



Hollis VFW

May 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 5

Serving Hollis and Brookline

May 2026

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=blA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMXZz09>
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: 17 May 2026 at 7:00 pm

April 19th Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 12 members and 2 guests were present.

Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to suspend business for our guests to talk about Operation Care for Troops (OCT), seconded by Chris Lussier and unanimously approved.

Deborah Luszey and Ted Luszey were representing Operation Care for Troops.

Existing for over 25 years, OCT answers requests for items to support deployed personnel. OCT is an all-volunteer organization with support from many Veteran organizations. They support special requests from troops. They also support NH Veterans returning from deployments, holiday stockings for kids, and other needs for those at risk. Shipping costs are a major cost factor.

Returned to business.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the March meeting minutes since they were published in the newsletter and sent to all

members and that topics will be reviewed in the meeting. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. General Fund Deposits included: \$20.89 for Interest; and \$3.50 from National; Total deposits: \$24.39. Disbursements for the month were: \$0.00 for Voided check; \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; \$5,350.00 to the American Legion for shared donation; and \$6,350.00 to Hollis Brookline High School AP Government Class for Washington DC Trip; Total disbursements were \$12,020.00. The Relief Fund Deposits: none; Total Deposits: \$0.00. Disbursements: None; Total Relief Fund expenses: \$0.00. Venmo Deposits: None. Deductions: None. Quartermaster also presented the quarterly trustee report for signature. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- Email to District 6 Commander issuing a challenge to other posts to donate to ODD with

our post matching up to \$25000. Also, Kerry Spangler issued the challenge at the District 6 meeting.

- Email from National
 - Receipt of Bylaws approved by National.
 - Email with video for Day of Service
 - Day of Service signup requests
 - Concord VFW Sununu Veterans Town Hall – June 10th at 6:30 PM
- Email from Paul Lloyd:
 - April Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
 - National Announcement of top National Teachers for 2026
 - Youth Scholarship winners
 - VFW Honors Gulf War Veterans
 - 5th Annual Day of Service announcement
 - VSO Monthly Check-in
 - Delegate Strength
- Greg d'Arbonne sent a letter to the Hollis Town Select Board regarding Memorial Day activities.
- Chris Lussier received the bank statement and a letter from the Girl Scouts.

Kerry Spangler briefed information presented at the District 6 meeting.

- The Salem and Derry posts were combined into a single post in Derry driven by the lack of a meeting place in Salem.
- Trustees – Training Date on 13 May via Zoom and will be recorded for those that cannot attend. Trustees will need to be added as a view-only for the bank statements for the quarterly audits. This was driven by a Quartermaster that had taken funds from their Post account.
- Elections – District 6 Commander is Chuck Chapman from Hudson Post, Senior Vice-Command is Kerry Spangler from Hollis Post, and the Junior Vice-Commander is Brian Selling. District is looking for a Surgeon and a Chaplain

Committee/Program Reports: : Reporting is now accessed through the VFWNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>. These reports include any submitted since last

meeting. (140reports to date with 1146 hours of service).

- **Service Officer:** Nothing reported.
- **Community Service:**
 - 11 Mar - Weekly Veterans' breakfast.
- **Americanism:**
 - 14 Mar - Presentation of Citizen of the Year Award.
 - 28 Mar - Attended Homeland Heroes Annual Gala and sang the National Anthem.
- **Youth Activities:** 8 April - Donation to HBHS AP Government Class.
- **Legislative:** 28 Mar - Talked with State and Local politicians and candidates about Veteran Issues at the Homeland Heroes Gala.
- **Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.
- **Veterans and Military Support:**
 - 28 Mar - Attended Homeland Heroes Annual Gala and sang the 6 service songs.
- **Homeless Veterans:**
 - 28 Mar - Attended Homeland Heroes Annual Gala fundraiser.
- **Hospital:**
 - 15 Mar - Voted to donate the 6 service flags and two poles and bases for use at the Community Hospice House for the We Honor Vets pinning ceremonies.
- **National Home:** Nothing reported.
- **Voice of Democracy programs:** Nothing reported.
- **Patriot's Pen Program:** Nothing reported.
- **Teach Scout:** Nothing reported.
- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** George Robinson finalized the application to be given to the Hollis-Brookline High School, which is essentially the same as last year's application with clarification on one question. Received 4 applications for the scholarship and he needs folks identified to evaluate the submissions. Chris Lussier, Sean Brady, George Robinson and Kerry Spangler will evaluate and select the recipient. The award will be presented at the Senior Awards Ceremony (3 Jun) by George Robinson.

- **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 93.18% with 41 current members compared to prior year of 44 members.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- American Legion Member, Bobbie Canada, passed away on 10 February. Service is on 3 Mar and burial/celebration of life are scheduled for 3 May.
- George Robinson's nephew's, HM2 Nicholas Daly, deployment has been extended and is still currently deployed at sea. Let's keep him in our prayers.
- Jeff Smith's cancer has returned and will require radiation therapy. Keep Jeff in our prayers.

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.

Old Business:

- Chris Lussier reported that he was notified that there will be an opening ceremony on the 250th 4th of July beginning with a parade. Kick off ceremony at Monument Square. Hollis currently has no one to organize their July 4th Parade. Chris Lussier will be the Master of Ceremony and Bruce Moran will be presenting his "Old Glory" recitation. Both the Hollis and the Brookline parade begin at 1000. Hollis Town Band has a concert on 1 July. We need to determine who is doing each of the parades. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler proposed changes to the By-Laws to indicate meetings being the 3rd Sunday each month except for June being the 4th Sunday because of the conflict with Father's Day. Jim Belanger seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler has drafted the changes and sent the draft with the monthly Newsletter for review for approval at the July meeting No comments received. Final copy signed and Kerry Spangler submitted to Department Adjutant Paul Lloyd. (Email from Paul Lloyd on 7 April provided a copy of the bylaws approved by National.) (CLOSED)

- George Robinson stated the SSGT Alan H. Soifert Memorial monument at the Hollis-Brookline High School is beginning to lean forward. In the summer, we need to look at fixing the memorial by lifting it and providing a more solid base. A Scout has volunteered to take on the project. He has been asked to provide a list of materials and will work on the monument when the weather warms up. Upon further inspection, we are not sure if it really needs to be done. May want to consider doing only the landscaping around the monument for the Scout project. (OPEN)
- Mark Andrews presented information on Operation High Flight (501 3c), a non-profit organization to support veterans, children's hospitals, first responders and inner-city youth through mentoring and other activities. The operation is looking for a store front and hangar space to support the program and is soliciting donations to support this program. A process is in place to identify folks that can be supported by the organization. Many methods are being investigated to obtain nominations. A-10 simulator is being built to support the Aviation 101 course as well as those that cannot fly in the airplanes. OHF is looking for a \$15,000 donation to support flying missions. Any of our donations will only support NH veterans. Primary support is for mental health counselling to be mindful of the present and not reflect on the past or worry about the future. Flights will occur March through October each year. OHF is also applying for grants while also looking for funds as a kickstart to operations. Other organizations, such as Easter seals, can nominate veterans to support. Funds are needed by end of March to begin flying operations in April and will be targeted towards veterans. Mark Tiggert made a motion to purchase 50 flights, seconded by Chris Lussier, amended to donate in three payment increments (\$5000, \$5000 and \$5000) as funds are available seconded by Sean Brady, with first payment immediately, and the remaining to be voted on prior to each payment every other month which was unanimously approved. Mark Andrews thanked the Post for the previous donation and identified the use of the money donated and the objectives met. Saturday,

March 25th, there is an OHF/ODD event at the Nashua Airport 9-4, aircraft and WWII Willys will be on display. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to donate the second payment of \$5000.00, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN)

- Chris Lussier identified something about our Venmo account. It is currently set up as a business account and needs to be changed to a charitable account with a non-profit profile with PAYPAL. The change will be worked after the tax forms are filed. (OPEN)
- Because of the national requirements for students to participate in the "We the People" competition to use specified travel and lodging, Chris Lussier suggested we support the AP Civics class trip to Washington DC where they present cases in "We the People" competition defending and demonstrating their passion for the US Constitution. After discussion, Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay for the transportation costs totaling \$11,700.00, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. A check for \$12,700.00 was presented to the class by VFW and American Legion members which was greatly appreciated. (CLOSED)
- Kerry Spangler made a motion to purchase the 6 Services' Flags and 2 sets of poles and bases for Hospice Program We Honor Vets pinning ceremonies at a total cost of \$645.00 (actual \$595.95), seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. Flags were ordered awaiting delivery for presenting the Home, Health and Hospice Care Program. (OPEN)
- Memorial Day Ceremonies – Greg d'Arbonne suggested we identify the guest speaker and MC for both the Brookline and Hollis Memorial Day Ceremonies. Kerry Spangler will be the guest speaker, Master of Ceremony Hollis is Chris Lussier, and Master of Ceremony Brookline is Greg d'Arbonne. The agenda will be like last year. Greg d'Arbonne submitted a letter to the Hollis Select Board to approve the event. The Select Board sent out forms to fill out which were submitted by Greg d'Arbonne. Chairs will need to be provided. The Hollis Community Church will provide 100 chairs. Request for the Scouts to assist to be in place

at 3:30 at the Hollis Town Common and also to provide the color guard. Ask people to bring lawn chairs. PA to be provided by Chris Lussier. Lawrence Barn is reserved in case of inclement weather. The weather determination will be made at 3:30. Father Glasgow will provide the Chaplain services. For Brookline, Greg d'Arbonne asked if we can use town building portico for the building for the ceremony. Greg d'Arbonne will order the wreaths this week for both ceremonies. Brookline Ceremony starts at 9:30 am, Hollis at 5:00 pm. Uniform is Blue Jacket, Grey pants, white shirt, tie and cap. Andy Seremeth will pick up the five rifles for the Brookline Ceremony. A Battle Cross with rifle will be set up as well.

- Operation Care for our Troops is soliciting donations. Based on the briefing of our guests from OCT, Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to donate \$5,000.00 to the OCT, seconded by Mark Andrews and unanimously approved.
- Operation Delta Dog thanked the Post by letter for being a 4-Star sponsor in 2025 and requested support in 2026 with their expansion of services. George Robinson suggested that we challenge other posts to donate and then match up to \$25,000 to potentially get more veterans served. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion for the adjutant to send the challenge to District 6 to donate with up to a \$25,000 match from Post 11373, seconded by George Robinson and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler will send an email to the District 6 Commander to issue the challenge to local posts. He also presented the challenge at the District 6 meeting. (OPEN)
- Elections – Nominations to keep all current officers in position were made and accepted by each of the members. Greg d'Arbonne nominated Sean Brady for the Judge Advocate position, seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler agreed to accept the appointment as adjutant for another year. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion for the Adjutant to vote on a single ballot with all Officers, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Mark Andrews accepted the nomination for the 1-year trustee to replace Bob Smith. (OPEN)

- Mark Tigert – Commander
- Mark Andrews – Senior Vice-Commander
- George Robinson – Junior Vice-Commander
- Chris Lussier – Quarter Master
- Bruce Moran – Chaplain
- Sean Brady – Judge Advocate
- Mark Andrews, Andy Seremeth, and Jim Belanger as 1-, 2- 3-year Trustee respectively.
- Jim Kelley - Surgeon

Kerry Spangler cast the single vote for the above nominations.

New Business:

- Flag retirement and storage cleanup are scheduled for 13 Jun 2026. VFW needs two shelf units (Kerry Spangler will purchase from Sam's Club). Scouts will shorten legs on tables to place their storage bins in the boiler room and the sump pump room. (OPEN)
- Rifle detail for Bobbie Canada's funeral, 2 May at 11:00 am. Celebration of Life at 1:00 pm at Souhegan Valley Christian Church. (OPEN)
- Greg d'Arbonne will fix the door to the basement that was damaged during a break-in. Candles were burned and someone defecated on the floor. Thanks to Arlene d'Arbonne for cleaning up the mess. (OPEN)
- Delegates for Department Convention 5-7 Jun – Mark Tigert, Kerry Spangler, Greg d'Arbonne (OPEN)

Good of the Order:

- Our sponsored veteran and dog from Operation Delta Dog, Hershey and Avi who will graduate with the next class of ODD. Congratulations to

Hershey and Avi and we look forward to attending the graduation ceremony on 13 May 2026. The Singing Vets will sing the National Anthem.

- Brookline Town Hall is being condemned. They are reaching out to potentially use our Post building for meeting space. We need to determine number and timing of meetings, liability issues, and utility cost share. All present agreed that we should help, if possible, and establish an hourly rate. Greg d'Arbonne will follow up with the town.
- The Singing Vets performed at the fund raiser for Homeland Heroes in Windham on 28 Mar 2026.
- Mary Lou Ward sent a letter commending the Post for the donation to the HBHS AP Government class's trip for the "We the People" competition.
- Scout Troop 260 is hosting their spaghetti supper on 16 May. See the Flyer on page 8. Sign up to help.

Kerry Spangler, as a sworn-in District 6 Senior Vice-Commander, performed the installation of the newly elected officers. The Post Commander appointed Kerry Spangler to continue as Adjutant.

Closing: Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Lussier and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 17 May 2026, at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH, and by Zoom.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are **highlighted in yellow**.

May 2026

- 13 May – Operation Delta Dog Graduation
- 16 May – Troop 260 Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner
- 16 May – US Armed Forces Day
- 17 May – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 21 May – Hollis Upper Elementary School Memorial Day Assembly – 1:45 to 2:30. Lunch at 1:00PM
- 23 May – VFW Poppy Drive at the Hollis Transfer Station 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- 23 May – American Legion Poppy Drive at the Brookline Transfer Station. 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- 24 May – Poppy Drive at the Brookline liquor store.
- 25 May – Memorial Day Events in Hollis 5:00 pm and Brookline at 9:30 am.
- 28 May – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 28-31 May – American Legion Department Convention

Jun 2026

- 5-7 June – Department of New Hampshire VFW Convention
- 6 June – D-Day
- 13 June – Flag Retirement and American Legion Hall Cleanup Day. 1000 am until done.
- 14 June – Flag Day
- 25 June – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 28 June – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Jul 2026 –

- 4 July – Parades at Hollis and Brookline – 1000
- 19 July – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 July – 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>.

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

Don't forget our Wednesday Morning Breakfasts at 8:00 at the Hollis Marketplace Diner. All Veterans are welcome.

Reach out to other members to encourage them to attend the meetings...the more the merrier and the more we can be aware of and accomplish with more participation.

If you have email addresses for Hollis Town personnel, the @hollisnh.org are now all changed to @hollisnh.gov.

Get VFW project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger and/or to Kerry Spangler for inclusion in the VFW website and newsletter.

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 603-219-9963 cdr11373@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander: Mark Andrews
603-732-6113; agav8r1997@gmail.com

Quartermaster: Chris Lussier
603-465-2676; clussier@tds.net

Service Officer: Bruce Moran
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
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/>

E-mail 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.

NEW ALTERNATIVE CAPS!



FOR POST, DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT

Attention, Brookline Residents!!

Boy Scout Troop 260

Cordially invites you to our annual
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL SUPPER
All proceeds to benefit Troop 260 and the
Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74



Saturday – May 16, 2026

5:00 – 7:30 PM

At the Brookline Community Church, 2 Main St.



Tickets \$10 per person, \$5 seniors, and free for children under 2

To purchase tickets: Call 603-533-3090 or
email: brooklinetroop260@gmail.com

From: Troop 260 - Laurie A Stevens <TroopMail@TroopWebHost.org>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 12:06 PM
To:
Subject: Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

Hello everyone — happy May!

We're getting closer to our Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on May 16th!

I've included a SignUpGenius link below for volunteer shifts on the day of the event. There are shifts available for adults (veterans and parents), as well as assigned shifts for scouts.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F49AAA72BA7FB6-63877621-spaghetti>

There is also a second SignUpGenius for desserts. You're welcome to bring either a homemade or store-bought item for the dessert table. In past years, we've had an amazing variety of desserts, and I'm hoping for the same this year! Please be sure to include the type of dessert (for example, chocolate cupcakes) and the approximate quantity (one dozen, two dozen, etc.) when signing up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F49AAA72BA7FB6-63879873-spaghetti>