



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!

Two pool tables are
available for daily use.

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,
May 12, 2025,
at 6:30PM.

The Executive Board is
scheduled to meet at
6:15 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 May 2025 issue of our newsletter!

There are many new things going on at the Legion Post and we are so thankful to all our members (Legionnaires, SAL, and Auxiliary).

There is also plenty of time to purchase a brick for the new pavilion. Please see the Adjutant for more information.

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. 268 members have paid to date resulting in 79% 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.

Post News:

Welcome new members to Post 1:

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

We look forward to having you participate and contribute as a member of Wilkins-Smith Post 1!

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. A building permit application has been submitted for this project to the City of Laconia. We are waiting for approval. We have currently raised \$4500 towards the project. Thank you to all who have donated.

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. A building permit sign application has been submitted to the City of Laconia. We are waiting for approval.

Other Post Happenings:

- There was a special fundraising event held on April 26, 2025, to raise money for the Pavilion project. \$2200 was raised on that day. Thank you to all who came out, participated, and donated to this cause. It is greatly appreciated.
- 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.
- There will be an adoption to amend the Post by-laws at the May meeting to incorporate technology and allow the use of ZOOM and other technology platforms to allow those who want to attend the meetings remotely.
- A motion was approved at the April meeting to purchase and install a new point of sale (POS) system to accept credit cards at the Post. The Adjutant is handling the process.
- Earl Beale has decided to step down as Finance Officer effective June 30, 2025, and Ed Higgins was nominated and approved to succeed him. Please thank Earl for his dedicated service to Post 1 and congratulate Ed on taking over the reigns of this important officer position.
- The scholarship application process is underway for Laconia and Gilford High School Seniors. Applications must be in by May 15, 2025. See the Adjutant for an application.

Post Everlasting:

Jay Green passed away on February 14, 2025. He was a 58-year member of the American Legion and Past Commander of Post 1 having served from 1982-1983. He was a US Army veteran having served as a paratrooper during the Korean War. An Honor Guard detail consisting of Earl Beale, Mark Vrooman, Ray Peavey, Frank Mello and Wayne McLean participated in the cemetery committal service on May 3, 2025. This was a nice send off for a long time Legionnaire.

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.



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 April 14, 2025 meeting.

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

Meeting called to order by Commander McLean.

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

New Business –

- Department convention is May 15-18 in Lebanon, NH. Motion was made and approved to provide a full page ad in the convention brochure from Post 1.
- Motion was made to nominate Ed Higgins for the upcoming Finance Officer vacancy. Motion was made to cast a ballot in favor of Ed Higgins as no other nominations were received. Approved.
- Motion made to allow Make-A-Wish to use the hall free of charge for a fundraiser on May 3, 2025. Approved.
- Motion made to contribute \$250 to the Rod and Gun Club for the Kid's Fishing Derby. SAL and Aux each donated \$100. Approved.

Old Business –

- Point of Service (POS) Terminals – voted to approve.
- Security System – No longer pursuing at this time.
- Pavilion Project – Fundraising ongoing with brick sale. Permit application submitted.
- New Sign Project – Permit application submitted.
- By-laws change to incorporate technology in Post meetings to be adopted at the May meeting.

Sgt at Arms Peavey collected \$18 for the Post.

- The meeting was closed by order of Commander McLean at 7:30 pm.
 - Next full membership meeting is Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:30 pm.
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