



Meeting Minutes February 20, 2023

- 1 Call to Order** – GK Hillanbrand at 7:00 pm. This Council 11564 Meeting was held in person in the Saints Simon and Jude Room of The Meehan Center and virtually thru a GoToMeeting link. There were **17 Attendees**, 16 in person and 1 virtual. 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 Hillanbrand and recited by all Knights.
- 4 Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting – A Motion** to accept the revised Minutes of the January 16, 2023 Council Meeting was unanimous. 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 – not present
- 6 Grand Knight’s Report**
 - Council follows the format directed by Supreme per “The Guidelines for Council Meetings” to include two meetings per month: an **Officers’ Planning Meeting** (held 2/15/2023) 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 will continue to **focus on recruitment and helping more at SSJ School** given the success and profitability of our Bingo fundraising.
 - Retreat is planned at **Malvern Retreat House** for SSJ Knights and Parishioners for **March 10-12, 2023** as a Holy Family Retreat.
 - GK Hillanbrand accompanied **two new members, Johann Sedlmair and Tom Esposito**, to in person Exemplification at Fr. Bally Council in Pottstown on Sunday, February 12 at 1:30. Both were welcomed this evening attending their first Council Meeting at SSJ 11564.
 - “Pizza, Prayer and Play” event for SSJ School and PREP families on Feb 16 from 6- 7:30 in Monihan Hall was postponed due to the passing of Louis F. Gentry, Sister Barbara Jude’s father.
 - In January, **Council returned to a 7:00 PM start for both monthly Council and OPM Meetings**. The plan is to provide an hour Council Meeting with 30 minutes of spiritual activity for an earlier return home.
 - On **February 19** Council will provide a cooked **Pancake Breakfast for Cub Scout Pack 168** in the SSJ School cafeteria following the 9:30 Mass. Knights will be needed for setup, cooking, recruitment, and cleanup. Please volunteer.
- 7 Financial Report**
 - **Charlie DiValerio, Treasurer** - A **Motion** was presented and all accepted the **Treasurer’s Report of January 2023**.
 - Ending Bank Balance \$26,431 / Reserve Fund \$3,034 / Bingo Petty Cash \$300/ 4th Degree Fund \$202 / Fourth Degree Uniform Fund \$2,052 / Available Cash Funds \$23,195.
- 8 Membership Report** - Joe Gothie, on behalf of Jim Bushong, presented a **Motion** to approve Raymond Smith for membership. There are still another 7-8 prospects from Hospitality Sunday for follow up. At the OPM a question was asked if a prospect might attend a Council meeting before joining, which is precluded by KOC By-Laws. However, Joe Gothie advised that joining online will allow a prospect to attend meetings, but just cannot vote.
- 9 FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAMS - OTHER REPORTS - Program Director Jim McCarry**
 - Council activity continues with 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 - **Blood Drive on March 9 at 1pm in The Meehan Center**
 - 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.

- **Man Up Philly 2023, an Archdiocesan Catholic Men's Conference, will be held on March 4 at Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, PA.** Council has budgeted \$500 for 8-10 men of SSJ Parish to attend at no cost with the hope they will become Knights.

FAITH

- **Adoration Night for SSJ Knights** is every Thursday 5-6 PM. Regular SSJ Parish Eucharistic Adoration in the Sacred Heart Chapel is 7:30 am until 8pm, Monday thru Friday.
- **Rosary Recital times** are daily before the 9 am Mass; **Respect Life Rosary** every Monday night; **Flame of Love**, Thurs at 7pm.
- **Rosary dates :**
- **The Five First Saturday Fatima Devotions to Our Blessed Mother** began again on November 5 following the 9am Mass and continue on **March 4, 2023.** Tom has a booklet describing this Devotion of Our Blessed Mother's request and the specific requirements.
- On **February 26, Sunday at 7 pm** there will be a Rosary live streamed from the Chapel (Chapel camera is now operational !) to be led by Sr. Barbara Jude and the SSJ Youth Group. Knights are encouraged to attend.
- **Special devotions to St. Joseph** include The School of Nazareth, A Spiritual Journey With St. Joseph, 30 days from 2/19 thru 3/19/2023 and The Consecration of St. Joseph by Fr. Donald Calloway, 33 days from 2/15 thru 3/19/2023, with daily readings for spiritual reflection.
- Future Faith events include Man Up Philly on March 4 at Cardinal O'Hara High School (online sign up); Parish Retreat at Malvern Retreat House, March 10-11-12 ; traveling icon to St. Joseph from Supreme to celebrate March 29 on Father McGivney; Founder Day.
- A **Motion** was proposed which was accepted to **provide a \$500 donation to Laith Hawetmeh**, a West Chester University student who regularly attends Scripture Study Group at SSJ Parish for a Mission trip to General Cepeda, Mexico from March 11-18. He will join other **FOCUS / Fellowship of Catholic University Students** from WCU for this trip and needs to fundraise about \$2,400 for air fare and trip. This will be a time of serving the poor, evangelizing locals, and participation in daily Catholic services.

FAMILY

- **Family of the Month** as recommended by Sister Barbara Jude, is **Jacqui Taylor and Family**. The award will be presented and live streamed following the 9:30 Mass on February 26. All Knights are invited to be recognized at the presentation.
- Paul has assembled a summary sheet/poster listing of activities, charities, and organizations which **"Our KOC Council 11564 Supports"** which has been utilized at Bingo, Hospitality Sunday, and other Council parish activities. This list of **"what Knights do"** will be further publicized to advertise Council's support of SSJ Parish and provide support in recruiting new young fathers as Knights.
- There may be help for Paul from Pat Lynam, a Knight new to SSJ, who has experience with Rotary to help with Family communications.

COMMUNITY

- **Joe Gothie, interim Community Director, hopes for a replacement Director for 2022-23.** Knight volunteers and help are requested!
- The **Basketball Free Throw Contest, District Round**, resulted in one participant from SSJ advancing to the Regional Round.
- **Man Up Philly, a Men's Spirituality Conference, will be held March 4 at Cardinal O'Hara High School**, with a star speaker lineup including Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Nelson Perez. Council will sponsor the first eight Parish attendees, and Austin Tomlinson is to attend with plans to become a Knight !
- **Council provided \$400 to St. Veronica's Convent** for their wish list of cleaning supplies on Amazon which also included items needed for youth to travel to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal in 2023.
- **Deacon Anthony**, who will celebrate his **first Mass following his Ordination to the Priesthood at SSJ on May 21 at 3pm**, is willing to provide a conversation with Council about his Vocation. We will hope for this opportunity at a future Council or OPM.

LIFE

- **Rose and Rosary – Baptisms** – All Baptisms are now again at the same **1PM time on Sunday**, and the Rose & Rosary are presented at that time. Thanks to John Schneberger, George Duane, and John Ellis for presenting R&R on Sundays in February. Volunteers are needed for R&R presentations at Baptisms in March.
- **Man Up Philly** will be held **March 4 at Cardinal O'Hara High School** in Springfield, PA
- The movie, **"Mother Teresa – No Greater Love"**, is now available for purchase as a DVD, perhaps for an SSJ Parish showing ?
- **Roses for Mothers Day, May 14, 2023**, will be presented by Council Knights to benefit the Pro Life Union.
- **Baby bottles as a fundraiser to benefit Mothers Home** will be campaigned between Mother's Day and Father's Day, June 18.

COMMITTEES :

- **Retention Committee - Gordon Jefferes** - no additional info

- **Health Services Committee - Director Bill Aaronson** – not present

- **Fundraising Committee - Paul Bellino**

- **BINGO** – Bingo was held **Friday, February 17** with GK Hillanbrand as numbers caller and MC. It was a fun evening for all 164 players present. **Next Bingo is scheduled for March 17** with a St Patty's Day theme. **Council hopes that future Bingo events might be held every 3rd Friday night.** Knights' help is always needed for set up, check-in, sales, seating, 50/50, and cleanup.

- **Social Committee - John Ellis** - There was a Superbowl watching party held February 12 in The Meehan Center although the Kansas City Chiefs / Andy Reid prevailed over the Philadelphia Eagles. Refreshments were served after tonight's Council meeting.

FOURTH DEGREE - Gordon Jefferes

Assembly meets first Monday monthly at 7:30. More participation and support would be welcome. Will ask if might reconsider Zoom.

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

DISTRICT DEPUTY - Frank Bruno, new District 19 Deputy – not present

-DGK Jim McCarry reported that he and Joe Gothie did attend the **District Assembly Meeting at Schuyler Hall on February 8 at 7:30 pm** as requested by DD Frank Bruno. The meeting was well attended by 7 Councils, and many of the same needs and issues were reported by other Councils. Topics included recruiting younger members, COAL prizes increased, scholarship program, a **Fraternal Benefit virtual presentation March 2**, and a **Blessed Michael McGivney Award for Chaplain** in March. Council should promote Fr Michael Gerlach for this honor !

TRUSTEES' REPORT - Dennis Kolesinskas, Bill Robinson, Ed Lack

-Trustee Ed Lack reported that the Semiannual Audit Report Form 1295 for SSJ Council 11564 for the six-month period ended 12/31/2022 was reviewed and validated by the Trustees and Grand Knight as required by SSJ KOC By-Laws. Special thanks to Treasurer Charlie DiValerio and FS Joe Gothie for completing and submitting this required reporting form.

-A reminder from the 1/16/2023 Council Meeting and 2/15/2023 OPM when PGK Dennis Kolesinskas advised the Trustees are responsible for **future Council Officers and Succession**, and that a slate of proposed officers would be needed for the April-May 2023 Council Meetings. Leadership as well as new members are needed, and discussion considered how do we gather inactive Knights to even attend monthly Council meetings or to accept small projects. A list of Knights as potential and possible officer candidates should be reviewed asap.

10 Unfinished Business

-A Council or SSJ Parish Retreat Weekend at **Malvern Retreat, March 10-12, 2023**. This will be the Holy Family Retreat which would be an SSJ Parish activity sponsored by Council.

-**A Tootsie Roll Sale in April** with **Cub Scout Pack 168** is planned which is opportunity for mutual aid and benefit to each's program.

-Although **4th Degree Uniform** commitments continue there are funds remaining from in the **Fourth Degree Uniform Fund**.

-The **Pancake Breakfast for Cub Scout Pack 168** on February 19 in the SSJ School cafeteria following the 9:30 Mass was an enjoyable event.

-**Crab Feast sales and distribution** concluded on February 18-19 for family eating on meatless Fridays during Lent. Thank GK Hillanbrand !

-Given a request from Sr Barbara Jude for support to the **SSJ Baby Formula Project**, there was a **Motion** for **Council to provide \$500 donation** which was approved with one dissenting vote (as there was no actual \$ need or budget presented).

-At the 1/12/2023 OPM Trustee Kolesinskas expressed concern for Council cash availability and utilization as a non-profit. Considerable discussion suggested possible funds use especially as **small/multiple "SSJ KOC Scholarship Award" Scholarships** presented at SSJ School graduation for students to attend a co-ed Catholic High School. Paul Bellino suggested a meeting in February to explore the best direction(s).

11 New Business

-Council received a letter request from IHM Sisters for support of the **"Sippin for the Sisters" 2nd annual tea party fundraiser** to be held Sunday, March 19 from 2:30 to 4:30 at The Meehan Center at SSJ Parish. The goal is to raise funds to purchase state-of-the-art beds for Camilla Hall

Nursing Home. **Council will provide a \$1,000 donation** from “unallocated funds” which will provide signage recognition and registration for 4 guests to attend which could be offered to Knights’ wives , Rectory staff, or IHM Sisters at SSJ Convent.

-Knight Joe Labricciosa led a discussion of concern for **security at SSJ Parish facilities** including Church and School given recent “unthinkable” happenings and vandalism at Catholic facilities. He advocated for surveillance cameras around SSJ Church, a mass trauma kit, and a policy program with training. Joe will carry this concern to Fr. Gerlach and SSJ Parish Council.

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 Bill Robinson, Brother Jim Bushong, Brother Bill Aaronson, Brother Charles McGuigan, Brother Hank Fisher, Trish Ruggiero and Family, Janet Sasin & Family, Maureen DeMaioribus & Family, Kathy Cellini & Family, Dolores DiGregorio & Family, Deacon Paul McBlain, Deacon Bill Shearer, Jenna Desmarais, Peter VanderHeide, Lee Gamma, John and Maureen Doran, Bob Magliano, Sara Purcell, Daniel Gallagher, Evan Anderson, Judy McCracken, Tonianne Santangelo, Lauren Dior, John McClanahan, Anna Piella, Ron Ellis, Teresa Toscani, Ross Family, Carole Shea, Jocelyn Gruver, Ron Avellino, Joe Martino, Sally Martino, John McCann and Family, Ray Magliano, Bob Magliano, Joann Alleva, Bob Ritter, Emily Rocco, Binnie Estrada, Paula Reilly, Anne Cane, Drew Turack,, Rob McCarry, Suzann Wickersham, Sheryl Fanelli, Gregory Krajnik, Robert Bellino, Officer Chris Fitzgerald, Bishop David O’Connell, and Louis F. Gentry.

13 Grand Knight’s Summary.

- With so many **Knight activities** GK Hillanbrand continues writing and emailing a **weekly summary to all Knights**, a great reminder for all with our busy calendars ! Thank you GK Hillanbrand !
- **Officers’ Planning Meetings** are held the week before our Council Meeting and any Knight may attend, not just Officers.
Next OPM will be Thursday, March 16, 2023, 7:00 – 9PM.
- **Next Council Meeting - Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM** in The Meehan Center and Virtual.

14 **Closing Prayer** – Faith Director Tom Lopez read the “Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney”.

15 **Adjournment – 8:20 PM**



