



Hollis VFW

February 2025 Newsletter

Vol. 35 Issue: 2

Serving Hollis and Brookline

February 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=bIA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWVTXMXZz09; 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: 16 February @ 7:00 pm



January Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM via Zoom only due to inclement weather. 9 members were present.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the December meeting minutes since they were published in the newsletter and sent to all members. Andy Seremeth seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. The Post received \$8.48 from Interest; \$60.00 Al Fulchino for small flags purchase, and \$280 from Department raffle tickets totaling \$348.48. Disbursements for the month were: \$280.00 to Department for raffle tickets; \$220 for cleaning services, \$147.00 Anne's Floral for Kolesnik funeral, and \$23.95 to VFW store for Podium edition, totaling \$670.95. 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: Kerry Spangler sent an email to the Department of NH Adjutant, Paul Lloyd telling him about the passing of Eugene Bourgeois, veteran with no family and requesting him to send out notices to the state VFW posts requesting attendance at his funeral. Received an email from Paul Lloyd about the May 3, 2025 Day of Service event. It is a requirement for all posts to participate on the days of service. Also received emails about the 22 for 22 Program and new contact information for the VAMC in Manchester. For the VAMC, if you have an extension to access, you must add "2 0" before the extension. To access the website, as of 31 Jan, you must use a DS Login or ID ME login. Sent an email to George Robinson to move the award presentation for the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy programs due to the inclement weather that had us move this meeting to Zoom

only. Alex Crowther notified the Major General Henry Knox, Boston MA, Masonic Lodge for Veterans concerning Stephen Kolesnik's passing so that they can take him off their rolls. Wreaths across Hollis and the Wreaths across America events were added to the VFW website programs. Also added were the activities associated with Stephen Kolesnik.

Committee Reports:

- **Patriot's Pen Program:** George Robinson attended the banquet. George also plans on recommending to the department to use past winning teachers on the year to help evaluate the essays and to ensure rules are being followed. George invited the winners to the February meeting to receive their awards.
- **Voice of Democracy Program:** Our first-place winner did not win at the district.
- We will be participating in the school end-of-year ceremony to recognize these winners in front of their peers peer contact with Mr. West at HBHS.
- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** Need to post updated applications at the high school and for home-schooled students soon. George will update and get them posted.
- **Service Officer:** Numerous visits to multiple veterans at rehabilitation facilities.

Membership: Membership is down (by 7 to get to 102%). We need to look at who needs to renew. Some of them are months away from expiring

Old Business:

- **Casino Fund Raiser for the Post:** Chris Lussier presented a copy of the end-of-year letter sent to the Gate City Casino thanking them and showing what the Post has been doing with the funds with pictures. Nicely done, Chris! Chris will pdf the letter and send to Jim Belanger to post on the website.
- 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.

- Jim Belanger indicated that the Zoom Meeting sound was working fine, however, we were all online. We will reassess at the next meeting.
- 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. (OPEN). Greg d'Arbonne needs to provide the information to Chris Lussier to submit a brick with \$250 to support the Global War on Terrorism.
- Christmas caroling at the senior center with the scouts, 17 Dec. Chris took his guitar and it was a good time enjoyed by all.
- On 8 January 2025 at the Morning Veteran breakfast, a quorum was present and a motion was made by Greg d'Arbonne to purchase a funeral floral arrangement for Eugen Bourgeois not to exceed \$150.00, seconded by Bruce Moran and approved by all present. Kerry Spangler purchased a red, white, and blue floral arrangement with a Hollis VFW 11373 placed on a ribbon.
- We need to look at nominations for the Citizen of the year award that meet the criteria for the award. Decision needs to be made by the February meeting for the town meeting in March. Greg d'Arbonne had a recommendation from Sue Humola those involved in Positively Hollis, which includes Liz Barbor who is an elected official. However, Liz started that "Positively Hollis" prior to being elected. Discussion followed about giving the award multiple times to the same individual. It was suggested that we not do it but nothing prohibits. Also, it was discussed that we can name someone posthumously? Will include the group of "Positively Hollis" with no names for discussion at the next meeting along with other recommendations. Also we will consider Judy Gross who has taken the roadside cleanup of Hollis to

another level. Another is Michael Buckley with the mentoring and scholarship activities he provides for kids in the food service industry. We need a paragraph for each nominee.

- Charitable organization form for submission to Department. (Chris and Kerry)
- 990N needs to be done for the Post.
- Guns Raffle tickets were sold and submitted.

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:

- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the VFW pay half of the America Legion Hall oil bill for \$309.50, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Chris Lussier will bring the check to the next American Legion meeting.
- Kerry Spangler made a comment that during the recent funerals and ceremonies, members uniforms were worn differently between the members. Kerry will draft post instructions and bring to the last meetings.
- Day of Service – Kerry Spangler recommends the Post completes the guard rails and steps for safety purposes for Bruce Moran to access his yard from his porch safely. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to complete the construction as our post Day of Service, seconded by Andy Seremeth, and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler will register the project on the VFW website. Jim Belanger mentioned we should add these activities to our website.
- Chris Lussier made a motion that we increase the cleaning services to twice per month for member veteran, so that they can receive a regularly scheduled cleaning. Cost would go from \$100 to \$200 per month. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion. The cost seems reasonable for 2-3 hours per visit. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Chris Lussier, Bruce Moran and Kerry Spangler will attend the next district meeting, January 26th at 10:00 am at the Merrimack VFW Post.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- Bruce Moran's wife's youngest sister passed away and services are coming up this week.
- An active member has indicated that he is having more and more difficulty doing daily tasks. We need to see what opportunities may be available to support him and his wife for assistance with daily routines. Jim Belanger suggested contacting the town welfare for elder care. His daughter should reach out to the town. Whole-Hearted is another source for service. Chris and Bruce will follow up with the town welfare to research.
- Horace (Oscar) Demanche passed away at the Premier Rehabilitation Center after only being there less than 24 hours. Funeral Arrangements will follow at a later time.

Good of the Order:

- Jim Belanger discussed the VFW Post Google Group email address usage. We need to ensure the Google Group email address gets updated as members join. Jim Belanger will add Kerry Spangler as an owner and Greg d'Arbonne as the group manager. Chris Lussier will send the latest membership roster to Kerry Spangler. Kerry will verify the members on the group email address and report at the next meeting. Website is available for use and the low cost may allow us to share more information publicly through the site. Further discussion to follow at the next meeting.
- Tim Woodward, Greg d'Arbonne and Mark Andrews visited Bill Hebdon and had a really good visit. Doing well after surgery.
- USA 250th Anniversary at Gillette Stadium on June 14. Looking for donors and a celebrity Master of Ceremonies.
- Greg d'Arbonne is meeting with Al Fulchino concerning the Memorial Day ceremony.

Closing: The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM. The next meeting is 7:00 PM, Sunday, 16 February at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

News For & From Members

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

February 2025

- 16 February: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 21 February: Meat Raffle at the Hudson VFW. Looking for volunteers to help with the event.
- 27 February: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

March 2025

- 16 March: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 27 March: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

April 2025

- 20 April: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 24 April: 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, 2025 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](#)

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

Commanders and Comrades,

We are preparing to launch another outbound calling campaign later today for our Planned Giving initiative. The goal of these calls is to follow up on a recent Planned Giving mailing that recipients should have received, and to gauge whether they have already included the VFW in their estate plans or have an interest in doing so.

As some of you may recall, our December calling campaign raised concerns among members, with some mistakenly believing the calls were part of a scam. In response, we have made minor adjustments to the calling script to provide greater clarity and assurance to those being contacted.

The campaign will be utilizing the following phone numbers, and the caller ID will display "VFW":

- 816-897-3387
- 816-897-2194

I'm sharing this information in case you hear concerns or see posts on social media regarding a potential scam. Please feel free to share these details to help address any confusion.

Please share within your respective areas of operation.

Thanks

Dan West

Adjutant General
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
816.968.1110

www.vfw.org



21 FEBRUARY 2025

MEAT RAFFLE

Come out for a night of fun & win prizes while supporting the VFW District 6!

February 21st

7pm

**HUDSON VFW
Post 5791**

**15 Bockes Rd
Hudson NH**

**Proceeds to
Support
VFW District 6**

**Additional Raffle
Basket
Giveaways!**

VA MANCHESTER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PRESENTS:

HOW TO: COOKING FOR HEART HEALTH

Join a women's cooking class taught by our very own Registered Dietitians!

WHEN:

Thursday, February 27th,
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

WHERE:

- In-person in the Training and Education Room on the 1st floor of the VA Manchester Medical Center.
- Also available online via VA Video Connect (VVC).

CONTACT:

For questions or scheduling, please contact your provider or call (603) 624-4366 ext. 206407.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Manchester Healthcare System

Follow and like us on social media!
X @VAManchester and
Facebook @ManchesterVAMC.

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



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

The Presidential Inauguration is complete and the new administration is being nominated and put in place. A successful transition of power as outlined in the US Constitution.

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

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