



Meeting Minutes March 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 **20 Attendees**, 19 in person and 1 virtual. This meeting also followed the 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 and remembrance of the Feast Day of St. Joseph.
- 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 February 20, 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 3/15/2023) 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.
 - The success of monthly **Bingo** is a huge help in realizing Council’s **fundraising budget** !
 - A Retreat was held at **Malvern Retreat House** for SSJ Knights and Parishioners on **March 10-12, 2023** as a Holy Family Retreat.
 - GK Hillanbrand welcomed 4 new Council Members in attendance this evening : Craig Kashuba, Tom Esposito, Tyler Costello, and Raymond Smith. All Council Knights present introduced themselves and bid welcome to our new members.
 - At the OPM, given an urgent request from Knights of State of PA to support **Special Olympics**, **Council will donate the \$500 budgeted.**
 - 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.
 - The 125th **PA KOC State Convention** will be held Friday, **May 5 thru Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the Hilton in Harrisburg, PA.** Third Degree Council Knights are invited to attend as Alternate Delegates to accompany GK Hillanbrand. Registration deadline is 3/31/2023.
- 7 **Financial Report**
 - **Charlie DiValerio, Treasurer** – After clarifying line items expected to result in Crab Feast profit of \$200+ and Super Bowl Sunday loss of \$200, a **Motion was presented and all accepted the Treasurer’s Report of February 2023.**
 - Ending Bank Balance \$24,729 / Reserve Fund \$2,999 / Bingo Petty Cash \$300/ 4th Degree Fund \$202 / Fourth Degree Uniform Fund \$1,046 / Available Cash Funds \$21,528.
- 8 **Membership Report** - Jim Bushong advised he is still working on a few additional candidates for membership.
- 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 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.
 - DGK McCarry reported that the Retreat at Malvern was quite a spiritually beneficial event; March 29 is a Father McGivney Founder’s event; emails conveying “**Fraternal Benefits**” are sent to KOC Officers who are then to convey to all 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 following the 9am Mass and continue on **April 1, 2023**. Tom has a booklet describing this Devotion of Our Blessed Mother's request and the specific requirements.
- On **March 26, Sunday at 7 pm** there will be a Rosary live streamed from the Chapel (Chapel camera is now operational) to be led by the KOC and friends in honor of St Joseph. Knight volunteers are requested to lead the Decades of the Rosary.
- **Special devotions to St. Joseph** included 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.
- **Man Up Philly 2023, an Archdiocesan Catholic Men's Conference, was held on March 4 at Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, PA.** Tom Lopez and other Council Knights attended this capacity 1,300 attendee event which included the presence of Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop Nelson Perez, and testimony from Jim Wahlberg.
- Future Faith events include the traveling icon of St. Joseph through Supreme's Pilgrim Icon Program to commemorate Father McGivney Founder's Day on March 29.
Also on March 29 a documentary film on Mother Francis Cabrini to be held in King of Prussia.
- **Saturday, June 24** is the second annual local **"Biking For Babies" ride** to support crisis pregnancy centers. The ride starts at 7:30 am at SS Philip and James Church. Registration of \$50 cost is completed thru the bikingforbabies.com website. The goal is to triple the number of riders to 150. Council is planning a contribution and to offer riders and staffing by those Knights and friends available.

FAMILY

- **Family of the Month**, **Jack and Maureen Whoriskey** were honored following the 7:30 Mass on March 19. As always, all Knights are invited to be recognized at the presentation. Other candidates have been recommended for future consideration.
- 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 men to join the Knights.

COMMUNITY

- **Joe Gothie, interim Community Director**, requested any member who is interested in becoming the Community Director for the 2023-24 fraternal year beginning in July to contact him and offered his assistance and support for the transition.
- The **Basketball Free Throw Contest, District Round**, resulted in one participant from SSJ advancing to the Regional Round. Thereafter, the State Round was held March 11 which completed the KOC competition for this FY.
- **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. Representation by the Council and/or the Assembly's Color Corps at the May 21 mass has been requested by the Parish.

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, John Ellis, George Duane, and Jim McCarry for presenting R&R on Sundays in March. Volunteers are needed for R&R presentations at Baptisms in April.
- 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** - not present
- **Health Services Committee - Director Bill Aaronson** – not present
- **Fundraising Committee - Paul Bellino**

- **BINGO** – Bingo was held **Friday, March 17** with Paul Bellino as numbers caller and MC. It was a fun evening for all 150 players present. **Next Bingo is scheduled for May 12.**
Council hopes that future Bingo events might be held every 3rd Friday night subject to the availability of the Meehan Center. Knights' help is always needed for set up, check-in, sales, seating, 50/50, and cleanup.

- The movie, "**Mother Teresa – No Greater Love**", could be shown to SSJ Parish families and Knights. The entrance fee was suggested to be 1-2 cans of soup to then be donated to the West Chester Food Cupboard. (**Poor Mans' Supper** should be a planned event during Lent 2024. Paul Bellino has a contact for this successful event at St Patrick's, Malvern at \$10 entry fee).
- **Social Committee - John Ellis** - Snack item changes continue at Bingo which resulted in \$143 sales at the March 17 Bingo, the best yet. Refreshments were served after tonight's Council meeting. The 50/50 drawing of a \$22 prize was won by new Knight Craig Kashuba.

FOURTH DEGREE - Gordon Jefferes - not present. Frank Bruno, DD, spoke on Gordon's behalf to advise :

- Assembly meets first Monday monthly at 7:30. More participation and support would be welcome. Will ask if might reconsider Zoom.
- April 22 is the Assembly's Annual Testimonial Dinner** at \$35 pp to honor the past Faithful Navigator. Ads are still available and asked of all Councils. Council 11564 voted unanimously given a **Motion to donate \$50 to the Assembly ad book.**
- On **June 24 an Exemplification for Fourth Degree** will be held at Flaherty Council in Glenside, PA.

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

DISTRICT DEPUTY - Frank Bruno, District 19 Deputy

- DD Bruno congratulated Council 11564 in attaining quota of 6 new members toward Star Council qualification for FY 2022-23. He personally awarded a KOC State Recruiter's Pin to GK Hillanbrand and to Jim Bushong for each recruiting a new member. Earning 4 credits in each Faith in Action Program would award Council the Columbian Award, and with required attendance at both Fraternal Benefit Seminars the Founders Award would be earned, all toward satisfying the requirements for Star Council !
- Council is also compliant in all required reporting** including Safe Environment and Semi-Annual Audit. Council is to be congratulated !
- Future events** include March 26 3pm at SS Peter & Paul Basilica as a Color Corps event for Disabled Persons; March 29, Father McGivney Founder's Day; and August 13, Father McGivney's birthday.
- Religious liberty and culture of life remain major concerns which may be consulted for KOC and Catholic Church positions in the **Faithful Citizenship Newsletter.**

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

- PGK Dennis Kolesinskas advised that **Nomination of Officers for the 2023-24 FY** are due in April. Nominations are requested and needed. Officer Duties are outlined on the Council website at ssjknights.org. Voting for Officers will be conducted at the May Council Meeting. GK Hillanbrand encouraged all Knights, especially new Knights, to consider nomination as progression thru the ranks is desirable.

10 Unfinished Business

- A Tootsie Roll Sale** after Easter or in Fall with **Cub Scout Pack 168** is planned which is opportunity for mutual aid and benefit to each's program.
- **4th Degree Uniform** commitments continue although there are funds remaining in the **Fourth Degree Uniform Fund.**

-Following the 1/12/2023 OPM when Trustee Kolesinskas expressed concern for Council cash availability and qualification as a non-profit, discussion suggested possible funds use as **small/multiple "SSJ KOC Scholarship Award" Scholarships** presented at SSJ School graduation for students to attend a co-ed Catholic High School or to a PREP student. Treasurer Charlie DiValerio suggested a simpler idea might be to **provide an annual donation to the SSJ School Annual Fund**, for SSJ to administer and award, recognizing Council. GK Hillanbrand has emailed Fr Gerlach with a scholarship proposal and requested a meeting for next week to discuss the idea of a scholarship award and/or a donation to the Annual Fund, hoping to conclude after Easter. The KOC Committee will include GK Hillanbrand, DGK McCarry, Trustees Ed Lack and Dennis Kolesinskas.

- At the 2/20/2023 Council Meeting 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 was advised to carry this concern to Fr. Gerlach and SSJ Parish Council and report back to Council.

11 New Business

-**Confirmation at SSJ Parish will be April 15** including 10 AM and 2 PM Masses with Lunch with the Bishop in between Masses. Council has been invited to be a part of the procession and the Assembly’s Color Corps has been asked to provide representation for the Masses. The presence of the Color Corps will be determined and directed by DD Frank Bruno as Color Corps Commander, so reserve this date to help.

-On **May 21 at 3 pm Deacon Anthony will celebrate his first Mass** following his Ordination as a Priest at SS Simon and Jude. He has invited Council 11564 and his other Santa Ana Council of Lansdowne to be present and for the Assembly’s Color Corps to be present, possibly as Honor Guard. This Color Corps presence will also be directed by DD Frank Bruno. (New Color Guard uniforms or dark suits with white gloves and same red color ties will be required. Social baldrics are no longer used).

-Thru the generosity of **ShopRite of West Chester**, sales have begun for **gift cards totaling \$500**. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.00 toward drawings for \$250, \$150, and \$100 gift cards. Mac McCracken has organized this fund raiser to sell 1,000 tickets to benefit an SSJ Parish cause.

-**ASAP / Aid & Support After Pregnancy** funding is already budgeted, so a **\$500 donation** requested by DGK McCarry will be provided.

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, Louis F. Gentry, Christopher Kelly, Deacon Jim Lyon, MSU Students, Sarah Whelan, Maryann McCracken, Frances Cabrini and Bo Brazill.

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 and Godspeed in your healing !

- **Officers’ Planning Meetings** are held the week before our Council Meeting and any Knight may attend, not just Officers.
Next OPM will be Thursday, April 13, 2023, 7:00 – 9PM.

- **Next Council Meeting - Monday, April 17, 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**



