

KILDUFF-WIRTANEN LEGION POST 74



• 38 Main Street •

PO Box 761 Brookline, NH 03033-0761

August 2016 Newsletter

Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74, Brookline, NH meets the 4th Thursday of the month* at 38 Main Street Brookline.

Meetings begin at 1900 hours (7PM). *Nov meeting held 3rd Thursday.

If you wish to join or have questions about the American Legion, please call one of the Post Officers.

Next Meeting:

25 August at 7:00 PM

July Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by Commander Dave Larkin. 6 members present.

Colors advanced, prayer offered, POW/MIA empty chair recognized, prayers offered for those lost and unaccounted for and the Preamble recited.

MEMBERSHIP: Nothing to report.

MINUTES: Minutes of the June 2016 meeting were read. Del Porter made a motion that the Minutes be approved as read; seconded by Bob Glover and unanimously approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer's Reports for July 2016 was read. Bob Glover reported the Post received \$310 from dues and \$70.50 from the State Legion office for dues; and the Post paid \$27.23 for electricity and \$238.50 to the State Legion office. Francis LaFreniere made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be approved as read; seconded by Del Porter and unanimously approved.

SICK CALL AND EMPLOYMENT:

- Del Porter reported he visited Art Fenske. He said Art is doing well and in good spirits. Art is always welcome to have visitors; Del said it is best to visit after lunch. Del also stated Art was the Grand Marshall of the Brookline 4th of July Parade.

- Greg d'Arbonne reported that Bob Ellis celebrated his 94th Birthday recently. Greg stopped by Bob's house to say hello. He said Bob was recently in the hospital due to a fall but is back home and resting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Flag Deposit Box: Jim Pope put rust inhibitor on the box so it is now ready for painting. Will Collard stated he researched the availability of a vinyl wrap. He found two companies that can do the work. He is waiting to hear the cost. Bill Graham sent an e-mail that the lady at the Transfer Station said she may be able to paint some patriotic theme on the box. Greg d'Arbonne will speak to her. Bob Glover will ask the Kinney Towing folks how they got the painted scenes on their trucks, as another alternative for the box at the Transfer Station. Francis LaFreniere suggested the box have some kind of wording on it to say what it is there for.
- Solar Lights for the flagpoles: Del Porter stated the flagpole at the Legion has a ¼" bolt at the top and the lights have a hole for a ½" rod. Bob Glover stated he will look for an insert piece to adjust the gap. Del also reported the flagpole at the cemetery has a simple cap at the top with no rod so some kind of rod will be needed to put the light on top. Greg d'Arbonne will check with Clarence Farwell for a date and time to put the lights on each pole after Bob gets the insert.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated he will ask again for someone to audit the Post financial books as no one contacted him from the past month. Bob Glover stated he attended the District 2 meeting. He said it had a good turn-out. A Post in the District had its Executive Committee and

Treasurer walk out of their Post meeting as they were upset they were being questioned about the finances of the Post, since it turns out they had been auditing themselves with no oversight. The Commander asked Bob what he should do and Bob told him to fire them and get other members of the Post for these roles.

CORRESPONDENCE: Bob Glover reported the Post received a thankyou note from Honor Flight thanking the Post for the recent donation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bob Glover reported that membership renewal notices have gone out. Greg d'Arbonne stated he will put a reminder in the newsletter to remind everyone to renew and that the fiscal/membership year for the American Legion runs from 1 July to 30 June each year so those who may have renewed their membership in the past few months need to also renew for the new Legion year.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE POST:

- Greg d'Arbonne stated Jim Bélanger briefed the VFW Post about the new RSA concerning Veterans who did not previously qualify for

Veteran Tax Exemption because they did not serve in wartime. He said each Town has to put it on the ballot as it is not an automatic exemption. Greg said he would speak to one of the Brookline Selectmen to have them put it on the ballot rather than have to go through the process of getting a petition together to make this happen.

- The previous discussion prompted Bob Glover to comment that there is a "gap" as well with American Legion membership for those who served in the late 1950's and those in the late 1980's and if there is ever a time we can bring this up to National we should.
- Will Collard asked if the Post rents out the Legion Hall and since we do, we should consider advertising that fact as a way to gain some funds.
- Del Porter stated there would be a rep from the VA at the Share office in Milford on 30 July at 1 PM to answer any questions about the VA and Veterans Benefits.

There being no further business, the closing prayer was said and the colors retired. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM. The next meeting is 25 August at 7 PM.

News For & From Members

Passing of Bob Ellis

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Bob Ellis on 31 July. Bob was the epitome of the "crusty old Marine" and a very proud Marine he was. He was a living history of the Great Depression era generation, having served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); joined the Marines a few months before Pearl Harbor; served throughout the Pacific during the war; and then joined the Navy to be a "See Bee" (CB) before returning to civilian life. He was also a great supporter of Veterans and was always at an event or looking through the news for articles that would affect Veterans and pass that information on to our members. His enthusiasm and love of country were always a part of him and he will be missed. Many of us were fortunate to visit with him at his 94th birthday party a couple of weeks before his death. Our condolences to Joan, his wife, and his family. Below is the obituary published in the Nashua Telegraph:

Robert Fields Ellis, 94, died Sunday July 31st at his home in Hollis, NH. He was born in Somerville, Mass., July, 13th 1922. Son of Herbert Ross Jennings Ellis and Florence (Foss) Ellis.

He attended Malden High School. Upon completion joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and was stationed in Wyoming. In March of 1941 he joined the United States Marine Corps with basic training taking place at Parris Island in South Carolina. His duty stations included the Brooklyn and Philadelphia / Washington Navy Yards, Anacostia Naval Air station, and service in the South Pacific during World War II, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese he served with the Third Amphibious Corps, 8th

Defense Battalion Anti-Aircraft, in Samoa, the Wallis Islands, Hawaii, the Gilbert Islands and Okinawa. After the end of WWII, Robert joined the United States Navy as a “Sea Bee,” serving in Cuba.

He was an active leader in the Boy Scouts of America, served with the Marine Corps League, and various veteran organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He spent many years actively working for the Marine Corps Reserve “Toys for Tots” program.

Robert is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Joan (Spooner) Ellis, formerly of Stoneham, Mass. He was the father of seven children, Robert Fields (Jr), Candice, Bonnie, David, Ross, Patricia and Charles; nine grandchildren, Richard, Rebecca, Sara, Emerald, Michael, Justin, Kayla, Amanda, Kara; and four great-grandchildren, Adam, Kira, Rue and Raelee.

Services will be in private. Donations can be made to the “Semper Fi Fund” “semperfund.org” in Robert’s name.

Vahrij Manoukian Recuperating from Brain Surgery

Vahrij Manoukian, owner of the Hollis Pharmacy and a huge supporter of Veterans, our Post, and the Hollis-Brookline communities, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. On Wednesday, he had surgery to remove the tumor. Everything went well and the doctors feel confident Vahrij will do well going forward after chemo. Please keep Vahrij and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

News of Interest to Veterans

Ayotte to Host Forum On Veterans Choice Program

Choice program contractor CEO and VA officials will be available to answer NH veterans’ and providers’ questions about health care options

MANCHESTER, N.H. – On Wednesday, August 10, U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte will host a forum to give New Hampshire veterans the opportunity to discuss the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) with senior representatives from the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Administration (VA) regional office, the VA Medical Centers in Manchester and White River Junction and Centene CEO Michael Neidorff. Centene is the parent company of Health Net Federal Services, the VA contractor administering the VCP.

“I’m hosting this forum so that officials from the VA and Centene can come to New Hampshire and hear directly from our veterans about the problems they are experiencing with the implementation of the Veterans Choice Program,” said Senator Ayotte. “New Hampshire veterans deserve a program that meets their needs, and I am glad to give our veterans the opportunity to address the officials in charge of the Veterans Choice Program. Further, I will continue my bipartisan efforts to ensure this program is properly implemented so that New Hampshire veterans can receive quality, timely care closer to home.”

The forum will take place at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics (NHIOP) at St. Anselm College, from 1:00 – 2:30 PM, and all NH veterans and health care providers are invited to attend. This event is intended to inform veterans of reforms to the Choice program, their rights to care under the law, eligibility determinations, and how best to utilize the Choice program to procure non-VA care from a provider. A question and answer (Q&A) period will follow remarks from the panelists.

Because New Hampshire is the only state in the continental U.S. without a full service VA hospital, Senators Ayotte and Jeanne Shaheen have worked together to expand options for New Hampshire veterans to receive care closer to home. In 2014, they included a provision in the VA reform bill that created the VCP, which

allows most New Hampshire veterans the option to seek care from local non-VA health care providers in New Hampshire, rather than having to travel long distances to receive VA services out of state. The senators have done significant work together during the VA's roll-out of the VCP in New Hampshire to ensure it is properly implemented and improved to address veteran needs.

Under current law, the VCP is authorized for three years or until its \$10-billion-dollar initial funding allocation is exhausted. Senators Ayotte and Shaheen introduced legislation to make the program permanent for veterans living in states without a full service hospital, like New Hampshire.

This is the third forum Senator Ayotte has hosted in New Hampshire to give veterans the opportunity to speak directly to officials from the VA and VA contractors about the Veterans Choice Program.

WHERE: Saint Anselm College, New Hampshire Institute of Politics, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester

WHEN: Wednesday, August 10, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

FREE

First Saturday Wellness Clinic

Providing Reiki, Healing Touch (HT),
Acupressure and Therapeutic Massage.

These are relaxation techniques that
reduce stress, anxiety and helps to heal our
bodies.

**LOCATION: Manchester VA Medical Center
Basement: Physical Therapy (PT) Dept.**

**DATE: The First Saturday of every Month
9:00am – 11:00 am**

**CONTACT: Mary Behnke, BSN, RN 624-4366 ext
6541 mary.behnke@va.gov**

Presented by: Trained VA providers in conjunction with
the Patient Centered Care Committee. All are welcome,
walk in or call Mary for information.

Points To Ponder

The views expressed in the following article were 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. – Greg d'Arbonne

The Vet Bill

A woman brought a very limp parrot into a veterinary surgeon. As she lay her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, Polly has passed away." The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure? I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something." The vet rolled his eyes, shrugged, turned and left the room, returning a few moments later with a beautiful black Labrador. As the bird's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the dead parrot from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet took the dog out, but returned a few moments later with a cat. The cat jumped up and also sniffed delicately at the bird. The cat sat back, shook its head, meowed and ran out of the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but like I said, your parrot is most definitely 100% certifiably dead." He then turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill which he handed to the woman. The parrot's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150! she cried, \$150 just to tell me my bird is dead!!" The vet shrugged. "If you'd taken my word for it the bill would only have been \$20, but what with the Lab report and the Cat scan....."

Florida Woman Stops Alligator Attack Using a Small Beretta Pistol

This is a story of self-control and marksmanship by a brave, cool-headed woman with a small pistol against a fierce predator. What is the smallest caliber that you would trust to protect yourself? A Beretta Jetfire testimonial.... Here is her story in her own words:

"While out walking along the edge of a pond just outside my house in The Villages with my soon to be ex-husband discussing property settlement and other divorce issues, we were surprised by a huge 12-ft. alligator which suddenly emerged from the murky water and began charging us with its large jaws wide open. She must have been protecting her nest because she was extremely aggressive. If I had not had my little Beretta Jetfire .25 caliber pistol with me, I would not be here today!"

"Just one shot to my estranged husband's knee cap was all it took.... The 'gator got him easily and I was able to escape by just walking away at a brisk pace. It's one of the best pistols in my collection! Plus, the amount I saved in lawyer's fees was really incredible."

"His insurance was the big bonus. I'm comfortable now."

Post Officers

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Do You Have an E-mail Address?

If you have e-mail access, send a message to Greg (Gdarbo6844@aol.com). 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.