

Kells – Grennie American Legion
Post 316
Minutes of membership Meeting
Held at the new Dorp Moravian Church
June 20, 2016

Meeting was called to order to at 7:30 by Past Post Commander Leo Milham in the absence of Commander Joe Occhipinti. The Flags and the POW/MIA Chair back were put in place by Sgt-at-Arms Gus Larosa. Opening prayers were read by Lester Modelowitz, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by the members in attendance. Roll call officers was taken and Commander Joe Occhipinti and VC Bill Baumwoll were absent.

A motion was made by Lester Modelowitz to suspend regular business and seconded by John Vivolo to listen to guest speakers from Northfield Bank to talk about financial option for the Post. Members listened to various options and asked questions. At 8:10 the guests left. Leo said the reason they were here was try to decide where and to possibly invest the funds received from the sale of the building. Leo said he went to Chase bank and they referred Leo to go to Northfield Savings, and the reason was the man from Chase does not deal with committees.

Back to regular business:

Leo said he had asked for a few members to volunteer for a finance committee and he said the only one to step up was Gus and Carmine to go through lists of finance companies and banks but no one else stepped up.

Corporation Report

Leo said the minutes of the April meeting will not be read as for it only concerned information about the closing of the building and banking.

The acting Commander Leo Milham asked for the reading of the minutes from the May 16th meeting. The minutes were read by Post Adjutant Lester Modelowitz, a motion was made by Gus Larosa to accept the minutes and seconded by Charles Goffredo and carried.

Leo spoke about the upcoming Department Convention in July and asked who was going. The only member from the Post that will be attending is Bob Mahoney, Leo said the Post will pay for the price of half the room rental and \$50 towards the gas for driving to the convention. Leo spoke about meeting for July and August. A lunch meeting will be held at Charlies house on July 18th at 1 pm. There will be no meeting in August, more details to follow.

Charlie spoke about a call he received from the gentleman who purchased our previous headquarters. When he began renovations in the building he said there was an enormous amount of termite damage. Charlie explained exactly where the damage was in certain cross beams. Charlie told him to continue his work and the Post members will talk about it at our next meeting. The buyer told Charlie he would like to be reimbursed and gave him a figure which Charlie thought was absurd, the buyer told Charlie he wanted to be reimbursed for the material. Charlie spoke to our attorney and she said more than 15 days have passed since the closing and the building was inspected twice and the Post has no obligation what so ever. The

buyer did give a figure of \$12,000 to Charlie but then dropped down to \$6000. Charlie said legally we do not have to do anything but morally he thinks we should because he was very good to us during the selling procedures of the building and did not rush us to get out. Charlie said our lawyer does not want to get involved and then Charlie said legally the buyer cannot do anything because the building was inspected before the closing and a walk through was done.

Leo said this can be done two ways one by a Board of Directors or by the Post members. Leo suggested that it should be a member's decision, and this will give everyone a chance to decide what to do or not do. Leo said that offering to pay for the termite damages would be like and admittance of saying we had known about the damage prior to selling the building.

Leo talked again about leaving the Legion sign on the building for now to possibly prevent vandalism, because the building is vacant.

There a number of motions made on the floor of what to do if the buyer does want restitution. Another idea was to leave the sign up for now for advertising the Post and for historical reasons. There were figures brought up about restitution but was put on hold for now.

It was brought up by Allen that what if we decided to give restitution what would stop the new owner from coming back in six months from now and try again. Leo said he could not do that because he had one year to inspect the building prior to closing. John said we should ask the buyer how much he would want to keep the name on the building. A motion was made by Gus to negotiate with the buyer about how much he would want from us to keep the name on the front of the building. Leo said he will wait for the buyer to call him. The motion was voted on and approved by the members in attendance.

Leo said that the Santander bank that we presently use Santander is the worst bank ever. Leo said he received a letter from the bank that one of the members of the Post received a check from Comcast and cashed it at a Santander Bank but did not put an account number on the check The check did bounce and because this member was associated with the Post the bank did a name search they found the members name was at one time tied to the post accounts. Leo received another letter from the bank that we were being charged for a bounced check. Leo told the bank that if the mistake is not rectified he is drawing out all the money from the bank and go to a different bank. Leo said that in the late 1960's there was a fire in the building and years of documents were lost, such as the original charter, years of minutes from meetings and most important the corporate books, which prevented us from changing the bank that we use. But now since the sale of the building we have new corporate books and we can go to any bank of our choice. We will decide which is the best bank for the Post, which right now might be Northfield Savings.

Leo said he paid off all the remaining utility bills from the Post HQ's. Anyone wishing to know the balances in the Corporation Account please contact Leo.

Post Treasurer: Carmine Vacirca read the Treasurer's report for incoming and outgoing funds any members that would like to know the exact figures please contact Carmine

Membership: Allen said we have 164 members paid for the year 2016, but he believes there are a few more that had lapsed in 2015 that paid.

John said he called about 20 members from a list of members that Lester made but no responses.

Old Business: Leo talked about the outing we held to place Flags at legionnaires gravesites at Moravian cemetery. Joe, Leo, Lester, John and his son and grandchildren, Gus, Allan, Carmine and Girl Scouts and den Mothers from Troop 5394 and other siblings from the troop that helped place over 600 flags. After that the Post took all who attended to the Oakwood Diner for brunch. Leo said Lester made up certificates of appreciation for each of the girl scouts that helped out, and Leo will contact them to make sure that they get them. And we also signed up a new member who was the grandfather of one of the girls. Carmine brought all the old flags to the Elks Lodge for proper disposal. Leo said Lester also made a certificate and a copy of the DVD history of the Post for the lawyer that Charlie delivered.

New Business: John Vivolo brought an idea to the members on a way to recruit new members and said he spoke to Joe about it. He would like the Post to advertise in local catholic churches on the Island in their news bulletin. The ad will be in two churches every week at a price of \$1568.00 but must make a one commitment. After talking about it many thought it was a good idea, but was tabled until our next regular scheduled meeting in September.

Leo said that we have a member amongst us who does a tremendous amount of work for our Legion Post and has been doing it for quite a while and is nominating Lester Modelowitz to an honorary member of Post 316. The motion was made by John and seconded by Gus and carried. Lester thanked all the members and said he enjoys what he does for the Post and will continue to do so.

Carmine said he is working on the new Legion shirts for members that attend meetings. Shirts will be blue with yellow printing.

Leo said tonight we have to vote for corporation officers, it has been a tradition of this Post that the members nominate the officer for the corporation. The officer nominated are

President: Joe Occhipinti

1st Vice President: Ferdie Salvatore

2nd Vice President: Lester Modelowitz

Corporation Treasurer: Leo Milham

Board Members: Carmine Vacirca, William Baumwoll, Charles Goffredo, Joseph Toronto, Allen Palazzo, John Vivolo, Elias Arout

Leo said if anyone else would like to run or if any members nominated would like to not be nominated speak now. Post adjutant made a motion to cast one vote for those nominated the motion seconded by Gus and carried by the members present.

Leo said he thought Ferdie Salvatore was the oldest member in the Post but found out that Julius Riso is the oldest and he is 98 years old.

Lester said he waiting on hearing from the Assemblyman Matteo's office on the street renaming, but will their office in the morning.
50/50 was held and there were two winners.

With no further business to come before the members closing prayers were read by Lester, a moment of silence was held for the people massacred in Orlando, Florida.
the POW/MIA Chair was retired, taps were played and the flags were saluted and retired for the evening.

Respectfully Submitted
Adjutant
Lester Modelowitz