

Kells - Grennie Post 316

Minutes

May 16,2016

Commander Joe Occhipinti called the meeting to order and asked Sgt-at-Arms Gus Larosa to put the Flag in place and the members saluted. The POWIMIA Chair was put in Place. VC Bill Baumwoll read the opening prayers and the members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution.

Commander asked for the roll call of officers, VC Emery Chagnon, Chaplain Dennis Rosenwald, and Judge Advocate were absent.

Commander asked for reading of minutes from previous meetings. Lester read the minutes from March 21. Leo Milham made a motion to accept the meeting as read and it was seconded and carried. Leo also asked for a motion not to read the April minutes and is was seconded by Dennis McLoone and carried.

Committee Reports:

Membership- Allen reported that we have 163 members paid and we are at 93.

Boys and Girls State: Bill said he will contact David Martin and Diane Gerber about the candidates for this year.

Bill also said he has started working on the next issue of the Post Newsletter.

Post Treasurer:

Carmine Vacirca read the figures as of May 1· 2016. He said he issues checks for the Boy's and Girl's State. Motion to accept the report by Leo Milham and seconded by Dennis McLoone and carried.

Americanism: Charlie Goffredo said that the closing of the building will be on May 12. He also said that he usually chairs the committee for placing the Flags at the cemetery but this year he could not do it so Leo was running it. Charlie also thanked everyone that visited him and helped his wife while he was in the nursing home.

Nominations for Officers: A motion was made by nominating chairman Leo Milham to cast one vote for Joe Occhipinti as Commander and Bill Baumwoll & Allen Palazzo as Vice Commanders, Dennis Rosenwald as Chaplain, and Carmine Vacirca as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Gus Larosa and accepted by the members attending. Lester Modelowitz will remain the Post Adjutant, Gus Larosa the Sgt-at-Arms and Robert Mahoney as Judge Advocate.

Corporation Business: Leo spoke about the closing of the Post Headquarters. He gave a report on the corporation treasury. He told the members present what was in the accounts following the payment of the lawyers and whatever utility bills still remained. He gave a report on the Corporation account with the addition of funds that were already in the bank, and the addition of the funds from the sale of the building. Leo said he went to four different banks to get estimates on interest rates. For now, the money will stay in the Santander account and the next meeting a financial advisor will come to the meeting and discuss options.

Leo said we can start small committees to discuss things we might want to do within the community. Leo said he called the Insurance Company that insured us when we had the building and what they are offering now is not worth it at all. Lester asked Leo if we need to carry insurance and Leo said it depends on where we meet. Right now at Moravian Church they do not require us to carry our own insurance. Leo said our lawyer advised us not to sign the papers to continue the insurance we did have.

Leo brought up how we should handle American Legion Events, in the past we paid half for Legion functions. At the last breakfast we paid half for members and a few of them did not attend, that was a loss for the Post. Leo said it was discussed that if a member is going to attend a Legion function they pay the full amount and at the meeting that follows the event the Post will reimburse that member half of the price of the event. Leo said the Post spent a lot of money on food for the last Christmas party and half of the members that said they were coming did not show up, another loss and wasted funds.

Leo said members that are planning on attending the Department Convention the Post will pay half of the price of the room for two members, and will pay about \$50 for gas for the member driving. Leo also said we will bring back the Graves Registration and pay for flowers at member's funerals. The Post will also pay the price for a Legion shirt for those that attend meetings. When a member is in the hospital we will send them a fruit basket. We will have to come up with a yearly budget. We also discussed that next year we will send two students to Boys State and two students to Girls State. Joe said we still need funds coming in so we will have to do some type of fund raising. Leo said if we can get 3 on our money annually we could make about \$7000. Right now our projections for what we will try to do will cost us about \$12,000 a year.

Joe said that if we get more members to come to meetings it will benefit our Post and the County. Leo said that any member that would like to see all the financial statements and a copy of the building Closing papers see if him after the meeting. Commander asked for a motion to accept Leo's report, motion made by Lester Modelowitz and seconded by Charlie Goffredo and carried by the member's present.

New Business:

Leo said on Saturday May 21st we will be placing flags on the graves of Legionnaires at Moravian Cemetery and will be receiving help from Girl Scouts troop 5394.

Leo said if the flag that is already in place and is presentable and clean leave it there. Leo said after we finish all that attended are invited to a brunch at a local diner that is on the Post. Dennis said last year the Moravian Church was upset when Boy Scouts put up flag

where they did not belong. Leo emphasized that we will only do graves that have American Legion Grave Markers .

. Lester said a few years back he sent a letter to Senator Lanza's office about other states that have real estate exceptions for disabled veterans. A bill was brought before the Senate but it never advanced. Most recently Senate Bill S4627B was introduced in the Senate and passed and is now waiting for a vote in the Assembly.

Leo asked for a vote to transfer \$5000 from the Corporation fund to the Post Treasury for operating funds. Lester made the motion and it was seconded by Charlie and voted on by the members in attendance and passed.

Leo also said that he had been asked questions on the Kells-Grennie Sign on the front of the building. He said he made a gentleman's agreement with the buyer to leave the sign up now to protect against vandalism. We left a lot of things behind because it would have been costly to get rid of it. Carmine took some of the things that we might want in the future and has it stored in a locker in Brooklyn.

Lester said that he made a Certificate of Appreciation and a copy of the History of the Post for Kelley Wren the Lawyer that helped us with the sale of the building.

Service Officer- Joe Toronto said the VA still has us as listed at the Amboy Road Address. Lester said that they get their information from Borough Presidents Office. Leo said Lester notified all the people needed to know like Richmond County and Department of New York that our Post mailing address is P.O. Box 90096, S.I. NY 10309-0096.

Joe said the VA has started a program called My VA Community which began in San Diego and Connecticut. You can go on line to <http://www.va.gov/> and look under resources tab, or in search box type in My VA Community and it will show various services and also under News Room.

Calendar: Dennis McLoone said on Friday May 20th the next county meeting will be held at the Merrell Post at 7pm. Dennis also asked how many delegate we had and Lester said we had not received the forms from Frank LaMarsh yet. Dennis said he and Mary were going down to Washington D.C. to Walter Reed Hospital and will be escorting the wounded soldiers back to Staten Island and will be passing Richmond Avenue near the Staten Island Mall at about 1 :30pm and asked members to be there to greet them. When the troops arrive they will be given a gala reception by the NY Fire and Police Department. The Coast Guard will take the troops on 45-foot boat and cruise all around the NY Harbor.

The County Convention will be held on June 17th at the Merrell Post delegate sign in time begins at 6pm. The Department Convention will be held July 14' 15, 16 in Binghamton, NY. Dennis also said overall there has been a lack of participation at Department Conventions and it would be nice to members take more interest in these Legion functions.

The Boy's State Candidates bus will depart from Matthews Funeral Home Parking lot on June 24th at 8am.

Carminc said he is in touch with a few food vendors to order food for collations after the meeting. The food for tonight is from Top Tomato.

- The next meeting is June 20th here at the church, July's meeting will be discussed at the next meeting possibly at a restaurant and there will be no meeting in August.

With no further business to talk about the Commander asked for the closing prayers. The POW /MIA chair was retired and the flags were saluted and retired for the night, and the meeting ended at 8:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Lester Modelowitz

Adjutant