

Kells – Grennie American Legion Post 316
Minutes of meeting held on
February 18, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Post Commander Carmine Vacirca. Opening Prayers were read by the Chaplain and the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by all in attendance.

Commander asked for the adjutant to take the roll call of all officers and committee chairman were all present. Commander asked for reading of the minutes from the January 21, 2019 meeting. The minutes were read and accepted by the members in attendance.

A motion was made to stop regular business to listen to County Commander Anthony DeNatale who spoke about Legionnaires from all the Posts on Staten Island that do not attend County events.

He also said that the County cannot function without the support from individual Posts. He said last week the Four Chaplains event was held but it was not well attended as it was in past years. He said on March 15 the Legion birthday was being held at the Staaten and Richmond County is the only State that doing an event like this.

The Commander they are going to do a re-invite to the Legion for those that let their membership expire, it was done a few years ago and it turned out to truly help. It will be called Buddy Check

He also spoke about Veterans receiving disability pensions from the VA if they are also receiving regular military pension those will be depleted if it goes through and the American Legion National HQ is fighting against that.

Meeting resumed at 7:55pm

Committee Reports

Carmine gave a report on an Honor Guard. He said that six students from the New Dorp H.S. Air Force ROTC said they willing to attend any special events that the Post has as an Honor Guard which includes five boys and one girl and two would like to join the Sons of the Legion Squadron.

Carmine also reported that Congressman Max Rose might consider joining our Post.

Membership: John Vivolo said as of tonight's meeting we have 108 members paid up, plus two more members that are being processed at National so our figures will be at 110.

John said we have \$346.70 in the membership account.

John said the membership is the only committee in the Post that generates money. John said that because we have the money coming in maybe we should come up with an incentive to draw more members to attend meetings we should possibly offer to members that attend at least seven meetings a year we should possibly offer to pay those members dues. This will be

brought up again at the March meeting and voted on to be possibly used in the 2020-2021 membership year. Lester made a motion that we table this until the next meeting and Charlie seconded it and voted on by the members in attendance.

Boys and Girls State: Bill Baumwoll reported that he does have the two Girls names as of tonight but is in touch with Diane Gerber from the Auxiliary. Bill said we have two Boys, Mathew Pirozzi who attends Monsignor Farrell H.S. and he is also trying to attend West Point Military Academy and Joseph Franco a student at Tottenville who would like to attend Annapolis Naval Academy who is here at the meeting with his father and has joined the Sons of the Legion Squadron tonight. Bill said that both students have turned in all their forms. Boys State will be held from June 27 – July 2, 2019 at SUNY Morrisville. Bill said all application must be submitted by close of business on April 12, 2109.

Children & Youth: B ill said the luncheon is in April and if you would like to attend please let Carmine know. If you want to attend the Post will half of the cost which is \$50, if you do not show up you will be responsible for the full amount.

Service and Welfare: Joe Toronto reported that the Veterans appeals, and modernization act was passed and goes into effect on February 20, 2019. Which nullifies the old ram program. This will help streamline cases to move along at a faster pace. These cases had taken anywhere from 3 -7 years, with this new program it could cut the elapsed time down to six months.

Joe also said that National Grid is offering a program for disabled veterans. Joe also mention a bill that is in process now HR 840 Veterans Access to Child Care Act if past will help veterans with different disabilities.

Corporation: Because Leo was excused from the meeting Lester just read off the figures including all the accounts. Anyone that would like a more detailed report contact Leo. Lester also talked about the progress on the possible grant we are trying to get. A lot of time and work has gone into over the past seven months having to upload all kinds of documents to the New York State Grants Gateway. The documents include copies of our corporation, names of Post officers and board members etc. Hopefully in the next month or so we will know if we will get it. He said he had to call the IRS and the Department of State. Even if we do not get the grant this time around all the paper work will be submitted to what is called a NY State Grant Gateway Document Vault. He said that he finished all the paperwork and now we are established with the State as far as our not-for-profit in the NY State. And he also straightened out federal not-for-profit status.

Carmine said that Post member Carey Spearman wife Loraine past away and many of the members payed their respects at the wake and a flower arrangement was sent to the funeral home.

Old Business: Carmine talked about what the County Commander had to say tonight about lack of participation at County meeting and events. John and Charlie brought up how members of this Post and their wives were disrespected at a County Installation dinner in 2013 and

apology was never rendered. Carmine a Legionnaire who had been drinking to much came over to the table and in a nasty told them to shut up.

Correspondence:

Carmine read a letter from the Kiwanis club thanking the Post for their donation of \$300 for the fishing trip for disabled veterans this summer.

A letter about the Children and Youth Luncheon and a letter about the upcoming National Commander Dinner at Anton's and a memo about the American Legion 100th Anniversary at the Staaten.

New Business: John said that we buy two dozen donuts for each meeting. Lester said he will pick up the donuts before the meetings.

With No further business to be discussed the meeting ended at 9:15 pm

Closing Prayers were read, Tap were played, and the Flag was retired and saluted by all

Respectfully Submitted

Post Adjutant

Lester Modelowitz