



Meeting Minutes April 17, 2023

- 1 **Call to Order** – GK Hillanbrand at 7:03 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 **23 Attendees**, 21 in person and 2 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.
- 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 March 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 4/13/2023) 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.**
 - Will continue to focus on recruitment and helping more at SSJ School given the success and profitability of our Bingo fundraising.
 - Hope to **revive attendance of inactive Knights**, to encourage participation.
 - GK Hillanbrand **welcomed new Council Members, 7** in attendance this evening including Craig Kashuba, Tom Esposito, Tyler Costello, Raymond Smith, Dom Golato, Seth Lengel, and Johann Sedlmair.
 - Letters of “Thanks for donations” from Adoptions From the Heart and IHM Sisters were read by Joe Gothie, Financial Secretary.
 - Thanks to Knights who helped at the Confirmation Masses on Saturday, April 15.
 - Fraternal Benefit Night is April 26 virtually at 7:30 PM** presenting the “Importance of Whole Life as Part of a Retirement Plan.” There is no cost, but Registration is required. Seven Council attendees are needed to attend.
- 7 **Financial Report**
 - **Charlie DiValerio, Treasurer** – After noting that Council’s CD of \$15,037 rolled over at 1.99% due 9/21/2023, a **Motion was presented and all accepted the Treasurer’s Report of March 2023.**
 - Ending Bank Balance \$25,425 / Reserve Fund \$2,964 / Bingo Petty Cash \$300/ 4th Degree Fund \$202 / Fourth Degree Uniform Fund \$1,046 / Available Cash Funds \$22,259.
- 8 **Membership Report** - Jim Bushong advised he is still working on two 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 **Chester County Connect Care** has a Banquet on Monday, May 1 as a Fundraiser and are seeking a donation for a table of 10 attendees. This might be possible if other KOC Councils attend with SSJ Knights. Testimonials from people helped by this organization were glowing.

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 continued on **April 1, 2023**. May 6 is the next Fatima Rosary. (Due to First Holy Communion it will be held in The Meehan Center following Mass at 8:30 am).
- **Wednesday, May 3 at 11am, at the Veterans Memorial in Newtown Square**. SSJ Council is to lead using the Patriotic Rosary.
- A future rosary for May or a Sunday during Summer is planned with the Pro-Life Group.

- **Monday, May 1st** is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, and **May 11** is the Parish May Procession at 7pm.

- **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 using the Chester Valley Trail for 10-25 miles, rider's choice. Registration of \$50 cost is completed thru the bikingforbabies.com website. The goal is to triple the number of riders to 150. Council made a \$500 contribution. Local riders and staffing by Knights and friends are needed.

FAMILY

- **Family of the Month**, **Adam and Susan Wheeler**, will be honored following the 9:30 Mass on April 30. As always, all Knights are invited to be recognized at the presentation. Brother Paul has asked the IHM Sisters to recommended candidates for future consideration. To date 31 Families-of-the-Month have been recognized and awarded by Council.

- 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.
- Council provided \$100 donation for the ad book for the **SSJ School Play**, "Sister Act Jr.", showing Fri-Sun, April 21-22-23.
- Council purchased 3 electronic thermostats for church and a booster seat for a family at **St. Veronica Church** from their wish list.
- **June 5 is the CYO Golf Fundraiser** and Council donated to a tee sponsorship.
- **Vacation Bible Camp "Stellar 2023"** at SSJ is **June 19-23** and Council will check with Sr. Barbara Jude for needs and manpower.
- **Deacon Anthony** will celebrate his **first Mass following his Ordination to the Priesthood at SSJ on May 21 at 3pm**. 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. Seth Lengel, a new Knight, was assisted by George Duane with R&R presentation on Sunday, April 23. Thank you, Seth !
- 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 the week after Mother's Day thru Father's Day, June 18.

COMMITTEES :

- **Retention Committee** - **Gordon Jefferes** - Encouraged Council to contact inactive Brother Knights to return. Incentive ? Pay their dues ?

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

- **Fundraising Committee** - **Paul Bellino**

- **BINGO** – Bingo will be **Friday, May 12** followed by **Friday, June 16**. **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).

-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 the Sr. Barbara Jude Baby Formula Fund and perhaps another SSJ Parish cause. Knights will be needed to sell chances following Masses for the next 3 Sundays for the drawing to be held at Bingo on May 12.

- **Social Committee - John Ellis** - Snack items will be needed for the next bingo..

The 50/50 drawing of a \$29 prize was won by Brother John Ellis. Refreshments were served following tonight's Council meeting.

FOURTH DEGREE - Gordon Jefferes

-**Assembly meets Monday, May 1 at 7:30** which will include Officer Nominations. More participation and support would be welcome.

-Both the Wives Appreciation Dinner and Assembly's Annual Testimonial Dinner were cancelled due to lack of interest.

-On Wednesday, April 19 there will be a fundraiser at Texas Road House, Downingtown to support the Assembly's Veterans project.

-On **June 24 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 9 new members (6 quota) toward Star Council qualification for FY 2022-23.

-Thursday, April 20 at 8pm there will be a webinar titled "Accept a Leadership Challenge" for any Knight to learn more about leadership opportunities. Link has been provided by email from GK Hillanbrand on April 13.

-On **Saturday, June 24 there will be a Fourth Degree Exemplification**. There are vacancies in the Assembly, so please visit and attend. There is also need for Color Corps participants.

-Encouraged Council Knights to complete the **KOC Member Satisfaction Survey** online.

-Earning 4 credits in each **Faith in Action Program** would award Council the Columbian Award. Meeting required attendance at both Fraternal Benefit Seminars (next is April 26, 7:30 pm, virtually), the Founders Award would be earned. All these activities credit 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 !

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

-PGK Dennis Kolesinskas conducted **Nomination of Officers for the 2023-24 FY** as presented under "New Business".

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

- GK Hillanbrand has emailed Fr Gerlach an "**SSJ KOC Scholarship Award**" proposal and requested a meeting to be held next week to discuss the idea of a scholarship award and/or a donation to the SSJ School Annual Fund. The scholarship might be presented at SSJ School graduation for students to attend a co-ed Catholic High School or to a PREP student. 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

-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 be directed by DD Frank Bruno. (New Color Guard uniforms or dark suits with white gloves and same color ties will be required. Social baldrics will be permitted per the Assembly).

- **Officer Nominations for Council 11564** – Trustee Dennis Kolesinskas conducted the Officer Nomination process for FY 2023-24. Nominations are presented in April with final nominations and voting at the May Council Meeting. Terms are for one year with priority for consecutive one-year terms. Officer selection is only open to 3rd Degree Knights in good standing.

Officer Nominations included :

- Grand Knight - Jim McCarry - accepted
- Deputy Grand Knight – Gordon Jefferes self-nominated. No nomination from Trustees. (DGK typically serves as Program Director).
- Chancellor - Jim Bushong nominated by John Ellis - accepted
- Warden - Bob Gendaszek - not present, TBD if to accept
- Inside Guard - Tom Lopez presently - accepts to continue
- Outside Guard - Seth Lengel nominated by Jim McCarry - accepts
- Recorder - no nomination
- Treasurer - Charlie DiValerio currently - accepts to continue
- Advocate - no nomination (no officer for several years – Parliamentarian)
- Trustees - 3rd Year Trustee - Sam Hillanbrand - will accept
- 2nd Year Trustee - Dennis Kolesinskas - will accept
- 1st Year Trustee - Ed Lack - will accept

Appointed Officers not subject to Council Nominations :

- Chaplain - Fr. Michael Gerlach - Appointed by Grand Knight. To contact to see if Father will consent to continue as Chaplain.
- Financial Secretary - Is an appointed position by Supreme Knight for a 3 year term which Joe Gothie continues thru November 2025

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, 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 and Family, Bishop David O’Connell, Louis F. Gentry, Christopher Kelly, Deacon Jim Lyon, MSU Students, Sarah Whelan, Maryann McCracken, Frances Cabrini , Bo Brazill, Louise Duane, John Larkin’s lady friend, Eileen ? (per Jim Bushong).

13 Grand Knight’s Summary.

- With so many **Knights 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 continue 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 either Wednesday, May 10 or Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:00 – 9PM.
- **Next Council Meeting - Monday, May 15, 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 – 8:25 PM



Saints Simon And Jude
Knights of Columbus

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