

Knights of Columbus
Father Downey Council #4934
Council Members Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 17, 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: **(0)**
- Number of guests in attendance: **(4)**
- Dignitaries in attendance: **(1)**
- Members reciting the rosary before the meeting: **(35)**

2. Officers Reports:

- **Chaplain's Message** – 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 11:00 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. Also, at Saint Gerard on Fridays at 2:00 pm there is a Holy Hour of Silent Meditation with scripture readings from the Saints followed by the Stations of the Cross. Please try to attend and spend a few hours with Jesus, experiencing his sacrifice for us so we have a means for the forgiveness of our sins. Penance Service at Sacred Heart April 10th 6:00 pm.
- **District Deputy** – John O'Malley presented a comprehensive report on all the activities planned or being planned in our district. See page **8**.
- **Deputy Grand Knight** – Chris Hennessy gave the floor to Dan Moran:
 - Brothers Dan, reported the 2025 600 Club is now in motion, to date only 205 cards have been sold with only 36 days left to sell, maybe it's time to step outside the box and hit family & friends explaining how important this fundraiser is to the charities we support. Tell them there are payouts of \$100 & \$200 each month for (9) months with a grand prize of \$1,000 to be drawn at our January spaghetti and meat-da-ball dinner. \$50 gift cards to top (3) sellers. Remember to print your name on the stub so you get credit for ALL the cards you sell.

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- With Lent having begun on Ash Wednesday, March 5th “**40 for Life**” has been brought to life once again for the needs of the Pregnancy Crisis Center of Daytona Beach. You can pledge a dollar a day for 40 days or provide \$40 worth of baby items for the Pregnancy Crisis Center, your choice. A printed “T” shirt comes along with your pledge.
- 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, and put into the **good-of-the-order** safe.
- **Chancellor** – Patrick Clark, last month introduced the nominating committee made up of himself, John Martens Treasurer and me, Recorder. Our council has taken on several new members during this Fraternal Year with varied backgrounds that would fit nicely into the duty of the offices looking to be filled. Please step up and make yourself known that you would like to be an officer. You will be mentored all the way.
 - A continued reminder from previous meetings to all members who want to look spiffy, new emblmed shirts 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 February 17, 2025, **Members Meetings**, which were approved as **written**.
- **Treasurer** –John Martens:
 - As of March 10, 2025, the primary checkbook balance was **\$19,496.45**.
 - As of March 10, 2025, the secondary checkbook for CC purchases balance was **\$1,340.77**.
 - All bills are paid.
- **Financial Secretary** – Roland Medeiros reported:
 - This is an important repeat by our DGK from last month; The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity response by our council was very poor, making it necessary for the DGK 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.
 - Submitted tax form 990, no monies owed.

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- A continuous reminder from previous meetings is that there are still dues that are unpaid 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.
[If you find yourself in a financial bind due to health issues, unemployment or other unforeseen financial obligations and cannot find the extra money to pay your dues please explain your situation in writing addressed to the Grand Knight who will place it before the officers for a decision. Thank you.] made known by John Gawdun
- **Council's Financial Advisor** – Jerome Williams had nothing to report.
- **Advocate** – Frank McCarron was on excused leave.
- **SVdP Watchdog** - Frank McCarron was on excused leave.
- **Warden** – Shane Harrington had nothing to report.
- **Captain of Knights on Bikes Council 4934** – Shane Harrington reported that the Knights on Bikes, 4934 participated in a “Silver Rose” ride on March 15th, beginning at the Holy Spirit Church in Mims where they received a “hand-off” of the “Silver Rose” with a “drop-off” at Saint Gerard Mission Church in Edgewater where it was on display prior to the 4:30 Mass. Brother Knight David Jenkins volunteered to be our ambassador to receive and be responsible for the “Silver Rose” while at Saint Gerard. The “Silver Rose” has never been touched by human hands, white gloves must be adorned before handling said rose. There was a nice turn out of Knights and parishioners before the Mass and for the short prayer service after Mass. After that the “Silver Rose” was wrapped to begin its journey to OLOH in Port Orange. We should all be proud of our Knights on Bikes, 4934 in making history. Great job.
- **Trustees** –3-year Robert Hook, 1-year Jerry Williams reported all bank statements reconciled. 2-year John Pitera, Sr. was on excused leave.
- **Web Master** – Mark Cerretani reported:
 - From past 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.

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3. Membership Report – Patrick Clark reported:

- One new candidate **Dr. Joseph Beissel, Jr.** was voted for acceptance by our council.
 - ❖ Motion brought to floor by: Patrick Clark
 - ❖ Motion 2nd by: John Ekblom
 - ❖ Motion approved

- One new candidate **Greg Flick** was voted for acceptance by our council.
 - ❖ Motion brought to floor by: Patrick Clark
 - ❖ Motion 2nd by: Jerry Williams
 - ❖ Motion approved

- A returnee **Roger Bilodeau** was voted for acceptance by our council.
 - ❖ Motion brought to floor by: Patrick Clark
 - ❖ Motion 2nd by: Tim Meade
 - ❖ Motion approved

4. Faith in Action Programs – Program Director, Chris Hennessy

A reminder from the Recorder: 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 on excused leave:
Reported by the Grand Knight: An important monthly reminder that every Saturday between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm “Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament” is open to all in the Chapel. Also see the bulletin for bible study groups mornings and evenings.

- **Family** – Director Patrick Clark had nothing new to report:

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- **Community** – Director Nick Stuart reported:
 - Next Community Hot Meals Program (CHMP) will be March 31st. The CHMP elite team is headed by Brother Nick Stuart, Director, with elite team members supervising preparation are Brother's Eddie Grambo & Glenn Strobel, "chef's de cuisine." The next CHMP meal is scheduled for May 19th. Yea, it looks like a month off.
 - Also, our annual Fish Fry is in full swing now and will run every Friday through Lent except Good Friday. Need floor help, serving & clean up.
 - A new item on the 2025 agenda will be 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 and Veterans Day weekends for donations only. A preliminary team has been formed with the need for additional members. Additional information forthcoming. Donations will be directed to veteran groups.
 - Tootsie Roll Drive has ended for this year and the donations were just under \$6k, that's a lot of tootsie rolls. John thanked the 27 brothers who volunteered their time to help make this fund raiser a true success. But we thank you John, for putting your supervisory ability to work in scheduling manpower for the many locations you found to accept the Knights and our fundraiser. To take on the responsibility for all the money donated, counted and deposited. For passing out pails, aprons and tootsie rolls to all the volunteers and then making an accounting of all supplies. It is not an easy chore and you handled it well. Thank you again for making it so successful. Remember volunteers, your hours spent passing out tootsie rolls to be logged onto your fraternal activities form.

- **Life** – Director Richard Ross on excused leave to celebrate his wife Trish's birthday. You mean you actually remembered the date this year?
 - So, I thought I should repeat some of the highlights from last month's report from Rich; Laps for Life to be held on May 4th at Our Lady of Hope. More info will follow as time gets closer.
 - *Pregnancy Crisis Center Daytona are in dire need of diapers, size 4, 5 & 6 plus boxes of baby wipes. Donations of these items can be used for the **40 for Life** program.

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

- **C.O.R. Meeting:** March 18, 2025, at OLOH – 6:30 pm
- **1st, 2nd, & 3rd Degree Exemplification** Wed. March 26th at SH, 6:00 pm
- **OLOH Assembly 2794 Meeting:** March 27th, 2025, – 7:00 pm
- **Officers/Planning Meeting** April 14th, 2025, – 2:00 pm
- **Council Members Meeting** April 21st, 2025, – 7:00 pm
- **4th Degree Exemplification** April 26, 2025, at Bradenton.

6. Grand Knight's Talking Points – Leo Decker

- Phil the Box –\$882 received for the month of February.
- Spaghetti Dinner generated \$700 for our Bereavement Ministry
- Volunteers still needed for Monday Bingo, 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm for prep, serve & clean-up.
- 600 Club 2024 – final drawing this meeting.
- 600 Club 2025 drawing begins next month.
- Parish Picnic to be held on Palm Sunday. We have to BBQ a lot of burgers, dogs et cetera. HELP is NEEDED.

7. Field Agent – Jim Booritch, Field Agent was not in attendance:

8. Fourth Degree – Sam Tedesco, Faithful Navigator was not in attendance:

9. not used –

10. Good of the Order -

- **Lecturer's Reflection** – Deacon Tom Meyer's presented a heartfelt report about he and his wife Theresa's experience when he entered the diaconate formation. See Tom's report on page **9**.

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

- Knight of the Month for March 2025 – **Norm Martin**
- Family of the Month for March 2025 – **Jeffery & Annette Leo**

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12. Drawings -

600 Club – 2024 drawing:

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Ticket #

(115) \$50 – Alida Cornelius

(061) \$100 – Marilyn Latta

(328) \$150 – Charlie Hinman

50 / 50 drawing:

March 17, 2025,

Tom Robertson - winner

Winner drawn by David Jenkins

Winners drawn by Pat Clark

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. Grand Knight's Summary – Non given because of the length of the meeting.

15. Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney:

16. "CLOSING CERMONY PER RITUAL"

Meeting was adjourned at **8:13 pm** John Gawdun, Recorder

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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District Deputy – John O'Malley, District 20 report for March 2025

Greetings from Patrick Kelly and Rick Hughes.

Hard to believe that we're coming to the end of the third quarter of the 2024-25 Columbian Year.

Councils need to start preparing for elections. Hopefully, a nominating committee has been selected. Candidates will be announced at the April meeting and published in the newsletter, with elections in May – just in time for the State Convention. DISTRICT 20 COUNCILS ARE ALL IN!

The deadline to vote for delegates to the State Convention is March 31. FS must register the candidates before they can register. Each council votes for two delegates – one preferably the Grand Knight – and two alternates. In a major change, the Convention will be held in Jacksonville on Memorial Day Weekend. After delegates are selected by Financial Secretary, they must register individually. ALL COUNCILS REGISTERED!

It's also time to start wrapping up any loose ends: membership – are you close to your membership goal? Fraternal benefit events – all three councils have two benefit nights, do you have 14 attendees?

It was great to see the Knights coming together at the recent Casino Night here on Feb. 28. The Knights played a major role in raising approximately \$100,000 for Catholic schools in the Eastern Deanery and our endowment.

Coming up Special Olympics on Saturday, April 5, at Mainland High School. Last I checked there were still spots open for bocce.

Our next Cor meeting will be on Tuesday, March 18 at Our Lady of Hope. Cor is open to all Catholic men over 18 – a great opportunity to learn more about our Catholic faith. The new date is because OLOH will host the Nehemiah Assembly of FAITH on Tuesday, March 25. The April meeting will be April 22 at Sacred Heart.

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10. Good of the Order -

Lecturer's Reflection – Deacon Tom Meyer's presentation:

When I entered diaconate formation there were 24 of us men and our wives. After about the first hour of a lot of theological talks, many of the wives were looking at each other as if to say, "what are we doing here?"

But once we had the first course, "History of the Diaconate," it became crystal clear to both husbands and the wives why both partners had to go through formation together. Sad to say, years ago, when only the men went through diaconate formation, a serious problem arose. It created rifts between husbands and wives, with many ending in divorce. Decades ago, the Church failed to recognize the importance of the spouse to be fully informed and supportive of the man's vocation, ensuring a harmonious relationship of his diaconal service with their family life.

Each year as I went through formation, my wife was there right next to me attending classes, retreats, and other activities. She told me that she did in fact enjoy much of it, but was glad she didn't have to take any of the tests or write essays! Occasionally, some of the wives of the ordained deacons who taught some of the courses would take the wives aside and ask them questions to make sure they were still on board with their husbands being here. Our instructors reminded us men, on more than one occasion, that our marriage is our first and foremost vocation. It's probably the most visible vocation that can be found in the world. It's something that should inspire awe and wonder.

Even in the last year before ordination, together as a couple, we met with the bishop, almost all his questions were directed at my wife to make sure she was good with my being ordained. If there was any hesitation or a no, diaconate formation was over. That's how important a marriage should be respected.

For all of us, marriage should be our first vocation right behind our love of God, which of course, is first and foremost. Our instructors also constantly reminded us of how our priorities should be in our minds; God first, next family, work, and then ministry. When those of us who are married, the Church views marriage covenant as a sacred bond, and the wife is considered an equal partner in the sacrament of matrimony. We are seen as living examples of fidelity and indissolubility in Christian marriage, a sign of God's love for the Church and the world. Together we lead each other to holiness and help each other to one day get to heaven.