

Alabama State Council Knights of Columbus
State Organizational Meeting – July 17, 2021
Prattville, AL

CALL TO ORDER

Joe Flaherty, State Deputy (SD), called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

OPENING PRAYER (Fr. Vernon Huguley, State Chaplain)

Father Huguley offered the opening prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Pete Parrish, District Master)

Pete led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATE CHAPLAIN REMARKS (Fr. Vernon Huguley, State Chaplain)

Fr. Vernon asked those repeating as council and state officers to do things differently. He advised to do things differently. If you always do what you always done you gonna always get what you always got. If we lead in the same way, why would we expect different results.

What are we doing about retention? We must reach out to our brothers who we have not seen in a while and invite them back. We are called to build the kingdom. Let us ask God for what we need to do to make a difference in our own lives, in the life of the church, and the life of others.

SUPREME KNIGHT'S REMARKS (Patrick Kelley, Supreme Knight)

Recorded remarks played.

STATE DEPUTY'S REPORT (Joe Flaherty, State Deputy)

Greetings: One year ago, I began my service as your State Deputy. In that time, we worked ourselves out of a pandemic it was easy to feel overwhelmed by our circumstances. We were limited in travel and meeting space, but it did not stop our activity across the state. Just like a vast unstoppable river flow across all obstacles God Bless the Alabama State Council and all our councils.

GENERAL AGENT'S REPORT (John Stice, General Agent)

I love being here for the 22nd time. John shared one story about Blessed Brother Michael McGivney and how he recruited Daniel Schachle father of the challenged young man that was saved through a Fr. McGivney miracle that resulted in the beatification of Fr. McGivney. John also spoke about the need to recruit young men to secure the future of the organization. Push e-membership because it makes it easy for men to join.

SUPREME REPRESENTATIVE'S REMARKS (Robert Rausch)

It is not an easy time to be a knight in the Order currently. God chose you to be a leader in the KofC today at this moment that you can bring something unique to your council, and the state. We need to ask men to step up and assume the leadership roles that they were meant to be in. Ask for help, we don't expect you to know everything. Robert spoke also about the COVID Recovery Program and develop a 6-month program.

PRESIDENT, ASK AL KC (Jo Ellen Karazim, President ASK AL KOFC)

Jo Ellen, President of the ASK AL KC, addressed the State Council.

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Thank you for having me again this year. She thanked the State leadership. Jo Ellen related the importance of keeping the Auxiliary going. Every lady we meet is a potential member of the Auxiliary. We help a variety of causes. She spoke about the new Auxiliary at the St. Thomas by the Sea. Jo Ellen mentioned plans for the coming year the convention. Good luck in the year ahead.

HOLY HOUR (Fr. Vernon Huguley, State Chaplain)

LADIES EXCUSED

CREDENTIALS REPORT (Brian Lagasse, State Warden)

The State Warden vouched that all present were in possession of a current and valid membership card.

PERMANENT ROLL CALL (Danny Garcia, State Secretary)

State Officers: The State Secretary with the assistance of the who reported that all elected state officers were present with one absence – Griffin Shreves. IPSD.

Councils: There were 46 councils (55%) present at the meeting.

DDs: 19 DDs present at the meeting. Bill Ferguson, DD#12 was absent.

Service Directors: Faith and Family Directors absent.

READING OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Danny Garcia, State Secretary)

Minutes of the State Organizational Meeting has been published on the State web site. There was a Motion made by Council 893 and seconded by Council 10232 to approve the minutes as distributed. The minutes were approved as published.

COMMUNICATIONS (Danny Garcia, State Secretary)

The are no communications currently.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BUDGET REPORT (Bill Mores, State Treasurer)

The State Treasurer provided a financial report of the State Council's financial status. The report contained the Balance Sheet, Regions Account containing Budget vs Actual, and summary of other accounts. Also included was the proposed budget for 2021-2022. Anyone having questions about the reports should contact the State Treasurer.

STATE CONVENTION REPORT (Bill Mores, State Convention Chair)

Bill mentioned the dates for the convention being April 23-25th in Tuscaloosa at the Capstone. Planning is in progress. Bill also mentioned that support of ads for the program guide is critical to help offset costs of the convention.

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT (Pete Parrish, Finance Committee Chair)

The budget and finance committee met on Monday July 12 to review the finance reports of the State Treasurer and all reports presented today. All reports have been accepted as published.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Pete Parrish, Membership Director)

The Membership Director centered his comprehensive report on making the Circle of Honor. As part of his report, he discussed last year's overall performance in all aspects of membership to date. He particularly mentioned that 23 councils did not recruit a single member. He went through the State's new Membership Goals and encouraged councils to recruit new and younger members. He also encouraged councils to complete and submit the 1728 form to Supreme. He reported that the e-membership program has been critical to our recruiting effort and called it a great tool. Free membership has been extended through December 2021. Pete reminded everyone that they have responsibilities to their councils and Supreme to fulfill their duties.

STATE DEPUTY IMPROMPTU REMARKS (Joe Flaherty, State Deputy)

The State Deputy thanked everyone for their efforts towards the State Council making the Circle of Honor. He also told everyone about having each council put together a list of the names of up to 25 knights to be placed on a non-active status and names removed from the council's active roster. He stressed that no insurance members or honorary life members were to be placed on this list. Lists are to be sent to the DD for review and copies to the State Deputy and Membership Director.

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT (Steve Koach, Program Director)

Provided a presentation which included an overview of the Faith in Action Program and all its elements. Introduced each Director as shown below:

- **Family** – Chris Rickling
- **Life** – Skip Gentle, PSD, FDM, FVSM
- **Community** – Maurice Dupont, PSD
- **Faith** – Deacon John Cooper

Discussed other tools and the importance of completing all necessary forms.

State annual awards were presented in various categories to councils including recognizing councils that met membership goals.

LADY'S RAFFLE RESULTS (Bill Mores, State Treasurer)

Bill Mores announced the winners of the lady's basket raffle.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS (Joe Flaherty, State Deputy)

Presented a set of slides for each service director.

- Faith: Deacon John Cooper – no report.
- Family: Chris Rickling – no report.
- Community: Maurice Dupont – provided a short report.
- Life: Skip Gentle – 5 ultrasound machines placed in the state, working on a 6th.
- State Awards/Reports Chairman: Mike Weist – provided a short report.
- State Training Director: Alan Cannon – provided a short report related to GK and FS training opportunities.
- Public Relations Chairman: Ryan Marks – provided a report related to using social media outlets for PR. Focused on three outlets.
- Keep Christ in Christmas Chairman: Dennis Vaglica – provided a report on Keep Christ in Christmas and encouraged councils to support the sale of multi-language religious Christmas cards.

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State Organizational Meeting – July 17, 2021
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- Insurance Promotion Chairman: not present.
- Poster Contest: Bill Mores – no report.
- Catholic Citizen Essay Chairman: Randy Ross – short report regarding the essay contest and guidelines for hosting. Email to DDs in next 30 days.
- McGivney Guild: Griffin Shreves – no present.
- Disaster Relief: John Blackburn – not present.
- Ceremonials Chair: Griffin Shreves – not present.

DRIVE FOR CITIZENS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (Ron Belz, State Chairman)

Ron Belz, State ID Drive Chairman reported that we had a good year even with COVID. Collected over \$52,000 this past year with 30 plus councils participating. State DDs distributed over \$15,800 of the State ID Fund portion. Materials also passed out for 2021 ID fund drive. Ron also mentioned that all necessary fund drive forms are on the State website. Awards passed out to councils.

PRIESTHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND (Joe Flaherty, State Deputy)

Provided each Bishop in the State \$5000 for the Priesthood Scholarship support.

MARIAN HOUR OF PRAYER (Joe McCarty, Chairman)

Short report on the Marion Hour of Prayer, focused on the program and encouraged councils to conduct a prayer service.

HISPANIC COORDINATOR (Rudy Chavez, Chairman)

Chairman provided a short report related to visiting several areas around the state to spur Hispanic growth in the state.

COUNCIL RETENTION (Rick Hycoop, Chairman)

Report covered under the Membership Director's report.

4TH DEGREE REPORT (Pete Parrish, District Master)

He thanked everyone for their support and contribution to the 4th degree of our great Order. There is plenty of room for grow for the 4th degree in Alabama. As of 2020 we grew by 185 members and several assemblies reached 100% of their membership goals. Looking to establish another assembly in the state, if you know of an opportunity, please inform the DM. Annual Provincial Meeting will be August 25th in Nashville.

RECOGNITION OF PETE PARRISH (Joe Flaherty, State Deputy)

Pete Parrish was recognized with a wristwatch for his mentorship and support of the State Deputy.

SUPREME REPRESENTATIVE (Robert Rausch)

Provided closing remarks.

STATE ADVOCATE REPORT (Pat Jackson)

Provided remarks related to Safe Environment and Child Protection. Showed a video.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

None

PAST STATE DEPUTY CLOSING REMARKS (All PSD Present)

Closing remarks provided by each PSD in attendance:

- Steve Koach
- Pete Parrish
- Maurice DuPont

STATE OFFICER REMARKS (All State Officers)

Closing remarks provided by each State Officer in attendance:

- State Warden – Brian Lagasse
- State Advocate – Pat Jackson
- State Treasurer – Bill Mores
- State Secretary – Danny Garcia
- Joe Flaherty (SD) - Thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked the Supreme Representative for attending.

CLOSING PRAYER (Fr. Huguley, State Chaplain)

- Father Vernon Huguley, State Chaplain offered the closing prayer.

Mass Downstairs at 5:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 P.M. by SD Joe Flaherty.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danny Garcia

Danny Garcia, State Secretary