



Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74

For God and Country

• 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033•

July 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:

23 July at 7:00 PM

25 June Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by 2nd Vice-Commander Chris Lussier. 11 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. Tony Fowler 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 Pat Moquin for dues, totaling 35.00. Expenses reported: \$31.34 to Eversource; 159.96 for reimbursement for storage shelves (139.96) and Department Delegate fees (\$20.00), \$873.83 to Lorden Oil, totaling \$1065.13. 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 35 members have 2027 membership fees due. Current membership is 56 members (53 Active/8 PUFL; 35 expiring in 2026, 10 with 2027 dues or later; 3 due for 2026 Expired; 0 Pending). Reminder that the increase in membership fees to \$40.00 occurs 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.

The Post received 100% membership Silver Star awards from Department for 2026 at the convention. Also have 25- and 26-year membership star pins for Greg d'Arbonne, Alfred Courchaine, Carl DeLorenzo, and Ed Zadavec.

Sick Call and Employment:

- Harold Ryder has dementia. Keep Harold in your prayers.
- Bob Glover's brother David passed away last week. Condolences to the family for their loss.
- Jeff Smith is about halfway through his radiation treatment. Keep him in our prayers.
- Tony Fowler has cardio myopathy but has no symptoms other than blood pressure.

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. (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)
- Last year, Bill Graham mentioned that we may want to improve the storage conditions in the basement. The VFW and American Legion equipment will require two storage shelves units to hold the stored items and retiring flags. The cleanup occurred on the day of the Flag Retirement Ceremony, 13 June. Pat Moquin brought sand and kindling. Two shelf units were purchased by Kerry Spangler for \$139.96 for use for storage. The Air Conditioning compressor unit was disposed of and cost \$15.00 because of potential freon. (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.
- 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. Post data report sent 20 Dec 2025. Because there was no reply, the report was resent to District for input 22 January. It was again submitted 1 May. 1 July, the dues increase was posted on the American Legion site. (CLOSED)

- Memorial Day –
 - Tony Mayfield set up the poppy sales at the liquor store plaza. Day was a success.
 - 8:00 - 12:00 – Tony Mayfield/Pat Moquin
 - 12:00 - 2:00 – Chris Lussier/Will Collard
 - Cemetery Flags were replaced Saturday 23 May.
 - Poppy Sales – Brookline Transfer Station 23 May
 - 8:00-10:00 – Bob Glover/Pat Moquin, Dean McCallaum
 - 10:00-12:00 – Arlene d'Arbonne/Greg d'Arbonne
 - 12:00 - 2:00 – Kerry Spangler/Pat Moquin, Tom Fencil
 - 2:00 - 4:00 – Pat Moquin, Kerry Spangler, Tony Mayfield
 - Brookline Ceremony started at 9:30 am, Event was a success even with the rain. (CLOSED)
- 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 are being planned in both Hollis and Brookline. The parades begin at the same time.
 - Hollis ceremony kicks off at 10:00.
 - Brookline Parade – be at post by 9:30 am . Parade step off at 10:00
- 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. (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. (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)

Correspondence:

- Electric bill from Eversource.
- Department of NH – Bronze Star for 100% membership for 2025 and membership and 25-year pins brought by the Sr Vice-Commander.
- Email from Wayne Perra for the Convention agenda

New Business:

- Bob Glover made a motion to ask the VFW to pay one-half of the Oil Bill (\$431.96), seconded

by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN)

- 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 will be renewed in August.
- Will need to start planning for Veterans Day events and activities. (OPEN)

For the Good of The Post:

- Acknowledgement to Tony Mayfield for getting us the liquor store location for poppy drive. We are already set up for the upcoming Veterans Day.
- 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.
- 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.
- On 7 July, the PFC Norcross remains will be buried at Boscawen.
- On 12 July, the Singing Vets will be singing the service songs at the SWAM event at Tuscan Village in Salem
- Conduct and document Buddy Checks to ensure our membership is doing okay.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting is 23 July 2026.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

Jul 2026 –

- 4 July – Parades at Hollis and Brookline – 1000
- 12 July – 5 Vets singing at Swim with a Mission Gala.
- 19 July – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 July – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Aug 2026

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

Sep 2026

- 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

- 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

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

1st Vice Commander: Pat Moquin

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Treasurer: Arlene d'Arbonne

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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

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Adjutant: Kerry M. Spangler

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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.



TIME: 2PM-SUNSET - Rain or Shine!!
We have a really big tent!!

INVITED: All Veterans and Active Service Members and their immediate families.
Proof of military service and pre-registration required.

Event and cookout are FREE!

Ride to the Summit for Sunset \$10.00 per person.
Tickets available at event only, first come, event attendees only.



DISTINGUISHED GUEST
Captain Robin Tyner
USN, Retired

and

Hike, Bike and Play at the Mt. Washington Auto Road
Military Resources · Amazing Cookout · Music and Prizes
Sunset Ride to the Top of Mt. Washington

CALL 603-915-1246 TO REGISTER

Questions or Donations, please contact:

Al or Kate Duncan (603) 915-6867 or (603) 915-1246



*This year's event is dedicated to
Women in the Military
Past and Present*



*Presented by
Volunteers for Veterans Inc.
a 501c3 non-profit*