

Kells- Grennie American Legion Post 316
Minutes for Meeting
January 20, 2020

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

Commander asked the Adjutant for roll call of Officers and Chairman's all were present. Commander asked for the reading of minutes from last meeting. The minutes were read and accepted by the members in attendance.

Committee Reports:

Americanism: Charlie thanked all the members who attended the wake for Elias Arout who passed away on December 19, 2019.

Carmine said if you know of a member that has passed away please let Charlie know.

Dennis asked how we get in touch with members other than the phone. The subject of emails was brought up, but the problem is not everyone will give out their email address.

Boys and Girls State: Bill Baumwoll said he spoke with Frank Saladis who will remain as the County Boys State Chairman. Bill said he found out that students that would like to attend the Boys State Program will have to maintain a B average but has not been approved yet. Bill said that Girls State program started up in November but will report on it when he gets the updated information. Carmine read certain new rules pertaining to the program. Bill said Frank Salidas will let him know of any changes.

Children & Youth: Carmine said we are still looking for a chairman for this committee. The breakfast will be held on April 19th.

Four Chaplains will be run by Steven Ayling and will be held on February 9th at 11am at the Staaten \$55 per person.

Membership: John reported that he sent out letters to members that have not paid and he did get some responses and we now have 106 members paid. And we are at 89% of our quota

Corporate Treasurer: Leo said the cost the Christmas party was \$2222.00 , plus one member paid for a second guest. Leo said the rules for this yearly event is each member is entitled to one guest anything above that is his or her responsibility. Leo read out the amounts of all the specified accounts and the totals if any members would like to know the exact amounts please contact Leo. Leo said we raised the amounts that the Post donates to charity from \$250 to \$500. Leo said we have certain organization that we donate on a regular basis the Challenged Baseball team in Great Kills, Siller Foundation, Autistic Kids of Staten Island Prom, Camp Horizon for Kids with Cancer at Mount Loretto. This year we also donated \$500 to a group that was

collecting donations for several homes that were destroyed by a fire at Fort Wadsworth, etc. Leo talked about an organization called Our Special Place that helps children with disabilities, and John explained what they actually do. They are based in NJ but help families that have children that are disabled from any place in the country. John asked for a motion to make a special donation to this organization. Charlie made a motion to donate \$500 to Our Special Place next month and was seconded by Gus and was carried.

Old Business:

Leo said for many years our Post supported the Special Olympics when it was on Staten Island but now, they only have it in Albany once a year. Our normal monthly donation is for \$500 and being that we just donated to Our Special Place we will need a vote from the floor to exceed that amount this month. Charles made a motion to donate \$100 to the Special Olympics and seconded by John and carried by the membership.

Leo said Lester filed our not-for-profit 990 e Postcard taxes online for the year 2019. Leo said that any member that knows of an organization that is a not for profit bring it up at a meeting as alone as they have a 501 c status, and we will take it to consideration.

Leo said if a wife of a member is in the hospital, we will send flowers. Leo also said many years ago when a member was hospitalized the Post sent a get Card and a check at the next executive board meeting, we will discuss how much and bring it up at the following meeting.

Service and Welfare: Joe Toronto said there is a Veterans discount program and information is available at Assemblyman Cusick's office or call 718-370-1384. Walgreens is offering free flu shots for veterans. On February 4th Senator Lanza's office is offering free legal services by appointment and is done by the legal assistance group and the contact number is 212-613-6526. On February 6th at Borough Hall there will be a property value session.

Leo said the US Census is looking for people to help and they get paid \$28 an hour and are looking for a place to hold seminars.

New Business: Calendar: Next county meeting is February 21st at 10am at Cespino-Russo Post. John stated you can go to Senator Lanza's website and see if you might have some unclaimed money coming to you.

Lester said he sent out a letter to Annapolis for Tottenville Student Joseph Franco. Lester said Senator Lanza's Vietnam Veterans Day event at Tottenville HS will be on April 25 at 1pm.

County VC Steve Ayling wants to sponsor an ROTC competition at CSI and at date will be announced during the summer.

Mid- Winter Conference January 24-25, 2020 and Past County Commander Frank LaMarsh will be running for Department Commander in the coming year, Carmine said the County

donated \$5000 for his campaign and Carmine suggested that possibly next month we might think about donating \$250 for his campaign.

Bob asked for permission to attend the Mid-Winter Conference which normally the Post will pay for half the price of his hotel room and \$ 50 towards gas and tolls. Because he is going by himself the Post will give you a total of \$150 for the two nights.

Good of the Legion: Lester said he speaks to Ferdi every few weeks and he is doing okay in the assisted living but this year he is a 60-year member and I am sending him a certificate on a plaque and a new Legion Shirt.

Charlie commended Bill on this latest newsletter and brought up a motion about doing a onetime printed newsletter to all local members of the Post and mailing it out, the idea was tabled for further discussion.

With no further business to be discussed the meeting was ended. Closing prayers were read taps were played and the Flags were saluted.

Respectfully Submitted
Lester Modelowitz
Post Adjutant