

Kells – Grennie Post 316  
Minutes from Meeting  
February 15, 2016  
Commander Joe Occhipinti Presiding

**Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Commander Joseph Occhipinti. Gus Larosa placed the flags and the POW/MIA Chair in place. Lester read the opening prayers; the members recited the Pledge of allegiance and the Preamble to Constitution.**

**The Commander asked for the Roll call of Officers. All were present except for VC Bill Baumwoll, Chaplain Dennis Rosenwald and Sgt-at-arm John Vivolo who were all excused. Commander asked for the reading of the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting which was read. A motion was made by Leo Milham to accept the minutes as read and was seconded by VC Charlie Goffredo and carried. Joe made mention of the confusion on where tonight's meeting was being held and apologized to Dennis for the mistake that might have happened.**

**Membership Chairman Allen Polazzo said our membership is at 149 paid, but still a little shy of our quota. Dennis McLoone said he had spoken to Paul Dietrich and our quota for the year is 177.**

**Carmine read the treasurers report and told the members present of all outgoing and incoming payments. Any members that would like to know the exact balances please contact Carmine.**

**David gave a brief house report that there was a party in the hall on the previous Saturday and there is one being held this Saturday..**

**Joe Toronto gave a service officer report said that Legislative Hill Day will be held in Albany. There will be meetings at the Desmond Hotel & Conference Center in Albany from February 29 - March 1, 2016. Joe also said American Legion Department of New York will hold their Convention from July 14 – 16, 2016 in Binghamton. Joe also said the NYC Veterans Advisory Board will hold their meetings on Tuesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> between 6pm and 8pm and the Queens Borough Hall on Queens Blvd.**

**Bob Mahoney gave a report on upcoming Dates. On Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup> the County meeting will be held at the Merrell Post at 10am. On March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> there will be re-invite meeting at the Cespino-Russo Post at 10am. On March 18<sup>th</sup> the Legion Birthday will be held at the Varsity Club at 12 noon. On April 10<sup>th</sup> the Children and Youth Breakfast will held at the Staaten at 9am. The National Commanders Dinner will be held at Anton's at 7pm.**

**Corporation Report – Leo said that on February 14<sup>th</sup> he had to withdraw funds from the money market account to deposit into the checking account to cover all the bills on hand Leo said since the problems started with the building we have lost a lot of money because of expenses to keep the Post going. Leo stated that just the basic utilities used to manage the building are around \$1500 a month and with no actual revenue coming in we have to just keep transferring funds. Leo said he received a tax statement for our money market account and we made very little in interest for 2015. Leo said after the last party that is being held here on Saturday he is disconnecting the soda machine, the coffee maker and the ice machine.**

**Leo said he spoke to attorney and they feel by March 15<sup>th</sup> the process of the sale of the building will be done. Leo said that last month we needed a letter of petition signed by the members that they are all aware of the sale of the building. But now the AG said that is not needed now. The lawyer received a copy of our Constitution and By-laws which states that we only need a quorum of eight members of our Board of Directors to vote on a matter like this as far as the sale of the building. Leo also said that the Sale of the building has been in all the newsletters and the minutes of meetings on the Post Website since the process began and right now the AG's office is happy with that. Leo stated that originally we would have to bring the petition to the Courts, but now that is no longer needed. All that be needed now is for one signature on the petition.**

**Leo said he went to Moravian Church and looked at the room. He signed a contract and we will holding are meeting on the same night and same time. The cost will be \$75 for the use and \$25.00 for the men to cleanup and put away the chairs. The meeting hall hold 100 people and we have use of the hall from 6:30pm to 10:30 pm. We are responsible setting chairs and tables and**

have full use of the kitchen. The meeting room is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and there is a lift for those who cannot walk up. Now our fixed cost to have meetings will be \$100 which is better than what we are paying now to run this building of \$1400.

Leo said there is no air conditioning so we will most likely have meetings in July and August, unless we meet at a diner etc. Leo said there is no storage area, but there is a closet where we can keep a file cabinet and our Flags. Leo also stated that the management told him that after we have been there for a few months we might be able to seminars to recruit veterans that come to the church for other purposes. Our first meeting at Moravian will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be able to bring in beer, wine and soft drinks.

Leo said that he has a possible buyer for 40 of our chairs and maybe the ice machine. The person that purchased the building said whatever we do not want just leave it behind and it will all get thrown out when the building is renovated.

All banking mail for the corporation treasurer will be sent directly to Leo's home and all Post Treasurers mail to Carmine.

For general mail from the American Legion for membership and other matters will be sent to a US Postal Mail box that we will open.

Leo said he spoke to Verizon and once we disconnect the phone the number can be transferred to a cell phone. Next month we will send out a mailing of our new meeting place to remind all. Lester said he will put all the information on the Post Website. We spoke about the Plaque and the Flag Pole outside the Post and what will happen to it when the sale of the building is complete, a few options were talked about but we will have to wait for a decision. Lester also said the street outside is supposed to be renamed this year to Kells-Grennie way or something like it. As far as the building Charlie said he might the buyer might tear it down to the foundation or just rip out the inside of the building.

Joe talked about after we begin holding our meetings at Moravian Church we should try and have membership drives. Leo mentioned that Dignity Funeral

Homes run symposiums for veterans in small restaurants and we might think of contacting them and have it at the Church, and if they agree to it they pick up the bill.

Historian- Lester said that the history project of the Post that he has been working on for a little for than a year is now finished. Lester also said that a video of the project is on You Tube and on DVD and has brought a copy to raffle off tonight as part of the 50/50. He also said that he had spoken to Annie Wilsey of Department and told her that the only copy of a Post Charter that we have just has the one name Edmund Kells. She said she will look into it. Two weeks later I received the updated copies of the Post Charter and also a copy of the Sons of the Legion Squadron Charter along with the paper work with the applications with all the original names.

Lester said aside from the history project he has also compiled a list of members of Post 1 that live in the vicinity and sent emails out to about 15 members asking them to try and attend a meeting.

Correspondences- A card from Bob Mahoney thanking everyone for the sympathy card that members signed about the loss of his son Rob. He also thanked the Post for making a donation to the ALS Foundation in his son Rob's name.

Carmin read a letter from the ALS Foundation thanking all for the donation in Rob Mahoney's name.

A letter was received from the Wounded Warriors about a winter event taking place on March 13 were asking for donations. There was a short discussion and it was decided that because of our minimal amount of funds now no donations will be made. There was a letter from the Travis 4<sup>th</sup> of July committee about this year's parade, which was given to Emery the Honor Guard Captain.

New Business – Joe said last year we sponsored a student to go to Girls State. Joe was asked by the Auxiliary to be in on the process. Joe said he felt very honored. And also said that they appreciated our donation and we are part of the selection process from beginning to end.

**Joe talked about a problem that came up with the Flag Painting hanging in the foyer. The painting was originally donated to the Vietnam Veterans in March 2009. But when the VVA met at this Post they donated it to Post 316 and we had it framed at a cost of \$280.00. Joe read a copy of minutes from Post 316 dated April 20, 2009, that stated that the painting was donated by VVA Chapter 421 to this Post. Joe spoke with VVA President Gene DiGiacomo and he said it was just leant to the Post. Joe said what we want to do with this issue. Leo said to talk about the background of what has transpired since then. Joe said it is in our possession and we cannot take it with us when we move to donate to Tottenville H.S. The reason to have it go to Tottenville H.S. is because there great support of all veterans. Joe said he told Gene that we have already promised to donate it to Tottenville H.S. Gene said he spoke to Joanne Nolemi and said she is understanding, Joe said to him that is a slap in the face. Joanne did not want to get caught in the middle .Lester said in November when Joanne came to our meeting he asked her if she would like the painting for the school. A few days later Gene called me about the painting and explained to him that at the VVA meeting in April 2009 the chapter donated it to the Post and we had it framed, he said he did not remember that but said okay. Now four months later he called again and said he wants the painting. Lester told Gene I am not arguing so call Joe he is the Commander. Joe said I do not want to get into this it is totally stupid. Leo made a motion that we do a joint venture in giving the painting to Tottenville H.S. with a name plate e that reads with compliments from VVA Chapter 421 and Kells-Grennie Post 316 and is paid for by the VVA Chapter 421. The motion was seconded. Joe said he would text Gene and tell him what we proposed.**

**Carmine complimented Joe on doing a great job with the 4 Chaplains breakfast. He also paid a compliment to John Nolemi.**

**50/50 drawing winner Charlie and Dennis McLoone won the History Video.**

**Joe asked members to attend this Saturday's County Meeting at Merrell Post and Dennis reminded members to possibly attend the re-invite meeting at Cespino-Russo on March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.**

**With no further business to be conducted the Commander read the closing prayers, Taps were played and the Flags were retired at 9:15 pm**

**Respectfully**

**Lester Modelowitz**