

District Assembly Meeting of March 25th, 2023

Registration was held at 10 AM

Meeting was called to order at 10:20 by Worthy District Master Chris Bencharski.

WDM Chris welcomed all of us to the meeting and introduced VSM Andy Sambrielaz.

O' Canada was led by WDM Chris Bencharski.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by WFM Ray Gehlen.

Mass was at 10:30 celebrated by District Friar Bishop Emeritus Albert Thevenot

WDM Chris introduced Worth District Friar Bishop Albert Thevenot and thanked him for celebrating mass for us. WDM Chris also introduced WFM Ray Gehlen, WFM Lorne Keller, host FN Frank Brown and host PFN Adrien Piche and Worthy State Advocate Angel George.

WDM Chris then had us all introduce ourselves.

In order of sign in attendance sheet:

FC Tony Dakiniewich #1904, FP Ray Ball #1526, PFN Brad Lefebvre #2166, FN Gordon Stopanski #1064, WFM Lorne Keller #1065, FN Ron Klein #1526, FC Pete Brocollo #1526, Sir Knight Francois Porte #1526, FN Frank Brown #1065, FN/PSD Marvin De Schryver #1425, FC Ron Koenig #1425, FN John Pigott #1068, FC Don Dolezar #1068, Sir Knight Bob Juneau (KC Charities Board Member) #1065, PFN Adrien Piche #1065, FP Keith Byers #1960, VSM Andy Sambrielaz #0035, WFM Ray Gehlen #2166, FN Cody Geiger #1960, FN Justin Foley #2166, Sask. District Master Chris Bencharski #2792, Sask. District Friar Bishop Thevenot #1068, FC Robin De Roo #1065, Charitable Foundation Chairman Sir Knight Harvey Granatier #1065, PFN/State Warden Agnel George #1064, SK Jacob Joseph #1065, SK Aster George #1065, SK Manoj Thomas #1065, SK Tenni Lonachen #1065, SK Sunny Thomas #1065, and SK Art Evoy #1065

Opening prayer was led by Worthy District Friar Bishop Emeritus Albert Thevenot.

Appointments made before the meeting:

Faithful Pilot - FN Tom Schwab

Faithful Sentinels - FC Tony Dakiniewich and FC Ron Koenig

Faithful Scribe - FN Justin Foley

Committee on Credentials - PFN Adrien Piche, FC Robin De Roo, FN Frank Brown, F Captain Lance

La Croix .

Committee on Resolutions - FN Cody Geiger, FN Ron Klein and FN/PSD Marvin De Schryver

Acting Faithful Pilot FC Tony Dakinewich vouched that all in attendance had current membership cards.

VSM Andy Sambrielaz's Remarks - VSM Andy Sambrielaz brought greetings from the Supreme Assembly and our new Supreme Master Michael McCusker. VSM Andy thanked us all for inviting him and for us making the time to come to this meeting. He talked about the importance of having fun at meetings and functions to keep people coming back. VSM Andy shared his thoughts that the 4th degree is a completion of a journey and it gives us time to slow down and let the Holy Spirit catch up to us. He stressed that it is important for the 4th degree to not only look at 3rd degree members for recruitment, but to encourage overall recruitment from 1st degree to 4th degree. He quoted that "A single raindrop swells the lake & river" meaning small actions can cause big ripples.

WDM Chris Bencharski's Report - WDM Chris talked about how we have 1237 Sir Knights in the province from roughly 10,200 total knights. We have lots of potential to grow as the 4th degree with some effort. WDM Chris encouraged us to be active in our assemblies and parishes. He mentioned that 6 assemblies will be receiving the civic award this year. WDM Chris reminded us all to get our reports & forms in on time so that we won't miss out on potential awards. He talked about the 2 large well done exemplifications, Humboldt with 16 new members and Regina with 15 new members. There is an upcoming exemplification in Saskatoon with 5 members to date and an online exemplification on April 1st with several members. WDM Chris talked about his program list he passed out and encouraged us as assemblies to do some of the items on the list and to pick a project that the assembly can get behind and support. WDM mentioned that the Installation of Officers with a function afterwards is a really nice thing to do and he encouraged all assemblies to attempt it. WDM Chris mentioned that 13 of 20 assemblies had done their installations so far.

Credentials Report by FN Adrian Piche - There was 21 voting delegates in attendance of a total 32.

21 voting delegates were in person and 12 Sir Knights (visitors) were joining them for a total of 33 knights.

Reading of the previous meeting minutes by Acting Scribe FN Justin Foley

Motion by FN Justin Foley to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Assembly 2166. Carried.

The meeting was stopped for lunch and Bishop Albert led us in grace.

12:50 the Meeting was called back to order.

WDM Chris and VSM Andy knighted 5 new knights that had done their online exemplification.

WDM Chris informed us all of an exemplification that was held in Regina that was done on behalf of all the bishops in the province. He then presented Bishop Albert with a certificate of the exemplification.

Unfinished Business

Harvey Granatier gave a report on the KofC Charitable Foundation. He thanked us all for assisting in the campaign for vocation endowment. They have raised \$1.25 million. The interest earned on it will be paid

out to all seminarians equally every year. He encouraged us to donate \$100 from assemblies and councils for deceased members. Widows or families will get a certificate stating that the donation happened in their loved ones memory. This year there will be \$300,000 paid out to seminarians and various groups, every seminarian will get \$5100 this year.

Adrian Piche and Bob Juneau gave a report on KC Charities buildings in Saskatoon. They are currently building 2 new buildings and all the rooms are pre-booked. They are promoting the assisted living side of the buildings, with the reminder that they are faith based.

WDM talked about the Military Chaplains fund and once again encouraged all assemblies that had not donated so far to donate.

Committee Report on Resolutions by FN Cody Greiger -

RESOLUTION 1- TO ALLOW THE WEARING OF INVESTED MEDALS

WHEREAS, the principle of the Fourth Degree of our Order is patriotism, and is exemplified by the patriotic nature of our programs and members' love for our country; and

WHEREAS, many members have served with honour and distinction in our countries' military, paramilitary, police, fire and rescue, emergency medical and other emergency services, public services and volunteer organizations; and

WHEREAS, many of these same members have been awarded medals for their service in these organizations but are not allowed to wear these medals on their uniform for appropriate occasions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that our Order's dress regulations prescribed in the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus be amended to allow our Patriotic Degree members to wear medals awarded for their service on their uniform for appropriate occasions.

Submitted by Bishop Klein Assembly #1526. Seconded by 1960. Carried

RESOLUTION 2- REGARDING THE COLOURS WORN WITH THE FOURTH DEGREE UNIFORM

WHEREAS, the Order's dress regulations now require a specific-coloured beret badge backer and service baldric for certain officer positions, but no beret badge backer and the original service baldric for other members, with no change to the social baldric; and

WHEREAS, the Order's dress regulations for the Fourth Degree Colour Corps previously required members to wear capes with a red lining for general members, and a specific-coloured lining for certain officer positions and one standard coloured service baldric for all members in regalia.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that our Order's uniform regulations as prescribed in the Laws and Rules

Governing the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus be amended to add a red-coloured beret badge backer and service baldric for regular members when wearing the uniform in the colour corps; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a red-coloured social baldric to be worn under the jacket when the service baldric is not worn.

Submitted by Bishop Klein Assembly #1526. No seconder. Resolution dies on the floor.

RESOLUTION 3- REGARDING AUTHORIZED LAPEL PIN OF THE FOURTH DEGREE UNIFORM

WHEREAS, the principle of the Fourth Degree of the Order is patriotism, exemplified in one's service to God and country, and love of the same country; and

WHEREAS, the wearing of a Fourth Degree pin including the flag of the member's country, or a separate flag pin of the member's country is not authorized to be worn on the uniform.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Order's dress regulations as prescribed in the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus be amended to allow members to wear a specified size pin of their country's flag on the left lapel of their uniform, in a position in line with their authorized medals.

Submitted by Bishop Klein Assembly #1526. Seconded by 1068. Carried.

RESOLUTION 4- REGARDING THE NATURE OF THE BERET BADGE

WHEREAS, the Order's dress regulations for the Fourth Degree uniform prescribes a gold enameled metal Fourth Degree emblem on the beret, with a coloured backing for specified officers; and

WHEREAS, many military and other organizations have worn a full-coloured enameled metal badge on their headgear for decades.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the beret badge of the uniform of the Fourth Degree is changed from the current badge of a coloured backing as prescribed in the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, to a full colour enameled emblem of the Fourth Degree, without the backing.

Submitted by Assembly #1526. Seconded by 1065. Carried.

RESOLUTION 5 -MASTERS' REIMBURSEMENT TO ATTEND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

WHEREAS, the Supreme Bylaws, in Article 1V- Section 12 governing the Fourth Degree, state that the reimbursement for the Vice Supreme Master and Masters of the Province shall receive, in lieu of expenses, for attendance at a Provincial Assembly meeting mileage one way at the rate of thirty cents a mile for the first fifteen hundred miles and twenty cents a

mile for each additional mile from place of residence to place of meeting and per diem of one hundred and fifty dollars for each day of the Provincial Meeting. Those Masters traveling more than 250 miles one way shall be entitled to an additional day of per diem, and **WHEREAS**, the expenses of hotels, fuel, meals, and all expenses have increased considerably in the past few years and Supreme reimbursement to cover actual expenses to attend the Masters' Provincial Meeting fall far short of covering the expenses, and **WHEREAS**, at the present rate of reimbursement, Masters need to subsidize the cost to attend the Provincial Assembly Meeting from their District Master's Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supreme Assembly recommend to the Supreme Board of Directors that the reimbursement paid to Masters to attend the Provincial Assembly Meeting be reviewed and amended, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the reimbursement paid to Masters to attend the Provincial Assembly Meeting be two days per diem at a rate of \$\$175.00 per day if mileage to travel to the meeting destination is more than 150 miles (one way), and that the mileage rate per mile at \$0.30 per mile be calculated for the mileage to and from the destination and that the reimbursement cheques be paid to the Masters within 30 days after the meeting.

Submitted by Chris Bencharski, District Master- Sask./PSD. Seconded by 1526.

Moved by Marvin De Schryver, seconded by Keith Buyers that we amend the resolution to read "that the mileage rate per km be calculated at 0.45/km round trip."

Carried

Discussion was held on what was being asked for. Clarification was given that they were asking for mileage both directions. Discussion was had about changing it to \$0.45/KM. Assembly 1526 moved that we amend the resolution to read \$0.60/KM. Seconded by 1065. Discussion was had that it may be to high of a jump in price as federal rates are \$0.58/KM and provincial rates are \$0.55/KM and Sask State rate is \$0.45/KM. Vote on resolution amendment. Carried.

Moved by Marvin De Schryver, seconded by Keith Buyers that we amend the resolution to read that mileage to be calculated at 0.60/ km round trip".

Vote on amendment- Carried.

Vote on resolution- carried

RESOLUTION 6- REGARDING MATERIAL OF THE FOURTH DEGREE UNIFORM

WHEREAS, the uniform of the color corps of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus is currently only available in the selected wool material; and the resolution to read "that the

WHEREAS, members may be sensitive or have an allergy to wool, a common allergen, yet still desire to participate in colour corps activity of the Fourth Degree.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supreme Assembly endeavor to seek out a source of suitable polyester material, or other synthetic material that is deemed appropriate, to provide a fabric option to those members with a sensitivity to wool.

Submitted by Dr. J. M. Hourigan Assembly #1960. Seconded by 2166. Carried

RESOLUTION 7-ON DESIGNING / PRODUCING OF AN OFFICIAL FOURTH DEGREE SASH

WHEREAS, the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree on the social baldric states that the social baldric should only be worn at functions when the Fourth Degree member is dressed in business suit or tuxedo, and

WHEREAS, the Fourth Degree members not dressed in business suit or tuxedo (only wearing casual attire) serve at the parish, community functions, activities, events of the Assembly cannot wear the social baldric to serve and be recognized as Fourth Degree members; and

WHEREAS, the Third Degree Brother Knights use the yellow sashes serving the KofC parish and community activities and events, however, the Fourth Degree does not have its own sash that would reflect the Patriotic Principle of the Fourth Degree that can be used for KofC Fourth Degree activities and events;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Supreme design and produce an official "Fourth Degree Sash" that Fourth Degree members not dressed in business suit or tuxedo (casual attire) can use to serve and be recognized at the parish, community functions, activities, events of the Assembly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the official "Fourth Degree Sash" be available to all the Assemblies to purchase.

Submitted by District Master Leonardo M. Sosa, Jr. AB/NWT North District 40, Simon Fraser Province and

District Master Chris Bencharski, Saskatchewan District 30, Simon Fraser Province

Moved by 1068 to support the motion. Seconded by 1904. Carried

Master's Financial Report by WM Chris - Savings account has \$5207.50 and the Chequing account has \$2055.04. These were audited by 3 SK for WM Chris from his assembly. WDM mentioned that with COVID over he was travelling more hence the drop in the account.

WDM Chris went over all the income and expenses for the year

Motion by WDM Chris to accept financial reports as read. Seconded by 2166. Carried.

Administrative Reports by WM Chris - WDM Chris reviewed all the form's that are required to be filled out and went through how many are not filed yet. He discussed that we have 79 new members this year and only need 17 more to hit our provinces goal. WDM Chris talked about filing for the Civic award and making sure that we do our State roster updates and Installation of officers after elections are finished.

WDM led us through the Star Assembly criteria and noted that new for 2022-2023 is that if forms are not submitted by the proper dates it will disqualify that assembly.

New Business

Assembly 1064 100th Anniversary by FN Gordon Stopanski - FN Gordon talked about Assembly 1064 being the first assembly in the province and how we all belonged to it originally. The 100th anniversary is being held on June 3, 2023 with registration at 2PM, Mass at 5PM, cocktails at 6:30PM and banquet at 7PM. They are looking for old regalia to put on display for the banquet.

100th Convention Color Guard - WDM Chris reminded us of the upcoming 100th State convention and gave an open invite to attend the color guard. The Fourth Degree in Sask. had a great contribution during the past 100 years in the history of our order. It would be good to have 10 or 12 there in our different colored baldrics and participation by who would like to participate as most of us bought the uniform so that we can serve the order. Chris will send an email to SD Larry and ask him where he would need assistance of the 4th Degree.

WDM Chris and VSM Andy handed out civic awards to the 4 Assemblies in attendance that had won them.

2024 District Assembly Meeting Location - Discussion was had on whether or not to hold it in Saskatoon again.

Motion by 1960 to hold the meeting in Saskatoon at the Columbian Place again next year. Seconded by 1064. Carried

District Master's Audit Committee

Motion by 1065 to keep the audit committee as appointed by WM Chris. Seconded by 1425. Carried.

Good of the Order

People of Ukraine continue to pray for them.

Abbott Peter Novecosky, Bishop Moran, Bishop Don Bolen, Don Peters, Moris Soloski, PSD Dennis Carignan, Jim Wanner.

VSM Andy Closing Remarks - VSM Andy talked about recognition and how we didn't sign up for it, but it is important to keep recognizing our assemblies and members for the good actions we are doing. He reminded us to take the time to slow down. " Here I am Lord, I come to do your will!"

WDM Chris Closing Remarks - WDM Chris thanked everyone for coming out today and asked us to continue to do the good work we are doing and to be visible. When people see us active in the parish and community it can help to get other men to join our ranks.

Bishop Albert's Closing Remarks - Bishop Albert reminded us that if we wish the Kof C to work and succeed, it is up to you and I right now. We can't wait for the next group of men; we must be visible and recruiting.

Closing pray was led by District Friar Bishop Emeritus Albert.

Meeting was adjourned by WDM Chris Bencharski at 3PM.