

Minutes of the September 8, 2020 St. Max K of C Council #11483 Members' Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the **Grand Knight** at 7:15 p.m. via ZOOM due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic. 29 Members were in attendance and the meeting opened with a recitation of *The Lord's Prayer* and *The Hail Mary*, the latter in honor of the Blessed Mother on her birthday.

Officer Attendance:

Chaplain – Absent	Grand Knight – Present
Deputy Grand Knight – Present	Chancellor – Present
Recorder – Present	Financial Secretary – Present
Treasurer – Present	Advocate – Present
Warden – Present	Inside Guard – Absent
Outside Guard – Present	
Trustee I – Present; Trustee II – Present; Trustee III – Absent	

A *Motion* was made by Larry Koby and *Seconded* by Julio Oliveira to approve the Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Members' Meeting. With no further discussion, a voice vote was called and said *Motion* passed.

Chancellor's Report: The Council has one new Member. Nick Tedeschi had completed his C-U-F on August 20th. He is a retired oral surgeon and beside the Knights, Brother Tedeschi is also a loyal volunteer with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Grand Knight's Report: The **Grand Knight** began by thanking all of the Knights who have been working out in the parking lot of the food pantry of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, helping to make sure of non-contact distribution of food for the poor, which is one of the service categories of the Knights. He then turned over the floor to the **Financial Secretary**.

Financial Secretary's Report: The **Financial Secretary** started by saying that we have 235 Members but will be losing one Member in Michael Cline, a retired Pharmacist, who will be transferring to the St. Raphael Council in Englewood. The Council did not incur too many expenses in the month of August, a few miscellaneous office expenditures but not much else. There are still 88 Members who have yet to pay their dues.

Treasurer's Report: The Council had an Opening Balance of \$25,323.82 for the month of August. There were \$415 in expenses for the month and the Council had income of \$1992, bringing the Closing Balance to \$26,900.82. In obligated funds, the Council has allocated \$464 for Vocations and \$619.94 in Members' Assistance, leaving it with a Working Balance of \$25,816.88.

Trustee's Report: None given.

Deputy Grand Knight's Report: The **Deputy Grand Knight** began his report by stating that there were no Committee Reports to be given so he continued with his report. He mentioned that there is a Membership List and that the **Financial Secretary** would be emailing the Members with it. He also stated that he'd like to move forward with the Phone Tree which would have 25 focal points and teams of 7-10 Members each should be assembled with a Team Leader and the goal of this effort is to contact as many brothers as possible.

The **Deputy Grand Knight** gave a special thank you to Cletus Wenz who has been taking care of the State Raffle on behalf of our St. Max Council. Brother Wenz reported that 18 brothers have either purchased or have agreed to sell raffle tickets, leaving only 11 more books to go out to Members. Any Member interested in taking any books should contact Brother Wenz by emailing him at edwardcletwenz@gmail.com. Brother Peter Lebrun mentioned that information should be placed on the Council website as to who has ticket books and how to contact those solicitors so that as many brothers who want tickets can get them.

Attention then turned to the Tootsie Roll Drive. Due to COVID-19, the Knights understand that the drive would have to be conducted in a somewhat different way to encourage social distancing but since it is a mainstay event of the Knights, nobody wants to cancel it. Discussion ensued as to how it could be conducted. A few of the Knights mentioned some kind of variation of a poster and a box so that

contributors can, at their option, take a Tootsie Roll. Some of the Knights said that this might not be a satisfactory because multiple people without PPE would be touching Tootsie Rolls not actually being taken. Gregg Marrapodi reminded everyone that customers at checkout lanes of stores have no problem going through candy bar boxes on the impulse shelves. Larry Koby was asking who's going to be Chairman of the event and John Funk inquired as to which stores had been contacted. If any Member has any ideas as to alternative events, he should email the **Deputy Grand Knight**. There would've been a *Respect Life* report but Brother James Wernicke was travelling.

Old Business: Still to be taken care of by the Council is the filling of the open Trustee III position, vacated by the resignation of Jim Hoover. Procedurally speaking, the **Grand Knight** called 3 times to see if there were any further nominations other than the one which had already been made, namely Brother Cletus Wenz at the August 3rd Members' Meeting. Hearing none, the **Grand Knight** made a call for a *Motion* to be made to close the nomination process.

A *Motion* was made by Kellmis Fernandez and *Seconded* by Larry Koby, to close the nomination process. With no further discussion, a voice vote was taken and the *Motion* passed.

The **Grand Knight** then called for a *Motion* to be made to unanimously approve Brother Cletus Wenz as the new Trustee III.

A *Motion* was made by John Sanders and *Seconded* by Larry Koby, to unanimously approve Brother Cletus Wenz as the new Trustee III. With no further discussion, a voice vote was taken, and the *Motion* passed.

New Business: Any changes to the budget have to be initiated by the Trustees and so Larry Koby made a *Motion* and Gregg Marrapodi the *Second* that \$6000 of the Council's "cash on hand" be specified as Parish Support money in the 2020/2021 Fraternal Year budget. The funds will be used for two projects : A security fence off the Parish lanai and an a replacement irrigation pump. The ensuing discussion was begun by Bob Wright and he explained that the Parish Maintenance Tech and fellow Knight Joe Manna is organizing a couple of projects that Fr. Teo has asked the Knights to pay for. One is to install fencing around the area just outside the sacristy because the homeless are congregating in that place

and that's where Fr. Teo parks his golf cart when he has come over to say Mass and just inside he's changing for Mass. The other job is the replacing of a 5 h.p. irrigation pump. Between these two projects, the expected total cost is approximately \$5700. Brother Wright went on to explain that last year the Council had budgeted \$7800 for Parish Support of which only \$1800 was spent, leaving \$6000 of unspent funds in the Treasury. The 2020-2021 budget would thus need to be amended to approve funds for the St Max Support line item. Peter Lebrun asked about a Notice of Motion to be made and the **Financial Secretary** is going to take care of that as soon as this meeting is over so that it can be voted on at the next Membership Meeting. Some further discussion ensued concerning the logistics of paying for these expenditures and it was determined that since the church is tax-exempt and the Knights are not, that the church would write the checks to the vendors and that the Knights would reimburse the church in the amount that it had paid for these improvement and replacement expenditures. Before the Knights execute anything financially, the Trustees will be making a review of the amended budget and expenditures and in turn make a recommendation to the Council.

Faithful Navigator's Report: Meeting of the Fourth Degree on 9/24/20. All Jacobsen's House Activities have been curtailed due to COVID-19. The 4th Degree Color Guard, St. Jude Assembly, is going to be on hand for the Memorial of Leo Beaulieu being held in the church 9/15/20 at 11a.m. There is a limit of 70 people in the church for this event.

Insurance Agent's Report: The Fraternal Benefits Webinar is going to be held on 9/23/20 at 7:30 p.m. All Members wishing to attend must register. The **Grand Knight** is going to advertise the event in the parish bulletin and Kellmis Fernandez said that registration can be done either individually or as a Council. Registering as an individual is easy to do.

District Deputy's Report: At the Fraternal Benefits Webinar, the guest speaker is a Financial Planner. Four Brothers need to be in attendance to make Star Council. He applauds the Council for having 29 Members in attendance at tonight's meeting. That is very good under trying circumstances and congratulations are in order for both the **Grand Knight** and the **Deputy Grand Knight**.

Leave No Neighbor Behind is the responsibility of everyone who proclaims himself as Christian but is especially important to us who are Knights because of the ideals under which we conduct ourselves as Christian gentlemen, the first among these being Charity. More particularly is this the case because of COVID-19, which as everybody knows can be deadly and if Knights die from it, that leaves their surviving spouses as widows and we must not forget them!

Be sure to do everything with integrity and never to forget to make use of our gifts and talents to raise more money, especially in a year in which there are more obstacles to fundraising. Conduct activities such as youth events (essay contest, poster contest, etc.) in a manner that creates a Safe Environment for the participants. Remember to have at least two Knights with Safe Environment Training working any event involving the youth.

Kudos to Alan Kotlarski, **Insurance Agent**, for putting out an announcement on the electronic bulletin and placing information on the website for increasing donations.

The **District Deputy** allowed Kellmis Fernandez the floor to speak about the Round Table. This is for the purpose of getting our Hispanic Knights involved in fundraising activities. There are 5 Members and they do independent fundraising coordinated with the **Deputy Grand Knight** and **Financial Secretary**.

Member's Comments: Peter Lebrun commented that he saw an interesting article in the *Knightline* publication. It addressed the question of why we are the Knights of Columbus when there are all of these Christopher Columbus statues being torn down throughout the country? Basically, the answer comes down to the fact that we do not subscribe to the notion that Christopher Columbus is symbolic of oppression. He was a leader of his day just as we must be leaders of our day. The *Knightline* has an excellent video on this topic.

Kellmis Fernandez pointed out that exemplifications are now easier than ever as the online C-U-F's are offered every Thursday and through Supreme one can do on-demand exemplifications. No longer can one use the excuse of, "My schedule is too busy for me to become a Knight." In other Knight's News, Brother Fernandez told of Charlie McLaughlin's retirement as Master of the State of Florida Council. A replacement has not been named yet.

The Good of the Order: Prior to The Good of the Order, the Members recited the Father McGivney Prayer and the Pandemic Prayer.

The Worthy Lecturer then began his talk discussing birthdays because this is the day upon which we celebrate the Blessed Mother's Birthday (nine months after the celebration of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th). Every birth comes about because two human beings got together in the unison of love and brought forth from that relationship a child. Since we say that Jesus is the fulfillment of Salvation, we may also say that Mary is its beginning. While she was not impregnated with the Savior of the World in the ordinary manner but instead Mary's pregnancy was brought about through supernatural means, she nonetheless had to have a deep love for the Holy Spirit and His action within her for the child Jesus to come forth. Why do we say three *Hail Mary's*? The answer to this question is twofold, both from the limit of time perspective and from a spiritual one. The time element is the fact that yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift and that's why we call it the present. From a spiritual aspect, the three *Hail Mary's* are very Trinitarian. God the Father raised my soul, God the Son represents the Wisdom of Jesus and God the Holy Spirit is an expression of Divine Sweetness. St. Gertrude said that the soul of the person who recites the rosary at the hour of death is eternally protected because whomever prays to the Blessed Mother at the hour of death will have his wish of a Heavenly reward granted as the Son will never deny requests of His Mother because not only is He fully Divine but He's also fully human and as such honors His Mother. Now isn't that Good News!

Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Attestation: The **Worthy Recorder** John Sanders does hereby attest to the facts contained in these Minutes to be as true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and do hereby submit them for the benefit of this Council on October 5th in the year of our Lord 2020.