

Kells-Grennie American Legion

Post 316

Minutes for meeting

February 21, 2022

Meeting called to order by Commander Vacirca at 7:30 pm. The Chaplain read the opening prayers, The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Preamble to the constitution.

Steve Ayling was at the meeting to swear in the new officers for the year 2021 – 2022, also attending was his wife and daughter.

Roll call was taken by the Adjutant. The officers that were all present.

The Adjutant read the minutes from the June meeting, and it was accepted by all as read,

Americanism: Charlie said the lawyer that we use for the Post Kelly Wren her father passed away.

Charlie also said he and Allen were able to get Covid Test Kits and Masks and will be given out after the meeting.

Boys State: Bill said he spoke with the County Commander before the start of the meeting and said SUNY Morrisville is up and the Boys State will be taking place. He also said they already have four candidates

Membership: The County Commander stated that some Post's pay their members dues up front and then wait to get in back from each member in order to get a 100%. John reported he would not pay a member's dues until he receives their payment. Some members believe the year membership run in the normal calendar year but that is not the case, it runs on the fiscal years from July 1 thru June 30.

Service Officer: Joe Toronto said the Toxic Exposure Bill was passed by the Senate but there are a few provisions, on the time period for Veterans that have been exposed. Expand the period of eligibility for VA health care for all Post -9/11 combat veterans – including those exposed to burn pits – from five years to ten years and allow a one-year open enrollment period for veterans who did not enroll after their discharge.

Joe also said the VA will making changes in the ratings schedule for respiratory conditions and mental problems. Etc. If you require additional information on this is available online. There are you tube videos available to help with veterans claims. Joe also said the VA is offering new treatment for sleep apnea and tests were done in Georgia and have a device called the diaphragm stimulator

Treasury Report: Leo Read out the amounts from all the Post accounts and the gave the total on hand.

Leo stated in December a check was given to the Marine Corps league for \$500 for Toys for Tots and he received a thank you certificate. He also said when we sent donations to other organizations, they sent a thank you also but asked for more donations.

Leo said on Saturday May 21st we will distribute flags at Moravian Cemetery. Leo said the Kiwanis club said they will send kids again.

Leo said some of the charities are off the wall. We have donated to the Bowery Mission now they are accepting all illegals. We have also donated to various food banks but now most of them have been taken over by religious organizations and have stipulated for years that we do not give to religious or political organizations.

New Business: Carmine said the Children and Youth brunch will be held on April 2, 2022, at the Staaten. \$50 per person. Leo said Post will pay for each member that wants to attend but if they do not show up, they must pay back the Post the \$50.

Carmine also said Senator Lanza will be holding the 14th annual Vietnam Veterans Day event on March 19th at Tottenville High School.

Lester said that Congressman Fossella and Richmond County District Attorney will be holding a Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Breakfast on Tuesday March 29th at 9am at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Leo said the Siller Foundation will be copying the Vietnam Moving Wall and making a similar project with all the names of those that died during 911.

Leo said he was checking over the American Legion National organization and they have been doing some great things and we should think about donating to them.

Leo said our yearly party has not been cancelled just pushed back, but hopefully have it in the spring this year.

Leo said if you shop at Home Depot or Lowes the rules have changed your Veterans ID will be no longer accepted as of February 27th. You can go

Carmine said the National Commanders dinner coming up and the Merrell Post was chartering a bus and the cost of the dinner is \$75 per person and our Post will pay for the member if they want to go, but if they decide to go and don't show up they owe the Post \$75.

Carmine talked about several places some of the members have gone to and was going to investigate possibly going again to the Air Force Museum in Long Island, a winery in NJ and maybe a trip to Washington DC. Which is a three-day trip.

John said if they offer the special at Monmouth Racetrack, we can possibly make that a day trip. The next meeting will be on March 21, 2022, in the same building.

With no further business to be discussed the meeting ended.

Closing Prayers were read, Taps was played, and the Flag was saluted and retired for the evening.

Respectfully submitted

Post Adjutant

Lester Modelowitz