

Minutes of April 9th, 2015

Fr. Charles J. Watters Assembly 2688 Meeting

The previous Assembly Meeting was held on Thursday April 9th at All Saints McGivney Hall. Here is the upcoming schedule:

Mary Our Queen....May 14th then to All Saints

All Saints June 11th (St. Andrew Council is host)

All Saints.....July 9th (All Saints is host), then back to MOQ

The pre-meeting rosary was recited at 6:25 PM.

The social dinner followed immediately afterward. The meeting started at 7:30 PM. There were 23 members present. No first time members or visitors noted.

The opening ceremonials, Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer were conducted. Singing of the Opening Ode was waived.

Reading minutes of the last meeting was waived, since they were posted to members electronically. No changes were noted.

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

Faithful Navigator-	Stan Wasowski	
Faithful Captain-	Doc Malone	
Faithful Pilot-	Ed Pierson	
Faithful Comptroller-	Dave Mason	
Faithful Admiral-	Bob Webster	(excused)
Faithful Scribe-	Lou Hlad	
Faithful Purser-	Abe Kassis	
Faithful Commander-	Bob Mitchell	(excused travelling)
Trustee 3 year term-	“ “	“ “
Trustee 2 year term-	Ron Collins	
Trustee 1 year term-	Dennis Klein	
Inner Sentinel-	Terry Petrukovich	
Outer Sentinel-	James Knapp	
Faithful Friar-	Fr. Dan Rogaczewski	(excused)
Faithful Friar Emeritus -	Monsignor Donald Kiernan	(excused)

FN thanked the All Saints Council for providing the dinner which was enjoyed by all and thanked the All Saints Council for providing the Hall (applause).

- The next big event is on April 25th at 10 AM Mass, First Communion at All Saints. Bob will be gone on vacation and had asked Lou Hlad and Ernie Spencer to lead in his stead. He would like early commitments. Needs 18 to 24 guys.
- On Saturday May 2nd, St. Andrew has two First Communions (and one the next day) and there is a Fourth Degree in Macon. Would like guys for all those.
- Sunday May 3rd, Confirmation at Mary Our Queen at 11 AM. It is important to have a good showing at MOQ. Archbishop Gregory will be officiating.

Cell phone **770-310-1760** [*bobmitchellga@yahoo.com*](mailto:bobmitchellga@yahoo.com)

<u>BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE 02.28.2015</u>			\$ 7,726.84
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
MEETING FOOD	\$ 135.00		
50/50	\$ 45.00		
BINGO	\$ 400.00		
<u>DUES</u>	<u>\$ 850.00</u>		
SUB TOTAL RECIEPTS			<u>\$ 1,430.00</u>
			\$ 9,156.84
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
MEET FOOD	<u>\$ (196.54)</u>		
SUB TOTAL EXPENSES			<u>\$ (196.54)</u>
BANK STATEMENT BALANCE 3.31.2015			<u>\$ 8,960.30</u>
<u>OUTSTANDING DEPOSITS/ (CHECKS)</u>			
SUPPLIES	\$ (174.20)		
ATTENDANCE AWARD	<u>\$ (20.00)</u>	\$ (194.20)	
			<u>\$ (194.20)</u>
CHECK BOOK ACCOUNT BALANCE 04.09.2015			<u>\$ 8,766.10</u>

Faithful Comptroller Report (Dave Mason)

1. Confirming Checking account balance of \$8,766.10.
2. Membership is 173. (One member will be added tonight).
3. Assembly Membership dues. We still have 34 Members with out-standing dues.

Included are several who will be waived for health reasons, disabilities or economic reasons.

We have three members which we will start the suspension process.

For those who haven't paid...dues are still \$30.00 for 2015

Membership. Cash or check.

Mail to Dave Mason, 5468 Redbark Place, Dunwoody, GA 30338

davelmason46@gmail.com

4. The Fourth Degree Exemplification schedule:

June 20th at St. Monica in Duluth, GA

(Bill Camden has approx. 25 scheduled for this event).

If you have a candidate ready for the Fourth Degree... get him signed up along with \$70.00 fee and \$10.00 for badge. District Master is requesting payment three weeks before event.

Remind candidate to get Tux in plenty of time before date.

5. Assembly Bingo. Was held Thursday April 23 at All Saints. Our Assembly will receive a portion of the proceeds to be announced at the next meeting. We hope there will be another happy photo like the one below (below) garnering \$400. This money helps fund our patriotic events, such as veteran appreciation dinners.



Faithful Scribe Report on Communications (Lou Hlad)

- No communications this month.

Report of Committees

Ad Hoc Widows Committee (Lou Hlad)

All Saints has the great bulk of widows because of their 53 deceased knights. About 40 widows of these men still live in the local area. A detailed spreadsheet of their addresses and email addresses (if they have one) was created by All Saints. We furnish them with newsletters to keep them involved. We intent to invite them to our October Memorial Mass on Wednesday October 14th at All Saints.

Since deceased members from St. Andrew, Mary Our Queen, and also St. Brigid will be honored, we need contact information for their deceased Assembly members as well. Jim Knapp will be the widow contact for Mary Our Queen and Mike Bagnulo will furnish the St. Andrew widow contacts. A contact for St. Brigid will be found soon. They have a few deceased Watters Assembly members as well.

Social Committee (Chuck Langgood and Doc Malone)

It was decided to hold two separate Vietnam Veteran Appreciation Dinners between the two Assemblies. Ours will be held on June 13th at All Saints gym rather than St. Brigid's Corbett Hall. We will ask all to attend the 5 PM Mass at All Saints and then retire to the gym. There will be an honor guard at the Mass.

The honorees will be limited to only Knights who served in any military capacity during the Vietnam era, their spouses, and priests. An attempt would be made to keep the tickets at about \$30 per person. Bar drinks are extra. Get your tuxedos clean.

Our committee has met and decided to invite the state officers and wives as guests. Lou Hlad will send out invites. We need many of our council 3rd degree members and wives to come as paying guests to fill the hall and finance the event.

We have a master of ceremonies from Channel 2. Joe Trovato, the grand knight of St. Andrew, will take care of the catering. We hope to have an MIA/POW presentation. We hope to invite our 25 new Assembly members on June 20th to attend and possibly help as volunteers to acquaint them with our activities. If any of our widows were married to a Vietnam vet, they need to be invited guests. All Saints has identified 26 vets and St. Andrew about 10.

April 23rd is the next Bingo that brings in proceeds for this dinner. The years of service covered are 1961-1975 in either Vietnam or anywhere else they served.

Bingo Report (Doc Malone)

Doc Malone reported that the monthly Bingo at All Saints is steady with the number of players just under 100. The net profit per month can be as high as \$1,000 depending upon the number of players. Press your parishioners to attend the fun.

April Bingo netted about \$800. The next Bingo is on May 28th. **We need more Assembly members to be certified before they are allowed to manage the event and deal with gaming money.**

To obtain the procedure for **Bingo Gaming Certification**, please email [**docmalone@bellsouth.net**](mailto:docmalone@bellsouth.net) and request the email forwarded that contains the relevant links.

Chalice Committee Report (Ed Pierson)

Sir Knight Jim Lamb's name will be added to the next chalice. Father Bryan Small has offered the name of a recipient for our next chalice. He offered Fr. Gabriel Scasino as a new priest that needs one. He is the Chaplain at Our Lady of Mercy School and was just ordained last Valentine's Day. Ed will meet with him April 20th to see when a presentation could be arranged.

We could give the chalice we have to him first, and await the ordination of Father Garcia for the next one we order. Our next chalice will have the names of Sir Knights Roy, Annunzio, and Robinson. We already have two more deceased knights needing yet another chalice, Sir Knights Lamb and Kosek.

Membership Committee Report (Dave Mason)

Mason relayed that Bill Camden relayed that he is talking to 29 brothers about attending the June 20th event. He expects at least 4 to not be able to attend on that date due to conflicts. He hopes to get 25 brothers to the ceremony, although some have not yet paid.

Mason read a new Form 4 received for a William Leach of St. Andrew. He was the Past Grand Knight of that Council and runs the Georgia State Squire Program. He was approved as an Assembly member with no objection. He was not present.

Trustee Report (Dennis Klein)

Klein had no report, but mentioned that June elections were coming. Anyone wishing to run for office must make intentions known to Trustee Klein, Collins, or Mitchell. Should we have no names, it will be assumed that the current officers will be retained for another year (laughter).

Unfinished Business

No Report

New Business (Dick Marklein)

Sir Knight Dick Marklein of All Saints announced that he is embarking on May 31st on a coast to coast bike ride to raise money for the new Jesuit High School, *Cristo Rey-Atlanta*, in mid-town. His goal is \$30,000.



His cycling adventure begins May 31st in San Francisco and ends July 21st in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He will personally be funding all the expenses associated with the trip. All monies raised will benefit Cristo Rey science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs.

Other riders will accompany him, but he is the only one riding for Cristo Rey. Donations are tax deductible and are already streaming in. All Saints Council donated \$500 with another \$500 to follow.

The mechanism to donate to his efforts is to go to web site www.gofundme/CyclingForSTEM and make a donation with any credit card or by a PayPal account. The new tally will appear. Please be generous.

Reports of the Third Degree

Mary Our Queen (Jim Knapp)

- They continue holding their prayer breakfasts. Attendance has been steady
- They have taken advance order for their Vidalia Onions. They took 85 bags this year. They have decided to host a cooking demo and small dinner on April 17 to show culinary uses for onions. Brother Frederick Alexander, a chef, will be presenter. Their knights will be in t-shirt uniform to publicize the knights and help with recruiting.
- They expect to do something special for Mother's Day to honor the parish woman.

St. Andrew (Mike Bagnulo)

- St. Andrew is deeply involved in the Vietnam Dinner planning, They are trying to recruit 3rd degree brothers and spouses to attend.
- They have a very active Squires group who helped with their fish fries and will help with the Appreciation Dinner. Some have become knights.
- They will again participate strongly in the Vidalia Onion drive.
- They are deeply involved with their Rice Bowl Project to collect funds for Pro-Life.
- They are involved in the Baby Bottle Campaign which also collects for Pro-Life.
- Their fish dinners were very successful. Some disruption due to parish construction was noted.
- Easter services were not strictly knight functions, but brothers were everywhere and quite conspicuous. Pastor Father Fleming was very impressed and thus became one.

All Saints (Lou Hlad)

- **Concluded our 19th Annual Fish Fry with a total of 8, 422 meals served. This was only 14 meals short of our record last year despite bad weather for the early dates. We had three dates with over 1,300 meals served and two with over 1,200 served.**
- **We served 100 homeless men at the Atlanta Homeless Shelter in downtown Atlanta on two evenings. Our brothers spent the night with the homeless.**
- **We partnered with St. Andrew Council to host the March Assembly Meeting at McGivney.**
- **We have initiated periodic dinner meetings with the present and past grand knights of our council to plan future procedures and events of our council. We value the experience and ideas of our past grand knights.**
- **We held the second in our series of parish concerts by inviting the rock band called NoZtalgia to perform in the gym on March 21st. Proceeds from this fun event has allowed us to fund 50 MP3 players to send to our troops as part of the Georgia State Program called Frontline Faith.**
- **We held a First Degree Exemplification March 31st in combination with the Georgia Tech Council. We gained three new members, the Tech Council gained two, and St. Catherine of Siena gained one.**
- **Two of our members progressed to the second degree at St. Benedict, while eight of our members progressed to the third degree at that same venue.**
- **We presented a Family-of-the-Year certificate to Brother John Gannon and wife Arlene for their unfailing pro-Life activities during 2014.**
- **We presented Brother Paul Weidle and wife Nina a Family-of-the-Month Award for charitable activities for February 2015.**
- **Sir Knights Tom King and Ron Collins received individual Knight-of-the-Month Awards for February.**
- **We presented an Honorary-Knight-of-the Month to twelve-year-old Cardin Van Gundy, son of Sir Knight B.J. Van Gundy, for his exemplary help at our Fish Fry events.**
- **Our March Bingo featured 80 players and netted \$800 profit.**
- **Brother John Klein of the Legionaires of Christ in Rome , Italy is a participant seminarian in our RSVP Program. He arranged a special Mass for our council members in the basement crypt of St. Peter Basilica for the special intentions of our members. He provided a Google Link for us to forward our intentions and they were placed on the altar near the bones of St. Peter and the crypt of St. John Paul II. The Mass was celebrated for us on March 21st.**
- **We provided a clean-up and maintenance crew on two Saturdays at the Elaine Clark Center for Exceptional Children to groom their property and cut down trees.**
- **Our Tootsie Roll teams collected \$3,600 for children with disabilities at the doors of the church and at four local businesses.**
- **We are beginning our Vidalia Onion Drive planned for May 2/3. We have lined up two new councils to participate. We now serve about a dozen councils.**
- **Our acolyte teams served at all parish funerals as always.**
- **We lost two members this month, James Callison and Sir Knight Allen Kosek. We also learned of the death of a longtime council brother, Bill Schlich. Our remembered deceased now total 53.**

Patriotic Report (Jon Bird)

(FN noted that he had skipped over this report erroneously).

- Jon Bird pointed out that current issue of Columbia Magazine had finally mentioned our Assembly's Korean War Veterans Appreciation Dinner from last year. (page 27)
- Jon Mentioned that he had heard that the State of Georgia was preparing to honor the 230,000 Georgians that served in the Vietnam War with a certificate.

Good of the Order

FN took intentions from the floor and a group prayer was said. Fr. Joseph Peek, James Callison, and Allen Kosek were especially remembered.

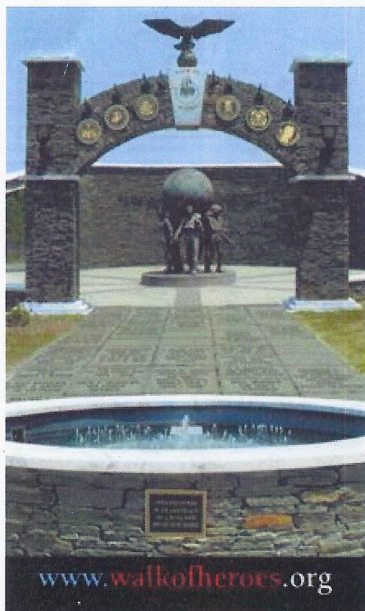
Split-the-Pot Award

Jon Bird was selected. He won \$45 and donated it to the cycling ride of Dick Marklein for Cristo Rey.

Attendance Award

Bob Webster of St. Brigid was chosen. He was not in attendance.

The meeting was closed with the usual ceremonials at 8:22.



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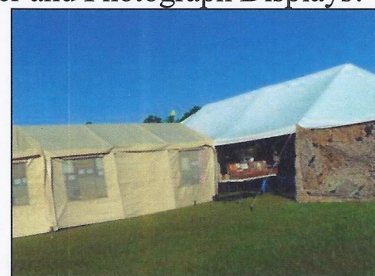
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A CALL TO SERVE

SIX AGENCIES CAME TOGETHER TO HELP VETERANS TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE.

BY CHARLES S. CLARK

In 2011, Lauren Augustine was an Army specialist operating RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aerial vehicles from Camp Taji in Iraq. She knew that at the end of her deployment, her skills wouldn't translate directly to civilian employment.

Enter the revamped Transition Assistance Program, designed to ease service members' transition from structured uniformed duty to life as working civilians. It included

a course on resume writing that Augustine, a Virginia Tech graduate raised in Woodbridge, Virginia, says "instilled some confidence in how to look for jobs and the need to tailor my resume for the jobs I was applying for."

She realized that during her military service, "I did manage soldiers and oversee the mission on a daily basis. So there were some secondary or tertiary skills I was able to capitalize on." She ended up as a legislative associate at Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, which represents those who have served in America's recent wars.

The same year Augustine was deployed in Iraq, President

BRAD HOWELL

Obama directed the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to design a “reverse boot camp.” At the time the unemployment rate for recently separated younger veterans was 12.4 percent, or three points higher than that for all vets, and would in some months reach as high as 20 percent for those recently separated.

Obama promised DOD and VA would help veterans learn about everything from benefits to how to translate their military training into industry-accepted credentials. The goal was to expand the voluntary orientation program for new vets; to standardize financial, psychological and career counseling programs; and to “transform the military’s approach to education, training and credentialing for service members.”

A six-agency task force, led by a steering committee of eight senior executives and flag officers, began meeting twice weekly, and working sub-groups met daily. Fifteen months later, the administration launched the revitalized Transition Assistance Program—now mandatory—to serve 250,000 departing service members annually in up to 6,000 classes at 206 military installations worldwide.

“It was clear Obama wanted something different for the young men and women putting their lives on the line for their country,” says Pat Tamburrino, former deputy assistant defense secretary for civilian personnel policy, who co-led the Veterans Employment Initiative Task Force that overhauled the TAP with VA executive John Gingrich (now retired). “Many veterans can’t translate their military experience to the civilian environment and fall through the cracks because they don’t know how to use their benefits.”

The new curriculum for creating what task force members call “a warm handover” for departing service members also tapped expertise in the departments of Labor and Education, as well as the Small Business Administration and the Office of Personnel Management.

“For an interagency group to function, everyone has to set aside their own agendas and work together for the veterans,” says Teresa Gerton, the Labor Department’s deputy assistant secretary for policy at the Veterans’ Employment and Training Service.

The task force created a five-day training regimen. “VA teaches two separate blocks on benefits, DOD teaches a period on resilience and family adjustments. The Labor Department teaches a three-day workshop for civilian employment, during which the veteran will have created an individual transition plan, written a cover letter and resume, and done Web-based research on local labor markets and careers. The veteran will have a strategy for how to proceed,” Gerton says.

For years, veterans orientation “was voluntary, and there was little fidelity to capture who attended the programs, no governance on the ideal measure of success,” says Rosye Cloud, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity at the Veterans Benefits Administration, who was in charge of veterans policy at the White House when the task force revved up.

Today’s separating service members, some with disabilities, face pressure to make quick pivotal decisions on relocating, returning to school or obtaining licenses. But before the launch of the overhauled Transition Assistance Program, the orientation program for new veterans included information that hadn’t been updated in 20 years, Cloud says.

Efforts to upgrade the transition program gained momentum from the fact that “a veteran’s situation is a tangible problem,” says Tamburrino, now director of the defense sector at government consultancy LMI.

A COMMON MISSION

The key to multiagency management, says Tamburrino, is to align around a common mission. While DOD and VA led the effort, Labor and Education played significant roles. The five-day orientation, taught mostly in person by certified master counselors, is a partnership between VA and Labor. VA determines whether participants “have a medically related disability or challenge, so they qualify for training funds to overcome the employment barrier,” Gerton says. Labor offers training and placement help, “sharing information on local labor markets and hot industries so that VA counselors can direct them where to go.”

The Education Department “helped model the classroom instruction in terms of platform delivery and techniques, such as virtual delivery,” Tamburrino says. Education officials also created a seminar on how to behave on a campus. “Many veterans may have never been to an institution of higher learning,” he says.

Other agencies played key roles, too. SBA helped with studies on veterans’ behavior and with programs on how to launch a business. OPM applied its expertise in preparing training materials. Its officials have long noted a lack of understanding among veterans of the federal hiring process, including laws on certification for veterans’ preference.

The collaboration continued with the creation in April 2014 of the first online Veterans Employment Center, at ebenefits.va.gov. The interagency website allows transitioning veterans and their families to connect with prospective employers in the public and private sectors. [E](#)