



Knights of Lithuania Council 7 Waterbury, CT Minutes of May 15, 2022

Council President Linas Balsys called the meeting to order at 10:27 am; members recited the Our Father and Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Members present acknowledged reading the April meeting minutes; Jonas Zemaititis made a motion to accept the minutes and Marian Pelletier seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Al Ulozas provided the following Treasurer's report:

April 2022		
Checking Balance forward		\$2,126.81
Total deposits		\$0.00
Total expenses		\$0.00
Checking Account Balance	as of 4/30/2022	\$2,126.81
CD Balance		\$2,054.04
Total	as of 4/30/2022	\$4,180.85

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Bill Stokes and seconded by Ruta Kazakaitis; motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report

Linas Venclauskas was unable to attend the meeting, so Vice President Fran Stiklus presented the membership report he provided via email. To date, 29 members paid for a total of \$1,055 in dues payments. We are still awaiting word regarding dues collection, although President Balsys encouraged members to pay their dues. Marlene Warren reported that Steve Tichy, Council 63 was told that the Supreme Council was not collecting 2022 dues, and instead was using bequest dollars for this purpose. Valerie Rodgers suggested that those who paid donate the money to our council, and Linas Balsys suggested that the Financial Secretary again contact National. Pending the answer, members will be updated via email or at the next meeting.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Cultural Committee – Jonas Zemaititis gave a very informative presentation about Lithuania's Book Smugglers (Lithuanian: *knygnešys*, plural: *knygnešiai*) who transported Lithuanian language books into Lithuanian-speaking areas of the Russian Empire, defying a ban on such materials from 1864 to 1904 and opposing imperial Russian authorities' efforts to replace the traditional Latin orthography with Cyrillic. Book smugglers became a symbol of Lithuanians' resistance to Russification. After the meeting, he will send the You Tube link to Marlene W. for distribution to all members with email addresses.

Club Building Update – President Balsys reported that the City voted to purchase the Parish Center, School and Club, and that he has had positive discussions with the Mayor regarding our building. He doesn't expect further action by the city on the Lithuanian Community's interest in the Club building until the sale is final. Marlene Shea asked if we could enter the building to remove the historic pictures from the walls. Although we are not under pressure to remove our items from the building, all present agreed it was important to remove the pictures soon and store in the church basement. Volunteers are needed after Mass on June 5th to remove the pictures to the church basement.

Revitalization Sub Committee – Marlene Warren reported that Becky Pataki prepared a strategy document template that team members are updating. Since our team is proposing a more active social media presence, each team member has been charged with setting up a Council website and Facebook site. Marlene Warren and

Christian Allyn are going to work on the preliminary council website; Linas Balsys will try his hand at setting up a Council Facebook page.

2022 Mayor for the Day/flag raising Friday, July 8th (rain date is 7/15) at 10 am. - President Balsys reviewed the candidate names put forth at the January meeting: *Eleanor Barkauskas, Peter Gervickas and Lillian Benesevich*. After discussion, Christian Allyn motioned that Eleanor be considered first, then Peter, then Lillian; Aldona Onalfo seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously. Bob Orintas agreed to contact Eleanor to see if she was interested. *(Note: After the meeting, Bob reported that Eleanor is honored to be considered and will plan to be there and provide a biography.)*

St. Casimir Feast Day/Deceased Member Masses – Vice President Stiklus proposed that we designate the St. Casimir Feast Day mass as a remembrance mass for all members that passed since the last feast day. Bob Orintas agreed to contact the church to request the 2023 mass on Sunday, 3/5/23. *(Note: After the meeting, Bob reported that the mass is booked for 3/5/23 and that he graciously is paying for the mass on our Council's behalf.)*

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES

Spring Fling 2022 – Saturday, June 18th beginning at 1 PM – The event will be held at the Café on Congress; a flyer was available at the meeting and will be distributed by email shortly. The cost is \$20, and we plan to have a regular and a 50/50 raffle. Volunteers are needed for desserts; please let Fran, Vita or Marlene know if you can bring a dessert. Members are encouraged to bring an item for the raffle, and a canned good or nonperishable item for the food pantry.

Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival - May 21st at 6 pm – President Balsys reported that tickets are sold out for the event.

Next Meeting June 18th at 1:00 pm –The next monthly meeting is our Spring Fling (see above).

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Aldona Onalfo and seconded by Peter Verseckas; motion carried, and the meeting concluded at 11:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Warren
Recording Secretary