

Kells - Grennie American Legion  
Post 316  
Minutes of membership meeting  
April 18, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Commander Joe Occhipinti. Sgt-at-Arms placed the flags and the POWIMIA chair back. VC Bill Baumwoll read the opening prayers, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by the members.

Commander Joe Occhipinti asked for the roll call of officers all were present except for VC Charles Goffredo who was excused and absent was VC Emery Chagnon.

A motion was made by John Vivolo to suspend normal business and the reading of the minutes from the Match meeting. Motion was seconded by Joe Toronto. Leo said the reason for this was to go over all the financial business with the selling of the building which will take up a lot of time.

Leo stated now all the paperwork is finally finished and an inspection will be made by the buyers lawyers and if no problems should arise we should be able to close within ten days or so. Leo said one file cabinet will be brought here from the Post and placed in a closet at our new meeting hall at the Moravian Church.

The Post phone number will remain the same the number was transferred from a land line to a cell phone.

Leo said our new mailing address is Post 316, P.O. Box 90096, Staten Island NY 10309.

Leo said that Lester sent letters to Department of NY and to Richmond County informing them of the change of venue.

Leo said that he and Lester worked on the changing of all pertinent information for tax purposes for our except form status, which had taken a while because the form we were using was no longer used. Leo was told that we were no longer tax exempt, but that was because we were using an old form.

It was also discussed what we did monetarily for legion functions. The Post would pay half of the price for Legion events, but we had to stop that .. We will be in a position to resume that program, but with one stipulation the member will pay the full price and after attending the event he or she will be reimbursed for half of the price. Leo said there were times when we paid for a member's ticket to attend a breakfast and they did not show up, then the post lost that money. This past year we had a Christmas Party and 75 people said they were attending and only about 40 attended. We do not mind paying but do not want to lose the money either.

Once all the business of the closing of the building we will have to talk about how the funds will be set up in various accounts. This year instead of send one boy and girls to the State event we will sponsor two each.

We will still have to carry some type of Insurance policy ( Leo stated that it is called a homeless Policy) Right now we have to pay about \$4000 a year and it will go down to about \$600. a year.

Leo said once the building is sold we will end up with a little more than \$350,000. The accounts will be set up just as they are now a Post account and a corporation account.

Up until now expenses to run our Post ran about \$1500.00 per month, now for monthly meeting it will run about \$150 per month for the use of the hall with a collation after the meeting and the insurance will break down to about \$50 a month.

Once we get the money we will have to disburse in long term accounts such as CD's, Treasury Bonds or Municipal bonds for regular accounts we can use what we have now Money Market.

What was basically discussed was to go back to the traditional ideas of years back of participating in school events and more community affairs programs As far as when we get the money from the sale of the building numerous accounts will be set up. We will set up a budget for the Post Treasury somewhere in the area of \$12,000 a year which will cover costs of all Legion functions. If the Post needs funds for any specific things outside of the budget it will come from the corporation fund.

All our members know that we are now meeting at this location the Moravian Church, Lester said he sent out 170 letters to the members asking them to attend the meetings especially to members that either never attended a meeting or have just stopped attending. Leo said the corporation will writing very few checks now, because we have closed all the accounts we had at the Post like the soda, coffee, electric gas bills etc. Leo said when we started the sale of the building we had \$23,000 in the Money market account and \$9000 in the checking account. As of today we have \$9177.00 in the money market and 1096.00 in the checking account. It cost the Post about \$14,000 in cash

Once all the business with the sale of the building is complete we can then venture into how we want to use some of the funds for future programs for the Legion and other charitable programs. Leo said he received a call from the Girl Scouts and they want to us put our flag around Memorial Day when we go to Moravian Cemetery.

Leo said when you home tonight think about what you think we can do to help the Post and we will discuss it all at the May meeting.

Back into regular business Dennis mentioned that had visited the Brooklyn and Manhattan VA Medical Centers and Out Patient clinics and was told by the Director that the hospitals might be closing in 2015 and will shift over to the Choice Program. Leo said that will never happen and he explained why. He talked about Champ VA and Tricare and said most hospitals or doctors do not accept it.

Joe Toronto spoke about VA issues but because of two other members were speaking I was unable to pick up what Joe said.

Allen said that he has the complete list of who has paid their dues. He said as of tonight we have 163 paid up .He said if you are not on the paid list something is wrong, either you forgot to pay he he made a mistake somewhere ..

Joe read out upcoming events April 22 is the County Meeting at Gold Star Post.at 7pm .. April 23 is the Executive Board meeting at Merrell Post at 10am .. The County Convention will be held on June 17 at Merrell Post, sign in begins at 6 pm. On October 8 at CSI an Oldies Show. \$55.00 PP call Joe Cammarata for more information. Department Convention July 14 -16 in Bingimpton, NY. John Vivolo stepped down as Sgt-at-Arms and the new Sgt-at-Arms is Gus Larosa. Before closing Joe asked to keep Charlie Goffredo in are prayers for a speedy recovery. Lester said member Gerard Grennie passed away.

Closing prayers were read by Bill Baumwoll, taps were played and the meeting ended at 9:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Adjutant

Lester Modelowitz