



## Knights of Lithuania Council 7 Waterbury, CT Minutes of March 6, 2022

Council President Linas Balsys called the meeting to order at 10:24 am; members recited the Our Father and Pledge of Allegiance.

President Balsys asked St. Casimir to intercede on Ukraine and Lithuania's behalf. Vice President Fran Stiklus gave a summary of the reason St. Casimir is our patron saint, and the traditions and customs associated with his feast day. All were encouraged to take a few moments to review the educational trifold she prepared. Thank you to all who brought food for our feast day celebration.

### Minutes

Members present acknowledged reading the January meeting minutes; Zaidre Petruskevicius made a motion to accept the minutes and Anita Rodgers seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

Al Ulozas provided the following Treasurer's report:

January – February 2022		
Checking Balance forward		\$1,896.81
Total deposits		\$0.00
Total expenses		\$0.00
<b>Checking Account Balance</b>	<b>as of 2/28/2022</b>	<b>\$1,896.81</b>
CD Balance		\$2,053.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>as of 2/28/2022</b>	<b>\$3,950.75</b>

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Marian Pelletier and seconded by Aldona Onalfo; motion carried.

### Financial Secretary's Report

Linas Venclauskas reported that the Sunshine fund remained the same. National has not yet responded regarding 2022 dues, however he is collecting dues pending a positive answer from National; to date he's collected 19 membership renewals. Dues for individuals is \$30 and a household is \$45.

Sunshine Fund Starting Cash	\$44.87
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$44.87</b>

Gerry Ulosaz made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's report and Bill Stokes seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Club building Update** – Bob Orintas reported that St. Joseph's financial condition is very fragile at this time, and that the church Financial Council accepted the City's offer to purchase the building (including the parcel on which the Club building is located). Further, to comply with current zoning requirements, the driveway between the church and the school must be a minimum of 10 ft away. An easement may be possible to use the parking lot on Congress Avenue. As part of the deal, the St. Joseph statue must be moved, but the base will stay due to its construction. Franck Covino is looking for a contractor to pursue this requirement. It was also determined that the electrical for the Church comes from the school, and that it will cost a minimum of \$6,000 to supply the Church with its own electricity source. The Parish Center altar contains a relic and Father Aniello plans to contact the Arch Diocese to see if they want it. The Parish Center stained glass windows will be removed and stored in the Church. The city

also requires more access to the buildings for emergency purposes, and that is part of the reason the K of L building is being offered as part of the sale package. President Balsys plans to follow up with the city to see if we can purchase the building from them when the sale is concluded.

**Ritual Committee** - President Balsys informed the membership that Bob Orintas had stepped down from the Ritual Committee and that Vice President Fran Stiklus has assumed his former duties. Thank you to Bob and Bill Stokes for the work on this committee. Ms. Stiklus submitted the degree paperwork to National and expects to receive the awards for the following members shortly. She proposed that the degrees be awarded at our June "Spring Fling".

Member Name	Degree
Vita Dutkanicz	1st
Leon Farr	
Rosemary Kasinskas	
Jennifer Kasinskas	
Valerie Wentworth	
Violetta Stasonis	2nd
Collette Shukis	
Linas Venclauskas	
Frances Stiklus	3rd
Judith Vecchitto	
Marlene Warren	
Jonas Zemaititis	
Gintas Zemaititis	

**Revitalization Sub Committee** – Christian Allyn, Linas Venclauskas and Marlene Warren are members of the National sub-committee. They are currently working with the National team to review all elements of the National Constitution and to prepare recommended changes; any changes to be presented at the National Convention must be sent to the Supreme Council by June. Christian noted that Dr. Kazas, a member of the National committee, pointed out that although we need to engage non-Lithuanians to grow the organization, it is critical to frame the language so the organization maintains its Catholic principles.

Junior membership was also discussed, and President Balsys reminded us that the late Lisa Velez ran the Junior Council many years ago. At this time, there is no Junior Council, but Marian Pelletier would be interested in using her elementary school teaching background to possibly revive this committee if we have juniors who are interested.

Marlene Warren will send a pdf copy of the initial National Constitution meeting recommendations to all members with email; the committee members welcome all feedback.

**2022 Mayor for the Day** – The City of Waterbury agreed to hold a Lithuanian Mayor for the Day/flag raising event on Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> (rain date is 7/15) at 10 am. President Balsys plans to post on Facebook, and we'll attempt to get a press release in the newspaper as well as the Parish bulletin however all members are welcome to publish the event to generate more publicity. Candidate names will be put forth at a future meeting (*FYI – at the January meeting, the following candidates were proposed: Eleanor Barkauskas, Peter Gervickas and Lillian Benesevich. Mr. Karmuza also suggested that we honor all the 1918 and 1990 Lithuanian Freedom Fighters.*

**Russian Invasion of Ukraine** – Due to the Russian invasion of sovereign Ukraine, Marlene Shea made a motion to support Ukrainians by contributing \$100 to the Ukrainian National Home; Marlene Warren proposed amending the motion to increase the amount to \$250 since we have no expenses at this time. Linas Venclauskas made the amended motion which was seconded by Joe Karmuza; motion carried unanimously. Based on this approval, the Treasurer is authorized to send a check to the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, Inc. at 961 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114-3137 on the Council's behalf.

Marian Pelletier shared a prayer for Ukraine that she asked to be sent to members. Ms. Warren will email to all after the meeting.

**Cultural Committee** – Vice President Fran Stiklus suggested that our Council have a Cultural Committee charged with providing members with information regarding Lithuanian customs and traditions as well as updates regarding Lithuanian events and news. Jonas Zemaititis agreed to chair the committee, and Ms. Stiklus offered to help him create displays or other materials relevant to the committee. Christian Allyn can contribute as well. Thank you, Fran, Jonas and Christian.

**Membership** – Christian Allyn recruited 2 new members – Christina Allyn and Steven Porter Allyn – who were sworn into our Council. Welcome Christina and Steven.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES**

**Spring Fling 2022 – Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1 PM** – Members agreed to a date of **June 18<sup>th</sup>** for our annual Spring Fling and that the event be held at the Café on Congress. The Café offered to store a couple of long tables and some chairs for this event to address seating concerns. Please mark your calendars.

**Lithuanian Artifacts Display** – Zaidre Petruskevicius invited all to visit the Silas Bronson Museum in downtown Waterbury to view the new Lithuanian Artifacts display.

**Folk Dance Festival** – Although the folk-dance festival will take place this year, the Hartford and Boston group are unable to participate. More details to come at future meetings.

**Future Fundraising Suggestions** – Vice President Stiklus suggested Pasta Heaven as a potential fundraiser as it requires minimal resources and offers a good return. Members simply collect orders and once the order window is closed, Pasta Heaven prepares the frozen breads and pastas for us, we sort by order in preparation for order pickup. Christian Allyn suggested contacting local breweries such as Clocktown brewery in Thomaston as they also offer fundraising opportunities at their locations. These items will be added to a future meeting agenda.

**Lithuanian Books** – President Balsys offered those present an opportunity to help themselves to 4 boxes of Lithuanian books and artifacts. Any remaining items will be shipped to the Chicago archive.

**Next Meeting 4/24/22 at 10 am** – Easter Sunday falls on our “normal” 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month meeting date, therefore our next monthly meeting will be held in the St. Joseph’s School Gym on the Sunday after Easter (4/24).

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Zaidre Petruskevicius and seconded by Joseph Karmuza; motion carried, and the meeting concluded at 11:38 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Warren  
Recording Secretary