniversary as your involvement is what will truly make our celebration a success.

- We've developed a host of resources for your use in helping us promote the campaign, maintain consistency across the organization, and support those who support us. These resources include a *ceremonial logo and usage guide, various ads, a proclamation, certificates of appreciation, sample press releases, and more.

**Note: The ceremonial logo should be incorporated into your outreach materials as appropriate. It is not meant to replace the official VFW logo on all material. Please use sound judgement on application opportunities.*

- Further, you will be the catalyst to get your community involved in commemorating the contributions of all veterans and their family members to our country during the VFW 125th

Anniversary year, therefore we've also instituted a VFW 125th Anniversary Post Community Program open to ALL Posts.

Please access the resources and information I've referenced by logging into vfw.org and selecting the VFW 125th Anniversary link under Member/Post Resources from the My VFW page. You can also access these items in the Communications & Public Affairs section of Training and Support of vfw.org.

Also coming soon is a new line of special edition anniversary items to the VFW Store. These items will debut onsite and online during the 125th National Convention in Louisville.

The VFW 125th Anniversary campaign will publicly commence on **June 5** with the launch of a website (vfw125.org) dedicated to the campaign and a national press release and will conclude at the close of our 126th national convention. **Please refrain from public display of any promotional assets until June 5.**

There will be more information to come over the next several months regarding special events and other ways we're working to honor this important event.

Thank you for your support in our endeavor to celebrate this important occasion in our organization's history! For questions, please email communications@vfw.org.

Dan West, Adjutant General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

VFW 125th Anniversary Kickoff

Comrades, as we head into our Department Convention this weekend I would like to ask a favor of you. I have had some difficulty recruiting a full slate of appointed positions for our next year 2024-2025.

I have been pounding the pavement (and phone and email), for the past 6 months, to recruit the Department Staff. I have fallen short on a number of positions:

- Homeless Veterans
- POW/MIA, Americanism/Loyalty Day
- Fire/EMT/Police Safety Chairman
- Sergeant at Arms

If anyone is interested in the following positions please let me know. If you need additional information on what the positions entails please reach out to me or Adjutant Lloyd. I can be reached at: andrew_corrow@yahoo.com; (603) 397-9267.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

AJ Corrow, Department Senior Vice Commander



VFW Posts and veterans from coast to coast are signing up for the fourth annual VFW Day of Service, which kicks off May 3, 2025. [Will you join them?](#)

If you're wondering what kinds of events to plan, or if you have other questions, look no further. Our website has lots of great resources.

- This handy [FAQ page](#) has answers to all your questions.
- [Check out the list of 100 ideas](#) for Day of Service.
- If you're on a solo mission, we've got you covered with [individual service project ideas](#).

Let us know you're all in. [Sign up for 2025](#) so we can keep you in the loop and track your event!

[Sign Up for Day of Service 2025](#)



American Red Cross

GIVE SOMETHING THAT
Means Something

GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive
Pup Tent One Military
Order of the Cootie

Function Hall
15 Bockes Rd
Hudson, NH 03051

Saturday, November 30, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: VFWHudson to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom FRIENDS
• Red Cross socks, 1st qty. Keep one, gift one!



Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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VFW Joins TikTok's 'Veteran Voices' Initiative

The VFW joins nine fellow veteran-serving organizations on TikTok to connect with and rally support for veterans

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Nov. 20, 2024) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce the launch of [its TikTok channel](#), joining nine fellow veteran-serving organizations as part of TikTok's new "Veteran Voices" initiative. Veteran Voices focuses on key challenges afflicting the military and veteran community — mental health, affordable housing, and employment. Together, these trusted organizations will leverage TikTok's influential community of creators and engage audiences to provide critical support to those in need.

“In this day and age, many veterans aren't going to walk into a VFW Post, so you have to meet them where they are,” said VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt. “Nothing beats a warm handshake and looking someone square in the eye to let them know you care about them. But if we want to have that chance, we need to let them know first we exist. In joining TikTok's Veteran Voices campaign, we now have a platform to connect with service members and young veterans where they like to link up, consuming the content they care about.”

Veteran-serving organizations supporting the Veteran Voices initiative alongside the VFW are: America's Warrior Partnership, Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Independence Fund, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Student Veterans of America (SVA), Team Rubicon, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and Wounded Warrior Project.



In addition to providing comprehensive training tailored specifically for nonprofits, which includes guidance on LIVE, content creation, and platform safety to maximize their impact and reach on the platform, TikTok will also be launching a newly updated donation sticker this fall, allowing users to support the organizations above. This feature will empower its online community to contribute directly to causes they support and create a community dedicated to making a meaningful impact.

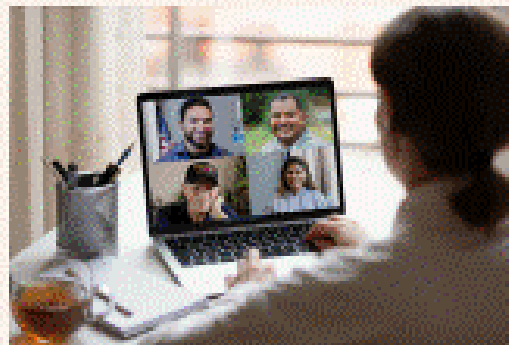
One in three U.S. veterans report using TikTok monthly based on data available via GWI Core, measured in Q2 2024 among internet users ages 16-64. Through continued collaboration with nonprofit organizations, creators, and our TikTok community, we look forward to continuing to raise awareness and foster a community where veterans are supported — during Veterans Day and beyond.

Be sure to [follow the VFW on TikTok](#) and help us raise awareness and make an even bigger impact #FORVETERANS.

The Arthritis Foundation and NAMI New Hampshire
present:

2024 ARTHRITIS AND THE MILITARY

MANAGING
CHRONIC PAIN
AND MENTAL
HEALTH



Join our upcoming webinar to explore the impact of mental health on chronic pain, with a focus on the experiences of military service members and veterans. Our panel features veterans and experts in rheumatology, complementary medicine, and pain management.



Free to all active service military members,
veterans, and military families

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

December 5, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm ET

Sponsored by:

**Johnson
& Johnson**



PFAS Lawsuit Claim Information from the National Legislative Committee

There is an ongoing multi-district lawsuit against the manufacturers of firefighting foam and other PFAS containing materials used prevalently throughout the country, including on and around military installations, regardless of branch served in. The deadline for filing a suit is coming up in March 2025, and I will not be able to go in the field again like I did with Lejeune, but I am reaching out to dept. VSOs and Adjutants to spread the word and keep an eye out. If I can help, I certainly will, and if not, no worse for the wear. I just want to be sure someone who may have a case finds out of they do or not, rather than leave it on the table.

Appreciate you sharing my email and/or phone number (608) 209-0805 with your Council so if they know/come across anyone who may fit the following criteria:

Pretty straightforward: any veteran or their loved one who has been diagnosed with liver cancer, kidney cancer, testicular cancer, or ulcerative colitis, from the year 2000-present.

Let me know if you have any questions and thanks in advance for getting folks in touch with me to see if I can help them out!

Cheers,

Jason E. Johns

National Legislative Committee

Past State Commander-WI (2020-2021)

WIA-Purple Heart-26 Oct 2003-Iraq

1

New Hampshire Smiles Program

for adults (Medicaid) if eligible

www.dentaquest.com

1-877-248-6684



2

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits

if eligible

www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care

1-800-698-2411

3

Traditional dental insurance

DeltaDentalCoversMe.com

or

VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)

www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care/dental-insurance



Oral health care for Veterans: 7 options

Every Veteran deserves access to the oral health care they need to maintain optimal health. Based on eligibility, Veterans seeking care can take advantage of one of these seven possible options in New Hampshire.

4

Dental Lifeline Network's Donated Dental Services Program

<https://dentallifeline.org/new-hampshire>

603-826-6408

5

New Hampshire Dental Society - Take Five Veterans program

603-225-5961



6

Northeast Delta Dental Veteran Oral Health Care program

if veteran does not qualify through options 1-5

603-223-1300

7

New Hampshire community based dental clinics

www.nedelta.com/community-based-dental-clinics



This is an event being put on by Veterans Inc. and Ocean State Job Lots for winter coats and holiday gifts. Please share with anyone you come in contact with and feel free to pass this on to other community providers as well. Below are the details specific for NH.

- This is for families that are veteran "adjacent". Please note that there is an option to click "other" when describing relation to a veteran.
- The gifts are for children 12 and under.
- Deadline to enroll is 11/29/2024.
- Distribution will occur at my office in the Concord Building (address below) on 12/19 and 12/20 from 9am to 3pm.
- There are no income guidelines for families to participate.
- You can share the direct link and check out the questions asked by clicking [Holiday Gift Giving Project - Veterans Inc.](#) Please don't hit submit unless you actually need gifts or coats.

VETERANS
Inc.

**COAT &
HOLIDAY
GIFT PROJECT**

The Coat & Holiday Gift Giving Project provides warm coats for veterans and holiday gifts for the children in their lives, honoring their service with seasonal support and cheer
learn more at Veteransinc.org/events.

SIGN UP HERE

Ocean State
**JOB
LOT**
SPONSORED BY

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

I hope that everyone has a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving holiday!

Kerry Spangler

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert - (240) 344-8291 vfw11373cdr@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: Kerry Spangler

Cell: 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/>

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