



## November 2020 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Thanksgiving Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to November! What October didn't deliver as regards Indian summer and other weather we got in abundance in the last two weeks. Now prepare for the usual November weather. What's left on the trees as far as leaves go and such will be on the ground, wind whipped and wet if it rains. Here's hoping it stays warmer than cold. Now I know the club building and yard is really no more our concern, but it would be nice if we could do a yard cleanup, perhaps around Thanksgiving, leaving it at least presentable for the near future.

We are only hoping that the rising numbers of cases doesn't prevent us from continuing to meet as we've been doing. For once, my printer has something to do, as our newsletter isn't just an email sent to all. Though we don't have much business to discuss, we all certainly welcome the opportunity to meet in person, masks on, distances kept, and see each other's (presumably) smiling faces. Thanks again to Fr. Aniello for allowing us the use of the hall to do so.

A couple of items that are good news! First, the **Supreme Council** has suspended payment of dues for next year. Seeing as many councils aren't meeting, a national convention didn't take place, and many have had more financial burdens cast upon them, at least symbolically this helps. We may want to consider in its place collecting a much smaller token version for our own Council's purposes, on a voluntary basis perhaps. Second, word has finally reached us that the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree medals will very soon be on their way! Hopefully we can coordinate with Fr. Aniello to have them blessed and awarded, perhaps after one of the Masses on Sunday. That is what the recommendation is from the **National Ritual Chair, Georgianna Macke**. Finally, our long deserving members who have been waiting for just about a year will receive them! Yay!

Regarding the building, I recently reached out to **Leon Farr, President of the Lithuanian Club**. He has not heard anything back from anyone regarding the consumation of the sale. Speculation has it that the survey is the stumbling block. He said by now he could've had it done by his own surveyor had he known it would take this long. Or perhaps there is an issue regarding the city of Waterbury and the fence for the school. There was a suggestion floated that it would be a good idea to draw that rear boundary further back. In any case, he's raring to go and also upset that nothing has moved forward. Much could have been accomplished in the last couple of months had things moved forward. On behalf of both organizations, I will try and reach out to all parties involved to try and push this issue along and see where things stand.

If you have not contacted our Financial Secretary Linas Venclauskas to make sure your records and information are up to date, please do so. That way the chain of communication remains unbroken. Also, and it bears repeating, is that we need to bring in members. They're out there, we just need to reach out and recruit. Not easy, but keep trying and somehow, eventually you will succeed. Our ranks have thinned considerably and it would be to our and the organization as a whole, to bring in new members.

As of this writing, the annual **Kūčios**, or Christmas Eve Dinner will not be taking place. We can thank Covid 19 and the countless restrictions on the size of gatherings for this. Regarding the Plotkelės, or Christmas Wafers, they will be made available in the vestibule of the church shortly. We may want to look into how we can get them to people who aren't attending or venturing out. Thanks to Bob Orintas for handling this, yet once again!

Marlene Warren, our Secretary has been in touch with Daveluy's restaurant to see if we can hold an event similar to what we did last year, with all proper social distancing and safety protocols followed. They were under some kind of renovations and she was awaiting further word. This is also the time for our members to speak up and see if they want to proceed. Or perhaps someone has another suggestion? We're open to it and we welcome the opportunity to do so.

Even though it is months away, we hope we can continue our tradition of the Lithuanian Mayor for the Day and Flag Raising, celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day. Put your thinking caps on! The earlier we have candidates, the easier it is to get it all set up. As it is I will have to check with the Mayor's Office after New Year's to see what the situation is. When you think about it, that was the last "social event" that took place this calendar year before all was locked down!

As of this moment, there is nothing else to report. We're keeping our fingers crossed for next year!

**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](http://www.wwuh.org). Due to the ongoing virus situation, the show has been just music but according to the program manager may soon return to its more normal format. The station was just doing their annual fund drive as they are non profit. If you wish to donate, it is not too late. Visit their website to do so or for more information. By the way, you can have Alexa play the program just by stating the call letters. **Tune in and stay entertained!**

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. They just recently celebrated their thousandth program!

Lastly, if these two sources of Lithuanian music and information leave you yearning for more, there is the internet, where every Lithuanian radio station from Lithuania can be found. There are even apps one can put on their smartphone that have all of them under one listing. One touch and they're playing. Ask me for more information if interested.

We have sold all the copies of the Lithuanian History book that we had, and are in the process of inquiring to see if we can get any more. Fingers crossed that we can as I have people asking! If we have a Christmas event, we may even raffle one off! Worth the price of admission, I say!

**Birthdays for November: Ina Grove, Janina Nawarskes, Zaidre Petruskevicius, Priscilla Steponaitis, Anne Vaichus, Jonas Zemaitaitis** Many Happy Returns! **Ilgiausią Metų !!** I want to make special note of the fact that **Anne Vaichus celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup>!** 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!**  
**Follow your email for updates on all matters! Ačiū Labai !**

Vytiškai,

*Linus Balsys*

Linus Balsys  
President  
Council 7, Waterbury, CT

"Overcome evil with good" Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis

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