

KELLS – GRENNIE AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 316
MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

Meeting opened at 7:30 pm by Post Commander Joseph Ocohipinti. Opening prayers were read by Chaplain Dennis Rosenwald, Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble was recited by the members.

Roll call of Officers was taken; all were present except VC Emery Chagnon
The minutes of the July meeting was read and accepted by the members present.

Commander Joe O welcomed new member Jim Timmons who transferred in from Post 1 in Albany Jim served in the USN from 1965-69 and served in Vietnam with as a River Rat from 1967-68

Commander Joe O asked for committee reports. VC Allen Palazzo reported on the membership and as of tonight we have 82 members paid for 2014-2015.

Americanism Chairman Charles Goffredo thanked member Carmine Vacirca for the great job he did on the post annual BBQ.

VC Bill Baumwoll reported on this year's Boys State and Girls Nation candidates that represented our post this past July and hoped they might be able to attend one of our upcoming meetings to talk about their experiences.

Bill also mentioned that some members had a problem opening up the online newsletter emailed out to members but mentioned it is also available on the post website.

Post Treasure Carmine Vacirca gave his report and stated as of tonight we have \$805.00 in the account. Leo Milham said that a new account was opened with \$815.00 but no funds were used from the old account. A motion was made from the floor by Leo Milham to accept the report and was accepted by members and carried.

Commander Joe O asked Lester about possibly getting a history on the Post. Said he would look into it, but also said much of the old information about the post was destroyed in a fire.

Carmine Vacirca also talked about a contest that is held yearly by American Legion National for the best history compiled by a post.

Corporation Treasurer Leo Milham reported that the CD as of tonight's meeting has \$15, 154.00 and the checking account has \$8,494.43. Leo also that next month he will give the quarterly report.

He mentioned the current funds are flat meaning it has not gone up or down. In a few months the church that uses our building will be leaving and we must try to find a way to help supplement the cost of maintaining the building .

Leo also stated that the 50/50 money that is generated at meetings will be going toward the Boy's State and Girls Nation fund.

Leo also told the membership of two credit unions that can be a good benefit that members might be interested in. Navy Federal and Pentagon Federal. Navy Federal is the largest and Pentagon is the third largest. Leo stressed that if you have funds that you can invest it would be a good opportunity. Further information was available on the internet or by calling 1-800- 1212

Service Officer Joe Toronto gave a report on veteran benefits and said that the Clinic on South Avenue is offering free Colon/Rectal screening on the 3rd Monday of each month. Joe also said there is limited hearing aid service available, by appointment only. You can contact Ms. Donaldson at (718) 836-6600, Ext 1598.

Joe also said that flu shots were available at the clinic.

Commander Joe O talked about the American Legion National Facebook site where Veterans can find out about possible employment workshops.

Member **Steve** said that New York City Sanitation applications will be available on October 1st. and study books are available to purchase at all Barnes and Noble bookstores.

John Vivolo mentions that our flag sales have been rising and any flags that are sold now is all profit for the Post.

Commander Joe O talked a little on membership and said that our current membership was not bad but still there is room for improvement. Joe also said that Department Commander Frank Peters has said in the past for every five members that an individual brought in would receive a membership pin, now can receive a pin for one new member.

Lester added that we have the membership posters that have to be given out to local businesses in the area. Joe also said that if each member was able to recruit one new member it would double our membership. Also said was possibly having membership tables set up at local strip malls in New Dorp and Oakwood. County Commander Dennis McLoone added an idea of possibly sending a copy of our newsletter to local nursing homes in the area to possibly speak with veterans that are living there.

Carmine said that a gentleman by the name of Irwin Helpman is a licensed benefits advisor and would like to come to the Post and speak on HMO's, Medicare and Medicaid. He will be speaking at the October 18th post meeting. Carmine also mentioned that the Christmas Tree Shop has a program for non-profit organizations and will donate a gift card just by filling out an application.

Correspondence was read by Lester & Carmine. A letter from American Legion National was read and stated that former Islander and a member of this Post Jan Lynge who now resides in Texas is now a lifetime member.

A letter from the Victor Prevosti Scholarship fund was read. A motion was brought to the floor by Ferdi Salvatore to ask the Post for a \$50.00 donation. The motioned was seconded and carried .

Carmine also said that a USIVO was sponsoring a fundraiser on October 4th for the Sgt. Michael Ollis Freedom Park.

Commander Joe O said that Friday September 19th is National POW/MIA Day. Commander McLoone said that on Sunday, September 21 at 11 am VVA Chapter 421 will host the annual POW/MIA ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial. The County meeting will be held on Friday, September 19th at 7 pm at the Gold

Star Post. Joe also said that t members of the Post should try to attend other veterans functions on the Island.

Bob Mahoney stated that there was poor attendance at the County Installation by our members. VC Charles Goffredo said that last year he was able to get 24 people to attend but for personal reasons many did not return

Leo Milham that said he received a call from retired Dentist Dr. Byron that lives down the street from the post had donated three laminated plaques and they are on display downstairs in the club room.

Lester said that at the October 17th County meeting the American Legion Political Forum will be held at this post beginning at 7 pm and 13 local candidates will be attending. On October 20th is our next scheduled post meeting.

With no further business to be discussed the 50/50 was held. Chaplain Dennis Rosenwald recited the closing prayers, Taps were played and Commander Joe O closed the meeting

Respectfully Submitted
Adjutant Lester Modelowitz