

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Commander Carmine Vacirca. The colors were presented and saluted by members. Opening prayers were read by Chaplain William Baumwoll. Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by all and the POW/MIA Chair was put in place.

Regular Business: Roll call was taken, and all officer were present.

Adjutant Lester Modelowitz read the minutes from the November meeting and they were accepted by all.

Committees

Boys State: Bill said nothing to report at this time. Bill also said the new edition of the newsletter has been emailed out, and he has brought a few printed copies for those who do not use a computer.

Bob Mahoney suggested we try and get in touch with students who went to Boys State and possibly ask them to speak at events to help in recruiting student for this year.

Children & Youth- Bob Mahoney said the annual Children and Youth will be a brunch at the Staaten on February 11 at 11am.

Membership: Carmine said Allen Palazzo will be stepping down as membership chairman for health reasons, but John Vivolo has said he will step up and take over as the Chairman. Allen said he will him in the process. Carmine said the new National Commander is Brett P. Reistad and said the Commander affirmed that if a member of a Post who has not paid his or her dues from 2014 – 2018 and agrees to reaffirm the individual's membership the Post will receive \$5.00 for those members.

Lester said he sent out a letter via emails to about 20 plus members of Post 1 but only received one maybe of transferring into this Post.

Service Officer: Joe Toronto talked about the Senate Bill 299 " Blue Water Navy Veterans Act " was killed and before it can be introduced again it must go before budget committee. Joe also talked the different codes the VA uses for blood testing, and they change from time to time. Joe talked Resolution 22 on veterans on the increase of claims they are asking the state legislator to increase the funding to \$20,000.

Post Treasury: Carmine read out the figures for the Post treasury if any member wants to know about the full report please contact Carmine

Corporation Report Leo read out the different accounts in the Corporation Treasury Leo said he set a separate account for charities, because it was to be confusing the it was previously done. He said we have donated to the Challenged Baseball in Great Kills, Fishing Trip for Disabled Veterans, Kids with Cancer at Mt Loretto of Sunshine Horizon, North Shoe Kiwanis Club for the Autistic Prom at the Staaten every June. Leo spoke about the Siller Foundation and how they have helped First Responders killed in the line of duty. Leo said now

they increased to military service personal killed in the line of duty they will pay off the family's mortgage. Any individual that would like to help can make a monthly donation of \$19.00.

Leo read a letter from the Kiwanis Club that has made a promise to send 100 children whose military parents are stationed at Camp Drum. The cost of sending a child to this camp is \$465.00 and it was brought up at the last meeting and voted on that our Post donate that amount to send one child to this camp. Leo explained the rules for our donations to charitable organizations, we must have their name, address, contact person and EIN number. Leo said we started the charity account with \$10,000 a few months back and now have \$8,653.00 in the account. Leo said at this point in time we have about six or so legitimate organizations that we have donated to and that could increase in time. As discussed at a meeting we set an approximate amount of \$3000 - \$4000 a year. We send two Boys and two Girls to the Legion Programs upstate NY. Leo said Lester would talk about the Grant we applied for through Senator Lanza's office.

The Siller Foundation and Northfield Bank will continue to help us out for Flags for Memorial Day week. Leo said some firefighter agreed to help with the Flags at Moravian Cemetery. And maybe we can also ask for volunteers from other organizations.

Old Business: Allen said he still brings magazines to Carmel Nursing home if you have any please bring them to the meetings.

New Business: Lester said back in May he put in for a \$5000 grant through Senator Lanza's office.

This grant once we get it can only be used for educational purposes, because the funds will come from NY State Board of Education. He said that there is a lot of paper work that must be filled out and Charlie who is a Notary Public used his stamp to make it legal. Then he had to go online and start what is called a Gateway Vault. There many form and document had to be uploaded, such as our Corporation papers plus numerous other forms, tax statements and a letter from Senator Lanza's office. Once this vault is completed then it must be submitted to the State Educational Department., and hope it is approved after this approved, we can continue to ask for grants when needed.

Lester said he spoke to Ferdi and he is doing okay but does forget things from time to time. He is the oldest living member of our Post. Allen said he ran into Dennis Rosenwald who is not doing well and said if you have some time give him a call. New member Chris Harrington was introduced who is a Air Force Captain and Pilot and is also with Homeland Security.

Joe Toronto spoke about the boat ride on the ferry that takes out disabled people for the day said anyone can volunteer to help out. The outing is July and we will have more information as it becomes available. Richie Burdge said the Anchor Club and the Knights of Columbus began this in 1973.

Calendar: Bob Mahoney said the County meeting for January – March will be on the 3rd Friday at 10am at the Cespino-Russo Post.

With No Further Business to be discussed the meeting ended at 8:50 pm. Closing prayers were read by Chaplain William Baumwoll, Taps were played and the Flag was saluted by all members.

Respectfully Submitted
Adjutant, Lester Modelowitz