

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

### **Msgr. Jerome MacEachin East Lansing Council 7816**

#### **Minutes for February 12, 2019 General Meeting**

**7:30 PM**

Grand Knight Paul Lacroix called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. There were 12 members present when the meeting was called to order (Inside Guard Mike Wooley joined during roll, bringing the total present to 13).

The doors were closed and Outside Guard Luke Gray stood in for Warden Russ Martin. Brother Gray vouched that all present were in possession of their membership cards and currently in good standing.

Meeting was opened by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the first verse of The Opening Ode.

Roll call of officers was taken by Recorder Patrick Daniels. Deputy Grand Knight Scott Jakovac, Chancellor Larry Meyer, Warden Russ Martin, and Three-Year Trustee Mark Meyer were absent and excused.

January minutes have been published. Financial Secretary Dave Myer made a motion to accept the minutes. Two-Year Trustee Paul Gadola seconded. All present in favor.

#### **GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT**

- New admissions.
  - No new applications.
  - Correction to January minutes: Josh Ginepro and Tom Mullaney were also approved for membership.
- January Admission Degrees
  - We hosted two Admission Degrees last month, one at St. Thomas and one at St. John's.
  - Initiated 20-23 new Knights between the two events.

- Unfortunately, any new Knights associated with the college council do not count towards our membership quota. Grand Knight will reach out to Supreme, but it's unlikely we will be given any consideration in the matter.
  - Thank you (and apology) to the degree team and everyone involved for stepping up and handling both ceremonies.
- January 26
  - There was a wonderful turnout for Corporate Communion and Father Gordon's installation as pastor. Fr. Gordon deeply appreciated the Knights' help in making the event a success.
- Updating membership records
  - Gary Hauser said that if he has a roster, he'll start calling to update information.
  - It's understood that people move, people get new contact information, but our council needs to make an effort to get updated emails and numbers to ensure all Knights are kept current on council news and upcoming volunteer efforts.
  - Brother Chuck Graff agreed, adding that he's received several comments from Knights about volunteer opportunities and their not knowing about them until afterward the fact. He also added that while there are "new faces" every now and again, they tend to disappear after one showing. Grand Knight agreed.
  - One-Year Trustee Art Weber asked how many emails are bouncing from the mass emails? Grand Knight said that he is uncertain how many are returned as he is not provided that information - but he will contact Supreme and see if it's available.
  - Brother Wooley added that it's important to inform the Knights that we're just updating records; we're not soliciting anyone for anything.
- Rectory at 987 Longfellow
  - The rectory at 987 Longfellow Dr has sold.
  - Two Men and a Truck will be there on the February 22. The church needs to have everything packed up and needs help with odds and ends, such as Fr. Mac's china.
  - Anyone able to help from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, February 16 would be appreciated. Grand Knight buying lunch (read: parish buying lunch) for anyone who can come out and help.
  - Deacon/Brother Dave Zygmuntowicz (Ziggy) asked if the Grand Knight has contacted Brother Josh Hamilton and/or Youth Ministry. Grand Knight said he has.

## OTHER REPORTS

### *Treasurer's Report*

- 7816 has 275 members and 116 have paid their dues to date. We currently have 35 lifetime memberships.
- Better turnouts for breakfasts so far this year. Big "thank you" too Brother Graff for his cost-cutting and fiscal responsibility; this paired with the improved attendance has helped out bottom line.

- We were told to plan for 400 at the installation and spaghetti dinner. Turnout was a bit low, but the additional food was donated to Homeless Angels.
- Pavilion for the parish picnic has been paid.
- Masses have been scheduled for fallen Knights.
- Father Gordon has asked the Knights to reimburse the parish \$176 for a kiosk of booklets.
  - Brother Paul Stevens made a motion to pay for the kiosk. Brother Gadola seconded. All present in favor.

#### *Financial Secretary's Report*

- Currently at 93 Knights with outstanding dues. The third notice will be going out in a week and a half.

#### *Trustees' Report(s)*

- One-Year Trustee Art Weber has been working on fish fry inquiries brought up at the November meeting, gauging menu options and what can be done to keep costs in line.
  - Gordon Foods is going to get rid of gas surcharge for us. They're willing to work with us on whatever we need.
  - Fish is up again this year, \$14.00 for a 40 lb.-case.
  - Besides the cost of adding additional menu items, such as shrimp, our fryers are not able to handle more than one item (meaning they are single-use).
  - If we eliminate fruit cocktail and mixed vegetables, that will bring costs back to about where we've been the past two years.
  - Considering better gloves for prep and serving. We go through a lot of the poly gloves (and they don't fit well). Nitrile gloves would be about \$20.00 more.
  - Suggestion: We've had several requests to do away with styrofoam plates and bowls.
    - Paper cups are about \$5.00 more than styrofoam cups.
    - Styrofoam bowls went up \$0.35 this year. but Gordon Foods told him that they would match last year's price. If we decide to cut fruit cocktail, we can get rid of the styrofoam bowls entirely.
  - Brother Anton commented that we have more on our menu than some restaurants have with fish dinners. Many other councils in the Greater Lansing area have raised their price to \$12.00 or more. If we slim down the menu, we can consider keeping our price at \$10.00, but we should provide some kind of notice as to what's changing and why.
  - Grand Knight agreed that if we cut items to cut cost, we cannot raise the price - and everyone who attends should be understanding of the situation.
  - Brother Gray again asked about charging \$10.00 for drive-thru or single trip, then charge more for an all-you-can-eat option (\$12.00).
  - Suggestion: We've also had several comments on Knights not wearing any kind of hat or hair net. Brother Weber suggested paper hats.
- One-Year Trustee Art Weber also brought up a matter discussed with Three-Year Trustee Mark Meyer prior to the meeting: new aprons for servers at fish frys.
  - Aprons have the Knights of Columbus emblem embroidered on the front and are available through Knights Gear for \$28.00 (each).

- Brother Graff commented that we would need to ensure the aprons are properly cleaned. Brother Weber responded that, so far as his personal experiences go, Sohn Linen Service has a good track record with Michigan State University. They're able to bag and tag items separately to ensure they're returned.
- Two-Year Trustee Paul Gadola recommended we consider purchasing 20 aprons. He reiterated that they would primarily be used by Knights out front, serving food. He also said that Sohn should be able to supply a second cleaning bag for the aprons.
- Grand Knight asked for a motion to purchase 20 aprons at \$28.00 each.
  - Brother Gadola made a motion to purchase 20 aprons at \$28.00 each. Brother Stevens seconded.
  - Motion was opened for discussion prior to final vote.
    - Treasurer John Anton asked if the trustees considered other options, whether they shopped around and checked prices elsewhere for a similar product. We could consider purchasing aprons elsewhere and having them embroidered.
    - Recorder Patrick Daniels asked, if we shop around and purchase aprons from somewhere other than Knights Gear, will the aprons be embroidered and returned to the council in time for the first fish fry on March 8.
    - Outside Guard Luke Gray recommended that we amend the motion to allow a maximum amount of \$560.00 for the purchase of aprons, thereby authorizing the purchase, but not necessarily through Knights Gear. We could then discuss further at the business meeting in two weeks.
    - Recorded questioned setting that specific amount should we decide to go through Knights Gear, citing taxes and shipping fees.
    - Treasurer confirmed that two votes will be needed; we can take the first vote on the amended motion tonight, then a second vote at the officers' meeting.
  - Brother Graff made the amended motion to purchase 20 aprons for use by the council with a spending limit of \$560.00. Brother Stevens seconded. Motion passed with 11 in favor and 2 opposed.
- Treasurer John Anton thanked Brother Weber and Brother Graff for all of their work preparing for our breakfasts and fish fries - especially their due diligence where stock and cost is concerned.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Chapel Hill Cemetery*

Inside Guard Mike Wooley asked permission from the Grand Knight to address the council.

Brother Wooley works with Brother Dante Centofanti at Chapel Hill Cemetery. There is a family that is in need of assistance. The family wants a deceased family member interred at Chapel Hill, but the family cannot pay for it. Mike and Dante have made an effort to try and help the family. To date, they've received \$200.00 from St. Vincent and the Salvation Army has donated a casket and the vault. The funeral home donated 30 days (for the family to make decisions). Brother Wooley clarified that the individual is not a member of our parish and the family is not Catholic.

The \$200.00 donation from St. Vincent leaves a remaining balance of \$1,225.00 for interment. Primary cost is the vault and laying the body in the ground; even cremation still requires a vault (albeit a much smaller vault).

Brother Daniels stated that, while he is not necessarily against this, he urges caution; something like this could set a dangerous precedent for future requests for aid. Brother Gray agreed, but asked if it was possible to make an anonymous donation directly to Chapel Hills for the interment.

Grand Knight asked Deacon/Brother Dave Zygmuntowicz (Ziggy) his thoughts on the matter. Deacon Ziggy stated that our bodies are temples and the dead must be buried. Honoring the body doesn't stop after the person has died - and the first question asked at the Pearly Gates will not be "Are you Catholic?"

Grand Knight asked if the family has made any decisions, other than simply wanting the body interred at Chapel Hills. What happens if they manage to raise more than their goal? If the goal is not met, what happens with the funds that were raised? We need more information before we proceed. Brother Graff agreed, stating that the family will need to raise what they can, not simply ask for the full amount. They will need to work through this and may need to make some concessions.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Prayers were requested for: Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; Bishop Earl Boyea and Bishop Emeritus Carl Mengeling; Fr. Jake Foglio; Fr. Mark Ingot; Fr. Gary Koenigsknecht; Fr. Jerry Ploof; Anne Graff, wife of PGK Chuck Graff; Debbie Engan, sister of PGK Graff; Tammy Pruitt, niece of PGK Graff; Brother Mike Wooley; Pauline Wooley, mother of Brother Mike Wooley; Phyllis Izdebski, mother-in-law of Brother Mike Wooley; Jim Wooley, brother of Brother Mike Wooley; Brother William Derengoski; Brother Paul Miller; Brother Gary Hauser; Shirlean Hauser, wife of Brother Gary Hauser; Nancy Jordan, mother of Brother John Schwind; Brother Leo Christel; Mary Lou Christel, wife of Leo Christel; Brother Christopher Niemela; Cheryl Slocum, friend of Brother John Ingraham; and Brother John Ingraham. Also,

all men and women serving in the U.S. Forces and members of the Rosary-Altar Society and St. Vincent DePaul Society. We're also offering prayers for healing for the clergy and parishioners of the Catholic Church here and around the world, especially those affected by recent events and revelations.

Closed by reciting the Lord's Prayer and singing the first verse of the The Closing Ode. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Financial Secretary Dave Myer won the 50/50 raffle. He took his dollar back and donated \$10 back to the council fresh my phone.

Our next general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 7:30 PM in the Bishop Baraga Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Daniels, Recorder