



Meeting Minutes January 17, 2022

- 1 **Call to Order** - GK Sam Hillanbrand at 7:30. This Council 11564 Meeting was held virtually thru a GoToMeeting link. There were 15 virtual **Attendees**. This meeting also followed the New Format for Council Meetings per "The Guidelines for Council Meetings" from KOC Supreme.
- 2 **Opening Prayer** – Tom Lopez, Faith Director, led us in The Our Father.
- 3 **Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by GK Sam Hillanbrand and recited by all Knights.
- 4 **Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting** – By a **Motion** the Minutes of the December 20, 2021 Council Meeting were unanimously accepted (and the Recorder acknowledged a numbering correction to the 11/15/2021 Minutes). Minutes are included on the Knights website at <https://ssjknights.org> under the Council Pages (with private Password login).
- 5 **Chaplain's Message** – Father Gerlach, our Chaplain, was not present. By a previous January 3 email to all SSJ Church organizations Father Gerlach stated how grateful he was for everyday help and constancy.
- 6 **Grand Knight's Report**
 - Council now follows the new format directed by Supreme per "The Guidelines for Council Meetings" to include two meetings per month: an **Officers' Planning Meeting** (held 1/13/2022) and a regular **Council Meeting**. This is designed to streamline the flow of the regular monthly Council Meeting. All Knights are invited to attend both meetings.
 - Council is in good standing with **100 members** currently, one candidate, and two possible transfers in process.
 - For 2022 Council's recruitment goal is to engage a younger 30-40-year-old group of fathers to increase our Knights' ranks.
 - **John Lyons** was introduced online as a guest to the meeting and prospective Knight who was welcomed by all Knights.
 - GK Hillanbrand then read **correspondence** from SSJ Sisters thanking Council 11564 for the crab critters and Christmas Dinner, and a letter from the Servants of the Lord at St. Veronica Parish for the donation of new winter coats.
 - GK Hillanbrand also presented the thanks and recognition stated by many SSJ Parishioners for what services the Knights provide, both seen and unseen, which is so beneficial and important to SSJ Parish !
 - The PA KOC Educational Foundation Student Grant Scholarship deadline is Jan 30 for the chance at a \$1,000 grant for children grades 1-12 of a 3rd degree Knight.
 - **Scout Sunday Breakfast** for Cub Pack 168 on **February 13** after the 9:30 am Mass will likely be a grab-n-go breakfast instead of the usual pancake breakfast due to Covid. Thus only a few Knight volunteers will be needed to help serve.
- 7 **Financial Report**
 - Following a short review by **Charlie DiValerio** of Receipts and Income for December 2021, which included another successful Bingo night providing \$1,920 net income, there was a **Motion and all accepted the Treasurer's Report of December 2021**.
 - There are now two CDs purchased which total \$16,280 funds toward the purchase of an ultrasound machine.
 - Ending Bank Balance \$22,212 / Reserve Fund \$3,069 / Bingo Petty Cash \$300/ 4th Degree Fund \$202 / Available Cash Funds \$18,941
- 8 **Membership Report**
 - Jim Bushong introduced guest and prospect John Lyons. Two Knights are currently in the process of transferring into Council. No additional recent activity.

9 FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAMS - OTHER REPORTS

LEAVE NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND - Program Director **Jim McCarry** affirmed that the Faith, Family, Community, and Life Program Directors are all focused on coordinating their program activities for Council participation and gave thanks for their commitment.

Council activity continues in the **Leave No Neighbor Behind** program including livestreaming the 9:30 Mass, Rosary Recital on selected Sunday evenings, PREP sessions, donation to Community and SSJ Parish activities, and promoting Blood Donation at SSJ Parish and via appointment thru the Red Cross website at www.redcrossblood.org for the Red Cross Donation Center (Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat) on Gay Street, West Chester.

FAITH

- **Adoration** (following 9am Mass until 8pm, Monday thru Friday) **Night for SSJ Knights** continues every Thursday 5-6 PM.
- **Rosary Recital times** are daily before the 9am Mass; Respect Life Rosary every Monday night; Flame of Love, Thurs at 7pm.
- **Rosary Recitals** continued on **January 16**, 2022. Although it was to be led by SSJ Youth Group thru the help of Sister Barbara Jude, due to the weather their service will be rescheduled to February 27. The Knights led the Rosary Decades, including Tom and Linda Lopez, Jim McCarry, and Sam Hillanbrand which was livestreamed to 80 parishioners attending virtually.
- Another **Healing Rosary is planned for January 18**, 2022 as prayers are still needed for Mark Cellini, Rich Sasin, and Deacon Joe Ruggiero who are all battling cancer - and for anyone to attend and pray for all needful of prayers and help. The **A Scriptural Rosary** booklet recommended to the Knights by Tom Lopez and chosen by Father Gerlach as a gift to the Parish distributed at Christmas Masses, will be used as the prayerful guide for this livestreamed healing rosary.
- **Tom Lopez, Faith Director**, encouraged the Council to participate in a **30 day spiritual reflection** utilizing either the book **The School of Nazareth – A Spiritual Journey with St. Joseph** by author Mark Hartfiel (purchase thru Amazon \$10.00) or **Consecration to St. Joseph**, by author Donald Calloway (purchase thru KOC website \$14.95 + shipping or thru Amazon \$13.29) during the time period Feb 15 to March 19 / Feast of Solemnity of St. Joseph. This will be for each person's own personal benefit.
- The **"Man Up Philly"**, **Men's Spirituality Conference**, will be **March 19 at Immaculata University**.

FAMILY

- The **Family of the Month for December 2021** was the **Miley Family, Michael and Jennifer with three children**, who will be recognized with a certificate on Sunday, January 23, by Paul Bellino during the 9:30 Mass. Pictures will be taken after Mass. Any Knights present should participate. All Knights are asked to continue to present additional candidates thru the Council website.
- Paul Bellino still hopes **Council will recognize non-Knight/ Guest attendees at future Council Meetings**, who might be SSJ Parishioners, to be celebrated for their special support, parish activity, or religious service participation. Council may recognize them in person at the beginning of future Council meetings by awarding a certificate (and KOC coffee cup ?) for their contributions.
- Paul hopes for a **KOC Family Picnic** in spring-summer 2022.

COMMUNITY

- **Joe Gothie, interim Community Director, hopes for a replacement Director for 2022** . Ideally this role is best filled by a father of an SSJ School student. Is there a Knight who would volunteer ? Help is needed !
- The **PTZ (PanTiltZoom) livestream Camera to be placed in the Chapel** is still scheduled for installation by SSJ Parish in January. Help is still needed for livestream at the 9:30 Mass on Sundays !
- The **Leave No Neighbor Behind contact campaign** will renew in February to contact Knights not attending or participating. This is one of the 5 LNNB / Leave No Neighbor Behind spokes. There is a script available if needed, and additional Knight volunteers may be needed as contact callers.
- The Council Round of the **Free Throw Championship** for boys and girls ages 9 thru 14 was held Saturday, January 15th from 11 to 1PM at the SSJ Gym. There were only 21 youth participants (14 boys and 7 girls) despite significant outreach, perhaps due to the continuing Omicron virus threat. Nine winners advanced to the **District Competition**, also to be held at **SSJ Gym on**

Feb 19th. Thanks to the 8 Knights who assisted as help and judges. The basketballs purchased in December by the Council for the winners did not arrive in time to be awarded at the event.

- Mother Incarnation of **St. Veronica Parish in N. Phila., SSJ's Sister Parish**, posts a monthly "wish list" of cleaning supplies on Facebook for convent, school, and church needs. The current wish list supplies' cost for January is \$284 which was provided as part of a \$600 donation from SSJ Council (funding of \$50 per month thru 2022). Council, in the person of Joe Gothie, personally delivered these supplies to St. Veronica Parish when Amazon would not deliver to this address !!
- A **Blood Drive** is scheduled on **February 21 at St. Agnes Parish** in West Chester.
- To **Feed the Hungry** it may be best for Council to consider a donation to a local food pantry (such as St Agnes Day room).

LIFE

- **Rose and Rosary – Baptisms**. A **January** Baptism Sign Up Sheet was previously provided to all Knights with the Council Meeting email announcement, and February has a limited schedule of Baptisms. **The following Knights volunteered:** Jan 23 (0) ; Jan 30 (0) : Feb 6 (2) Tom Lopez; Feb 13 (0); Feb 20 (3) John Ellis; Feb 27 (0). **All Baptisms are now again at the same 1PM time on Sunday**, and the Rose & Rosary are presented at that time. GK Hillanbrand again asked that all Knights volunteer for Rose and Rosary so that assignments are not necessary.
- **Annual Baby Formula Drive** started **January 2 and concludes on Feb 11**. Collection baskets are placed in the Narthex. Knights' families are invited to support this cause organized by Sister Barbara Jude.
- **National March For Life, Washington, DC, Friday, January 21** – bus transportation can be arranged for SSJ parishioners thru Dave Owsik at 610-416-3676. Call to reserve your seat.
- **Chester County March For Life, was held Sunday, January 16, 2022, 3 PM at St Agnes Church**. Per Jim McCarry, around 100 attended and enjoyed a musician and three local speakers including one from Genesis Health who was well versed in the benefits of ultrasound machines.
- **Man Up Philly, Saturday, March 19 at Immaculata University**. Archbishop Perez is sponsoring and will be there.

COMMITTEES :

- **Retention Committee** - 2022 Dues, 2nd notices, will be sent to all Knights who have not yet paid.
- **Health Services Committee** - Director Bill Aaronson was absent.
- **Fundraising Committee** - **Paul Bellino**
 - **BINGO provided by the KOC continues on Friday night, January 28, 6:00 – 10PM**. Bingo continues to be a great success in SSJ Parish public relations, fundraising, and fun ! Tony DeMaioribus is fantastic as MC and Bingo Caller ! All bingo players are provided with 3 cards each for 10 games for a cost of \$20. Many Knights have helped with set-up, recruiting bingo players, managing the evening, and clean-up. Special thanks to them for their help !
ALL KNIGHTS SHOULD ATTEND - TO HELP AND TO PLAY BINGO !!!
 - Next Bingo is Friday, January 28 ! Thereafter, on Friday, Feb 18 and March 11**. Paul Bellino has a display sign with directions.
 - **Italian Night** is still in the works for 2022. Per Mac McCracken, who met with Sabatino's, the plan would provide an evening of fun for 70 couples at \$60 per couple / \$30 per person, and opportunity to realize \$975 profit (cost increased). This would be an adults-only evening, and live entertainment would cost \$400 /\$200 per hour. Date depends on Hall availability, Omicron safety, Lent . . . Mac and Paul will choose a few dates to consider.
 - **Crab Feast sales** will be scheduled in February before Lent which GK Hillanbrand will again manage.
- **Social Committee** - **John Ellis**
 - Thanks to all Knights who help, play, or clean up at Bingo !! Some Knights do ALL of these to support our fundraising.
 - Snacks for bingo are "enduring" and continue to be a good add-on for players.

FOURTH DEGREE - Gordon Jefferes, District Deputy

- The next **Assembly Conclave is Monday, Jan 3, 2022** which will be held virtually due to the increased Omicron virus threat. **Assembly Conclave for Feb 7** will be in-person and virtual at 7:30 pm in the Msgr. Schuyler Council Home in West Chester.
- 4th Degree dues notices have been emailed out.
- On **Feb 27** there will be a **Wives Appreciation event** beginning with Mass at 10:30 at St. Agnes followed by Brunch at Msgr. Schuyler Council Hall in West Chester.

INSURANCE AGENT - Jim Siermine -not in attendance. Monthly emails continue from Jim on KOC insurance and financial benefits.

DISTRICT DEPUTY - Gordon Jefferes

- **Eastern Region Caucus will meet March 20** at Msgr. Schuyler to elect the next PA State Deputy.
- In response to a Knight's question re **Color Guard / Regalia**, Gordon advised the former regalia has been retired. The new uniform is now required for Color Corps.
- **COAL / Chance Of A Lifetime tickets will be available for purchase in January 2022.**

TRUSTEES' REPORT - Dennis Kolesinskas, Rich Sasin, Ed Lack – No report

10 Unfinished Business

- Election of Officers - The **Advocate** officer role will be left open for now as there is no requirement to fill this position. Volunteers are needed for **unfilled Program Personnel Appointments**. Any Knight who might help, please contact GK Hillanbrand.

- **CYO Outreach** – GK Hillanbrand did meet with Bob DeVescovo and discussed the idea of a 3-on-3 basketball tournament for 6-7-8 graders and PREP students of SSJ. Further review is planned although the difficulty may be acquiring gym time. But there is certainly mutual aid and benefit to each program especially considering the CYO religious requirement for Spring and KOC's hope to have CYO younger members to lead decades at the Rosary Recitals to help recruit their fathers.

- **Ultrasound Machine Committee** – Sam H, Bill R, Rich S did meet to discuss program requirements. Rich Sasin reported that the KOC PA Deputy Director was most helpful and wants to work with Council as 3 ultrasound machines are needed in PA. The difficulty to resolve will be locating a partner to work with.

- **Bingo License application** was sent certified mail on 12/9/2021 and after traveling thru five regional Post Office Distribution Centers was received at Chester County Treasurer's Office on 1/11/2022. The Chester County Treasurer's Office issued the Bingo License on 1/12/2022 good for one year which Steve Keefer picked up the next day.

Now the challenge will be to renew the KOC **Games of Chance License** which expires 2/11/2022. Both licenses, costing \$100 and \$125 respectively, are required for KOC Council to conduct Bingo with 50/50 and for 400 Club sales, and will be an ongoing annual expense !

11 New Business

- **COAL / Chance of a Lifetime tickets** are now available from Gordon Jefferes. For the cost of a \$5.00 ticket winners can share in 16 great cash prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to total \$65,000 in prize money !! COAL is a PA State Council Fundraiser that enables PA college scholarships and other charitable programs. The drawing date is Friday, May 13, 2022 during the PA State Convention. It is hoped each Knight will purchase 2 tickets at \$5.00 cost each (which may be mailed to each Knight) which benefits Council up to \$3.25 per \$5.00 ticket. Father Gerlach has graciously offered to permit Council to sell COAL tickets in the Welcome Center.

- **Spring Picnic** – Paul Bellino requested Council plan a potluck activity with Council providing hot dogs and burgers which is now planned for May 22 (rain date ?) at the Assembly outdoor picnic location on Phoenixville Pike. Knights along with extended Family are invited. A "Provisioning Committee" including Paul B, Bill R, Mac M, and John E will plan this Spring Picnic further at the next OPM.

- **Poor Man's Supper in Lent** – PGK Bill Robinson suggested Council restart this event which basically included soup and/or stew, bread, and drink at nominal cost. This would be a Parish / Community event and not intended for profit. Bill has a contact who might help restart. A Guest Speaker with a message of importance would be needed.

- A **KOC Women's Auxiliary** has been proposed by Paul Bellino with the purpose of supporting the Knights' activities by adding a Ladies' touch. This might also be a social activity for Knights' wives/ partners and a further help in recruiting younger Knights. Input from the Ladies is needed to organize and to determine who might run this activity. GK Hillanbrand offered to email all Knights / Ladies to summarize, request input, and consider how to proceed.

- **Other recruiting and social activities** proposed include a Hospitality Night in Spring at Church with a speaker / entertainer, Trivia Night social, pizza dance party, Western Square Dance, and certainly the plan for Pulpit Talks in SSJ Church probably in March. What other Councils' activities are successful is also a consideration for SSJ Council to evaluate. But there is also need for **balance** considering fundraising activities, service projects to SSJ Parish and Community, and the willing availability of Knight workers !!

- **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity** reporting to Supreme approximate hours of SSJ KOC activity is underway as is an "**SSJ Knights Interest Survey**" as reported by Joe Gothie who is diligent in completing Council reporting to Supreme. Thank you, Joe !

12 Good of the Order

- **The following were presented for special prayers by SSJ KOC 11564 Knights** : Brother Deacon Joe Ruggiero, Brother Deacon Jim Owens, Brother Mark Cellini, Brother Rich Sasin, Brother Jim Bushong, Brother Bill Aaronson, Brother Bill Robinson, Deacon Bill Shearer, Jenna Desmarais, Sara Purcell, Peter VanderHeide, Robert Bellino, Tonianne Santangelo, Ron Ellis, Anne Cane, Drew Turack, Rob McCarry, Rosemary Nichols, Suzann Wickersham, Sheryl Fanelli, Deacon Paul McBlain, Christine DeFelice, Lauren Dior, Arlene Hunsinger, John and Maureen Doran, Brother Mac McCracken, Geri Palicko, Dolores DiGregorio, Jack Facinda, Phil Genter.

13 Grand Knight's Summary.

- With so many **Knight activities** GK Hillanbrand has been writing and emailing a **weekly summary to all Knights**, a great reminder for all of our busy calendars ! Thank you GK ! As further reference Tony D. will publish this missive of weekly Council Activities in the private area of the KOC website for all to reference.

- **Officers' Planning Meetings** are held the week before our Council Meeting and any Knight may attend, not just Officers.
Next OPM will be Thursday, February 17, 2022, 7:30 – 9PM in The Meehan Center

- **Next Council Meeting - Monday, February 21, 2022 at 7:30 PM in The Meehan Center** (provided declining Covid numbers).

14 **Closing Prayer** – Tom Lopez read the "Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney".

15 **Adjournment** – 8:55 PM



