

**2020 Alabama State Council Knights of Columbus**  
**Virtual Organizational Meeting Minutes**  
**July 11, 2020**

**Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:01am by Joe Flaherty, State Deputy.

**Opening Prayer:** Opening prayer was offered by Father Jim Hedderman, State Chaplain.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge of allegiance was led by Pete Parrish, PSD, DM.

**State Chaplain Remarks:**

Fr. Hedderman's remarks centered around the Beatification of Fr. McGivney and the miracle that was confirmed regarding the healing of baby Schachle in Tennessee. "In this day and age we still have the issue of denying legal personhood to a baby in the womb," he said. The unborn Schachle was given "no hope" - the combination of fetal hydrops and Down syndrome meant that he had no chance of survival. Asking Fr. McGivney for his intercession was a no-brainer for the Schachle family. Daniel works for the Knights of Columbus and had previously been Grand Knight of his local council.

Michael McGivney Schachle was born 2 months premature, but the fetal hydrops was miraculously gone. Today he is a healthy 5-year-old, though he does have Downs Syndrome. Fr Hedderman encouraged participants to continue to invoke Fr. McGivney's intercession to help us resolve the problems we encounter in our lives.

**Supreme Council Presentation - Address from Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson**

Brother Ryan Marks played the video address by Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight and that was provided by the Supreme Council. The video will be hosted on the Alabama State Council website for future reference.

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**Supreme Council Presentation - Supreme Representative Remarks:**

Jose Jimenez, Territorial Growth Director provided remarks relative to changes at the Supreme Office. His set of slides will be hosted on the Alabama State Council website for future reference.

**State Deputy Remarks:**

- Joe Flaherty offered all participants his cordial greeting followed by a special thank you to all past officers for their hard work and diligence in keeping the State of Alabama in great shape during the last fraternal year.
- The State Deputy also offered his appreciation to Brother Jason Esteve, IPSD for an outstanding job. He congratulated Brother Esteve on the establishment of a new council at Mercy Parish in Madison, AL.
- The State Deputy expressed his thanks to all the new state officers for having the confidence in his leadership to lead the State. He added that if we remain united there is little that we cannot accomplish.
- The State Deputy made mention of all his goals for the coming year and they are briefly summarized below:
  - Plan to visit all of the councils in the state beginning with the ones that did not recruit a single member the previous fraternal year.
  - Plan to implement an incentive program to encourage councils to meet their goals.
  - Plan to work closely with the Membership Director to make sure the we meet all membership goals and reestablish a recruitment culture across the state.
  - Plan to implement bi-monthly state meetings with State Officers.
  - Plan to host at a minimum quarterly DD meetings.
  - Develop a communications plan.

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- Lastly the State Deputy announced his theme for the coming fraternal year, “Leave no neighbor behind and the Peace of Jesus be with you.”

**Supreme Council Presentation - Supreme Agency and Marketing Presentation:**

Robert Marlow provided remarks related to the Order’s insurance program. His set of slides will be hosted on the Alabama State Council website for future reference.

**General Agent Remarks:**

- The State of Alabama General Agent, Brother John Stice provided his remarks related to the Insurance program in the State of Alabama. Brother Stice, mentioned that he has been an agent in Alabama for 21 years. John’s comments covered a variety of topics from his personal experience with the Schachle’s, he mentioned with pride his team members who cover the state of Alabama and Mississippi, and he spent a few minutes promoting the e-membership program as a viable solution to growing the Order.
- Insurance Field Agent, Brother Chris Rickling provided information on the implementation of the Fraternal Benefits Nights, which councils will now need to host 2 per year in order to make Star Council in lieu of meeting an insurance quota. He mentioned that he will be putting out some detailed information related on how to do this. Lastly, he discussed that he hosted a successful benefit night event at Prince of Peace.

**10 Minute break:**

**Roll Call:**

State Secretary, Danny Garcia reported that all State Officers and the State Chaplain are present. Brother Ryan Marks provided a roll call by district of all councils that have logged in to the virtual meeting. This log is available on the State website.

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**Minutes of Last Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting have been posted to the website. State Secretary Garcia asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted.

*Motion: Council 13152 made a motion to accept the minutes as posted, and it was properly seconded. Motion was approved by the membership.*

**Communications:**

State Secretary Garcia reported that two communications were received from Archbishop Rodi and Bishop Baker. Both sincerely thanked the State Council for the Priesthood Scholarship checks provided by the State to support seminarians in the Archdiocese of Mobile and Diocese of Birmingham.

**State Council Treasurer's Report:**

State Secretary Garcia provided a detailed end of year financial status of the State Council with all accounts briefed. He reported that the State Treasurer, Jack Hahn has been successfully transitioned as the new Treasurer. Also reported was that Jamie Waldrop our CPA has been contacted relative to providing an audit for the last fraternal year. A 2021 balanced budget was also developed and provided to the finance committee for their review and presentation to the State Council membership.

**Alabama State Council Finance Committee Report:**

Pete Parrish introduced the new Finance Committee members and stated that he (Pete Parrish) was elected as Chair. He confirmed that the Finance Committee reviewed all the financial reports and found them to be acceptable. Lastly, he thanked the outgoing Treasurer and said that he and the committee look forward to working with the new Treasurer.

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**Supreme Council Presentation - Supreme Membership Presentation:**

Mark McMullens offered a report that focused on the importance of membership, the keys to recruiting, strengthening fraternal and spiritual support, and strategies to implement for a fast start. His presentation is available through the State Council website.

**Membership Director Report:**

Pete Parrish, Membership Director reported that his responsibility will include helping councils recruit new members. He plans to support and work with the State Deputy to help meet our State goals and help the state earn the Circle of Honor award.

State Deputy Flaherty provided a detailed look at his goals for the coming year and his planned incentives for councils and DDs achieving their goals. The presentation slides are provided on the State Council website for future reference.

**Lunch Break:**

**Supreme Council Presentation - Jonathan Reyes Evangelization and Faith Formation Presentation**

Supreme VP for Evangelization and Faith Formation presentation regarding the issue of people leaving the church and what we need to do to curb the exit.

Supreme has been working on focusing on the domestic church and a new focus on the family. Jonathan spoke in depth of the new Faith in Action programs and the importance of council integrating these programs in their fraternal year.

Jonathan also mentioned the Leave No Neighbor Behind Program. This presentation is available on the State Council website for future reference.

**Program Director Report:**

- Brother Steve Koach, PSD gave a brief introduction. Steve provided a set of slides on the Faith In Action Program. He said that without good programs

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we cannot attract new members and so programs and membership go hand in hand.

- His slides touched on each of the 4 facets of the Faith In Action Program. He added that Brother Reyes had mentioned much of what he was going to say.
- He introduced each of the 4 directors for the 2020-2021 fraternal year:
  - Deacon John Cooper (Faith),
  - Shane McKenny (Family),
  - Maurice DuPont, PSD (Community),
  - Skip Gentle, PSD (Life).
  - Within each of these areas there are sub chairs.
- He informed all meeting attendees on the available resources for implementing these programs.
- We do things because we love the church and we love our brothers. We have a need to take care of each other. Awards is a good way to show your members that your efforts are not neglected but are being recognized.
- We will have the same awards as previous years.
  - SD winner,
  - SD runner-up
  - Supreme Award
  - Knight of the Year
  - Youth of the Year
  - Family of the year
- Steve ended his presentation by saying that all award applications will be due 45 days prior to the State Convention. Forms and schedule will be posted on the State Website.

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**Faith Director Report - Deacon John Cooper**

Brief report of introduction. He spoke about evangelization and to be on fire for the faith. He will assist councils in igniting the fire for the faith and it all begins with prayer. Promote daily Mass and Confession, Catholic conferences, Into the Breach. 24/7 for anyone who needs him.

**Family Director Report – Shane McKenny**

No Report

**Community – Maurice DuPont, PSD**

No Report

**Life Director – Skip Gentle, PSD**

- Considers it be a great honor to be the Life Director.
- Reached out to Brother Lee John Bruno for assistance and received a list of where the 31 Ultrasound units are currently located across the state.
- Skip made mention of the impact that the machines are having by saying that one location sees between 1000-1100 clients per year and they save approx. 80% of babies. When they hear that heartbeat, the mothers change their minds forever.
- Waiting for approval at Clanton and one in Demopolis. Asking each council to donate \$2 per member per year. Please send donations to Jack Hahn State Treasurer.

**Supreme Council Presentation - Fraternal Operations Presentation by Thomas McCaffrey**

- Thomas is working on simplifying fraternal operations to make things easier for all councils.
- Challenges – companies shut down, people out of work, social unrest across the country, families stressed.
- We must take advantage of technologies to stay engaged.

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- Pandemic may be with us for an uncertain period of time. We must learn to live with the pandemic while protecting everyone.
- We need to help churches reopen and help evangelize the faith and build the domestic church. The situation is different all over the country.
- Suggestions to follow:
  1. Follow all Civil, County, and State Rules
  2. Avoid unnecessary travel
  3. Take measures to protect members
  4. Offer digital options to members re meetings
  5. Implement entry control
  6. Use hand sanitizer and disinfectants and masks
- Making things easier for all members through the implementation of:
  - Online exemplifications
  - New website
  - On-demand ceremonials
  - No Supreme Per Capita for this fraternal year
  - Tools, webinars, use of ceremonials, 185, 365, 1728.
- Remarks have been posted on State website for future reference.

**Supreme Council Presentation - Supreme Representative Jose Jimenez**

Ceremonial available on weekly basis. Members can take the degree at their leisure in English, Spanish, and French. Lots of information given to you today. Please don't be overwhelmed. Presentations are available on the website. DDs challenge your councils to not only recruit but to do charitable works. Remarks have been posted on State website for future reference.

**Intellectual Disabilities Drive Chairman Report:**

- Ron reported that he has been doing this for 26 years and through 13 State Deputies.



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- We currently face the biggest challenge that we have ever had. How do we solicit donations from the public during these times?
- Mentioned examples that Council 10232 has been doing to expand the and grow the ID drive – road race, handy man jobs for a donation, cookouts.
- Ron also encouraged councils to ask for donations from companies to help support the ID drive. All the forms are available of state website.
- Ron needs Chairman information ASAP.

**Priesthood Scholarship Fund Report:**

Brother Jason Esteve is leading the effort for the PSF. Researching the fund and came upon an article from 2004. The article talked about the state supporting the triple nickel program and the Christopher Fund which had \$40,000.00 in the corpus at the time. Today we have over \$200K in the Christopher Fund. Annually Supreme provides a dividend for our corpus. Please consider donating \$5.55 per member for the PSF. Since Supreme is not collecting per capita this year please consider redirecting this amount to the PSF. Jason also reported that this past year over \$6300 had been given to each bishop for the support of seminarians.

As part of his report Jason was asked to report on the awards from the virtual State Convention. He reported the following:

***Service Awards***

Faith

SD Runner-up Award: Council 3568

SD Award: Council 10354

Supreme Award: Council 4083

Community

SD Runner-up Award: Council 11537

SD Award: Council 3568

Supreme Award: Council 4888

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**Family**

SD Runner-up Award: Council 12150

SD Award: Council 3568

Supreme Award: Council 4083

**Life**

SD Runner-up Award: Council 4083

SD Award: Council 11537

Supreme Award: Council 4888

**Council of the Year**

Over 100 members

SD Runner-up Award: Council 4083

SD Award: Council 12150

Under 100 Members - No reports submitted

**Family of the Year** – garbled recording

**Youth of the Year** – garbled recording

**Knight of the Year**

SD Runner-up Award: garbled recording

SD Award: Ron Belz

**Silver Rose Report**

Brother Skip Gentle reported that the Silver Rose will be in Alabama at 8am from I-10 near Gulf Shores. Need DDs to help move the Rose from place to place. Schedule is on the State Council website.

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**Marian Hour of Prayer – Joe McCarty**

Brother Joe McCarty reported that there is a change in title of the program, “Pilgrim Icon Program”. 18 different icons since 1979. Estimate greater than 166000 stops the icons have made and 20 million people have had the opportunity to venerate the icon. Current icon is in the custody of Joe McCarty since COVID-19 restrictions. However, we are starting the devotion again. Joe strongly encouraged that councils do devotions. Needs GKs to contact him about when to schedule.

**4<sup>th</sup> Degree Report**

Brother Pete Parrish, DM reported that the Patriotic degree is active, alive and well in the state of Alabama. In the last fraternal year, we initiated 125 SKs. We are hoping to have several degrees this year. The goal for this year is to form one new assembly in the state. The goal for this year is 170 new SKs. Aug 29 hosted by Mississippi, Oct 10 hosted by Alabama, and Nov 21 hosted by the Arkansas district. Need assemblies to submit their Sir Knight of the Year, Assembly of the Year, and Family of the Year nominations by next Friday July 18<sup>th</sup>. Provincial Meeting is scheduled for Oct 2 and 3 in Hot Springs Arkansas.

**Supreme Council Presentation - Legal Briefing Presentation by John Morella**

- A comprehensive presentation related to all aspects of the KofC.
- We are here to help you resolve issues and problems that arise.
- Please don't wait until a small problem become an issue. Act quickly.

Remarks have been posted on State website for future reference.

**State Advocate Report:**

Brother Bill Mores, State Advocate encouraged the use of the Officers Desk Reference prior to contacting the State Advocate. Often answers to your questions can be found on the ODR. If you have an issue please contact the State Advocate ASAP.

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**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

- Motion by Brother Esteve: Move that the State forgo per capita for Council 17159 for 6 months. Second from Danny Garcia. Approved.

**On-line Questions:**

- Alan Canon: How does a new member participate in Knights Activities?  
Answer: He can help, but we are encouraged to bring him in to the council.
- Randy Ross: Prayer for Diane Vinti wife of Bob Vinti she is very sick and needs our prayers.
- Rick Hycoop: Safe Environment training website is down until after July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- John Hudak: Has Supreme announced Star Council letters?  
Answer: They don't come out until August.
- From a new GK: How do I get a password for Officers online?  
Answer: Have you turned in your form 185. This is the first step.

**State Deputy Remarks:**

- Skip Gentle – Congratulations and appreciate the invitation to work with the state. Please add Fr Zoghby to prayer list.
- Steve Koach – Congratulations on a well run meeting in these trying times.
- Pete Parrish – Thanks to Jason Esteve for his two years of service. Thanks for the opportunity to serve. Look forward to a successful year.

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- Jason Esteve- Thank you for the opportunity and kind words. Any success that we have is because we work as a team. Thanks for your continued prayers.

**State Officer Remarks:**

- State Warden – Pat Jackson  
Thanks for your participation. Lot of good information. Please go back to the website and review the information, look forward to working with everyone. Vivat Jesus.
- State Advocate – Bill Mores  
Thanks for taking the time to participate. We are here to support everyone. Vivat Jesus.
- State Treasurer – Jack Hahn  
Sending out per capita and to encourage per capita being sent into me you will be entered for a \$100 drawdown. Vivat Jesus.
- State Secretary – Danny Garcia  
At this point everything has been said – Vivat Jesus.
- State Deputy – Joe Flaherty III

Appreciate everyone. Thanks for the wonderful work everyone has done. Jason, I have big shoes to fill. We are here to support you just call any of the state officers. Please GKs and DDs submit your Form 185 and 365.

**Dates of upcoming meetings:**

- Fall Regional Dates  
Oct 17-18 Montgomery and Mobile  
Oct 24-25 Huntsville and Birmingham
- Mid-Year Jan 9 Montgomery
- State Convention April 23-25 in Tuscaloosa

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**Closing Prayer:**

Fr. Hedderman offered the closing prayer.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Attest: As recorded by the State Secretary, Danny Garcia on July 11, 2020.