

**KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS**  
**Msgr. Jerome MacEachin East Lansing Council 7816**

**Minutes for January 14, 2020 General Meeting**  
**7:30 PM**

Grand Knight Paul Lacroix called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM. There were 13 members present when the meeting was called to order. District Deputy Scott Jakovac and our insurance representative, Brother Brennan Hayden, were also in attendance.

The doors were closed by Inside Guard Mike Wooley. Warden Luke Gray vouched that all present were in possession of their membership cards and currently in good standing.

Meeting was opened by reciting the Lord's Prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and singing the first verse of The Opening Ode.

Recording Secretary Patrick Daniels took roll call of officers. Roll was as follows:

- **Grand Knight Paul Lacroix, present**
- Deputy Grand Knight (Position vacant)
- *Chaplain Fr. Gordon Reigle, absent and excused*
- **Financial Secretary Dave Myer, present**
- *Chancellor John Schwend, absent and excused*
- **Recorder Patrick Daniels, present**
- **Treasurer John Anton, present**
- *Advocate John Ingraham, absent and excused*
- **Warden Luke Gray, present**
- **Inside Guard Mike Wooley, present**
- Outside Guard (Position vacant)
- **One-Year Trustee Paul Gadola, present**
- *Two-Year Trustee Mark Meyer, absent and excused*
- **Three-Year Trustee Tom Collisimo, present**

Grand Knight confirmed that September minutes have been approved and December minutes were received. Recorder Patrick Daniels noted that there are several items that require correction and/or confirmation on December minutes, so the final edit is pending. Grand Knight said that we will revisit at the officer's meeting.

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

- Admissions and reading of applications
  - The Financial Secretary noted that there are no new applications at this time, but one transfer has been processed and there are three previous applications to process.
- Letter from Michigan Catholic Conference
  - Fr. Gordon received a letter from Paul Long, CEO/president of the Michigan Catholic Conference with a handwritten note thanking the parish and the Knights for their support in the petition/signature drive.
  - Our council first discussed the drive in August 2019 and took it to membership in September. A total of 379,418 total signatures were submitted to the Secretary of State. This came about in part due to Gov. Whitmer promising to veto a bill that included the ban of dilation and evacuation abortions. There have been similar bills in the House and Senate, but the separate measures have yet to be reconciled and pass both chambers.
  - Should the petition succeed, the House and Senate will have 40 days to vote; if the bill passes both chambers, it becomes law without requiring the governor's signature. If either chamber fails to do so, the matter goes on the ballot.
- Blood drive
  - Tentatively set for Friday, March 13.
  - Grand Knight asked all present to consider donating (and to stop by the fish fry afterwards).
- Fish frys
  - Ash Wednesday is February 26 and the first fish fry will be February 28.
  - Due to the quick turnaround, the Grand Knight suggested that we not put on a pancake breakfast in February in order to prepare for the first fish fry.
  - Paul Birch is still able to handle pickup on Mondays and bring the fish inside.
- Pancake breakfast
  - Skeleton crew over the past weekend for the last pancake breakfast. Volunteer attendance was down, but attendance was down as well. (Likely due to weather.)
- Tootsie Rolls
  - The Tootsie Roll drive is coming up in April. Same crew: Brothers Dan Phillips and Paul Heberlein have volunteered to stay after masses.
  - Our worthy District Deputy will ask the college counsel to help/shadow this year, then take over at St John's next year.
- Changes to degree ceremonies
  - The First-Degree team and general ceremonials were discussed at the November meeting - but there is a new degree ceremony in place. Following Mass, the ceremony is essentially read as lectors, nothing is acted out, and encompasses the First (Exemplification), Second (Admission), and Third (Formation) Degrees (and takes less than 30 minutes). Fr. Gordon is in full support.
  - This is an opportunity to bring First Degree nights right to the Third Degree. We're currently planning a rotation between masses at both locations. We were looking at holding a ceremony following Mass on February 9, but there are already baptisms scheduled; so, unfortunately, that will not work.
  - Our Worthy District Deputy asked to speak on the matter
    - He cited the fact that 120 of our current membership are First Degree Knights. These ceremonies should be an easy way to get people involved and move Knights to the Third Degree. He also noted that he has concerns with the lack of participation in our council; there are 14 individuals at the meeting tonight, and, of those 14, 9 regularly volunteer.
    - He hopes that this will be a good way to get new blood in the council. He's hopeful that this will drive membership and that we can use this to our advantage. He stated again that this should move a good number of our First-Degree members up to the Third Degree.

- He went on to add that as Knights are recognized and brought to the forefront of the parish, it will drive further interactions with the parish. It's a good opportunity to push and encourage everyone and anyone on the cusp of joining. It should spark interest and drive anyone who already had an interest to pursue Knighthood.
    - Grand Knight noted that 7816 has strong support from Fr. Gordon and Fr. Gary and that he plans to send weekly update emails on upcoming ceremonies. These updates will also be included in announcements in the bulletin and announced from the pulpit.
    - One-Year Trustee Paul Gadola asked if the priest has any involvement in the ceremony. Grand Knight confirmed that the priest is involved and offers an opening and closing prayer as part of the ceremony.
    - Brother Brad Gagnon asked about notice, wanting to know if/when dates will be posted in order for those (himself included) who may be interested in advancing, but need to plan to attend a specific Mass. Grand Knight stated that dates would be included in his weekly updates.
    - Warden Luke Gray asked what will happen with Form 100s and standard votes on membership. Grand Knight deferred to District Deputy. District Deputy stated that applications would be taken either prior to or immediately following the ceremony, then the council will deal with work through processes, including votes, once new members sign on - but he envisions the ceremonies starting with existing Knights advancing, with new members joining down the line.
    - Brother Gray went on to say his concerns lie with members coming in, then being carried. He has concerns with new members that aren't properly vetted and whether they follow through with paying dues. If dues are not paid, then the council carries the burden of lost revenues and additional burdens in the form of per capita taxes.
      - Recording Secretary Patrick Daniels wished to reiterate that point; if individuals simply stay after mass and go through the ceremony, then there may or may not be the understanding that there is a commitment of, not only time, but money. When dues go out, will there be any considerations made by State and Supreme if/when the council needs to consider sanctions.
      - District Deputy stated that there is no cost associated with members not paying dues.
      - Treasurer John Anton noted that there is absolutely a cost when dues are not paid; there's an initial loss from the planned budget and the additional cost to the council via the per capita tax to the state council and the supreme council, as stated by Brother Daniels.
    - Grand Knight proposed that we have individuals stay and go through the ceremony, then collect Form 100s. We would then vote on the Form 100s at the general meeting following the ceremony. So long as they're approved, the new members have already attended the ceremony and there's nothing more to do.
    - Brother Daniels again stated his hopes that State will be more understanding of the need for either sanctions - or, at the very least, a waiver for taxes - if a sudden influx of members results in a high percentage of members being carried by the council.
- Christmas Eve Mass
  - Fr. Gordon thanked 7816 for ushering at the Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00 and 7:30. There have been conversations regarding the usher corp and possible reinstating the group. Several families at the Christmas Masses asked about Knights and their children serving as ushers. Grand Knight underscored the importance of these comments; the parish remembers. He added that Knights of Columbus ushering was very well received in the past - and donations tended to be higher.
- MSU ticket scanning
  - Michigan State University ticket taking update was provided at the December meeting. Grand Knight said that he will be reviewing the December minutes when they are finished.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

### *Treasurer's Report*

- Treasurer John Anton briefly addressed the last pancake breakfast. Revenue on breakfasts are still down.
- Dues went out in December and are steadily coming in. He added that donations accompanying dues have been significantly higher this year.
- Brother Anton thanked Brother Gadola for donating his winnings in the 50/50 raffle last month to the refreshment fund. (We're almost back in the black.)
- Brother Frank Goeddeke asked when the money from MSU came last year. Brother Anton noted that it typically comes in February.

### *Financial Secretary's Report*

- Second notices on dues will be going out today or tomorrow. He noted that several members in rears are now current.
  - Grand Knight thanked Financial Secretary Dave Myer for all of his hard work. He wanted to add that there's been about a 50% return on the contact update form that accompanied the dues notice. There have been a number of updated phone numbers and emails.
  - Grand Knight said that Brother Marty Dolan contacted him; Brother Dolan is a Third Degree, but the contact form (and Member Management portal) still says that he is a First Degree. Grand Knight said he will follow up with Brother Myer to see what needs to be done to remedy the situation.

### *Trustees' Report*

- One-Year Trustee Paul Gadola noted that the late-night breakfast went very well. The college council stepped up and really took charge. Our volunteers helped get things started and helped out with cleanup, but they handled everything else. It went very well.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### *State Deputy's Tribute Dinner*

State Deputy's Tribute Dinner in Warren is on February 29 and we will be sponsoring Deacon Ziggy to attend. Treasurer John Anton confirmed the cost is \$30, not \$60.

## **DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT**

District Deputy Scott Jakovac had nothing to report other than noting the advertisement for State outing was \$150 and would be split between three councils; 7816 is responsible for \$50. Treasurer noted we already have funds allocated for the District Deputy and State functions.

District Deputy and Grand Knight both noted the story on Dan Beaudrie from the college counsel in the Knights newsletter and magazine. Dan is currently the Grand Knight of the college council and the article shared his story. He's a great kid and he has a great story; both strongly encouraged everyone present to read it.

## **INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Brother Brennan Hayden, our council's insurance representative, came to speak on the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act of 2019.

Contributions to contribution plans are most often deducted from an employee's paycheck and the balance is allowed to grow tax-free until withdrawal, usually during retirement. Once they reach a certain age, retirement savers are required to withdraw a set amount from their retirement savings each year, a required minimum distribution (RMD). The SECURE Act raises this age from 70½ to 72, delaying both the tax burden of withdrawals and the drawdown on savings.

Instead of taking income at 70½, IRA holders can now push their start date to age 72. Not only that, they can continue to make tax deductible contributions until 72 as well.

There is potential for an increased tax burden and the Knights have been actively working on strategies to avoid these additional burdens. Brother Hayden also noted that the rate tables were recently updated.

Financial Secretary Dave Myer wanted to mention the guaranteed-issue policy. This is a whole-life policy of \$10,000 without an uninsurable check - but you must survive a minimum of two years for the benefit. Generally, applies to an emergency or end-of-life situation, but it's a good benefit of which to be aware.

Contact information:

Brennan Hayden  
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## **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 Inglot; Fr. Gary Koenigsknecht; Fr. Jerry Ploof; Anne Graff, wife of PGK Chuck Graff; Debbie Engan, sister of PGK Chuck Graff; Tammy Pruitt, niece of PGK Chuck Graff; Brother Mike Wooley; Phyllis Izdebski, mother-in-law of Brother Wooley; Jim Wooley, brother of Brother Wooley; Brother William Derengoski; Brother Paul Miller; Brother Gary Hauser; Shirlean Hauser, wife of Brother Hauser; Nancy Jordan, mother of Brother John Schwend; Phil Schwend, father of Brother John Schwend; Brother Christopher Niemela; Brother Vern Johnson; Joyce Magner, friend of Brother John Ingraham; Cheryl Slocum, friend of Brother John Ingraham; Brother John Ingraham; Brother Bill Cleary; and Brother Frank Goeddeke. 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 Hail Mary and singing the first verse of the The Closing Ode. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Our next general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 7:30 PM in the Bishop Baraga Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Daniels, Recording Secretary