



## Council 7 Waterbury October 2021 Newsletter

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

Well, it almost seems back to normal, writing a newsletter only a month after the last one! Though the pandemic and all its related issues appear to still be with us in various forms, many if not most of us have resumed trying to live our lives as close to some semblance of normal as one can try and do. The sincere hope of yours truly, and the officers of your council, is that we all remain healthy and that we lose no one to this plague that continues to beset us.

Our illustrious secretary Marlene Warren, to whom I am ever grateful for, continues to keep our council and your president on track with the concerns that face us. Last meeting, the question of officer elections came up, and finally, after efforts of all varieties, she located the relevant information in her files. I tried, but could not locate a paper copy of newsletters from more than two years ago. I only started keeping and saving an electronic copy recently, when we started sending them out by email. Cut to the chase, we are all safe, or perhaps held captive, for another year! Next fall we shall prepare for nominations and elections. Now that we have located the information, our Financial Secretary Linas Venclauskas will electronically save it for ease of future locating and reference.

At our last meeting, the unthinkable happened. We finally awarded the long awaited and richly deserved third degrees to five of our members. The medals were blessed at the Mass at St. Joseph's just before our meeting, which many members attended, and then as the first order of business, we presented them to **Gary McGuire, Marlene Stokes Shea, Bill Stokes, Robert Orintas, and Al Ulozas**. Congratulations! Now we hope a picture and an article makes it into the Vytis magazine for some well deserved national recognition!

Speaking of the Vytis and such matters, I just received a copy of the National Convention booklet with a letter from Alexandra Rudmin, and Robert Martin, Convention Co-chairs, expressing their heartfelt thanks for the greeting placed by our council in the booklet. At the earliest opportunity, I will share the booklet with our membership at a meeting, and if possible, I'll try and take a clear picture and have it emailed to all so you can view it at your convenience.

September 26<sup>th</sup> the NED Fall Convention took place, we assume. I have not heard if that was the case, or if it was postponed or even canceled. Initially, there was a thought entertained by your President and our Financial Secretary of heading up, but those never materialized. I would imagine that the spring NED Convention will be closer to home and the chance to attend is there for those who wish to go. One also can only wonder if the open positions in the NED were filled or remain vacant.

There is the possibility of scheduling and enjoying a Christmas Party for our council that has been brought up. At this Sunday's meeting, perhaps suggestions or comments can be discussed and the matter settled and a date and place chosen. It would be nice to have our members enjoy a long overdue social event, replete with a raffle and 50/50.

Now on to perhaps the longest paragraph in the newsletter. The Lithuanian Club of Waterbury is undergoing some changes in leadership. At the last meeting via Zoom, President Leon Farr read a letter of resignation, effective as of the meeting. Presently, Vice President Joe Stiklius is in charge, but only temporarily. As of the upcoming New Year, he is planning on stepping down also. Between Treasurer Linas Venclauskas and myself, a member of the Board of Directors, we are going to try and schedule a meeting of said board to set a course and plan of action. New leadership will be required, and an active recruitment will have to ensue. What, you ask, has all of this hullabaloo got to do with our council and anything else? Actually, it has plenty of bearing, as they were and still are pursuing the purchase of our former club building. On that note, I wrote an email to the Mayor's Office, and only received a reply that they received the message. As of this writing, no further reply has been received. Another attempt shall be made, and we hope a reply is received.

The sooner we hear if the city is truly going to pursue the purchase of the former St. Joseph's School and Convent, the better our chances to push for the proper back boundary and necessary requirements so that the K of L building can be made viable for the eventual buyer. The sooner the parish of St. Joseph can be unburdened of the responsibility of that building the better off for all parties involved.

**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](http://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 and will be named in part for Lisa Velez. The 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. Recently, they held an event on how to care for and restore headstones and monuments. Unfortunately it was on a weekday otherwise I would have seriously considered attending. Lastly, our sincerest condolences and sympathies to the Covino family on the loss of husband and father Jerry Covino. Active in numerous organizations, clubs and the neighborhood association, he will be missed by all who knew him. He played Santa Claus at the annual Christmas tree lighting at St. Joseph's.

**Birthdays for October: Roberta Jacovino, Marian Pelletier, Daniel Ulozas, John Warren, Gintas Zemaitaitis. Happy Birthday!! Many Happy Returns! Ilgiausią Metų !!** I will do my best to keep everyone mentioned in the newsletters as we go along. If I missed someone or erred, please 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!** ***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!!***