

**Kells – Grennie American Legion Post No. 316  
Minutes of Meeting for  
June 15, 2015**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Post Commander Joseph Occhipinti. 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, all were present except VC Allen Polazzo

A motion by Leo Milham was made to stop regular business to here from the two guests who are going to be representing the Post at Boys State and Girls State.

VC & Boys State and Girls State Chairman Bill Baumwoll introduced Edwin Ocaso from Monsignor Farrell High School and Colleen Connors from Notre Dame Academy High School. The students both spoke to the membership and they were both very grateful and happy to represent the Kells-Grennie American Legion Post.

Joe also said that we are the only Post in Richmond County that sponsored a girl. Both students were at the Post with their parents. Bill Baumwoll said that we were very proud of both the students and asked them to both attend a meeting in the future to tell the members about their experiences. He explained that they would both learn about government and comradeship that will share with other students throughout the state.

Lester asked for permission to take photos of the students with their parents for the Post Website.

**Colleen Connors**

**Junior**

**Notre Dame Academy High School**

**Varsity Captain Swim Team**

**Captain of the Forensic Team ( Speech & Debate )**

**Involved In Theater**

**Track**

**Girl Scout ( Recently Received her Gold Award )**

**Edwin Ocaso**

**Junior**

**Monsignor Farrell H.S.**

**Involved in project Helping our Heroes**

**Part of the Photography Club**

**Boy Scouts ( Recently made Eagle ) and was assigned to help build a bridge at the Ranger Station. Is also in the Order of the Arrow.**

**Following a short break the meeting resumed to regular business. Joe asked for the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were read and two changes were made the Dept. Convention is in the month of July not June, and the correct spelling of the two students names. Leo Milham made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes.**

**Joe asked for the finance report, treasurer Carmine Vacirca told the members present what the closing balance after the last meeting. Payments went out for various things such as Girls State, Children & Youth Breakfast etc. A motion was made by Leo Milham to accept the report and seconded by Elias Arout and carried.**

**Bill Baumwoll said he plans to get the next newsletter out in the next two weeks.**

**Charlie said for Americanism they were able to distribute the flags at Moravian Cemetery and thanked those that helped out that day.**

**Membership chairman Allen Palazzo was not able to attend the meeting but Lester said that at the last County meeting County Chairman Joe Cammarata singled out this Post for having a low par membership, which was not right. Our current paid up members for this outgoing year is 172. Our Quota is 223. About 11 members have passed away and about 30 have let their dues expire over the last 18 months. I printed out a list of Post 316 members that have expired and also a list of about 50 members that belong to Post 1 in Albany in our zip code and will give to Joe. Many of these legionnaires have belonged to Post 1 for 10 years or more.**

**Leo Milham gave a corporation report that the Post has been suffering monetarily. He said the building has been sold and we go to contract on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Leo said that now because we are 501 C not for profit organization we**

have to go to court to proceed with the sale of the property. We have to get the building appraised which came to a cost of \$1650.00. Leo explained that this has nothing to do with the buyer. The reason for a court appearance is to protect the interest of the entire membership and the money from the sale of the building. Leo said the buyer offered \$400,000, the appraisal was also \$400,000 and was sold for the exact amount. Leo said that even though we are selling the building we are not giving up our charter, we will still be the Kells – Gennie American Legion Post 316. The reason for this was maintaining this building has become a liability. In the last few months we lost the church rental, which the money received help maintain the building. Hall rentals have dropped off a lot and what we take in is not nearly enough to hold on to the Post. Leo said because we are based in the New Dorp / Oakwood area of the Island we will look for a place in the same area to hold our meetings. Dennis Rosenwald asked what happens to the money from the sale of the building and Leo said we will have to set up different accounts and we will talk to the lawyer about that. Possibly one account set up for general American Legion business one may be used for charitable contributions. Part of the funds will be put into New York State Bonds. With the sale of the building we will be able to do much more for the Legion. Right now we sponsor one high school student for boys state in the future we might be able sponsor three students. In response to question off the floor about is the price that we will get is it enough, Leo stated that we did not use an agent ( who would have received 6% ) we are going to save a substantial amount of money.

Leo said that when the church was still meeting here our monthly deposits were very good, since they left our deposits are less and less. The hall rentals for weekend parties have decreased and the outgoing expenses for insurance, water ,electric and other utilities to run the building are not enough to keep us afloat. There is a lot of competition in our area which basically hurts us.

Leo asked for a motion to keep the same slate of Officers for the corporation for about six months or until the building is sold. A motion was made by Ed Widlund to vote for the continuation of the current slate and also add Elias Arouts name and Gus Larosa seconded it and it was carried.

Leo said our major problem right now is to get rid of Honor Guard Rifles which is becoming a large problem. He has called the Police Department, Military Police, ATF, and also called American Legion Dept. of NY and was given some advice on what to do. We also have a lot of equipment that we have to get rid of and in the very near future have some type of auction sale. There are a lot of items

that have sentimental value and do not want it to end up in the trash. And will be donated to museums. All the photo's that are displayed in the building will be scanned by Lester and added to the Post History project will be in a book and video form.

In other business Leo talked about the Veterans Choice program veteran might be getting a letter on the program. The program is basically for Veterans who reside more that 40 miles from a VA facility and cannot get an appointment for more than 30 day and the doctor has to accept payment from the VA.

John Vivolo commended Leo & Charlie for the hard work they put into getting the building with very few problems. Charlie is a licensed broker and said we got exactly what the property was worth.

David gave a brief house report there were two party rentals. The New Dorp Civic Association had their meeting and also Country Side Manor had their meeting.

New Business Joe went over the Calendar and said this Friday was the County meeting at the Varsity Club and Lester said all the delegates names had been sent it to County.

Leo said that next meeting we will set up a date for our summer BBQ.

Carmine said on Tuesday, July 21 he is planning a trip to the Aviation Museum In Farmingdale, NY and also the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City and will have more information at the next meeting.

Lester read correspondence the Selective Service was looking for 5 volunteers. 50/50 was held and Eli was the winner., and donated \$20 to the Post for future Boys and Girls events. Our next monthly meeting is on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business the Commander asked for closing prayers from the Chaplain, we remembered Charlie Mother In-law and John Calabreses's daughter who both recently passed away. Taps was played and the Flags were retired and meeting ended at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Lester Modelowitz