



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

August 2026 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting:

27 August at 7:00 PM

23 July Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by - Commander Will Collard. 10 members were present, in person or by Zoom, and no guests.

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

Minutes: Bruce Moran moved to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes since they were published in the newsletter sent to all the members and that we will be covering all items from the minutes during the meeting. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Arlene d'Arbonne presented the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund Deposits reported: \$35.00 from Jim Pope for dues, \$436.91 from VFW for heating oil, \$84.95 from VFW for Zoom, totaling \$556.96. Expenses reported: \$26.74 to Eversource; totaling \$26.74.. The Monument Fund Expenses included: None. Deposits included: None. Bruce Moran moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Bob Glover, and unanimously approved.

Membership: 3 members have 2026 membership fees due, and 22 members have 2027 membership fees due. Current

membership is 56 members (53 Active/8 PUFL; 21 expiring in 2026, 32 with 2027 dues or later; 3 due for 2026 Expired; 0 Pending). Reminder that membership fees are \$40.00 as of 1 July 2026. Please note: Only the members can renew for 3 years online. If renewing by mail, only submit the renewal for 1 year. If the three-year option is selected, the members will receive their membership card for one year, but the membership system shows the three-year enrollment. Notices should be arriving for 2027 membership renewal.

Sick Call and Employment:

- Harold Ryder has dementia. Keep Harold in your prayers.
- Jeff Smith is nearly finished with his radiation treatment. Keep him in our prayers.

Old Business:

- Monument: Remaining obligations – identify American Legion past deceased members to add to the walkway. Kerry Spangler is working on the list and has about 167 area veteran names. So far, only 12 have been confirmed to have been Brookline American Legion Members. We need to check to see who of the 12 already have bricks at the monument. We also need to get bricks engraved for those who have applied over the year. Kerry Spangler has pulled the files of the members and the current bricks and will compare to identify those needing bricks. (OPEN)
- Charitable Gaming – The paperwork was submitted and accepted adding the Post to the

NH Secretary of State's charitable organization list. We will now wait to see if we can get into one of the casinos schedules. We need to reapply and apply to all casinos available for 2027. (OPEN)

- Oratorical Contest – We need to investigate participating with the schools for this contest. Since the District and Department only needs names for participants early and the competition at District is in January; Department is in March, we may be able to get them involved. Monetary awards are available at each level. Department is working with the Governor to make this part of the Civics curriculum in the schools. Greg d'Arbonne has the email information for the new HBHS principal. We will work toward implementing next school year. Contest starts in September with submitting names of those wishing to participate, but actual writeups are due in December. Department will post new instructions for 2026 (OPEN)
- Boys State and Girls State events need to be communicated to the high school to get participation in the event. The events usually occur in June. (OPEN)
- If we set up a Venmo account, it needs to be done with a charitable profile versus business profile done through PayPal and linked to the Venmo account. PayPal needs the Federal ID to proceed. Arlene d'Arbonne will provide the number to Will Collard. (OPEN).
- America's 250th Birthday events in both Hollis and Brookline went very well. (CLOSED)
- The Post building basement was broken into through the rear door and discovered on 12 April. Greg d'Arbonne repaired the door and the following day, 13 April, it was broken into through the rear door again. The second time, the Scout candles were burned and melted all over the floor and the intruder also defecated and urinated on the floor. Brookline Police Department was contacted both times. The door was once again repaired, and the mess was cleaned by Arlene d'Arbonne. (CLOSED)
- • The juveniles were caught by Brookline PD. We need to capture our costs and file a claim for the repairs and cleanup in

small claims court. Pat Moquin will gather the information. Certified letter to officer and request payment for repairs. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion for Pat Moquin to take the lead and pursue the reimbursement, seconded by Chris Lussier, and unanimously approved. (OPEN)

- The Post needs to look at getting an intrusion detection system with local alarm for deterring breaking. Will Collard said he will donate a Ring Camera System but that we will need to investigate internet access to support it. It has a local alarm siren, keypad, 3 door sensors, motion sensor, but no cameras. T-Mobile seems to be the best Wi-Fi option. We may want to look at floodlight/cameras for the front. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to purchase a WiFi system at less than \$50.00 monthly, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Will Collard will get the system. Chris Lussier made a motion to suspend business for VFW members to discuss splitting the cost of the WiFi with the Post, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Business resumed. VFW will split the cost of the WIFI for mutual use. (OPEN)
- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to conduct the Flag Retirement Ceremony on 13 Jun at 10:00, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Ceremony was completed and all flags disposed. BAE thanked us for disposition of the flags they had collected. Kerry Spangler donated buckets for use to empty the ashes and will complete that as soon as possible. (OPEN)
- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to spend up to \$300 for storage shelves seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler will purchase the shelves. Actual cost was \$139.96. (CLOSED)
- Potential awards from Department:
 - Department Community Service Award
 - Post Service Work Award
 - Post Flag Education Narrative Report Form
 - Post Website of the Year Form
 - Post Blood Donor Report
 - Post Americanism Narrative Report Form
 - Department Publicity Award

- Post Publication Publicity Award
- Post History Yearbook Contest Instructions & Rules
- The Zoom renewal cost increased to \$169.90 and was renewed in August. (OPEN)
- Will need to start planning for Veterans Day events and activities. (OPEN)

Correspondence:

- Electric bill from Eversource.
- Zoom renewal bill.
- Email from Brookline Women's Club inviting us to participate in the Block Party 15 Aug.
- Facebook post from Bob Ballentine in District 2 – He is resigning all of his District positions. More to follow.

New Business:

- Brookline Ambulance Service is dedicating their training room in the name of Bobbie Canada on 15 August at 12:00 PM. Singing Vets will sing the National Anthem, USAF song and others. (OPEN)
- Brookline Town Block Party on 15 August from 5-9 PM. Greg d'Arbonne, Kerry Spangler and Pat Moquin will set up a table and solicit members.
- Tom Fencil and Kerry Spangler visited a widow of a Veteran who passed away. Scattering of

ashes at his home will occur 6 Sep at the home. Looking for a rifle detail. Kerry Spangler will reach out to the Pelham posts to see if they can support. (OPEN).

For the Good of The Post:

- Rabbi Jon Savett-Shapiro sent a thank you letter for our recognition of the Memorial Day activities at their cemetery. He would like to set up an interfaith gathering to share and socialize, and he has a grant that can be used for it. Details to follow. Chris Lussier replied to the request and will be the central contact for the event. Tentatively scheduled for 11 August.
- 12 July, the Singing Vets Sang the service songs at the SWAM event at Tuscan Village in Salem.
- 26 July, the Singing Vets will sing at the Miss New Hampshire Competition.
- Post needs to look at developing a Post Everlasting book which many posts have, that possibly an Eagle Scout candidate could begin to assemble for our Post.
- Conduct and document Buddy Checks to ensure our membership is doing okay.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. The next meeting is 27 August 2026.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

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

Upcoming events

Aug 2026

16 August – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

23 August – VFW District 6 Meeting Hudson Post

27 August – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Sep 2026

20 September – Hollis VFW District Annual Inspection 6:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

20 September– Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

24 September – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Oct 2026

19 October – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

22 October – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Nov 2026

15 November – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

18 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 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.

Get any Brookline American Legion project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger for inclusion in the Brookline American Legion website and to Kerry Spangler for inclusion in the Monthly Newsletter.

Buddy Checks for our members need to be done more frequently.

**Kerry Spangler
Adjutant**

Post Officers

Commander: Will Collard - wcollard@hotmail.com

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