

Kells-Grennie American Legion Post 316
Minutes for meeting held on
November 19, 2018
New Dorp Moravian Church

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Commander Carmine Vacirca. Opening prayers were read by Chaplain William Baumwoll, Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and the POW/MIA Chairback was put in place by Sgt-at-Arms Gus Larosa, followed by the reciting of the Preamble to the Constitution,

Roll call was taken by the Adjutant all officers of the Post were present.

Committee Reports

Boys State: Bill Baumwoll reported that he attended a meeting at the Cespino-Russo Post. He said that County VC David Martin and District Commander is starting the 2019 program now to get a jump start on it. He is also contacting the PTA of each High School and the ROTC. Bill said some of the Post's do not have enough funds to support a Boys State Candidates so will try running fund raisers.

Children and Youth: Carmine said the Joseph Occhipinti has been the Chairman but has not been to meetings in a long period of time and asked if any member would be willing to step up and take over as Chairman. Bill Baumwoll said he will try it.

Membership: Allen Palazzo said we have 91 paid members as of tonight and our goal is 165. Two Transfers form other Post's. One was present Ed Ward, served with US Army in Vietnam 1971-1973. He was given a Post Shirt by the Commander.

Commander Vacirca called upon Bob Mahoney to come forward and was presented with his 50 Year membership with the American Legion. Carmine mentioned that he was presented with a plaque.

Service and Welfare: Joseph Toronto reported that Post member Dennis Rosenwald was not doing well, and it would be nice if members could give him a call and Joe read off his home and cell numbers. Lester said he had spoken to him today in the afternoon. Joe spoke about legal services that are available to veterans at va.gov/OGC/LegalServices.asp which is the office of General Council Joe also reported that Veterans Homelessness has declined by 5% and the VA and HUD give assistance in housing their website is Hud.com or call 877-424-3838.

Treasurer: Carmine Vacirca said that the report that he will give now will not be a conclusive figure because checks are going out after the meeting for the Christmas Party and for nursing home gifts.

He read the totals for

the Post treasury to those in attendance if any member not in attendance would like to know the figures please contact Carmine.

Corporation Reports: Leo Milham reported on all the various accounts are Money Market. Main Operating Account, Membership Account, Post Treasury, Not-for-profit Charity Account.

Certificates: 36 Month, 30 Month, 14 Month. And he read out the balances. If you want to know the exact figures, please contact Leo

Charities

Leo spoke about charities that we have donated and that we will continue to do so.

The Challenger Little League \$300

Camp Horizon for kids with Cancer \$300

Leo also talked about the Steven Siller Foundation that has a program when a First responder is killed in the line of duty that will pay off the families remaining mortgage. And soon they will do the same for military personal that are killed in the line of duty. We have also decided to donate \$300 a year to this foundation. If you would like to donate on your own.

Leo also said that last year Post members participated on a fishing trip for veterans that attend what is called the Day Hospital and some that are permanent patients at the Brooklyn VA. And is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Gravesend and we donated \$300 to that cause.

Leo said if you know of any organization that we could possibly donate to please bring it up at a meeting.

New Business

Leo made a proposal for an organization to Send a Kid to Camp in which there are two different formats. One is to send a child from Staten Island from an impoverished family to camp for a week or send a child whose parents are in the military and are currently stationed at Camp Drum, NY which would cost a little less where we would not have to pay for transportation.

The cost would be more than our usual monthly donation.

Commander asked for a motion the motion on the proposal to spend \$500 for this donation and to be able to make donations off Staten Island if the organization held a 501 C3 status.

Motion was made by John Vivolo and was seconded by Richie Burdge, Allen asked if we would be going over the normal monthly donation of \$250 all the time and Commander said only when there are special circumstances like this the motion was voted on and carried.

Leo brought up a suggestion about certain members and their dues.

1.The individual who is currently serving as the Post Commander the Post will pay his or her dues for that year.

2.The individuals serving as VC for at least two years the Post will pay their dues

3.Leo said right now we have two Honorary members that the Post pays the dues for, Lester Modelowitz and Leo Milham

4.As it stands now Commander Carmine Vacirca and Vice Commanders Allen Palazzo, William Baumwoll, Gus Larosa have served for at least two years. The proposal on the floor is for the

above. Motion made by John Vivolo and seconded by Richie Burdge and carried and will start for membership years 2019 – 2020.

New Business

On December 7th the Post will hold their annual Christmas Party. This year the event will be held at La Strada on new Dorp Lane at 7: pm. All members and one guest are invited to attend. It will include food, soda, beer and wine. If you want a special drink there will be a cash bar. If you would like to attend, please contact Charlie at 718-966-8396 by December 1st.

The event is not publicized at all.

Carmine spoke about the upcoming 100th anniversary of the American Legion and the County is asking for funds for a Journal. Bob Mahoney made a motion that the Post take a Full-Page ad at the cost of \$100 and Lester Modelowitz seconded the motion. There was discussion by John Vivolo who was against the proposal. With that the motion was carried. Also, in March the County will sponsoring a gathering at the Staaten for the 100th Anniversary, information is available on the website.

Joe Toronto asked if members of the Post were going to participate in the Pearl Harbor Day remembrance on the Staten Island Ferry. Carmine said he will get the information of the time to meet at the ferry.

Carmine read a letter from the Carmel Nursing Home thanking the members that attended the Veterans day event.

Carmine talked about a trip to Washington and the visit to the Vietnam Archives and the Holocaust Museum. Lester Spoke about the Vietnam learning Center that was supposed to be built in Washington near the Wall, but it now be dismissed after millions of dollars were donated.

Bob asked for allowances for attending the Mid-Winter Conference for Department of NY and Lester made a motion and was seconded by John and it was carried.

Leo said the County has told each Post that they must sponsor one meeting a year at a cost of \$150. Our Post sponsored the October month which was the County Political Forum.

Lester said we are sponsoring a student from Farrell HS who want to go to West Point and spoke to the Congressman Elect Max Rose and said to hold off a few weeks before sending the letter for Matt Pirazzo. Lester said he spoke up at Tottenville HS for a Veterans Day event and ended speaking in his grandson's class. Lester said we had one new member who was joining Richie Hall and was also bringing in a few more members.

With no further business to be discussed, closing prayers were read and Taps were played and the Flags and the POW/MIA Chairback were retired.

Respectfully Submitted

Adjutant

Lester Modelowitz

