

Kells – Grennie American Legion Post 316
Minutes for meeting held on November 20, 2017
At New Dorp Moravian Church

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Commander Carmine Vacirca. Commander called upon Sgt-at-Arms Gus Larosa for the presentation of the Flags and a hand salute was given by the membership. Opening prayers were read by Vice Commander William Baumwoll. The Pledge of allegiance was recited by all. Sgt-at-Arms placed the POW/MIA chair back. Commander asked for the reading of the Legion preamble.

The commander asked for the roll call of officers all were present except Chaplain Joe Occhipinti who was absent, Leo Milham and Bob Mahoney were excused. The Commander asked for the reading of the minutes of the April meeting they were read by the adjutant and a motion was made by Gus to accept them as read seconded by Gus add carried.

Membership: Allen Palazzo reported according to the State database we have 114 members paid in for the year and has about 5 more that he is going to send in. Based on our goal of 165 we are at about 73% which is pretty good.

Carmine said at the Veterans breakfast at the Bermuda inn in November he picked up one new member. He also said after the New Year we just start a membership committee.

Boys & Girls State- Bill Baumwoll said there is nothing to report as this time. Carmine said that Tony DeNatale said there was a poor showing by the Posts in sponsoring student for Boys State, Carmine also said he is hoping that the County approves Post 316 request to sponsor 2 or 3 Boys next year and possibly sponsor 3 students for girl's state.

Correspondence: Lester read a letter from Michael Luongo who was one of the Firefighters we honored at our First Responders Night, and send a letter of thanks. Lester also read a letter that was sent to Congressman Donovan about our recommendations for student Patrick A. Perosi from Monsignor Farrell High School who is applying to West Point and is a member of the Sons of the Legion.

Old Business: Allen spoke about the members that attended the lunch at the Carmel Richmond Nursing Home. Carmine purchased Avon Gifts for the veterans living at the nursing home and the Post member did a veteran's day ceremony, and all had a great time. Carmine said they sat around the Veterans and listened to their stores. Carmine asked the members if they would like to do this every year around Veterans Day possibly at Carmel Richmond Nursing home or possibly a different one. John V made a motion to continue this venture, and Allen seconded it with no further discussion it was carried by the members.

New Business: John made a motion to research and consider inviting the children from the Challenger Baseball League to a meeting or possibly do something special with the kids possibly give them certificates. Motion was seconded by Gus and carried.

Carmine said the Post was given a Trophy by the Challenger League, but someone must go and pick it up. Carmine said at the Veterans breakfast at the Bermuda inn in November he picked up one new member. He also said after the New Year we should start a membership committee. Carmine and Leo attended the Richmond County American Legion Veterans Day ceremony at the Mall and said there was a great turnout. Carmine said after they went to Applebee's.

Allen said he ate in the Longhorn Steak house on Veterans Day and was given things for free plus a 10% discount and a Card signed by the staff.

Carmine said he received five turkeys from shop rite and donated them to MT Loretto's food Pantry. Carmine said next year if anyone knows of a needy family let him know and he will donate a turkey to them. Lester said he is starting a new section on the website for members consisting of a Bio on their time in the military, and a photo of them during that time and a photo of them now and what they did after the military. Carmine said he would like to go and visit some of the older members that do not make it to the meetings anymore.

Carmine said the holiday will be held in January and would like to form a committee to pick a restaurant. And members who have attended at least five meeting during the year will be invited to attend with one guest. At the December meeting we will know where and when the party will be held and if its in the evening or afternoon.

Treasurer: Carmine gave the figures for the Post account and the corporations accounts and a motion was made by John V to accept and was seconded by Gus and carried by the members in attendance. Any member that would like to have more information please contact Carmine or Leo.

Service Officer: Joe Toronto reported that the Department of the VA signed a memorandum that the American Bar Association can provide certain types of legal service for veterans and in conjunction with a law school will also be helping with legal matters for veterans. Joe said the VA does not supply legal services.

He also said there is an organization that is called the Veterans Justice Outreach that can help veterans that were incarcerated and are out on Parole or Probation and there is an office and the Manhattan VA Campus on East 23rd Street. Joe also said the VA has new guidelines on blood pressure. High Blood Pressure was considered as anything over 140 / 90 the new figures are 130/80.

Good of the Legion: Lester said he is helping a friend of his who he served with in Vietnam who was wounded in February 1968 but never received his Purple Heart. Lester said he wrote and called his friends congressman in Oklahoma to try and that information processed.

With no further business to be discussed the Commander asked for closing prayers that were read by VC William Baumwoll. Taps were played, and the Flags and the Flags were saluted and retired at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Lester Modelowitz, Post Adjutant