



Knights of Columbus

Fr. Hennepin Province
Michigan District 1

Mark Brezenski
District Master

Minutes from the April 9, 2022, Spring Biennial District Meeting

Opening Ceremonies

- Meeting was called to order at 10:02AM at Fr. Kramer Hall, 7400 Bernice St, Centerline, MI.
- Opening prayer was led by District Marshal George Roumaya.
- District Sr. Marshal Tom Schmidt led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Dignitaries that were present were introduced (see the list at the end of the minutes).
- The roll call of attending Assemblies was taken (see table at end of minutes).
- The meeting minutes from the 2022 Fall Harvest District meeting were approved as written.

Communications

- Two items were put on each table, courtesy of SK Bob Greening
 - Michigan Veterans Home, Chesterfield Twp
 - Giana House Pregnancy and Parenting Residence, Eastpoint
- Both should be considered as charities worthy of our contributions
- Gene's assembly (1536) did have a charity to which they were contributing; however, the charity appears to have some internal issues and did not cash the last check despite 3 phone calls and a visit encouraging them to take action

Master's Report (Mark Brezenski)

Opening Remarks

- This is the last district meeting for which Mark will be master
- Sometimes time flies and sometimes it seems to go slowly
- Four years ago the district started well

Membership

- Prior to the pandemic, we had exemplifications at DeCarlo's, with pretty good numbers for new Sir Knights
- The Pandemic hit, and we all took a hit
- The third year was fantastic – we just missed meeting the district goal of 175 or 176, and we were in the high 160's
- All third-year exemplifications were virtual, but the amount of membership gained was very good
- This past year new membership has fallen off a bit
- We still have a couple of upcoming virtual exemplifications for anyone that would like to go through but could not
- Expect to finish the year with about 100 new members
- Much thanks for everyone's recruiting efforts and for keeping your assemblies going

Honor Guard

- Seem to be more people buying the uniform
- It is slow but it is picking up
- Four years ago, the new uniform came in, we lost a lot of honor guard, then the pandemic hit, and that didn't help
- Now starting to see an uptic
- Had four Color Corps training – 2 on the east side and two on the west side
- Saw a lot of new faces, which is nice
- Please continue to encourage your assembly's membership to join the color corps

Programs

- We are hearing that programs are starting to come back
- If anyone has questions or ideas on what assemblies can do feel free to contact Mark
- Can also talk to the people at your table at lunch to get some ideas

Chalices

- We talked about chalices at the Fall Harvest
- There was a place in Port Huron that had a line on dispositioning chalices (a number of locations were discussed at Fall Harvest and are in the minutes)
- It might have been Propagation of the Faith
- Terry Carl had a lead; the District Master will contact Terry for the lead and will send it to the FN's
- Fr. Muma is at a northern Detroit Diocese and he takes them to Africa (Mark will get contact info after the meeting) [Note: Fr. Muma is at SS. Peter and Paul in North Branch, MI]
- At the last meeting talked about a place called PIME Missionaries near Mound Rd and 17 Mile (the contact information will be sent to Mark; PIME: Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, mentioned at the Fall Harvest)
- Another contact is Shelby Sands at Missions International (mentioned at the Fall Harvest)

Communication

- Please contact Mark if you FN's and comptrollers are NOT receiving the Michigan KofC emails
- Information received in those emails should be sent to assembly members
- The website is updated regularly, especially with color corps assignments and when forms are due
- Resolutions are upcoming
- Mark forwarded to all the FN's an email he received from the VSM
- Note that regarding some of the contents of the email, nothing has been finalized regarding any proposed baldric and beret changes
- At one of the winter meetings, one of the Supreme representatives said they knew the rollout of the new uniform did not go well, but we need to get over it and move forward

Upcoming Exemplification

- DeCarlo's was very convenient, but they are now closed and we need to find new venues
- In September we were at Knight Club in Marysville
 - We were still coming out of Covid, and we didn't know what to expect
 - The State Deputy gave us a great deal and allowed us to cancel if we needed to
 - Of course, for west side people, it was a long drive
- In March we were at Monaghan KofC Hall in Livonia

- Of course, the east side guys felt this was a long drive
- With that in mind, does anyone know a facility where we might be able to have the next exemplification?
 - DeCarlo's was central and had lots of space and they knew what we needed
 - Looking at September 17 or September 24 (the State Deputy is being installed on September 10, which is the day we would normally be looking at)
 - If we can't find a new place, we will probably go to Monaghan again
 - We can't wait until August to schedule – we need to do it now
 - American Polish Cultural Center at 15 Mile and Dequinder
 - Ukrainian Cultural Center, 696 and Ryan
 - Sacred Heart Major Seminary
 - Premier Center at 16 Mile and Groesbeck
 - We need a large room for the exemplification, a large room for dinner (sometimes these can be the same, depending on logistics), a room for the ladies and a room for the dignitaries, with a suggestion for a good banquet service
 - SS. Cyril and Methodius at Ryan and 18 Mile
 - The master will work on these and will let people know what is scheduled
- Question: Is there consideration for having one on the east side and one on the west side (two per year)?
 - We did that this past year (though the east side was in Marysville)
 - In Livonia we had 32 exemplified (should have had 35 or 36 but had no shows)
 - Central location seems to be preferred
 - There was a bit of discussion about a multi-day event (which has not been done in years); the district master indicated we might try having a local hotel with hospitality the night before at an upcoming exemplification; we'll make a decision on that moving forward
 - Perhaps we should have a fundraiser for the district master to help put on a longer event and invite third degree people to participate – maybe even have a fundraising committee

Provincial Meeting

- Our VSM, Ed Ponder, would like to restart Provincial meetings
- Thinking of the Toledo Area, or perhaps Monroe County
- Assemblies need to think about if they would send people
- Over the last few years when we had Provincial meetings, attendance was going down dramatically
- Don't really know why attendance was going down

From the State Deputy

- Walter could not attend today because of other commitments
- The State Deputy send his greetings to the District
- Walter wanted to encourage a presence at council meetings by the Fourth Degree; not that it does not have to be the FN

From the District Friar

- Fr. Eric send his greetings and said he enjoyed his four years as District Friar
- Fr. Eric could not join us today as he had Mass this morning followed by two baptisms

Thank you from the District Master for keeping assemblies moving through pandemic

Awards

- Note that awards would normally come in the fall but they were very late in coming

- Civic Awards
 - 478 St. John Neumann
 - 484 Richard Cardinal Cushing
 - 2149 St. Michael the Archangel
 - 2599 Sacred Heart
- Civic and Star Assembly
 - 482 Bishop Michael Gallagher
 - 1536 Pope John XXIII
 - 1839 Blessed Virgin Mary
 - 3392 Fr. Vincent Capodanno

VAVS Report – SK Dennis Lipski

- Every quarter, reports to the Michigan VAVS Coordinator our District 1 volunteer efforts impacting veterans
- This includes all the efforts in the area, including any volunteer activities at the VA Hospital
- This past quarter, with 31 assemblies, only 6 assemblies reported activities
- It is difficult to believe that most assemblies don't do anything for veterans; more than likely they are not recording or reporting the activities
- Please contact me if you have any questions

Report from the Committee on Resolutions

- Each of the 23 assemblies that are present has an envelope that has little squares
 - When a vote is called, each square represents a vote the assembly can cast
- Three people were on the committee
- We have two resolutions, we will deal with them separately
- Resolution 1 is to change the Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremonial from Secret to Not Secret
 - The Resolution Committee unanimously agreed that this resolution should be approved and sent to the VSM
 - This would allow family members to observe the exemplification ceremony
 - There was a motion to approve and a second
 - Discussion:
 - This is not a vote for a new exemplification
 - There is a new exemplification being developed, but we do not have it yet
 - The resolution passed unanimously
- Resolution 2 is to allow a name badge on the Fourth Degree Uniform under certain circumstances
 - The Resolution Committee is not in unanimous agreement to approve and forward for the following reasons:
 - While it contains sufficient detail for size, placement and colors, it does NOT contain an example or diagram nor does it contain sufficient detail regarding the text to be put on the badge
 - This provides for too much room for interpretation
 - If the resolution were modified or contain a graphical representation, they felt it could be approved and forwarded
 - The District Master stated that the VSM would accept the resolution if it contained an amendment regarding the size of the lettering.
 - A motion to approve the resolution with an amendment regarding the badge contents or a diagram thereof was made a seconded
 - Discussion:

- The discussion of this was lengthy, far ranging and covered topics including contents of the badge (name, assembly name, assembly number, position(s) held) as well as the need for the Fourth Degree emblem; it is fair to say there was not high agreement on what, other than the Sir Knight's name, should be on the badge
- It was pointed out that the Fourth Degree emblem is on the sport coat and would be just below the name badge, so there would be no need
- There was a suggestion that the name badge should be on the opposite side of the jacket, i.e., not above the emblem
- A motion to table the resolution and a second
- The motion to table the resolution was approved and the resolution was tabled

Unfinished Business

- There is no unfinished business

New Business

Selection of three candidates for District Master

- The District Master's last day is August 31, 2022
- Three candidates need to be selected for consideration
 - Gene Suchyta was nominated and accepted the nomination
 - Matt Elias was nominated and accepted the nomination
 - Mark Palmer was nominated and declined the nomination
 - George Roumaya was nominated and declined the nomination
 - Jon Schnellbacher was nominated and declined the nomination
 - Tom Parsch was nominated and accepted the nomination
- Note that for those that accepted there is paperwork that needs to be completed

Dignitary Remarks

Frank Pawelak, Master Emeritus

- In the coming days when you meet with your family and friends, please pray them as they pray for you

John Hundiak, State Special Olympics Chair and Former District Master

- For the DD's in the room, Supreme Billing is now going out only through Member Management
 - If they are not on Member Management, they likely have not received the billing for, and probably have not paid, *per capita*
 - There is a list going to the State Deputy that lists councils that cannot go to the State Convention as they have not paid
 - Please remind the councils
- Any assembly billing will also be coming through Member Management, so please use it!
- A Fall Provincial was talked about...
 - Please send John an email with **what would entice you to come to a provincial meeting...** Don't be concerned about location, be more concerned about content and information, training, speakers, awards, that kind of stuff
 - The goal is to make a Provincial Meeting meaningful for Fourth Degree membership
 - Feel free to copy the FVSM as well as the District Master on any emails you send
- Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies – All KofC members are invited (not just Sir Knights), they will be in Mount Pleasant on June 2, details are being ironed out
- Living Rosary on May 14 in Lansing, MI – again, all knights are invited

- Assemblies exist to do patriotic programs, support veterans, AND to support councils and their social events
- John was at two funerals this past year, and is experiencing a situation with a member in Texas that passed away and they can't get any Color Corps to the funeral
- We don't realize how fortunate we are to be able to support our members with Color Corps; family members of the deceased appreciate our presence, not only Color Corps, but council members as well
- Congratulations to our future former District Master who has weathered the uniform change as well as the pandemic

Clifford Wasmund, Former Vice Supreme Master

- Attended an assembly meeting in The Villages this past year
 - Only had maybe a dozen people
 - Didn't talk about programs and didn't seem to have any
 - It felt much like a council
- We are fortunate to be Patriotic Degree in Michigan, and our assemblies have programs that help veterans and others
- Could Dennis please continue to send reminders to assemblies regarding VAVS hours
- Mark sent an email stating our membership quota was reduced from 7% to 5%; please take that back to your assemblies and councils
- State Convention – please bring your uniform as we will need Color Corps for the Living Rosary because of pandemic, cost and other factors
- State Officer installation is September 10; please consider falling out – it will be at Assumption Grotto in Detroit with dinner at the Detroit Yacht Club and your service would be appreciated
- I appreciate everything you do, and it is great to be able to brag about what we do

Questions from the Floor

- How many Color Corps requests have come from councils recently?
 - One had four, quite a few have had more
 - Apparently there have not been many requests from councils in the northern portion of our District
 - Lots of funerals
 - Some Confirmations
 - Feedback that is being received is that there are not enough Sir Knights with the new uniform to “make a statement”
 - Also having difficulty getting people to show up
 - Suggestion was to get support from more assemblies to increase the number of people available
 - Drive time in the northern area can be a detriment
 - In the Metro Detroit area, most assemblies are pretty good about helping out
 - Really need people to show up and help out others; if they are not willing, then asking for help is problematic
 - Downriver is the same problem, but the few that are down there try to support each other and they ask for support from some of the other assemblies a little further away
- How do we jump start the engine and get more Color Corps
 - Need to ask
 - Sometimes the issue needs to be pushed
 - One assembly pays for about half of the uniform and also have an armory

- For some assemblies, it seems to be getting better – there seems to be more people interested in joining the Color Corps
- Can Fourth Degree Holy Cross donations be sent to the new Hope Center in Ann Arbor (as opposed to Religious Education)?
 - Mark will check with Bob Godi
- Might we want to add Warriors to Lourdes to the who to send checks list?
 - Talk to Gene afterwards and he will tell you to where to send the check
- Is it Honor Guard or Color Corps?
 - Yes – read the book

Good of the Order

- Today is April, 9, 2022, National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day
 - There is a POW/MIA Day in the fall
 - Today is the day we recognize those that were Prisoners of War that came back are no longer a POW or MIA.
 - This day was created around WW2 to specifically recognize those that survived the Bataan Death March.
 - The Vietnam ar also had a lot of POW's and MIA's; this is a great day to recognize any of them form any war
- A couple of months ago the KofC was at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral
 - The Knights of Malta was also there; the Archbishop recognized them, but not the Sir Knights
 - This serves as a recognition of those that participated
- Thanks to those who in the room that served in the Armed Forces
- Prayer Requests
 - Sue Flores, wife of Deacon Flores
 - Repose of the soul of Deacon SK Gene Kowalski
 - Fr. Joe Horn, Pastor, Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
 - Arlene Marcetti and Tom Marcetti, PSD
 - Fr. Ron Victor, Pastor, St. Isadore
 - Fr. Steve Wertanen, Pastor, St. Anastasia
 - Repose of the souls of Sir Knights Tony Mantua and Ted Grady, both PFN
 - Mike Stefanik

Closing Ceremonies

- District Secretary Gene Suchyta led the district in a closing Prayer the Sub Tuum.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58AM

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Suchyta, District Secretary

Dignitaries in Attendance

FVSM Clifford Wasmund

MFD Mark Brezenski

Marshal Tom Schmidt

Marshal George Roumaya

FMFD John Hundiak

FMFD Frank Pawelak

Assembly #	Assembly Name	Members In Attendance
0470	Detroit Cardinal Mercier	Y
0475	Msgr. Francis F. Van Antwerp	Y
0477	A.X.M. Sharpe	Y
0478	St. John Neumann	
0479	Babylon (Inactive)	
0480	Richmond	Y
0481	Notre Dame (Inactive)	
0482	Bishop Michael Gallagher	Y
0483	Msgr. Van Dyke	Y
0484	Richard Cardinal Cushing	Y
0488	Raisin River	Y
0490	Bishop Kelley	Y
0492	Msgr. Schulte	Y
0515	Cardinal Mercier (Inactive)	
0516	Lakeshore (Inactive)	
0519	Fr. Dolan (Inactive)	
0520	Monsignor Hunt	
0521	Father Solanus Casey	Y
1536	Pope John XXIII	Y
1622	Holy Cross	Y
1795	Rev. Paul M. Onderbeke	
1839	Blessed Virgin Mary	Y
1901	Father Frank Walsh (Inactive)	
1963	Msgr. Clement H. Kern	Y
2032	Edward Cardinal Mooney	Y
2136	St. Francis of Assisi	Y
2149	St. Michael the Archangel	Y
2304	Father John L. Hubert (Inactive)	
2521	Father John R. Hogan	
2599	Sacred Heart	Y
2696	St. Paul on the Lake	Y
2804	St. Mary of the Lake	
2942	Pope John Paul II	
3057	Bishop Schoehnerr	
3082	Divine Mercy	Y
3099	Father John A. Hardon, S.J.	Y
3392	Father Vincent Capodanno	Y
3408	St. George Chaldean	
	Assemblies:	31
	Assemblies In Attendance:	23
	Assemblies Not In Attendance:	8