

Kells – Grennie American Legion Post No. 316
Minutes of Meeting for
January 19, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Post Commander Joe Occhipinti. Opening prayers were read by Acting Chaplain Leo Milham and then the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble were recited by the membership. The Commander then asked called for the Roll Call of Officers, absent were VC Allen Polazzo, Treasurer Carmine Vacirca and Chaplain Dennis Rosenwald, following the Roll Call he asked for committee reports. Adjutant Lester Modelowitz read the minutes for the meeting held on November 17, 2014. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read and was carried. VC Commander Charles Goffredo said that he signed up a new member Nicholas Castalano who he worked with at the Police Department but he has lived at the Eggers Nursing Home for the past twelve years because of MS. He served in the US Army seeing duty with the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Charlie mentioned that he does not get to many visitors so if you can stop in and say hello. He also has two sons that are currently serving in the USMC and both have seen service in the Middle East.

Leo Milham gave a brief report for Post Treasurer Carmine who was ill. He did say because funds were a bit low in the Post Treasury that the Corporation donated funds to stabilize the Post Account. Any member that would like further information about Post Finances you can speak to the Treasurer. Leo also said that the 50/50 money that is generated during meetings will be used to sponsor students for Boy's State and Girls Nation.

VC Bill Baumwoll said that there was no information available yet for Boy's State and Girls Nation.

Bill also spoke about the Newsletter and said we were no longer mailing out copies but they are and will be available by email and on the Post Website at www.alegion316.org and under the Navigation click on Calendar – Newsletter – Minutes. Bill also explained that he will be sending out Post Cardss explaining all this and if you do not have internet service either call the post or send a letter requesting a copy. Leo mentioned that other organizations are doing the same thing as well as American Legion Department of NY.

House Chairman David was away but left a report on the building activities and said all was fine. Membership Chairman Allen Polazzo was absent so there was no report on membership.

Joe Toronto gave a Post Service Officer report and said the Department of Veterans Affairs is going to insert new members to research and advisement committees to study Post War illness's on Neurology , gastroenterology and also brain cancers because of possible exposure to nerve agents. Joe also spoke about the program that has been introduced called the Veterans Choice Card Temporary Program. It entitles a veteran who lives more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility to receive treatment from non-VA Medical help (Private Physician) and no extra expense once approved. Leo talked about the travel expense that you get when you have to travel to the VA but they have changed it and now there is a deductible of \$18.00.

And you know longer get reimbursed on the day of your visit it will be deposited in your checking account, once you have registered your account. Leo also said that if a veteran is still working and earning more than \$59,000 yearly he or she will not qualify. Leo also reported on the Building Corporation Account information is available upon request. He also said that will be having some problems arising to maintain the building because a main source of revenue will be moving out in the very near future. Commander Joe O, said that if anyone has knowledge of someone that would like to use our Hall for long term or short term please let him know.

Adjutant and Post Historian told the member that he has added a lot of information to the Post Website and had also received copies of the Post's original application for our Charter, and it also is available online, and all the Post Officers from 1919 – Present are also online.

He said when the Post came into existence it met at the Village Hall in Stapleton until 1943 when they moved into our current HQ.

Commander talked about all the upcoming events

February 7, 2015 Zone Oratorical Contest will be held at the Elmont Memorial Library

February 8, 2015 The Four Chaplain Interfaith Breakfast at the Staaten.

February 20, 2015 American Legion County Meeting at Cichon Post

March 16, 2015 Post 316 Meeting.

March 20, 2015 Legion Birthday Meeting at Varcity Club.

April 10, 2015 County Meeting TBA

April 17, 2015 National Commanders Dinner

April 20, 2015 Post 316 Meeting

May 30, 2015 Department Commander Home Coming Dinner

Joe said he had spoken to former Membership Chairman Joe Dietrich he is home bound so please keep him in your prayers.

For the Good of the Legion Ferdi Salavatore said to beware of Scam Calls, he had received one about getting diabetic material. BEWARE they are out there.

Leo spoke about his Son Michael P. Milham who is a MD phd child psychologist and neuro scientist and is involved in opening a facility at the Teleport on South Avenue and he and two other doctors will be addressing the American Legion at the next County meeting on February 20th. They will be offering free psychological testing for children, and hope to begin services in early April.

Leo also said is internationally known and is doing out of his own heart because he wants to help children. More information will become available on our website as it becomes available.

The 50/50 was won by Lester Modelowitz

With no further business to discuss closing prayers were read and Taps were played and the

Meeting was closed at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By
Adjutant Lester Modelowitz