

**Kells – Grennie American Legion Post 316
Minutes for meeting held on May 15, 2017
At New Dorp Moravian Church**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by newly elected Commander Carmine Vacirca. Commander called upon Sgt-at-Arms Gus Larosa for the presentation of the Flags and a hand salute was given by the membership. Opening prayers were read by Chaplain Joseph Occhipinti. The Pledge of allegiance was recited by all. Sgt-at-Arms placed the POW/MIA chair back. Commander asked for the reading of the Legion preamble.

The commander asked for the roll call of officers all were present except for Leo and Bill who were excused. The Commander asked for the reading of the minutes of the April meeting they were read by the adjutant and a motion was made by Gus to accept them as read seconded by Charlie add carried.

The Commander stated that if anyone has something to say during the meeting please raise your hand and you will be acknowledged.

Committees:

Membership: Allen said that their 143 members paid up as of tonight which put at 86.7 %.

Post Treasure: Commander/Treasurer gave a report on the Post treasury at the close of the last meeting and read all the figures. A donation from the corporation fund was needed to complete various expenditures. Any member that was not present and would like to know the exact figure please contact Carmine.

Corporate Treasury: Because Leo was not able to attend tonight's meeting Lester made a motion to table this month's Corporation report and was seconded by Charlie and carried.

Carmine said he will be attending as many County meetings as he can and will try to pass all the information that he learns of.

Carmine said if any veteran is having a problem with the VA there is a new veterans Service Officer in Borough Hall.

Old Business: Carmine said on May 20th we will meet in the parking lot and we will be placing flags on the resting places of veterans at Moravian Cemetery. Carmine said as of tonight we do not have a place to have a collation after the flag event but hopefully we will. Carmine said that Frank LaMarsh is going to give him 5 grosses of flags plus the `2 gross from the bank we will be able to put out about 1000 flags. There will members of the Post, Boy Scouts, volunteers from Northfield Bank and from Sons of the Legion.

Carmine said he would like to reach out to local public schools to go up and talk about Flags and patriotism.

New Business: Lester announced the names of the delegates and alternates for the County Convention in June and said he was going to mail it out County Adjutant tomorrow. Lester said mailed out the form for Certification of Service Records to Department of New York.

Carmine said Boy's State Chairman Bill Baumwoll sent out letters to the candidates for Boys and Girls State, Lester read out the names of the four candidates and the schools that they attend, He also said that in October if they come to the meeting and talk about their experience they will get a \$50 gift card for Barnes and Noble and a Certificate of Appreciation

John said we have

to decide who we are going to make this month's charity donation too. Lester said Leo told him the donation we were going to make last month to Sandy Ground could not be done because we were not a not for profit organization. John said then we should make two donations this month, this month donations of \$200 each will go to the Safe Horizon and the Seaman's Society for Children and Families and also to Safe Horizon.

Service Officer: Joe Toronto read a number the VA Choice program which is 866-606-8198, he said there is a similar number that has been circulated that is a fake number and a scam that number is 800-606-8198 and they tell you can get a \$100 rebate when you use your credit card and is now being investigated by the Attorney General's Office.

Loew is offering Veteran discounts and you can register in stores or online.

Carmine said the new State Veterans Affairs Officer name is Matthew Basile and his cell number is 646-799-2743 his email address is matbasile@veterannyc.gov His office is in room 216 in borough hall. You must call leave a message and he will return call to make an appointment.

Carmine said that at the County an announcement was made about a new state bill number 12-59-79-2001 for veteran's monuments. Monuments will not be built until ten years after the war or conflict has ended.

Bob Mahoney said the Department Convention is in July and he was attending and was asking for clearance from the Post to pay half the hotel and fuel. It was approved by the membership.

Calendar Dates: Friday is the County meeting at Merrell Post at 7 pm.

June 11 is the VVA Day of Remembrance at 11am at the Vietnam memorial on Manor Road.

June 14 is the Wounded Warriors Dinner at the Staaten from 7 – 11 pm, \$50 per person.

June 16th County Convention at Merrell Post sign in time 6 pm. Staten Island Memorial Day Parade is May 29th starting at Hart Blvd and Forest Ave at 11:30 am.

Richie Burdge said on July 8th Marine Aviation Anchor Club has the Ferry Boat ride for people with various handicaps and volunteers are needed to help them get aboard.

Lester thanked Charlie, Allen, Gus and Bill for attending his neighbors funeral and doing a military service even though he was not a member.

Swearing in of new Officers:

PCC Bob Mahoney did the honors of swearing in the new officers of the Post for 2017-2018.

Door Prize Drawing was held

With no further business to be brought before the members, closing prayers were read Taps were played and the flags were saluted and retired for the evening.

Respectfully Submitted

Lester Modelowitz

Adjutant