



April 2020 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Easter, Linksmų Šv. Vėlykų dear Members and Friends,

Where to begin! Never have I started a newsletter in that fashion but we are living in unprecedented times as of this writing. Simply put, a pandemic, a virus has knocked everything (in the truest sense of the word) for a loop, and that's putting it mildly. Many are not working, there are no Masses, no anything we were quite accustomed to. My sincerest hope and that of our officers too, is that all of us stay healthy, stay safe and God's love will see us through. Well, not all accustomed things are gone...this newsletter is proof of that! Still here, both the letter and the writer...!

With all of the closings and restrictions on meeting, this newsletter is taking the place of our regular April meeting, which would have been held this coming Sunday. It may also be the case for May, as there are a host of uncertainties. Most likely and hopefully speaking, June appears to perhaps be the next opportunity when all of us may meet in person and once again gaze upon each other's smiling and beaming countenances.

The above being said, the officers of our council have teleconferenced twice in the previous weeks so that we could keep conducting council business. Thanks to our secretary, Marlene Warren, who orchestrated both of these virtual meetings. Never ever did I nor anyone else imagine we would meet and discuss matters in this fashion. A joint decision was reached to keep our members informed via newsletter in lieu of a meeting. In turn, if any of our members have questions or concerns, please reach out to any officer and we will do our utmost to address said matter.

As regards our By-Laws, our ad hoc Committee met one more time via conference call and reviewed all final changes and suggestions presented. We feel at this time that we can present our final draft version via email and regular mail to all our members in the very near future. It was decided, after a depth discussions, to keep the liability insurance article in the updates. Once the membership has had a final chance to review and make any final suggestions, we hope to vote and ratify the amended By-Laws. Again, hope is that we can do so in June, and by September have everything in place. Yet again, thanks to Marlene Warren for her tireless efforts in doing the drudgery of the actual writing, note taking and editing!

Perhaps the shortest paragraph here will be regarding the club building. True to our word and as stated in the previous newsletter, I asked our treasurer Al Ulozas to have the utilities disconnected, but only after I checked with the Lithuanian Club if perhaps they wanted them transferred to them, which they chose not to do. So as of April 7th, this was done. The hemorrhaging of dwindling funds will now at least be stopped. We may have one last set of payments that will be to close any remaining balance. Otherwise, no further news has reached anyone regarding the eventual sale of the building.

According to our treasurer Al Ulozas, our financial situation is as follows: Opening balance as of April 8th was \$2314.81. Deposits and credits to our account totalled \$1227.00 (\$1200 member dues and \$27 redeemed bottle deposits. Expenses totalled \$1466.30, of which \$1230.00 were dues payments sent to the Supreme Council, \$225.30 sent to Eversource for utilities and \$11.00 for postage stamps for council use. This leaves a balance of \$2075.31 in our checking account and our CD balance remains at \$2037.38. Lastly, Al added that after a final payment for utilities that our estimated balance could be as low as \$1700.00 Let's hope that it's nowhere as gloomy as that prediction. Our sincerest thanks to Al for keeping our finances in top order.

Financial Secretary Linas Venclauskas is reporting that many members have paid their dues but that some had remained outstanding. Vice President Fran Stiklus volunteered to mail out postcard reminders to those who still hadn't renewed, which was done last week. Previous reminders were emailed to the membership also. If you are reading this and realize that you have not renewed, please take a moment and do so now while it is on your mind. Thanks to those that have already renewed. The vitality of our council depends on all of us! Thank you!! Ačiū labai!

According to the NED, there will be no District Convention due to the ongoing concerns regarding the pandemic. Business, if any will be conducted via email. This is per David Boucher, NED President.

Normally, page two would list various events and reminders of happenings that our members might have an interest in participating or attending. Thanks to Covid 19, no such things at all are here to be presented for your perusal and consideration. Neverminding local events, there is concern that most likely even the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival scheduled for Philadelphia over the July 4th holiday will be postponed perhaps till next year. In addition, all local groups that I usually list here have either cancelled or postponed their meetings or recurring events. All of us can only hope that sooner instead of later we return to some semblance of normalcy!

Speaking of events, the **Lithuanian Mayor for the Day** went off very well, all things considered as the virus had just started to take it's toll on attendance at events everywhere. Ed Paige did the Lithuanian Community proud and his story was a wonderful glimpse and microcosm into one family's Lithuanian roots and sojourn. Keep an eye out for the local access channel to air the event as they have done in the past. Quite often they do so several times during the course of the year. Thanks to all who came out to show our solidarity!

The Hartford Lithuanian Radio program " Tėvynės Garsai " or " Sounds of the Homeland ", is heard every Sunday from **5 to 6 PM** over **WWUH 91.3 FM**, or the internet at www.wwuh.org. The show now has English segments along with the Lithuanian ones and a variety of music. You can even ask Alexa to play this station by stating the call letters. ***Tune in and stay informed and entertained! Please note, lately due to no one from their staff being allowed to go to the station studio, their program has mainly been just music.***

Another **Lithuanian** radio program you may wish to tune in to is broadcast every Tuesday from **WPAT 930 AM** from **9 till 10 PM**. This is Greater New York's weekly program and is exclusively in Lithuanian. It can be listened to over Alexa or via the internet. The program is hosted by Giedre Kumpikaite. Thanks to Erik Bartkus for the heads up on this one.

Birthdays for April: Eleanor Barkauskas, Anna Juraska, Joseph Kasinskas, Peter Verseckas. **Many Happy Returns! Ilgiausią Metų !!** If I missed someone or erred, kindly let me know!

Please pray for the souls of our deceased members. Pray for all members who are sick or infirm for a speedy recovery.

If there is anything you would like to see in our newsletter or know of anything we missed or erred on **please let us know!** **As of this writing, we are not sure if we will be meeting in person or via newsletter once again.** ***Follow your email for updates on all matters! Ačiū Labai !***

Vytiškai,

Linas Balsys

Linas Balsys
President
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" Overcome evil with good " Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis

P.S. We are starting our 104th season!! Let's keep a good thing going!!