

Knights of Columbus
Father Downey Council #4934
Council Members Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 16, 2025, at 7:00 pm

A quorum was met, the meeting was called to order at **7:00 pm** by GK, Leo Decker.

1. "OPENING CEREMONY PER RITUAL"

- Members in attendance: **(52)**
- Members on Zoom: **(2)**
- Number of guests in attendance: **(2)**
- Dignitaries in attendance: **(5)**
- Members reciting the rosary before the meeting: **(30)**

2. Officers Reports:

- **Chaplain's Message** – Fr. John was given the floor to a standing ovation from all the members and wanted us to know he didn't want to miss the "Last Hurrah" before the newly elected officers took their post. Fr. John went on to express his heartfelt thanks to our GK Leo Decker and the council members as a whole for all the councils has done from simple requests to overwhelming requests and that no other parish with a K of C council that Fr. John was associated with throughout his religious career can hold a candle to Sacred Heart and Fr. Downey Council. GK Leo Decker in turn thanked Fr. John, Fr. Aldrin, Fr. Charlie and Deacon Tom for accepting our council and helping it achieve its goals to a thunderous applause from its members. We are one lucky council. God Bless us.
 - A past reminder from Fr. Aldrin, that every Tuesday after the 8:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart there will be a Novena for Our Mother of Perpetual Help.
 - At Saint Gerard on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am there will be an Intercessory Prayer Hour. The purpose is to come together to support each other and pray for friends and family in our faith community for their special needs.
- Special Guests – Barbara Cassidy, widow of Terry Cassidy Jr., PGK Fr. Dillon Council #13989 Edgewater; PDD, District 20. And daughter, Erin Cassidy. Erin presented and read from her card of appreciation to our council for helping pay a portion of her tuition for four years at Fr. Lopez High School having just recently graduated. OLOH Council #8086, Epiphany Council #12569 & Fr. Downey Council #4934 all donated equal amounts for the four years enabling Erin to obtain an outstanding Catholic Education. Erin is now off to Stetson for which the council gave her a standing ovation with a number of outbursts of "good luck."

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- **District Deputy** – John O'Malley presented a comprehensive report on all the activities planned or being planned in our district. See page **7**.
- **Deputy Grand Knight** – Chris Hennessy reported:
 - The 2025 600 Club is now in winner's payout mode with payouts of \$100 & \$200 each month for (6) more months with a grand prize of \$1,000 to be drawn at our January spaghetti and meat-da-ball dinner. We intend to continue hyping the \$1,000 grand prize. There have been 494 tickets sold thus far with the 3 top sellers being: Norm Martin selling 98 tickets, Luc Lebreche, 2nd and Don Frank 3rd. These three brothers were each awarded a \$50 gift card of their choice as a congratulation for their hard work achieving high seller status. Football Mania is in town.
 - A notice to all members attending the **Council Members Meetings**, bring your rosary, if you don't have it with you a \$1 fine will be collected by Jared Burke, Outside Guard #1, and put into the **good-of-the-order** safe.
 - **A Motion to approve our councils 25 – 26 FY Budget was brought to the floor by Chris Hennessy, and seconded by Nick Stuart was voted on and approved by the membership.**
 - This is a continual reminder by our DGK; The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity response by our council was very poor for 2024, making it necessary for the him to step in and insist that we all begin to log our monthly hours of Fraternal Activities so our hours for this calendar year are easily combined for total hours per category next December.
- **Chancellor** – Patrick Clark, had nothing to report at this time.
 - A continued reminder from previous meetings to all members who want to look spiffy, new emblmed shirts and hats are available for purchase. And what Knight does not look and feel proud when wearing the color of our council?
- **Recorder** – John Gawdun requested approval of the minutes from the May 19, 2025, **Members Meetings**, said minutes were approved as **written**.
- **Treasurer** –John Martens:
 - As of May 31st, the primary checkbook balance was **\$22,109.39**.
 - As of May 31st, the secondary checkbook for CC purchases balance was **\$1,000.00**.
 - All bills are paid.

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- **Financial Secretary** – Roland Medeiros reports the new Fraternal Year, 2025 – 2026 **DUES** will be due July 1st. The cost is still the same as recent years, **\$30**. Not to worry there is a 21 day grace period for payment to be made. Please keep our F.S. Roland, RORO300, happy, pay on time.
 - A continuous reminder from previous meetings is that there are still dues that are unpaid from the 24 – 25 FY and have cost our council per capita charges and assessments for those unpaid members. Please take care of your yearly financial responsibility to the council.
- **Council's Financial Advisor** – Jerome Williams reported the safety doors for Sacred Heart church will be fully installed by the end of June.
- **Advocate** – Frank McCarron had nothing to report.
- **SVdP Watchdog** - Frank McCarron reported the need for food delivery teams, more so now that the “snowbirds” are on their flight home.
- **Warden** – Shane Harrington had nothing to report.
- **Captain of Knights on Bikes Council 4934** – Shane Harrington reported three upcoming rides; June 23rd to St. Augustine, June 26th to Key West and July 4th to Daytona Beach Parade. Those interested please see Shane or the Knights on Bikes website <http://www.konbfi.org/> for the full scoop.
- **Trustees** –3-year Robert Hook, 2-year John Pitera, Sr & 1- year Jerry Williams reported all bank statements reconciled.
- **Web Master** – Mark Cerretani reported.
 - A continued reminder from previous meetings, our Web Master explained to the newbies our council's website and how to access it. If any member is still having difficulty in setting up an account or signing-in, see him after the meeting. Also, in time, all types of forms will be available to be downloaded like our council's calendar for upcoming events. Great job Mark.

3. Membership Report – Patrick Clark reported:

An important reminder from our Grand Knight; It's important that all Officers and Directors complete the “Safe Environment Training Program” which can be done online in a matter of minutes and upon completion your certificate can be printed out. Also, must be fingerprinted, see Ella in the church office to set up an appointment.

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- One new Candidate **Jack T. Costello** was voted for acceptance by our council.
 - ❖ Motion brought to floor by: Patrick Clark
 - ❖ Motion 2nd by: Mark Cerretani
 - ❖ Motion approved
- One new Candidate **Michael Mule** was voted for acceptance by our council.
 - ❖ Motion brought to floor by: Patrick Clark
 - ❖ Motion 2nd by: Mark Cerretani
 - ❖ Motion approved
- One new Candidate **John Joe Twohig** was voted for acceptance by our council.
 - ❖ Motion brought to floor by: Patrick Clark
 - ❖ Motion 2nd by: Mark Cerretani
 - ❖ Motion approved
- One new Candidate **John Jankowich** was voted for acceptance by our council.
 - ❖ Motion brought to floor by: Patrick Clark
 - ❖ Motion 2nd by: Mark Cerretani
 - ❖ Motion approved

4. Faith in Action Programs – Program Director, Chris Hennessy began with the following reminder:

- A written report from the Directors is needed if they want it to be made part of the minutes, otherwise, it will be stated that only a verbal report was given.
- **Faith** – Director Stephen Higgs was M.I.A.:
 - A continued reminder; that every Saturday between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm “Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament” is open to all in the Chapel.
- **Family** – Director Patrick Clark on zoom had nothing to reported:

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- **Community** – Director Nick Stuart reported:
 - The next Community Hot Meals Program (CHMP) is scheduled for June 30th. Volunteers needed. The CHMP elite team is headed by Brother Nick Stuart, with elite team leaders supervising preparation are Brother's Eddie Grambo & Glenn Strobel, "chef's de cuisine." The next CHMP meals are scheduled for August 18th, September 29th, November 17th, and December 29th.
 - A new line item on the 2025 -2026 budget is the "Stars Program" where the stars from flags no longer in use to be cut out, attached to a prayer card and inserted into a sized plastic bag for handouts Memorial Day weekend for donations only. Our "Stars Program" for the recent Memorial Day weekend gathered \$2,600 in donations from the parishioners of Sacred Heart and Saint Gerard. All donations received were given to American Legion Post 285 for maintaining their vehicle to transport the disabled vets where ever they need to go. Great job Nick and the volunteers.

- **Life** – Director Richard Ross on excused leave.

A Thank You Letter was received from The Pregnancy Crisis Center of Daytona Beach for the baby supplies and money donations provided by our council. Letter was read by Leo Decker, GK.

5. Updated Meeting Schedule – Grand Knight, Leo Decker reported:

- **OLOH Assembly 2794 Meeting:** June 26, 2025, – 7:00 pm
- **Officers/Planning Meeting** July 14, 2025, – 2:00 pm
- **Council Members Meeting** July 21, 2025, – 7:00 pm

6. Grand Knight's Talking Points – Leo Decker

- Phil the Box issued a check for the month of March & April for \$1,700.
- Phil the box issued a check for the month of May for \$853.
- No Monday Bingo, Memorial Day May 26th.

7. Field Agent – Jim Booritch, Field Agent was on leave:

8. Fourth Degree – Sam Tedesco, FN Assembly 2794 report is outlined on page **8**.

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9. Father Downey Council #4934

Officers, Directors & Assistants – Fraternal Year 2025 – 2026 See pages **10 & 11.**

10. Good of the Order -

- **Lecturer’s Reflection** – Deacon Tom Meyer’s presentation on the love from a dog, June 16, 2025, has been typed-out on page **9**.

11. Upcoming Awards for Members & others - Grand Knight, Leo Decker

- Knight of the Month for June 2025 – **Nick Stuart**
- Family of the Month for June 2025 – **Tom Robertson**
CJ McKenzie
Maria Alvarez

12. Drawings -

600 Club – 2025 2nd drawing:

June 16, 2025,

Ticket #

(115) \$100 – Jerry Williams

(539) \$200 – Ann Pierce

50 / 50 drawing:

June 16, 2025,

Jim Burns - winner

50/50 Winner drawn by David Jenkins

600 Club Winners drawn by Jeff Jacobsky

13. Names of Brother Knights and Immediate Family members of Brother Knights that requested to be added to our council’s prayer list.

Let’s keep all our brothers and their immediate family members in our prayers.

14. Our Grand Knight, Leo Decker, thanked his officers and the council as a whole for the success in fundraising and growth in numbers while at the helm. “I am so very proud of all we accomplished as a whole and wish complete success to Chris Hennessy his officers and council.”

15. Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney:

16. “CLOSING CERMONY PER RITUAL”

Meeting was adjourned at **8:15 pm** John Gawdun, Recorder

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2. Officers Reports:
District Deputy – John O’Malley

Greetings on behalf of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and SD Rick Hughes.

We recently held our State Convention for the first time in Jacksonville. Mike Gizewski was elected as our new State Deputy, and takes his position when the new Columbian Year begins on July 1. All three of our councils had two delegates participating (among 383 delegates).

The convention featured one contested election, for the Warden position (that eventually rotates to State Deputy in eight years. Richard Gallant won the voting for that position. Bob Rasch retired after six years as State Advocate. Kris Elliott, who was state programs director, will replace him at that position. Rasch will remain active as Director of Region 3 (our region), while Gerry Grillo will continue overseeing the five East Coast councils.

Last year the Knights donated \$190 million to people in need; we’re closing in on our 2,000th ultrasound machine.

Also at the Convention was a presentation on Wheelchair Weekends. While the gift of mobility costs \$500-plus, the Knights buy in bulk, reducing the cost to \$150. A wheelchair drive consists of a three-minute pulpit talk at each of the weekend Masses, followed by Knights at each door distributing information and collecting donations. Which of our three councils will be first to host a Wheelchair Weekend? Every wheelchair directly affects the lives of 10 people. There also were interesting Special Olympics and clean water in Africa presentations.

Looking ahead to next year, rumor has it that the Convention (and mid-year meeting) will return to Orlando next year – possibly to Rosen Shingle Creek.

I am happy to report that we have achieved all of the requirements for Star District. We have reached 200-percent of our attendance goal; all three councils have achieved Star Council; and all of the necessary forms and benefit event requirements have been met. Council 8086 is 2-Star, while Sacred Heart reached 3-Star and Epiphany had a strong May to reach Star Council. To date, 65 councils in the state reached Star Council – Supreme defines success as achieving Star Council.

The next step is the organizational meeting on June 27, for District Deputies. We will report back to our councils as the District Organizational Meeting. We are again joining with Districts 18 (Daytona/Ormond) and District 19 (West Volusia) at our regional organizational meeting, at Our Lady of Hope on Saturday, July 19, at 9 a.m. Key officers – especially new officers – are urged to attend

I thank you for participating in our second Cor ministry, which takes the summer off. Stay tuned for our plans for the upcoming Columbian Year. Cor was a hot topic at the Convention.

We held a Fourth Degree Exemplification on Saturday (June 14) at St. Ignatius Loyola Cathedral in Palm Beach Gardens, with around 130 candidates (first in the nation to meet the goal of 125) and the annual FAITH banquet tomorrow, at Our Lady of Hope. Epiphany will host the Mother Teresa movie on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Also, D20 will be hosting the new Sacred Heart Icon this November. The Icon travels to Sacred Heart on Nov. 11, then 8086 on Nov. 18 and finally Epiphany on Nov. 25.

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8. Fourth Degree – Sam Tedesco, FN Assembly 2794 reported:

On Saturday July 5th at OLOH, after the 4:00 pm Mass, A Military Rosary will be presented by the Grace and Gather Ministry, followed by a fellowship gathering in the parish center of OLOH. Please pray for our new Assembly 2794 officers that will take the helm July 1, 2025. God Bless them. Also, I want to thank all of you who said a prayer or two for the healing of my prostate cancer. The prayers are being heard, but there is still a long row to hoe before me. So, I ask you to please continue saying those prayers or two. Thank you and God Bless.

Confidentiality Notice: These minutes and any attachments may contain confidential, propriety or legally privileged information and are intended for the use of Fr. Downey Council members. These minutes and the information contained therein are not to be shared with anyone who is not a member of good standing of the Knights of Columbus without written permission of the Grand Knight. Any other sharing or distribution of these minutes is prohibited. Thank you.

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10. Good of the Order -

Lecturer Deacon Tom Meyer's Reflection:

How many of you are dog lovers?

Did you know that the pet industry in the United States is valued at over \$150 billion today? This includes expenditures on pet food, supplies, vet care, and other services. And that number is expected to grow 7.5% annually for the unseen future. Crazy!

We love our pets, especially our dogs. In fact, dogs are the most popular pet throughout the world. And they don't just eat the scraps that fall from our tables, they share our homes, our beds, and we excuse them when they chew up our furniture, among other things. Many people give their dogs more time and attention than they give to God.

But in Jesus time it was different. People had an entirely different view of dogs. At that time in history dogs didn't enjoy the same status as they do today in our culture. Dogs were not the adorable pets they are today. There was no PETA or any animal rights organizations to call out crimes against them. Dogs had a very low status in ancient Israel. When I think of my own dogs and what it is about them, I love so much, I think about their characteristics that endear them to me and how these qualities should translate to my faith, to my devotional life.

A dog is **faithful**. No matter what we do or say to them, they always love us. They wait for us to return when we leave them. A dog is always excited to see us when we've been away. They look at us with eyes of devotion. We are the master for whom they would do anything. Are we as faithful to our Christian beliefs as our dogs are to us?

A dog is **obedient**. At least the well-trained ones are. It doesn't take more than a simple treat to get and keep a dog's attention. They do what we tell them to do and when we tell them to do it.

This is endearing to us, just as it pleases God when we are obedient to his teachings, the teachings of his church and the demands of our faith.

Dogs are **grateful**. When we give them our attention and love, they return it by giving us their undivided attention and their grateful gaze. Are we as grateful to God for all he has done for us, as our dogs are to us?

Finally, a dog is **persistent**. When a dog wants something, it lets us know and won't stop asking until it either gets what it wants or we command it to go away. And even if we tell a dog to go away, it will come back later to ask again. Are we persistent in our prayer life as a dog is when it wants something? We can all learn a great deal about faithfulness, obedience, gratitude and persistence from our dogs. But, God loves us so much more than we love our dogs and that's a lot.

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Officers & Assistants – Fraternal Year 2025 – 2026

Office

Grand Knight	Chris Hennessy	c.hennessy@comcast.net
Deputy Grand Knight	Nick Stuart	nstuart57@yahoo.com
Assistant to DGK	(not assigned yet)	
Chancellor	Patrick Clark	clarkp208@gmail.com
Assistant to Chancellor	(not assigned yet)	
Recorder	John Gawdun	trottinghorse@outlook.com
Assistant to Recorder	John Ekblom	ekblomj@hotmail.com
Treasurer	David Jenkins	dtjenkin@volusia.k12.fl.us
Assistant to Treasurer	Joseph Adamick	josephwadamick0416@gmail.com
Advocate	John Martens	johnnsb@hotmail.com
Warden	Dan Moran	dmoran@next-act.com
Inside Guard #1	Tim Meade	timpmeade@gmail.com
Inside Guard #2	Mark Burke	markaburke@gmail.com
Outside Guard #1	Jared Burke	jmb13@cfl.rr.com
Outside Guard #2	Don Frank	donefrank@gmail.com
3 – year Trustee	Shane Harrington	inshane@aol.com
2 – year Trustee	Joseph Adamick	josephwadamick0416@gmail.com
1 – year Trustee	Luc Labreche	llabreche28@gmail.com

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Financial Secretary	Roland Medeiros	roro300t@gmail.com
Lecturer	Deacon Tom Meyer	guidetohome@live.com
Chaplain	Fr. Aldrin Nunes	nunesaldrin@yahoo.co.in
Webmaster	Mark Cerretani	info@knights4934.com
Financial Advisor	Jerry Williams	jerryrowilliams@gmail.com

Directors:

Membership Director	Patrick Clark	clarkp208@gmail.com
<u>Faith in Action Programs</u>		
Program Director	Nick Stuart	nstuart57@yahoo.com
Assistant Program Director	<i>(not assigned yet)</i>	
Faith Director	Stephen Higgs	stephenhiggs176@gmail.com
Assistant Faith Director	<i>(not assigned yet)</i>	
Family Director	Dan Moran	dmoran@next-act.com
Assistant Family Director	<i>(not assigned yet)</i>	
Community Director	Nick Stuart	nstuart57@yahoo.com
Asst. Community Director	Glenn Strobl	glenn.strobl@sbcglobal.net
Life Director	Richard Ross	rjross5713@gmail.com
Assistant Life Director	Tim Meade	timpmeade@gmail.com