



Council 7 Waterbury

March 2022 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy St.Casimir's Day, Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Lithuanian Independence Day times two! As most, if not all of you are aware, Lithuania has not one, but two Independence days. The first falls on **February 16th**, which is the date when independence was first declared in 1918. That lasted till 1940 and the Soviet occupation, then Nazi, and back to Soviet. This mantle of occupation was finally shaken off on **March 11th, 1990**, when the brave Lithuanian people once again declared independence, based on the unrecognized occupation and previous declaration. So far, this holds true to this very day, though we can see over the last week and a half how fragile independence can be. I had the privilege of reading the original Independence Declaration in Hartford two weeks ago at the Lithuanian Community celebration at Holy Trinity Church, in both Lithuanian and English. The reading of that was a tradition here in Waterbury for decades. That celebration in Hartford was attended by representatives of the Latvian, Estonian, and Ukrainian communities, and the Consul General Of Lithuania from New York. The only pall cast over the joy of that event, was that of the fear of the invasion of Ukraine. Their representative thanked Lithuania and the Baltic countries for their support, and to a rousing ovation stated how they are not afraid. I cannot fathom how they can't be, but we can see their bravery displayed on the world stage as they fight for the survival of their country. We can only hope, and help in whatever ways possible, that they eventually prevail. My apologies for the history lesson here, but the events happening demand that we keep all this in mind. Slava Ukraini!

It is with great sadness that we remember **Edward Paige**, who happened to be the last **Lithuanian Mayor for the Day** just before the pandemic struck and completely changed events over the last two years. His unexpected passing came as a huge shock for all of us who knew him in any way. He leaves a gaping hole in not only our community but also the community of St. Joseph's Parish. We could go on for the entire newsletter about him alone about all the good he did and his deep faith and love of being Lithuanian. But I do have it first hand that one of the greatest honors and events for him was representing us as Honorary Lithuanian Mayor for the Day, and humbly accepting that honor. Well done, good and faithful servant. May the eternal light shine upon him. Our sincerest condolences and prayers to his family and relatives.

The plaque to **Adolfas Ramanauskas**, or **Vanagas**, that was dedicated and mounted in St. Andrew's church in New Britain, will be removed if it hasn't been already, as the church is closed. The Lithuanian Community is actively searching for a proper place of honor for it, hopefully within the City of New Britain itself. More information will be forthcoming.

As mentioned previously, the *Revitalization Sub Committee*, which is the group discussing and proposing changes to the Knights of Lithuania organization nationally, has been meeting via Zoom. Two of our officers and council members are participating in this group, **Marlene Warren**, and **Linas Venclauskas**. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let either one of them know. The work this committee is doing is of highest import, as it pertains to the future of the **K of L**!

The gift that keeps on giving; as far as the building goes, I got tired of waiting for a reply that never came from the Mayor's Office, who I wrote back at the end of last fall, so I wrote a second reply to the original I had received. Apparently, Monroe Webster has retired from service, so Ali DiGirolamo, the mayor's aide wrote back and again forwarded the message and my phone to Dave LePore. Let's hope we hear from him. In speaking with Father Aniello last Sunday, he offered no further information. I also spoke with Mary Grace Cavallo, alderwoman from our district, who did state that it appears certain that Waterbury is going ahead with the purchase of the school and convent. Additional story, not based in fact as of this writing, is that the Archdiocese wanted to throw our building into the sale. It appear a lot is bubbling under the surface and a few select people are making decisions without the input from the rest of us. We'll stay on top of this, and do our best to get the result necessary for the benefit of all!

Regarding our annual **Lithuanian Mayor for the Day and Flag Raising** ceremonies, due to the ongoing Covid pandemic and situation, they are erring on the side of caution and not holding any such events indoors at City Hall. Some of us have seen newspaper articles and pictures from other nationalities events, but they have been held outdoors only. I will not subject us to an entire event in the cold. We hope to hold an event in July, when the weather should cooperate. We have a potential list of candidates, and as we get closer, we'll see how it all comes together.

Since we haven't heard any final word from the **Supreme Council**, we will and have started to collect dues for this year. Last year there was a substantial bequest left to the K of L, which paid everyone's dues. If we hear anything different, it shall be passed along and we'll either refund those who paid or advance it another year forward. Also, Bob Orintas has stepped away from duties involving rituals, degrees and points. Fran Stklus, our VP, has willingly taken over those duties. We wish her much patience and success fulfilling those duties also. Many of us wear more than one hat! And finally, welcome to our newest member, **Christian Allyn**, who traces his roots back to Waterbury and Lithuania.

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 Since the pandemic, the show has been only music. 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.

Thanks to our member **Julija Minkunas**, here is yet another great **Lithuanian** program to listen to; **Sundays** from **8 till 10 AM**, over **WJCU** in Cleveland. Some parts are in English. Look for it on the internet or ask **Alexa** to play it.

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 Stokes Velez. The meetings are on the second **Thursday** of every month at **6:30 PM**. Contact **Jerry Covino** or myself for further information. Also, please follow **Riverside Cemetery** on Facebook or other sources. They are sincerely doing their best to turn things around at the cemetery and continue to seek assistance regarding the Memorial Chapel.

Birthdays for February: Pat Alexander, Lillian Benesevich, Vida Dutkanicz, Anita Rodgers, Robert Ulozas. March: Gary McGuire, Elise Mauriello, Phil Stklus, Bill Stokes. 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! I have no way to keep track unless someone corrects me!

Please pray for the souls of our deceased members. Pray for all members who are sick or infirm for a speedy recovery. Pray to Blessed George Matulaitis for an end to this Covid pandemic and for peace in the world. Pray for the people of Ukraine and for the people of Russia too.

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 !** Our next meeting will be in April, Date to be decided.

Vytiškai,

Linas Balsys

Linas Balsys
President
Council 7, Waterbury, CT

" Overcome evil with good " Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis

P.S. We are in our 107th season!! Let's keep a good thing going!!