



## Knights of Lithuania Council 7 Waterbury

### February 2023 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Lithuanian Independence Day, Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome back one and all after our winter break. What winter, you say? Other than a small scare of a snowstorm back in December and a cold blast here and there, it seems that there hasn't been one...yet. May I not have jinxed one and all for a wild ending to the season! Our hope is that everyone had enjoyable Christmas and New Year's holidays, and had a chance to enjoy the season. While it seems not much has been going on, there's been plenty happening behind the scenes with lots on the burner. Brace yourselves, it's going to be a fun ride!

Since our last meeting, our Christmas Party took place, and the Lithuanian Community Kucios was also held. Both were successful in their own right. Even though we missed a few members at our party, we still netted \$315. Not shabby at all, and thanks to all who came out and enjoyed the event. We even got a wonderful group picture out of it. The Kucios dinner was a rousing success, considering the weather played a role in having some not attend. The organizers are grateful to all who attended and enjoyed the event

Our sincerest gratitude to Bob Orintas who yet again took the time and effort to handle sales of the Christmas wafers and all that goes with it. He's been doing this countless years, with proceeds benefitting St. Joseph's Parish.

Boy oh boy, there's a lot going on. We'll give it our best to stitch it together in the rest of the newsletter. First of all, a reminder that we do have a website, **[knightsoflithuanianwaterbury.org](http://knightsoflithuanianwaterbury.org)**. We are actively looking for pictures and other items to upload to it for all who wish to see. It'll become our electronic archive. We need someone who can scan and upload these items; do we have any volunteers? Also, in coordination with our upcoming advertising and membership campaigns, **Bob Orintas** will be monitoring the email address so that we can actively respond. We're trying to figure out how to put a membership application on the site so that prospective members can access it without waiting for it in the mail. Thanks goes out to **Christian Allyn** for setting Bob up to do this. Secondly, **Bill Stokes** has graciously agreed to help and be our Marketing / Advertising person. **Marlene Shea** and **Al Ulozas** will assist him in this role. Contacting and coordinating between print and radio media will be their roles.

The Revitalization Committee has been very active in pushing the advertising campaign that received the go ahead from the last National Convention, as time is ticking and signs of progress and positive attempts must be shown if we are to continue. You can thank our very own **Marlene Warren** for being super active in all of this. Way to go! As a Council, we have lots of work to do on our end, therefore the marketing roles. Literally, I've been overwhelmed with all that's come out, but given a few moments, it's all making more sense. I was beginning to think Alzheimer's was setting in! I admit to being a bit lax on catching up with things at my end, dealing with this campaign. The effort will be made to reach out to the Republican-American newspaper through Marty Begnal to get a letter or press release placed. That type of publicity is "free" advertising. The membership of our Council can also get active and we'll coordinate and guide as necessary. We will need event planning committee volunteers to assist in planning and getting events going.

So, as one can see, lots to do and take part in. If each one of us does a little, a lot will get done. All of this is not meant to place a burden on just one person, but many will carry the burden easily. The continued existence of our Council, and organization as a whole depends on us. Think about it; the more members we recruit and join, the less burden for each.

Speaking of membership, dues are currently being collected. Please send them in or bring them to the meeting to pay in person. At this meeting we will also apparently finally resolve the snafu over what to do with last years dues. Hopefully we can end up supporting a good cause. Along with that, we can set a date to do a clean out of useable items from our former building, which was postponed from the fall due to weather and cold. Perhaps April will bode well. There's the matter of the building itself, which we hope we can finally get something moving with the city.

**The Knights of Lithuania** FaceBook page has recently been rejuvenated. There's lots being posted on there almost daily. Even our Christmas party picture made it one there. If you haven't visited it and are on Facebook, please do, like, and follow. I had sent several of our members an invite. I may even throw a link to a copy of our newsletter on there to give other councils an idea of what we do.

If you are on FaceBook, please follow **Lithuanians in Connecticut** for updates regarding any Lithuanian events statewide, since we don't have room here to list all that is going on. You need to be a member of the group, so if you aren't, put in a request and we'll bring you on board. I am one of three administrators so I'll see the request.

As for upcoming events, we have **St. Casimir's Day** coming up on **March 5<sup>th</sup>**. The **9 AM Mass** will be at St. Joseph's Church, and will be in remembrance of deceased member of our Council. Activities and coffee to follow in the school hall. The annual **Lithuanian St. Casimir's Fair** sponsored by the **Lithuanian Scouts** will take place in Hartford in mid March. **The St. Casimir's Society in Poquonnock** ( East Windsor) will be holding their event in March also. Be on the look out for an event celebrating Lithuania's independence on March 11<sup>th</sup> in Hartford. As we get word, emails will go out.

There are three Lithuanian radio programs that originate here in the states that one can listen to. I'm sure there are others, but in condensed fashion here's the list that we are aware of; Hartford's program is on **Sundays from 5 till 6 PM** on **WWUH, 91.3 FM**. I have finally from time to time been recording some spoken segments for them. The second is Cleveland's program Sunday mornings over **WJCU**, from **8 till 10 AM**. Thirdly, greater New York's program is on **Tuesday** evenings from **9 till 10 PM** over **WPAT, 930 AM**. **Alexa** or other streaming media carry these stations. Give them a try!

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 December: Jane Ambrozaitis, Vytas Jankauskas, Valerie Rodgers, Arlene Stiklius, Valerie Wentworth. January: Rosemary Kasinskas, Bob Orintas, Suzanne Serva, Joe Stiklius, Geraldine Ulozas, Diane Whitehouse. February: Lillian Benesevich, Vida Dutkanicz, Anita Rodgers, Robert Ulozas. 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 March 5<sup>th</sup> after the St. Casimir's Mass.

Vytiškai,

*Linas Balsys*

Linas Balsys  
President  
Council 7, Waterbury, CT

*" Overcome evil with good "* Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis

***P.S. We are in our 108th season!! Let's keep a good thing going!!***