

Minutes of January 12th, 2012 Watters Assembly Meeting

The January Assembly Meeting was held at Mary Our Queen after a one-month Christmastime hiatus. Our normal future rotations as shown below:

St. Andrew.....February...then moving to
St. Brigid.....March...then moving to
All Saints.....April.....then moving to
Mary Our Queen...May.....then moving back to St. Andrew

The pre-meeting rosary started at 6:15 PM. The social dinner followed immediately afterward. There were 52 members present. This is thought to be an all-time record.



The meeting started promptly at 7:30 PM with a newly-initiated ceremony called “**Renewal of Our Obligations**”. This proposed annual event is recited by all Assembly Brothers to renew their pledges for all the degrees they have accomplished, as well as their commitments to participate and be active in the fourth degree.

These ceremonials preceded the usual sequence of events opening an Assembly meeting. It was the first time the Watters Assembly had executed these renewals. The meeting then proceeded to the usual ceremonials.

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting was bypassed in lieu of the transmitted minutes which were accepted with one correction.

The roll call of officers was conducted. All present, except as noted.

Faithful Navigator-	Dick Kobylski
Faithful Captain-	Chuck Langgood
Faithful Pilot-	Ed Pierson
Faithful Comptroller-	Bob Webster
Faithful Admiral-	John Lewis
Faithful Scribe-	Lou Hlad
Faithful Purser-	Rich McKenzie
Trustee 3 year term-	John Miles
Trustee 2 year term-	Rick Langheim
Trustee 1 year term-	Tom Mix
Inner Sentinel-	Mike Klimshuk
Outer Sentinel-	Bob Santos
Faithful Friar-	Monsignor David Talley (excused)
Faithful Commander-	Bob Mitchell
State Deputy	Rick Sisko

Faithful Navigator's Report

FN announced the reception of a letter from the District Master regarding a biennial (every two year) meeting of Assembly delegates on April 28th in Macon. Each Faithful Navigator and two other Assembly delegates should attend. He asks for those who are willing to accompany him to this meeting to make their availability and willingness known to him. It is not yet known the information to be discussed there.

FN reminded the brothers that at the November meeting he strongly encouraged the Grand Knights to aid Commander Bob Mitchell in getting third degree brothers to progress to the fourth degree and to encourage existing Sir Knights to join the ranks of the honor guard.

He pointed out that the recent events at All Saints and St. Brigid honoring the deceased brothers highly impressed all who attended them because of their solemnity. He viewed attendees at St. Brigid with tears in their eyes. These kinds of events bolster the councils and the Assembly very much.

FN reminded all that this is the time to purchase full regalia or replacement items on the bulk purchase plan he is managing. The savings will be both \$30 in shipping costs and 20% off of everything ordered.

As our honor guard commitments grow, we need additional participants to staff the growing numbers of events falling on the same day. St. Brigid has three First Communion events on the same day and are not able to help any other council on that day. St. Andrew has a growing Fourth Degree population, but they might often need outside representation. FN asked all GK's to check with Commander Bob Mitchell before committing to honor guard events.

We almost had to cancel an honor guard for a fellow fourth degree brother because we did not get eight participants until the night before. He noted that those who do not now participate are not aware of the fun, fellowship, and banter that goes on among the honor guard participants.

Bills and Communications

Faithful Purser Rich McKenzie reported receipt this evening of \$2,130 in dues and expenses of \$198 for the dinner food.

Faithful Comptroller Report

Faithful Comptroller Bob Webster reported current Assembly membership of 211. Current cash balance is \$5,186.

Of the 211 members 15 are exempt from dues. These include priest, deacons, and other members with 25 years of Assembly membership.

FN asked all honorary lifetime members present to stand (applause). He thanked them for their dedication.

FN then asked the Faithful Comptroller to relay the membership numbers by council to propose a possible new procedure to allocate meeting venue. FC gave these statistics:

All Saints	107 Assembly members
St. Brigid	76
St. Andrew	20
Mary Our Queen	8

	211 total

FN brought up these **three items** for discussion:

1. Are members content with the meeting venue rotation plan put into effect six-months ago on a six-month trial basis?
2. This year we cancelled the December meeting due to Christmas travel reasons. Should we do that every year and just have 11 meetings?
3. Should we plan a yearly communion breakfast meeting for the Assembly on a Saturday morning? Bringing together the larger membership at Mass would take the place of one meeting. This could bring the number of “regular” meetings per year down to 10.

Our original reason for the rotating venue concept was to increase monthly attendance. This has not been seen. This meeting is an exception. In general the attendance has been down.

On **item 3**, the general consensus was that we could turn one meeting a year into a Saturday Communion Mass with breakfast.

On **Item 2**, the feeling was that we could forgo the December meeting in the future because of the heavy schedule of council activities around Christmas. This could be decided every year and would not violate any Assembly by-laws which require only one meeting per quarter.

On the more difficult **item 1**, there were very mixed feelings.

FN proposed that because the bigger councils had bigger participation numbers at Assembly meetings, we could possibly schedule 11 meetings thus to ensure larger average participation:

- 4 at All Saints per year
- 3 at St. Brigid
- 2 at St. Andrew
- 2 at Mary Our Queen

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11 (with no December meeting and one Saturday communion meeting)

Commander Bob Mitchell opined that honor guard participation followed the same pattern with larger participation at larger councils because of the “home body” tendency. We believe that participants favor events at their home councils and fail to attend more events at other councils. This Assembly meeting of 52 participants seemed a definite exception.

Bill Zaryski opined that if the objective is to get the most people to attend, then all meetings could be held at All Saints. If the objective were to get the most different members to participate, then this was the reason for the revolving venues in the first place. At least the “home bodies” would go to their own meetings. As a member of St. Brigid, he did not favor a skew toward the larger councils having more meetings.

There was no consensus to change the monthly rotation at this time. FN stated that he might have to work with the GK of each coming venue to excite his local Sir Knights to attend the local meetings.

State Deputy Report

Rick Sisko was present and made an impassioned plea to the leaders of the knights who were present in the room to go out and grow the Order by recruiting new members and then walking with them through the degrees. Retention of members is a very overlooked part of recruiting. It is important to find out which members have been inactive and call them up and invite them to a meeting. This could increase numbers at meetings greatly.

Faithful Purser Report

To bring us up-to-date since last meeting in November:

Nov. 1 balance	\$5,371
	+1,149 revenue
	-1,404 expenses

Dec. 1 balance	\$5,116
	+ 70 revenue
	- 3 expenses to State Council

Jan. 1 balance	\$5,1,83

He also reported that the contributions for the evening meal were \$198. This happened to be the exact cost of the meal reported by the Faithful Comptroller in his earlier report.

Patriotic Committee Report

FN noted that chairman Dave Lemcoe is in the hospital with his second back surgery. He is hopeful that this will cure his problems from his first operation. He hopes to be back on his feet in 3 to 4 weeks and doing honor guards again.

On Dec. 29th, we had as our airport welcoming team Brothers Tom Begley and Bill Schmitz there to assist a crew of 35 volunteers assisting the USO who helped 190 troops transferring through the airport.

FN believes that the team that Urban put together was geared toward Korean veterans and our participation has been limited. FN wants Dave Lemcoe to contact the USO to schedule a KofC date where all volunteers are brothers.

It will not be possible to wear KofC apparel or gear to such an event. Military gear and insignia are allowed. Brothers of all degrees would be invited, but the 4th degree would drive it. A hand vote showed that this would be supported.

Right-to-Life Committee Report

FN asked Scribe Lou Hlad to report on what All Saints is doing for Right-to-Life activities. Hlad reported that Monsignor Marren would like to build a prayer garden and a garden of remembrance in a vacant section down in the valley near the rectory and the stations of the cross. Trees are already being cut down and land cleared for this purpose. Knights, scouts, and parish volunteers would work the project.

Marren would also like to eventually erect a statue of Mary holding the Christ Child to honor the millions of victims of abortion with the sentiment below the statue. He had seen pictures of such a bronze shrine at the University of Notre Dame and envied it. The council provided \$500 seed money to start the project and money for the statue must be raised somehow (could easily cost \$7,000 or more).

FN mentioned that St. Brigid will be putting out the white crosses that they do to remember the victims of abortion. These are the things that Sir Knights should do for all councils. St. Brigid has a favorable zoning ordinance now to possibly extend their campus and make a remembrance garden as well.



Social Committee Report

Charles Langgood had no report.

Applications for Membership

All five are transfers from other assemblies:

Darrell Sanlin (sp) was present with a newly-finished Form 4 to be read in.
Gabe Zacker (sp) was a transfer to be read in for Mary Our Queen.

Lazaro Gutierrez originally an All Saints Sir Knight moved to MOQ.

(FN joked that All Saints had too many members and MOQ needed more.)

Father Joseph Peek, new Parochial Vicar at All Saints.

Father William Hao, Parochial Vicar serving All Saints Chinese Community.

New Business

John Lewis brought up the fact that the beautiful **Blessing of the Swords** ceremony could be done at a time when the wives could be invited to see it and followed by a reception. He suggested that the **Induction of New Officers** ceremony could be combined with the sword blessing and then enhanced with an honor guard to make a memorable public ceremony for everyone to see.

Hlad opined that Sir Knight Lloyd Addison's recent death be remembered on the Assembly plaque in McGivney Hall and also on one of our next chalices. He was an honored brother of All Saints before moving to MOQ to become their charter Grand Knight. He was a past District Deputy, Grand Knight several times, and started three councils. He was a current member of another Assembly, but very crucial to our Watters Assembly as well. Votes were taken and the motion passed.

Ed Pierson asked if we could add the words "born and unborn" to the end of the Pledge of Allegiance as we have in the past. Rick Sisko reminded that this was not allowed by Supreme any longer.

Dennis Klein reported that St. Andrew will hold a casino night on Feb. 19th. Cost is \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Each participant gets \$100 worth of chips to start with. He has tickets for this fun evening.

Nick D'Annunzio reminded everyone that this week is the 35th anniversary of Roe vs, Wade. He has prayer cards on the table for the members to take home to pray to end this terrible practice. Remember this at the polls as well to send Abortion-on-Demand congressmen home.

FN asked that we have an immediate election to elect backup Inner and Outer Sentinels to cover us when one or more of the previously-elected brothers can not attend. Sir Knights Tom King from All Saints, Terry Petrukovich from St. Andrew, and Jim Knapp from MOQ have agreed to run. An election was held and Petrukovich became the backup Inside Sentinel and Knapp were elected as backup Outer Sentinel.

Commander's Report

Bob Mitchell asked if anyone knew where one missing set of regalia went.

In Oct/Nov ten events were held. Then 5 or 6 events were held for our Archbishop Donoghue's funeral. Since then 3 other events were held. Bob said how appreciative he was for the participation and the help of Dick Kobylski, since Bob was on vacation for much of that time. Over 300 participants were counted and probably 50 more for the Archbishop events.

Bob praised the improved cooperation of Grand Knights for participation. He also noted that many parishioners go to their pastor to request honor guards and not to him. Only Bob and/or FN can approve an honor guard.

In the next 20 days, there are five honor guard events scheduled. Bob's email distribution list goes out to 150 people. About 50 are outside our Assembly. Of the 100 people in our Assembly, only 7 responded to his last request for volunteers. Please always respond yes or no to his emails.

Events coming up are Martin Luther celebration downtown, Special Olympics, and two Masses for Right to Life at All Saints. An event at St. Brigid celebrating the parish feast day and also 65 deacons will be presented.

Reports of the 3rd Degree

Mary Our Queen (Larry Heiman)

Heiman thanked everyone for coming to their venue in such great numbers. He simply added that they were continuing their project to move the St. Gerard Basilica from Buffalo to Norcross.

St. Andrew (Chuck Langgood)

- Sir Knight Michael Walsh replaced Dave Lemcoe as Deputy Grand Knight, since Lemcoe transferred to St. Brigid.
- Abe Kassis resigned as Financial Secretary after serving many years.
- Donated \$250 to a St. Joseph prison Ministry in the area.
- Held a 2nd degree December 5th.
- Held a 3rd degree December 7th for 35 candidates.
- Their field agent will put on a presentation next Monday.
- Using their pecan sale profits, they put together 67 Thanksgiving baskets and 70 Christmas baskets for the needy.
- Breakfast with Santa on December 10th was a huge success.
- Casino Night was already discussed by Dennis Klein.
- Lenten fish dinners will begin soon.

St. Brigid (Marty Wilson)

1. Saint Knights enlisted the support of Council Brothers and Church Community parishioners and signed up 425 donating families providing holiday presents for needy families looking for assistance.
2. Without the ability to sell Monk's coffee, our Council generated \$ 5,000.00 in Monastery of the Holy Spirit food product sales.
3. On December 10th we will conduct our annual Breakfast with Santa event serving nearly 375 IHOP breakfasts to Parish children and parents. This year we offered parents a choice between printed photos with Santa or digital pics to parents home and 90% chose emailed pics. This greatly increased our net profit for the event. We also sold the 3 three new printers we purchased for the Program and this also increased profitability for this family event.
4. Also on December 10th we conducted our annual Knights Christmas Social, and over 65 members and their wives attended, leaving empty serving platters with ham bones and many empty bottles of holiday cheer.
5. On December 18th, PGK Dick Holcomb and FN Dick K provided a standing Guard after the Memorial Mass celebrated by Vicar General Msgr. Joe Corbett along with 8 priests in the Choir of co-celebrating priests watching over the personal effects of Msgr. Paul Reynolds (his Chalice and Paten, his personal cross, his biretta, and his wooden rosary from his family in Ireland).
6. On December 22nd, a team of Brother Knights set up the Nativity scene in the Sacristy, and installed inside and outside Christmas decorations.

All Saints (Stan Wasowski)

- Held a picnic for the All Saints Pre-School kids.
- Participated in *Dunwoody Cleanup Day* by cleaning an I-285 intersection.
- Held a flag retirement ceremony with All Saints Scouts with honor guard.
- Exemplified three new 1st degree brothers, two 2nd degree brothers at St. Andrew, and three 3rd degree brothers at St. Andrew in November and December.
- We added seven new 1st degree brothers in January, had one reinstatement, and three transfers in from other councils for a total of 11 new members.
- Awarded four *Shining Armor Awards* in the past three months.
- Held a *Desserts with Santa Party* for about 135 families.
- Some knights participated in *All Saints Hands-On Day* to help people with simple chores.
- Held our annual *Council Christmas Party* for 130 people.
- Held our *Monastery Fudge Sale* on Dec 10/11 and sold \$7,200 worth of goods before running out of some items.
- Ran the *Keep Christ in Christmas* card sale and broke even this year.
- Installed the parish crèche, held a lighting at night, and held a reception with carols in McGivney afterward.
- Donated \$500 seed money for the parish *Garden of Remembrance*.
- Purchased the DVD series *Catholicism* and scheduled showings in McGivney Hall.
- Their acolyte program was recognized in the *Knights in Action* Section of the January Knights *Columbia Magazine* on page 26.
- *Fathers for Good* seminars continue in McGivney Hall into the 4th year.
- Two honor guards scheduled on Jan 22nd for Roe vs. Wade anniversary at two Sunday Masses.
- First degree scheduled for Jan 24th.
- Brothers will serve as ushers and traffic control at upcoming parish mission.
- Sponsoring free throw tournament in gym on Jan 28th.
- Sponsoring Spaghetti Dinner for Cub Scouts on Jan. 29th.
- Two homeless shelter nights scheduled.
- Fish Frys being planned. Moving to gym this year for bigger event.
- Selling charity tickets (with Men's Club) for a Buick Lacrosse at \$50/ticket.
- Their January council meeting featured three priests in attendance.!!

Good of the Order

- State Deputy Rick Sisko for a successful term.
- Prayers for all Brother Knights looking for assistance in finding jobs
- S K Brother Bob Webster ongoing medical treatments for his lungs
- S K Brother Nick D' Annunzio ongoing medical treatments for lungs
- S K Brother Paul Buettner cancer treatment
- S K Brother Matt Cooper's wife treatment for breast cancer
- S K Brother Marty Wilson's wife Michele recuperating from surgery
- S K Brother Charles Robinson spinal stenosis (narrowing of the spinal cord causing pressure on the spinal cord)
- SK Brother Mike Nassr suffering from dementia.
- SK Bob Santos and wife Christine both undergoing treatment.
- SK Brother Mike Klimshuk recovering from cancer treatments
- SK Brother Joe Cavallaro heart problems
- SK Brother Mark Foster's two uncles
- SK Dennis Klein's sister has complicated health issues
- Former state membership chairman Chris King had pancreatic and liver cancer and passed away
- SK Brother Charlie Robinson and his wife
- S K Bob Shoemaker recovering from heart surgery
- Deacon Joe Eustis at St. Joseph Parish is very sick and losing house
- SK Stan Wasowski's mother broke a bone
- SK Bob Mitchell's sister is seriously ill.

Split-the-Pot

\$52 to winner. \$53 to Assembly. John Lewis was winner.

Three bottle opener prizes embossed with the logo of the Order were donated by S K Brother Jon Satterfield. They were also raffled and awarded to Jerry Churchill, John Cahill, and John Lewis (again).

Attendance Award

none

The meeting ended with the usual ceremonies at 9:10 PM.