

**Kells – Grennie American Legion Post No. 316
Minutes of Meeting for
August 17, 2015**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Vice- Commander Bill Baumwoll. The colors and the POW/MIA chair back were presented by Sgt-at-arms John Vivolo.

Opening prayers were read by Chaplain Dennis Rosenwald, The Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble was recited by the members and regular business began. The Commander asked for roll call of officers, Commander Joe Occhipinti, and Vice Commander Charles Goffredo were both absent because of illness.

Vice- Commander Bill Baumwoll asked for the reading of the minutes from July 20, 2015 meeting. They were read and Leo Milham made a motion to accept the minutes as read was seconded by John Vivolo and carried by the membership.

Committee Reports: Membership Chairman Allan Palozzo said when the 2nd mailing of dues goes out from National the dues will be increased from \$35 to \$40. He said as of tonight that there were 90 members paid up so far for the 2015 – 2016 year.

Treasurer Carmine Vacirca read the opening balance for the past month. The report was accepted by the membership for audit.

Bill Baumwoll said he was going to send out letters to the students that represented our Post to attend our October meeting to tell us about their experiences,

Leo mentioned that himself, Charlie, Spider and Lester packed all the rifles on hand and shipped them back to the Armory in Alabama. Leo also talked about the 45 Caliber pistols that we have, he was told that we have two choices. One is to send the pistols back to the armory and we must pay the shipping or bring them to a local Police Precinct to be destroyed and a letter must be sent when the pistols were destroyed with the make, model number and serial number of each weapon. Leo said that in 1917 when these pistols were manufactured

there were no serial number engraved on the weapons. When WW 1 ended the military decided to take the weapons apart and stockpile the parts to be interchangeable. Following the end of WW II when organizations were looking for memorabilia they took the parts and created weapons for honor guards etc.

These weapons had no serial number on them. Because that have no serial numbers we cannot sell them. Leo also said that our post was issued a M3A3 Tank in 1948 and they would like to know where it is now. We will have to try and find out where it ended up. Leo said our gun lockers were for sale to anyone that would like to purchase it for \$75.00.

Leo said as far as the sale of the building the attorney will be sending the proof copy to the attorney general's office. Once it is signed it will go to the court. The court will either okay it or deny it without comment. If all this goes through we can then set up a closing date. Leo said that each month we are still in the building our checking account gets lower and lower. There are only three parties scheduled in the hall and one party which was a surprise birthday party was cancelled by the husband who instead gave his wife a surprise divorce papers.

Leo said on a more serious note this past Friday Charlie Goffredo had a stroke while he was at the hospital for his wife who had wrist surgery. Leo said he was doing a lot better today and was able to move around, but will need rehab therapy. Leo also said Commander Joe's wife was having problems with her heart and was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

This year's BBQ was cancelled. After the sale of the building is finalized we will have catered party for the members, sometime in November.

As far as a new meeting place we have had an offer from the Cespino-Russo Post to use their facilities for free.

Leo also said there is a group of people that are trying to ban the POW/MIA flag. Lester said that Liberals are saying this because of racism. First it was the Confederate Flag which was really only a Battle Flag. The POW/MIA Flag was created by families of POW's in response to their bad treatment by the North

Vietnamese. According Newsweek writer Rick Perlstein that is just a myth. Perlstein also said that it was racist cult created by President Nixon.

Joe Toronto said the VA is going to expand their tests on the tainted drinking water that was at Camp Lejeune to establish possible service connected conditions that might exist and is under review.

Carmine said that a few members did visit the Cradle of Aviation. Lester read a letter from the Cradle of Aviation thanking the Post 316 for their donation of the Air Reconnaissance camera that was on display in the Legion club room.

New Business: Ferdi spoke about the County Installation that is being held on September 13, 2015 at the Staaten. Leo said we pay for the Commander and his wife. Anyone else that wants to attend please pay Carmine the \$65.00 per person.

Lester said about eight years ago a bill was passed in NY State to have March 29th Remembered as Vietnam Veterans Day. Lester said for the past 5 years he has worked along with a few other Vietnam vet in different states trying to get it recognized as a National Day of Remembrance. In the past few Rep Grimm put in place a resolution for March 29th. But since 2003 Congress has said no more days of remembrance, but in 2009 US Senate and US Congress came together and July 27th is now known as Korean War Veterans Day. Most recent Senator Burr reissued a resolution for Vietnam Veterans but nothing has yet transpired.

Leo talked about the program his son Dr. Michael Milham has started on Staten Island called the Healthy Brain Network. And at this time they are seeking volunteers between the ages of 18 -45 to have studies completed on the individuals and will be paid for their services. The Information is available on our website. There was talk about the closure of 12 West at the Brooklyn VA Medical Center and soon the sleep study clinic at the facility will also be closing shortly.

With no further business to be discussed the meeting ended at 9:10 pm closing prayers were read , taps was played and the flag was retired.

Respectfully

Lester Modelowitz