



## **2024 Alabama K of C District Deputy Mid-Year General Meeting Minutes**

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
511 N. Memorial Dr. Prattville, AL  
1/25/2025

Open at 11:38 by Bill Mores, SD

Opening prayer Pat Jackson, SS

Holy Hour Deacon John Cooper, Faith Director

Pledge of Allegiance Joe Flaherty DM, PSD

Welcome by Bill Mores SD

Supreme Rep Remarks JC Reiher, RGD

Good afternoon, best part of my job. Last year the order as a whole had a record year, just shy of 92K new members. AL had a great year over 130% of membership. Recognize Danny Garcia and Joe Flaherty with Pinnacle trophy. Danny noted this is a culmination of everyone's efforts last year, congratulations to all, can't do it without everyone's help. Thanks for all you do. June 30 is end of fraternal year. Not a destination, it's a checkpoint where we need to finish strong. Opportunity to motivate councils to STAR. Start now, gives us most time to get there. Focus on FBE, Safe Environment and Forms, common tripping points. Two virtual FBE's upcoming end of January and early Feb (Spanish). Perfect opportunities. If you are on track for STAR, strive for double STAR. Attach a membership component to every activity, and programs (active work, not just a table with flyers). Get a high energy guy to focus on it. Have programs (are they enticing, good for members and membership). If they are not meaningful, need to change things up. Always extend a personal invitation to non-members and teach your councils to do that. Hold at least 1 membership drive per district per month. GK's, please lend your commitment to this. Wish GK's great success. Fishers of Men (Matt 4:19). Research indicates 7 mill catholic men who would join if asked. Fishers of Men lies at the heart of Knights of Columbus. ID a new guy, tell your story, what you get out of your membership, invite them to join. Use your phone and the online form to sign him up, use the Blessed McGivney code to get him a free year to try us out. Encourage members of the council to do the same. Make sure they confirm their e-mail to complete the online process. Lots of materials on the website to help you. Work with your field agent, they are professional recruiters. The heart of a knight is in every catholic man, you just need to ask. Thanks for your dedication and commitment and your presence today.

State Deputy remarks, Bill Mores, SD

Hard to believe it's been over 6 months already, amazed at what you are doing, thank you for that. Been a pretty good year so far, not great. Slightly behind in a few things. Membership, STAR and Faith formation. We have 2 of our 3 Holy hours, we'll have another at convention, we'll make that. 17 Star councils is the goal, that's a focal point. Membership is slightly behind.



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Need 429 currently at 227 as of this meeting. Missed a goal reduction in Q2. Can still get more reductions if we hit 75% by end of Q3 (need 95). Showed the pledge chain from kickoff meeting, still counting you. Ask for help if you need it. We want to hit pinnacle again this year if we can.

General Agent remarks, John Stice, GA

Good afternoon. Pointed out we have 4 past SD's at front, shows their dedication to the Order. Happy to have chosen AL as his state. Agency has a membership goal of 144, each agent has a goal of 12. Please partner with the agents, gave the agency website - [jsticeagencykofc.com](http://jsticeagencykofc.com), use this to contact the agency or an agent. Agents will be doing sponsorships for activities, will use as an opportunity to speak about FBE. We can double our goals if we get in front of the right folks. The agency contacts every new member, welcomes them to the order and lets them know about the agency and what is available. Please encourage the new members to hear what the organization offers and the great benefits available to them. We align our investments with our faith. Working on getting the online review of investments working. There is a Hispanic agent in MS who will be coming to help in AL in near future.

ASK AL KC remarks, Margaret Lagasse, President

Our mission is to support the councils. We support many of the same programs as the councils. At the State level encourage education of catholic women thru scholarships. Need more help in getting the word out. Application and contact information on tables. Pink ticket sales at the convention is primary fund raiser for the scholarship. Basket raffle at convention used to fund other auxiliary events, little sisters of the poor in Mobile. Reflect on transformative power of faith on feast of St Paul's conversion.

State Convention update

Steve Koach has the flu, SD Bill Mores covered details. 122<sup>nd</sup> convention April 4-6 at Wind Creek in Atmore. Third year there. Other hotels are available, blocks not available, but good rates are available, sometimes better than the contract rates we can get. No 4<sup>th</sup> degree meeting this year. Registration is open on state website. Joe Flaherty talked about the raffle. See slides, 1<sup>st</sup> \$1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$500, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wind Creek resort packages. More tickets can be had, reach out to Joe. He will send out a form that has instructions for returning sold stubs and funds. Raffle helps to keep convention costs down.

Showed video from Supreme

Ladies excused



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Credentials Report, Andre Patterson, SW

Roll call / Communications, Pat Jackson, SS

Treasures report, Brian Lagasse, ST

Per Capita notices are out, please take care of this. Notices will not stop. State pins are available from last year. Packets of the last 12 years are available. 6 June Seminarian dinner in Huntsville. Bishop Raica will be present. Milage envelopes are circulating, you can donate to the PSF if you want.

Advocates report, Johnny Bares, SA

Safe environment is important, please help your fellows get this taken care of, helps protect our young people, and is required to get STAR. 1728 is due, please get that done.

Evangelization, Fait & Formation remarks, Mike Schultz, EFFD

We couldn't be successful without the ladies, thanks to them, please acknowledge them. Recognized 764 member Dan Seleski who is instrumental in Silver Rose, spoke about the Guadalupanas, those ladies were instrumental in making that program a huge success. Focus on faith, central to that is God's word, and the true presence. Too many Catholics do not believe in the true presence in the eucharist. Opened with prayer. Cor is Latin for Heart. Introduced his family, gave background, was guy that was chased. He and his wife both run Hispanic ministry at home parish. Lost his son 2-1/2 years ago. Brought him closer to God. Shared his story, example of testifying. This is part of how COR works. Had fallen from faith earlier in life, was brought back to faith due to witness of a protestant group years ago, so has a relationship with them. Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ. God's word is central to COR. COR – Slides cover program. Evangelization and faith formation key to Fr McGivney's vision. COR is how to run programs in EFF, not a specific program in and of itself. 18 – 35 year olds, 60% indicate participation in faith related groups outside Mass. Into the Breach series is great. 81% of views on YouTube are young adults 18-35. Signs that there is a movement of people back to the church. That Man is You weekly small groups. Mirrors COR. Knights must be first in Faith as in Charity. Bring men to Christ the same way Jesus brought men to himself. Invitation, Friendship, Brotherhood, Shared Mission. COR is Christ centered brotherhood, Prayer, Formation, Fraternity. Open to all men, not just Knights. In service to Pastor, requires his permission. Not meant to compete with other men's ministries, but to strengthen and support them. Simple structure, 60 – 90 minute events. COR is on kofc.org. Don't get too wrapped up in policy. We are our brother's keeper. There is a startup guide. Keep it simple and start.



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Membership remarks, Joe Flaherty, MD, PSD, DM

Handed out shirts from past incentives. Recognizes work that ultimately leads to Pinnacle. Good afternoon, thanks to all. Membership number at 52.9% currently, we're off our mark. Proud we're working hard, need to get back after it. 3<sup>rd</sup> in our division, want to be #1. Reviewed numbers and incentives (see slides). Become Fishers of Men. Showed video. Not about hitting a number or getting an award, it's about doing more of our mission. It's about obligation. Every catholic man deserves what we have as Knights. Recruiting is not hard. Just ask. That's why 47% join. Most asked why they haven't joined say because no one asked me. Asked Randy Duffy to share his tips.

Works with the church office to get names and numbers of new members of the parish, then invites them to a meeting. Ask, Ask, Ask. Give new members of the church from RCIA a week or two after joining church, then approach them.

Please copy Joe when a new member joins so we can get you your incentives.

Sitting at 230 members right now, golden number is 90 new members by 31 March. Gets our reduction and ½ way to COH. Pinnacle, kick butt all over the place. Stressed STAR council, reviewed requirements. Reviewed incentives (see slides). Reviewed online membership.

Online Membership remarks, Pete Parrish, PSD, FDM, VSM

In interest of time, asked GK's to review slides on State website and watch the videos that are embedded. Will outline the online process.

4<sup>th</sup> Degree report, Joe Flaherty, DM, PSD

Deacon Rick & Peggy Chenault Family of Year for 4<sup>th</sup> Degree from Moulton, AL

Veteran's Affairs Volunteer Services reviewed (see slides). Warriors to Lourdes reviewed (see slides), Fr McGivney (see slides), Korean & Vietnam War (see slides), reviewed STAR assemblies. Goal is for all assemblies to be STAR, reviewed requirements. Reminder F1728 is due.

Exemplification March 1 in Hoover, 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, new format open to all. In Daphne 12 April. Proposer and candidate will get a commemorative medallion for the 1 March degree. Biggest resource for 4<sup>th</sup> degree members is the GK's and DD's. Consider joining color corp.

Program remarks, Mike Wiest, PD, FDM

At his son's wedding, SD referred everyone to slide deck online. Has dates for things that need to be taken care of. Tons of good information.



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### Committee reports

Icon is here, see Joe McCarty to sign up for the program. Joe has a supply of the St Joseph literature for those who want it.

Tom O'Donnell reviewed the ID drive. Now the ID Program. Down to about 30% participation on the Tootsie Roll effort. Some councils have started other fund raising efforts to support the program. Think outside the box, tootsie rolls are not a requirement or the only option. 15 councils raised over \$1,500, to receive a bottle of cheer.

Tom O'Donnell reviewed Soccer Challenge. Keep it simple, use it for recruiting.

Deferred other committees to slide review. Silver Rose route updated due to hurricane season. Now will be received from TN.

Mass is at 5:00

### Supreme Rep Closing remarks, JC Reiher, RGD

As you check off STAR requirements, sit back and ask "What does the Knights of Columbus offer your families?" F2773 is a downloadable form that helps answer that question. Use it to help recruiting. Telling your personal story is one of the best recruiting tools. We offer men and their families an opportunity to do great things. May AL show a sense of urgency on our journey to STAR. Thanks for hospitality and witness.

### PSD remarks

Pete Parrish

Thank host council and assembly, good food great location we appreciate you.

Joe Flaherty

Nothing to add, Pete said it.

Danny Garcia

Nothing to add, Pete said it.

### Officer Remarks

Gerald Buford, EA – none additional

Danny Garcia, IPSD - none additional

Andre Patterson, SW - Want to make you aware of ASAP program, please support it.

Johnny Bares, SA – none additional

Brian Lagasse, ST – none additional

Pat Jackson, SS – none additional



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Bill Mores, SD - Rudy Chavez, Hispanic coordinator, has a 3 step package to share, offered to all present.

Closing prayer, Pat Jackson, SS

Meeting adjourned at 4:00