



# American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 1758,  
www.4ever66/legionpost1758

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Our next meeting will be February 11, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the **Old East Fishkill Town Hall**, Rte. 52, next to the Police Station. Please try to attend.

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### Membership Dues

Dues are now \$40.00 per year. Anyone who has not paid their 2014 dues should send payment as soon as possible so you do not lose membership continuity and benefits.

Even without the 8 or so members who have not yet paid our Post has made 110% of our membership goal for 2014. **Congratulations and Thank You!**

"I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." - *Thomas Edison*

## St. Jude's

We will be soliciting donations for St. Jude's Children's Hospital on Saturday, March 15. We're scheduled to be at the Stewart's Shop on Lake Walton Road from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. An additional location may be added if we can identify enough membership participation. This has been an annual event for us the last 10 years or so. We schedule it to coincide with WRWD's Radiothon and usually collect \$700-\$800 for the hospital.

## Welcome

At our January meeting we welcomed new member Jeff Boes, a US Navy Veteran, and potential member Bob Logan who served with the US Army.



### Good of the Legion:

**Evert Munning's** name was pulled for Pot Of Gold Drawing at our January meeting. Unfortunately Evert was not in attendance so the money gets added to "the pot".

## A Big Thank You

To **Tom Masch** who donated a WWI helmet to the post for use in our Memorial Day display.

## Donations

At our January meeting we voted to make a \$100 donation to the "**Friends Of The Fishkill Supply Depot**". This organization is commemorating and preserving the unmarked graves of over 300 Continental soldiers at Fishkill. These are America's first veterans!

Known as the "Military nerve center of the Continental army," the Depot was one of three major encampments along with Morristown and Valley Forge. Hallowed history happened here - hundreds of the original soldiers who fought to found the nation died and were buried here in unknown graves.

At its peak, the Encampment, built under orders from George Washington with its headquarters at the Van Wyck Homestead, was a small city which included extensive barracks and officer huts for thousands of soldiers, guard house and palisade, a prison, major hospital, artillery placements, storage buildings, an armory, blacksmith shops, stables, parade grounds, and a powder magazine which supplied all Northern Patriot forces. Today, the only maintained structure is the Van Wyck Homestead, a farmhouse which served as a headquarters for military operations.

A large part of the historic site was covered by the Dutchess Mall in the early 1970s, followed by the Hess Gasoline Station in the 1990s. Two remaining open space parcels, one in the vicinity of the Hess Gas Station and the other known as the Oasis Ministries parcel, are currently for sale with development envisioned. You can read more at the Depot's web site: <http://fishkillsupplydepot.org/depot.html>



We have also decided to support the Dutchess County American Legion's Children and Youth program by **donating** \$50 to the **Anderson Center for Autism** in Staatsburg.

"Anderson Center for Autism is a person-centered not for profit organization that fosters independence and self-advocacy for children and adults with autism. We are committed to providing quality programs to our consumers and an ongoing integrated support network for their families and guardians, while partnering with community stakeholders. Anderson Center for Autism provides an enriched and positive environment designed to promote growth, independence, and social interaction while providing opportunities that enable individuals to make informed choices."

You can learn more about the center by visiting their web site at:

<http://www.andersoncenterforautism.org/welcome/>

*We received a nice "thank you letter" from Hudson River Housing, Inc. for our donation of two Thanksgiving meals for two veteran's families.*

# Taxes

I've sent a letter, representing our post, to the Wappingers Central School District asking about their plans to hold public hearings to consider adoption of the NYS Bill S. 1199 signed into law on 12/20/2013. This bill allows school districts to provide a discount on school taxes for veterans. I have not yet received a reply. In the future we may need to attend a school board meeting en mass to press for this bill to be adopted. Mark Baaden has sent similar request to the Arlington School District. I would encourage members in other school districts to do the same.

### **A little humor...or maybe truer than we might think!**

Ole, the smoothest-talking Norskie in the Minnesota National Guard, got called up to active duty.

Ole's first assignment was in a military induction center.

Because he was a good talker, they assigned him the duty of advising new recruits about government benefits, especially the GI life insurance, to which they were entitled.

The officer in charge soon noticed that Ole was getting a 99% sign-up rate for the more expensive supplemental form of GI insurance.

This was remarkable, because it cost these low-income recruits \$30 per month for the higher coverage compared to what the government was already providing at no charge.

The officer decided he'd sit in the back of the room at the next briefing and observe Ole's sales pitch.

Ole stood up before the latest group of inductees and said, if you haf da normal GI insurans an' yoo go to Afghanistan an' get yourself killed, da government' pays yer beneficiary \$20,000.

If yoo take out da supplemental insurans, vich cost you only t'irty dollars a mont , den da government' got ta pay yer beneficiary \$200,000!"

"Now," Ole concluded, "Vich bunch you tink dey gonna send ta Afghanistan first?"

### **New [Obamacare](#) health insurance enrollees may feel a pang of envy when they eye the coverage plans offered by [Walmart](#) to its employees.**

For many years, the giant discount retailer has been the target of [unions](#) and liberal activists who have harshly criticized the company's [health care](#) plans, calling them "notorious for failing to provide health benefits" and "substandard."

But a *Washington Examiner* comparison of the two health insurance programs found that Walmart's plan is more affordable and provides significantly better access to high-quality medical care than Obamacare.

Independent insurance agents affiliated with the National Association of Health Underwriters and health policy experts compared the two at the request of the *Examiner*.

Walmart furnished employee benefit information to the *Examiner*. Neither Obamacare advocate Families USA nor the [United Food and Commercial Workers](#), which backs anti-Walmart campaigns, responded to *Examiner* requests for comment.

Walmart offers its employees two standard plans, a Health Reimbursement Account and an alternative it calls "HRA High" that costs more out of employees' pockets but has lower deductibles. Blue Cross Blue Shield manages both plans nationally.

Also offered is a Health Savings Account plan that includes high deductibles but allows tax-free dollars to be used for coverage.

For a monthly premium as low as roughly \$40, an individual who is a Walmart HRA plan enrollee can obtain full-service coverage through a Blue Cross Blue Shield preferred provider organization. A family can get coverage for about \$160 per month.

Unlike Obamacare, there are no income eligibility requirements. Age and gender do not alter premium rates.

The company plan is the same for all of Walmart's 1.1 million enrolled employees and their dependents, from its cashiers to its CEO. A Journal of the American Medical Association analysis from September showed that unsubsidized Obamacare enrollees will face monthly premiums that are five to nine times higher than Walmart premiums.

JAMA found the unsubsidized premium for a nonsmoking couple age 60 can cost \$1,365 per month versus the Walmart cost of about \$134 for the same couple.

Click this link for the entire article:

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/surprise-walmart-health-plan-is-cheaper-offers-more-coverage-than-obamacare/article/2541670>