

Kells-Grennie American Legion Post 316
Minutes for meeting held on
June 17, 2019
New Dorp Moravian Church

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

The Commander recognized Teddy Bertone and asked Lester to give a brief summary about him. Teddy who is a member of the Post for 26 years and was in the US Navy during WWII and was aboard the USS Zircon when it was attempting to rescue navy personal who were on board the USS Zircon when they were attempting to rescue crewmen aboard the USS VF 415 and ammunition freighter that attempting to dump unusable ammunition off the coast of Boston when a rocket exploded and the ship went up in flames, 17 of the 31 crew members were killed in this tragic accident.. Teddy's entire story is available on the Post Website. Lester said the entire story is available to read on the Biography page on the Post website.

The Commander asked for the roll call of officers all were present

The Commander asked for the reading of the minutes from the May meeting. The minutes were read, and a motion was made by John Vivolo to accept them as read and seconded by Richie Burdge and carried by the members in attendance.

Carmine said that the 1st Responders night award will be in October this year. The volunteers that helped for Memorial Day will be recognized at the September meeting.

Announcements: Carmine welcomed member James Olive who served with the US Marines from 1970 – 1972 was a Infantry and Mortar man.

Charlie said he recruited a friend of his who is a resident at Eger Nursing Home Nicky Castellano who worked with Charlie in the narcotics division of the Police Department and served in Vietnam as 11B 10 infantry man. His two sons are currently also in the military and serving overseas currently. Charlie said possibly when they return to the United States, ,he will be able to sign them up. Carmine said we placed 3500 Flags on Memorial Day and wanted to thank Laurie Guinta from Northfield Bank, Jean Ringoff of the Steven Siller Foundation, Lenny Gioia of the Kiwanis Club, officers Martinez and Bungy and students from the NYPD Explorers and the students from all the High Schools on Staten Island. In total we had over 100 volunteers.

Committees:

Membership: John Vivolo said that all Vice Commanders do not pay your membership it is being complimentary paid by the Post as discussed. He said the new membership year begins in July, he also said although National has raised the annual dues our Post has not and the treasury shall absorb the increase. John said to all members when you get your renewal in the

mail in July hold onto it and bring it to the August meeting or just mail it to him. The total membership paid for the past year was 116.

Americanism: Charlie Goffredo just wanted to thank everyone that attended the Memorial Day event, and the ceremony was terrific. Charlie said his Grandson Charles the 4th is currently at Fort Dix in Sgt's Boot Camp and is a current member of the Post.

Carmine said he is inviting the members of the recruiting station from Staten Island to the 1st Responders night.

Boys State: Bill Baumwoll reported there is an orientation meeting June 19th for all the students that will be going on the bus on June 28 for the trip to SUNY Morrisville. The Post has sponsored two candidates but said one candidate is being driven up there by his family. Bill said he is bringing a roll of quarters to give to the candidates to use the pay phones because no cell phones are aloud to be brought. Bill and Carmine saw the Boys off on the day they left from Staten Island at the Matthews Funeral Home Parking lot. Bill also mentioned that the two students have both applied to US Military Academy's, Matthew Pirozzi has applied to West Point and Joseph Franco to Annapolis.

Girls State: Bill said he and Carmine attended a meeting of the Girls State program and the Post is sponsoring to girls from Notre Dame Academy and they leave on July 30th.

Bill shared a letter he received from Sarah Lawrence one of the Girls State attenders from last year.

Treasurer: Leo did not have a full report because all the bill was not received yet. He did say he received a call from Moravian Church and as now all Moravian Churches that rent there Hall out to different groups and organization must carry liability insurance. Leo said he has three different brokers that he has spoken to and will make a decision as to which one he gets the best quote from. Leo said we paid to send one child of a military family stationed at Camp Drum to go to camp for a week. We gave a donation to the Challenger Little league that we sponsor each year and made our yearly donation for the Autism prom. Another donation will be to the Sunshine Camp for Kids with Cancer that is sponsored by the JCC and held at Mt Loretto. We have also donated to the Kiwanis Club for the fishing trip for disabled and other veterans on July 17th. The veterans are from the Brooklyn VA medical Center and they supply the Soda and Sandwiches. The Kiwanis Club supplies the coffee and bagels for breakfast before the boat leaves the dock, and Pizza when the boat returns from the trip.

Service Officer: Joe Toronto said the VA Mission Act is up and running but must be careful as everything is not as it seems. Some Veterans may be entitled to outside care for services that might not be available at the local VA Centers. But it must be approved by the VA if it is not you may get billed for it. Joe also the Blue Water Navy Bill was passed by the House and Senate and was on the President's desk waiting to be signed. Joe said that Veterans that served in Korea along the DMZ or other bases where the Chemicals were made or were transported from will be part of that bill.

Calendar: Bob Mahoney talked about the up-coming County Convention and the delegates we are entitled to. Lester said he sent the delegates and alternates list to Frank LaMarsh. The Convention is Friday at the Merrell Post at 6pm.

Old Business: Leo suggested that give certificates to the business's and organizations that gave us flags for the Memorial Day event. Lester said he will take care of that he will write a thank you letter and make certificates to Richmond County American Legion, Kiwanis Club, USIVO, Siller Foundation and Northfield Bank.

Corporation: Nomination of Corporate Officers. Leo explained the process that the existing corporate members nominate themselves and if anyone else would like to run for a position they can. The Commander of the Post is an automatic. The current members currently are Chairman & Treasurer: Leo Milham, Co-Chairman Carmine Vacirca, Board Members: Lester Modelowitz, Allen Palazzo, Charles Goffredo, William Baumwoll, John Vivolo. Leo said if anyone would like to be nominated please say so now. With no further nominations requested Chairman Leo Milham cast one vote and for each member and the elections were finalized. Leo said that if the nights refreshments arrive before the end of the meeting, we will take a 20 minutes break and then return to the meeting.

New Business: John said that we should do the Memorial Day Flag event a week before Memorial Day Weekend, so tentatively in 2020 we will hold the event on May 16th. Richie Burdge spoke about the Ferry Boat ride for people with disabilities which is being held on July 13th and volunteers are always needed to escort the people on the boat. The Boat leaves the Island and travels up the East River up to Kings Point. Bob Mahoney said he received a check from Assembly Cusick for funding to have the veterans Monument that was at the Arthur Kill Correctional Center to be moved to another permanent spot on the Island and is still waiting for funding from Senator Savino's office.

With no further business the meeting ended at 9:05 pm. Closing prayers were read, taps was played and the Flag was saluted at retired for the evening.

Respectfully Submitted
Lester Modelowitz
Post Adjutant