

The Patriot

March/April, 1999

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Kells-Grennie Post #316
2750 Amboy Road
Staten Island, NY 10306-2140
(718) 351-9233

OFFICERS

Commander.....	Thomas Simonetti
Vice-Commanders.....	Pat Miserendino
	William Bonelli
	Maury Grosso
	Andy Procopio
	Gene Ramirez
Treasurer.....	Frank Gissi
Adjutant.....	Elias Arout
Judge Advocate.....	Richard Reichart
Chaplain.....	Gene Ramirez
Sgt-at-Arms.....	Robert Knapp

Committees

Americanism.....	Pat Miserendino
Bar & Lounge.....	Leo Milham
Boys State.....	Frank Triolo
Children & Youth.....	Maury Grosso
Graves Registration.....	William Bonelli
Hall Rentals.....	Gene Ramirez
Hospital Visitations.....	Vincent Zangari
Houseman.....	William Bonelli
Membership.....	Dennis J. Conroy
Post Editor.....	Dennis J. Conroy
Post Parties.....	Sal Fulcinelli & Rocco Valenti
POW/MIA.....	Robert Knapp
Program Chairman.....	Elias Arout
Publicity.....	Elias Arout
Service & Welfare.....	Vincent Zangari

The Commander's Message



Last month, I attended my first Mid-Winter conference held in Albany, NY, along with Post member and former County Commander, Ferdie Salvatore. I must admit it was a very rewarding experience. For three days, Ferdie and I attending meetings and social gatherings, and met fellow legionnaires from all over New York State. We participated in various legion programs and took an active part in formulating this year's 1999 legislative agenda. The dedication to service that I witnessed from these legionnaires makes me proud to be part of this organization.

On Friday evening, February 19th, our Post hosted this month's meeting of the American Legion of Richmond County. Close to 100 legionnaires from various Posts on Staten Island attended this meeting. Under the leadership of County Commander Frank Peters, the attendees heard reports from various committee chairpersons and finalized the plans for this year's Children and Youth Breakfast, to be held at Li Greci's Staaten restaurant on Sunday, April 25th.

In closing, I would like to address those members of our Post who have yet to renew their membership for 1999. Whether you have been a member of the American Legion for 1 year or 50 years, whether you are active or not; your membership is important to us. Without **you**, the programs that we provide to our community and nation would not exist. Please think about it.

Yours for the Legion,
Thomas Simonetti
Post Commander

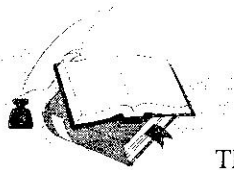
Membership Report

Our membership goal for 1999 is 372 members. As of the end of February we have 346 renewals, or 93.0% of our goal. *We need only 26 renewals/new members to achieve our goal.* If you haven't sent in your 1999 renewal notice, please do so now. We have until April 30th to attain our goal.

The Post welcomes new member Philip A. Carone.
Welcome Aboard!

Important Announcement

Due to rising printing and postage costs, the Post newsletter, **The Patriot**, will now be published every other month. The newsletter will also be re-designed to fit into a four-page layout, beginning with this month's issue.



Highlights of the *"Minutes of the Meeting"*

February 12 At tonight's meeting, Gold Star Post Vice-Commander Matthew Baldassano introduced current County Vice-Commander Frank LaMarsh to the membership. Frank is running for County Commander this June and has asked for our support. One of Frank's goals is to establish a Veterans cemetery on Staten Island. The closest Veterans cemetery is on Long Island, 75 miles away.

Ferdie Salvatore reported on the Mid-Winter conference held in Albany on January 29-31. (see article in newsletter).

Leo Milham reported that the Veterans Administration is considering closing down the Veterans Medical Clinic on Water Street in Stapleton. It seems that not enough veterans are utilizing this facility. We urge all veterans to visit this clinic and sign-up. If this clinic closes, the nearest facility is the VA hospital in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. In addition, the VA is also considering to shut down the VA Regional Office on Houston Street in Manhattan.

In a few months the City of New York will begin building a new baseball stadium in St. George for our new Class A baseball team, the *Staten Island Yankees* of the New York-Penn League. Our Post, along with other Posts on Staten Island are requesting that the new stadium be named after Pvt. Joseph F. Merrill, Jr. Pvt. Merrill, a World War II veteran from Staten Island, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously, for bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

The Post has accepted an invitation from the Travis 4th of July Committee to participate in this year's Fourth of July parade. Our contingent will consist of our Honor Guard and members from our Post and the Sons of the American Legion.

The Post also voted to make a donation of \$50.00 for a 1/2 page ad in the Korean War Veterans souvenir journal.

Post member William Castle was recently released from the hospital. We wish William a speedy recovery and hope to see him at Post meetings in the future.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Maury Grosso. Congratulations, Maury.

February 26 Essay Committee Chairperson Eli Aroust, announced that all preparations for this year's Sixth Grade Essay Contest have been completed. We will have 8 contestants from 4 area elementary schools. Eli also announced that the three judges for this year's contest will be: the Honorable State Senator Vincent Gentile, and retired High School teachers Ms. Terry Clemente and Mr. Joseph Cogam. The contest will be held on Sunday, March 21st at 2:00pm, at the Post. Eli then asked the membership to please attend this contest to show support.

The Adjutant also announced that the Honorable Congressman Vito Fosella has moved his local office from New Dorp Lane to 4434 Amboy Road in Eltingville. The new phone number is (718) 356-8400.

Post Vice-Commander Andrew Procopio is currently in the hospital (*Staten Island University Hospital, North*). The Post wishes Andy a speedy recovery, and looks forward to seeing him back on the dais at future Post meetings.

Corporation Treasurer Paul Zalesak passed out the year-end (1998) financial report to the membership. He went over the highlights of the report and answered any questions raised by the members of the Post. Everyone was satisfied with his report.

Important Notice to the Membership - On January 1, 1999, the Department of New York increased their share of the membership dues by \$3.00 per member. To offset this increase, a motion was made on the floor to increase our yearly dues from \$20.00 to \$23.00 (*this would be the first increase in five years*). Since this motion effects the entire membership, further discussion and **voting** on this motion, will take place at the Post meeting on Friday, March 26th. We urge all members to attend this meeting since the outcome will affect all of you.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Michael Magliocco. Congratulations, Mike.

Minutes of the *Board of Directors Meeting*

On Thursday evening, February 25th, a special meeting of the Board of Directors was held to conclude unfinished business. At this meeting, Board President Richard Reichart discussed the bids he received for the following improvements to the building: replace sidewalk, repair the driveway gates and repairing the chairs in the meeting hall. After reviewing the bids, the board unanimously voted to make all the above repairs. Outside work will begin as soon as the weather is warmer; the repairing of the chairs will begin next week.

At this meeting, board member Robert Knapp announced

that because of his work schedule, he is resigning his position as Lounge Manager. Due to Bob's resignation, Leo Milham will take over all responsibilities as Lounge Manager.

The board also agreed to rent the Hall for after-funeral gatherings on a *when available* basis. These rentals would be available to Post members **only**. The cost would be \$250.00 for four hours usage and would include a bartender and clean-up person. Interested members would have to supply their own food and drink. Arrangements can be made by calling Gene Ramirez at the Post.



It's Party Time

On Saturday night, March 13th, our annual St. Patrick's Party will be held at the Post, starting at 7:00pm. The cost per person is only \$25.00, which includes Corned Beef and Cabbage, and other hot food, an Open Bar and entertainment by ***Carminé***. For reservations/information, call Sal Fulicinelli at 356-9309 or Rocco Valenti at 987-0845

Armed Forces Day

On Sunday, May 16, 1999, the College of Staten Island Alumni Association and Borough President Guy Molinari's office will sponsor an Armed Forces Day salute to veterans, military and defense workers of the twentieth century, from 1:00pm to 6:00pm, at the CSI's Recreation Center and surrounding athletic fields. The planning committee has been busy at work, inviting representatives from all five branches of the Armed Forces to participate, along with Staten Island's veterans organizations. There will be a number of interesting displays, field activities and demonstrations.

Mid-Winter Conference

From Friday, January 29th, through Sunday, January 31th, the Eightieth Annual Mid-Winter Conference was held at the Desmond Americana Hotel in Albany. New York State Commander Robert L. Morrill outlined the American Legion's 1999 Legislative Program to the membership. This "program" was formulated and adopted by the legionnaires to bring immediate and long term benefits that the 1.7 million veterans of New York State are entitled to. This legislative program will be forwarded to the New York State Assembly, State Senate and the Honorable Governor of New York State, George E. Pataki for consideration:

Establishment of a VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY. Construct a NYS VETERAN'S CEMETERY IN SENECA COUNTY. Amend the NYS REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW to include Lebanon/Grenada, Panama and Persian Gulf veterans. Provide a three year retirement credit for WARTIME SERVICE for members of the NYS retirement system. Exempt VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS from Fuel Tax. Amend the REAL PROPERTY TAX LAWS to allow Veteran's exemption of school taxes. Give a VETERAN'S WAR-TIME BONUS to veterans of the Vietnam, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama and Gulf wars.

Calendar of Events



March

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 3rd, Wednesday | - "Star Spangled Banner" made U.S. National Anthem (1931) |
| 12th, Friday | - Membership meeting, 8:30pm at the Post. |
| 13th, Saturday | - <i>St. Patrick's Day Party</i> , 7:00pm at the Post. |
| 19th, Friday | - County Meeting, 7:30pm, to be held at the Huttner-Pasqualini Post in Old Town. |
| 21st, Sunday | - <i>Essay Contest for Sixth Grade Students</i> , 2:00pm at the Post. |
| 26th, Friday | - Membership meeting, 8:30pm at the Post. |
| 31st, Wednesday | - <i>Sons of the American Legion</i> , Membership meeting, 8:00pm at the Post. |

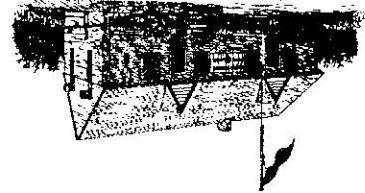
April

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1st, Thursday | - Passover |
| 4th, Sunday | - Easter Sunday * |
| 9th, Friday | - Membership meeting, 8:30pm at the Post. |
| 23rd, Friday | - Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post. County Meeting at the S. I. Armory. |
| 25th, Sunday | - <i>Children and Youth Breakfast</i> , 9:00am at Li Greci's Staaten. |
| 28th, Wednesday | - <i>Sons of the American Legion</i> , Membership meeting, 8:00pm at the Post. |



* Fly the Flag

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