

Kells – Grennie American Legion Post 316
Minutes of meeting held on
January 21, 2018

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 and all officers and committee chairman were present.

Commander asked for reading of the minutes from the December meeting, the minutes were voted on and accepted with one correction the date of the Children and Youth event is on April 13th.

Committee Reports

Americanism – Carmine said we should start planning our Memorial Week Flag event a little earlier this year.

Boys and Girls State: Nothing new yet.

Children and Youth – Any member that would like to attend the Post will pay half.

Membership: Carmine said our new membership chairman is John Vivolo and he reported as of tonight we have 105 paid members.

John said the best way to pay your membership is online it saves a lot of time, money and paperwork. Bill asked about members paying by check John said that it not a problem.

John said he as sending out letter about renewing your membership.

Service Officer: Joe Toronto asked if anyone had problems getting appointments at the VA or if there was a problem in wait time when visiting your doctors, Lester said in the tri sate area there really are not any problems but if you go out to the mid-west in rural areas there do have problems.

Joe said the Appeals Modification Act will begin on February 19th, to try and speed up claims. There are three different options.

Option 1: Higher-level Review

Your claim is reviewed by a more senior claims adjudicator and involves:

A higher-level review of the decision

No submission of new evidence allowed

The possibility of overturning the decision based on:

A difference of opinion, A clear and unmistakable error

The reviewer, who identifies or learns of a duty to assist error, can return the claim to the regional office for correction. You or your representative can request an informal phone call to identify specific issues.

Option 2: A Supplemental Claim Lane

You can submit or identify new and relevant evidence to support your claim. VA will provide assistance in developing the evidence.

Option 3: Appeal Lane for Appeals to the Board

This option allows you to appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. You can choose between three options:

- Direct review: You have no new evidence and do not want a hearing.
- Evidence submission: You have new evidence, but do not want a hearing.
- Hearing: You have new evidence and want to testify before a Veterans Law Judge.

Joe said the VA is going to be partnering with an organization called Caring Bridge which is a non-profit social network and will veterans set up free personal secure networks to help returning veterans communicate with others.

Corporation Report

Leo the total amount of all the various accounts which includes the Money market, post treasury, membership, charity and the cd's. For all figures contact Leo.

Lee brought the issue we had with our non -profit status after receiving a letter from the IRS with the filing over 990 e Postcard. The issue was that because of sometime in the last three years we might have missed filing one year and if you do not file within a 15-month period you can lose your status, but you can appeal it by proving it was do to an erroneous error. We also need what is called a determination letter which we do not have because the original letter from 1947 was lost in a fire in the original Post HQ in the mid 70's. Leo contacted a lawyer in Washington DC to find out what we can do. We did find out that we are not a 501 c3 but are associated with a 501 c19 through American Legion National HQ. Lester said the problem came about was that we have two tax numbers one is called a Tax Identification Number and the other a Employee Identification Number. The TIN is not a number that we use frequently. The EIN number is the number used for filing our annual taxes. Lester said when he spoke to national, he found out that as long as we have an EIN and are incorporated, we are a 501 c19. Lester said the next day he received a call from National and checking our status they emailed the entire 501 c19 papers to him. Lester said we now also have a copy of our Determination letter dated from 1931. Leo said once the government shutdown is over the lawyer can file all our papers and we will be in good standing as far as the federal government. Leo said Lester was able to get us back up to status with the state.

Lester explained what has to be done In order to be able to accept donations we must have our corporation and our not-for-profit status up to par. Lester said he will continue to try and get

everything back in proper and hopefully be able to continue to work on getting the grant once our e990 for 2017 – 2018 is received and uploaded.

Post Treasurer- Carmine gave his Post treasurer report and said how much was in the account pending the cost of the hats and shirts which are ready to be picked up and just has to the sizes from all and will get them sometime in February or March. Carmine said the hats will be free to active members, but the shirts will cost \$5.00. If you wish to know anything about the account, please contact Carmine.

New Business – Bob Mahoney said at the last county meeting two women one from meals on wheels are looking for volunteers to delivers meals. He said that Staten Island is the only borough that gives to meals a day. The other women spoke about newly retired people that do not know what to do with there time and individuals can help out by calling these personal and possibly be a mentor to them.

Leo said that now that he created a charity account, he will discuss it in detail at the next meeting. Leo said the next meeting we will not be meeting in this Hall but in the building to the left. John said he might be getting some other members from another Post that might be giving up their charter.

Calendar: Bob Mahoney said that February 10 is the Legion Interfaith Luncheon at the Staaten 11am \$50

February 15th County Meeting 10 am at Cespino Russo Post

February 17th Fundraiser for Frank LaMarsh for Department Commander. At Gold Star Post 9am – 1pm donation \$10 per person

March 29th the National Commander Dinner at Anton's of Queens \$65 per person for tickets contact Tony DiNatale by February 15th.

With no further business to be discussed the Commander asked closing prayers. Taps were played and the flags were saluted and removed.

Respectfully Submitted

Lester Modelowitz
Post Adjutant