



Council 7 Waterbury September 2021 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Fall, Dear Members and Friends,

At least this time it hasn't been six months since last I wrote a newsletter or saw many of you in person! It's only been three or so! In any case, we have good reason to come together today at what would normally be our traditional Fall opening meeting for the season. Your Council officers and board members have been hardly asleep at the wheel, but rather have been busy working on a host of matters, many involving the future of not only our council but the K of L nationally.

That being said, I will repeat a thanks for all her concern and hard work over the last three months that is well deserved by our secretary **Marlene Warren** and also **Fran Stiklus**, our Vice President. Marlene spent countless hours hosting a committee that was formed at the NED Spring Convention that was working on recommendations to be presented to the National Convention that just took place. She has also been instrumental in getting all things lined up so that our meeting and awards could take place today. Lastly but not in the least, between her and Fran they put it all together for our successful June meeting and pizza party at Daveluy's that brought many of us together! Many thanks and ačiū!

If not for the rain.... that seems to have been a recurring theme for many postponements, cancellations or general lack of attendance for many events this whole past summer. It almost became the case for our first ever Lithuanian Statehood day (King Mindaugas Day) Flagraising and salute to past Mayors of the Day. We were very grateful that at the last minute the City of Waterbury moved our event indoors and we were able to pull it off even though not the greatest attendance was mustered. However, the Republican American did cover it. Let's see what the next many months brings us and there is hope we can return to a more traditional frame of events and honors. However, we now know we can have a third option should some future calamity occur and put the kibosh on other dates planned.

Sincerely it is hoped that you, our beloved council members are not only following your emails but actually opening them and taking the time to read and become informed. One of those is all this hard work that is being done to try and turn our K of L around and move it into the future and bring it up to speed, hopefully attracting a younger generation and members into the fold that we will need to remain viable.

September 26th brings us yet another opportunity to meet fellow Knights at what is being planned as the **NED Fall Convention** in Athol, MA at St. Francis Parish. Registration is at 11AM, lunch at noon, meeting at 1 PM and a prayer service at 2:30. Though the official deadline for responding has technically passed, I'm sure that if I sent Dave a message by Monday afternoon, we can get you on the headcount for the meeting, The NED is also looking for people to fill some of it's open positions. As one can see, we are short all over. If you can help, please consider! At the spring convention we were well represented. Perhaps we can figure out a way to get a few of us up to this one.

With today's meeting, we are finally, after an almost interminable wait, awarding third degrees to our members who had amassed the minimum required number of points from hard work, attendance, and dedication. The medals, which will be blessed at the 9 AM Mass at St. Joseph's Church, will be awarded as the first order of business when we meet afterward in the former St. Joseph's School gymnasium / auditorium. Our regular meeting follows, and we then will see what we can do to set up a meeting schedule for at least the rest of the calendar year.

Rumor has it. I cannot tolerate starting a sentence or paragraph or any discussion with that preface, but lately that seems to be the only thing that keeps surfacing regarding the sale or any movement regarding the former club rooms on Green Street With that being said, the City of Waterbury appears to be ready to move forward on some kind of deal regarding the purchase of the former St. Joseph's School. That also puts the spotlight on what may finally happen

regarding the K of L building. The question remains, where the rear boundary of the property may be demarcated. I have feelers and word out to several sources out there to immediately inform me should any movement be detected. Throw another wrench into the mix with the Lithuanian Club of Waterbury's leadership upheaval, as to who may be taking over, and their own concerns regarding the wall at their property. Will a conclusion ever be reached? Pray that it is so!

Lastly, on a very sad note, we lost a member of our Lithuanian community, K of L, St. Joseph's Parish and generally one of the most respected and revered citizens of Waterbury as a whole with the passing of **Alphonse Jarus** I was deeply honored and moved to be a pall bearer at his service. This is someone who can never be replaced, he had such a persona and presence within all circles of his life. I could write paragraphs about him, but suffice it to say that he was the only member of our community honored as Mayor of the Day twice. The last living person I knew who was at the 1939 World's Fair, performing with the choir from our parish. Our sincerest condolences to his family and relatives. He will forever be remembered in our thoughts, prayers and minds **Tegul Amžina Šviesa jam Šviečia...**

The Hartford Lithuanian Radio program "Tėvynės Garsai" or "Sounds of the Homeland" is heard Sundays from **5 to 6 PM** over **WWUH 91.3 FM**, or the internet at www.wwuh.org Due to the ongoing virus situation, the show has been just music but may soon return to its normal format. 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 on **WPAT 930 AM** from **9 till 10 PM**. This is Greater New York's weekly program and only in Lithuanian. It can be heard via Alexa or the internet also.

Lastly, going on the internet or by using an app on a smartphone, one can find numerous sources for Lithuanian music and news from all over the globe! I even know of a program from Cleveland on Sunday mornings that is worth the while!

The **Brooklyn Neighborhood Association** is continuing their meetings via Zoom. Work has not only started but is progressing on the park that was long in the planning stages. A remembrance of the victims of the Flood of August 1955 was also recently held. Their meetings are on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30. Contact Jerry Covino or myself for further information. Also, please follow Riverside Cemetery on Facebook or other sources to see what they have planned event wise.

We have sold all the copies of the Lithuanian History book that we had, and are in the process or inquiring to see if we can get any more. Fingers crossed that we can as I have people asking!

Birthdays: To all who had one from June until now, September, Happy belated, present or upcoming Birthday!! Many Happy Returns! Ilgiausią Metų !! I couldn't fit everyone's name here and keep this to 2 pages, so I sincerely apologize! If we resume regular publication, we will do our honest best to return to listing them!

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,

Linas Balsys

Linas Balsys
President
Council 7, Waterbury, CT

"Overcome evil with good" Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis

P.S. We are in our 106th season!! Let's keep a good thing going!!