



Hollis VFW

May 2020 Newsletter

Vol. 30 Issue: 5

Serving Hollis and Brookline

May 2020

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 May, 7 pm. This will be a “virtual” meeting. We will use computers and telephones. More information later in the newsletter.

April Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM by Commander Andy Seremeth. 11 members present and no guests.

Membership Applications: Nothing to report.

Minutes: A motion was made by George Robinson to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes as they were published in the March newsletter; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. There were no funds received and the total expenditures for the month were \$130.50. Two checks for a total of \$200 from Patriots Pen awards are still outstanding. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Quartermasters report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Jim Bélanger and unanimously approved. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the two outstanding checks for a total of \$200, be canceled; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved. Chris Lussier explained a discrepancy he made on the Quarterly report in the

past and he corrected the issue. It was an error in which fund had received fund and it was a simple fix. All agreed to the fix. The Trustees report will be submitted with signatures later.

Correspondence: Nothing received.

Comrade in Distress:

- None reported.

Committee Reports:

- Hollis Citizen of the Year will be presented whenever the Hollis Town Meeting is rescheduled.
- VOD/PP/Teacher for 2020-2021: Commander Seremeth will get with the Principals about the program.

Old Business:

- Election of Officers: Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post Adjutant cast one vote for the slate of Officers nominated; seconded by Jim

Bélanger and unanimously approved. Greg d'Arbonne, as Post Adjutant, cast one vote for the slate of Officers and the slate was elected. The Officers for the 2020 – 2021 VFW Year are:

- Commander = Mark Tigert
- Senior Vice Commander = Paul Ricci
- Junior Vice Commander = Mike Bélanger
- Trustee for 1 year = Bob Smith
- Trustee for 2 years = David Larkin
- Trustee for 3 years = Donald Hurt
- Quartermaster = Chris Lussier
- Chaplain = Bruce Moran
- Service Officer = Bruce Moran
- Adjutant = Greg d'Arbonne
- Judge Advocate = George Robinson
- Surgeon = Jim Kelley
- The State VFW Convention is cancelled.
- Memorial Day: The Post will plan for a ceremony as it normally does. It is hoped we can still do the Poppy Drive as usual. George Robinson suggested if we cannot do the Poppy Drive that weekend, we should look at the 4th of July weekend as an alternate date.

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

The Post members said the prayer to remember the National Home and prayed for Mark Andrews, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan, that he safely

returns home and protection for his family while he is away.

New Business:

- Chris Lussier stated we had to renew our non-profit status with the State at a cost of \$32. Jim Bélanger made a motion that the Post reimburse Chris for this expense; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.
- Commander Seremeth stated the rifles were inventoried as required and all was copasetic.

For the Good of the Order:

- Russ Norris, in his capacity as the State Junior Vice:
 - Department and National Conventions cancelled.
 - Anyone want to be a District 6 Officer, let it be known.
 - State will be running in the red next year and National will next year (21-22 year).
- It was noted that the VA's Urgent Care program for our area is changing TriWest Healthcare Alliance to Optum Public Sector Solutions, Inc. (Optum), which is part of UnitedHealth Group, Inc.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM. The next meeting is Sunday, 17 May at 7 PM and will likely be a virtual meeting.

News For & From Members

Our Meeting on 17 May will be a "Virtual Meeting. Here's What We Will Do

Since we cannot meet physically, we will conduct our meeting via telephone and computer video.

If you prefer to use your phone to participate in the meeting: Dial 1-301-715-8592. When asked for a meeting ID, enter 869 7981 2892 and then the # sign. When prompted for a Password, enter 069191.

If you wish to participate via the computer or your smart phone, which will also allow you to use your video capability:

- Click on this link or copy it to your browser (Chrome or Edge)
<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86979812892?pwd%3DcW1HSUR1L2ozakZQTS9KUC9IaGN6dz09&sa=D&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw3TQSJ4y5R-Ec168A58wKfC>
- If prompted for a Meeting ID: 869 7981 2892
- If prompted for a Password: HollisVFW.

If you have problems with any of this, please call Greg d'Arbonne at 603-672-5830.

Prayers for Becky Crowther

Becky Crowther, mother of Post member Alex Crowther and a big supporter of our Post, is in Southern New Hampshire Hospital in Nashua, and has been there most of the week. She is being transferred to a hospital in Lebanon, NH once her white blood cells are stabilized. {lease keep Becky and her family in your prayers.

Post Provides Food and Pantry Items to Marketplace Residents

Last week, our Post provided food and pantry items to the residents of the Marketplace senior residence home. With 26 residents, the call was made by Post member Bob Smith to see if we could do something for the residents there because they cannot have visitors and most are limited as to being able to travel to a store. Post members coordinated efforts with eh Shaw's Supermarket in Milford to round up supplies. Within 72 hours, supplies were gathered and delivered, to include a rose for each of the residents in honor of Mother's Day. A special thanks to Bob Smith; Chris Lussier; Jim Bélanger; and Steve Lemire, the Store Director of the Milford Shaw's, for putting this all together.



News from Rita and John DiClemente

Rita sent the following picture: 😞 John and I saying goodbye in the van with our masks on.



Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow. Please contact me with any questions. Thanks! – Greg d'

May:

- 17 May: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, “Virtual Meeting” (Phone and computer)
- 18 May: Brookline American Legion Meeting to discuss Memorial Day activities, “Virtual Meeting” (Phone and computer)
- 23 May: VFW and American Legion Poppy distribution at each Transfer Station - these will likely be delayed until the 4th of July timeframe
- 25 May: Memorial Day Ceremony at Brookline Town Hall, 9:30 AM – standby for alternate ceremony details
- 25 May: Memorial Day Ceremony at Hollis Town Common, 5:00 PM – standby for alternate ceremony detail
- 28 May: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, “Virtual Meeting” (Phone and computer)

June:

- 13 Jun: American Legion “Coffee and Tea with a Vet”, 8 AM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 13 Jun: American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony, 10 AM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 21 Jun: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 2 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 25 Jun: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

July:

- 4 Jul: Brookline 4th of July Parade, 9:30 AM lineup. Reading of the Declaration of Independence and Picnic after the parade.
- 19 Jul: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 23 Jul: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

August:

- 16 Aug: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 27 Aug: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

September:

- 12 Sep: Hollis Old Home Days, all day, Nichols Field, Hollis
- 20 Sep: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 24 Sep: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

October:

- 18 Oct: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 2 PM, Hollis Town Hall

- 22 Oct: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

November:

- 15 Nov: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 2 PM, Hollis Town Hall
- 19 Nov: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American 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! Thanks!

News of Interest to Veterans

Veterans: Call Before Visiting Your VA Facility

Got a fever, cold, cough or flu-like symptoms? Are you worried that you have a viral illness? The last thing you want to do is get out of the house to see the doctor, exposing yourself (and others) to more potential bugs and viruses.

VA can make it easier and safer to get back to health with virtual care through My HealtheVet and the VA Video Connect app on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Social Workers are a critical part of Team Manchester VA

MANCHESTER, N.H. – VA Manchester Healthcare System offers a wide array of non-traditional care to solve Veterans challenges and meet their daily needs.

“Social Workers are a critical part of Team Manchester VA. As an organization, we celebrate their professional contribution and realize the value it brings to the overall wellness of the Veterans we serve,” said Kevin Forrest, interim director, VA Manchester Healthcare System. “Social workers are often the ones behind the scenes interacting with our community partners, patients and their loved ones to address needs that are not met through traditional medical care.”

Social workers assist Veterans, family members and caregivers in resolving issues related to housing, finance, mental health, relationships, and physical limitations. They provide care coordination and education and lead quality improvement efforts to identify and advocate for needed resources and services. Social workers also offer help related to advance care planning – naming someone to make healthcare decisions if the patient is unable to do so. During COVID-19, social workers are working on the front lines in many ways. They serve as discharge planners, provide crisis intervention for those who have mental health needs and proactively reach out to our patients who may experience additional risk factors. Social workers are the glue that hold us together.

“During this national pandemic, Social Workers have stepped up to help us build a bridge to a geographically disparate community that would struggle with limited access to care,” Grace Conley, Acting Nurse Executive Manchester VA. “Their collective efforts have made incredible difference and will continue to over the coming months.”

There are many ways VA Manchester Healthcare System social workers can help. You can learn more about what they do at: <https://www.socialwork.va.gov/socialworkers.asp>

If any of these situations apply to you or your family, request a consult by MyHealthVet or call and speak to social worker 800-892-8384 x 3199.

NH Veterans Home Letter Collection Form

During the COVID-19 outbreak, many of our heroes living at the New Hampshire Veterans home do not have the ability to have visitors. As our campaign focuses on helping our community in any way we can, we are collecting letters to deliver to veterans across the state, including the New Hampshire Veterans home, to let them know that we are thinking about them.

Please submit your letter through this website:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcsbVa8ReDv2ibwCehXZ8uQvTmEHbT15aDOXGI_YH56fQPvw/viewform.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at info@mattmowers.com.



VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Milwaukee VA Medical Center

Caring for and Wearing Cloth Face Masks

Wearing a mask *is not* a replacement for social distancing or washing your hands!
Non-PPE face masks *protect others from you*, not the other way around!

General Use

- CDC suggests the use of cloth face masks in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult (*i.e. when you are less than 6 feet from others*).
- Reusable cloth face masks *are not* intended as PPE for direct patient care or when providing care for a COVID-19 patient.

Putting on a Cloth Face Mask

- Clean hands using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Check the mask for holes or rips.
- Handle the mask by the ties or ear loops. Do not touch the part covering your nose/mouth.
- Remember which side you designate as the "front" of the mask.
- Place the mask on your face. Press the metal nose piece against your nose (*if there is one*).
- Place the ear loops around your ears. Or, tie the top ties high on the back of your head and the bottom securely at the base of your neck.
- Make sure the mask covers your nose and mouth, with the bottom edge under your chin.

While Wearing a Cloth Face Mask

- Avoid touching the mask. Do not move it on/off your face to your chin, neck, or forehead.
- Any time you touch the front of the mask, clean your hands using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

Removing & Storing a Cloth Face Mask

- Clean your hands using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Do not touch the front of the mask, only handle the ties or ear loops.
- Remove the ties or ear loops. While holding the ties or loops, place it into a clean paper bag.
- Clean your hands using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Store the mask in a clean paper bag, closed.

Sanitizing Cloth Face Masks

- Wash your mask every day after use.
- Clean the mask in a washing machine, using your normal detergent and hot water, then tumble dry on low.
- You can also hand wash the mask wearing dish gloves, using your normal detergent or a mild soap and hot water. Once washed, hang-dry if a dryer is not available.

**According to the CDC, detergent and soap are very effective at killing the COVID virus.*

For more information, please visit www.CDC.gov and search "cloth masks" in the search bar on the upper right corner of the screen.

VHE 0130 4/2020 KC

Can You Sew? Patterns for Fabric Masks, Surgical Caps (Can Be Sewn with Or Without Buttons) and Crocheted Ear Savers

Chapter member Patti Fowler shared that she is making Fabric Masks, Surgical Caps and Crocheted Ear Savers for those working with patients in Nursing and Assisted Living facilities and other institutions who need Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that can be worn for many hours at a time. She has provided these to the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, The Manchester VA, Catholic Medical Center, Concord Hospital, the Women's Prison and various nursing homes as they all are in need; any such type facility in your area can use these items. There is a great need and I asked Patti if she needed some help. She said the more help the better.

So, to help Patti, and more importantly, all those who need these items, below are the instructions from Patti to make these items. If you do provide them to others, please let them know you are a member of AUSA so folks can be aware of our Chapter. Thanks!

[How to make a Face Mask](https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask): <https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask>

Surgical hats, Surgical scrub hats: You will need paper to make the pattern. All measurements are in inches: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/71705819047923764/>

Quick Crochet Ear Savers - Free Pattern on Moogly: <https://www.mooglyblog.com/quick-crochet-ear-savers/>

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

Msgr Charles R. Fink, a Roman Catholic Priest of St. Philip Neri's Church in Northport NY., served in Vietnam from March 1969 to March 1970 as a Sergeant in the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Msgr. Charles Fink reads the poem "Bury Me With Soldiers," which he wrote as a tribute to the U.S. servicemembers who served during the Vietnam War. Today, the poem is read at the funerals of Vietnam War veterans nationwide. Credit: Newsday / J. Conrad Williams Jr.: <https://www.newsday.com/long-island/vietnam-war-poem-priest-long-island-funerals-1.19854723>

"Bury Me With Soldiers"

I've played a lot of roles in life; I've met a lot of men.
I've done some things I'd like to think I wouldn't do again
And though I'm young, I'm old enough To know someday I'll die.
And think about what lies beyond, And Besides whom I would lie.

Perhaps it doesn't matter much; Still if I had my choice,
I'd want a grave amongst soldiers when At last death quells my voice

I'm sick of the hypocrisy Of lectures by the wise
I'll take the man with all his flaws Who goes, though scared, and dies.

The troops I know were commonplace; They didn't want the war
They fought because their fathers and Their father's fathers had before.
They cursed and killed and wept – God knows they're easy to deride –
But bury me with men like these; They faced the guns and died.

It's funny when you think of it, The way we got along.
We'd come from different worlds To live in one, where no one belongs
I didn't even like them all and, I'm sure they'd all agree.
Yet, I would give my life for them, I hope. Some would for me.

So bury me with soldiers, please Though much maligned they be
Yes, bury me with soldiers, for I miss their company.
We will not soon see their like again We've had our fill of war.
But, bury me with men like them Till someone else does more!

Post Officers

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