Meeting Minutes: 2026 Grand Knights & Fraternal Leaders Organizational Meeting

Date: July 18, 2026

Location: St. Joseph's Church, Prattville, Alabama

---

1. Opening

- Call to attention at 11:45 am
- Holy Hour presided over by Very Reverend Vernon F. Huguley, State Chaplain
- Meeting called to order at 12:45 pm by Pat Jackson, AL State Deputy
- Pledge of Allegiance led by District Master Griffin Shreves

---

2. Supreme Representative's Address (J.C. Reiher, PSD, RGD)

- **Early is easy** (complete 185, 365 and Safe Environment)
- **Culture of Invitation:** Emphasized shifting vocabularies away from "Recruitment" to "Invitation"—"Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." Every event (e.g., pancake breakfasts, tamale sales) must include a membership component.
- **The Brass Ring (Shining Armor Award):** Welcomed Grand Knights to leverage the program. New members track participation across 3 meetings, 3 activities, their initial degree, inviting a new member, and completing a financial needs assessment with an agent.
- **Founders Award Requirements:** Clarified that the target metric is set at **10% of associate (non-insured) members** based on the July 1st roster, subject to a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 meetings per council.
- **Safe Environment Protection:** Re-emphasized the mandatory 28-minute online Presidium safety blocks. Grand Knights who explicitly refuse to comply will be replaced to protect both the local councils and the diocese.
- **Opportunities for Recruiting**
    - COR
    - Our Programs
    - Pending Applications List
    - Prospect tab
    - Market Penetration
    - Men's Conference
    - Parish Events

- **Partnerships**
    - 4th Degree Districts
    - Diocese/Archdiocese
    - Outside Organizations
    - Our Insurance Agencies

---

3. State Deputy's Report & General Announcements (Pat Jackson, State Deputy)

- **Review of Record Achievements:** Celebrated achieving Circle of Honor and State Pinnacle status during the past fraternal year under Immediate Past State Deputy Bill Mores, reaching 135% of the membership target with 33 Star Councils and 12 Star Districts.
- **Fraternal Momentum:** Current intake target adjusted down to **503 net new members** due to late 4th-quarter successes. Meeting 20% of this goal by the end of Q1 will trigger an additional 2.5% requirement reduction.
- **Insurance Communication:** Field agents are requested to submit a short monthly text/email message to be read aloud during council meetings, ensuring consistent updates even if they cannot attend in person.

---

4. Ladies Auxiliary State Report (Roseanne Pullman, ASCAL President)

- **Historical Perspective & Expansion:** Traced roots from the first 1981 charter in Mobile (Kay Weiss) down from original 25 auxiliaries to 6 highly dedicated active units. Membership is open to wives, daughters, and sisters of knights.
- **Parish Engagement:** Highlighted highly successful community initiatives like parish-wide murder mystery theater dinners to keep families engaged.
- **Upcoming Actions:** A formal outreach letter and localized preference survey will be distributed to Grand Knights in the coming months.

---

5. Convention Report (Pete Parish, PSD, FDM, FVSM)

- The 2027 State Convention is scheduled for April 9–11, 2027, at the Wind Creek Hotel and Casino. The traditional raffle will feature a $1,000 Grand Prize, a $500 Second Prize, and resort package certificates ($10 single ticket / 3 for $25).

Ladies excused and a short break prior to the start of the business meeting

---

6. State Administration, Budget & Financials

- **Credential Report** Emerson Healy, State Warden
- **Roll Call** completed by Brian Lagasse, State Secretary
- **Financial Secretary Minutes & Approvals (Brian Lagasse, State Secretary):** Business meeting minutes from the state convention were accepted as posted on the website.
- **Treasurer's Reports Closeout (Brian Lagasse, State Secretary):**
    - *Financial Reports for the end of the 2025-2026 fraternal year were presented. The reports will be posted on the State website.*
- **Transition of the State Treasurer Role: Johnny Bares** officially assumes the role of State Treasurer. All future invoices, council assessments, and state per capita payments must be sent to Johnny Bares's home address listed on the website. Do not mail items to Brian Lagasse's old P.O. Box.
- **Early Payment Acknowledgement:** Single out Council 11537 for completing and delivering their per capita assessment checking payment exactly two days after the July 4th invoices were distributed, earning a State Challenge medallion and $20 per capita refund.

---

7. Finance & Budget Committee Report, **(Pete Parish, PSD, FDM, FVSM)**

- Thanked members of the committee; the committee met and reviewed reports, finances are in good shape; all rules are being followed.
- Committee reviewed State budget and approved it.

---

8. State Advocate Compliance Review (Randy Duffy, State Advocate)

- **Form Submission Deficits: 27 out of 80 active councils** remain outstanding on their Form 365 Service Program Personnel reports. Only 9 councils fail to report Form 185.

- **Access Consequences:** Reminded Grand Knights that failure to complete Forms 185 and 365 within the initial 45-day window locks out council officers from the online Supreme systems, triggering protracted manual password resets.
- **Safe Environment Background Routines:** Clarified that family and community directors must complete standardized background screen checks alongside the training modules.

---

9. EFF & Cor Overview (Mike Schultz, State EFF Director)

- Prayer
- Our K of C Identity
- Cor Connection – Mission Narrative
- Cor Success
- Support Infrastructure
- State Director, Diocesan Coordinator, Council Directors
- Cor Resources
- "Formed" Streaming Service (Catholic "Netflix")
- Encountering the Poor video series
- New Into the Breach video series (Dignity of Work)
- Heart of the Gospel Retreat (first weekend in November hosted by Councils 764/11672)

---

10. Membership Overview (Emerson Healy, State Membership Director)

- Where did we Finish?
- Goals for 2026-2027
- Overview of Membership team
- Proof of Concept/Parish Outreach Drive
- Fourteen Councils received Challenge coins from State Deputy Pat Jackson for recruiting at least 1 new member this fraternal year. One Council at random received $20.
- 1st Quarter Incentive (30 for 30) $30 if 30% membership goal met by 9/30.
- Mark Proper (Council 3227) provided insights on how they turned the Council around.

---

11. Online Membership Overview (Pete Parrish, State Online Membership Director)

- Council Accomplishments Last Year
- Review of Star Councils
- Star Council Requirements
- New Member Recruitment
- Ways to sign up a member
- Online Join & Onboarding Process
- Candidate needs to respond to emails sent to them.

12. Faith in Action Programs (Jeff Wolfe, State Program Director)

- **"If you will build it, they will come**."
    - Programs and Membership work together.
- **SP7 Structural Rewrite:** Points have been fully retired. The new format requires:
    - *Requirement 1:* A definitive $500 donation (or equivalent value) to a singular program category: ASAP, RSVP, Food for Families (1,000 lbs equivalent), or Coats for Kids.
    - *Requirement 2:* Completion of 4 unique, non-overlapping programs (1 per core branch).
    - *Requirement 3:* 3 distinct localized community, parish, or fraternal development actions (or active implementation of the *Cor* initiative).
- **Community Programs Lineup**
    - Coats for Kids overview
    - State Soccer Challenge
    - Basketball Free-Throw competition
    - Catholic Citizen Essay Contest
- **Family Programs Lineup**
    - Build-a-bed
    - Family of the Month
    - Keep Christ in Christmas
    - KCIC Poster Contest
- **Life Programs Lineup**
    - ASAP
    - March for Life
    - Silver Rose campaign
- **Faith Programs Lineup**
    - RSVP
    - Pilgrim Icon
    - Into the Breach
    - Holy Hour

- **Coats for Kids Allocation:** A special programmatic adjustment assigns 1 BOGO match case per council for orders placed during July. Remaining allocations shift to a general open first-come, first-served schedule on August 1st. Payment checks must be made out to the **State Council** and routed to the Treasurer.
- **Youth Competitions:**
    - *State Soccer Challenge (Tom O'Donnell):* Local cycles run Sept 1–Oct 15 (15 kicks council, 10 kicks district), culminating in a virtual state scoring assessment.
    - *Free Throw Competition (Joe Bouchell):* Local matches run in January, Districts in February, and the virtual State scoring finals on March 27th.
    - *Catholic Essay Contest:* Open to grades 8–12. The 2026/2027 analytical prompt focuses on evaluating John F. Kennedy's 1961 inaugural quote: *"The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God."*

---

13. Fourth Degree Province Reports: (Griffin Shreves District Master)

- *Star Assembly Benchmarks:* Simplified tracking requires 4 patriotic programs, a Patriot Award application, a 6% net membership increase, and structural form adherence.
- *Honor Guards & Color Core Callouts:* Emphasized the mandatory implementation of the *Sign Up Genius* digital scheduling architecture to manage color guards for major events, including the upcoming Father James E. Coyle Memorial Mass (Cathedral of St. Paul, Birmingham, Aug 11th).
- *Exemplification Circuit (2026-2027):* Confirmed locations include Dothan (Sept), Huntsville Assembly 4 (Oct 3), Mobile St. Pius Parish (Oct 10), Hoover (Jan 2027), Madison (May 2027), and Prattville (March 2027 tentative).
- *Exemplification incentive*: 126th Anniversary 4th Degree medallion for Candidate and Proposer.
- Official 4th Degree Dress Uniform information presented.
- *Uniform Incentives:* Introduced a $250 promotional voucher drawing for active color corps participants along with a limited supply of United States Quincentennial medallions ($10).

---

14. Beinville Province Report (Joe Flaherty Vice Supreme Master)

- *Jurisdictional Standings:* The Bienville Province secured #1 in the division and #2 across the global order, with Alabama contributing 100 new assembly members (70% of its target quote).
- *New Unit Charter:* Celebrated the finalization of **Assembly 4080** in Huntsville (attached to Council 4080).
- *Bienville Provincial Meeting:* Scheduled for **October 23–24 in Nashville, Tennessee**. Paper informational packs are available via District Masters.
- Importance of filling out Form 4 correctly
- Reminder to follow the Chain of Command. Members, Faithful Navigators, District Mast, Vice Supreme Master, Supreme Master.
- Membership Recruitment – biggest resource is Council Grand Knights.
- Official 4th Degree Dress Uniform information presented.

---

15. Programmatic Roundups

- **Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Drive (Tom O'Donnell):** Reasserted that submitting the Form 1 tracking report is a firm constitutional structural requirement outlined in the bylaws, not an optional activity.
- **Soccer Challenge (Tom O'Donnell)**
- **Keep Christ in Christmas (Dennis Vaglica):**
- **Hispanic Council Growth Coordinator (Herencio Gallegos):** Formally introduced as the new Hispanic Growth Coordinator. Outlined immediate field plans to identify localized parish needs across North Alabama and establish open communication lines using mobile applications.

---

16. Unfinished/New Business (Pat Jack, State Deputy)

- Council 11672 presented two donations directly on the floor: $1,500 for the State Ultrasound Program and $500 designated for Disaster Relief.
- Thanks to Mike Weist for the 3 hour Financial Secretary training provided this morning.

17. Concluding Remarks

- **Supreme Representative Closing Remarks, J.C. Reiher (RGD, PSD)**
  - Commend Brother Gallegos for being Hispanic Growth Coordinator
  - Tools for Success given today.
  - Question is "Who is going to stop me?"

- **Past State Deputy Remarks**
  - PSD Pete Parrish – Thank you for attending and your patience today
  - PSD Griffin Shreves – Remember to promote the 4th Degree to your Knights
  - PSD Joe Flaherty – Spread the word on the information presented today. Thanks to host Council.
  - PSD Danny Garcia – Thank you for the great meeting
  - IPSD Bill Mores – Congratulations on a great year last year. Thanks for coming today.

- **State Officer Remarks**
  - Emerson Healy (SW) – Thank you for attending. Promote Culture of Invitation.
  - Randy Duffey (SA) – Thanks to host Council.
  - John Bares (ST) – Thank you for per capita already sent in.
  - Brian Lagasse (SS) – Thank you for taking the time to attend today. We are all here to serve you and your Councils.
  - Pat Jackson (SD) – Thank you for coming and your participation. Thank you to the host Council.

---

18. Adjournment:

- **Closing Prayer, Brian Lagasse, State Secretary**
  - Prayer for the canonization cause of Blessed Father Michael McGivney

- Meeting was officially adjourned at 4:26 pm by Pat Jackson, AL State Deputy

---