



Hollis VFW

February 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 2

Serving Hollis and Brookline

February 2026

The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month at 7 PM. 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=b1A2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMXZz09>
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: 15 February 2026 at 7:00 pm

January 18th 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 December 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 account deposits included: \$23.13 from Interest; and a donation from The Masiello Family Foundation for \$1000.00; Total deposits: \$1023.13. Disbursements for the month were: \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; and \$165.00 for Patriot Pen Banquet for winner's family; Total expenses were \$485.00. The quarterly report was completed, and signatures will be done at the next Weekly Veterans Breakfast. (Editor's Note – The quarterly report was submitted to Department on 24 January) Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the

Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- A Donation from The Masiello Family Foundation in recognition of John Masiello's recent joining the military. A prayer for John Masiello was made for his safety in service.
- Bruce Moran received a letter from the Veterans Administration for the donation of the lap robes made by the St Joseph's Church women.
- Emails from Paul Lloyd:
 - January Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
 - Open House Sweepstakes.
 - Media Advisory
 - AED Familiarization training
 - Scholastic Banquet.
 - Patriot Pen Department Winners notification.

Committee/Program Reports: : Reporting is now accessed through the VFWNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>. These reports are the latest in each category. (123 reports to date with 1064 hours of service).

- **Service Officer:** Nothing to report
 - **Community Service:**
 - 24,31 December, 7,14 January – Weekly Veteran’s Breakfasts in Hollis with numerous veterans from the community.
 - **Americanism:**
 - Nothing reported.
 - **Youth Activities:**
 - 17 January – Jr Vice-Commander attended the Patriots Pen banquet to support the District/Department winner.
 - **Legislative:**
 - Nothing reported.
 - **Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.
 - **Veterans and Military Support:**
 - 15 January - Post Quartermaster and two past commanders attended a celebration of life for a local Veteran and friend who had passed away.
 - 23 January - Members visited WWII member on two occasions.
 - **Homeless Veterans:**
 - Nothing reported.
 - **Hospital:** Nothing reported.
 - **National Home:** Nothing reported.
 - **Voice of Democracy programs:** No submissions.
 - **Patriot’s Pen Program:** Department of NH third place was awarded to Sai Inakollu sponsored by District 6 and Post 11373. Sai and his family attended the banquet. Because we had a tie for first place for our post award, George Robinson made a motion to award both winners the first-place award of \$150.00 and the third-place award of \$50.00, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.
- Teach Scout:**
- Nothing reported.
- Military Descendant Scholarship:** George Robinson finalized the application to be given to the Hollis-Brookline High School, which is essentially the same as last year’s application with clarification on one question. The school had contacted George Robinson asking if we were doing the award this year and if they could get the application by the 30 January. It was

- agreed to provide the application to the school. The due date for submission is April 8th.
- **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 90.9% with 40 current members compared to prior year of 44 members.
- Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:**
- Nothing reported.
- 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:**
- Kerry Spangler proposed changes to the By-Laws to indicate meetings being the 3rd Sunday each month except for June being the 4th Sunday because of the conflict with Father’s Day. Jim Belanger seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler has drafted the changes and sent the draft with the monthly Newsletter for review for approval at the July meeting No comments received. Final copy signed and Kerry Spangler submitted to Department Adjutant Paul Lloyd. (OPEN)
 - George Robinson stated the SSGT Alan H. Soiffert 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. Sean Brady will check with the Scouts to see if they have someone who needs a project. (TABLED)
 - Citizen of the Year: Need to finalize nominees for vote in February. Freddie Olson, who has opened the Gould Tavern to the public and preserved the tavern’s history and memories, was nominated for consideration. (OPEN)
 - The Brookline American Legion Post 74 has now had to purchase insurance for the Post building at a cost of \$2875.76 per year. That amount is over half of the annual income of the post. Because the VFW uses the building as much as the American Legion, they are asking if the VFW could help pay for half of the building insurance cost of \$2775.76 (1387.88). Greg d’Arbonne made a motion to pay half the

insurance cost for coverage of the building. Bruce Moran seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Chris Lussier will give the check to the American Legion at their next meeting. (OPEN)

- District Meeting is 25 January at the Merrimack VFW Post. Kerry Spangler will assemble the district report for presentation at the meeting. (Editor's Note – Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather)(CLOSED)
- 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. The operation is looking for a store front and hangar space to support the program and is soliciting donations to support this program. A process is in place to identify folks that can be supported by the organization. Many methods are being investigated to obtain nominations. A-10 simulator is being built to support the Aviation 101 course as well as those that cannot fly in the airplanes. OHF is looking for a \$15,000 donation to support flying missions. Any of our donations will only support NH veterans. Primary support is for mental health counselling to be mindful of the present and not reflect on the past or worry about the future. Flights will occur March through October each year. OHF is also applying for grants while also looking for funds as a kickstart to operations. Other organizations, such as Easter seals, can nominate veterans to support. Funds are needed by end of March to begin flying operations in April and will be targeted towards veterans. Mark Tiggert made a motion to purchase 50 flights, seconded by Chris Lussier, amended to donate in three increments (\$5000, \$5000 and \$5000) as funds are available



seconded by Sean Brady, with first payment immediately, and the remaining to be voted on prior to each payment every other month which was unanimously approved. (OPEN)

New Business:

- Chris Lussier made a motion to reimburse Kerry Spangler \$78.00 for stamps for the VFW, seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved

Good of the Order:

- We received notice of our sponsored veteran and dog from Operation Delta Dog, Hershey and Avy who will graduate with the next class of ODD. Congratulations to Hershey and Avy and we look forward to attending the graduation ceremony.



- We still need to get project pictures to Jim Belanger to post on the website. Also, please send them to Kerry Spangler for use in the monthly newsletter.

Closing: Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 15 February 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**.

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

- 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

Apr 2026

- 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

- 17 May – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 28 May – 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.

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

**What happens when you eat too many Navy beans?
You end up with a dishonorable discharge**

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 603-219-9963 cdr11373@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander: Mark Andrews

603-732-6113; agav8r1997@gmail.com

Quartermaster: Chris Lussier

603- 465-2676; clussier@tds.net

Service Officer: Bruce Moran

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

Junior Vice Commander: George Robinson

540-809-8696; GMRobinson118@gmail.com

Chaplain: Bruce Moran

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

Adjutant: Kerry Spangler

603-233-0266; KSpang8393@aol.com

Post Mailing Address: VFW Post 11373, c/o Commander, PO Box 1012, Hollis, NH 03049

Post Website: <http://www.hollisvfw.org/>

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.

The time is now to start thinking of potential VFW Day of Service Projects set to kick off 2 May 2026.



VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2026

NEW ALTERNATIVE CAPS!



FOR POST, DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT



Free Skiing/Riding Day for Veterans!

The Lakes Region Veterans Coalition and Gunstock Mountain Resort are partnering to offer free skiing/riding for Veterans at Gunstock on Monday, March 9th, 2026. This is offered at no cost to any participating Veterans!



The event includes lift passes, free equipment rental if needed and skiing or snowboarding instruction for veterans who have never skied or ridden before or need a refresher. It also includes a free lunch at the Barrel Bar & Grille at Gunstock.

The event will start with lunch at 11:30AM followed by skiing or riding in groups based on ability level. However, Veterans can arrive as early as 9AM to ski/ride on their own or with other Veterans until lunch.



Again, this event is free for participating Veterans! Spaces are limited and will be given out on a first come, first served basis but priority will go to Veterans who have not participated in this event in the past.

If you are interested in attending, please send an email to info@lrvcnh.org no later than Monday, February 23rd, particularly if you need equipment, as this will make the process of getting the equipment on March 9th much quicker and easier.