

118th Alabama Virtual State Convention Meeting Minutes
April 23-24, 2021
(Virtual State Convention Held From Huntsville, AL Due to COVID)

1. **Call to Order (Joseph Flaherty, State Deputy)**
The State Deputy gavels the meeting to order at 9:01am.
2. **Opening Prayer (Fr. Jim Hedderman, State Chaplain)**
Fr. Jim Hedderman offers the opening prayer – *Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic.*
3. **Pledge of Allegiance (Pete Parrish, PSD, DM)**

Announcements Prior To Business Meeting – Joseph Flaherty, State Deputy

Joe Flaherty made remarks relative to the following items:

- a. *Registering with ElectionBuddy to be able to vote during the meeting.*
- b. *Explanation of the process of how delegates will be recognized at the meeting.*
- c. *Minutes of 2020 State Convention availability through State Website.*
- d. *Completing the meeting in 90 minutes.*
- e. *How to regain entry in case someone is dropped from the telecon due to technical difficulties.*

The State Deputy made the following appointments:

- a. *He appointed the State Secretary, Brother Danny Garcia, and State Treasurer, Brother Bill Mores as the Credentials Committee.*
- b. *He appointed Brother Steve Koach as the parliamentarian for the meeting.*

4. **State Chaplain's Remarks (Fr. Jim Hedderman)**
Fr. Jim Hedderman delivered his remarks on the life and virtues of Blessed Michael McGivney.
5. **Associate State Chaplain Remarks (Fr. Vernon Huguley)**
Fr. Vernon Huguley delivered his remarks on the topic of Resurrection Power. Our world is in need of peace, of healing, and reconciliation. How are you and I exhibiting peace, healing, and reconciliation in our families? We all have a responsibility of extending reconciliation to others.
6. **Associate State Chaplain (Fr. Tom Woods)**
Father spoke about St. Joseph the Worker and his daily work which he dedicated to the Holy Family which was entrusted to him by God the Father.
7. **Associate State Chaplain (Fr. Dan Good)**
Fr. Dan Good's remarks were read by State Deputy, Joseph Flaherty.
8. **Credentials Report (Danny Garcia, State Secretary)**
Having reviewed the list of delegates based on information provided by our councils, and cross checking this with the members that have registered today through ElectionBuddy

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for this virtual meeting, on behalf of the Credentials Committee I report the following number of delegates:

	5 State Officers
	1 Immediate Past State Deputy
<u>45</u>	Council Delegates
<u>51</u>	Total Voting Delegates

State Deputy: Without objection, the roll of delegates submitted by the Credentials Committee will be the official roll of voting members of the convention.

9. **Supreme Knight's Address (Patrick Kelly – Recorded)**

The Supreme Knight's pre-recorded address was played.

10. **Supreme Representative Remarks (Brother Mark McMullen)**

Brother Mark McMullen provided his remarks at the meeting.

Thoughts:

- Conventions a time of celebration.
- Beatification of Fr. McGivney = an affirmation of his vision.
- Celebrate Carl Anderson's 20 years of service.
- Thanked State leadership for making Leave no neighbor not just a moniker but a real priority within the state
- Recognized John Stice Agency for their great efforts.
- Highlighted the charitable work accomplished in the state of Alabama
 - o \$717,404 charitable dollars raised in AL
 - o 207,303 hours of community service
 - o 20,826 hours of fraternal service
 - o Over 10,000 visits to the sick
 - o Over 800 blood donors
 - o Raised \$41,000 to place 3 ultrasound machines
 - o Have raised \$950,000 to place 33 machines in the state, which makes Alabama 15th in the Order
 - o Supported 16 seminarians
 - o Raised over \$8500 and donated over 7100 pounds of food for families in need
- KofC now has over 2 million members
- 300 new members a month joining through online means
- There is still more to be done especially with COVID. We must continue to work to embrace Supreme's plan to work with our Pastors to reopen parishes and invite men back to Church and meetings.

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11. **Report of the State Deputy (Joe Flaherty, State Deputy)**

Gavel passed to the State Secretary for the purpose of making his remarks.

This has been a hard year for all of us. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by our circumstances. However instead of feeling overwhelmed by our shared experiences we must realize that the pain and heartaches that has been piled upon us is not meant to bury us, but to allow us to grow and prosper into who we are meant to be.

Just as this pandemic much like a tornado creates a path in the wake of its destruction, the AL State Council creates its own path without the destruction part. Our challenges this past year have not been a disadvantage, instead the adversities that we have faced and overcome have actually been our biggest advantage.

A quick look back at the fraternal year reveals who we are:

- *At this time, I would like for us to observe a moment of silence for all of our departed family members and friends who have passed away this past year. The State Council lost two of our members this past year – Jason Esteve, PSD and John Horch, Health Services Chair.*
- *We are very proud of our continued progress in placing ultrasound machines in the State by placing machines in Clanton, Demopolis, Montgomery, and Scottsboro, with two more in the works.*
- *We came together to help affected residents of our state during recent storms and Brother John Balckburn, Jack Porter, Mark Woodard, Shawn Holly and others have done an outstanding job in coordinating relief efforts in our state.*
- *The end of the fraternal year is almost here but I am asking that all council recruit 2 more members and we will meet our goal.*
- *Please work with your Pastor's to help them reopen the Parishes.*

We can use the pandemic as an excuse for why we can't move on in life, or we can use it as a motivator to find our purpose and continue our mission as Knights of Columbus members.

Gavel passed back to the State Deputy.

12. **General Agent's Remarks (Cameron Ellis, Field Agent)**

- Cameron's remarks focused on two main points:
 - Accomplishments during this difficult year:
 - \$121 billion dollars in life insurance in-force.
 - Manage \$28 billion dollars in assets.
 - Have paid out \$750M in claims and dividends.

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- o Eyes on the future:
 - We have revamped our fraternal benefits night by bringing in well known speakers to speak to members.
 - KofC expanding to mutual funds this year in order to continue to offer protection and financial security to our families and members.
- In conclusion, Cam expressed his gratitude in being able to help people in North Alabama and for the trust that they have placed in him.

13. **President ASK AL KC Remarks (Jo-Ellen Karazim, President)**

Jo-Ellen informed the membership of the following:

- Been a very hard year for the auxiliaries. They have been drastically diminished.
- With so few members and not much in the way of participation has placed a strain in the working relationship between auxiliaries and the state leadership.
 - o In 2016, there were 25 active auxiliaries.
 - o In 2018, there were 18 auxiliaries.
 - o In 2021, there are 9 active auxiliaries.
- Because of the reduced numbers, we are unable to present a new slate of officers.
- Scholarship winner is Rebecca Hassenback (sp?) from Holy Infant of Prague Catholic Church in Trussville.
- Between now and the Regional Meeting in July some very difficult decisions will be made.
- Pink ticket drawing winner – Heidi Gentry from Prince of Peace Council.

14. **Ladies Excused**

Modification to Agenda (Joe Flaherty, State Deputy)

Without objection, the rules will be suspended, and the following shortened Order of Business will be adopted:

- *Prayer*
- *Appointment of Committee on Credentials*
- *Report of Committee on Credentials*
- *Approval of 2020 Minutes*
- *Reports of Committees*
- *Reports of State Officers*
- *Nomination and Election of State Officers*
- *Nomination and Election of Representatives and Alternates to the Supreme Council*
- *Consideration of Resolutions*
- *New Business*
- *Prayer*
- *Adjournment*

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15. **Minutes of Last Meeting (Joseph Flaherty, State Deputy)**
At this time, we will proceed with the approval of the minutes of the 2020 State Convention which have been distributed prior to the State Convention on the State website. Are there any corrections to the minutes? . . . There being no (further) corrections to the minutes, the minutes are approved.

16. **Treasurer's Report (Bill Mores, State Treasurer)**
The most current financial reports were posted on the State website for review. No issues were identified, and we are operating within our budget.

17. **Finance & Budget Committee Report (Pete Parrish, PSD)**
Audit committee has met via email and the Treasurer's Reports for period ending March 31, 2021 and the 2020 Convention Minutes have been reviewed and found to be acceptable as published.

18. **State Membership Director's Report (Pete Parrish, PSD)**
I want every council to experience Star Council status. The benefits of achieving this status outweigh the work required. I have talked to you at every opportunity about the e-Membership Program which has benefitted the Alabama State Council significantly. Here to date the State has gained 218 new members and at least 70 have come through this program. Membership intake goal was reduced by 15% giving us a new goal of 323, which means that 105 new members are needed. This is a very achievable goal. All of us can identify at least one Catholic man for membership in the KofC. He can be a member of the Order in less than 10 minutes through the online membership program.

19. **4th Degree District Master Report (Pete Parrish, PSD, DM)**
I hold the Star Assembly in high esteem, and I would like all assemblies to accomplish this important step. I Want to be a Patriot Award is due on April 30th and the Civic award is due June 30th. Please do your part to help us grow the 4th degree in the State. We have added 94 new members this year. Next exemplification is set for May 15th to be hosted by the Alabama district. The next in person exemplification is June 19th in Huntsville. Representatives from the Supply Room will be present at the in-person exemplification to take orders for new uniforms.

20. **State Program Director (Steve Koach, PSD, FDM)**
Even though 2020 was a hard year, councils were able to get out and do some great things. All activities from 1 March 2021 thru February 28th of next year will be considered for 2022 Awards.

The recipients of the 2021 awards are provided in the table on the next page.

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2021 ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL AWARD RECIPIENTS			
CATEGORY	SD AWARD	SD RUNNER-UP	SUPREME AWARD
Faith	10232	10354	9676 Conversion of classroom into a chapel
Special Award Under Faith	11672 Marian icon services with over 1700 people participating		
Family	10232	10354	10232 Cenacolo food drive
Community	9676	10232	9676 Christmas Eve Shelter Meal
Life	10232	11212	9676 Raised \$7800 for Ultrasound Program
Knight of the Year	A tie between: 10354 – Jose Rodriguez 11480 – Larry Hitchcock	10232 Joe McCarty	
Family of the Year	10354 Ken Friedrich Family	5636 John Blackburn Family	
Youth of the Year	10354 Abby Victoria McMinn	17519 Abigail Bold	
Outstanding Council Over 100 members	10232	9676	
Outstanding Council under 100 members	17519	None	

21. **Credentials Committee Update Report (Danny Garcia, State Secretary)**

Since the initial Report of the Credentials Committee, we have had a number of delegates join us; the new count is:

5	State Officers
1	Immediate Past State Deputy
<u>53</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
59	Total Voting Delegates

22. **Election of Officers (Joseph Flaherty, State Deputy)**

We will now proceed to the election of officers. Please note that nominations submitted to the State Secretary will be considered as seconded nominations made from the floor for consideration of that respective position.

It is important that voting Delegates follow the instructions on how to vote. The voting will be anonymous. The system that we are using records the votes but does not show how any particular Delegate voted.

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Remember that only credentialed Delegates, Past State Deputies and current District Deputies have rights to the floor, and you must be recognized to speak.

If someone with the right to speak wishes to do so, please press RAISE A HAND on the GoToWebinar platform. When you are recognized, please ensure that you unmute yourself by clicking on the microphone icon on GoToWebinar. When you do so, please be ready to speak.

Nominations presented from the floor today will be restricted to the straightforward format of:

'My name is Joe Delegate, from Council {insert #}, and I nominate Jim Knight for the position of State Warden.'

*Even though we are using an electronic polling system for the vote, in case of an unforeseen issue, I have appointed Past State Deputy **Pete Parrish** as the judge and Past State Deputies **Griffin Shreves**, and **Mark McMullen** as tellers. Steve Koach will be the parliamentarian for the elections.*

Election of State Officers (Steve Koach, PSD, FDM, Parliamentarian)

As noted in the Guidelines distributed and posted on our State Council web site, the following nomination was submitted at the State Caucus for the position of:

- State Deputy, Joseph Flaherty
- State Secretary, Danny Garcia
- State Treasurer Bill Mores
- State Advocate, Pat Jackson
- State Warden, George Champion Jr., Rick Hycoop and Brian Lagasse, and Randy Ross

The Caucus has offered Joe Flaherty for the position of State Deputy. Are there any other nominations for the office of State Deputy? Repeated three times.

Motion was made to close the nominations. 2nd made. The State Secretary will cast one ballot for Joe Flaherty for State Deputy for a one-year term commencing on July 1, 2021.

The Caucus has offered Danny Garcia for the position of State Secretary. Are there any other nominations for the office of State Secretary? Repeated three times.

Motion was made to close the nominations. 2nd made. The State Secretary will cast one ballot for Danny Garcia for State Secretary for a one-year term commencing on July 1, 2021.

The Caucus has offered Bill Mores for the position of State Treasurer. Are there any other nominations for the office of State Treasurer? (Repeated three times.)

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Motion was made to close the nominations. 2nd made. The State Secretary will cast one ballot for Bill Mores for State Treasurer for a one-year term commencing on July 1, 2021.

The Caucus has offered Pat Jackson for the position of State Advocate. Are there any other nominations for the office of State Advocate? (Repeated three times.)

Motion was made to close the nominations. 2nd made. The State Secretary will cast one ballot for Pat Jackson for State Advocate for a one-year term commencing on July 1, 2021.

The following names were submitted at the Caucus for the position of State Warden:

- George Champion Jr.
- Rick Hycoop
- Brian Lagasse
- Randy Ross

Are there any other nominations for the office of State Warden? (Repeated three times.)

Motion was made to close the nominations. 2nd made. At this time nominees may have someone speak on their behalf for a maximum of 5 minutes. Various speakers spoke for several nominees.

Proceed to balloting using ElectionBuddy. Balloting is open for 2 minutes. Balloting closed and with a total number of 49 ballots cast out of 59 eligible voters, the majority of ballots go to Brian Lagasse. Brian will be our new State Warden for a one-year term commencing on July 1, 2021.

Election of Delegates for the Supreme Convention (Steve Koach, PSD, FDM, Parliamentarian)

The State Deputy and IPSD are automatic delegates. The nominations for delegates from the State Caucus are:

- Dennis Vaglica
- Randy Duffy
- Danny Garcia
- George Champion Jr.
- Rick Hycoop
- Pat Jackson
- Bill Mores
- Pete Parrish
- Brian Lagasse
- John Bares
- Steve Koach

Are there any other nominations for delegate to the Supreme Convention? (Repeat 3 times). Motion that nominations be closed. 2nd made. Voting for 4 delegates and

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following those in order of votes received will be the alternates. The results of the election are as follows:

Delegates:

- Danny Garcia
- Bill Mores
- Pete Parrish
- Pat Jackson

Alternates:

- Brian Lagasse
- Steve Koach
- Rick Hycoop
- George Champion Jr.

This concludes the elections, and the Parliamentarian returns the gavel to the State Deputy.

State Deputy (Joseph Flaherty, State Deputy)

I ask that all insurance and associate delegates, as well as the alternates for insurance and alternates for associate delegates, please email the state secretary your full name, membership #, Council #, date of birth and phone number. The State Secretary's email address is dgarcia227@gmail.com Thank you.

23. **State Advocate Report (Pat Jackson, State Advocate)**

Greetings. 6 resolutions and 3 Bylaw changes were read at the Caucus meeting last night. Today we will read just the titles of each resolution and a brief overview of the proposed Bylaws changes.

Resolutions:

Resolution 1: Issued in Gratitude to The Past Supreme Knight For 20 Years Of Outstanding Faithful Service - Approved

Resolution 2: Congratulations to The Newly Elected Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly - Approved

Resolution 3: Thanking All Local, State, And Federal Law Enforcement and First Responders For Their Service - Approved

Resolution 4: In Gratitude to All Doctors, Nurses, Care Givers and Support Staff - Approved

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Resolution 5: In Support of Our Military - Approved

Resolution 6: Support for Faithful and Responsible Citizenship - Approved

Changes to the State Bylaws:

- **Article 5 Sec 1:** Titles of current State Directors updated to reflect current offices and unused titles unheld offices were removed, those of Council, Youth, and Culture of Life were removed because they no longer exist. The word “Family” was removed from Life Director’s title.
- **Article 9 Sec 2:** A typographical error was corrected and a reference to the PSF that referenced Article 9 Sec 6 inappropriately was updated to Article 9 Sec 5.
- **Article 9 Sec 6:** Was rewritten the verbiage for the contingency fund was replaced by verbiage for the Charity Fund. This necessitated an update to Article 9 Sec 1b. where the reference to the contingency fund was replaced with a reference to the charity fund.

Hearing no objections these changes are approved.

24. **New Business (Joseph Flaherty, State Deputy)**

No new business discussed.

25. **Supreme Representative Closing Remarks (Mark McMullen, Supreme Representative)**

A few concluding remarks:

- Congratulate all the elected State Officers and the Supreme Convention Delegates.
- Recognize Ryan and his ability to navigate through the technical details of the meeting.
- Leadership is accomplishing goals through people. Inspire more people to get involved.
- Get with your local Pastors and see how you can best serve his needs.
- Last thing I want to mention is focus on the why?
 - If not the KofC, then who? Who is going to reach out to the people in the community who have needs? Think about why you join the Order? Has it made you a better father, a better Catholic? All good works are done locally not at 1 Columbus Plaza.
- Keep up the good work and finish the year strong.

26. **Past State Deputy Remarks**

The following PSD provided concluding remarks:

- Skip Gentle
- Steve Koach

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- Pete Parrish
- Griffin Shreves

27. **State Officer Remarks**

- John Bares – Executive Assistant
- Brian Lagasse – State Warden Elect
- Pat Jackson – State Advocate
- Bill Mores – State Treasurer
- Danny Garcia – State Secretary
- Joseph Flaherty – State Deputy

28. **Closing Prayer (Fr. Jim Hedderman, State Chaplain)**

The closing prayer was offered for the Canonization of Blessed Father McGivney.

29. **Adjournment (Joseph Flaherty, State Deputy)**

Since there is no other business, the meeting is adjourned. I thank everyone for your patience and time today.

Adjourn: 12:10pm