



Hollis VFW

October 2025 Newsletter

Vol. 35 Issue: 10

Serving Hollis and Brookline

October 2025

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=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: 19 October at 7:00 pm



September 21st Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 7 members and 1 guest 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 September newsletter and sent to all members and that topics will be reviewed in the meeting. Andy Seremeth seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. There was one deposit: \$6.92 from Interest; total deposits \$6.92. Disbursements for the month were: \$525.00 for Quartermaster bond renewal to \$150,000; \$95.00 to Jim Belanger for website; \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; \$86.00 District 6 dues; and \$250.00 for insurance renewal. Total expenses \$1,276.00. 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:

- District 6 Meeting – The district meeting focused on ways to improve membership, and program reporting. The Teacher of the Year nominations, Voice of Democracy (VOD), and Patriots Pen activities were highlighted. The VOD and Patriots Pen activities will all be done online through the Department of NH site.
- National Membership report from Paul Lloyd – 80%. Our post needs 9 Members to renew and three new members to join.
- Paul Lloyd – notification of Veterans Breakfast every other Sunday at the Franklin Post beginning 21 September.
- Email from Paul Lloyd notifying National Bylaws change. At the 126th National Convention, delegates adopted an

amendment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Bylaws that changes the official title of Post Service Officer and District Service Officer to Benefits Advisor.

This change becomes effective thirty (30) days from the adjournment of the National Convention.

All Departments, Districts, Posts, and VFW employees are directed to ensure this information is disseminated to the lowest organizational level. Further, all members and employees must take the necessary steps to update all correspondence, guides, websites, forms, catalogs, directories, training materials, and any other official documents they may have control of to reflect the new title in order to remain in compliance with the National Bylaws.

- Email from Paul Lloyd with September General Orders.
- Email from Paul Lloyd confirming receipt of Post 11373 Bylaws and being forwarded to National for approval.
- Chris Lussier to Pastor Tanya – request for Veterans Day usage of the church.
- Chris Lussier to Hollis Transfer station for 8 November for Poppy Drive.
- Email from Tevor Duvall about 3 November Vets in Classroom.

Committee/Program Reports: Reporting is now accessed through the VFVNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>.

- **Service Officer:** Nothing reported.
- **Patriot's Pen Program:** HBMS Social Studies teachers and the principal confirmed that they will once again be supporting the Patriots' Pen contest with the 8th grade. They have the theme.
- **Voice of Democracy programs:** The VOD theme was passed to Trevor Duval at HBHS to share with his Civics and AP U.S. History students and the Social Studies department.
- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** George Robinson gave the announcement to the HBHS

Guidance office for posting in Naviance as a scholarship opportunity.

- **Americanism:**

- 8 September – 6 Veterans attended Town Hall Community meeting to observe the CONSTITUTION WEEK Proclamation given to DAR by the Hollis Selectmen.

- **Community Service:**

- 8 September – 6 Veterans visited Freddie's wonderful Historic Tavern, 28 Main Street, for wine, cheese, sodas, snacks and fun socializing.
- 20 September – Bruce Moran, Kerry Spangler, and Chris Lussier participated in the Hollis Old Home Days parade presenting Chris Lussier's WWII era Willys.
- 3, 10, 17, and 24 September – Weekly Veteran's Breakfasts in Hollis with numerous veterans from the community.

- **Safety (Home/Fire):**

- 29 July - In alignment with 'Day of Service' members built 2 sets of steps to accompany a handicap access for a Vietnam Vet and his wife to prevent a fall.
- 29 August - Two sets of handrails were installed on two sets of porch steps of a veteran's home ensuring safe access to yard area.

- **Youth Activities:**

- 20 September – Several members talked with numerous kids about various facets of military service and life. Several recognized members from seeing us at the many school activities and programs we support. One of these in particular was recognizing Chris as the "Old Flag Presentation" he has done many times over the years. Many stated that our interactions with them gave them a new perspective on the military.

- **Legislative:**

- 22 August – A small private informal group session and breakfast (hosted by Dr. Laura Landeman-Garber and Dr. Ben Garber) met with NH US Senator Maggie Hassan and two of her staff. Dialog involved several veteran concerns presented to Senator Hassan. Included was a discussion of the retroactive

veterinarian support for service dogs for dogs provided by a non-accredited organization once accreditation is achieved (a nationwide problem. Also concerns for timely VA medical care were discussed. Government efficiency and National debt were also topics of discussion.

- 18 September – Franklin Military and Veterans Campus Ribbon Cutting – Kelly Ayotte talked with 4 Vets on current happenings.
- 20 September Discussions with Liz Barbour about local veterans programs and events.
- **Hospital:**
 - 18 September - Kerry Spangler visited Bob Smith in hospital.
 - 19 September - Chris Lussier and Bruce Moran visited Bob Smith in hospital.
- **Teach Scout:**
 - 20 September – Kerry Spangler and Chris Lussier instructed Scouts who participated in the Hollis Old Home Days Parade as the honor guard carrying the Colors and VFW Post Flag. The Scouts did a wonderful job.
- **Homeless Veterans:**
 - 18 September – 4 Members attended the Franklin Military and Veterans Campus Ribbon Cutting, tours and celebration.
- **National Home:** Nothing reported.
- **Veterans and Military Support:**
 - 18 September – Franklin Military and Veterans Campus Ribbon Cutting 4 Vets sang.

Membership: We are going to set up a membership table at the Hollis Old Home Days 20 September.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress: Nothing to report.

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:

- At the June meeting, George Robinson stated that with the Nation's 250th Birthday coming up next year, the Post should purchase banners celebrating this event and place them at the major crossroads in both Towns, a total of 8 banners. George will investigate costs, what needs to be done and permissions that are needed. It was agreed that he attend the select board meeting to discuss.
- George Robinson has not presented the 250th telephone pole banner idea to Hollis or Brookline yet because he wanted members to be aware of a better cost estimate before doing so. He requested a quote from a local vendor in Amherst, but doesn't have it, yet. He is also trying to track down the company that Bedford used for their town anniversary banners, which have held up well and retained their color for the last many months. The prices from online resources vary wildly, but the one he is most comfortable with is about \$145 per banner, including mounting hardware. That's about twice the cost anticipated when the idea was presented, so he doesn't think we should move forward with the offer to the towns until members can vote on an actual price...unless they're prepared to authorized "not to exceed \$1500 for 10 banners", which is a pretty high price tag. As soon as he has the 2 other quotes, he'll share them. (OPEN)
- Our Day of Service event (postponed from 3 May due to weather) steps were completed 29 July. Remaining work is handrails. The handrails were completed 29 August. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion for reimbursement to Chris Lussier \$429.50 for materials to complete the Bruce Moran Memorial Bridge project, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (CLOSED)
- Kerry Spangler proposed changes to the By-Laws to indicate meetings being the 3rd Sunday each month with the exception of 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 will be signed and Kerry Spangler will take to the District 6 Meeting in August for District Approval. Editor's Note: Bylaws were submitted to Department Adjutant Paul Lloyd.) (OPEN)

- Kerry Spangler has developed a spreadsheet to use as a checklist for all events being worked by the Post. Assistance in identifying all the components of all events will be required. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler met with the Gate City Casino coordinator to get the final dates for the Hollis VFW charitable gaming the week of September 9th. (OPEN)
- Membership staffing for the membership drive at Old Home Days. Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler will be there for the duration. Members will also participate in the Hollis Old Home Days parade. Kerry Spangler will bring applications to the drive. Need to ask the scouts to perform color guard. Kerry Spangler will reach out to George Robison to request the scouts. Chris Lussier will pick up the flags for display at the membership drive and Kerry Spangler will return them to the Post. (CLOSED)
- Veterans Day Ceremony will begin at 11:00, November 11th at the Hollis Community Church at Memorial Square. Greg d'Arbonne will be the master of ceremony and Chris Lussier will be the guest speaker. We also need to identify a guest speaker. It was recommended we keep the same timeframe and format as in the past Veteran's Day events. Greg d'Arbonne will be the Master of Ceremony, Chris Lussier will be the guest speaker. Chris will provide the PA, Greg will bring the lecturn. There are several activities at the schools with dates and times published in the October Newsletter.(OPEN)
- We need to renew the Quartermaster bond. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to increase the bond to \$150,000 from the current \$75,000. The motion was seconded by Mark

Andrews and unanimously approved. The bond was submitted and received. (CLOSED)

New Business:

- Inspection document preparations – Our inspection will occur at the November 16th meeting.
- Veterans Day School Ceremonies –
 - 3 November – HBHS Veterans in a Classroom – 7:40 am first session begins (Invitation Only)
 - 6 November – Veterans Day Events at HBMS & HBHS. Coffee and breakfast treats will be available starting around 7:45 a.m., and the assembly will begin approximately at 8:15 a.m. The high school plans for arrival around 9:30 a.m.
 - 10 November – Veterans Day Events at Hollis Primary School – 8:45 a.m. and Hollis Upper Elementary School - Pizza lunch at 1pm....program at 1:45pm.
 - 11 November – Veterans Day Events at 11:00 at the Hollis Community Church
- Teacher of the Year for 2025 – Nomination due to District by 19 October 2025. Decision was made on the candidate. Kerry Spangler will put the write-up together.
- Wreaths Across America Brookline - 13 December 2025. A link for donations for wreaths is on our Post Facebook page and in the flyer below.
- Operation Delta Dog Graduation is 5 November at 5:00 pm at the Lawrence Barn.
- Operation Delta Dog Gala is 18 October tentative attendees:

Mart Tigert	Mark Andrews
Kerry Spangler	Chris Lussier
Bruce Moran	Andy Seremeth +1
Pat Moquin +1	Greg d'Arbonne
Arline d'Arbonne	
- Poppy Drive 8 November
 - Hollis Transfer Station Schedule
 - 0800-1000 – Chris Lussier will help set up
 - 1000-1200 –
 - 1200-1400 –
 - 1400-1600 –

- Membership and Attendance incentives
 - Kerry Spangler made a motion for the Post to pay the first year membership dues for new members to welcome them. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
 - Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay lifetime memberships for any continuous members over the age of 65. Many over 65 are on limited income and possibly could have problems paying the annual dues. This would return us to what was done several years ago. Andy Seremeth seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

Good of the Order:

- Greg d'Arbonne commended Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler who have done an exceptional job at getting the Post Program reporting completed on the VFW Department of NH website.
- We still need to get project pictures to Jim Belanger to post on the website.

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, 19 October 2025, 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 2025

- 19 October – VFW District 6 meeting, 10:00 am, Pelham VFW.
- 19 October – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 23 October – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

Nov 2025

- 3 November – HBHS Veterans in a Classroom – 7:40 am first session begins (Invitation only)
- 5 November – Operation Delta Dog Graduation at the Lawrence Barn, 5:00 pm.
- 6 November – Veterans Day Events at HBMS & HBHS. Coffee and breakfast treats will be available starting around 7:45 a.m., and the assembly will begin approximately at 8:15 a.m. The high school plans for your arrival around 9:30 a.m.
- 10 November – Veterans Day Events at Hollis Primary School – 8:45 am, and Hollis Upper Elementary School - Pizza lunch at 1:00 pm...program at 1:45 pm.
- 11 November – Veterans Day Hollis Community Church at 11:00 am.
- 13 November – Holiday Card Challenge sorting event at Eversource
- 16 November – VFW Annual Inspection, 6:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 16 November – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 20 November – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.

Dec 2025

- 13 December – Wreaths Across America events.
- 21 December – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 18 December – 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.

Get VFW project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger for inclusion in the VFW website.

Please note the dates for all of the Veterans Day activities.

There are 4 chances in November to see the USAF band concert. Please see the flyers below.

What do soldiers want to know before getting married?

The rules of engagement.

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 240-344-8291 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.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AIRMEN OF NOTE *Fall Tour!*



FREE CONCERT!

Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7:00 P.M.

Winnacunnet High School

Hampton, NH



For more information and FREE registration, please visit: usairforceband.com

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AIRMEN
OF NOTE
Fall Tour!



FREE CONCERT!

Saturday, Nov. 15 at 7:00 P.M.

Hanover High School

Hanover, NH



For more information and FREE registration, please visit: usairforceband.com

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AIRMEN
OF NOTE
Fall Tour!



FREE CONCERT!

Sunday, Nov. 16 at 3:00 P.M.

Colonial Theatre

Keene, NH



For more information and FREE registration, please visit: usairforceband.com

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AIRMEN OF NOTE *Fall Tour!*



FREE CONCERT!

Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 P.M.

Central High School

Manchester, NH



For more information and FREE registration, please visit: usairforceband.com

**Wreaths Across America is coming to
Brookline!**

**Our goal is to place a wreath on all the
Veteran's graves this December. Please
consider sponsoring a wreath or giving
a cash donation.**

**Ceremony and Wreath Laying
December 13, 2025 12PM
Pine Grove Cemetery
To Sponsor a wreath(s)**

**<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>
/NH0052**



**WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA
Cash Donations**

accepted on Venmo:



**Questions or want to sign up to
help?**

Email:

wreathscrossbrookline@gmail.com