

Minutes of the Knights of Columbus Council #11483 October 5, 2020 Members' Meeting

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the **Grand Knight** with 32 Members in attendance via ZOOM due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic. Fr. Chuck, as the new **Council Chaplain**, explained about the Knights of Columbus National Novena for Unity held in January, 2016 in anticipation of the November Election that year. Of course we are four weeks from this year's Election. In commemoration of our patriotic duty to vote, following Fr. Chuck's explanation, he said the Prayer to the Immaculate Conception, the Patroness of the United States. After that, the Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **Worthy Recorder** took the attendance of Officers:

Chaplain – Present

Grand Knight – Present

Deputy Grand Knight – Present

Chancellor – Present

Recorder – Present

Financial Secretary – Present

Treasurer – *Excused Absence (Illness)*

Advocate – Present

Warden – Present

Inside Guard – Present

Outside Guard – Present

Trustee I – Present; Trustee II – Present; Trustee III – Present

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Tom Ozimek, seconded by Peter LeBrun; with no further discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chancellor's Report: Three Form 100's have been submitted for consideration for admission into the Council. The names of the candidates to be read in are Roberto Aguilera, Emanuel Aguilera and Lowell Pioquinto. Kellmis Fernandez submitted two for the Round Table to Round Table Coordinator Juan Amador. Discussion of whether to accept these candidates in the Council ensued with some Members feeling that they should have to meet before the Trustees prior to being considered by the full Council. This could be done via ZOOM considering the pandemic. All three Trustees, Larry Koby, Cletus Wenz and Gregg Marrapodi being present at this Meeting, agreed that they are in favor of

accepting the three candidates now rather than tabling the vote until next month's Meeting. **Worthy Trustee** Marrapodi wondered what the Trustees would be looking for were they to interview the candidates. It was suggested that perhaps the candidates understanding of their financial and duty obligations could be brought into question. Ultimately it was determined that each of these candidates has been scrutinized sufficiently already and a motion was made by Tom Ozimek, seconded by Fr. Chuck, to accept the candidates. With no further discussion a voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Grand Knight's Report: The Knights have been doing a terrific job at the Society of St. Vincent DePaul food pantry working in the parking lot. Financial Aid appointments had begun October 2nd and additional volunteers are needed, especially on Mondays and Wednesdays 10-1.

Five Knights and one son of a Knight worked to put up a tent in the courtyard for the Religious Education Program.

Joe Manna, a handful of Knights and friend of the Knights Julia, worked for three days installing privacy fencing around the area where, among other things, the air conditioner compressors are and the same fencing was used to make the area around the electrical box look better.

Financial Secretary for the Treasurer:

September Financials:

Opening Balance: \$26,900.82

Expenses: \$205.00

Income: \$1140.00

Closing Balance: \$27,836.65

Vocations: \$509.00

Members' Assistance: \$654.94

Working Balance: \$26,672.71

Membership is at 234. Fence pictures are posted on the website.

Interesting tidbit: Today is the first anniversary of the last time that the Knight's hosted a Pancake Breakfast, having been held on October 5, 2019. After that, the breakfasts were postponed to make room in the Hall for the overflow Masses and could not resume in May because of COVID-19.

Trustees' Report: No report.

Committee Reports: The Phone Tree still needs 10 Lead Volunteers. Kellmis Fernandez reports that the Round Table is doing well. Richard Valera reports the This Old Knight Program is doing nicely taking care of roughly 25 Knights of advanced years. Cletus Wenz reported on the status of the State Raffle and said that other than the fact that there are 3 books sold but money is needed for them and in one case the money was paid but the books are needed back, the Raffle has been polished off for the current fraternal year.

An update was given on the Tootsie Roll Drive for the Developmentally Disabled. Walmart, Sam's Club, Publix, Winn-Dixie and Walmart Market Place were all contacted for the possibility of the Knights running a drive at those respective locations. Sam's Club stated categorically that all outdoor drives have been cancelled until January. Since the Council is seeking to hold a drive on Super Bowl weekend (February 5 & 6), there is still a chance to reapproach Sam's Club after the first of the year. Walmart and Sam's offer a Community Grant and we qualify. Cletus Wenz asked if grant payments are made to the Knights or to the charities to which we distribute. An exact answer to that question was not given but submissions are made online and December 30th is the deadline.

Richard Valera made a donation to This Old Knight.

Chairman of the Respect Life Committee, Skip Schmitt, mentioned that Sunday begins the Novena for Life. He also mentioned the interesting articles available for those who are interested in a more detailed account of life issues such as the writings of Justice Clarence Thomas justifying *Roe v. Wade* and the Right to Privacy.

Old Business: \$6000 still needs to be paid to honor the parish requests for the privacy fencing and the new irrigation pump. Roger Chavez stated that the church should pay the bills for these items and the Knights reimburse. John Funk reminded the Council that payment should be made in such a way that it gets

categorized such that it's not subject to the Bishop's tax. The answer to this concern is that the Parish Bookkeeper will handle the matter. A motion was already on the floor from the last meeting, to add the Budget item St. Max Support in the amount of \$6,000 to the 2020-2021 Budget. With no further need for an additional motion and no further discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

New Business: "Coats for Kids". Last year, only one case of 24 light jackets was ordered and they were for only boys. Supreme has contact with a merchant who sells pre-packs of light jackets and the Council will purchase two such pre-packs, one for Charlotte Harbor School for the developmentally handicapped and to Liberty Elementary respectively. The pre-packs are 24 jackets of various sizes (elementary and middle) and are all boys or all girls. We shall mix and match genders according to need at the aforementioned schools prior to distribution.

A motion was made by Tom Ozimek to fund the jackets. The **District Deputy** made the reminder that the Council would have to wait a month since the amount being considered is over \$500. Marvin Peschel seconded the motion. The **District Deputy** stated that he could arrange with Walmart for \$150 worth of gift cards toward the purchase of jackets and said they require a letter from the **Grand Knight** to Mr. Stevens, the Store Manager, stating the nature of the jacket program. The **Financial Secretary** will coordinate with the **District Deputy** to get a Notice of Motion out.

Discussion of possible youth activities ensued. The contact person for such activities is Cindy Kuykendal since she is the Parish Youth Director. She was approached by the Knights regarding both the Essay Contest and the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. Mrs. Kuykendal was very receptive to these ideas. The question of prizes came up. Peter LeBrun mentioned, as applies to the Essay Contest, that when the schools work one out, the Bishop picks the topic and \$25 Gift Certificates are given to winners in the various age groups. As to the poster contest, the youth are always highly imaginative with the emblems they come up with to get the message across. The **District Deputy** mentioned that there is State and Region competition for both the essay and poster contests. The different levels of the essay competition take place over time such as Thanksgiving/Christmas/with Regionals in January. The poster contest is divided into different age groups 5-7, 8-10, 11-14, also with varying levels of competition (Council, District, Regional (1st

week in December) and State. Two Knights would have to Chair these events at the Council level and they'd have to be Safe Environment Certified (the **District Deputy** has the list of our Members who are Council compliant) and the co-Chairs would interact with Mrs. Kuykendal.

Faithful Navigator's Report (given by the

District Deputy): The St. Jude Assembly donated \$1,200 to the Jacobsen's Home for Veterans. On October 22nd there will be a virtual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. There will be a 4th Degree Exemplification on November 28th and the **Financial Secretary** will place details about this event on the website.

Insurance Agent's Report: The Recruiter of the Year ring goes to Kelmis Fernandez, having signed up 17 recruits. The Fraternal Benefits Seminar was a huge success with 1200 in attendance Nation-wide. It was entitled, "Retiring Happy" and was a valuable seminar. Nine registered from this Council with six officially having been given credit for attending. The reason for the discrepancy is because one had to have taken the survey at the end to have been marked present for the seminar so please be sure not to neglect the survey the next such seminar but the six who attended was a sufficient number for Star Council. The next webinar is in January with Tom Hegner presenting and there will be a follow-up in 6 months. Be sure to complete the Agency 350 Survey, an annual survey sent out by Supreme which covers the business side of the Order and targets financial needs.

District Deputy's Report: The Council is doing well 7 months into COVID-19. There are 4 (out of 12 needed for Star Council) New Members, so keep up the good work. Numbers are important but even more critical is to answer the following, "How can Members be effective to be a successful Council?" As pointed out earlier the Council needs to get going on the Essay and Poster contests which are fast approaching. The District Basketball Challenge is in January with Regional in February and State in March. To be named Star Council or Star District is an outstanding effort. There are 405 Councils in the State of Florida, only 60 of which made Star Council, 19 Double Star Council, 6 Triple Star Council with 1 each, making Five and Ten Star Council respectively. Only 3 (of 13 in Region 6) Districts made Star District.

Kellmis Fernandez, Multi-cultural Coordinator, provided the **Round Table Report**. It's important to ask, for the success of the Round Table, "What needs to be done internally." In other words, it needs to be Hispanics interviewing Hispanics. The Round Table does not operate on its own though; it needs to meld with the Council as a whole. There are five new members with the possibility of adding six or seven more. Melvin Borelli donated a sound system to be raffled and the financial impact of the raffle should be \$700-\$800 with the proceeds going to the Council Treasury. The Round Table meets in the Mother Cabrini Room right now because of its small size and social distancing is easily achieved but as it grows the meetings will have to be held via ZOOM in the future. Just like online exemplifications are held every Thursday in English, they are held the second Sunday of every month in Spanish. The next one is October 11th at 3:00 p.m.

The **Chaplain** led the Members in a Closing Prayer which was the Prayer for the Canonization of Fr. Michael J. McGivney who will be Beatified on Saturday, October 31st in Hartford, CT. Fr. McGivney needs 1 more miracle to become a Saint. It is amazing that, just as we're in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic now, Fr. McGivney died of pneumonia in 1890, due to complications from a coronavirus pandemic!

Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Attestation: I, John Sanders, the **Worthy Recorder** of this Council, do hereby attest to the fact that these are the true Minutes of the October Membership Meeting and that they are accurate to the best of my ability, said attestation having been made by me on this the 2nd day of November in the year of our Lord 2020.