



Hollis VFW

August 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 8

Serving Hollis and Brookline

Aug 2026

The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month at 7 PM (except for June on the fourth Sunday). 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: 16 August 2026 at 7:00 pm

July 19th Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 10 members and no guests were present.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the June meeting minutes since they were published in the newsletter and sent to all members and that topics will be reviewed in the meeting. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. General Fund Deposits included: \$9.67 for Interest; Electronic deposit from National: 3.50; Total deposits: \$13.17. Disbursements for the month were: \$196.00 for Hollis Post Office box renewal; \$84.95 to Brookline American Legion Post for Zoom account, \$436.91 to Brookline American Legion Post for heating oil; and \$50.00 to NH Lottery for Gaming application; Total disbursements were \$767.86. The Relief Fund Deposits: none; Total Deposits: None. Disbursements: None; Total Relief Fund expenses: \$0.00. VENMO Deposits: None.

Deductions: None. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved. The Quarterly trustees report is ready for review and signature.

Correspondence:

- Email from Tanya Prather thanking us for the Service Flags for the "We Honor Vets" ceremonies.
- Email from Paul Lloyd:
 - July Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
 - National Community Post Awards
 - Electric Scooter for Veteran
 - Hill Mobilization Toolkit
 - Gov Ayotte directs flags to Half-Staff for Passing of Lindsay Graham.
 - Rally at the Capitol. Stop believing in Santa Claus and let's do the work afforded by our constitution and peacefully assemble to protest TCAVA.
- Email from District 6 Commander – Our inspection date is 20 September.

- Brookline Women's Club – Town wide celebration on 15 August 5-9 pm offering us the opportunity to set up a table. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion seconded by Chris Lussier to setup a table for the VFW and American Legion as a membership drive.
- Operation Delta Dog invitation to have a table 2 Sep 4-7 pm at their hot dog event.
- Brookline Ambulance is dedicating a room to Bobbie Canada and is asking the 5 Vets to sing at the dedication, 15 Aug at 12:00.
- We received an anonymous donation check in the mail.
- Receive a notification from District 6 about a spam email that looked like a member sent it. Do not open it.

Committee/Program Reports: : Reporting is now accessed **through** the VFWNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>. These reports include any submitted since last meeting. **(221 reports to 30 June with 1578 hours of service; 19 Reports for 48 hours from July 1).**

• **Service Officer:**

- 18 July - Talked to Sandy Dugan and Tanya Prather from Home Health and Hospice about VSO contact information.
- Eagle Scout support.

• **Community Service:**

- 1 July – Weekly Veterans' breakfast.
- 1 July – Discussed and planned upcoming social event with the Jewish Community.
- 4 July – Member provided PA system and services for Independence Day ceremony in Hollis Monument Square.

• **Americanism:**

- 2 July – Quartermaster met with 250th Celebration committee member to discuss the agenda and script for the opening ceremony which will be MC'ed by the QM. This will happen the morning of July 4th on the town square.
- 4 July – Post Chaplain delivered an emotional recitation of the poem 'They Call Me Old Glory'" to an audience of ~130 townspeople. Audience was adults and youths.

- 4 July – Quartermaster gave a presentation and history speech displaying his collection of rare and vintage US flags to the attendees at the July 4 ceremony. Audience was youths and adults. Boy Scouts assisted holding, presenting, displaying, and folding these artifacts. Flags included original 49 48 46 45 44 42 and 38-star flags.
- 4 July – Post Chaplain delivered the Invocation at the Hollis Independence Day ceremony.
- 4 July – Quartermaster led the entire Holman Stadium in a rousing and emotional singing of God Bless America prior to the fireworks display.
- 4 July – Quartermaster acted as MC for Independence Day Ceremony kicking off a week of 250th Anniversary events.

• **Youth Activities:**

- 4 July – Post Chaplain delivered an emotional recitation of the poem 'They Call Me Old Glory'" to an audience of ~130 townspeople. Audience was adults and youths.
- 4 July – Post Quartermaster and Chaplain coordinated and executed flag-raising and folding with the local Boy Scouts in the Hollis Independence Day ceremony.

• **Legislative:**

- 4 July - Post Quartermaster and Chaplain met with all three Legislative Representatives who delivered a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Plans were made also to meet and discuss issues important to Veterans

• **Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.

• **Veterans and Military Support:**

- 1 July – Quartermaster did some grocery shopping for an elderly member who can no longer drive.
- 1 July – Discussions with Operation Delta Dog about upcoming events to support.
- 1 July – Two members picked up WWII Veteran to attend the Weekly Veteran Breakfast.
- 1 July – Attended presentation of plaque from Holliday Card Challenge Program to the Market Place Diner for their continued outstanding support of the Weekly Veteran Breakfast.

- 4 July – Two members collaborated with the 'Holiday Cards 4 our Military' to solicit participation in writing cards for troops overseas.
 - 5 July – Quartermaster met with the director of the Holiday Cards 4 our Military over lunch to discuss upcoming mutual collaborations with Eversource Swim with a Mission and WMUR.
 - **Homeless Veterans:** Nothing reported.
 - **Hospital:** Nothing reported.
 - **National Home:** Nothing reported.
 - **Voice of Democracy programs:** This year's themes were identified (What has a Veteran taught you about America). It seems to be exclusive as to who will be able to support the programs. We need to bring this up at the District 6 meeting in August 23 in Hudson.
 - **Patriot's Pen Program:**
 - This year's themes were identified (What has a Veteran taught you about America). It seems to be exclusive as to who will be able to support the programs. We need to bring this up at the District 6 meeting on August 23 in Hudson.
 - **Teach Scout:**
 - 4 July - Quartermaster gave a presentation and history speech displaying his collection of rare and vintage US flags to the attendees at the July 4 ceremony. Audience was youths and adults. Boy Scouts assisted with holding, presenting, displaying, and folding these artifacts. Flags included original 49-, 48-, 46-, 45-, 44-, 42-, and 38-star flags.
 - **Military Descendant Scholarship:** George Robinson presented award to the winner, Genevieve Scales at the Senior Awards Ceremony (3 Jun) We are now waiting for her to submit her details so the check can be provided.
 - **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 95.45% with 42 current members compared to prior year of 44 members.
- Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:**
- Allison Butler's husband, Walter, is in Stage 4 cancer waiting for a surgery date. Prayers for her and her family.
 - George Robinson's nephew's, HM2 Nicholas Daly, deployment has been extended and is still currently deployed at sea. Let's keep him in our prayers.
 - Andy Seremeht has a cousin deployed in the Middle East. Keep him in our prayers.
 - Jeff Smith's has one more radiation treatment. Keep Jeff in our prayers.
 - Mark Andrews's wife is cancer free. They got all of it, no Chemo or Radiation needed. Tattoos for celebrating the news!
 - Andy Seremeth is doing well after his procedures.
- 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:**
- Members participated in the opening ceremony on the 4th of July beginning with a kickoff ceremony at Monument Square. Chris Lussier was the Master of Ceremony and Bruce Moran presented his "Old Glory" recitation. Both the Hollis event and the Brookline parade began at 1000. Those participating in the Brookline Parade met at Legion Hall with step off at 1000. Declaration of Independence was read at the ball fields after the parade. (CLOSED)
 - George Robinson stated the SSGT Alan H. Soifert Memorial monument at the Hollis-Brookline High School is beginning to lean forward. In the summer, we need to look at fixing the memorial by lifting it and providing a more solid base. A Scout has volunteered to take on the project. He has been asked to provide a list of materials and will work on the monument when the weather warms up. Upon inspection, we are not sure if it really needs to be done. May want to consider doing the landscaping around the monument for the Scout project. (OPEN)
 - Mark Andrews presented information on Operation High Flight (501 3c), a non-profit organization to support veterans, children's hospitals, first responders and inner-city youth through mentoring and other activities. Mark Andrews thanked the Post for the previous

- donation and identified the use of the money donated and the objectives met. Chris Lussier provided the second payment of \$5000.00. We need details on how the money is being utilized for our records. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier identified something about our Venmo account. It is currently set up as a business account and needs to be changed to a charitable account with a non-profit profile with PAYPAL. The change will be made after the tax forms are filed. (OPEN)
 - Operation Delta Dog thanked the Post by letter for being a 4-Star sponsor in 2025 and requested support in 2026 with their expansion of services. George Robinson suggested that we challenge other posts to donate and then match up to \$25,000 to potentially get more veterans served. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion for the adjutant to send the challenge to District 6 to donate with up to a \$25,000 match from Post 11373, seconded by George Robinson and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler will send an email to the NH VFW District 6 Commander to issue the challenge to local posts. He also presented the challenge at the NH VFW District 6 meeting. Waiting for response from ODD for who has donated. Only one post has donated (\$1000) so far. Kerry Spangler will bring it up again at the District 6 meeting. (OPEN)
 - Greg d'Arbonne fixed the door to the basement that was damaged during a break-in. Thanks to Arlene d'Arbonne for cleaning up the mess. Greg d'Arbonne will gather a list of costs for the repairs. Pat Moquin is working on the small claim's paperwork. (OPEN)
 - American Legion oil bill was received. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay half the cost, \$436.91, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (CLOSED)
 - ZOOM account is due in August \$169.95. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay half the cost, \$84.95, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (CLOSED)
 - Need to start planning for the Veterans Day Ceremonies. Need to identify a guest speaker. (OPEN)
 - VFW needs to put a sign out front of the Legion Hall to identify our meeting place. Greg d'Arbonne will investigate the costs and design. (OPEN)
- New Business:**
- District Dues are \$86.00 and are due by Oct District meeting. (OPEN)
 - Our dates for Gate City occur the week of Veterans Day in 8-16 November. We are considered a partner organization for their charitable gaming. They would like us to promote the event as much as possible.
 - The interfaith event is still in planning with the Jewish community and will be by invitation only.
 - Chris Lussier made a motion to formalize the special meeting request to spend the \$50.00 for the Charitable Gaming application, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved.
- Good of the Order:**
- At the SWAM gala at Tuscan Village, Salem NH, the Singing Vets sang the service songs.
 - Safety brief, wash vegetables, look for ticks after being outdoors.
 - ODD has a birthday party on 20 July at 3pm for one of their team.
- Closing:** Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 16 August 2026, 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.

Aug 2026

- 15 August - Bobbie Canada's Room Dedication ceremony at Brookline Ambulance, 12 pm.
- 15 August – Brookline Women's Club event at the baseball fields. Table for VFW and Legion.
- 16 August – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 August – District 6 meeting at Hudson VFW.
- 27 August – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Sep 2026

- 20 September – Hollis VFW 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

- 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

Nov 2026

- 11 November – Veterans Day Ceremonies.
- 18 November – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 22 November – 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.

If you know anyone who is eligible to become a member, encourage them to join and get involved. Our membership is aging and we need younger members to get involved to ensure we have a collective voice in government decisions about veterans.

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.

Being a member of the VFW is not just about paying your dues. Get involved, attend meetings. We have ZOOM so you can attend from anywhere to find out what we are planning and doing!

If you have email addresses for Hollis Town personnel, the @hollisnh.org are now all changed to @hollisnh.gov.

Get VFW project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger and/or to Kerry Spangler for inclusion in the VFW website and newsletter.

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 603-219-9963 cdrl1373@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander: Mark Andrews

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Quartermaster: Chris Lussier

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Service Officer: Bruce Moran

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Junior Vice Commander: George Robinson

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Chaplain: Bruce Moran

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Adjutant: Kerry Spangler

603-233-0266; KSpang8393@aol.com

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