



Hollis VFW

October 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 10

Serving Hollis and Brookline

Oct 2026

The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month at 7 PM (except for June on the fourth Sunday). 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=bIA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWTXMxZz09>
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: 18 October 2026 at 7:00 pm

September 20th Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. Eight members and two guests (Department Senior Vice-Commander and District 6 Adjutant Jason Kelley, Department 6 Commander and Hudson Post Commander Chuck Chapman) were present.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the August 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. Chris Lussier made a motion to accept the minutes as published, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. General Fund Deposits included: \$9.05 for Interest; Total deposits: \$9.05. Disbursements for the month were: \$250.00 to Traveler's for insurance; and \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; Total disbursements were \$570.00. The Relief

Fund Deposits included: none; Total Deposits: None. Disbursements: : \$510.00 for suggested Department donations; Total Relief Fund expenses: \$510.00. VENMO Deposits: None. Deductions: None. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved.

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. **(87 reports with 544 hours since 1 July).**

• **Benefits Advisor:** Nothing Reported.

• **Community Service:**

- 19 August, 2 September – Weekly Veterans Breakfast at Hollis Market Place Diner.
- 2 September – our members attended and supported a fundraiser for Operation Delta Dog with a visible presence as Hollis VFW Post 11373. Along with the Delta Dog element were other support organizations including Operation High Flight Hidden Battles and Holiday Cards 4 our Military Challenge.

Categories filled were Veteran Support and Community Service.

- **Americanism:**

- 26 August – In a unique international opportunity while overseas on business the Post Quartermaster had lunch with four Korean military Veterans (three Army one Navy) and had an enlightening dialogue about service in the US and the South Korean military.
- 2 September - Quartermaster participated in a public fundraising event for Operation Delta Dog in Hollis. He brought his 1942 Willys WW2 Jeep and trailer and had it on display. People took pictures with it and were told the history of the development of the Jeep for WW2. Audience was adults youths and scouts. Categories filled were Americanism, Youth, Veteran Support, and Teach Scout.
- 5 September - Quartermaster recognized all attending Veterans at a Labor Day event in Guilford NH. He then led the audience in a rousing rendition of God Bless America.

- **Youth Activities:**

- 2 September - Quartermaster participated in a public fundraising event for Operation Delta Dog in Hollis. He brought his 1942 Willys WW2 Jeep and trailer and had it on display. People took pictures with it and were told the history of the development of the Jeep for WW2. Audience was adults, youths, and scouts. Categories filled were Americanism, Youth, Veteran Support, and Teach Scout.

- **Legislative:** Nothing Reported.

- **Safety:** Nothing Reported.

- **Veterans and Military Support:**

- 22 August - Post sent a check to Department for \$30 each for the 17 suggested beneficiaries.
- 31 August - Post paid for monthly cleaning services for two elderly Veterans/members who need help with it.
- 2 September – Two members picked up our WW2 Veteran member and brought him to the weekly breakfast.
- 2 September – Four members attended and supported a fundraiser for Operation Delta Dog with a visible presence as Hollis VFW Post 11373. Along with the Delta Dog element

were other support organizations including Operation High Flight Hidden Battles and Holiday Cards 4 our Military Challenge. Categories filled were veteran Support and Community Service.

- 2 September – Member and Chaplain picked up our WW2 Veteran comrade and brought him and his wife to a hot dog fundraiser for Operation Delta Dog in Hollis. He used a wheelchair and enjoyed the many vendors and activities that were present.

- 4 September - Quartermaster did some shopping for our WW2 Veteran who can no longer drive.

- **Homeless Veterans:** Nothing reported.

- **Hospital:** Nothing reported.

- **National Home:** Nothing reported.

- **Voice of Democracy programs:**

- Schools are getting the word out. Link for entry forms – vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy for Voice of Democracy.

- **Patriot's Pen Program:**

- Schools are getting the word out. Link for entry forms – <https://vfw-org-hqagarhxahbybyd9.z01.azurefd.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Patriots-Pen-Entry-Form-Fillable.pdf?v=1&d=20260410T233718Z&la=en>

- **Teach Scout:**

- 2 September – Four members attended and supported a fundraiser for Operation Delta Dog with a visible presence as Hollis VFW Post 11373. Along with the Delta Dog element were other support organizations including Operation High Flight Hidden Battles and Holiday Cards 4 our Military Challenge. Categories filled were veteran Support and Community Service.

- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** Nothing Reported.

- **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 90.47% with 38 current members compared to prior year of 42 members. System shows 100% retention.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- George Robinson's nephew's, HM2 Nicholas Daly, deployment ended and on the way to his home station.
- Andy Seremeht is seeing doctors soon to investigate. He also has a cousin deployed in the Middle East. Keep him in our prayers.
- Stewart Jackson is doing okay but has some things to overcome.
- Jeff Smith's completed radiation treatment and is waiting until November for final results. Keep Jeff in our prayers.
- A veteran who is close to losing his insurance due to the condition of the property, is getting help from the Hollis-Brookline High School students and clubs to spruce up the property for him.

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:

- 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 inspection, nothing needs to be done. (CLOSED)
- 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. Mark Andrews thanked the Post for the previous donation and identified the use of the money donated and the objectives met. Chris Lussier provided the second payment of \$5000.00. We need details on how the money is being utilized for our records. (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 made after the tax forms are filed. (OPEN)

- 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 NH VFW District 6 Commander to issue the challenge to local posts. He also presented the challenge at the NH VFW District 6 meeting. Waiting for response from ODD for who has donated. Only one post has donated (\$1000) so far. (OPEN)
- Greg d'Arbonne fixed the door to the basement that was damaged during a break-in. Thanks to Arlene d'Arbonne for cleaning up the mess. Greg d'Arbonne will gather a list of costs for the repairs. Pat Moquin from Brookline American Legion Post 74 is working on the small claim's paperwork. (CLOSED)
- Need to start planning for the Veterans Day Ceremonies. Need to identify a guest speaker. Schools have provided dates for their Veteran events (OPEN)
- VFW needs to put a sign out front of the Legion Hall to identify our meeting place. Greg d'Arbonne will investigate the costs and design. (OPEN)
- District Dues are \$86.00 and are due by Oct District meeting. Paid. (CLOSED)
- Our dates for Gate City occur the week of Veterans Day in 8-16 November. We are considered a partner organization for their charitable gaming. They would like us to promote the event as much as possible. (OPEN)
- Donations to Department's 17 charities listed in the General Orders. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to donate up to \$650.00 divided among the required organizations, seconded by Bruce

Moran, and unanimously approved. Donations made. (CLOSED)

- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the WIFI costs for Post will be split between the American Legion and the VFW to support both organizations meetings as well as the security system up to \$500 annually, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler suggested we obtain wood Service plaques for the Post. (OPEN)
- Our annual District inspection was 20 Sep 2026 at 6:00 pm. (CLOSED)

Correspondence:

- Email from Paul Lloyd:
 - September Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
 - COA Minutes National Community Post Awards
 - Virtual Tax990 Training for VFW Posts
 - Patriot Day Proclamation 2026
 - Military & Veteran Campus Host Retired Sergeant Major Kasal
 - Military Academy Nominations-Congresswoman Goodlander
 - TCAVA Toolkit
 - An Invitation to Heroes & Horses — Exploring the Healing Power of the Human-Horse Connection
 - Employee Bond
 - National Convention Report
 - Follow-up from Vicki @ WOU
 - Exciting New Partnership: Ray-Ban Meta AI Glasses Program
 - Gary Sinise & the LT Band - Free Concert on September 24th.

New Business:

- For our dates at the Gate City Casino, Chris Lussier (actually, his wife) suggested we set up a table outside the casino on one of the days thanking folks for supporting our organization. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to support and potentially use Veterans Day afternoon to set up a table at the casino, seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved. Chris Lussier will reach out to the casino to see where we may be able to set up (inside or outside). We

also need their logo for printed materials. (OPEN)

- For Veterans Day, Chris Lussier will reach out to the transfer station to set up for Buddy Poppy distribution. (OPEN)
- DAV, regarding the Veterans Day Parade in Nashua, is asking for support for the event. Since Chris Lussier is key to the Hollis event and the weather may not be favorable for using his WWII Willys. He will support the Hollis Veterans Day ceremony. (CLOSED)
- DAR has an annual citizenship award for a high school student. We may want to consider doing something similar (springtime) from the VFW possibly with inputs from the faculty or adults helping with various school programs. (OPEN)
- Wreaths across Hollis event. Who is planning and should we consider supporting the event? (OPEN)

Good of the Order:

- Consider a donation for the Tommy Trot whose father helped us on the building of the Holiday Card Challenge headquarters for their fundraiser on October 24th. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to donate \$1000 to the Tommy Fund, seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved. We will decide the details on presenting the donation at the next meeting. (OPEN)
- Singing Vets performed at the Camp Resilience event, 18 September.
- Our post won the Department 1st Place Americanism award, and 3rd Place Hospital Award.
- Watch out for credit card skimmers.

District 6 Commander Chapman briefed the inspection results which had no findings. Kudos to the Quartermaster and Adjutant for their efforts. He also requested more Post members attend the Council District of Administration meetings to better represent the district at this quarterly Department meeting.

Department Senior Vice-Commander/District 6 Adjutant Kelly expressed his gratitude for the outstanding work and support of the Department. He announced he will be running for Department Commander next year and that

would be the only position he would hold for the year.

Closing: Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 18 October 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.

Oct 2026

- 18 October – Council of Administration meeting – Milton NH Post – 10:00 AM.
- 18 October – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 22 October – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 October – District 6 Meeting in Pelham at 10:00.

Nov 2026

- 10 November – Veterans events at the Hollis Upper and Lower Elementary Schools
- 11 November – Veterans Day Ceremonies, 11:00 AM at Hollis Congregational Church.
- 12 November – Hollis Brookline Middle School and High School events.
- 15 November – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 19 November – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Dec 2026

- 17 December – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 20 December – Hollis VFW 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.

If you know anyone who is eligible to become a member, encourage them to join and get involved. Our membership is aging and we need younger members to get involved to ensure we continue to have a collective voice in government decisions about veterans.

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.

Being a member of the VFW is not just about paying your dues. Get involved, attend meetings. We have ZOOM so you can attend from anywhere to find out what we are planning and doing!

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 cdrl1373@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.



VA Manchester Healthcare Orientation Open House

We invite you to VA Manchester to explore the variety of resources and services available for Veterans and their caregivers.

Join us for our Healthcare Orientation Open House to learn more! The following departments will have representatives there to answer your questions.

- Community Care
- Eligibility
- My HealtheVet
- Pain Clinic
- Mental Health
- Social Work
- Primary Care
- Specialty Care
- Women's Health
- Pharmacy
- Urgent Care
- And more!



Flu Vaccines will be offered onsite for Veterans - no appointment needed.

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and State of NH Veterans Service Officer (VSO) are onsite for enrollment, benefits, questions and support.



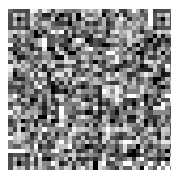
Thursday, October 15, 2026
3:00-6:00 p.m.

Manchester VA Medical Center
Eagle Entrance Lobby
718 Smyth Road, Manchester, NH 03104

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Manchester Healthcare System



Can't make it? Scan the QR code for our Patient Guide with healthcare department information and contact numbers for VA Manchester services.

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Manchester Healthcare System

Open HOUSE

and Ribbon Cutting *Laboratory Department*

You're Invited!



Location:

Manchester VA
Medical Center



718 SMYTH ROAD
MANCHESTER, NH 03104

Date:

Friday
October 16, 2026

Time:

11:00 a.m. to Noon

Meet up:

Laboratory
Third Floor
West & North Wing

Refreshments & Tour



VAMCMANPAO@VA.GOV