



Hollis VFW

June 2018 Newsletter

Vol. 28 Issue: 6

Serving Hollis and Brookline

June 2018

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 June, 7 pm, Brookline American Legion Hall.

May Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Commander George Robinson. 8 members present. Mark Tigert was introduced as a new member to the Post. He is transferring into the Post. He recently retired from the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer and was a Submariner and Naval Intelligence. His wife is a professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The members were very glad to meet him and welcome him to the Post

Membership Applications: The Post is still waiting for Doug Arseneau to send his DD 214 to the Post, so the members can vote on his membership. Mark Tigert and Barry Reinbold are new transfers into the Post

Minutes: The Minutes of the April 2018 meeting were read. It was stated that the coordination for the Teacher of the Year Award would be with the Hollis Primary School, not the High School as stated in the Minutes. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Minutes be accepted as read with an amendment about the Teacher of the Year Award reference; seconded by Jonathan Matlock and unanimously approved.

Quartermasters Report: The Quartermasters Report was read. There was one donation to the Post in the amount of \$25. There were three disbursements: \$23.70 to Greg d'Arbonne for additional Eagle Scout certificates; \$48.65 to George Robinson for Teacher of the Year expenses; and \$9 to pay for the Post's Convention Delegate registrations. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermasters report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Jim Bélanger and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- Chris Lussier stated TD Bank keeps sending correspondence to Jim Bélanger's home. Chris went to the bank and changed the physical address, which is what the bank uses for correspondence to the Post, to his home address.

Comrade in Distress:

- Jonathan Matlock is looking for a job.

Committee reports:

- Membership:
 - Jim Bélanger said his brother, William Bélanger, had several addresses lately so there

was some confusion by the VFW of where to send his mail. That has been straightened out.

- Michael Walonis's address as listed is undeliverable (8 Pilgrim Cir., Nashua, NH). Greg d'Arbonne will contact Michael and ask for the correct address.
- Steve Edwards became life member.
- Mark Tigert transferred in as Life Member
- Barry Reinbold transferred in as Continuous Member.
- Dennis Johnson renewed his membership.
- There was a "glitch" in the system with Bob Smith being a member of the Post but that has now been corrected.
- Commander Robinson stated we have 52 members in the Post, but we need 4 more members to meet our goal of 100% membership. He asked everyone to look for new members before the 30th of June, so we can meet our goal. The Post has 10 currently paid continuous members, so Commander Robinson asked everyone to push for participation Those former members who could help are:
 - Doug Andrews—expired 4/11/2018
 - Allison Carpenter—expired 5/14/2017
 - Mark Glidden—expired 4/26/2018
 - Robert Tabachnikoff 4/26/2018
- Teacher of the Year: Barbara Nickerson was not selected by National to be the teacher of the Year. The Post is very proud that she was selected to be the State Teacher of the Year, though.
- VOD/PP: Andy Seremeth will let the members know when the presentation of the Patriots Pen awards will be at the Middle School.
- Scout of Year: As of the meeting, it was not known if our Scout of the Year had won the State Scout of the Year.
- VSO: Bruce Moran stated he has a guide to help Veterans and has spoken to John Barnett, the State VSO.
- Legislative update: Jim Bélanger stated there was nothing to update as the Legislature was voting on all bills this coming week.
- SOPs: All members are asked to look for anything during the Memorial Day Ceremony that we should change to improve the ceremony and put that in the SOP.

Old Business:

- Scout of the Year certificate from Post will be presented to Cordelia Scales, along with a Gold Star certificate from our VFW Post. The Post reimbursed Greg d'Arbonne in the amount of \$10.95 for the Gold Star certificate.
- The Troop 12 Eagle Court of Honor will be 16 June at 1:30 PM. Greg d'Arbonne will attend to present the VFW Eagle Scout certificate.
- Commander Robinson stated the Post should present an Eagle Scout Certificate to the Brookline Troop 260 Eagle Scout as well. Greg d'Arbonne will order the certificate.
- State Convention: Jonathan and Tabitha Matlock will attend for the Post. Chris Lussier gave Jonathan a check, so Jonathan can pay for his hotel reservations to attend the State Convention, as previously approved by the Post.
- Chris Lussier stated the Post Delegates to the National Convention have been registered.
- Chris Lussier stated he still needs to order the 25-Year and 40+ pins.
- Home Front Cub Guitar Night fund-raiser for Honor Flight NE: Jonathan Matlock and Bruce Moran reported approximately \$500 was raised from this effort. They said it was very well organized by the students. Chris Lussier will write a note of thanks to the Homefront Club and a note to the State Commander about the donation.
- Memorial Day:
 - 25 May, Memorial Day observances at the schools:
 - 9 AM Memorial Day program at CSDA.
 - 2 PM Memorial Day program at HUES.
 - 26 May, Memorial Day Poppy drive: logistics and times for the members to be at the Hollis Transfer Station were coordinated.
 - 28 May, Memorial Day:
 - Brookline Memorial Day ceremony is at 9:30 AM.
 - Hollis Memorial Day ceremony is at 5:15 PM.
 - Marchers assemble at Memorial Square by 5:15:

General Orders: The General Orders are not on the State website due to technical problems. They are

currently being mailed to the Commander, so they can be available at the Post Monthly meeting.

The prayer was said for the National Home.

New Business:

- Commander Robinson reminded everyone to enter events in the District Reporting such as the funeral the Post supported and Memorial Day events.
- Commander Robinson reported on the recent District meeting and encampment:
 - There was a Liberty House presentation.
 - The new District Commander is Richard Tripp from the Derry VFW Post.
 - The incoming National Commander, B.J. Lawrence, is generally supportive of the membership renewal initiative.
- It was stated Veterans Day is a Sunday this year, so coordination needs to be made with the Hollis Congregational Church and the DAR to adjust the time of the Veterans Day Ceremony. Greg d'Arbonne will report next month what the Post did the last time this occurred.
- Jim Bélanger stated we need to update the pictures of Past Commanders.

- Greg d'Arbonne will send Jim Bélanger the e-mail addresses of Mark Tigert and Barry Reinbold so Jim can update the VFW e-mail recipients.
- Jim Bélanger stated the Post should consider who selects finding the Guest Speaker for the Memorial Day Ceremony; whether it should be the Town Memorial Day Ceremony Coordinator or the Post. It was decided the Post will be the Primary one to coordinate for a Speaker.
- The Installation of elected Post officers was conducted. The new Commander, Commander Jonathan Matlock, conducted the remainder of the meeting.

For the Good of the Order:

- Chris Lussier spoke about the Nashua High School Junior ROTC (JROTC) event he and Bob Smith attended. He said it was a great event and the kids honored both he and Bob Smith.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM. The next meeting is Sunday, 17 June 2018 at 7PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall, 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH.

News For & From Members

Congratulations to Our New Commander, Jonathan Matlock! Thank You to Past Commander George Robinson!

Congratulations to our new Post Commander, Jonathan Matlock!! Jonathan is an Iraq War Veteran and lives in Hollis with this wife and three children. Originally from Georgia, Jonathan has been a great addition to our Post since he joined. We all wish him the best in his tenure as our Commander and will support him 110%.

A great big thank you to our Past Commander, George Robinson! We were blessed to have George as our Commander and thank him for volunteering to do so when elected. It is not an easy job, but George took it on with gusto and we are better for having had him as our Commander. We look forward to George continuing to contribute to our Post, and to our community as he serves as the Boy Scout Troop 12 Scoutmaster. Thanks George!

Brookline 4th of July Parade

Brookline will hold its annual 4th of July Parade on, you guessed it, the 4th of July! All Veterans are invited to join with the Brookline American Legion and the Hollis VFW Posts as we lead the parade with the Color

Guard. The Parade will start at the north end of the main cemetery in Brookline (just south of the Brookline American Legion Post). Please be at the start point of the Parade by 9:30 AM as we step off at 10 AM and walk to the Brookline Ballfield (about a mile away). There, we will lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance; the Star-Spangled Banner; read the Declaration of Independence; read the Preamble to Constitution; and participate in the Town BBQ after the Parade. If you want to participate in the parade but have trouble walking, cars will be provided so you can ride in the parade. Please call Greg d'Arbonne (603-672-5830) if you want to ride so we can get the right number of cars to carry everyone.

John DiClemente Participates in Billerica, MA Parade

I got the following note from Rita DiClemente, John's wife:

I must tell you what my almost 94-year-old husband is doing here in Billerica. My flake of a son-in-law contacted the local VFW and made arrangements to have them both participate in the parade. Now here is the good stuff...they will be riding on my son-in-law's three wheeled motorcycle. John will be dressed in his VFW garb. The bike will be decorated in red, white & blue with a sign indicating John is one of the last survivors of the Big War.

Here are some pictures of Jon and Rita at the event.





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

Sweeping veterans health care bill becomes a law

Jun 07, 2018, Mackenzie Wolf (<https://www.legion.org/legislative/242153/sweeping-veterans-health-care-bill-becomes-law#>)

In a ceremony June 6, President Trump signed the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act, also called the VA MISSION Act, into law. The comprehensive legislation impacts how veterans receive their health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). U.S. Sens. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, along with Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, were instrumental in working with The American Legion and other veterans service organizations to get the legislation passed.

It also includes provisions to consolidate community care programs into a single, streamlined service; provides sufficient funding to extend the program through 2019; expands comprehensive assistance; strengthens ability to recruit, hire and retain quality medical personnel; and reforms the VA health-care infrastructure.

The legislative package is comprised of five titles that address major areas of deficit, including increased access to private-sector care, consolidation of community care programs, expansion of the Family Caregiver Program and the recruitment of qualified medical professionals.

Title I: Caring for our Veterans

Establishment of Community Care Programs

One of the largest changes the legislation will bring to VA health care is the expansion of the community care program. The VA MISSION Act gives veterans more control when it comes to their health care such as increased access to private-sector care, improvements to standards for quality, access to walk-in care, ensuring individuals can get appointments scheduled in a timely manner and continuity of care.

This section requires an individual have access to community care if the VA is unable to provide the care or services needed by an individual. Some of the considerations for access to community care include distance between the veteran and facility, type of service, timeliness of available appointments and whether the veteran seeking care faces an excessive burden.

An area addressed under the Establishment of Community Care Programs provision is the remediation of medical service lines. If a service line is determined to be non-compliant with the standards for quality, a plan of action must be submitted within 30 days that addresses the actions necessary to bring the medical service line into compliance.

The establishment of a comprehensive community care program is the subject of American Legion Resolution No. 46: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) non-VA care programs. The resolution states the VA must "develop a well-defined and consistent non-VA care coordination program, policy and procedure that includes a patient-centered care strategy which takes veterans' unique medical injuries and illnesses as well as their travel and distance into account."

Paying Providers and Improving Collections

Another issue under the Act is the payment of service providers. The VA MISSION Act contains a clause requiring the prompt payment of providers. It directs that service providers be paid in under 45 days for paper claims and under 30 days for electronic claims.

Education and Training Programs

The Act states that the VA will develop a program to educate veterans about their health-care options within the VA medical system. An issue many veterans face is a lack of education in what benefits they are entitled to and what exactly those benefits entail. These programs will teach veterans about eligibility criteria for care under the VA, priority enrollment groups, copayments and other financial obligations that fall on the veteran, as well as how to utilize the standards for quality and access standards. Part of the education and training program will provide veterans on information on what to do when they have a complaint about health care received through the VA.

Other Matters Relating to Non-Department of Veterans Affairs Providers

Additional matters relating to non-VA providers include a process to ensure safe opioid prescribing practices, improved information sharing with community providers, competency standards for non-VA health care providers, and access to and participation in national and state-level prescription drug monitoring programs.

Other Non-Department Health Care Matters

Additionally, Title I includes provisions to use the remaining Veterans Choice Fund to pay for health-care services at non-VA facilities or through non-VA providers, as well as permitting VA health-care professionals to provide treatment with telemedicine. The Family Caregiver Program is also addressed in this section. The Act requires the VA to expand eligibility for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to veterans of all eras, addressing American Legion Resolution No. 259: Extend Caregiver Benefits to Include Veterans Before September 11, 2001.

Title II: VA Asset and Infrastructure Review

This section requires the VA to assess the capacity of each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) and identify deficiencies within each VISN.

Title III: Improvements to Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals

Title III focuses on improving the recruitment and retainment of quality health care professionals by providing two to four-year scholarships to medical students in exchange for service to the VA. The VA MISSION Act also increases the amount of education debt reduction available from \$120,000 to \$200,000 over five years, and establishes the VA Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program. Title III also establishes a pilot program for veterans healing veterans supporting four years of medical school education costs for two veterans at select medical schools. There's also a provision requiring the VA to ensure clinical staff are able to participate in the Education Debt Reduction Program.

Title IV: Health Care in Underserved Areas

Title IV develops a plan to address problems in underserved facilities and criteria for designating those facilities. These criteria include but are not limited to the ratio of veterans to providers, range of specialties covered, and whether or not the facility is meeting the VA's goals when it comes to wait times. In order to address the underserved facilities, the Act creates a pilot program to provide medical deployment teams to these flagged facilities. Finally, it requires the VA to establish medical residency programs at covered facilities.

Title V: Other Matters

Title V requires VA to submit an annual report on performance bonuses and awards given, including the amount of each bonus or award, the job title of the individual receiving the bonus or award, and the location where the individual works. Additionally, Title V requires VA to be transparent with vacancy information on a VA website, requires an Inspector General review of the website and requires the VA to report annually the steps the VA is taking to reach full staffing capacity.

President Trump Signs VA Mission Act

Historic legislation will help veterans get the care they deserve

WASHINGTON (June 6, 2018) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. thanks President Donald Trump for signing the VA MISSION Act.

The VA MISSION Act was the result of a bipartisan and bicameral effort led by Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson, Ranking Member Sen. Jon Tester and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Rep. Phil Roe. The legislation passed in the House on May 16 with a vote of 347-70. The Senate passed the bill on May 23 with a vote of 92-5.

“President Trump signaled his support for this bill early on in the process which shows that he puts veterans before politics,” said Keith Harman, national commander of the 1.7-million member VFW and its Auxiliary. “This historic legislation will help our veterans get the care they earned when they joined the military.”

“The VFW and other veteran service organizations worked closely with Congress and the White House to help create a carefully negotiated bipartisan deal with the fingerprints of veterans who rely on the VA all over it,” he said.

The VA MISSION Act will improve the Department of Veterans Affairs' ability to hire high-quality health care professionals, streamline VA community care programs, expand caregiver benefits to pre-9/11 veterans and create a process to examine VA's capital infrastructure to better serve veterans.

“The VA MISSION Act will help improve the care our veterans get at the VA while leveraging the capabilities of the private sector when needed. It will help recruit the best talent at the VA, which is what our veterans deserve, and it also extends caregiver benefits to every veteran who needs it,” Harman said.

VFW to Sponsor 78th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

The rally draws more than 400,000 riders each year

KANSAS CITY (June 4, 2018) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce it is the official sponsor of the 2018 Military Appreciation Day at the 78th Annual Sturgis® Motorcycle Rally™.

Held annually in the Black Hills of Sturgis, S.D., the rally draws more than 400,000 motorcycle enthusiasts to the area for 10 days of open roads and entertainment. This year's rally will be held Aug. 3 – 12.

The VFW invites all attendees to join in celebrating and thanking active-duty service members, veterans and their families by gathering for the “noon crowd photograph” on historic Sturgis Main Street, flyover and more on Tuesday, Aug. 7 for Military Appreciation Day.

The VFW also encourages attendees to stop by the VFW kiosk located in the Armory each day until 8 p.m. to learn more about the VFW's wide array of programs and services as well as information on how to join

America's largest organization of combat veterans. For event-related news and schedule of events visit <http://www.sturgismotorcyclerally.com>.



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

Navy Chief Goes Fishing

The rain had stopped and there was a big puddle in front of the bar just outside the American Legion Post.

A rumpled old Navy Chief was standing near the edge with a fishing line in the puddle.

A curious young Marine fighter pilot came over to him and asked what he was doing.

"Fishing," the old Chief simply said.

"Poor old chief," the Marine officer thought to himself and invited the old Navy Chief into the bar for a drink.

As he felt he should start a conversation while they were sipping their spirits, the young jet pilot winked at another pilot and asked the Chief, "How many have you caught today?"

"You're number 14," the old Chief answered, taking another sip from his double shot of 12-year-old Scotch, "2 Air Force, 3 Navy, and 9 Marines."

Husband and Wife Golf

A husband reluctantly agreed to play with his wife Joyce in the couples' alternate shot Tournament at his club.

He teed off on the first hole, a par four, and blistered a drive 300 yards down the middle of the fairway.

Upon reaching the ball, the husband said to Joyce, "Just hit it toward the green, anywhere around there will be fine."

Joyce proceeded to shank the ball deep into the woods. Undaunted, the husband said, "That's OK, Sweetheart" and spent the full five minutes looking for the ball. He found it just in time, but in a horrible position. He played the shot of his life to get the ball within two feet of the hole. He told his wife to knock the ball in.

She then proceeded to knock the ball off the green and into a bunker. Still maintaining composure, the husband summoned all his skill and holed the shot from the bunker.

He took the ball out of the hole and while walking off the green, put his arm around his wife and calmly said, "Honey, that was a bogey five and that's OK, but I think we can do better on the next hole".

To which she replied, "Listen asshole, don't bitch at me, only 2 of those 5 shots were mine."

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.