

**Kells – Grennie American Legion Post No. 316
Minutes of Meeting for
July 20, 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.

Commander asked for the reading of the minutes from June 15, 2015 meeting. The minutes were read and Leo Milham made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by John Vivolo and then accepted by the membership.

Committee Reports:

Leo Milham gave a report on the corporation about the sale of the building. Leo stated that there are guidelines from the Attorney General's office of the State of New York on how to disperse funds from a non-profit organization, and they are very rigid. He said the cost will be in the area of \$5000.00. Leo emphasized that we have to tell them why we are selling the building and what will become of the money. If the guidelines are not followed the money will be put into a trust account. An affidavit was signed by 8 members of the board of directors and submitted to continue without any delays and eventually all 12 members of the board will have to sign. Leo said a number of years back we eliminated some of our charity programs and Legion programs because of lack of funds. But with the sale of the building the funds could be used to re-introduce things like stipends for members attending Legion functions. Increase the amount of student for Boys and Girls State, possibly sponsor a local baseball team. Leo said that all this cannot move forward until we go to court and Leo said if we get a friendly judge it will move along more quickly. Leo also said that he finally was contacted by the armory where the rifles have to be sent to. She told Leo that she knew how many rifles we have and also is aware of the rifles that were destroyed in a fire in the Post and the new rifles that were requested by Post

Post Commander Richard Reichart. We have to get all the serial numbers from the 14 new rifles and the 4 that survived the fire and mail it to the armory. Leo said he purchased the boxes for each rifle and rifles will be shipped by Fedex paid for by the government. The ammunition we will have to dispose ourselves by possibly giving it to another Post. The reason for returning the rifles was we will longer be able to secure them properly.

Leo also spoke about the Brass Plaque from the Spanish American War that we have, which he had donated to the Museum at Fort Hamilton, they called him and said they could not keep it. So now it will be given to Tottenville High School along with the American Flag painting by Scott LoBaido that is hanging in the lobby and they will have it displayed on their Wall of Honor.

Leo gave a report on the corporation treasury and said that between February 2015 and the present on funds have dropped more than 50%. He also said we still have funds in the Money Market account. Leo said the funds keep dropping because our monthly expenses are a little more than \$1400.00 per month and the income coming is very low and at this rate we will be almost broke by the end of the year if the building was not sold. Leo said that we normally cancel our August meeting but next month we have to sit down and discuss how and where the funds from the sale of the building will be used, and have this completed before we have to go to court and give to the lawyer representing the Post. Leo said after the sale of the building is finalized we will have a minimum of \$370,000 in the bank and that is after the lawyers fee of about \$5000.00 and because we are non-profit we should not have to pay real estate taxes. Leo stated that we should not have to pay tax but we will have to wait. The lawyer is a good lawyer and deals in real estate.

Material items in the Post like Snow Blower, Lawn Mower and tables and chairs we will try and sell. All the memorabilia hanging will be scanned and added to the history of the post. We will try and keep the same phone number listed for Post, possibly transferred to a cell number.

Leo also spoke about finding another meeting place, such as Moravian Church, Knights of Columbus, possibly the church used our hall. Leo also said that an offer was made for possibly holding certain meetings at a restaurant.

Treasurers Report: Carmine Vacirca read the balance as of July 1' 2015. A \$100.00 credit was received from Dianne Gerber, \$90.00 from 50/50 was added. \$425.00 was dispersed for Boy's State and \$36.97 for a brunch for a meeting on the sale of the building.

The Post sent Rob Martino a \$100.00 gift certificate to a restaurant for all the help he gave in the sale of the building. Carmine then read the closing balance. Any member that would like to know the exact figures please call Carmine. Joe said that he received a call from Coleen Connors the girl that represented the Post at Girls State was chosen for the position of Attorney General.

Bill said that the Boy's State went well. He also said the next Newsletter will go out in September, if you have anything you would like to be in the newsletter just email him.

Membership: Joe had stated the dues were supposed to increase from \$35 to \$40 but because of a mishap for now they remained the same

Allen said that the first mailing from National went out as \$35 but the 2nd mailing will go out as \$40. So if you want to save \$5 this year pay it now.

Lester said the history of the Post is basically finished, only thing now is getting all the memorabilia off the walls and scan them and get the names of whoever is in the photos. After that we will give the photos to ever wants them. When all is completed the Two History Albums will be printed out and also will be made into a DVD.

Charlie said his grandson who was recently discharged from the Army wanted to register for the VA but first had to make an appointment for a medical exam.

Correspondence: Gold Star Post was conducting a raffle. A motion was made my Ferdi to purchase one ticket for \$50 for the Post, was seconded and carried.

Joe said he spoke to Christine Beady the director from the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia Chapel and they were holding an event which is called a donor and appreciation picnic on September 12, 2015 from 3pm to 7pm which is free to whoever would like to attend, he also said donations would be accepted. It is being held at the Four Chaplains Chapel on the grounds of the Philadelphia Naval Yard. If you want more info call Joe.

Joe also said Rolling Thunder was holding their annual run for disabled veterans and will held this Sunday, July 22 starting at 9:30 am from the West Shore Little League on Walker Street.

Carmine talked about a trip a few members on going on tomorrow to the Cradle of Aviation in Garden City. If you can go let him know tonight.

Joe talked about a possible Post BBQ for August 29th, volunteers needed.

With no further business to be discussed the meeting ended closing prayers were read taps were played and the flags were retired at 9;10 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Lester Modelowitz