



# Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

*For God and Country*

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

## August 2025 Newsletter

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Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74, Brookline, NH meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month\* at 38 Main Street Brookline. Meetings begin at 1900 hours (7PM). \*Nov and Dec meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

You can attend via Zoom: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/6205759325?pwd=a1g1aVdna0djMjRFYThlQUlVb1grdz09>

Meeting ID = 6205759325; Passcode: ht3w6Z or,

One tap mobile = (646) 558-8656; Meeting ID = 6205759325#

If you wish to join or have questions about the American Legion, please call one of the Post Officers.

Visit our Facebook Page at: Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74 Brookline, NH

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### **Next Meeting:**

**28 August at 7:00 PM**

### **July Meeting Minutes**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Post Commander Will Collard. 14 members were present, in person or by Zoom, and three guests.

Colors advanced, prayers offered, POW/MIA empty chair recognized, Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble recited.

The American Legion Post 74 Charter was draped with the black cloth in memory of the passing of long-time member, Francis Lafreniere, in July. A solemn tribute and prayer were offered.

Lynn Giblin, representing the Brookline Wreaths across America, announced a fundraiser selling take-home meals (\$20 each) on 7 Sept to help pay for the 300 wreaths for the December Wreaths across America event. Requesting donations of desserts to support the event. Bob Glover made a donation in honor of Francis LaFreniere.

**Minutes:** Bruce Moran moved to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes since they were published in the newsletter and sent to all the members. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Arlene d'Arbonne presented the Treasurer's Report. The General

Fund Expenses reported: \$21.80 to Eversource; 31.50 to NH Department for Dues; 42.71 for new tarp and tie downs for Flag burning pit; 126.92 for flowers for Francis LaFreniere; and \$173.92 for flowers for Marilyn Canada; totaling \$396.85. Deposits reported: \$35.00 for Brian Denehy dues; \$115.00 from for VFW portion of Zoom account; \$10.50 from Department for dues paid online; totaling \$160.50. Chris Lussier moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved.

**Department Vice-Commander Paul Evans addressed the membership.** He provided thanks from the NH Department Commander for our efforts. NH Department is investigating support for providing online gaming to help entice younger veterans to join as well as help with mental illness associated with the veteran community. X-box and Playstation gaming stations require significant investment that could help veterans with difficulties to have an avenue for support. Continue doing Buddy Checks. He also praised us for having our online ZOOM account to allow members who cannot attend a way to participate. Members attending online also have a vote on Post matters. He noted that as a small Post we have the biggest impact and we actually have better attendance than other larger posts. He also provided our package of 2026 membership cards. He also informed us of the project USA Challenge 250. Three pronged approach, mental health, physical health and

spiritual health. A year-long program used to raise money to help with the Veteran's and Children's fund at the National Level. We can sign up online at the Legion.org site.

**Membership:** Four members have 2025 membership fees due. Kerry Spangler will notify each member of the dues required. Please pay dues as soon as possible. Current membership is 60 members (56 Active/4 Expired/0 Pending). Please note: if the three-year option is selected, the member will receive their membership card for one year but the membership system shows the three-year enrollment.

**Sick Call and Employment:**

- Bobbie Canada's wife, Marilyn, sadly passed away on 27 June 2025.
- Greg d'Arbonne has been cancer-free for 5 years.
- Bruce Moran had squama cell carcinoma removed 15 July.

**Old Business:**

Monument: Greg d'Arbonne and Bill Graham picked up the bricks. Earth's Echo, LLC installed them June. Remaining obligations – identify American Legion past deceased members to add to the walkway. We have about 200 bricks in the basement. (Open)

Gutters on the Post Building: Sandbags are in. May want to consider a way to deflect water from the outhouse roof away from the building. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to spend up to \$150.00 to purchase materials to install gutters on the outhouse section of the building, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Jim says he may have enough materials to accomplish. (Open)

Bruce Moran Memorial Bridge: Remaining work includes rails around the porch and steps down to the yard on the sides. Planned completion for 27 July 2025 (Editor's Note: Chris Lussier completed the steps on each side of the porch. Hand rails need to be added at a date to be determined.) (Open)

Flag Retirement –Flag Retirement completed 21 Jun 2025 at 10:00 am. Pit needs to be cleaned and flag remains buried. (Editors Note: The Pit has been emptied. There is a bucket of remains

to be buried at the cemetery. New tarp and tie downs installed. Jim Pope cleaned out the slag and painted the pit.) (Open)

Charitable Gaming – The paperwork was submitted and rejected due to the Post being dropped off of the NH Secretary of State's organization list. Secretary of State sent out the forms to get us back on their roster. Waiting for approval. (Open) Also, Chris Lussier introduced Kerry Spangler to the Gate City coordinator as and introduction for the Brookline Post. There is a team of folks who ultimately approve the dates for gaming.

Greg d'Arbonne is framing four print copies of the paintings by Jim Laurier who has many military-based paintings. Plans on working them after the US Army 250th Birthday event. (Open)

Scouts Spaghetti Dinner completed on 31 May. Kerry Spangler made a motion that we reimburse our share of the proceeds back to the Scouts, seconded by Gregd'Arbonne because we are in fairly good financial shape this year. Motion was unanimously approved. Greg will give the check back to them after they give it to him. (Open)

Greg will print out the American Legion Eagle Scout certificates for the two Troop 12 Scouts. (OPEN)

Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to purchase a replacement tarp and tie downs for the Flag burn pit up to \$100.00 seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN)

POW/MIA flag is tattered. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to purchase a replacement flag for up to \$100.00, seconded by Bruce Moran through the American Legion supply store. Arlene will place the order for it and a grave marker for Francis LaFreniere which was approved at a special meeting. (OPEN)

**Correspondence:**

- Kerry Spangler has sent several emails to Department American Legion Adjutant with regard to the address being incorrect on the "Find a Post" search on their web page. Our Post indicates that we are located in Manchester NH. A search for Brookline presents Milford and Nashua. Kerry Spangler submitted a Post Data Report to make the

change on 19 June. (Editor's Note: Kerry Spangler sent an additional inquiry for making the change on 8 Jun. Address is still incorrect as of 10 July. He also sent an email too National on 17 August and the address was corrected on 19 August)

- Letter requesting additional Veteran Service Officers around the state.
- Email from Paul Evans informing of visit to our meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- Veterans Day ceremonies coming soon. Need to begin scheduling. (OPEN)
- All of the Veteran Monuments in Brookline have now been added to the online National Registry of Monuments. Legion.org/memorials to view.(Closed)

#### **For the Good of The Post:**

Route 13 traffic changes upcoming to try to reduce accidents.

Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler attended and lead the motorcade for PFC Curly's remains to be buried in Laconia, NH. Attendance and participation by the local and state was phenomenal.

July 4th parade was a success and well attended by our members.

Rogene Porter's 100th birthday celebration happening soon in Milford with 5 Vets singing "HAPPY BIRTHDAY".

Tony Mayfield needs a date and time for Poppy Sales at the plaza with the liquor store in Brookline to get us schedule for setting up. (OPEN)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM. The next meeting is 28 August 2025.

## **News For & From Members**

### **Calendar of Events**

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

#### **Aug 2025**

- 10 August – Operation Delta Dog Fundraiser at Able Ebenezer in Merrimack NH (1300-1600).
- 17 August: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 28 August: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

#### **Sep 2025**

- 11 September - Patriot Day / 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony. Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 11 a.m. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Donna Hastings, American Red Cross Volunteer
- 19-20 September – Hollis Old Home Days including Membership Drive.
- 21 September: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 25 September: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

#### **Oct 2025**

- 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.

#### **November 2025**

- 11 November: Veterans Day Ceremonies
- 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.

### **Please Make Sure You Renew Your Membership 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). There is also now a 3-year option. You can renew at a meeting, or you can renew online (My Legion.org), 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 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 M. 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.**

**Invite other veterans to our meetings so they can see what we are all about.**

**Get any Brookline American Legion project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger for inclusion in the Brookline American Legion website.**

**Buddy Checks for our members need to be done more timely.**

### **Post Officers**

**Commander:** Will Collard - wdcollard@hotmail.com

**1st Vice Commander:** Pat Moquin

603-465-9593; moquininc@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Arlene d'Arbonne

603-533-8590; attilathemom@aol.com

**Sergeant at Arms:** Jim Pope

603-673-1660; jimpope031@gmail.com

**2nd Vice Commander:** Chris Lussier

603-591-3505; clussier@tds.net

**Chaplain:** Bruce Moran

603-465-1040, bruce.moran@hotmail.com

**Adjutant:** Kerry M. Spangler

603-233-0266; KSpang8393@aol.com

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