

Minutes of the March 11th Meeting of the Father Charles J. Watters Assembly 2688

The March 11th meeting was held in-person at Mary Our Queen. It was also available virtually, thanks to S.K. Steve Strong. In-person meetings are currently alternating between Mary Our Queen and St. Andrew. All Saints remains unavailable.

The upcoming schedule of future Assembly meetings (in person and online) is:

- St. Andrew April 8th
- Mary Our Queen May 13th
- St. Andrew June 10th

The March 11th meeting started with a rosary, led by S.K. Chuck Langgood, about 7:00 PM. A selection of light snacks followed (in place of a full meal) and the meeting began around 7:35 PM with 15 members and one visiting dignitary present, and nine additional members online. Social distancing was observed, and masks are required. Most officers were situated on the stage with other attendees far apart in the room in front of the stage. We encourage all Sir Knights to start attending these in-person meetings with the usual precautions.

The rollcall of officers is no longer taken out loud, in an effort to speed up the meeting. Following the meeting, the Faithful Comptroller reported the following:

Officer Attendance

Faithful Navigator - Bob Mitchell
Faithful Captain - Nick Mattera
Faithful Pilot - Jon Bird (virtual)
Faithful Admiral - Ernie Spencer (excused)
Faithful Scribe - Lou Hlad (excused)
Faithful Comptroller - Dave Lemcoe
Faithful Purser - Joe Thibadeau
Inner Sentinel - Robert Svoboda (absent)
Outer Sentinel - Jon Biasini
Trustee —three-year - Ed Pierson (virtual)
Trustee— two-year - Chuck Langgood
Trustee —one-year - Wulf Lindenau
Faithful Friar— Msgr. James Fennessy (excused)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged by the FN. S.K. Dennis Klein rose to point out that his **60th wedding anniversary** would take place on March 19th, but was not on the list announced. Dennis received congratulatory applause from the membership for his (and Judy's) upcoming milestone event. (It was later learned that no marriage date was included in Supreme's record for S.K. Dennis, an omission that has since been corrected.)

The corrected birthdays and anniversaries can be found later in this report.

Call to Order

The FN welcomed a distinguished guest, the recently-appointed and Worthy District Master for the State of Georgia, S.K. Brad Burnett, and verified his current (and signed) membership card in the Fourth Degree. Brad chose to postpone his comments until later in the meeting.

First time attendees were:

1. Worthy District Master Brad Burnett
2. S.K. Brett Meister – All Saints Council – recent transfer from Arizona

Each received a warm welcome from the membership.

The minutes from the past meeting were submitted electronically. Prior to the meeting, S.K. Bob Santos notified the FN that his social report regarding an upcoming Gwinnett Stripers game, and prepared in anticipation of the March meeting, was inadvertently included as part of the distributed meeting minutes. Once this (premature) report was removed, the corrected meeting minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

1. The Faithful Navigator's report was distributed electronically.
2. The Faithful Comptroller's report can be found below. Highlights included a membership headcount of 196, with dues still owed by 57 members. A virtual Fourth Degree will take place on Saturday, March 27th. Pay outstanding dues via PayPal to S.K. Dave Lemcoe using the "Friends and Family" option, to save the Assembly any fees. Membership cards are available for those who have paid (or are exempt from paying) their dues.

3. The Faithful Purser's report can be found below. Highlights include a net increase in total account balance due to receipt of over \$500 in dues since February 1st.
4. No Scribe's report.
5. No Ad Hoc Widows' Committee report.
6. The Chalice Committee report was provided by S.K. Ed Pierson. Although we have had sufficient deaths to fill names on three more chalices, only Seminarian Paul Nacey (whom we've supported for several years), is scheduled to receive one this spring, following his Ordination. Other candidate Priests are being sought, but none have been identified at this time. Additional ideas are being investigated. The Assembly has already purchased two chalices for presentation, and a third will be needed.
7. No Charity Committee report.
8. No Fundraising Committee report.
9. No Membership Committee report. However, the virtual Fourth Degree on March 27th was discussed. Several possible candidates (including Al Bolet, Cesar Espinosa, Michael Martell, Bernie Sotola, and Ed Walsh) will be contacted regarding participation in the virtual event.
10. The Patriotism report was presented by Faithful Pilot Jon Bird. He discussed an online idea used by the Atlanta Vietnam Veteran's Group, of which he is a member. An online document lists members who have passed away, along with their date of death, a link to their obituaries, a photo, etc. He suggests a similar presence for Assembly members who have passed, possibly available through our website. Jon will work with the FN on this idea.
11. The Social Committee report was presented by the FN, at the request of S.K. Bob Santos. Bob has scheduled a social event for the Gwinnett Strippers game on Saturday, August 7th. The Charlotte Knights will be in town for a dinnertime start (exact time is TBD). Capacity is expected to be at 25% of capacity for safe social distancing. A first baseline Party Dock has been reserved, which will provide excellent seating, a 2 hour buffet, and parking pass, as well as access to the Suite Lounge and Bar located behind home plate. The normal per person cost is \$44, but Bob has arranged for a special reduced rate of just \$22 per person. There will be a limit of 20 tickets available for the event. Sign-ups will take place (most likely) in June. A second (possibly free) game may be added near the end of the season.
12. No Trustees' report.
13. The report of the Color Corps noted that there were three funerals/memorial masses over a four week period earlier in the year. Details regarding the memorial mass for S.K. Steve Berrigan on Thursday, March 25th have not been finalized yet, but an Honoring Guard has been tentatively scheduled. S.K. Jim Gaffey stated he understood that date had been finalized, and would confirm the information and

share it with the CC Commander. (Both Jim and All Saints confirmed the details the following day.)

Unfinished Business

With Assembly Officer elections tentatively scheduled for the May meeting, Trustee Chuck Langgood reminded the membership that a slate of vetted candidates to fill the various officer roles was being assembled. Please contact any of the Trustees (Ed Pierson, Wulf Lindenau, or Chuck Langgood) to learn about the available positions or if you are interested in serving as an officer or continuing in your current role. One-Year Trustee Wulf Lindenau's term ends this year, but he stated he would consider returning as Three- Year Trustee, if no other candidate steps forward. S.K. Jim Gaffey stated that he might be interested in serving as an officer.

There were no applications to read in. However, Brother Ed Walsh's application was read in several months ago, so it is hoped he will take part in the virtual Fourth Degree on March 27th. His wife recently passed away, so it is unknown at this time if he will choose to participate. Brother Al Bolet was unable to attend his scheduled degree in 2019, due to a last minute family emergency. Hopefully he can also attend.

Presentation by the Worthy District Master, S.K. Brad Burnett

The Worthy District Master spoke and took questions for approximately 45 minutes. Issues worthy of mention were:

- Commended S.K. Steve Strong for his efforts to move the tons of electronic gear required to allow our monthly meetings to be virtual.
- Gave background information on his+/- 20 years serving as a Knight of Columbus in Georgia, including an unsuccessful bid to serve as State Warden, several years as a District Marshal, served as Past-President of the Knights of Columbus Charities of Georgia until 2019 where he helped increase the charity's efforts from a \$12,000 bank account to collecting and distributing over \$500,000 annually, and after several years of wanting the position, was finally selected by the Supreme Directors as Master of the District of Georgia.
- Worked with the State Officers to include the Fourth Degree as part of the State website for purposes of communication, including establishing email links to all 44 Assembly Faithful Navigators and Faithful Comptrollers. Ceremonial details are also featured prominently.
- Brad wants to be "involved and inclusive". He has been to (in-person and/or virtually) 35 of the 44 Assemblies since his installation on September 1st.

- He was as “shocked” as everyone else when, at the Supreme Convention in 2017, the announcement was made regarding the retirement of the old regalia and the introduction of the new uniform. He noted that there have been five “uniform changes” throughout the years, and that the most recently-used regalia was “retired with respect”.
- Speaking about the new uniforms, he mentioned that sizing and manufacturing problems have been corrected, manufacturing is now in Oxford, AL rather than in Italy, and an “Executive Cut”, designed for those who are a bit larger in size, are available.
- Stated that when the old regalia was retired, approximately 10-12% of the (then) 350,000 Sir Knights had their own regalia (~35-40,000).
- Will not require anyone other than the Master and the District Marshals to wear the new uniform. He is comfortable with others wearing their tuxedos with social baldric and white gloves, as we have done for funerals, etc. He refers to this attire as “Escort” attire.
- However, he noted that the new uniform is gaining more traction, with some Assemblies wearing the uniform to their monthly meetings. Though he didn’t “direct” us to get it, he “encouraged” us to do so. (Note that he is well aware most won’t choose to do so.)
- Spoke about State Programs he encourages the Fourth Degree to become involved with. Wreathes across America (placing wreathes on the grave of deceased veterans in National Cemeteries before Christmas) and Warriors to Lourdes (started following WW II, provides support to wounded warriors as they make an annual religious pilgrimage to Lourdes, France). Wreathes cost \$15 each, while the cost for each veteran to travel is around \$3,000. Brad has taken part in both efforts for many years, and encourages others to become involved (physical participation as well as donations and fundraising). Tax-free donations can be sent to the Knights of Columbus Charities of Georgia.
- Spoke about awards the Assembly can apply for. Easiest award to win is the Civic Award – simply listing four programs or efforts the Assembly took part in during the fraternal year. Only seven were applied for and awarded last year. To Be a Patriot – detailed write-up of a program we took part in – submitted to State (one award per state), then regional, then international competitions. Star Assembly has been awarded for seven years. Requirements include several layers of report submissions, communications, newsletters, etc. Three were awarded in GA last year.
- In conclusion, Brad spoke about the Fourth Degree Exemplification being the most “touching” of the four degrees – teaches about the church, our founders, explorers, and our Priests. With the pandemic last year, exemplifications were cancelled. Decided in October that a virtual degree would take place. Partnered with the DM in Arkansas on a virtual degree in November 2020 and another in March 2021. With Brothers able to complete the first three degrees at once, there was lots of “pent up”

demand for a Fourth, and the “need to teach our families, kids, grandkids about America, what a good citizen is, and what a Patriot is”. More “foot soldiers” are needed. The DM admires us and wants us to spread the word about being a good Catholic and a good patriot.

During the Q&A and discussion period after Brad spoke, S.K. Dennis Klein, a Sir Knight for 52 years, eloquently shared his thoughts regarding the change from the old regalia to the new uniform. Others chimed in with similar objections to the change. The DM responded that he had heard similar comments from many different directions, and understands the concerns and feelings Dennis expressed. He pointed out how proud many Sir Knights have been wearing the tuxedo and the retired regalia, and mentioned that in years past, Knights were proud of the top hats and cut-away tuxes they wore. While Brad wants to be inclusive, he understands that many will choose not to purchase or wear the new uniform. He reminded us that only he and his District Marshals are required to do so, unless serving in the Color Guard with the posting or carrying of flags.

The FN asked if there was an estimate of Sir Knights who currently own the new uniform (as compared with the 10-12% (35-40K people) who had the retired regalia. The DM estimated that about 5% of Sir Knights have made the new purchase, somewhere in the 15-20,000 range.

The FN also mentioned that within 25 miles of the meeting, he knew of Assemblies still wearing the old regalia at functions, not to mention the wide-spread use internationally. While aware of certain situations, Brad stated that if he became personally aware of such actions and/or saw the regalia in use, he would be forced to ask the offender(s) to not do so again. If they did not comply with the first request, the Vice Supreme Master would be notified and various actions, including suspension, could occur, but are decided on a case-by-case basis.

The FN reported that the procedures outlined by the DM and contained on the State website regarding signing up for the March 27th exemplification differ from the information disseminated by our Assembly. Specifically, the Assembly charges an additional \$10 to cover the cost of a Fourth Degree name badge, and collects all funds directly, before submitting both paperwork and a single payment check to the District Master for all of our attendees.

The DM noted that he is allowed to charge \$70 per person for the exemplification, but since it is virtual and there is no cost for lunch, he has chosen to reduce the announced cost to \$60 (which does not take into account the additional cost for the name badge).

The FN explained to the DM that our Assembly has taken part in Wreathes across America for several years, making donations directly to organizations at two of our parishes, rather than through the KofC Charities of Georgia.

The District Master stated that individuals wishing to make tax-free donations can do so directly to KofC Charities of Georgia, separate from anything the Assembly may choose to do as a whole. He also noted that it takes approximately 35, 000 people to place wreathes on 305,000 graves at Arlington National Cemetery each year, and encourages anyone who cares to join him (paying their own way to Washington), join him on the annual pilgrimage in mid-December.

It was noted that the Watters Assembly received the Star Assembly award the first year it was presented. The DM acknowledged our Assembly's long and active service in the Fourth Degree.

The District Master stated that the small Fourth Degree pin is the only pin allowed to be displayed on the lapel of the new uniform (which contradicts what we were directed to do previously), and stated that the combined flag and Fourth Degree pins we were prevented from using a few years back **should** be worn on our tuxedos during future Honoring Guards.

Brad's closing comment was with regard to an Honoring Guard he took part in at All Saints in December 2019 for our late Brother Sir Knight Mike Feeney. Brad and Mike had known each other for many years, and he was honored to take part that day. When the November 2020 virtual exemplification took place, Brad selected S.K. Mike Feeney as the Honoree for the degree that day! Former District Master (and current District Deputy) Tom Frizzi has been chosen as the Honoree for the March 27th exemplification.

Council Reports

Due to the very late hour, and with concurrence from the attendees, the FN suggested waiving the reports of the individual Councils this month. It was noted, however, that the St. Andrew Council was holding their Lenten Fish Dinner by take-out only throughout the Lenten season and all are encouraged to support their efforts.

New Business

Purser Joe Thibadeau made a motion to donate \$500 to the Archdiocese of the Military Service USA during Lent. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Good of the Order

Prayers were requested for:

- Joe Kane – recovered from Covid-19 and pneumonia; finally home after a three-week hospital stay; on oxygen, but doing well.
- Ken Winkler – fell at home, broke his upper leg (immediately below the hip joint), and hit his replaced knee, which is very painful. Living with son and daughter-in-law as he recovers, but doing quite well also.
- Bob Santos – recently fell and sprained his ankle. Multiple upcoming surgeries for flatfoot reconstruction and torn tendon replacement. Requests continued prayers.
- Anita Mitchell, wife of the FN – on-going lower back pain. Had a CT myelogram today (results are pending). Previous surgeries, MRI's CT's, and x-rays have not resolved her issues. Prayers are requested.
- Riordan Catton (grandson of All Saints' St. Vincent de Paul group's co-President Janice Ward) - passed away at age of 11 from brain cancer. Requested by S.K. Ed Pierson.
- Debra Blair – S.K. Dennis Klein's daughter –very ill and dealing with MS.
- Abe Kassis – cancer
- Nora Baylot – Mother of S.K. Mike Baylot - cancer

Final Announcements and Closing

No final announcements. Reminder about the upcoming meeting schedule.

Closing ode was waived.

After the meeting concluded about 9:00 PM, tours of the new sanctuary at MOQ were provided by S.K. Mike Baylot.

Respectfully submitted,

S.K. Robert H. Mitchell, Jr.
Acting Scribe (and Faithful Navigator)

Addendum items can be found on the following four pages.



Member Birthdays

March

Name	Birthday	Age	Address
Deacon Kenneth W Melvin	03-01-1941	80	1675 Chevron Way Atlanta, GA 30350-4431
Patrick H Duncan	03-02-1970	51	2576 Briers North Dr Dunwoody, GA 30360-2078
Charles J Langgood	03-02-1952	69	9840 Summer Oaks Dr Roswell, GA 30076-2604
Wulf R Lindenau	03-04-1942	79	4147 Ancient Amber Way Peachtree Corners, GA 30092-5122
Raymond C Eberly	03-06-1946	75	3050 Spalding Dr Atlanta, GA 30350-5400
Michael A Baylot	03-09-1958	63	6418 Wedgewood Trce Tucker, GA 30084-1393
Chris K Smirl	03-12-1958	63	2487 Madison Cmns Atlanta, GA 30360-2086
Joseph J Cavallaro	03-13-1965	56	2488 Glenbonnie Dr Atlanta, GA 30360-1614
Edgar B Davis	03-13-1940	81	2371 Littlebrooke Dr Atlanta, GA 30338-3187
Msgr. James J Fennessy	03-13-1943	78	2443 Mount Vernon Rd Atlanta, GA 30338
Doyle E Cheatham	03-14-1959	62	2315 Kimbrough Ct Sandy Springs, GA 30350-5635
Daniel P Anderson	03-16-1964	57	1054 Township Sq Alpharetta, GA 30022-5354
Bertinson N Vu	03-17-1960	61	5095 Riverthor Pl Peachtree Corners, GA 30096-2933
Dr Arthur H Dolt	03-24-1967	54	7895 Landowne Dr Sandy Springs, GA 30350-1065
Edward R Konopka	03-27-1934	87	4316 Stilson Cir Norcross, GA 30092-1648
John David Emery	03-29-1949	72	5217 Bradford Cir Dunwoody, GA 30338-3010

Total: 16

FATHER CHARLES J WATTERS ASM
2688
DUNWOODY, GA



Page 1 of 1
March 15, 2021

Member Wedding Anniversaries

March

Name	Date	Wife's Name	Address
Richard J Ducote	03-03-1973	Terri Ducote	265 Woodrill Way Atlanta, GA 30350-5656
William M Camden	03-14-1979	Pat Camden	3929 Crab Orchard Ln Norcross, GA 30092-1823
Dennis J Klein	03-19-1961	Judith Klein	1925 Branch Valley Dr Roswell, GA 30076-3035
Louis F Hlad	03-24-1973	Marty Hlad	5129 Burlingame Dr Atlanta, GA 30360-1427

Total: 4

Faithful Comptroller's Report March 2021

SK Dave Lemcoe

- 1) **Membership:** Currently, we have 196 members on our roster dated 03-09-2021.
- 2) **Exemplifications:** The next Exemplification will be virtual and on March 27. The fee is 70.00 and includes Social Baldrick, name badge, and certificate. Checks are to be made out to **KofC Assembly 2688**, just like a dues check.
- 3) **Admin:** You can use PayPal to send your payment to me at my cell number, 678-687-5707. Zelle also works to send to my Bank of America account. Please let me know by text or email of your sending payment online. Remember to use the "Friends and Family" option and not **NOT** the "Goods and Services" option as it has a fee. It has happened already.
- 4) **Dues:** The Final Notice for 2021 dues out in February 2021. You can pay in person tonight! 123 SKs have paid plus an additional 16 are exempt from paying which yields a total of 139 SKs accounted for as of this report and 57 unpaid. 3780.00 has been collected.
- 5) **Cards:** Cards will be provided in person or by mail as appropriate.
- 6) **Reports:** N/A.
- 7) **Assembly Statement:** The Assembly Statement for March 2021 has a balance of 29.01 for cardholders and membership cards.



FATHER CHARLES J. WATTERS ASSEMBLY 2688

PURSER REPORT

3/1/2021

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE 2/1/21
RECEIPTS

\$ 16,412.71

Meal Income	\$ 25.00
Dues	\$510.00
Name Badges	\$10.00

SUB TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$ 545.00

EXPENSES

Meal Costs	\$ 22.81
Chalice Case Purchased	\$ 90.00
Name Badges	\$ 11.10

SUB TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 123.91

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE 2/28/2021

\$ 16,833.80

Dues	\$ 450.00
------	-----------

TOTAL OUTSTANDING ITEMS

\$450.00

CHECKBOOK BALANCE 2/28/21

\$ 17,283.80