



2026 Alabama Knights of Columbus State Convention Meeting Minutes

Atmore, AL
May 2, 2026

Open 8:30 Bill Mores, State Deputy
Open prayer Monsignor Wall
Post Colors, Pledge Griffin Shreeves, District Master

Opening comments Archbishop Rodi – 2 reflections: Mentioned to class of students most Christians honor Mary, students in Montgomery noted most in their experience were Catholic. Pointed out that many Christians around the world honor Mary, many other than Catholic. Catholics are a minority here. Knights are a shining example here. Thanks for all you do and the many ways you build up the church. Second, reflected on Saint John Paul II, grew up in Poland during fascist and communist regimes. Their government told people basic rights and dignity come from the State. He told people their dignity comes from God. May we never forget that. Pope Benedict had a similar experience in Germany, he said not to forget where our rights come from. Secular democracy here in the US needs reminding our rights don't come from the government or the consensus of the many. We are about to celebrate our 250th year, and our founding documents state rights come from God; no one can take them away. Declaration contains "BY THEIR CREATOR". Don't forget, always encourage others to remember that. Thank God we live in a free country. May we never forget that fundamental truth.

Opening comments Bishop Raica – Vivat Jesus! Bishop Baker and I are gratified to be with you. I apologize for not being here last night, was with the Knights of Peter Claver, along with Fr Vernon. Thanks to Archbishop Rodi for those great words. We have to exercise those rights or lose them. 15 or 20 years back in Michigan at Hillsdale College, which has a decent size Catholic community, at a retreat, during quiet time one of the students approached him and told him she wanted to become a saint. When very small at baptism, we state we want to be saints. When joining the Knights it is a similar statement that we want to be saints and have that impact in our lives. Saint John Paul II went back to Poland, against objection. Eventually over 1 million people showed up despite the danger. He told them to be the people they were ordained to be, not to rise up. They voiced we want God. That was the beginning of the end of the Communist rule. Remember "We want God" "We want to be Saints". The early Christians were able to live this way, they didn't openly oppose the government, they simply lived like they wanted God and lived by example to influence others. No political power or effort required, live the example. The thing we need most are Christians living the life visibly, and change will happen. That's our challenge, our hope and our joy. It is possible to live this way.

Opening comments Bishop Baker – I have two comments; Thanks to all of you. Bill & Joe both told him "Let us know if you need anything". That's always been my experience with the Knights. Thank you. Second, the Year of St Francis will have a large impact on the church, importance of simplicity, spirit of the gospel and the church. Take a trip to Assisi if you are in the area. Allow him to speak to your heart. Bless you all.

Recorded message from Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly. See video



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Tom Hamling Supreme Representative, Special Assistant to Supreme Knight – Thanks for the warm and wet welcome (heavy rain that weekend). Want to open with recognition of excellence here. 2024 – 2025 Circle of Honor trophy presented. 114% membership achieved, along with meeting STAR goals. Very close to reaching this again this year. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done.

Bill Mores, State Deputy Report- Honored to accept for all, thanks to Joe. We have an interim update on delegates from Ryan. Final numbers to be posted prior to elections. Reviewed status of goals for the year (see slides). We have made our Circle of Honor number at this point, still going strong. Hope to reach Pinnacle and further achieve a 2% reduction on our membership goal for the next year. E-member conversion was a help, important for us when we embrace and use that program. 14 councils have already reached goals for STAR, going strong. Several more councils are very close. We are on the verge of a record year for AL. Been a great first 9 months for this year. Thanks to all of you, to the ladies, for everything you've done to help us be successful.

Cam Ellis, General Agent – Good morning, hope all having a good time. New GA, thanks for the opportunity to address you. I've been an agent for ~ 8 years. I bumped into an agent (John Stice), while looking for insurance. John asked how I liked my job and if I wanted to consider a change. I made a change and I'm very happy. I recently moved back to Mobile, was warmly welcomed into the council, joined their weekly golf game, and found what was missing. Fraternal and Insurance are the two lungs of the order. I hear the stories of Fr McGivney going around on horseback in CT, and think promoting insurance is important. Your goals are our goals. Lots of men out there waiting to be invited by good men like you to join our order. Many great benefits available to them, just need to invite them. Lots of information and seminars are available for your use. Financial planning is available, and investments that align with our faith. If you recruit an agent, Supreme will waive your per capita for a year. Please let me know if there is anything you need from us, we want to align and help.

Margaret Lagasse, Ladies Auxiliary President – Good morning, thanks for the opportunity to be with you. The silent auction already hit its limit, but tickets for the baskets are still available. Proceeds allow us to work on the scholarship. Celebrate anniversary of St Catherine, list to our hearts and serve with love. This requires a heart open to God's love and service in silence and love. Presented a small token for Bill, miraculous medal blessed by the Pope. Thanks to the Knights for helping us be able to do what we do. Recognize work of Bill and Steve Koach for their work at the convention.

Bill Mores – Council 6727 50th anniversary recognized, Check presented by 4888 for Ultrasound \$18,500 from their drawdown.

Ladies excused, short break 9:45

Meeting resumed 10:00



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Reopening prayer, Monsignor Wall

Previous meeting minutes approved as posted to the State website.

Brian Lagasse, State Treasurer, Treasurers report – Reports shown, slides are available. Numbers reviewed and opportunities to ask questions presented. No questions asked.

Steve Koach, Chair of Budget and Finance Committee – Names of committee members shown, thanks extended to the committee. End of March reports presented, April reports will only be available after May 1. Reports available have been reviewed and committee finds all in order with handling of funds. Issues with current accounting firm. We're going to move forward with new firm. Looking for a brother Knight if possible. Over \$30K in the Ultrasound fund since last report available.

Mike Schultz, Evangelization and Faith Formation Director report – Good Morning, good to be here with my Brothers. Agenda posted. Open with prayer, pray for Jeff Wolf (left convention early sick) & Gary Myers who left with family issue. COR is focus, heart, growing relationship with other men, insurance agents are a special member of our COR team, understand the relationship we have. Reviewed progress of COR at his council as example. See slides for details. COR is spreading, review of jurisdictions numbers, AL at roughly 55% of councils running COR. I am my Brothers Keeper.

Program Director Report, Bill Mores – Jeff Wolf home from hospital, was to give report for Mike Weist, who is out of the country. Programs are the key to success. Reviewed awards numbers (see slides), number of submissions somewhat down this year. Awards to be presented at banquet. Winners determined by committees. Program system structure summary on slide. Thanks to all the committee members and to the councils that submitted reports. You have to tell us what you are doing so we can recognize your good work. Use this for positive public image to help grow your council. SP7 due date coming, get it turned in, can't be accepted late. Just in case it doesn't pass initial review give yourself time to respond and get it resubmitted. Many have already been approved. Early is easy. Coats for Kids, AL has been working with lightweight jackets the past few years, that effort is growing and will continue next year. Keep doing what you're doing, congratulations on all your good work.

Membership Director Report, Emerson Healy – Good morning, thank you. As of today membership recruiting stands at 110% plus of target. Thanks for your help. Give the invitation. Not about the number or the awards, it's about the obligation. Reviewed current incentives. Showed list of all councils getting current reward cycle (see slide). \$15 per member for next 65 through June 30. Communicate or we can't get the incentive to you.

Online Membership Director, Pete Parrish – Congratulations to everyone for work you've done on everything. Need about 60 members to make intake goal for next year and get an out of the gate 2%



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reduction. See slides for current council numbers toward goals (27 so far). STAR council, Circle of Honor and Pinnacle do not rely on membership goals alone. Reviewed other goals, see slides. Gave status of the state. Close to 30 councils making STAR. Fraternal Benefit Events, Safe Environment and SP7 are biggest stumbling blocks. Keep working and don't give up. We'll work with you. Don't wait until the last minute. Continue to work on recruitment, don't lose momentum so it continues into the coming year. Catch someone doing something good and recognize them for it. Positive reinforcement will make our world a better place. Reviewed the contributions the state has made in total for the last several years, see slides. Recognized all councils who made donations to the ultrasound program during the past year.

Bill Mores – special recognition to Pete Parrish, Lee John Bruno and Skip Gentle for the work they do behind the scenes on ultrasound. Emphasized online is now the preferred method for recruiting.

Vice Supreme Master Report, Joe Flaherty – Good morning, great to be with you. VSM in charge of 5 states that make up the Bienville province. Doing well in AL, please help our District Master. Need 83 members to make intake goal for the year. Please help get members to the 4th degree. We're doing well in recruiting in the 3rd Degree, please help get them to the 4th. Some Assemblies assist with the cost of uniforms. Need the Councils to help encourage their members to 4th. Oct 23 & 24 in Nashville for Bienville meeting. Great job by color corp today.

District Master report, Griffin Shreves – Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you. Reviewed exemplifications for the past year. Opportunities to join the 4th Degree are upcoming in Foley on May 30 and in Madison on June 6. Registration is now open for both. The new ceremony is open to families. Biannual meeting this Sunday at 10, open to all 4th degree members.

Closing remarks early from Tom Hamling, Supreme Representative – US and Canada are getting stronger in recruiting vs international. International was stronger in recent years but it is starting to level out. What has changed? Guys are liking what they see, the programs are appealing to the members and they are inviting others. Potential members like what they are seeing. Keep doing what you're doing. We had a member of our council who became an agent, and it was fantastic. Highly encourage you to put members forward if you think they would be a good fit. Very rewarding. All assessments from Supreme forgiven for the year if he works out in the position for a year. If you have any questions, please ask. I'll be around.

Credential Report, Pat Jackson, State Secretary – 77 delegates voting

Parliamentarian, Steve Koach – Reviewed rules for voting

Ryan Marks reviewed the Election Buddy process for voting.

Additional nominations from floor open.

State Officers:



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- Pat Jackson nominated at the caucus for State Deputy; No additional nominations; Elected by unanimous vote
- Brian Lagasse nominated at the caucus for State Secretary; No additional nominations; Elected by unanimous vote
- John Bares nominated at the caucus for State Treasurer; No additional nominations; Elected by unanimous vote
- Andre Patterson & Randy Duffy nominated at the caucus for State Advocate; No additional nominations; Andre spoke on his own behalf; Danny Garcia spoke on behalf of Randy Duffy; Randy Duffy elected by majority vote
- Gerald Buford & Emerson Healy nominated at the caucus for State Warden; No additional nominations; Josh Billings spoke on behalf of Gerald Buford; Pete Parrish spoke on behalf of Emerson Healy; Emerson Healy elected by majority vote

Supreme Delegates:

Pat Jackson and Bill Mores automatic delegates as State Deputy Elect and Immediate Past State Deputy

Other Nominees from Caucus:

John Bares, Joe Flaherty, Dennis Vaglica, Mike Schultz, Gerald Buford, Andre Patterson, Emerson Healy, Griffin Shreves

No new nominations from the floor

Delegates elected Joe Flaherty; Griffin Shreves; Andre Patterson; Emerson Healy; Gerald Buford

Alternate Delegates: John Bares; Mike Schultz; Dennis Vaglica

Resolutions, John Bares, State Advocate – Read titles, first group approved unanimously. Final resolution for a \$2 increase in per capita to \$10 annually was read in its entirety. Spirited discussion. A motion to amend the resolution to an increase of \$1 to \$9 annually was voted on and defeated. The original motion was voted on and passed with a 77% favorable vote.

Closing remarks

PSD Milton Larch 92-94, came by to check in, money problems are nothing new,

PSD, FDM Steve Koach – congratulations to new officers, please get comments to me on convention as the chair

PSD, FVSM, FDM Pete Parrish – Thanks for coming and participating, bring resolutions forward, get involved you are the state council

PSD, DM Griffin Shreves – thanks for making me a delegate to Supreme,

PSD, VSM, FDM Joe Flaherty – Thanks for being here, & making me a delegate to Supreme, it's a good group of officers; use their knowledge

IPSD Danny Garcia – thanks to Bill for last two years, thanks for good meeting and thanks to everyone for being here.

Executive Assistant Gerald Buford – Thanks for being here

State Warden Andre Patterson – Thanks for being here, thanks for help you gave me as the SW



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State Treasurer Elect John Bares – Thanks for your comments, thanks for electing me as your new ST

State Advocate Elect Randy Duffy – Thanks for your vote, I'll give you 100%

State Secretary Elect Brian Lagasse– Thanks for being here, good to see you all; delegates, I have your pins, see me after we close.

State Deputy Elect Pat Jackson – Thank you all for taking time to be here. Thank you for placing your confidence in me to serve as your State Deputy, I'm humbled and honestly a little terrified. I'm looking forward to next year, but let's remember we have work to do still this year. Let's finish strong. Vivat Jesus!

State Deputy Bill Mores – It's been a whirlwind, thanks for given me the opportunity, we still have work to do for the rest of the year.

Fr Tom Weiss – closing prayer 2:05