



## Knights of Lithuania Council 7 Waterbury

### September 2022 Newsletter

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

Last newsletter started out commenting about how fast we reached the halfway point of the year, Here we are, now three quarters the way through. Truly, *tempus fugit*, time flies, *laikas bėga*! Of course, I also mentioned how it had been a tolerable state of affairs weather wise till then, and as always, summer in New England is full of surprises. We spent the better part of July and August above 80 degrees on average. Only now have we had a break from the heat and humidity.

We closed out our regular round of meetings with our Spring Fling, held at the Cafe on Congress. Once again, we weren't disappointed with the service, the location nor the menu. To the members that attended the event, along with guests, we express our sincerest gratitude. We all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of camaraderie and fun. After all was said and done, our net profit for our council was \$214.21.

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated **King Mindaugas Day**, also known as Lithuanian Statehood Day, by having our long time member **Eleanor Barkauskas** honored as Waterbury Mayor for the Day. We wish to thank all those who turned out on what happened to be a perfect weather day to celebrate the event and to honor Eleanor. Our deepest gratitude also goes out to the City of Waterbury for allowing this event to go forward and for all the dignitaries present and proclamations presented from various branches of federal, state, and local government. Along these lines, our strategic planning committee has decided that all our future Mayor for the Day events will be held near this date as conditions due to weather and all else make it easiest to do so. No more postponements, slipping on ice and snow and freezing cold!

Also, by the time we held our Flag Raising ceremonies, the city of Waterbury had closed on the properties that were once the St. Joseph School, convent, and the K of L clubrooms. This officially ends, for now, the chapter of what's next with our former home. Time will tell what will transpire and we shall see if the city holds true to its word of deeding that building over to the Lithuanian community in some way or fashion. St. John's Eve, or **Joninės**, was celebrated on the John Street property of Erik Bartkus, who, once again, outdid himself and kept a wonderful Lithuanian tradition going for the many guests, including many Council 7 members who attended and enjoyed themselves at this affair.

On a more somber note, our council put word out on behalf of the Town Plot neighborhood association that the Puzemis family, that suffered the loss of their home, was in need of donations. We hope our members that could, did so.

Sadly, we lost a beloved member of our council with the passing of **Janet Stokes** in early August. As a council, we honored Janet's memory with our customary ritual. Our deepest sympathies and condolences are extended to Bill Stokes, and the entire family, She, like so many others, will be greatly missed by all of us that were once members of our council.

As we approached the start of our new calendar year of meetings and activities, several of the officers and members met as part of a strategic planning committee. We brainstormed and planned out future strategies and plans of action to try and ensure not only our council's survival but growth into the future, along with other ideas. Without going into great detail here, much will be revealed at our meeting and as we go along. Join us in what will be an exciting journey forward!

Some of our members were part of the national K of L Revitalization Committee. As part of that process, the committee presented its findings and recommendations at the National Convention of the K of L, which took place a week ago. Our members participated via Zoom electronically. Thankfully, most of the recommendations were adopted by the convention and the Revitalization Committee in its current form will continue its mission for at least another year to validate results.

At our September meeting, we'll be looking for volunteers to chair various committees as well as a Nominating

Committee, as the legal term of our current slate of officers is expiring. Our fervent hope is that members will step forward and help us in these endeavors, as without that help, we'll go nowhere. Just know you'll have the support of everyone as you take on whatever role you choose to help out the council. We won't leave anyone hanging. Besides nominations, there are many other topics to discuss at our first meeting of the new season, as well as a change as to how we'll run meetings. You'll see what we mean only by attending the meeting. Interested? Curious? Good! We hope to see you in person! As they say, the more the merrier, and the more we'll get accomplished.

The **NED Fall Convention** takes place next Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, in South Boston. Marlene Warren and Fran Stiklus are planning on attending. If anyone else wishes to go, please let me know so we can add your name to the mandate.

As one can see, there is much the leadership of your council has been up to. We did not snooze all summer, nor do we plan on doing so anytime soon. Stick with us, we'll go places!

**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). 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 now meeting in person again. 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 are actively seeking donations to restore the bronze sculpture that was cut up and almost lost to vandalism and theft. Estimates are in the range of thirty thousand dollars to complete this task and save it for posterity.

**Birthdays for August: Linas Balsys, Mary Blinstrubas, Leon Farr, John Kazlauskas, Lisabeth Mindera, Alodija Moran, Aldona Onalfo, Zita Smolskis, Frances Stiklus, Judith Vecchitto, Linas Venclauskas. September: Marlens Shea, Marlene Warren. 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. 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. Pray for the end of the insanity that seems to have overtaken the entire planet.*

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 on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10;15 AM, God willing at the former St. Joseph's school.

Once again, welcome to a new season of being a Knights of Lithuania Council 7 member!

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!!***