



Knights of Lithuania  
[www.knightsoflithuanianwaterbury.org](http://www.knightsoflithuanianwaterbury.org)  
Council 7 Waterbury, CT  
Minutes of February 19, 2023

Council President Linas Balsys called the meeting to order at 10:40 am; members recited the Our Father and Pledge of Allegiance. President Balsys reminded all that Lithuanian Independence Day was February 16, 2023 and urged all to keep Lithuania in their prayers given the situation in Ukraine.

**Treasurer's Report**

Al Ulozas provided the following Treasurer's report:

December 2022 – January 2023		
Checking Balance forward		<b>\$2,836.30</b>
Total deposits	Christmas Party tickets (\$620), 50/50 and prize raffle (\$175)	\$795.00
Total expenses	P. Petro Christmas Party Catering	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Checking Account Balance</b>	<b>as of 1/31/2023</b>	<b>\$3,231.30</b>
CD Balance		\$2,054.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>as of 1/31/2023</b>	<b>\$5,285.44</b>

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Joe Karmuza and seconded by Aldona Onalfo; motion carried.

**Minutes**

President Balsys read the November meeting minutes; Violeta Stasonis made a motion to accept the minutes and Marian Pelletier seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously.

**Financial Secretary's Report**

Linas Venclauskas was unable to attend, so a report was not available. President Balsys reminded all that 2023 dues are being collected and must be paid by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Although the Supreme Council waived 2022 dues, several members paid their dues in advance last year, and were willing to donate them to the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Family to Family fund to support Ukraine. So as not to deplete our treasury, Fran Stiklus motioned that we send \$600 to the sisters; Joe Karmuza seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously. The Treasurer will send the check to the Family to Family fundraiser.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel let us use their hall at no charge for the Christmas Party and Kucios, so members were asked to consider a donation to the Church. Fran Stiklus made a motion to donate \$100 to the church, Marlene Shea seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously. The Treasurer will prepare the check and give to President Balsys for delivery to the Church.

**Sunshine Committee** – President Balsys thanked the committee for the Christmas ecard they sent to all members. Fran Stiklus thanked Bob Orintas for calling those without email to let them know the Christmas party details.

We were also made aware that a GoFundMe page is available to support Monika Karnuseviciute, a young Lithuanian mother who is battling lung cancer. Those interested in donating are encouraged to visit the site (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/monikas-fight-aggressive-sickness?qid=15f1625ee94197de87f9352e589478ac>).

### **Membership Revitalization Committee (MRC) Report**

**Traditional Advertising Tools** - Marlene Warren reported that the committee has received approval for several traditional advertising pieces (e.g., print ads and a press release); these have been sent to the District Presidents for distribution to their respective councils along with instructions for personalizing the ads and the cost share reimbursement process. She reported that the committee is also working on a brochure, flyers, radio copy and a Vytis article. Samples of the ads, flyers and the press release were shared with the members present at the meeting.

**Social Media** - Christian Allyn has been working with Pamela Gardner from the MRC to create a new, improved website. Marlene Warren has seen the preliminary site and reported that it is modern and exciting when compared to the current website. The MRC expects to present it to the Supreme Council for their review and comments in early April, and hopes to obtain their approval at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to publish the refreshed site on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The K of L Facebook page has been rejuvenated by Pamela Gardner from the MRC, so all were encouraged to check it regularly and comment, like and/or follow. Please see the newsletter for information regarding the Facebook group entitled Lithuanians in Connecticut and consider joining.

Christian requested that all consider sending him scanned K of L pictures and a list of the former Mayors of the Day for inclusion on both our C-7 website and the National site. Fran Stiklus will send him a snapshot of the trifold she created that contains the list of former Mayors. Pictures and other K of L memorabilia can be emailed directly to [knightsoflithuanianwaterbury@gmail.com](mailto:knightsoflithuanianwaterbury@gmail.com). We are also grateful to Bob Orintas for agreeing to check our C-7 website email and to respond to inquiries that we get through this channel.

Christian also plans to investigate linking the national membership application to our website.

**Membership Campaign Publicity** – Al Ulozas contacted Prime Publishing in Southbury to obtain advertising rates based on the sample ads provided by the MRC. This information along with the other tools that are in development will be considered for use by our council by Bill Stokes, Marlene Shea and Al Ulozas. (Note: After the meeting, Marlene Warren agreed to meet with the team to discuss what's needed to support our C-7 membership campaign). Joe Karmuza offered to contact the rectory to see about placing a flyer in the bulletin to promote interest in our council and the K of L.

Marlene Warren introduced the Membership Magic Contest which will run from February 19<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup> and noted that Christian Allyn brought in a new member today, so he qualifies for a prize already. Fran Stiklus introduced the Wheel of Membership and passed out envelopes with key membership benefits. As she reviewed each membership benefit on the wheel, members opened their envelopes to see if their envelope matched the benefit on the Wheel. If it did, a prize was awarded.

Copies of the Ideas for Gatherings list developed by the MRC were available and were also sent via email. Marlene Warren explained the need for a C-7 volunteer to plan future council events. She and Fran Stiklus had been doing this, but neither can continue this year. Members were asked to consider volunteering for this role, however no volunteers stepped forward at the meeting.

**St Casimir Mass and Coffee Hour** – The March 5<sup>th</sup> mass will be celebrated at 9 am in honor of St. Casimir and in remembrance of the members who died in 2022. Fran Stiklus suggested that Bob Orintas contact deceased members' family to invite them to the mass and coffee hour. Linas Balsys will coordinate with him to provide phone numbers as needed. Fran Stiklus proposed that we hold a Kugelis fundraiser at the coffee hour, however members decided not to pursue the idea at this time. All members were encouraged to attend the mass on March 5<sup>th</sup>, and to bring items to the coffee hour for the St. Casimir celebration after the mass. Marian Pelletier suggested putting something in the church bulletin, and a discussion ensued about having to submit items to the church secretary 2 weeks prior to the event.

**St Joseph's Parish Update** – Bob Orintas gave a brief update regarding St Joseph's Church:

1. All church lights are now LED, and the church should be eligible for a significant rebate from Eversource as a result.
2. The 100 year old organ has been repaired.
3. New contractors were enlisted to check the furnace and it appears that new valves are required at an estimated cost of \$7,500.
4. Water issue in the sacristy – This is causing damage due to a membrane split; the fix is expected to cost about \$7,500.

**National Convention – September 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>** – Marlene Warren plans to attend via zoom to present an MRC update. More details to come, but some event information is published on the national website. Please check it out and consider attending the convention if you can.

**Next Meeting – Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 10:30 am** – after St. Casimir's Mass and coffee hour

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 pm was made by Marian Pelletier and seconded Jonas Zemaititis; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Warren  
Recording Secretary