

Kells – Grennie American Legion  
Post No. 316

Minutes of Meeting  
November 16, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm, by Commander Joseph Occhipinti. Sgt-at-arms John Vivolo put the flags in place and the POW/MIIA chair back. Opening prayers were read by the Commander. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by the members.

Regular business convened and the Commander asked for the roll call of Officers. All were present except for VC Emery Chagnon. Commander asked for the reading of the minutes from the October 19, 2015. The minutes were read by the adjutant and a motion was made by Leo Milham to accept the minutes as read and seconded by John Vivolo and carried by the membership.

Commander Joe called upon special guest Joanne Nolemi the vocal music teacher from Tottenville High School to speak to the members. Joanne talked about her interest within the veteran community and that she was a kid she attended a concert at the school which called the Blair Concert for former student Allan Blair who was killed in Vietnam. She said she went to Tottenville H.S and then eventually ended up becoming a teacher there. While working she was cleaning out a closet and found an old dusty framed photo that turned out to be a photo of Allan Blair who graduated Tottenville H.S. and at the age of eighteen was killed in Vietnam in January 1968. And the photo was put on display with a story all about Allan Blair and now every June there is a concert named for him and what he did. She then realized that eight other from the school died in Vietnam. She also said she began a project to find out how many soldiers from WW I, WW II, Korea and any other wars after that who were killed or died after from wounds or disease. She talked about how the students became so interested in this material and about Allan Blair that they named a Star in the sky for him. She had a Veterans Recognition day just before Veterans Day and those that attended went up to various classes. Joanne also said they have a mural that listed all the names of past students from Tottenville High School that were killed in different war

eras. She thanked us for the Scott Labaido painting that we are giving to Tottenville H.S. She told us that she remembered when she was a young girl and riding in the back of her parents car and passing our post and saw the U.S. Army Tank that was there. Joe had asked Joanne to be a speaker at the Four Chaplain breakfast in 2016 and said she would be honored,

Back to Regular Business:

Membership Chairman Allan Polazzo said we have 130 members that are paid up so far. But also said because of a mistake made somewhere between Department and National about 20 members had paid their dues twice so he had to send them back to the individual members. This is not only a problem with our post but many other Post's too. Allen said that the dues will go from \$35 to \$40 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> for dues for 2015 – 2016 and will go up to \$45 for 2016 -2017.

Americanism Chairman Charles Goffredo read a letter that he had received from the Ladies od Charity from St Charles and they also sent him handmade rosary beads. Charlie also said that a few members went to PS 32 in Great Kills and spoke about the Flag, Pledge of Allegiance and Patriotism to a few 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

Carmine added a little more information about the visit to PS 32. He said the children were very interested and even asked some questions. There was a problem with a power point presentation but everything went well . Allen said at the end of the presentation the students sang a song to us. The student drew and wrote to veterans of thanks. We left flyers and flags for all the students.

Treasurer Carmine Vacirca read the opening balance. A donation was sent to Ilene Carucci for the purchasing of gifts for veterans that are in nursing homes and homebound, a check was issued to the Ladies Auxiliary for the Empire Girls State program, and a payment to Go Daddy.com for the Post 316 website. Carmine then read the closing balance if any members would like to know the exact figures please contact Carmine.

Post Historian Lester Modelowitz said that the Post History is almost complete, he said he was taking the balance of photos home to scan. They will be added to the website and some to the video that is also being made. He said most of the

photos that he has scanned also have names to go with the photos, he hopes that if other legionnaires view the photos might know the missing names from some of the photos. The only items are still at the post are certificates that he will eventually get to also, Lester also said that he wants to visit the six monuments in the New Dorp area that we visit ON Memorial Day and take photos of them. A partial video is available view on the website and the bottom of the history page.

Lester also said he placed a call to Councilman Matteo office with a request to get Arc street renamed for Kells-Grennie Post 316 way or possibly the green street garden out in front of the building. On Veterans day he spoke with the councilman he told me that street naming is done in August, so we just missed out for this year but said that they have the information in it will be taken care of.

Lester said he received a call from John Vivolo's daughter in law Stephanie Slapian from the Advance, she wrote an article about the Post History and it is available on Staten Island Live and also on our Post website.

Corporation Report- Leo Milham said all the paper work for the sale of the building is with attorney generals sitting in his in-box, but he said they do not take kindly to getting calls on the disposition. Leo read the balance in the Corporation checking account . He said he had to transfer funds from the money market account. He had to pay N.Y. City water bill for this quarter. He also has to pay the Insurance bill and all the basic utilities. Leo also said he will probably have to transfer more funds next month just to cover the basic monthly bills. Any member that would like to know the exact figures contact Leo.

David gave a house report and said as of the last post meeting the hall was used for two parties., a group from Tupperware held a meeting and a fishing club also used the facilities. He also said we have no future rentals because we can not advertise for the fact that we do not know how long we will be in the building-.

John Vivolo said that person that is purchasing the building is a mutual friend and is not pressuring us to get out.

Past County Commander Bob Mahoney told the members about upcoming dates.

Friday night, November 20<sup>th</sup> is the County meeting at Gold Star Post at 7 pm. The annual memorial mass is at Fort Wadsworth on November 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 am. He said all members of deceased members should be sent to County VC Dan Venesia, Lester said he had already forwarded the names. The annual oratorical contest is being held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Holy Rosary Church at 10 am. December 18<sup>th</sup> is the County Meeting Christmas party at Joseph Merrell Post at 7 pm. Bob also said that the County is contemplating holding the January and February meetings at 10 am on Saturday mornings.

Old Business: Leo said that a while back we discussed having a Christmas party and that will be the last Post Party to be held here. Leo suggested not having it on a meeting night but instead on a Saturday night. Leo said we should have a committee to plan the party. The party will be held on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers for the committee are Leo, Charlie, Lester, John and Carmine.

Ferdi said he went to a 71<sup>st</sup> reunion for the Submarine that he served on during WW II in Charleston, The USS Clamagore. He said he was the oldest member of the crew that attended.

Eli donated a banner that is hanging over the fireplace, but unfortunately I could not hear what he said because of another conversation going on at the same time, but I did hear Joe say thank you.

Correspondence: Lester read a letter from Seaview Adult Center inviting veterans to use their facilities. There was a letter from NY City for our tax exception, Lester said he will take care of that in January. Lester said he received a letter from a law firm that helps Veterans resolve claims from Mesothelioma and asked if the Post could place a link on our website for them. He did and they sent a \$50 donation..

Dennis thanked everyone that thought of him while he was home ill.

Joe said before the close of business we should keep the people of Paris who were killed or wounded from the terrorist attack and even everyone in our country. Lester played La Marseillaise the French national anthem.

With now further business to be held the 50/50 drawing was held and Leo Milham was the big winner. Leo spoke briefly about the program his son Dr. Michael Milham is doing called the Healthy Brain Network. Children from the age of 6 – 18 get a complete evaluation for free, leo also said that people from the age of 18 -45 can participate in a program and get paid \$100 for each day that they volunteer. He said that 2 post member's grandchildren have done it.

With no further business at hand the meeting ended at 9:20 pm closing prayers were read, taps were played and flags were retired.

Respectfully

Lester Modelowitz