

KILDUFF-WIRTANEN LEGION POST 74



• 38 Main Street •

PO Box 761 Brookline, NH 03033-0761

June 2018 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:

28 June at 7:00 PM

May Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Commander Dave Larkin. 15 members present. Guests present were Edward LaFord and Jim Ward from District 2, Department of New Hampshire.

Colors advanced, prayers offered, POW/MIA empty chair recognized, and the Preamble recited.

Bob Glover made a motion that the regular order of business be suspended so the new Post Officers could be installed; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The District 2 representatives installed the new Post Officers and the regular meeting reconvened.

Membership: Mike Chase and Bob Glover became Paid Up For Life (PUFL) members.

Minutes: The Minutes of the April 2018 meeting were read. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Minutes be approved as read; seconded by Ruth Wrigley and unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: The Treasurer's Report was read. The Post received \$17 from dues. The Post paid \$50 for a roll of stamps and \$305.43 to fill the heating oil tank. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Treasurers report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Del Porter and unanimously approved. Bob Glover stated that Patrick Kennedy

paid Bob for the purchase of the flags as was stated in last month's Minutes.

Sick Call and Employment: Jonathan Matlock is looking for a job.

Old Business:

- Memorial Day Activities:
 - 25 May:
 - 9 to approximately 11 AM = Memorial Day Ceremony at CSDA
 - 2 to 3 PM = Memorial Day Ceremony at Hollis Upper Elementary School
 - 26 May
 - 9 to 11 AM = Replacing flags at the gravesites: Coordination was done with the Members as to who was replacing the flags at the cemeteries.
 - 8 AM to 4 PM = Poppies at the Transfer Station: Coordination was done with the Members as to who would be at the transfer Station and at what time.
 - 9 to 10 AM, Replacing Flags in Town Locations: Patrick Kennedy asked that the flags at the Pine Grove Cemetery, at the Post, and at Town Hall be replaced with flags he purchased. Greg d'Arbonne stated this will be done on the 26th of May.
 - 28 May, Memorial Day Ceremony at Town Hall, 9:30 AM: Coordination was done with the Members present for the ceremony.
- Patrick Kennedy showed the members a flag case he purchased and said this is the type of presentation case he proposes we present to Veterans in the area as discussed at the April meeting. The members discussed when these flags should be presented to veterans; whether as an

“end of life” gift or not and who should be getting them. It was decided that this would be discussed at the next meeting. It was mentioned that Winston Hall may be a person we bestow this presentation on around Veterans Day.

- Post members were reminded about the 4th of July Parade and the need to tell Jim Pope of any Veterans that need a ride in the Parade. The parade starts at 10 AM.

New Business:

- Spaghetti Dinner, 2 June: Greg d’Arbonne stated that anyone planning to attend should contact him to get tickets. Legion members are asked to find sponsors and businesses willing to take ads on the placemats for the event. Greg also stated we need volunteers to do dishes that evening so there are enough plates to feed everyone.
- Brookline 250th Birthday Celebration: Will Collard stated he attended the Historical Society’s meeting on the Brookline Birthday Celebration. Will stated the Town will start celebrating on 31 December 2018 and it goes throughout the year 2019. He said they have packets for donations and sponsorships. He would like the Post to look at donating at the \$1,000 level so the Post can be

advertised on the large banner that will stretch across Main Street throughout the year. When the celebration time is over, the Post would retain the banner. The donation also comes with other advertising benefits to the Post. It was decided that the members would discuss this topic at the next meeting.

Correspondence: Nothing to report.

For the Good of The Post:

- Dave Larkin stated Post members participated in the funeral services for Air Force Veteran Richard Gaudete. Everyone was glad the Post, along with the VFW Post of Hollis, was able to provide these honors to a fellow Veteran although he was not a member of either Post.
- Greg d’Arbonne stated the Army Birthday Celebration will be in the Governor’s Chambers at the State House on 14 June at 1 PM (time change from what was originally reported).

There being no further business, the closing prayer was said, and the colors retired. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM. The next meeting is 28 May at 7 PM.

News For & From Members

Congratulations to Our New Commander, Will Collard! Thank You to Past Commander Dave Larkin!

Congratulations to our new Post Commander, Will Collard!! Will is an Iraq War Veteran and lives in Brookline with this wife and two children. Will has been a great addition to our Post since he joined. We all wish him the best in his tenure as our Commander and will support him 110%.

A great big thank you to our Past Commander, Dave Larkin! We were blessed to have Dave for these past several years as our Commander and thank him for volunteering to do so when elected. It is not an easy job, but Dave took it on with gusto and we are better for having had him as our Commander. We look forward to Dave continuing to contribute to our Post and our community. Thanks Dave!

Brookline 4th of July Parade

Brookline will hold its annual 4th of July Parade on, you guessed it, the 4th of July! All Veterans are invited to join with the Brookline American Legion and the Hollis VFW Posts as we lead the parade with the Color Guard. The Parade will start at the north end of the main cemetery in Brookline (just south of the Brookline American Legion Post). Please be at the start point of the Parade by 9:30 AM as we step off at 10 AM and walk to the Brookline Ballfield (about a mile away). There, we will lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance; the Star-Spangled Banner; read the Declaration of Independence; read the Preamble to Constitution; and participate in the Town BBQ after the Parade. If you want to participate in the parade but

have trouble walking, cars will be provided so you can ride in the parade. Please call Greg d'Arbonne (603-672-5830) if you want to ride so we can get the right number of cars to carry everyone.

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.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLRENEW+webtrn=wr_memberdata+ml=LANSA:XHTML+part=TAL+lang=ENG#legion-org-header), but please renew! Thanks!

News of Interest to Veterans

Sweeping veterans health care bill becomes a law

Jun 07, 2018, Mackenzie Wolf (<https://www.legion.org/legislative/242153/sweeping-veterans-health-care-bill-becomes-law#>)

In a ceremony June 6, President Trump signed the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act, also called the VA MISSION Act, into law. The comprehensive legislation impacts how veterans receive their health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). U.S. Sens. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, along with Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, were instrumental in working with The American Legion and other veterans service organizations to get the legislation passed.

It also includes provisions to consolidate community care programs into a single, streamlined service; provides sufficient funding to extend the program through 2019; expands comprehensive assistance; strengthens ability to recruit, hire and retain quality medical personnel; and reforms the VA health-care infrastructure.

The legislative package is comprised of five titles that address major areas of deficit, including increased access to private-sector care, consolidation of community care programs, expansion of the Family Caregiver Program and the recruitment of qualified medical professionals.

Title I: Caring for our Veterans

Establishment of Community Care Programs

One of the largest changes the legislation will bring to VA health care is the expansion of the community care program. The VA MISSION Act gives veterans more control when it comes to their health care such as increased access to private-sector care, improvements to standards for quality, access to walk-in care, ensuring individuals can get appointments scheduled in a timely manner and continuity of care.

This section requires an individual have access to community care if the VA is unable to provide the care or services needed by an individual. Some of the considerations for access to community care include distance between the veteran and facility, type of service, timeliness of available appointments and whether the veteran seeking care faces an excessive burden.

An area addressed under the Establishment of Community Care Programs provision is the remediation of medical service lines. If a service line is determined to be non-compliant with the standards for quality, a plan of action must be submitted within 30 days that addresses the actions necessary to bring the medical service line into compliance.

The establishment of a comprehensive community care program is the subject of American Legion Resolution No. 46: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) non-VA care programs. The resolution states the VA must “develop a well-defined and consistent non-VA care coordination program, policy and procedure that includes a patient-centered care strategy which takes veterans’ unique medical injuries and illnesses as well as their travel and distance into account.”

Paying Providers and Improving Collections

Another issue under the Act is the payment of service providers. The VA MISSION Act contains a clause requiring the prompt payment of providers. It directs that service providers be paid in under 45 days for paper claims and under 30 days for electronic claims.

Education and Training Programs

The Act states that the VA will develop a program to educate veterans about their health-care options within the VA medical system. An issue many veterans face is a lack of education in what benefits they are entitled to and what exactly those benefits entail. These programs will teach veterans about eligibility criteria for care under the VA, priority enrollment groups, copayments and other financial obligations that fall on the veteran, as well as how to utilize the standards for quality and access standards. Part of the education and training program will provide veterans on information on what to do when they have a complaint about health care received through the VA.

Other Matters Relating to Non-Department of Veterans Affairs Providers

Additional matters relating to non-VA providers include a process to ensure safe opioid prescribing practices, improved information sharing with community providers, competency standards for non-VA health care providers, and access to and participation in national and state-level prescription drug monitoring programs.

Other Non-Department Health Care Matters

Additionally, Title I includes provisions to use the remaining Veterans Choice Fund to pay for health-care services at non-VA facilities or through non-VA providers, as well as permitting VA health-care professionals to provide treatment with telemedicine. The Family Caregiver Program is also addressed in this section. The Act requires the VA to expand eligibility for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to veterans of all eras, addressing American Legion Resolution No. 259: Extend Caregiver Benefits to Include Veterans Before September 11, 2001.

Title II: VA Asset and Infrastructure Review

This section requires the VA to assess the capacity of each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) and identify deficiencies within each VISN.

Title III: Improvements to Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals

Title III focuses on improving the recruitment and retainment of quality health care professionals by providing two to four-year scholarships to medical students in exchange for service to the VA. The VA MISSION Act also increases the amount of education debt reduction available from \$120,000 to \$200,000 over five years, and establishes the VA Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program. Title III also establishes a pilot program for veterans healing veterans supporting four years of medical school education costs for two veterans at select medical schools. There's also a provision requiring the VA to ensure clinical staff are able to participate in the Education Debt Reduction Program.

Title IV: Health Care in Underserved Areas

Title IV develops a plan to address problems in underserved facilities and criteria for designating those facilities. These criteria include but are not limited to the ratio of veterans to providers, range of specialties covered, and whether or not the facility is meeting the VA's goals when it comes to wait times. In order to address the underserved facilities, the Act creates a pilot program to provide medical deployment teams to these flagged facilities. Finally, it requires the VA to establish medical residency programs at covered facilities.

Title V: Other Matters

Title V requires VA to submit an annual report on performance bonuses and awards given, including the amount of each bonus or award, the job title of the individual receiving the bonus or award, and the location where the individual works. Additionally, Title V requires VA to be transparent with vacancy information on a VA website, requires an Inspector General review of the website and requires the VA to report annually the steps the VA is taking to reach full staffing capacity.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
THE MOVING WALL

COMING TO AMHERST
JULY 19 - JULY 23, 2018
SOUHEGAN HIGH SCHOOL

Sponsored by Milford Rotary Club
www.movingwallnh.org

5K ROAD RACE TO BENEFIT THE MOVING WALL
Friday, June 15, 2018 | Amherst Village
For more information contact Amherstflagday5k@gmail.com

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

Navy Chief Goes Fishing

The rain had stopped and there was a big puddle in front of the bar just outside the American Legion Post.

A rumpled old Navy Chief was standing near the edge with a fishing line in the puddle.

A curious young Marine fighter pilot came over to him and asked what he was doing.

"Fishing," the old Chief simply said.

"Poor old chief," the Marine officer thought to himself and invited the old Navy Chief into the bar for a drink.

As he felt he should start a conversation while they were sipping their spirits, the young jet pilot winked at another pilot and asked the Chief, "How many have you caught today?"

"You're number 14," the old Chief answered, taking another sip from his double shot of 12-year-old Scotch, "2 Air Force, 3 Navy, and 9 Marines."

Husband and Wife Golf

A husband reluctantly agreed to play with his wife Joyce in the couples' alternate shot Tournament at his club.

He teed off on the first hole, a par four, and blistered a drive 300 yards down the middle of the fairway.

Upon reaching the ball, the husband said to Joyce, "Just hit it toward the green, anywhere around there will be fine."

Joyce proceeded to shank the ball deep into the woods. Undaunted, the husband said "That's OK, Sweetheart" and spent the full five minutes looking for the ball. He found it just in time, but in a horrible position. He played the shot of his life to get the ball within two feet of the hole. He told his wife to knock the ball in.

She then proceeded to knock the ball off the green and into a bunker. Still maintaining composure, the husband summoned all of his skill and holed the shot from the bunker.

He took the ball out of the hole and while walking off the green, put his arm around his wife and calmly said, "Honey, that was a bogey five and that's OK, but I think we can do better on the next hole".

To which she replied, "Listen asshole, don't bitch at me, only 2 of those 5 shots were mine."

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.