



Hollis VFW

May 2018 Newsletter

Vol. 28 Issue: 5

Serving Hollis and Brookline

May 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: 20 May, 7 pm, Brookline American Legion Hall.

Memorial Day Activities are listed in the newsletter.

April Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Commander George Robinson. 8 members present.

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.

Minutes: The Minutes of the March 2018 meeting were read. Jim Bélanger stated it was his grandson named Andrew who is currently stationed on Guam and may move to Boston where he would become a Recruiter Bruce Moran made a motion that the Minutes be accepted as read with an amendment about Jim's grandson; seconded by Jonathan Matlock and unanimously approved.

Quartermasters Report: The Quartermasters Report was read. There were no deposits or checks written in the past month. Jim Bélanger made a motion that the Quartermasters report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. Andy Seremeth made a motion that Greg

d'Arbonne be reimbursed \$23.70 for additional Eagle Scout certificates; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- The Post received a letter from Patriots Paws and Henry Rifle.
- Commander Robinson stated he received a request from the Hollis Upper Elementary School to attend a "Reading Day", which he accepted and spent an hour reading to a class of 4th Graders on March 21st.
- Some of the members received a letter from the High School concerning the High School Civics Class asking them to attend their class on 21 May from 7:30 to 11:18 AM

Comrade in Distress:

- Bill Hebden: Chris Lussier stated he saw Bill recently and Bill said he is doing well.

- Jonathan Matlock is looking for a job. Greg d'Arbonne said he should look at Cirtronics and Hitchener that are both in Milford.
- Don Hurt: Chris Lussier stated he saw Don at the Transfer Station. The members present said they are willing to pick him up so he can attend the meetings.
- Jonathan Matlock stated his grandmother just turned 95 and is going strong. Everyone wished her a Happy Birthday and continued good health.

Committee reports:

- Membership: No change from last month. The Post needs 5 more members to reach 100%
 - Has anyone had contact with Doug Arseneau? The Post is waiting on a copy of his DD214.
 - Doug Andrews 4/11/2018
 - Allison Carpenter—lapsed 5/14/2017
 - Steve Edwards—lapsed 9/26/2016: Greg d'Arbonne stated he heard Steve had renewed. Chris Lussier will check to see.
 - Mark Glidden 4/26/2018: Greg d'Arbonne stated Mark is in the process of selling his home and moving out of the area.
 - Dennis Johnson 2/17/2018
 - Teacher of the Year Awards: Commander Robinson stated he is coordinating with the High School to present Sandra Van Sciver's certificate.
 - VOD/PP: The 2018-19 themes are out. They are VOD = "Why My Vote Matters"; PP = "Why I Honor the American Flag"
 - Scout of Year: Brookline Girl Scout Gold Award recipient Cordelia Scales won the Post and District. The Department winner will be selected by 1 May.
 - VSO: Nothing to report.
 - Citizen of the Year: Nothing to report.
 - Legislative update: Jim Bélanger stated the Veterans Tax Credit, SB 503, that would raise the credit from \$500 to \$750, was killed in committee. Jim stated the Disabled Credit passed the Senate and is now going to the House for a vote. Jim also stated that you are considered a veteran for Tax Credit purposes if you have a DD214; also, those currently deployed in a combat zone are also eligible.
 - SOPs: Nothing to report.
-
- Post Elections: Jim Bélanger made a motion that the Adjutant cast one vote for the slate of officers approved at last month's meeting; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Greg d'Arbonne cast a vote that all the names listed below be elected and serve in the positions indicated for the 2018-2019 VFW year:
 - Commander: Jonathan Matlock
 - Senior Vice: Andy Seremeth
 - Junior Vice: Jim Bélanger
 - Quartermaster: Chris Lussier
 - Chaplain: Bruce Moran
 - Judge Advocate: George Robinson
 - Surgeon: Jim Kelly
 - Trustee 1: Dave Larkin
 - Trustee 2: Don Hurt
 - Trustee 3: Bob Smith
 - Adjutant: Greg d'Arbonne
 - Service Officer: Bruce Moran
 - Scout of the Year certificate from Post: Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post purchase a certificate, not to exceed \$50, to award Cordelia Scales as the Post Scout of the Year; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. The Post should know by the 1st of May who won this award for the State.
 - State Convention: The convention will be held at the Town & Country Inn and Resort, Shelburne, NH on June 8th, 9th and 10th, 2018. Reservations can be made by calling 603-466-3315 or 800-325-4386. Rates: Lodging for Double Occupancy per day is \$96.00 plus tax. Lodging for Single Occupancy per day is \$84.00 plus tax. Jonathan Matlock and his wife will attend. Commander Robinson will forward the information to District.
 - Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post purchase 20, 25-year pins; one 45-year pin; and one 40-year pin for the members of the Post that qualify; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.
 - Honor Flight Fund Raiser: Chris Lussier stated he met with the Home Front group at the High School about this initiative to raise funds to donate to the Honor Flight New England program. Chris said the students will be collecting donations during the Guitar Night shows (4 and 5 May) but he will not be able to attend. Bruce Moran and Jonathan Matlock stated

Old Business:

they would attend the events to support and work with the students.

- Jim Bélanger stated that for the February 2019 meeting, the Hollis Town Hall will not be available. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the February 2019 meeting be held at the Brookline American Legion Hall at 2 PM; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.
- Legislative Update: Jim Bélanger stated the Veterans Tax Credit, SB 503, that would raise the credit from \$500 to \$750, was killed in committee. Jim stated the Disabled Credit passed the Senate and is now going to the House for a vote. Jim also stated that you are considered a veteran for Tax Credit purposes if you have a DD214; also, those currently deployed in a combat zone are also eligible.

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

The prayer was said for the National Home.

New Business:

- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post register one delegate to the National Convention; seconded by Jonathan Matlock and unanimously approved.
- Memorial Day Activities:
 - Poppy Drive at the Transfer Station: Chris Lussier will contact the Transfer Station to let them know the Post will be collecting donations and handing out Poppies Saturday, 26 May, from 8 AM to 4 PM. Jim Bélanger stated the shift that is there from 8 to 10 AM will need to set aside 46 flags that will be used to decorate graves at the cemeteries. The volunteers (so far) for the Transfer Station are:
 - 8 AM to 10 AM = Chris Lussier and Bruce Moran
 - 10 AM to 12 PM = Andy Seremeth, George Robinson and Bruce Moran
 - 12 PM to 2 PM = Jonathan Matlock and Bruce Moran
 - 2 to 4 = Jim Bélanger and Bruce Moran
 - The Master of Ceremonies will be George Robinson.

- The inclement weather decision will be made at 2 PM.
- Jim Bélanger stated Al Fulchino will be learning what needs to be done for running the Memorial Day activities so he can take over from Jim in a couple of years.
- The Guest Speaker will be COL Johnston
- Jim Bélanger will coordinate with Rick Hardy for the geraniums.
- The wreaths are at the Police Station.
- All Veterans in attendance will be invited to march from Memorial Park to the Common.
- Rifle Squad: Jonathan Matlock, Greg d'Arbonne, Chris Lussier and Andy Seremeth.
- Greg d'Arbonne will bring the American flag and VFW flag from the Legion Hall.
- Troop 12 Eagle Court of Honor will be 16 June at 1PM. Greg d'Arbonne will attend to represent the Post.
- Commander Robinson stated tickets are still available for the Department of New Hampshire raffle for "30 Guns in 30 Days".
- The Captain Samuel Douglas Academy (upper elementary school) in Brookline will hold their Memorial Day Ceremony on 25 May at 9AM.
- The Brookline Memorial Day Ceremony will be at 9:30AM on 28 May in front of the Brookline Town Hall. All are invited to attend.
- Andy Seremeth made a motion that the Post authorize checks for the Post's Patriot Pen winners in the amount of \$150, \$100 and \$50; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. Andy will provide the names for the checks to Chris Lussier.

For the Good of the Order:

- The new Department of New Hampshire Commander is Bill Ryan. He will hold a "kick-off" meeting later in the month for all District Commanders and their staff to attend.
- Chris Lussier stated he wants to have a "Whiskey Night" where Veterans can come to his house and socialize. He will let everyone know when he plans to do this.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated the American Legion "Coffee with a Veteran" event was very successful, and they are looking at doing this quarterly.

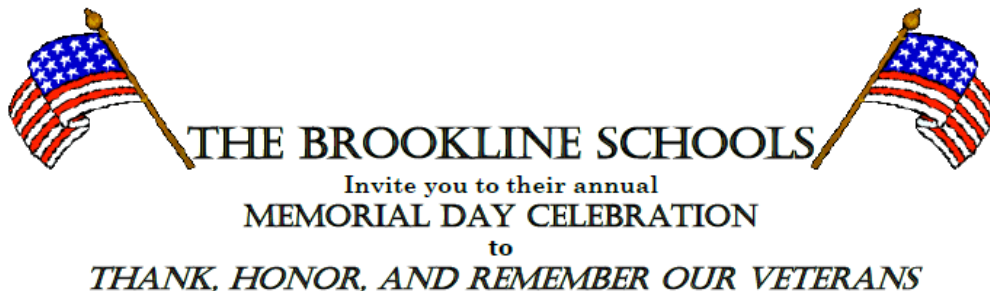
The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM. The next meeting is Sunday, 20 May 2018 at 7PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall, 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH.

News For & From Members

Memorial Day Activities – 25 through 28 May

Memorial Day is 28 May. Highlights of our activities is listed here. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Please watch the local papers for times for other events at the schools and in the community.

- Friday, 25 May: 2:00 PM, Hollis Upper Elementary School.
- Friday, 25 May: 9 AM, Memorial Day Ceremony at Brookline CSDA School (flyer with information is below).
- Saturday, 26 May, 8 AM to 4 PM = Poppy Distribution at the Hollis Transfer Station: We will pass out Poppies at the Transfer Station. An hour of your time is requested. Current Poppy Distribution Schedule is as follows:
 - 8 to 10 AM = Chris Lussier & Bruce Moran
 - 10 to Noon = Andy Seremeth, George Robinson & Bruce Moran
 - Noon to 2 PM = Jonathan Matlock & Bruce Moran
 - 2 PM to 4 PM = Jim Bélanger and Bruce Moran
- Monday, 28 May, Memorial Day: Preferred dress for the ceremonies in Brookline and Hollis is blue blazer, blue or grey slacks, white shirt, cap, tie optional.
 - 9:30 AM, Brookline Town Hall = Brookline will hold their Memorial Day ceremony in front of the Brookline Town Hall. The public, especially Veterans, are invited to attend.
 - 5:00 PM, Hollis Town Common = Hollis will hold their Memorial Day ceremony at the Hollis Town Common. Those who are in town and will participate should plan on meeting on the Common by 5 PM. All Veterans are invited to attend.



**When: Friday May 25th, 2018
9:00 AM**

Where: Captain Samuel Douglass Academy

Veterans, active military personnel, and those who work in public safety, please sign in at the door!



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

Report: NH in Top 10 for tick-borne illnesses

Small as the tip of a pencil, tick nymphs will emerge this week and they'll bring with them an unsavory melange of diseases.

At just a millimeter long, young black-legged ticks are harder to spot than adults, making May one of the most dangerous times of year for tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis, afflictions that are only becoming more common, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Reported human cases of vector-borne diseases - those transmitted primarily by ticks and mosquitoes - more than tripled between 2004 and 2016, according to a CDC report released last week. New Hampshire had the sixth fewest cases of mosquito-borne disease, with 173 over the 12 years, but the tenth most instances of tick-borne illness, with 13,710 (Pennsylvania was first with 73,610).

Despite the steady increase, public health agencies and individuals still rely on many of the same techniques to ward off pests that they have for years. There are some promising, and potentially game-changing, advances on the horizon, though.

"The vaccine is obviously the showstopper," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is currently running a phase one clinical trial of AGS-v, an inoculation that could potentially be effective against multiple pathogens mosquitoes carry. The trial is scheduled to conclude this summer.

AGS-v and several other experimental vaccines under development take a different approach to vector-borne diseases than previous, unsuccessful attempts.

Rather than activating antibodies against a particular pathogen, such as Lyme disease, they turn the body's immune system against the saliva of ticks and mosquitoes. If successful, one shot could protect against all the viruses and bacteria one pest carries, rather than picking them off one at a time and at a greater cost of development.

There are currently no human vaccines for many of the most troublesome vector-borne diseases. Previous attempts, such as a Lyme disease vaccine sold by drug company SmithKline Beecham in the 1990s, have proved either unsafe or ineffective. Development has been further stalled because vector-borne disease vaccines are not seen as the most profitable of potential products.

That's been one of the challenges for Thomas Mather, an entomologist and tick expert with the University of Rhode Island, who has been working on a tick saliva vaccine for several years. It showed promise when tested in mice, he said, but has a long way to go to market.

"We haven't been able to get too much farther," Mather said. "We've been searching for the right protein in the saliva and for money."

But "I'm very bullish about this," he added. "I think it's an area that's worth investment in."

In the meantime, much of the effort to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases is focused on education, particularly in schools, and controlling the carriers.

The increase noted by the CDC has several causes. Changing climates mean that pests can flourish in places they previously couldn't, and a more connected world means that it's harder to prevent diseases like West Nile and Chikungunya - neither of which existed in the U.S. 20 years ago - from spreading globally.

In New Hampshire, the problems have been exacerbated by the evolving way residents interact with the land. People used to hunt more deer and clear-cut more land for farms, reducing their chances of encountering an infected tick, state public health veterinarian Dr. Abigail Mathewson said.

The state doesn't fund or organize mosquito control and only 34 municipalities have taken it upon themselves to engage in coordinated mosquito control efforts, she said. Tick control is even less thorough.

"We receive no funding at all from the state of New Hampshire to do anything regarding tick-borne disease or mosquito-borne disease prevention or surveillance," Mathewson said, adding "For tick surveillance and control, that really is on an individual basis as far as we've been able to determine. I haven't heard of any municipalities that go out and do coordinated tick control."

There are chemical and biological sprays that can kill ticks and mosquitoes, and tools like mouse boxes and deer bait stations, which attract the animals into an area where they rub up against pesticides that kill any ticks on their body, but they come with challenges.

Sprays may have to be applied multiple times a year to account for different disease life cycles, and pesticide stations can only affect a portion of the tick-bearing animal population.

The cutting edge of vector control is genetic modification.

The British company Oxitec has released mosquitoes with altered genes that make them infertile, significantly reducing overall populations. The FDA has cleared the way for initial testing in Florida. Closer to home, MIT researcher Kevin Esvelt has proposed releasing tens of thousands of mice modified to be immune to Lyme disease on Nantucket.

Those propositions have met resistance from residents and officials concerned about unintended consequences, or the sudden appearance of a lot of mice.

"When we talk about the genetic options, those raise red flags in the minds of many regulators and residents," said Alan Eaton, an entomologist who recently retired from the University of New Hampshire. "As a result, they're moving very slowly."

The silver lining to the steady increase in reported vector-borne disease cases may be that companies, seeing a potential profit, are more inclined to develop high-tech solutions like vaccines and genetic modification.

In the meantime, those on the front lines of pest control still emphasize the basics: Remove standing water, landscape your lawn to reduce tick habitats, wear clothing that covers your skin, and check yourself for ticks.

VFW's #ThankBK Appreciation Day

Since 2007, Burger King franchisees and their customers have contributed over \$5 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program. Their generosity has been put to work, as the Unmet Needs program has provided more than **\$10 million** in assistance to nearly 9,000 veterans and military families who came face-to-face with unexpected financial difficulties since its inception in 2004.

This Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, 2018, I'm asking you to recognize the amazing show of support our friends at Burger King have demonstrated to the VFW and those we serve by participating in the **VFW's #ThankBK Appreciation Day**. Stop by your local Burger King and purchase a meal. But don't stop there – say “thank you” to the franchise owners, managers and Burger King team members! It's because of their efforts that we're able to provide service members, veterans and their families a hand up when they need it most.

Proudly wear your VFW caps while ordering, leave your business cards, [present this appreciation letter](#) we've prepared for you, and let Burger King management know the VFW is there to support their restaurant, just as they have supported our Unmet Needs program.

Please also encourage your family, friends and fellow VFW members to dine at Burger King on this VFW #ThankBK Appreciation Day. Let's make this a nationwide event! We've prepared a flyer and two ads for your use in helping to spread the word even further! [Download them here](#).

As an extra incentive, we'll be looking through the #ThankBK posts on social media and awarding several prizes for the best photos! Be sure to include #ThankBK and your VFW Post number in your posts. The grand prize winner will take home a \$500 grant from the VFW Foundation which can be used at the Post's discretion. Additional prizes include \$50 and \$100 gift certificates to the VFW Store.

If you encounter a Burger King franchisee or manager who has not participated in supporting the Unmet Needs program and would like information about the July or November Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaigns, please direct them to:

- **Mike DeRosa**, VFW Foundation Board member and Burger King franchisee at mike_d_bk@msn.com or (715) 379-0471 or
- **Ben Vargas**, VFW Foundation assistant manager at bvargas@vfw.org or (816) 968-2720.

Throughout my extensive travels across the United States, I have made it a point to frequent those businesses that support the VFW and its programs and services, especially Burger King. Our relationship with these generous franchise owners is crucial to the far-reaching success of our Unmet Needs program.

For Veterans,



Keith E. Harman
VFW National Commander

"What Does Democracy Look Like?" A Veteran Reading & Exhibit, May 23rd at the Currier Museum

The Currier is coordinating with the NH Humanities Council on a program that will feature the work of veterans who participated in the "To Tell What They Can't Say" March workshop led by Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent David Wood and international photo journalist Andrea Bruce. Follow the link below for more information and to reserve a ticket.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-does-democracy-look-like-a-veteran-reading-exhibit-tickets-44795927826>

Memorial Day – 3 Centuries of Celebrating Veterans

Saturday May 19th 2018 10am-3pm

The NH Farm Museum will be depicting life on the farm at the end of the Revolution, and during the Civil War and World War II, with costumed interpreters guiding tours and answering questions about those periods. Demonstrations of period activities and cooking and examples of common foods of the eras along with displays and memorabilia will transport the visitor through 3 centuries of honoring and celebrating our Veterans.



Guided house tours at 10:30, 11:30, 1:00 and 2:00, with outdoor activities ongoing.

Free museum admission for Active Duty Military and their families every day.

Free museum admission for all Veterans for this special event.

General admission is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children ages 4-17, \$6 for seniors, or bring the whole family for \$20.



VA Red Coat Ambassadors

**Hello . . .
May I Help You?**



Inquire with Voluntary Services to learn how you can join this effort to support our local Veterans, their families, and caregivers and ensure they have a positive and personal experience during their visit.

WELCOME HOME

AND THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE

HONORING AMERICA'S HEROES



MEMORIAL DAY WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION

Monday, May 28 - 1:35 p.m.

Pregame Ceremony begins at 1p.m.



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ATTENTION VETERANS WITH HEALTH INSURANCE



**Please provide your updated insurance card to
 A VA employee**

Here's why:

- Payments made to VA by your health insurance carrier may reduce part or all of your VA copayment.
- Many health insurance companies apply VA health care charges toward your annual deductible.
- Insurance collections are used to improve health care services and programs.

**You will not be responsible to pay for any
 unpaid balance that your health insurance
 carrier does not cover.**

Visit <https://www.HEATHBENEFITS/cost/insurance.asp> for more information

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

Military Humor

- A retired First Sergeant saw a very tired Soldier resting after a hard foot march. The 1SG said "When I was of your age, I thought nothing of a 10-mile hike." "Well, I don't think much of it either," replied the Soldier.

- My High School assignment was to ask a Veteran about World War 2. Since my grandfather had served in the Philippines during the war, I chose him. After a few basic questions, I very gingerly asked, “Did you ever kill anyone?” Grandpa got quiet. Then, in a soft voice, he said, “Probably; I was the cook.”

Post Officers

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Post Website: <http://www.hollisvfw.org/>

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.