



## Knights of Lithuania Council 7 Waterbury

### April 2023 Newsletter

Labas, Hello, **Su Šv. Vėlykom!**, Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to Spring! Or is it summer and we skipped a season? Well, this past week had me thinking I was Rip Van Winkle and that I slept too long and woke up at the beginning of summer! Well, it apparently was just a preview, as this week we return to April like conditions and the calendar will right itself after breaking all kinds of temperature records.

Our last meeting, which seems like it was just last week as time keeps zipping right along, was practically standing room only. We managed to get through all our points expeditiously and with relative brevity. As we always remind our members and guests, the meeting minutes are sent out about midway between the meetings, so please take a moment and read them for your edification and to refresh what happened and what we decided. If for some reason you wish to obtain a printed version, we bring a few copies to the meeting and have a few from previous ones.

It is our sincere hope that everyone had a joyous **Easter**, and that the spirit of the season remain with one and all for the next several weeks. I saw countless pictures of many varieties of decorated Lithuanian Easter eggs on various pages all over FaceBook. I managed to get into that mix myself, so go and take a look. Speaking of FaceBook, have you gone and visited the **Knights of Lithuania** page? Well, what are waiting for? Get over there and follow the page which has new entries almost daily. Doing so will help encourage the administrator to keep up her excellent efforts and spread the word.

Our **Membership Magic Incentive** plan resulted in the swearing in of four(!) new members last meeting. We wish to welcome **Matthew Conte- Lerner**, **Joseph Grincunas**, **Kristina Johnson**, and **Sara Johnson**. On top of that, our placing of flyers in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church bulletins resulted in two guests showing up at our meeting. We fervently hope that they too, after being welcomed with open arms, join our Council. Over Easter weekend, flyers were placed in the Oratory of St. Patrick bulletins, so we'll see what happens with that. Just as last time, **Joe Karmuza** and **Kristina Johnson** took on the task to print all of them and get them in there. Joe has graciously volunteered and donated not only his time but the supplies as well. However, we've encouraged him to submit receipts so that we may submit for reimbursement from the Supreme Council, as was decided at the last National Convention.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, and it bears repeating, we have a website, **[knightsoflithuanianwaterbury.org](http://knightsoflithuanianwaterbury.org)**, that is for our council. We're reminding everyone to visit it regularly and if you find pictures from days past or even a current one, feel free to contact one of us and we can upload it to enhance the website. All pictures will be considered, so nothing is out of the question. Summarizing what was mentioned in a previous newsletter, **Bob Orintas** is monitoring the email for the webpage, **Bill Stokes**, **Marlene Shea**, and **Al Ulozas** are heading up marketing and advertising. We should soon be able to set up a link for a membership application, making it easier for potential new members to apply. Speaking of websites, the new and revamped national K of L website, pending Supreme Council approval, should be up and running by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The MRC will be demonstrating the reworked website on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, so let's hope it's a go!

Membership dues are being collected presently, and we hope most of you have already renewed. If you have not, kindly take a moment to do so. Our Financial Secretary, **Linus Venclauskas**, will report on the status of this and the sunshine fund. It was finally resolved at the last meeting that a \$600 donation will be sent to the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception to sponsor a Ukrainian family. Tying in with that, it was voted to do a clean out of usable items on the first Sunday of May after Mass and the coffee hour. Also, we resume our 50/50 raffle this meeting by popular demand.

Briefly and calendrically, here are some upcoming dates and events to keep in mind and on your calendars so that you can take part in as many as possible, and to make sure nothing else preempts your plans:

**Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**, the **NED Spring Convention** at the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam. We hope that members from our council can attend and represent us. Registration is between **11 and 11:30 AM**. Though we already replied to the NED, we're positive that we can add a name or two if anyone wishes to go. Please let us know.

**Spring Fling:** Set the date of **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** in your calendar, at our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Hall for the event. Kristina Johnson took on being the event coordinator and has been hard at work lining everything up. Way to go!

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Annual traditional "**Jonines**" hosted by member Erik Bartkus. We had the opportunity to meet the Lithuanian priest from New York two weeks ago and will be reaching out to him about possibly celebrating Mass earlier that evening.

**Lithuanian Mayor for the Day** and **Statehood Day** will be held on **July 8<sup>th</sup>**, which is a Saturday. With that in mind no excuse that one cannot attend! Put your thinking caps on as we have the grueling (!) task of electing candidates.

**The K of L National Convention** in Indiana on the weekend of **September 14<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please let us know if you are interested or can attend. Points are earned towards degrees by attending any K of L meeting or convention.

**The Gathering**, a multicultural event is planned for September 16<sup>th</sup>. As we get a little closer to the date we need to plan on having a booth and perhaps marching in the parade. Another chance to drum up membership, no pun intended.

Speaking of 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.

There are three Lithuanian radio programs that originate here in the US that one can listen to 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! If you find others, we can add them to our list here.

The **Brooklyn Neighborhood Association** meetings are on the second **Thursday** of every month, **6:00 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 add events taking place there to support their good work. The **Lithuanian Club of Waterbury** meets via Zoom every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7 PM. Please contact me for details.

**Birthdays for April: Eleanor Barkauskas, Anna Juraska, Joseh Kasinskas, Peter Verseckas. Happy Birthday!! Many Happy Returns! Ilgiausią Metų !!** I do my honest best to keep everyone mentioned in the newsletters. 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 be overtaking God's world.

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 May 21<sup>st</sup>, after the Mass and coffee at 10:30 AM.

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!!**