



# Wilkins/Smith | Post 1

## LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE



### POST LEADERSHIP

- Commander –**  
Wayne McLean
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander –**  
Frank Mello
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander –**  
Toby Knowlton
- Adjutant –**  
Mark Vrooman
- Treasurer/Finance -**  
Ed Higgins
- Sergeant-at-Arms –**  
Raymond Peavey
- Judge Advocate –**  
Vacant
- Chaplain –**  
William Davies
- Service Officer –**  
Rebecca Gibbs-Fahey

### CANTEEN HOURS

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

On Saturday, it is open 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM.  
On Sunday, it is open 9:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

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

Two pool tables are available for daily use.

Six e-gaming machines, pull tabs and NH Lottery/Keno available on site.

### 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 regular meetings are **Monday, January 12, 2026, and February 9, 2026.**

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 January/February 2026 issue of our newsletter!

There is still plenty of time to purchase a brick for the new pavilion. Please see the Adjutant for more information. Construction of the pavilion will continue when spring arrives!

There is a lot happening at the Post. Please be sure to view the sign and watch for more details.

Thanks to everyone that support our events.

For God and Country,

Wayne

**Adjutant’s Message –**

Greetings Post 1!

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Newsletter –Please let me know if there are items of interest or changes you would like to see made to it. The newsletter is now being distributed bi-monthly starting with the November/December issue.

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**POST MEMBERSHIP**

The new membership for 2026 commenced on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Membership dues remain at **\$40.00** per member for the 2026 membership year. Dues for 2026 are due now to continue your membership and have access to the post.

**You can still pay your dues for 2025 to keep continuous years of service. Please see the Adjutant for your membership card!**

Membership renewal can easily, and safely, be done through your [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) account or on [www.legion.org](http://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.

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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.

## **American Legion Trustees**

Ed Gaudet

Doug Morrison (Honorary)

Chris Richards

Don Vachon

## **Sons of the American Legion Officers – Squadron 1 (dues \$25.00)**

Commander – Richard Paquin

Senior Vice Commander – Kim Brummer

Junior Vice Commander – Brett McCrea

Adjutant – Charles Stitt

Treasurer –

Sgt-at-Arms – Frank Sollazzo

Chaplain – Mark Roy

*Meetings 1st Sunday at 11:00 am*

## **Legion Auxiliary Officers – Unit 1 (dues \$30.00)**

President – Shirley Brummer

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Charlene Gilbert

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Connie Moulton

Secretary – Paula Sollazzo

Treasurer – Bethany Moody

Sgt-at-Arms – Jennifer Sullivan

Chaplain – Mary Huntoon

Historian – Penny Oday

*Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:00 pm.*

## **Post News:**

- Nominations for post officer positions begins with the meeting in January. Post 1 Officer elections are March 9, 2026. Installation of Officers, 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in March at 7:00 pm – March 23, 2026. All officer positions are open for nomination. Come out and nominate your favorite legionnaire!
- We had a very successful Christmas Eve luncheon. Thanks to everyone for making this event possible. Everyone in attendance really appreciated the efforts of all involved.

- There was a good turnout for the New Year's Eve party and festivities. Thanks to everyone that made the event a huge success. Almost 75 people were in attendance.
- Greenside Restaurant in Tilton donated 100 black cushioned chairs and several tables for our use. The chairs are in the main function hall, and the tables are in the Canteen. They are making upgrades to their facility and donating these to the Legion at no cost. We appreciate obtaining all the chairs and tables.
- January 24, 2026, there is an Auxiliary meat raffle at 1:00 pm. Come out and support the Auxiliary.
- We need volunteers for Bingo. We hold bingo for the community every Thursday night at 6:30 pm. Ticket sales begin at 5:30 pm and bingo card sales begin at 6:00 pm. We need more than just a handful of volunteers to continue this important community outreach activity. Please see the Adjutant for more information on volunteering.
- If you have suggestions for events or fundraising opportunities, please contact any post officer.
- The Department Mid-winter conference will be held at Rochester Post 7 on January 31, 2026 at 9 am.
- The District 7 meeting will be at the Ashland Post 15 on February 21, 2026 at 10:00 am.

**Membership – final** renewals for 2025 – 276 paid for a total of 82% of goal of 338. **Please contact the Adjutant for information on renewing your 2025 membership to ensure continuous years of service.** 2026 membership renewals are now underway. Be on the lookout for membership renewal documents in the mail. Please renew it by December 31, 2025, to ensure uninterrupted membership. Currently 226 members have paid for 2026 towards our goal of 310, for a total of 73%. Send in your dues renewal at your earliest convenience.

**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 the new pavilion. Brick application is included in this newsletter. We have currently raised \$6000 for the project. Thank you to all who have donated so far.

**New Website** – the American Legion Post 1 has a new website. The web address is [www.post1NH.org](http://www.post1NH.org)

**Other Post Happenings:**

**ZOOM – our next meeting is Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm.**

Here is the link to the meeting if you cannot attend in person –

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88966191251?pwd=vxLayggMHBLPMZ3rJTqGmOuSk7QPSN.1>

**Message from Our Post Service Officer Rebecca Gibbs-Fahey:**

Fellow Veterans,

I look forward to serving as NH Post 1 VSO and meeting more of you in the coming months. In the meantime, if you have questions about veteran's benefits and/or assistance please contact me and I will do my best to help. I have some personal experience with the forms and red tape for VA Aid & Attendance as well as VA Disability Compensation for surviving spouses.

I want to mention an organization which I am a member of called Vet Tix. It is an organization supported through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). CFC is a workplace giving program of the federal government. The program is authorized by executive order 12353 (as amended) of March 23, 1982, and is overseen by the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Issued by President Reagan, the order states that a CFC objective is "to lessen the burdens of government and of local communities in meeting needs of human health and welfare ..." According to OPM's website, the mission of the CFC "is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost—efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all". Vet Tix is an organization supported through the CFC. As a Veteran, I recently got musical performance tickets for our local Laconia Colonial theater. Normal ticket range was \$54-70. With my Vet Tix membership (available to veterans at no charge) I paid a service fee of less than \$15 for all four tickets. I can help with your sign up if you need assistance and wish to participate.

I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy 2026. Please reach out if you have VSO questions or need help with your veteran service benefits.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gibbs Fahey

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## **DONATION ALERT!**

There is an electric scooter in good condition that is available.

It is being donated to any veteran that has a need.

Please see Shirley Brummer for more information



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.

Legion Happenings-

New Year's Eve – function hall decorated





### 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](mailto: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