

Kells – Grennie American Legion
Post No. 316

Minutes of Meeting
October 19, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm, by Commander Joseph Occhipinti. Sgt-at-arms John Vivolo put the flags in place and the POW/MIIA chair back. Opening prayers were read by the Commander. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by the members.

Commander asked for the roll of Officers. VC Emery Chagnon, Treasurer Carmine Vacirca was absent and Chaplain Dennis Rosenwald was excused.

The Commander asked for the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Adjutant Lester Modelowitz read the minutes and a motion was made by Leo Milham to accept the minutes as read with one correction about a Fleet Dinner made by PCC Dennis McLoone and then seconded by VC Charles Goffredo and passed by membership.

Commander recognized and old member Richie Burdge who has been around for a while.

Committee Reports:

Service officer Joe Toronto said Gov. Cuomo said that veterans should try and step up and help immigrants learn to speak English. He said that it is a state wide initiative to mentor these people to try and become U.S. Citizens. Joe also the benevolent order of Elks is donating 4 million dollars to help the homeless. Joe also stated that the VA has started a program called the Million Man Program and so far have 4 million veterans. They will be setting up a data base to help with the various exposures that veterans have been effected by.

Membership Chairman Allen Polazzo said that he made a list of paid members and he said some members have already received their second notice on dues. He also suggested to membership to check the date on the renewal slip you receive. If you have paid your dues for the 2015-2016 years then the next notice that you should receive should not be until July 2016 for the 2016-2017 years. Allen said as of now we have 121 members paid.

Treasurer's Report In the absence of Carmine Vacirca Leo Milham read a Post Treasurers report. At the close of the September 21, meeting there was a balance of \$2116.34. The 50/50 prize and a donation from John Vivolo amounted to \$100.

Which was being used for the Veterans Christmas Gifts run by Eileen Carucci. The closing balance was still at \$2116.34.

Boys and Girls State Chairman Bill Baumwoll said he received a letter from Richmond County American Auxiliary President Peggy Klapach- Wilkerson thanking us for supporting the Empire Girls State Program. Next year's tuition will be \$280 per girl for food and lodging not including transportation. The letter also stated that they would like the tuition now. Joe said that will have to be discussed.

Commander talked about the Girls State Program and that Peggy Wilkerson said there was a meeting for the girls that went to girl's state and were asked how their experience went.

Corporation Treasurer: Leo Miham stated that as of tonight our checking account has \$1892.10. He said on April 20th we had \$8390. Over \$6000 has gone towards our basic monthly expenses just to keep the building open and running. He also said he taken the money from CD accounts and opened a market account in anticipation of all the shortfalls that we are experiencing now. Right now our money account has \$15,600. All the basic items we are paying now have to be paid such as the Insurance. He said that if someone got hurt on the premises and we did not have the insurance we could lose everything. We cannot cancel any of the basic utilities just in case we possibly get any rentals between now and when the building sales is finally complete. We will just have to bite the bullet. All the paperwork has reached the Attorney General's office. They promised a quick turnaround. Leo said Lester brought a letter up to Senator Lanza's office. Lanza's office him about an Index number (or case number) The letter had no Index number. Leo stated he hopes we can be out of here by December. We will have to keep spending the basic funds to run the building and when the money runs out we will just have to shut down the building. Leo read what is a 6 month recap on our funds. He said on April 19th he deposited \$5550.00 and he paid out \$3348.00 which left our net balance at \$2202.00.

Since early October the only deposit that was made was \$150.00

Leo then talked about the selling of the building and it all comes down to what the Judge might say. It could go through with no problem or it could drag out. Since the sale of the Mount Manresa it had brought question on what will happen to money from the sales. If it goes against us an administrator could be assigned from the State to control how we use our money which would be a disaster,

In the proposal that went to the State Officials in Albany we have outlines how we have proposed to use the funds from the sale to benefit American Legion programs and other community projects that we did for so many years but they had to be eliminated. Leo said instead of sending one girl and one boy to Boys State and Empire Girls possibly send two. Possibly look into sponsoring a local baseball team as we did in the past. We want the public to know that we are still an active American Legion Post. Lester mentioned that he has put in a request to either have the street named or the green street program out in the front to Kells – Grennie Way or Place but still waiting for an answer from City Councilman Matteo's office.

Leo once again talked about the missing tank he received correspondence from the U.S. Army addressed to the Post Commander and the Adjutant and thanked them for sending a letter back to explain how we do not know what happened to the Tank that once sat on our property. If we locate the missing equipment please send a photograph and the serial number to the U.S. Army. They sent a list of people for the Commander to call, the Mayor, Police Commissioner, County Sheriff, local Libraries, Historical Society, Parks and Recreation Department and longtime members of this organization. Leo said he spoke to the man in charge and he said he had no idea of what he was doing, the woman that was handling this project is no longer there. Leo told him the elected officials that are in office now probably were not even born when this tank was assigned to the Post Property. He told Leo to do the best he can and forward him whatever we find. Leo said Carmine called the SI Advance and told them the story and they are going to assign a reporter to search through the archives and get back to him in 30 days and give us a signed notarized letter which we could send to the US Army. As far as the 45 Pistols we could donate them to another Veterans organization or a School ROTC program and just get a signed notarized letter from whoever has taken Possession of the said articles. Leo talked about some of the equipment that belongs to the Post is up for sale. Joe said that Merrell Post would like to purchase our ice machine. Leo said anything that is not a permanent fixture in the building we can sell. Our tables and chairs are for sale if we cannot sell we will donate to a charity. One organization here on the Island, United cerebral palsy can use chairs.

Post Historian

Lester Modelowitz spoke about the history project he is working on. About 90% of the photos that were hanging on the wall have been taken down and I have scanned them all. All are on the Post Website and he has made a slideshow of a

majority of the photos. The slideshow also contains a list of all the Past Commanders since 1919. The slideshow is viewable on the website at the bottom of the History page. I have put names to go with about 85% of the photos. Some of the photo's date back to the late 20's or early 30's and no one around now remembers these particular names. The video is in you tube form when it is complete I will put it on DVD.

House Report: David said there have not been any parties in the hall in the past month. He said that New Dorp Civic Association held two meeting in the past two weeks and will be holding another meeting on November 19th. He did get a request from a women that wants to use the hall for a Tupperware party and will hold another meeting next week. David said the County held there political forum here last Friday.

Lester spoke about Facebook and said his name was hacked and he was disabling his account. He said someone used his name and one photo and sending out request to be his friend on Face Book. Joe said he received a fake request from Michael McMahan.

Correspondence: Lester read a letter from Wagner College Sea Hawks inviting Veterans to an annual salute to Veterans on November 7th when the Sea Hawks take on Bryant University at 12 pm. The game will be broadcasted live on ESPN 3. You can call the college to reserve your free tickets.

Scalia Funeral homes is holding there Salute to Veterans II on Thursday, November 12 at 10 am at the Old Bermuda Inn.

New Business:

Joe said Bob Mahoney agreed to take on the responsibility of informing all our members of upcoming events. If you know of any special interesting meeting please inform Bob before our meeting begins.

John Vivolo thanked Lester for the list of members and phone numbers that he compiled and as soon as we know where are future meetings will be held after the sale of the building is complete he will begin calling them.

Charlie said that the free parking cards that were sent to veteran for Staten Island University Hospital will no longer be mailed out. If you want to receive your free parking permits you must now go to the Hospital Security office to request them. Joe said he called Dennis Rosenwald because he has missed a few meetings and offered to pick him up but he opted not to attend. Joe said tonight we should

include all of us in our closing prayers.

Before the closing of business the 50/50 was held \$109 to the winner Charlie G
With no further business to be discussed closing prayers were read by the
Commander. Taps were played, the POW/MIA Chair back and the Flags
were retired and the meeting ended at 9:25 pm

Respectfully

Lester Modelowitz