



Knights of Lithuania Council 7 Waterbury

October 2022 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Autumn, Dear Members and Friends,

Here we are, midway through October and it is our hope that all are enjoying some of the beautiful fall weather and foliage that seems to have erupted just over the last week or so. Yes, it'll get colder and all the fun stuff that deeper autumn brings (leaf raking comes to mind!) will be upon us in the proverbial blink of an eye. So take some time to enjoy the days that are always so fleeting it seems.

We started out our regular season of meetings last month with a slate full of items on our itinerary. Much discussion and reparte took place and it seemed we would be in the hall for the better part of the day, but as luck and good fortune would have it we got done in the nick of time. The September meeting minutes were sent out a while back, and we hope all have read them as there was a lot covered. Some new things we are doing at our meetings include a Lithuanian trivia contest and questions that Jonas Zemaitaitis handled well and will be doing so again. Besides an opening prayer , we are including member intentions as well.

Several of our members attended the NED Convention in Boston, the week after our meeting took place. We look forward to hearing from them as to what transpired and what may be coming down the pipeline. The district as well as the national organization is facing a lack of candidates willing to run and hold offices that are regrettably remaining empty. Along those lines, our council officers terms are up as of this meeting. We fortunately have three members that were willing to form a Nominations Committee and we will find out if they were successful in either finding or retaining a slate of candidates to run our council for the next three years.

On the matter of dues, the Supreme Council has decided that they will be collected next year as has been done in the past. Any dues collected for this year can either be returned to the member, used to pay the upcoming year's dues, or be put toward the Immaculate Conception Convent's Family to family program to support a displaced family from the Ukrainian conflict. It will be up to the members to let our Financial Secretary know which way they want their dues to go for 2022. Besides helping in this manner, the members decided that as the opportunity avails itself, to clean out the household items from the old club building to donate either to a Ukrainian relief organization or to Make a Home LLC in Waterbury to help a family or veterans in need. Either way, the items will go to a good cause since we're not using them anymore.

As part of the revitalization effort both locally and nationally, the National Convention voted in favor of allowing local councils to spend up to \$250 to advertise locally for membership purposes and document such efforts for reimbursement. We will be looking into where to place some advertisements to that end and see if it bears any fruit. Along those lines, we've sent in requests that a repeating announcement be placed in St. Joseph's and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church bulletins, as well as St. Francis, and have also approached the Oratory of St. Patrick to place one there too. For those that are unaware, our council has established a website, **knightsoflithuanianwaterbury.org**, that anyone can visit and find out more about our council, as well as inquire about membership and a host of other information that will grow with time.

When our officers met to brainstorm a calendar of events and to put forth ideas of what we as a council could do, one of those was to get a guest speaker at our meetings when one is available and willing. This month, Marty Begnal, of Riverside Cemetery, will be enlightening us on all the efforts and work going on there to keep a vital important piece of Waterbury, both historically and physically, surviving for future generations to cherish and keep. There are more activities planned as the months go on so stay tuned and stay involved and we'll all go places, and have some fun along the way!

Congratulations to our members, **Fran Stiklus, Marlene Warren, Gintas Zemaitaitis** and **Jonas Zemaitaitis** on reaching the level of **3rd Degree**. At our September meeting, the medals were blessed at the Mass at St. Joseph's prior to our meeting and were subsequently awarded before we began our regular meeting. **Sveikiname!**

An Autumn Evening, an event put on by the Lithuanian Community of Connecticut, will take place **6 PM, Saturday, November 12th**, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, 53 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT. The evening will feature a program by Romas Zableckas, "**Kolorado Romas**", which promises to be an entertaining evening of songs and music. Dinner is included in the price of admission. Beer and wine will be available and BYOB is permitted. DJ Rimantas Samis will provide music for dancing and "**Linus Skanumynai**" will be there so that you can obtain all your favorite Lithuanian goodies. For tickets, which must be reserved and purchased in advance by November 9th, please contact yours truly, **203-241-3695**. Admission is \$30 per person, children up to 16 admitted free. We hope to see you there!

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 now meeting in person again. The meetings are on the second **Thursday** of every month, **6:30 PM, Duggan School**. Contact **Jerry Covino** or myself for further information. All are welcome to attend and join as members. Dues are \$10 per year. Also, please follow **Riverside Cemetery** on Facebook or other sources, as they continue their work maintaining the cemetery, and all the restoration work that needs to be done.

Birthdays for August: Roberta Jacovino, Marian Pelletier, Robert Ulozas, John Warren, Gintautas Zemaitaitis. Happy Birthday!! Many Happy Returns! Ilgiausių 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!

Sincerest condolences to the family of our member **Bob Steponaitis**, who recently passed away. He was very proud of his Lithuanian heritage and will be missed by those whose lives he touched.

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, November 20th at 10:15 AM, God willing at the former St. Joseph's school.

Vytiškai,

Linus Balsys

Linus 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!!