



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

February 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=a1g1aVdna0djMjRFYThIQUlVb1grdz09>
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:

26 February at 7:00 PM

January 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: Greg d'Arbonne presented the Treasurer's Report that was submitted by the Finance Officer. The General Fund Deposits reported: \$35.00 for Jim Pope dues; \$105.00 for John Weidman dues; \$35.00 for Pat Moquin dues; \$105.00 for Bill Graham dues; \$35.00 for Fred Courchaine dues; \$35.00 for Joe Grable dues; \$105.00 for Jim Belanger dues; \$35.00 for Carl Delorenzo dues; totaling \$490.00. Expenses reported: \$33.11 to Eversource; \$189 to Department of NH/National for dues; \$86.70 for Postage Stamps; \$2875.76 for insurance coverage; totaling \$3,184.57. The Monument Fund Expenses included: None. Deposits

included: None. Bruce Moran moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, pending audit, seconded by Pat Moquin, and unanimously approved.

Membership: Two members have 2025 membership fees due. 5 members have 2026 membership fees due. Kerry Spangler notified each member of the required dues via emails and letters. Current membership is 58 members (55 Active/8 PUFL/42 with 2026 dues or later, 5 due for 2026, 3 Expired/0 Pending). Sent transfer paperwork to the four Post 200 folks living in Hollis Brookline area with return envelopes to approve the transfer. Notified those members of the increase in membership fees to \$40.00 for 1 July 2026. Please note: 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.

- January birthdays: John Weidman, Bruce Moran, and Andy Seremeth.
- February birthdays: Arlene d'Arbonne, William Dunbar, Tony Mayfield, Dean McCollaum, Daniel Vezina
- March birthdays: Jim Belanger, Richard Coutermarsh, Brian Denehy

Sick Call and Employment:

- Harold Ryder has dementia. He has asked if we would perform honors when he does pass away.

- Bobbie Canada – Has been in hospital since 20 Jan. (Editor's Note - He was moved to hospice on 6 February. We performed a pinning ceremony on 9 February with 25 people present, and he subsequently passed away on 10 February.)
- John Weidman has surgery next week at Elliot Hospital.
- Bob Glover's arthritis is affecting his ability to travel. Kerry Spangler will contact him to see how he is doing.
- Tony Fowler had back surgery and is doing okay. He has staples in his back that will be removed soon.

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 veteran names. So far, only 12 have been confirmed to have been American Legion Members. If longer term members could look at the list to see if they recognize and past members from the list. We have about 200 bricks in the basement. Greg d'Arbonne will take a look at the list to confirm any other past members.(OPEN)
- Gutters and Sandbags for the Post Building: 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. Gutters will need to be purchased and installed. (OPEN)
 - The Scouts Troop 260 filled 20 sandbags with sand for placement around the rear basement door. Sandbags are in place and we will assess from there.(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. (OPEN)
- Insurance – Greg d'Arbonne received a final quote from Leo Paquin. Greg forwarded the quote to Pat Moquin for review.
 - The coverage is for building coverage, liability, and contents. DNO coverage is common for 501c(3) to protect the officers of the post (\$100.00). Discussion included what coverage we need and how to proceed. It was decided that the equipment coverage rider is not advantageous. The quote for the policy with DNO is \$2875.76 per year. Chris Lussier made a motion to purchase insurance with DNO with the quote received as soon as possible, seconded by Bill Graham and unanimously approved for \$2875.76. We also need clarification on what constitutes "Special Events" regarding our coverage. The policy does include the Scout Troop and VFW meetings. We will evaluate this and other policies over the next year to see if there are better options. (OPEN)
 - Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to ask the VFW to share the cost of the building insurance (2875.76) less the DNO coverage (100.00) totaling \$2775.76 (\$1387.88) since they rely on the availability of the building for their use. The motion was seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Check was approved by the VFW and received from the VFW. (CLOSED)
- Bill Graham mentioned that we may want to improve the storage conditions in the basement. We need to look at getting shelves or storage lockers for storing items. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that we investigate storage possibilities in preparation for the spring cleaning of the basement in March 2026. Bruce Moran seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. We will work with the Scouts to coordinate the spring cleaning. Kerry Spangler will research the costs of storage shelving or lockers. One item required is a metal container for the flags being stored for disposition. The cost of storage equipment should be around \$500.00. (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. (OPEN)

- NH Department Commander's Special Project with continued focus on children is the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Elm Street in Manchester. All funds will be used for NH people only. Each wish can cost up to \$5,000 - \$15,000. There were 100 wishes last year. Some of those included relatives of Veterans. Make a kid smile. Pat Moquin made a motion to donate \$250.00 to the Commander's Special Project, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Arlene d'Arbonne will send a check. Information is on the Department of NH website. (OPEN)
- Since National dues are increasing by \$5.00 to 36.50, we need to increase our annual dues to at least cover the National cost. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to increase the annual dues to \$40.00 effective 1 July 2026. The motion was seconded by Bruce Moran and was unanimously approved. Folks who have used the 3-year option will not be required to pay the difference. Kerry Spangler will notify the Department via Post Data Report for the increase. Because there was no reply, the report was resent to District for input 22 January. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler made a motion to pay the annual membership dues for 3 years for Sister Zore at a cost of \$105.00 instead of paying them yearly. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. (OPEN)
- Bill Graham suggested that we make a budget so that we can ensure we cover all obligations throughout the year. Greg d'Arbonne and Arlene d'Arbonne will set up Quicken to develop our budget for 2026. (OPEN)

- Kerry Spangler made a motion to pay the annual membership dues for 3 years for Sister Zore at a cost of \$105.00 instead of paying them yearly. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. (OPEN)
- Bill Graham suggested that we make a budget so that we can ensure we cover all obligations throughout the year. Greg d'Arbonne and Arlene d'Arbonne will set up Quicken to develop our budget for 2026. (OPEN)

Correspondence:

- Letter from Brookline Lions Club expressing thanks for supporting community veterans and made a donation of \$1000.00 to the post.
- Electric bill from Eversource.
- Dues from Jim Belanger and Rich Zore.

New Business:

- Post reports and forms are coming due. We need a Scout report for the year. (OPEN)
- Elections will be happening soon. Nominations need to be made at the next meeting. (OPEN)
- Need to identify delegates to the convention. (OPEN)
- Veterans in the classroom at the schools will be happening soon. (OPEN)
- Memorial Day events planning needs to begin. (OPEN)
- 250th events are being planned in both Hollis and Brookline. More details as they are identified. (OPEN)

For the Good of The Post:

- Kerry Spangler was going through old records and paperwork and found a program from an EOD Memorial Ball and Service where the names of EOD personnel were added to the memorial. Ironically, Alan Soifert's name was placed on the memorial for the Marine Corps at that event. And now, 42 years later, Kerry Spangler is now involved in continually preserving the memory of Alan Soifert at the Temple Beth Abraham Cemetery. The world is a very small place.

- Conduct and document Buddy Checks to ensure our membership is doing okay.
- We need to capture various events that need to be documented on our annual Consolidated Post Report. Topics include Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Media and Communications, Veterans Employment

and Education, Americanism, Children and Youth, Internal Affairs and Membership, and Community Service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM. The next meeting is 26 Feb 2026.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

Feb 2026

- 15 February – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 26 February – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Mar 2026

- 13 March – K-9 Veterans Day
- 15 March – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 26 March – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 29 March – National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Apr 2026

- 9 April – Former POW Recognition Day
- 19 April – VFW District 6 Meeting 10:00 am at the Derry Post
- 19 April – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 April – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

May 2026

- 16 May – US Armed Forces Day
- 17 May – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 May – Veterans Day
- 28 May – 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.

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.

What did the pilot say to the co-pilot when they flew faster than the speed of sound?

“WHAT DID YOU SAY?”

**Kerry Spangler
Adjutant**

Post Officers

Commander: Will Collard - wcollard@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

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.