

Kells – Grennie Post 316
Minutes of Meeting Held on
September 19, 2016
At New Dorp Moravian Church

Meeting called to order by Commander Joseph Occhipinti. Opening prayers were read and the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble was recited by the member's present. Roll call was taken by Carmine. VC Bill Baumwoll and Adjutant Lester Modelowitz were absent. Joe made a motion to suspend regular business to recognize guests that have attended.

Joe asked Grenna Jung who represented the Post at Girls State in July. She spoke about her wonderful experience she had. Joe gave her a certificate of appreciation from the Post. There were certificates prepared for the three Girls Scouts that helped up place flags at Moravian Cemetery in May, but they were not able to attend because it was a school night. But they said they said they will help next year again. Leo said he will bring the certificates to them. Joe said this past year we placed over 400 flags but he had received a call from the cemetery that many veteran gravesites were missed so next year we will try to put out at least a 1000 flags. We will also get help from Northfield bank.

Carmine read the minutes from the last meeting that was held in June 20, 2016. A motion was made by Joe O. to accept the minutes as read and seconded by Leo and carried. Dennis McLoone said he did not know that the meetings during the summer months were cancelled. Leo said it was discussed at the June meeting that we will not have meeting here at the Church because there is no air Conditioning. Leo also said that it was posted by Lester on our web site. Joe said that many things have changed since our move to this meetings place, but feels that we are doing much more now. After discussion a motion was once again by Joe to accept the minutes and seconded by Leo and passed by the members in attendance.

Regular Business-

Leo said that a lot of changes have taken place and we are still trying to get use to them. Some of the mail is still going to the Post Building and some of the members that mail their dues out are still being returned to them. This was due to an error caused by Department of New York and National. Leo stated that some members tried mailing them to the old post HQ which we have no access to but were able to get them. Some members just mailed it back too National and they forwarded to our new address. At a meeting in August at Charlies house lists of member's phone numbers taken from American Legion members list were divided up between a few members to call other members about the address change, but more that 25% of the numbers were wrong and they could not be reached. Leo stated that we are going to post new rules and regulations in the next newsletter and they will also be available on the website. Leo said we are committed to continue holding our meeting here at the church thru December and we will be hosting the Political Forum for the County at the Church on October 14th at 7 pm. Leo said after using Staten Island Savings Bank (which is now Santander bank) for more than 75 years they made an error on the Post 316 account and refused to deal with it, so we know no longer use that bank and now use the services of Northfield Bank for three accounts that are managed by Leo, Carmine and Allen. Amy members that would like to know more about the account please contact Leo.

Leo said that he, Carmine and Allen will sit down and talk again with the representative from Northfield Bank and talk about an account that is called a lateral flexible CD, which offers a better interest rate and much better for the Post account. Leo said he will bring this information back to the membership during the October meeting. Leo said that there are other options but this is the best and easiest choice that he thinks will benefit the Post. Joe made a motion for the financial committee to pursue this and it was carried by the members at the meetings.

Leo also talked about a procedure we set up in the Post for members that attend Legion functions such as breakfasts and dinners. Members have said they would attend a function the Post paid out the money and some individuals did not show up. This had been brought up at the June meeting, but once again the Post lost money when a member did not attend the said function. When we had our Christmas party over 30 members said they were attending with family members and more than half did not show up. Once again the Post wasted needless money. From now on if a member is going to attend a Legion function he will have to pay the full price up front and at the next meeting following the event the Post Treasurer will reimburse him for half the cost of the function. For members that would like to attend various Legion Conventions they must be authorized to go and the Post will pay half the price of a room that is shared by two members and will also pay \$50 towards gas and tolls. There are other things that we use to do at the Post in past years that were stopped due to monetary reasons. Flowers for deceased members and their wives and family members. The 50/50 will be split between two winners at a meeting. New Post Legion Shirts will be ordered and members can order a shirt thru Carmine and the Post will pay for one shirt provided the member has attended at least five meetings in the calendar year.

Membership- Allen reported that our quota for this year is 162. He said as of tonight we have 75 members have renewed for the 2016-2017 years. He said we are very close to a 50% quota, and we are doing a lot better than we did last year at this time. Allen said Leo picks up all the mail and sends Allen the names of all the members that have sent in their dues renewals, Leo makes copies of all the checks. Leo talked about the mishap with the wrong address being put on the membership renewal forms that come in the mail, and said Lester had it corrected after speaking to National and Department of NY and hopefully when the next mailing goes out it will be okay.

Carmine talked about the Legion shirts that will be ordered. He asked members to put their name and size of shirt they would like. The cost of the shirts is \$11 for short sleeve and \$13 for long sleeve. Members that attend at least five meetings a year are entitled to one free shirt of your choice. The shirts are navy blue with gold lettering.

New Business- Veterans Information Seminar is November 17th. at the Old Bermuda Inn Carmine said that there are different vendors there that give out free items. There are also people there from various business's that might have opportunities of jobs for veteran. Joe said in 2017 we will be sponsoring two girls & two boys for the Boys and Girls State program. Joe also talked about the street renaming for our Post on Saturday, September 24 and

will be renamed to Kells-Grennie American Legion Post 316 Way at 12 noon. Leo said after program end the members attending will go for lunch at the Oakwood Diner.

Leo said that the same day Sen Lanza and Congressman Donovan were holding an event in the Mall for keeping children safe. John V said he would give out some American Flags.

Leo said that the money from the sale of the building is only bring used for Legion Programs and possibly for some worthwhile Community Programs.

Dennis Rosenwald spoke to the membership about his nephew who is 43 years old and a veteran and was also an Air Marshal and has a wife and two children is monetarily in a very bad situation. He is terminally ill with Huntington's Disease. He asked the Post for a donation for the organization Go Fund Me. John said he believes we should make donations to charitable organizations at all our meetings. Leo said the Board of Directors will discuss this at a meeting and come up with an idea and present it to the members at the next meeting. We already have authorized \$1000 for advertising in local Church bulletins to try and increase our membership. He said after the sale of the building funding were transferred into the the Post treasury for operating fees. Right now the Corporation pays for the rental of the church for our meetings, the phone bill and the Post Office Box. Leo also said we had agreed back in April of this year we said by the end of the year we will come up with a monetary budget and it will be discussed at the October and November meeting. Dennis McLoone mentioned the American Legion has a program called Operation Comfort Warriors which is somewhat like Wounded Warrior program, they also have the National Emergency Fund for veterans that have been displaced after natural disasters. They also will help out families of the Sons of the Legion. Joe said these are funds that we should definitely try to help in the future. A motion was made by Dennis McLoone to donate \$250 to the Go Fund Me to help Dennis Rosenwald's nephew, and the motion was seconded. Dennis said that drawings we have cannot be called 50/50 so the name will have to change to grab bag contests or something else. Leo said we cannot have that in this building. Leo said when we went through the sale of the building it was very tedious with all the problems that came from the State Attorney's office, so we have to be very careful how we donate and spend funds because we can be audited at any time.

Carmine said the SI Yacht is running a bus trip to Atlantic City- the cost is \$50 per person and you get back \$30. The trip included a continental breakfast at the yacht club, on the bus beer, soda, wine and sandwiches. When you return you get a dinner at the yacht club. There is 50/50 drawing held on the way down and on the return trip.

John spoke about the ad that we have in Church bulletins which funds were allocated for. There was \$500 left over and wanted to use that to an ad on place mats at the Dakota diner. Allen made a motion to use the \$500 balance.

Dennis there will be a ceremony at Baron Hirsch cemetery on September 29th at 11 am for a Medal of Honor Recipient. The man's name is William Shemim.

Correspondence – Leo read a letter about the Big Apple Honor Flight – Veterans have to show proof that they are WW II Veterans and they will get a free flight from Kennedy Airport to Washington DC to the WW II memorial.

Winners – Carmine

Leo

Gus

With no other business to be conducted the sharing is caring was held.
Closing Prayers were read by Leo
Taps were played
Colors were saluted and retired.

Respectfully
Lester Modelowitz