



Hollis VFW

April 2023 Newsletter

Vol. 33 Issue: 5

Serving Hollis and Brookline

May 2023

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=blA2NlZlNmFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMXZz09; 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: 21 May

Please note the activities around Memorial Day and try to attend as many as you can. Think about it, if we Veterans don't support Memorial Day, why should non-Veterans?

April Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 9 members present.

Membership: Nothing to report.

Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes from the January meeting as they were published in the newsletter; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. Chris Lussier stated there was one deposit of \$3.50 from National. Disbursements for the month were \$271.50 reimbursement to Chris Lussier. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report

be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- Chris Lussier stated he received the Delegate packet for the National Convention, and he will sign and send it in.
- Chris Lussier stated he sent a thank you letter to the Hollis Police Department for their assistance with the fingerprinting requirement we needed for the casino event.
- George Robinson stated Tara Happy sent a thank you note for her being selected as Citizen of the Year.

Committee Reports:

- Scout of the Year: Colin Robinson won the District as Scout of the Year. He now competes at the State level.

Old Business:

- Casino event for the Post: The Post will receive the proceeds from the week of 10 to 16 April. We should receive a check in a month or so.
- Chris Lussier and Greg d’Arbonne will discuss the Post Bylaws and recommend any changes at the June meeting. It was stated that electronic voting via Zoom, e-mail, etc. should be covered in the new Bylaws.
- Forum on the US Constitution and Patriotism: Trevor Duval, the High School Civics teacher, is working on a date for this. Chris Lussier will also discuss with Trevor a project for the students by cleaning CSM Delia’s property in Pepperell.
- Memorial Day Activities:
 - Chris Lussier will get with Bob Glover to see if flags were ordered.
 - Recommended we invite the Governor to the event since the Korean Consulate General will be attending.
 - Greg d’Arbonne will ask the NH Veterans Cemetery Director who is the girl that sings the Korean National Anthem and see if she can attend and sing the Korean National Anthem.
 - Poppy Distribution on Saturday, 27 May: Chris Lussier has coordinated for us to be at the Hollis Transfer Station.
 - 8 to 10 AM = Chris Lussier and Bruce Moran
 - 10 AM to 12 PM = Bruce Moran and Mark Tigert and George Robinson
 - 12 to 2 PM = Bruce Moran and Jim Bélanger
 - 2 to 4 PM = Bruce Moran and Bob Smith
 - The Post still needs to have a meeting with Al Fulchino about the event.
 - The Brookline Ceremony is at 9:30 AM. All are asked to attend if they can.
 - Greg d’Arbonne will coordinate with the schools as to when they want Veterans to attend.

- Post Elections: Bob Smith made a motion that the Adjutant cast one vote for the slate of Officers presented at the meeting; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Greg d’Arbonne cast one vote to elect the following slate of Officers for the fiscal year 2023 – 2024:
 - Post Commander: Mark Tigert
 - Senior Vice: Mark Andrews
 - Junior Vice: George Robinson
 - Chaplain: Bruce Moran
 - Service Officer: Bruce Moran
 - JAG: Bob Smith
 - Quartermaster: Chris Lussier
 - Adjutant: Greg d’Arbonne
 - Surgeon: Jim Kelley
 - Trustees:
 - Bob Smith = 1 Year
 - Andy Seremeth = 2 Year
 - Jim Bélanger = 3 Year

Remember the National Home: The Post said prayers for the National Home and their residents.

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

New Business:

- Jim Bélanger stated he felt the Veterans in the Middle School event was not as fruitful as it was in the past. He suggested we speak to the Veterans ahead of time and prepare them for what to expect before we start the event. Bruce Moran suggested we double the size of the students in the classroom and give more time for the event as one hour was far too short.
- Greg d’Arbonne stated the Legion will likely hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony in June.
- Greg d’Arbonne stated Brookline will hold its 4th of July Parade and VFW members are asked to be at the Legion building by 9:30 AM on the 4th of July.

For the Good of the Order:

- Bruce Moran and Chris Lussier attended the “Sip and Sit” event with Delta Dog and said it was a good event.

Comrade in Distress:

- Greg d'Arbonne stated his 93+ year old father fell and broke his leg. Greg and his siblings will be sharing time taking care of their parents.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM. The next meeting is 7 PM, Sunday, 21 May at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

News For & From Members

Memorial Day Activities – 26 through 29 May

Memorial Day is 29 May. Highlights of our activities are 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, 26 May:
 - 9:00 AM, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, Brookline: Memorial Day Ceremony
 - Hollis Upper Elementary School:
 - 12:15 to 1:15: Story Hour with Veterans and the Students. If you would like to spend time with the students, please contact Greg d'Arbonne so he can tell the school.
 - 1:15 to 1:45: Lunch
 - 1:45 PM: Memorial Day Ceremony
- Saturday, 27 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 and Bruce Moran	○ 12 to 2 PM = Bruce Moran and Jim Bélanger
○ 10 AM to 12 PM = Bruce Moran and Mark Tigert and George Robinson	○ 2 to 4 PM = Bruce Moran and Bob Smith
- Monday, 29 May, Memorial Day: Preferred dress for the ceremonies in Brookline and Hollis is a 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.
 - 4:30 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 4:30 PM. All Veterans are invited to attend.

Post Member Zach Buffington Named Recruiter of the Year for New Hampshire

Post member Staff Sergeant Zach Buffington was named the Army Recruiter of the Year for New Hampshire by the Association of the United States Army. Zach was nominated by his chain of command for his outstanding leadership and professionalism. This honor is very well deserved by

Zach who has been the top Army Recruiter for New Hampshire the past year +. Congratulations Zach!!

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

May

- 21 May: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 May: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 26 May, 9:00 AM: Memorial Day Ceremony at Captain Samuel Douglass Academy
- 26 May, 12:15, Veteran Hour with the students, then 1:15 to 1:45 lunch, and then 1:45 PM: Memorial Day Ceremony at Hollis Upper Elementary School
- 27 May: VFW and American Legion Poppy distribution at each Transfer Station, 8 AM to 4 PM
- 29 May, 9:00 AM Coffee with a Vet, then 9:30 AM, Memorial Day Ceremony. All in front of the Brookline Town Hall
- 29 May, 4:30 PM, wreath laying at Memorial Park, then march to Hollis Common for the Memorial Day Ceremony on the Hollis Town Common

June

- 22 June: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 25 Jun: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall – change due to Father's Day on the regular meeting day.

July

- 4 July: 4th of July Parade in Brookline, assemble at 9:30 AM at Legion Hall.
- 16 July: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 27 July: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

August

- 20 August: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 24 August: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

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

New Entrance to VA Manchester Medical Center

For those who visit the Manchester VA Medical Center, the new MOUNTAIN Entrance is now officially open. This is the entrance, at the far-left end of the building, as you enter the front parking lot, that leads directly into Primary Care. There are VA greeters at the top of the stairs to assist you if needed. This entrance has a handicap ramp and an elevator inside the main doors which will take you from ground level to the first floor right outside of Primary Care. (if needed).

Ace Hardware Honors Fallen Heroes with 1 Million American Flags

Ace works with the VFW to give away 1 million American flags for Memorial Day tributes

OAK BROOK, Ill., (May 15, 2023) – Ace Hardware is collaborating with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) once again this year to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country by giving away 1 million American flags nationwide on Saturday, May 27, 2023.

Consumers who visit a participating Ace store on May 27th will receive a free 8” x 12” American flag.* A second flag will be donated to a local VFW Post to be used for marking and honoring veterans’ graves this Memorial Day.”

Ace is proud to be a part of this nationwide effort to distribute flags to our customers and to the VFW to help honor our fallen heroes on Memorial Day,” said Kim Lefko, Chief Marketing Officer, Ace Hardware. “With Ace stores easily accessible to millions of Americans, we wanted to step up and provide a way for our customers, and our store owners and associates, to pay tribute to our military men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.”

“Memorial Day reminds us of the true cost of freedom, and while we as a nation mourn the loss of our brave and patriotic heroes, we vow to never forget their sacrifice and remain forever grateful to them,” said VFW National Commander Tim Borland. “We are proud to work alongside patriotic and compassionate companies like Ace Hardware to help ensure our fallen service members are never forgotten.”

Last year, over 500,000 American flags were given away to customers at Ace stores nationwide. In addition, Ace sent 595,000 flags to more than 1,800 VFW Posts for placement on veterans’ graves.

“The American flag giveaway aligns with Ace Hardware’s long history of supporting veterans nationwide,” added Lefko. “Ace’s very name is a commemoration of the “flying aces,” the courageous fighter pilots from World War I. Ace’s patriotism continues through the support of its veteran retailers, and the sincere appreciation for all the veterans and active-duty military who work in Ace stores, distribution centers, and its corporate offices.”

*Flags will be available at participating Ace stores while quantities last. Limit one 8" x 12" flag per customer. No purchase necessary.

BURGER KING® to Give Back to Veterans this Month

More than 1,300 franchise restaurants to participate in annual fundraising campaign to support VFW Unmet Needs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (May 1, 2023) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is pleased to announce participating BURGER KING® franchise restaurants will kick off their annual fundraiser throughout the month of May to raise funds in support of the VFW's Unmet Needs program. Now in its 17th year, the campaign encourages BURGER KING® guests to donate \$1 or round up their purchase to help support grants to military and veteran families facing financial crises due to their military service.

"Our military and veteran families lay so much on the line in service to our country, and when they face mounting bills or even foreclosure or eviction, our Unmet Needs program steps up to help," said VFW National Commander Tim Borland. "The continued generosity of BURGER KING® franchisees and their dedicated patrons helps to ensure that the vital assistance the VFW provides is there for our nation's heroes when they need it most."

The VFW Unmet Needs program provides grants of up to \$1,500 to service members and military families who experience times of financial hardship due to deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The grants help with basic life necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments, vehicle repair, medical expenses, and food. Since its inception in 2004, Unmet Needs has awarded nearly \$13 million in assistance to more than 11,400 service members, veterans, and their families.

Since 2007, BURGER KING® Franchisees have raised more than \$7.2 million in support of the Unmet Needs program. More than 1,360 BURGER KING® franchise restaurants are participating in this year's campaign. Find a participating restaurant near you.

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 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>.

NH State Veterans Cemetery Upcoming Events

- Place Flags for Memorial Day - Thursday, May 25th @ 1:00 PM. All are invited to participate.
- Memorial Day Weekend - NHSVC and NHVCA staff will be at the cemetery on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of Memorial Day weekend from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The VHLC will be open, and staff will be available to answer questions.

- Memorial Day Ceremony sponsored by the American Legion- Tuesday, May 30th @ 11:00 AM
- Planting Event - Thursday, June 1st @ 11:00 AM. Bring your garden gloves and shovels to help refurbish our many gardens with flowers and plants left at graves over the Memorial Day holiday. As a reminder, potted plants (no larger than 10" in diameter) are allowed on graves from May 20th through May 31st.
- Remove Flags from Graves - Thursday, June 1st @ 1:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

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. – Greg d'Arbonne

The Note of Thanks to the Post from Tara Happy, The Hollis Citizen of the Year

Below is a note from Tara Happy, the Hollis Citizen of the Year we recognized at the Hollis Town Meeting in March.

Dear VFW,

Needless to say, at town meeting when I came up to receive this award from Mr. Robinson I was operating under a decent amount of shock and surprise! I failed to fully thank each member of the VFW for this award so I wanted to reach back out with my sincerest and most appreciative thank you to everyone.

Receiving this award from a group of our towns most respected and honored citizens is very special and I am truly, truly honored. Thank you.

I even called and told my 93 year old Grandma ...she was besides herself! She said my Grandpa, a tail gunner from WWII, would be so proud. 😊

Thank you very much,
Sincerely,
Tara Happy

I don't know if
Facebook has ever
caused the lame to
walk but it has sure
caused the dumb to
speak.



My teacher told me not
to worry about spelling
because in the future
there will be autocorrect
And for that I am
eternally grapefruit.

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert - (240) 344-8291, chiefmt@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
(H: 603-465-7611; C: 603-465-1040; bruce.moran@hotmail.com)

Junior Vice Commander: Paul Ricci
(215) 534-0634; Paul.Ricci@emc.com

Chaplain: Bruce Moran
603-465-1040; bruce.moran@hotmail.com

Adjutant: Greg d'Arbonne
(603) 672-5830; C: 978-604-8835; gdarbo6844@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.