

Kells – Grennie American Legion
Post 316
Minutes for Meeting
March 18, 2019

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 of all officers and committee chairman were all present except for Bill Baumwoll who was excused. Commander asked for reading of the minutes from the January 21, 2019 meeting. The minutes were read and accepted by the members in attendance.

The Commander introduced new possible member Joe Redone who served in the U.S. Army 1972-1974 and was attached to the 82nd Airborne and said he was part of a group that were the last to be drafted.

Membership: Carmine mentioned that the buddy system that the National Commander instituted was not working well.

Children& Youth: Carmine said the children and youth luncheon will be held on April 13, 2019 @ 10:45 am at the Staaten donation of \$50. Tickets must be paid for by March 22nd.

Americanism: Charlie said the Memorial Day event is on May 25th at Moravian Cemetery members and volunteers will meet at 8am. Charlie said he will contact Officer Brown who will bringing members of the Explorers. Leo aid we are hoping to distribute 3000 flags. Carmine said he spoke to a Chaplain and said he would be honored to say a prayer before the event.

Leo said last year he, Carmine and Bill brought flags to a cemetery on Forest Ave to participate in a program called Wreaths Across America.

Boys State & Girls State - Carmine said the Tuition checks for Girls State have gone out. But did not the figures for the bus fare. Carmine said Frank Saladis from Gold Star Post is now the County Chairman for this program. The two students for Boys State are Matt Pirozzi from Monsignor Farrell HS who has applied to West Point Academy and Joseph Franco from Tottenville HS who has applied to Annapolis Naval Academy.

Service and Welfare: Joe Toronto reported government would like to reestablish the Military and Veterans Education protection Act. Joe also said that President Trump has made a request to increase VA Funding by 9 ½%.

Joe also said the government is creating a bill which is called the Safe Haven Act to protect veterans who are receiving disability who are declaring bankruptcy from bill collectors. This bill if passed will protect them.

Treasurer Report: Leo gave the report on all the accounts, Business money market, Operating Fund, Membership, Post Treasury, Non -profit Checking and the three certificates and as of Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Leo gave a report on all the expenses the Post had for all the events for the 2018 year.

Our budget was \$10,000 the Post had expenditures of \$12, 057.00 our generated income was \$6697.00 our spending balance was \$5358.00

Leo spoke about the allowance proposed for dues for the following.

The individual who is Commander the Post will his or her dues for that year. Vice Commanders who have served at least two years their dues will be paid while in service. The Post also pays the dues for three honorary members each year. This will bring the total of members' dues paid by Post to eight.

Membership: John Vivolo brought up an idea of how to get members to attend meetings. He suggested to possibly to offer to have the Post pay for members' dues each year if the individual member attend at least seven meeting a year. John suggested putting the information in the newsletter and on the website with the offer. Leo and Lester said that if you place that in the Newsletter and on the Website it could present a problem to the members that do not reside in Staten Island or even out of State, they could say it is not fair for them to have to pay dues when they cannot possibly make the meetings. John then suggested to send letters to members that do reside on Staten Island. Joe Toronto said it his obligation to attend meetings and no one must have to persuade me to attend meetings Carmine asked a possible new member if the Post agreed to pay his dues for each year would he attend at least seven meetings a year and he said no. John submitted a letter about the proposal. After considerable talks on the subject the proposal John made a motion to have dues paid for members that attend at least seven meetings a year, was seconded by Allen Pallazo and voted on by the members in attendance and carried. John also said he called Northfield Bank and asked them if they could hang a document somewhere is the bank about our Post Membership. Lester said he would make a flyer up.

New Business: Carmine said the awards night for volunteer will be held at the September meeting and the First Responders Awards night will be held during the October meeting. There will be no meeting in July and the August meeting will be held in the Church meeting room across the street. Lester said he was trying to get in touch with Ferdi for more than a month with no luck, so he called his son Paul and found out that Ferdi is in an assisted living in Colts Neck NJ. And also, finally spoke with him and is doing well.

Old Business: Leo said our tax situation was straightened out and Lester added that we are now officially registered with NY Tax as a tax -exempt organization. Lester explained that for many years we thought we had a 501 c 3 but we have a 501 c 19 tax exemption and are covered under American Legion National. Leo talked about our e 990 postcard tax form which contain our EIN number and that it only listed as American Legion and not as under the name of our Post, so next year we must change it to doing business as (DBA).

With no further business to be discussed the commander asked for closing prayers to be recited, Taps were played, and the flags were saluted and retired for the evening.

Respectfully Submitted
Post Adjutant
Lester Modelowitz