



Wilkins/Smith|Post 1

LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE



POST LEADERSHIP

Commander –
Wayne McLean

1st Vice Commander –
Frank Mello

2nd Vice Commander –
Toby Knowlton

Adjutant –
Mark Vrooman

Treasurer/Finance -
Earlon L. Beale

Sergeant-at-Arms –
Raymond Peavey

Judge Advocate –
Vacant

Chaplain –
Vacant

Service Officer –
Vacant

CANTEEN HOURS

Your Canteen is open
every weekday from
12:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

On Saturday and
Sunday, it is open 9:00
AM until 9:00 PM.

Come in and share some
enjoyable conversation
and make new friends!

Come out and play the
e-gaming machines or
buy a lottery ticket. All
profits support the
Legion mission!

POST MEETINGS

The monthly meeting of
Post 1 will be held the
second Monday of each
month.

**No regular post
meetings in July and
August!**

The next meeting is
Monday,
April 14, 2025,
at 6:30PM.

The Executive Board is
scheduled to meet at
6:00 pm. All elected
officers are expected to
attend.

POST CONTACT INFORMATION

Physical location of Post –

American Legion Post 1
849 N. Main St
Laconia, NH 03246

Telephone # -
603-524-9728

Email –

post1laconia@gmail.com

Mailing address for Post -

American Legion Post 1
PO Box 494
Laconia, NH 03247

Commander's Message –

Welcome to the April 2025 issue of our newsletter!

I am humbled to be elected as your next Commander for Post 1. I will do everything I can to carry on the wonderful legacy of this post.

Congratulations to everyone elected to officer positions for the upcoming year. I look forward to working together with each of you.

There is a lot happening at the post and will increase even more over the coming months. There is also plenty of time to purchase a brick for the new pavilion. Please see the Adjutant for more information.

We have many new members (Legionnaires, SAL, and Auxiliary). Please make them feel welcome when they visit the post and invite them to participate in our activities.

Bingo is every Thursday night, and we appreciate all the members that come out to assist but we can always use more help. All volunteers are welcome and appreciated.

For God and Country,

Wayne

Adjutant's Message –

Greetings Post 1!

Newsletter –Please let me know if there are items of interest or changes you would like to see made to it.

POST MEMBERSHIP

Membership for 2025 commenced on July 1st. Memberships for 2024 expired on December 31, 2024. You must have a valid card to enter the Post so get your 2025 renewal in today! Membership dues have increased for 2025 to **\$40.00** per member. 259 members have paid to date resulting in 77% paid towards the goal of 338.

Membership renewal can easily, and safely, be done through your www.mylegion.org account or on www.legion.org (click on the renew button). You can also mail your renewal directly to: American Legion Post 1, PO Box 494, Laconia, NH 03247

If you know of eligible veterans, please ask them to join. Applications are available at the canteen or from your Adjutant.

Family members should notify me directly if a Post member is sick, hospitalized or has departed so we can let the membership know. Please notify me at 603-303-9732 or simply send a note to the Post address. We would like to post this information to the membership.

There is a mailing that members will receive from American Income Life. This is a legitimate company, and the mailing is legitimate for Legionnaires. We know members that have received payment because they have utilized the service.

Post News:

Welcome new members to Post 1:

- William Davies
- Robert Reekie
- Christopher Whipple
- Neil Noyes
- Austin Bell

New Pavilion Fundraiser - Be a part of our expansion (Post 1 Pavilion) to serve future generations of Veterans, their families and our community by purchasing a customized, laser engraved brick. All bricks will be incorporated into the patio design surrounding and under our soon to be built pavilion. See information later in this newsletter.

New L.E.D. sign – The Legion e-board voted to provide a modern, L.E.D. sign to illuminate our Post activities. This will replace the current sign and will be able to be updated via computer. The e-board will fund this project, so fundraising is no longer necessary.

Post Officer Nominations – The following officers were elected at the March 10, 2025, meeting:

- Commander – Wayne McLean
- Senior Vice Commander – Frank Mello
- Junior Vice Commander – Toby Knowlton
- Adjutant – Mark Vrooman
- Finance Officer – Earlon Beale
- Sgt-at-Arms – Ray Peavey
- Judge Advocate – Wayne McLean
- Trustee – Ed Higgins (2-year term 2025-2027)
- Trustee – Mark Maheux (2-year term 2025-2027)
- Trustee – Don Vachon (1-year term 2025-2026)

No nominations were received for Judge Advocate, Chaplain or Service Officer

Other Post Happenings:

- All newly elected officers of the American Legion, SAL and Auxiliary were installed on Monday, March 24, 2025. Dinner was provided by the Post but cooked and prepared by members of the SAL and Auxiliary. Thank you to all that attended and to those that prepared the delicious meal.
- The Sons of the American Legion will host a meat raffle on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 1:00 pm at the Post.
- The Sons of the American Legion prepares and sells food at Bingo every Thursday night. Come have a meal and support the SAL.

- The American Legion Auxiliary (Ho, Ho, Ho's) hosted a pool tournament on March 29, 2025. Thank you to all who attended.
- There will be a special event in April as a fundraiser for the new pavilion. More information will be forthcoming.
- The American Legion District 7 held a meeting at the Tilton Post 49 on March 8, 2025. Mark Vrooman, Adjutant was elected as Sgt-at-Arms for District 7 for the upcoming year.
- NH Department Convention will be held in Lebanon, NH on May 15-18, 2025. Wayne McLean, Earl Beale and Mark Vrooman will be attending the convention for the Post.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT –

After nearly forty years of service to the American Legion at all levels including National Executive Committee (NEC) member, NH Department Commander, Post Commander, Post Adjutant for 25 years and Finance Officer for 9 years, Earlon Beale is stepping down effective June 30, 2025. As you might recall, Earl stepped down as Adjutant in 2023 but continued as Finance Officer and assisted Mark greatly with his transition to the Adjutant role. Anyone that is interested in serving as Finance Officer and taking on the daily finances of the Post, should contact Commander Wayne McLean or Adjutant Mark Vrooman. The matter will be discussed at the upcoming April 14, 2025, post meeting. Please make sure to wish Earl well and thank him for all that he has done for Post 1. His contributions have been invaluable and are especially noteworthy due to his longevity here. We sincerely thank him for his service to the American Legion and to Wilkins-Smith Post 1!

Bingo – Every Thursday night at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Post members are encouraged to come out and assist with Bingo operations. We can always use help!

Editor's Note: The views expressed in this Newsletter are deemed interesting enough by the Editor to include in the newsletter. Full responsibility is taken, and the content does not reflect the opinion of the members of the Post, the Department of NH, or the American Legion. Please contact the Adjutant if these articles offend you. 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 email.



Honoring the memory of SAL Member David C. Noyes who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 45 on February 27, 2025. A celebration of life was held at Post 1 on March 22, 2025. T-shirts and stickers were donated by TDC concrete. The picture on the left is of Neil and Ellen Noyes with a painting of David and his dog which was painted by Jess Coutu. The saw blade was donated by Post 1 and the Rod and Gun club of Laconia. The picture in the middle is of Commander Doug Morrison and incoming Commander Wayne McLean toasting Dave with his favorite beverage.



Legion Officers before the installation ceremony on March 24, 2025.



Installation of American Legion Auxiliary officers for 2025-2026 with Jessica Rowell, District President.



Installation of Post 1 Officers for the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion on March 24, 2025



Installation of Commander Wayne McLean with District 7 Officer Joe Cain and outgoing Commander Douglas Morrison on March 24, 2025.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 1 - BRICK FUNDRAISER

We invite our Post 1 American Legion Family to be a part of our expansion of our American Legion Pavilion to serve future generations of Veterans, their families and our community by purchasing a customized, laser engraved brick. All bricks will be incorporated into the patio design surrounding and under our soon to be built pavilion. All questions should be sent to our email address – post1laconia@gmail.com. The American Legion appreciates your continued and generous support of our effort to enhance the functionality of our Post into the future.

Donation – 1 brick = \$100.00 2 bricks \$175.00 3 bricks \$250.00

4"x8" bricks can be personalized with up to 3 lines of text – 15 characters per line

ALL TEXT IS CENTERED BOTH HORIZONTALLY & VERTICALLY ON THE BRICK – ANY SYMBOL IS CONSIDER ONE SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA DASH).

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Donor's Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Paid by Cash or Check _____

Thank you for supporting your American Legion Post 1 Family

Use one form for each brick ordered

Minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting.

The Post Executive Board held a meeting at 6:00 pm.

Meeting called to order by Commander Morrison.

- Roll call taken by Adjutant Vrooman. Approximately nine members were in attendance.
- The minutes from the February 10, 2025, meeting were read and approved.
- The post treasury report was read and approved by unanimous consent.

New Business –

- Point of Service (POS) Terminals – Still assessing best options.
- Security System – Still assessing best options
- Pavilion Project – Fundraising ongoing with brick sale. Earl set up a fundraiser account with the bank.
- New Sign Project – Board voted to purchase the sign. No fundraising necessary.
- By-laws change to be read at April meeting to incorporate technology in Post meetings.
- District 7 meeting held in Tilton on March 8, 2025. Earl and Mark attended for the post. Joe Cain elected District 7 Commander. Wayne Perra (Department Adjutant) is running for Department Commander. Joe Evans is running for Department Vice Commander. Mark Vrooman re-elected Sgt-at-Arms for District 7.
- Department convention is May 15-18 in Lebanon, NH.

Old Business –

Officers elected for 2025-2026

- Commander-Wayne McLean
- Senior Vice Commander – Frank Mello Jr.
- Junior Vice Commander – Toby Knowlton
- Finance Officer – Earl Beale
- Adjutant – Mark Vrooman
- Sgt-at-Arms – Raymond Peavey, Jr.
- Trustee – Mark Maxeux
- Trustee – Ed Higgins

- Trustee – Don Vachon

Vacant – Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Service Officer. Installation of officers to take place at the Post on March 24, 2025.

Sgt at Arms Peavey collected \$15 for the Post.

- The meeting was closed by order of Commander Morrison at 7:00 pm.
- Next full membership meeting is Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Nothing Follows