



June / July 2020 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Summer Dear Members and Friends,

Just as in the last newsletter, we sincerely hope that all are staying healthy, not ill with the virus or any other malady or affliction. Summer is here in earnest, it's been warm enough that's for sure. As much as we complain that it's too hot, just wait till September when our fleeting summer is just about gone and we face eight or nine months of cool and cold weather. Get out and enjoy as much as one can under the circumstances of the new normal. In a similar vein, the usual array of recurring summer events is no more for this year. Perhaps it gives all of us a chance to see what it's like without those in our calendar. No excuses for not doing something different or just taking a break from the routine!

Yet again, this newsletter is taking the place of what should be a regular meeting, albeit that it's a poor substitute for an actual meeting. What's this you say? We don't meet in July? True, we usually wrap up the season in June and usually that newsletter would have been out almost three weeks ago. However, work issues and other matters of importance, some within our council, kept me pushing it back. Well, fret no more, here it is! Furthermore, if any member has any concern, question or issue, please reach out to any officer so we may address it. No matter is too big or too small!

There will be a chance for many of us to see each other coming up shortly, though the event is a somber one and add to it that we must social distance a bit also before, during and after. Marlene Warren, our council secretary, without whom I would have long since been in the weeds, has kept up with and informed the members and officers with emails (that I hope ALL are reading!), as we have no way to do so in person. That event is the remembrance Mass for our deceased members on July 19th at 9:00 AM at St. Joseph's Church. We fervently hope that as many of you that can and are willing to attend do so. The sad part is that I have never seen such a long list of deceased members in memory ever. Members being remembered at this Mass include Ritchie Litinskas, Lisa Velez, Ann Valuckas, Dottie Barile, Betty Bebrin, Eric Zupka, Michael Zupka, Phil Mauriello, Jim Shea, Sarune Macys, Anne Kundrotas, Doris Blinstrubas, Nellie Benesevich, and Robert Bartkus. Hard to believe we've lost that many since January of 2019. The officers were hoping we could host a meeting after the Mass, but alas, the hall at Our Lady of Mount Carmel still isn't available. However, we've been informed that we are welcome to use it in the future when we are able to do so. Thanks to Father Aniello for offering this to us.

On a sadder note, yet again as you may have already known, we lost two more members since last we wrote. Firstly, Nellie Benesevich, who was a member for so long and had remained active until very recently in both parish and Lithuanian circles. Secondly, Robert Bartkus, who though not yet a long-time member, but one who was very proud of his Lithuanian heritage and had served our country in Vietnam. Sincerest and deepest condolences to both their families and friends *Amžina atilsj*. Bob Orientas has kindly donated Mass cards from the Marians for both on behalf of Council 7.

After a bit of prodding (via email) Marlene received a response from Chris Kelly regarding the sale of the K of L building. Due to the pandemic, all matters had been on hold, but now the Archdiocese is moving ahead to get a survey done. Information and cooperation from the City of Waterbury had been intermittent, but it appears that matters may be moving forward. It would be nice to see everything get closer to finality. On a secondary note, if anyone would like to volunteer an hour at some point to help straighten out the yard so that

it doesn't appear to be abandoned and an eyesore, it would be greatly appreciated by all, neighbors included! Let us know and we will get you a gate key.

Back in June, the officers held a Zoom conference call. Shortly thereafter we received a financial report from our treasurer Al Ulozas. As of June 7th, this is how everything shakes out: Income to that point from April till June was \$540.00 for dues. Expenses totaled \$770.21, which broke down to Eversource Gas \$154.35, Eversource Electric \$165.86 and dues payments to Supreme Council \$450.00. This leaves us a balance in checking at \$1845.30 and the CD at \$037.38. The good news if any is there will be no more gas and electric expenses and we still have some money in our accounts.

Financial Secretary Linas Venclauskas has updated many records for our membership due to his initiative. If you are still sitting on the survey, please send it back or email him with any updates. It will help us have the latest information! Speaking of membership, we don't want to sound alarmed, but our ranks have been decimated. Please, talk to any who are of Lithuanian descent or uphold the values of the Knights of Lithuania and ask them to consider joining. Eventually we hope to return to doing the activities we used to at some level and seeing new faces would be most welcome.

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. Among the casualties are the **Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival** that was to be held in Philadelphia over the July 4th weekend. This has now been postponed to **August 6th, 2021** in Philadelphia. Also, any K of L event, both NED and National has either been postponed or cancelled. The National Convention is postponed till next year also. We can only hope that sooner than later we can resume a more normal course of events.

As mentioned earlier, at least Sunday Masses have resumed, with an abundance of caution taken. Lastly, I have no news on The Gathering, though I suspect it too will be postponed or cancelled.

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 lately 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.

Lastly, if these two sources of Lithuanian music and information leave something to be desired, there is the internet, where every Lithuanian radio station from Lithuania can be found. There are even apps one can put on their cellphone that have all of them under that listing. One touch and they're playing. The variety is incredible!

Birthdays for June: Betty Albert, Jennifer Kasinskas, Laima Reiss, Violeta Stasonis, Jenny Wunder. July: Peter Gervickas, Rūta Kazakaitis, Adele Klenske, Al Ulozas. Many Happy Returns! Ilgiausių Metų !! If I missed someone or erred, kindly let me know! If we do not have your birthday on file, we can't announce it...

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
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"Overcome evil with good" Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis

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