

KILDUFF-WIRTANEN LEGION POST 74



• 38 Main Street •

PO Box 761 Brookline, NH 03033-0761

January 2017 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 and Dec 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:

26 January at 7:00 PM

December Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by 1st Vice Commander Will Collard. 8 members present and no guests.

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

MEMBERSHIP: Justin Adams, a resident of Brookline and an Iraq War Veteran, Joined the Post. Everyone welcomed Justin to the Post.

MINUTES: Minutes of the November 2016 meeting were read. Jim Pope made a motion that the Minutes be approved as read; seconded by Bob Canada and unanimously approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was read. Bob Glover reported the Post paid the electric bill of \$30.03 and donated \$100 to the Food Bank. Bob also reported Janet Foster completed the audit of the Post books and will send a report to the Post. Del Porter made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be approved as read; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved.

SICK CALL AND EMPLOYMENT:

- Greg d'Arbonne reported Commander Larkin called him this morning and said he was not feeling well and would not be able to attend the

meeting. The members all wish Dave a speedy recovery.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Flag Deposit Box at the Transfer Station: It was reported that rust preventive has been applied and it is painted.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Del Porter stated someone needs to empty the Flag Deposit Box at the Transfer Station on a regular basis. Justin Adams stated he lives near the Transfer Station so he can do that. Justin was provided a key to the box and will bring the flags to the Post at each meeting.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated the Hollis VFW has invited the Brookline American Legion Post to their March Pot Luck Luncheon on 19 March 2017 at the Lawrence Barn. More details will be provided next month but it generally starts at 2 PM. All are welcome.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE POST:

- It was stated that if you want to be buried at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery, you can fill-out an application and have a plot reserved ahead of time so your family does not have to rush to do this at the time of your death.
- It was stated that there are many scams during the Christmas-New Year's holiday and one of those is a phone call stating there is a discrepancy with an order you did online using your credit card. Members are advised to be very careful as the requestor can make it seem like a legitimate call when in fact you do not have an order.

- Bob Glover stated the State Mid-Winter Conference is 28 January.
- It was stated that if you wish to get a card identifying you as a Veteran to use at various venues that offer discounts for Veterans, you can go to www.ebenefits.va.gov, select the "Register" button at the top right of the page, and enroll with

the VA and receive a card that indicates you are a Veteran.

There being no further business, the closing prayer was said and the colors retired. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting is 26 January at 7 PM.

News For & From Members

Passing of Art Fenske

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Art Fenske. Art served as a Paratrooper and Company Commander in the 11th Airborne Division in WW II, jumping into Corregidor and then being severely wounded while taking out a machine gun position by himself. For his actions, he was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. Art participated in many of our activities throughout the years until very recently. He was 99 years old. He was a wonderful person who always had a cheerful disposition and quick wit. Those of us who got to know him were blessed that such a person lived among us.

Art will be laid to rest in New Jersey. A memorial service in Brookline will be 14 January at 2 PM at the Community Church in Brookline.

His obituary in the Star-Ledger in New Jersey on Jan. 6, 2017 stated:

Arthur G. Fenske, 99, of Brookline, N.H., formerly of Green Village, N.J., died on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, in the home he loved, surrounded by his cherished family. Funeral services will be held on Monday, Jan. 9, 2017, at 11 a.m. at the chapel at Restland Memorial Park, 77 Deforest Ave., East Hanover, N.J. 07936. Calling hours are Sunday, Jan. 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Quinn-Hopping Funeral Home, 145 East Mount Pleasant Ave., Livingston, N.J. 07039. Born on May 22, 1917, in Philadelphia, Pa., the Fenske family moved to Livingston when Arthur was still a young boy. He graduated from West Orange High School in 1935. Arthur owned and operated Carner Brothers' Excavating Co. in Roseland, NJ, a family business established by his father-in-law. He retired in 1990. A graduate of the General Motors Institute in Flint, Mich., Art had earlier worked as services manager for several New Jersey car dealerships. A proud and decorated veteran of World War II, Arthur served in the U.S. Army with the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 11th Airborne Division. He saw action on the Philippine Island of Leyte and was awarded the Silver Star for bravery in combat and the purple heart for injuries suffered in battle. Art was a member American Legion Post No. 74 in Brookline and was honored as Grand Marshall in the town's 2016 July 4th parade. He regularly participated in educational programs in the local schools, talking about history and the military and his experiences as a veteran. Art married Helen May Carner of Livingston in 1949. They lived in Chatham, N.J., and Green Village prior to retiring to New Hampshire. Wherever Art and Helen lived they became active in their community. They were longtime members of the First Presbyterian Church in New Vernon, N.J., where Art sang in the choir. In Brookline, they joined Brookline Community Church, where Art sang in the choir and served as a deacon. In 2014 he was awarded the title of deacon emeritus. Art was a skilled and gifted gardener. He and Helen dubbed their homes Yellow Flower Farm, and family and friends enjoyed the produce that Arthur often shared. Art was a strong, generous and humble man. He had a ready smile and gentle wit. He took tremendous pride in his beloved Helen, the life and family they built together and in their joint efforts to make a better life for their neighbors and their community. A highlight of any Fenske family gathering was when Art raised his beautiful baritone in song. Art was the husband of the late Helen Carner Fenske; the son of the late Gottfried "Fred" Fenske and Emma Wunsch Fenske; and the

brother of the late Alfred, Walter, Leroy and Clarence Fenske. He is survived by his children, Susan Fenske McDonough, Karl and Mark Fenske; his grandchildren, great-granddaughter, and many nieces and nephews and their families. In lieu of flowers, donations in Arthur Fenske's memory may be made to the Helen C. Fenske Internship Fund, Drew University, Alumni House, Madison Avenue, Madison, N.J. 07940, www.drew.edu/alumni/giving-to-drew.

Our condolences to Art's family. He will be greatly missed by them and by all of us.

Please Make Sure You Renew ASAP

If you are a member who pays 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.legion.org/renew>), but please renew! Thanks!

News of Interest to Veterans

New Regulation Decreases Cost of Outpatient Medication Copay for Most Veterans

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulation on copayments for Veterans' outpatient medications for non-service connected conditions. VA currently charges non-exempt Veterans either \$8 or \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of outpatient medication, and under current regulations, a calculation based on the medication of the Medical Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) would be used to determine the copayment amount in future years.

“Switching to a tiered system continues to keep outpatient medication costs low for Veterans,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Reducing their out-of-pocket costs encourages greater adherence to prescribed outpatient medications and reduces the risk of fragmented care that results when multiple pharmacies are used; another way that VA is providing better service to Veterans.”

This new regulation eliminates the formula used to calculate future rate increases and establishes three classes of outpatient medications identified as Tier 1, Preferred Generics; Tier 2, Non-Preferred Generics including over-the-counter medications; and Tier 3, Brand Name. Copayment amounts for each tier would be fixed and vary depending upon the class of outpatient medication in the tier.

These copayment amounts will be effective February 27, 2017:

\$5 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 1 outpatient medication

\$8 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 2 outpatient medication

\$11 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 3 outpatient medication

These changes apply to Veterans without a service-connected condition, or Veterans with a disability rated less than 50 percent who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition, and whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law. Medication copayments do not apply to former Prisoners of War, catastrophically disabled Veterans, or those covered by other exceptions as set by law.

Copayments stop each calendar year for Veterans in Priority Groups 2-8 once a \$700 cap is reached.

VA To Eliminate 7 Compensable Disabilities

Washington (December 12, 2016) - Not all service-connected medical conditions and injuries are incurred or exacerbated in the performance of military duties. For example, a qualifying injury can occur when a service

member was at home or on leave, and a qualifying medical condition, such as multiple sclerosis, can develop independently of a service member's military duties. In 2015, VA paid 716,000 veterans a total of \$3.7 billion, the Congressional Budget Office estimates, to compensate for seven of the medical conditions that, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), military service is unlikely to cause or aggravate. Those conditions are arteriosclerotic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Crohn's disease, hemorrhoids, multiple sclerosis, osteoarthritis, and uterine fibroids.

Beginning in January 2018, this option would cease veterans' disability compensation for those seven medical conditions GAO identified. Under the option, veterans now receiving compensation for those conditions would have their compensation reduced or eliminated, and veterans who applied for compensation for those conditions in the future would not be eligible for it. The option would not alter DoD's disability compensation system, which focuses on fitness for military duties rather than compensation for disabilities.

An argument in support of this option is that it would make the disability compensation system for military veterans more comparable to civilian systems. Few civilian employers offer long-term disability benefits, and among those that do, benefits do not typically compensate individuals for all medical problems that developed during employment.

An argument against this option is that military service is not like a civilian job; instead, it confers unique benefits to society and imposes extraordinary risks on service members. By that logic, the pay and benefits that service members receive should reflect the hardships of military life, including compensating veterans who become disabled in any way during their military service.

Source: U.S. Congressional Budget Office.

Home Run for Heroes Featuring Big Papi, David Ortiz!

Going to miss watching Big Papi slug out a home run next season? Want to wish him well in his retirement? You can - IN PERSON! And proceeds go to benefit our NH military families and veterans. All for less than you would spend to take the family for a game at Fenway!

Home Run for Heroes featuring Big Papi himself, recently retired Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz, takes place on Friday, April 21 at the Courtyard Marriott in Nashua. Proceeds will benefit the Chaplain's Emergency Relief Fund, which provides New Hampshire military families with emergency needs primarily in the areas of rent, mortgage, utilities and medical bills.

Attendees will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with David Ortiz, as well as receive an autographed photo, and ask David questions about his years with the Red Sox. A silent and live auction will take place, with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. This is an event not to be missed!

Location: Courtyard Marriott, 2200 Southwood Drive, Nashua NH 03063

Date/Time: Friday, April 21, 2017, 5:30 PM Doors Open, Cash Bar & Appetizers, 6:30-8:30 PM Event

Fees/Admission: \$195 Adult Ticket; \$100 Child Ticket (age 7 to age 15)

Contact Information: Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce, POC: beth.boggis@souhegan.net

Register online: <http://www.souhegan.net/events/details/home-run-for-heroes-featuring-big-papi-david-ortiz-615>

New Instructions for Filing for Travel Pay When Using Veterans Choice

These are the new instructions for filing for travel pay when using Veterans Choice and getting care in the community instead of at a VA facility. Bear in mind you need direct deposit as they no longer issue checks or cash.



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Manchester Health Care System
718 Smyth Rd
Manchester, NH 03104**

Mail Stop: 00Travel

Instructions for Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement for Care in the Community

Veterans, if you are eligible for Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement, and have been approved for care in the community, please complete and return the attached request form **within 30 days of travel**. This is important as tardy submissions cannot be considered for reimbursement.

Travel Eligibility Criteria:

1. Veterans traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition.
2. Veterans with a service-connected condition rated 30% or more.
3. Veterans in receipt of a VA pension.
4. Veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual pension.
5. Veterans traveling for a scheduled Compensation or Pension (C&P) Examination.

Please follow these steps to expedite the processing of your claim:

1. Complete VA Form 10-3542 to request your travel reimbursement;
2. Ensure your request contains the correct dates of service (when you went to the appointments). Requests without the correct dates of service provided cannot be considered for travel reimbursement and must be returned in accordance with VA Directive;
3. Complete a separate request for each provider even if the appointment happened on the same day; and
4. In addition to your Travel Claim, please send a copy of your VA and/or HealthNet Authorization (if you have one), and a letter from your provider's office stating you attended your non- VA care appointment.

Prosthetics Specific Information: Trips to pick-up or drop-off prosthetics or general adjustments **do not** qualify for Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement. Only first and fitting appointments qualify for Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement.

Please help us provide timely processing for your Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement by providing complete and correct information. Thank you for choosing Manchester VA Medical Center for your healthcare; we are honored to serve those who served.

Examples of completed requests are available at the points of care associated with potential Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement.

Sincerely,

Travel Office

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

I Love Getting Older

1. My goal for 2016 was to lose 10 pounds. Only 15 to go.
2. Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons & tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce. And cheese. FINE, it was a pizza. I ate a pizza.
3. How to prepare Tofu:
 - a. Throw it in the trash
 - b. Grill some meat
4. I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.
5. I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food in 3 hours and 20 minutes.
6. A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.
7. Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.
8. Senility has been a smooth transition for me.
9. Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside they closed school? Me neither.
10. I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this.
11. I love being over 70. I learn something new every day and forget 5 others.
12. A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money so I woke up and searched with him.
13. I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.
14. November 6, 2016 was the end of Daylight Savings Time. Hope you didn't forget to set your bathroom scale back 10 pounds on Saturday night.
15. Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.

Heavens to Murgatroyd!

Don't know how many of these are familiar to you-all are to me!!! Would you recognize the word Murgatroyd? - Heavens to Murgatroyd! Lost Words from our childhood

The other day, a not so elderly (65) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy and he looked at her quizzically and said what the heck is a Jalopy? OMG (new phrase!) - he had never heard of the word jalopy!! She knew she was old but not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle -

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete - because of the inexorable march of technology. These phrases Included "Don't touch that dial," "Carbon copy," "You sound like a Broken record" and "Hung out to dry."

Back in the olden days we had a lot of 'moxie'. We'd put on our best bib and tucker to straighten up and fly right - Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley! We were in like Flynn - and living the life of Riley - and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A, - of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes and pedal pushers. Oh, my aching back. Kilroy was here but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap and before we can say, "Well I'll be a monkey's uncle! This is a fine kettle of fish!" We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink and they're gone. Where have all those phrases gone?

Long gone: Pshaw. The milkman did it! Hey! It's your nickel. Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the funny papers. Don't take any wooden nickels. Heavens to Murgatroyd!

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeful times. For a child, each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end of the chronological arc - have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory. It's one of the greatest ??? advantages of aging.

See ya later, alligator! Answer: "After a while, Crocodile!" This is a blast from the past...

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.