

**Kells – Grennie American Legion
Post 316
Minutes of membership meeting**

January 18, 2016

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/MIA chair back. Opening prayers were read by VC Bill Baumwoll. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by the members present.

Commander asked for the roll call of Officers all were present except Emery Chagnon.

Emery Chagnon did arrive late.

Commander asked for the minutes of the past meeting. Adjutant Lester Modelowitz read the November 16, 2015 meeting and said there were no minutes from December because that meeting was cancelled. The minutes were read and a motion was made by Leo Miham to except the minutes as read and John Vivolo seconded the motion and was carried.

Commander Joe asked for committee reports.

VC Allen Polazzo gave a report on the membership. He said that 144 members have paid up for the 2015 -2016 years. He said a few more renewals came in today and will add them in.

Treasurer Carmine Vacirca said there were no changes in the figures since end of November.

He read the balance as of the November meeting. A motion was made by the Commander to accept the treasures report and was seconded by Leo Milham and carried. If any member would like to know the exact amount of the figures please contact Carmine.

David gave a house report and said the Hall will be used for two parties on February 13th and the 20th.

Joe Toronto gave a Service and welfare report and had copies of all types of new medicines are available. He also said the VA plans to expand eligibility dates for military personal that were stationed at Camp Lejeune and were affected by the drinking water from August 1953 – December 1987. If you were there during these date it is suggested you file a claim. Joe also said certain family might be able to get reimbursed for out of pocket expenses. To get more information go [publichealth/exposurers/camplejeune/asp](#). Joe asked Bill Baumwoll to place this information in the next newsletter.

Leo Milham gave a Corporation Treasury report. He told the members present what was in our checking account as of January 8, 2016. He had to transfer funds from the money market account to replenish the checking account, to cover the monthly bills paid out through the checking account because we have know income coming in and our circumstances are getting worse.

As far as the sale of the building Leo stated we were told that the Attorney General had to check all the paper work and then pass it on to a Judge, because we are not for profit organization with a 501c3 and we were not fooling around with the money from the sale of the building. Leo said that all this has changed and the A-G has the final word. A few weeks later he changed his mind again and now he requested a list of what we intend to do with the money received from the sale. He also wanted to know how we plan to operate without a building. Leo said Lester put together a list of other State Island based organizations that continue to operate without their own meeting place, such as other Legion Post's, DAV, VFW etc. They also wanted about five ways that we were going to do to raise funds. We said by 50/50 sales, sale of Flags and Poppies , donation etc. This they accepted also. Next they wanted every member to sign a letter stating that he or she is in favor of the sale at a meeting. Leo explained that 60% of our members are over 85 years old and do not attend our meetings because of their age, transportation. Leo also stated that more than 20 members live out of State. He also explained that we usually only get around 15 to 20 members that attend meetings on a regular basis. Leo had Lester said a copies of all our meetings for the last year to the lawyer. Leo also stated is was spoken about at a Board Meeting and then brought to the membership and a vote was taken and passed unanimously by the membership. Leo also stated that he spoke to Bill Baumwoll to get copies of all the newsletters for the past year to show that building was being sold. We have

sent them so much paper work now they informed us that they have enough information. They do not want us to call them they only want our attorney to speak to them. Leo read a letter of petition that Lester composed to all members explaining the situation with the sale of the building and would like all members to print and sign your name, in case we have to take a proxy vote. We might need a few members to go door to door to visit members that live on Staten Island that unable to attend meetings to also sign the petition. Lester said a copy of the letter is available on our website. Leo said they wanted to know why we did not put the building under a multiple listing. We told them we did not have and also because this is a very limited piece of property and who cannot rent here and one is lawyers because it is banned by city building codes. We had to tell them that one of our Vice Commanders Charles Goffredo is a licensed real-estate broker and proceeded to sell to the broker without receiving any commission. They wanted to know if we called any other brokers, which we did but they refused to list the property. We were told we were better off selling it on our own.

They wanted to know how the money was going to be used, so a list was sent to them on how it will be done such as Boys and Girls State, Essay Contests, sponsoring a little league baseball team. We also sent them a list of other organizations we have donated in the past, which we did. Leo said so far they are satisfied with what we have reported to them in writing and now just wait. We are lucky the buyer is very patient as is not putting any pressure on us. Leo passed around the petition letter for members to sign and also make they sign the meeting attendance book.

Carmine reported on the missing tank that sat in front of the building until the early seventy's. He received letter from the Staten Island Historical Society and said that they did find information that the tank was on the property from 1948 – 1974, but since then the tank was not mentioned in any literature. The women from the S.I. H.S. did tell Carmine that she will send him a letter that the tank was probably used as scrap metal at some point during the early to mid 1970's. Leo said in the end of February we are going to have the soda machine and the coffee maker disconnected and returned to the companies who supplied them. He is also going to disconnect the ice machine because we have a possible buyer. Leo said he had someone to purchase the tables and chairs but had not heard from them. John Vivolo said he could have them listed on Craigslist.

Leo spoke about the passing of Bob Mahoney's son from ALS and made a motion to donate the 50/50 donations to the Local Lou Gehrigs Association of Greater New York in his sons name. The motion was seconded by Lester and carried by the membership. Joe also gave Bob a Mass Card signed by all the members.

Correspondence: Lester read a letter from the Hughs –Spiva Post 535 announced they have nominated a member of their Post John B. Samson for American Legion Department Commander.

Lester spoke about the history project is basically complete, he said he had taken home the original charter and had it scanned and put it on the website and in the history project. When he looked at the charter he noticed it had stamped date with the original date of issue which was March 4, 1933 and voided on March 4, 1945. I called Department and spoke to Annie Wisley and told her the charter we have only has the one name Edmund Kells. She said she will make a call to National, and I should call her back. When I called her back she informed me that she will be getting the updating copies of the Post and SAL Charters in about two weeks.

Lester also said that the Four Chaplains Interfaith Breakfast is being held on February 14, 2016 at the Staaten which Joe is the Chairman of. Any members that want to attend see Joe or Carmine the price is \$30.00.

The next meeting is on February 15th and we will have an inventory of equipment from the Post that will be for sale, such as Snow Blower, Lawn Mower, etc. Joe told everyone to think about possibly having our meetings on Saturday.

Bob Mahoney told the members about future events in the Legion. The National Commanders Dinner at Antons on April 15th. If you plan to attend you must pay by the next County meeting, the cost is \$65.00 per person.

Bob also said the County is holding lapsed members re-invite meetings on March 11 & 12 at Cespino – Russo Post at 10 am.

50/50 drawing \$90.00 to winner was SAL Commander Bill Knapp.

With no further business to be discussed the Commander asked VC Bill Baumwoll to the read closing prayers and Bob's son was remembered. Taps were played and the flags and the POW/MIA Chairback was retired and the meeting ended at 9:20 pm

Respectfully
Lester Modelowitz