



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**

CHAPTER PRESIDENT ROBERT ALCALA
Meets at the Northside Columbus Club
607 E Whitney St
Houston, TX 77022



Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting August 13, 2024

Monthly Pro-Life Rosary - 6:30pm: Chapter Member led the Rosary for Life before the meeting.

Meeting: Called to order by Past Chapter President JD Gutierrez at 7:20pm.

Past Chapter President JD Gutierrez presided over a short Installation of Chapter Officers. Promises to obey the Laws and rules of the Order were extracted from the New Officers and each received their name tag.

The gavel was then turned over from JD to the new President Robert Alcala.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Paul Chovanec Chapter Chaplain lead all in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: District Master James Hatcher lead all in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance,

Opening Ode: President Alcala asked all to be seated.

For those of you that have warmed up your voice for the ODE, I want you to make sure that you saw this card that is on the side table. It's a QR code, and it's a survey. It's a one, question survey about the ode. So, I need to get everybody's response on this. Thank you. Thank you.

Memoriam for Deceased Brothers:

A moment of silence was held for our Brother Knights that have passed on to their eternal rest during the period from the previous meeting: SK Ray Holt, SK Joe Coronado and SK Richard Beans. Chapter president called for a moment of silence. Robert Alcala, Chapter Vice President moved the memorial chair to its place of honor at the head table.

Chaplain's Report: Fr. Paul Chovanec:

President Alcala announced Father Paul has graciously said yes to the reappointment as our chapter Chaplain.

Acknowledged Worthy State Officers, Brothers All, and Chapter Officers newly installed and outgoing.

We gather on a very important day, as we all know. We gather on the date between the birthday of Blessed Michael McGivney and the anniversary of his demise, so that today, as soon as he'll be canonized, will be his official feast day.

There are prayers for the recognition and acknowledgment of this day. He's not in the sacramentary yet. He's not in the calendar yet fully or completely.

But we really ought to announce that he knows what it's like to be a Knight of Columbus. He knows it from the outset, from the inside the true spirit of knighthood. He labored diligently as a priest and as a knight. And so, we really ought to see in him an ideal example. We ought to ask his intercession. Don't be afraid of asking for big things. Do not be cheap and small. In your prayers, we should be courageous in asking for big things, because God is infinitely powerful to begin with. And Blessed Michael McGivney would love to pray for us. So, I really invite you to commend yourself and your family and your persona; needs, great or small, to so that Blessed Michael may give this intercession.

He labored encased in matters of immigration. He labored in matters of poverty. He labored in matters of anti-Catholic activities and attitudes. He labored in the context of what we think of as modern life, even though it's been many, many, years since he walked this Earth. So don't be afraid of asking for big things through the intersection of our Blessed Founder.

And so, with that, I'd simply like to thank our outgoing officers, to commend our incoming officers, and related to entrust the work of the chapter to the intercession of our Blessed Founder Michael McGivney.

Secretary's Report: Chapter Secretary – Bob Schmidt

Recognizing Fr. Paul, Worthy State Dignitaries, Archdiocesan and Chapter Dignities and my Brothers All

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes August 2024



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- Tonight's attendance report: we have twelve (12) State, Archdiocesan and Chapter Dignitaries, nineteen (19) District Deputies, forty-six (46) Council Delegates.
- We did issue the June Chapter meeting minutes and have been posted to the Chapter website, which we will later review for approval. There was not a meeting in July 2024 due to Hurricane Beryl. With that, I will turn the meeting back to our Chapter President Robert Alcala for review and approval of Chapter minutes. Thank you...
- The meeting minutes for June 2024 were posted on the Chapter website. I ask if there are any corrections to the June meeting minutes as posted on the website? Again, are there any corrections, any corrections to the minutes as posted. Hearing none, called for a motion to accept June meeting minutes as posted. Motion made to accept the the meeting minutes as posted, motion seconded. Asked for discussion, discussion, discussion. Hearing none ask for a vote and Minutes are approved.
- Communications: Having none, we will move on.

Treasurer's Report: Chapter Treasurer - Charles Cantrell

Recognizing Fr. Paul, Worthy State Dignitaries, Worthy Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers and Brothers All. I have a great report for you today.

The Treasurers Report:

GH Chapter Checking Account (ending June 2024)

Starting Balance \$98,453.27, Deposits of \$1,646.00, Debits of \$2,659.41, Ending balance of \$97,439.86.

Checks in Transit: nine (9) check in transit; totaling \$2,540.00. Leaving an Account balance of \$94,899.86

GH Chapter Savings / CD Account

Savings: Beginning balance totals \$35,000.00. CD Savings Account remains at \$35,000.00.

Total Chapter Funds balance of \$129,899.86.

Chapter Earmarked Funds

- **Emergency Fund:** CD Account balance remains at \$5,073.12.
- **Knights for Life Account:** Beginning balance of \$9,185.93, plus interest of \$2.36. minus transferred to a checking for Matching: Gabriel Funds of \$1,500.00. Ending balance of \$7,688.29.
Knights for Life CD Account: Balance remains at \$15,000.00 (10-month CD)
- **Galveston-Houston Convention Committee:**
Checking account: Beginning balance of \$89,299.91 took in deposits of \$775.00, less withdrawals of \$37,618.91, Checking Account balance \$52,456.00
Savings Account: Balance stands at \$6,381.22 plus \$0.05 in interest. Ending balance \$6,381.27.
Total for G-H Convention Committee funds \$58,629.36. One (1) outstanding check for \$207.95.

Total of Earmarked Funds of \$86,598.68.

GH Chapter Checking Account (ending July 2024)

Starting Balance \$97,439.86, Deposits of \$55,494.71, Debits of \$56,405.12, Ending Balance of \$96,529.45

Checks in transit: seven (7) in transit; totaling \$2,083.10. Leaving an Account Balance of \$94,446.35.

GH Chapter Savings / CD Account

Savings: Beginning balance totals \$35,000.00, interest posted of \$418.41, CD Savings Account Balance is \$35,418.41.

Total Chapter Funds balance of \$129,864.76

Chapter Earmarked Funds

- **Emergency Fund:** Beginning CD Account balance \$5073.12, interest posted in the amount of \$123.63, CD Emergency Fund balance is \$5,196.75.



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- **Knights for Life Account:** Beginning Balance \$22,688.29, interest posted in the amount of \$193.59, Total account balance \$22,881.88.
- **Galveston-Houston Convention Committee:** Beginning balance in checking and savings \$58,837.27, CD opened for \$50,000.00, savings account closed, balance in checking now \$8,629.36, for an ending balance of \$58,629.36.

Total of Earmarked Funds of \$86,707.99

On August 1, a CD was purchased in the amount of \$40,000.00 from the chapter checking account.

Please turn the reports over to the back side, this list, where the money was spent. On the July page, it also lists a recap of the CDs and the way they will post, and what you have kind of, if you can figure out my chart, we are going to earn \$223 in 2024, in 2025 we are going to earn \$5240, and in 2026 we are going to earn \$4283. If we don't close any of the CDs, we could have a potential of \$17,500 total additional funds. We will have to make adjustments as funds will be needed to support the convention in 2027. This is kind of where we're sitting money wise right now. The checking account will drop but will pick up with the sales of raffle tickets and dues coming in for 2025.

Now on dues. The bills will go out 1 October, so be on the lookout and paid by the end of the year.

Chapter President asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion was made and seconded. Then asked if there is any discussion, discussion, discussion. Question as to the moving of thousands of dollars allowed without input from a committee or anything. Answer: The Treasurer has the ability to manage the bank account or accounts and CDs are allowed. This will be discussed further in committee. After discussion, a vote to accept the treasurer's report was approved.

President's Report: Chapter President, Robert Alcala

Recognize: Fr. Paul, Worthy State Secretary, Past State Deputy, Worthy Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers and Brothers All.

While this is technically my First meeting as the President of our great Chapter, my tenure in this position is now over 30 days old, and I'm officially late in getting out my "first" report to you.

However, please rest assured that your leadership has already been at work for you. Thank you to our worthy Treasurer, we've already completed the Chapter Audit for the last reporting period. Charles will share more about that later.

Your Worthy Secretary and Vice President have been focused on transitioning the Secretary duties and making certain that we are collecting all new Delegate forms from all our member councils. Remember, those Delegate forms tell us which members are eligible to vote for the important decisions placed before our Chapter. District Deputies-I ask for your help in making the collection of new Delegate Forms a top priority (among the other 10 top priorities you already have).

As you can see to my right, we have ALL the Knights for Life Raffle tickets separated by Districts and Councils. District Deputies are required to sign-out for their envelopes and ensure the distribution of tickets to each of their councils. Worthy Grand Knights or Council representatives, if your DD is not here tonight, and you would like to get a jump start on selling your council's tickets. Just make sure that you out your specific envelope and let our Worthy Diocesan Deputy (or one of his ADDs know that you've done so.

By now, every Priest and Deacon in the Archdiocese has received a personal invitation to attend this year's Clergy Appreciation Night. In that invitation, they have been asked to get with their Grand Knights to make sure the councils know they'd like to attend. Council's - make sure you get your seat reservations forms in ASAP! This year WILL be a sell out and you don't want to be the council whose priest feels uninvited to this very special event. Thank you to SK Larry Massey and his team at the Scanlon Foundation for their ongoing support for Clergy Night and for taking the lead to ensure that all our clergy are invited - including our seminarians.



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Thank you to my friend SK David Keating, for helping us obtain all the Raffle Prizes ahead of us selling any tickets, despite having COVID, and setting our Chapter's needs ahead of his own health.

Chapter/Diocesan Committee Reposts:

In the interest of time, we ask you to please be brief and try to keep reports under two minutes.

Larry Massey - RSVP / Seminarian Coordinator

Father Paul and all, what I want to say is awesome Knights, meaning that Houston Chapter is awesome. And here's why, the reason for the first annual barbecue dinner is we broke budget on the RSVP program.

- We raised \$97,600 and the goal was \$90,000. We are number 1 in the Nation.
- 35 councils participated in the RSVP Program. The top seven councils were: St Cecilia, St Lawrence, St Mary Magdalene of Humble, St Anne of Tomball, St Vincent de Paul, and my council Christ the Redeemer, and The Sacred Heart of Manville. These councils gave \$5,000 or more.
- The 35 councils will be featured in a full-page ad in the Texas Herald. This will be with a photo of the 55 Seminarians now at St Mary's.
- 18 new seminarians were added this term. With this addition this makes it the largest class in history.
- With the size of Galveston/Houston we need 100 seminarians. With the support of the knights, we are going to make the 100 seminarians happen. It may take a couple of years and that would produce 10 to 13 new priests for the Diocese.
- Beginning this year a report will be going out to all Grand Knight and will be posted to the website.
- There will be a 2nd annual barbecue dinner if we break budget again for 24/25.

Thank you very much.

Chris Perales – VA Visitation Coordinator

Father Paul, State Secretary, Past State Deputy, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, District Deputies, Delegates.

I was not here this past Sunday for the VA Visitations, but I'll be there next Sunday. But if any of you visited this past Sunday, thank you very much. I have the new schedule right here, it has been posted online, but if you are looking for a paper copy, I have 10, just visit me in the back. And of course, if you have any questions about the VA come and see me after the meeting. Thank you, VIVA JESUS!

George Brooks- Culture of life

Recognize: Fr Paul, Worthy State and Chapter Officers, District Deputies, Grand Knights, and Brothers All:
For those of you who are new, I am George Brooks, your Culture of Life Director.

As we begin another fraternal year, we are reminded of goals set by State and Supreme. I am your contact person for all our Pro-Life programs. I have sent documents to the District Deputies containing information on all those programs, and I ask that they be distributed to all Grand Knights and Life Directors.

If you have any questions, or if something emerges later, please contact me. I have left on the table a few of the remaining handouts that I have, which provide brief information on the ACE Wings program, the ASAP program, Gabriel Projects, Ultrasound Initiatives, and buses to Austin for the Texas Rally for Life in January.

If you do not already have the relevant documents to reference, please contact your DD, or send me an email. I have left on the table cards with all my contact information. Please let me know if I can clarify anything or help in any way.



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Brothers do not be satisfied to do the minimum number of Life Programs. Everything we are as Knight stems from our respect for life and human dignity. Everything we do helps meet the material and spiritual needs of others. This is the basis from which flow all our programs in Faith, Family, and Community.

Our Life programs build the character of our Knights, and it is through these men that we carry out our other activities, and that is what causes men to want to join us. Let this be another record-setting year in all these metrics!

Thank You.

Silver Rose – Fernando Flores

Father Paul, State Officers, Diocesan Deputy and brothers all.

The Silver Rose will be arriving here. I've put on the table the list of open dates, so you had better hurry and sign up. None of you have really signed up, other than four of you.

It arrives on 6 September, and it depends on what time if it will be available then. Otherwise, it will be available on the 7th all the way through 19 September. It then returns to us on 5 October and departs on 3 November.

If you need further information, my contact information is on the flier. First come first served via email.
Thank you, brothers.

Emergency Response – JL "G" Giegrich

Good evening, brothers.

As a review of the events and the recovery process of Hurricane Beryl, the Emergency Response Program has given out 51 gift cards of a hundred dollars. We have sent in one grant, and that one has been approved. There are three other grant applications waiting for more information before sending on.

These were gift cards and grants for Brother Knights in our area who have sustained damage from the hurricane, either trees or some other sort of damage. I want to thank all the District Deputies, Grand Knights, and the CERS that I have had many conversations with and who have helped me go visit damaged homes and brother knights. You were a very big help to me. It's a time-consuming job sometimes. Ron, your DDs were very helpful. Thank you very much.
The deadline for help from State/Supreme is August 31, so if you have some paperwork out, I'd ask that it be completed and returned to me as soon as possible.

If anyone else has damage or you have information about a brother who has damage and is in need, please get with me as soon as possible so we can start the process. The way the process works is that it starts with an application for a gift card with communication and visitation. If they get one or two gift cards and we can see the damage and how bad their need is, then we go ahead and apply for a grant. Everything depends on their situation and how bad everything is. There are questions that must be answered such as is their insurance, applied for FEMA, or St Vincent de Paul. These are normal questions.

One of the unwritten things is that has the council of the brother Knight given any help to this member, either financially or manpower. If the council hasn't helped out, then it is hard to ask State or Supreme to help. So please keep this in mind, especially living here in Houston. I'm sure we're going to have another storm or two come our way.

So out of the 55 gift cards sent by State 51 were given out, that is a pretty good amount. If anyone would like to go over the specifics. I am more than willing to share my spreadsheet for review.

Financial Secretary Training – JL "G" Giegrich

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes August 2024



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Class is scheduled for August 31 at St Jerome Parish, which is our President's parish. He's the business manager of the parish and they have graciously donated their conference room. It is open to all financial secretaries and faithful controllers from the 4th degree. It is also open to Grand Knights, Navigators, District Deputies, Treasurers and Pursers. We have room for a little bit over a hundred people. One of the things we are going to be covering in this training class is helping a council build a financial structure.

If you have any questions on either of these subjects, please see me after the meeting tonight.

Thank you very much, guys.

Central Region Emergency Response Coordinator – Larry Pellerito

So as a Diocese Emergency Response Coordinator, isn't this guy great? You know, he's awesome. And let me tell you, he is I – I would suggest that he is leading the pack from the state of Texas as far as organization and getting things done from a diocese standpoint, he's awesome. You may not recognize that because we're, we're in our bubble, but I as a regional guy, I see the diocese and the work that the diocesan E – R - Cs are doing across the state and this guy is head and shoulders above everybody else, so feel lucky that you have him here. Reply to his emails. Make sure that, when you get emails from him that you are replying, because that is really that communication that is what drives the thing that drives the train. We cannot get help to our Brother Knights if he is still in the dark on things. So, make sure your communication is open. I'm regional, I just wanted to give you a real quick understanding of how this a little bit wider thing, of Beryl.

From a Beaumont standpoint, they didn't catch much of this at all, which is awesome. But then had tornadoes. There was one guy that had one literally tore half his house apart. And the night before the storm, he had two kids that were under one year of age sleeping in that part of the house. So, by one night, literally, I mean, it could have been even greater for him.

When we talked about Victoria, we thought Victoria was going to get hit hard as the storm was coming in, but it was basically a glancing blow. Everything pretty much fell between Beaumont and Victoria, which is his responsibility. We had a couple people who had some damage from trees falling on their house in Victoria.

Everything was, everything was centered around here. I think "G" had probably two or three dozen people that you've been talking with as I've seen on your spreadsheet. "G" responded stating 27. So, I mean from one and two to 27. So, this guy's been doing a good job. I just wanted to point that n out and give you guys an idea of what was done.

Thank you very much, Diocesan Committee Men

OLD BUSINESS

Chapter Vice – President – Vincent Stasio

Good evening, gentlemen.

I just wanted to announce that our chapter President has appointed me and James DeGeldar, together to look at the Christopher Columbus statue moving forward. Wanted to thank Diocesan Deputy Ron, because he has worked on this and shepherded this for over two years. We're at the point now where we need concrete for the foundation of the statue, and that has been the holdup. We are trying to find a Brother Knight, a council, or someone that has that expertise that can give us a KNIGHT'S PRICE. We could go out on the street and get a price, but we are trying to do this with our Chapter fund. If you know of anybody in your council, or anybody you think that would be able to pour a small slab. It's about four-foot square, maybe two feet deep, or so. We'll have to determine the size when we get the statue. But if you know somebody that might be able to give us a KNIGHT'S PRICE, please let us know.

Thank you.



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Any other Old Business? Any other Old Business? Any other Old Business? We will move on to New Business

NEW BUSINESS

JL "G" Giegerich

Gentlemen, I'm going to propose a resolution tonight and this resolution is for the Emergency Relief Funds that we have in existence in our accounts that Brother Charles reports on every meeting. We have a little bit over \$5,000 in there right now. This was given to us several years ago as a dedicated donation. And just for the idea of establishing a fund and in honor of all the hard work that we did for Harvey was how the ORIGINAL letter was worded.

During Beryl, I got to really thinking about these funds because as you know before we got the authorization from state to hand out money and to get money out of this account, we would have to bring it forward to the membership at the very next chapter meeting. Which could be, you know, six weeks after an incident, depending on how the timing of it is,

I'm proposing a resolution that, with the Diocesan ERC, Chapter President and the Chapter Officers, that they look at approving up to \$250, immediately upon a problem. The idea being that if something comes up and somebody needs money right now, it can happen, and we don't have to wait four weeks or longer to get the money in the hands of the person in need. The person in need will be vetted by the above-mentioned committee. This is just like I do for the other state charities and supreme for anybody who has experienced damage in our area. The difference is that with state, when there's a big situation like Beryl, they must sanction that there is a disaster. Once they sanction, then funds from State Charities and Supreme start to come in. But there are a lot of other situations where this doesn't happen. A good example is the Derecho. The storms that hit the Houston area knocked out all the windows downtown and quite a bit of damage around. There were several Brother Knights who had some problems then and we really didn't have the capabilities of getting funds from any source for them. We eventually got some of them some help.

So, I'd like to read this resolution, and I hope you take it with the respect of how I'm going to read it and give it to the body, because I think it's very important for the membership to be able to make decisions on our monetary purpose and know how.

A resolution for Direct Disbursement of Chapter Emergency Relief Fund

Whereas, Knights of Columbus Galveston Houston Chapter is one of the largest chapters in the order and

Whereas., Knights of Columbus Galveston Houston Chapter is one of the best organized chapters in the Order and

Whereas, Knights of Columbus Galveston Houston Chapter currently has in existence an emergency relief fund, separate from the budget, and said funds are under current restrictions of disbursement based on monthly meetings

Be it resolved that, we the members of Knights of Columbus Galveston Houston Chapter establish a disbursement plan and committee, similar to council by-law Article VII Sec. 5, whereas the committee shall compose of the Chapter President and current elected officers with the Diocesan Emergency Response Coordinator, for the intended purpose to investigate and Brother Knight who is in distress from peril. If in the committee's judgement, the case is one deserving of assistance, the committee shall have the power to draw from said fund a reasonable sum of money, as the circumstances require provided that no single case shall be more than \$250 without reference to and approval by the chapter membership,



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Over the years the membership of Galveston Houston Chapter has spent many man hours helping others recover from their peril. This resolution will help those in distress faster and aspire this strong tradition of support of the membership to those in need,

The difference here is that the approved budget that we have every year is approved for expenses there in those line items. This money is not part of our budget, so it must be brought up to the membership. I am asking that, in this resolution, that up to \$250 of Emergency Relief Fund, similar to what's in the council, by-laws that are in every council. It's in this book that we approve that here at the chapter because we don't have such things like this by-law for the chapter.

So, any questions.

One question. Do we have a provision in this resolution so that the sum of the individual cases for disbursement do not exceed the total in the account?

No.

Should we have that?

No, it doesn't need to be because if, if we only have a certain amount of funds in the account and we run out, we run out. What I would like to see happen over time is that we develop a situation where we're replenishing that account.

But what I'm concerned with is that it would be possible for the committee to commit more funds than are in the account. Because in the heat of a crisis you have several applications, and more applications might be approved than there are funds to cover in the account.

Well that's a good question, a good consideration. One of the members of the officer staff that's on the board is the treasurer, and he has all of that information. So I'm certain that we won't go around that.

Thank you.

Yes sir. Way in the back

Is this a resolution? As I want to second it to start with and the next thing is, that's it, we go to discussion next meeting.

This is not going to be a resolution that needs to be read twice and voted on. There is no monetary attachment to the resolution. So basically, this resolution is just bring up fourth to the membership so that you guys know what's going on. And it will be in by a resolution. It is going to be in the minutes, in a permanent part of the readings of this chapter meeting.

Proposing would do the same thing.

So your point?

Yes, sir.

Do any of the other committees have the single power to respond especially to spend moneys and what is their process?

Like what other committees are you talking. This is surely just emergency for somebody in peril, who had damages from a storm or something like that. The committee will decide if their situation is deemed strong enough to acquire funds.

Charles Cantrell (interjected)

The answer is that if it's on the budget, we can deal with it on the budget. Like Knights for life, we use the raffle to grow the fund. In this case, we don't have anything to grow the fund, so we need to make a committee to figure a way to grow the fund for future storms or future disasters.

Another part of your question is that these funds were a donation. Just on the basis for this money to give out for emergency relief. It is a dedicated donation. And by the rules of the IRS we are required to do that type of a donation under the request given to another group that is not an emergency relief would not come under this heading.

Yes, sir.



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Just based on the just terrible overall price of stuff and the fact that the council level is \$500. Why did you choose only \$250?

Well the amount that you're talking about, that \$500 amount is what is in the by-laws for any amount that you can approve without a resolution. So in your council and the chapter, the same thing, you can approve at a meeting with bring it forward to the membership up to \$500, actually \$501.

Okay, not the \$500 rule, but the section seven paragraph, the relief fund rule, right? That does not require anybody, except for the three people on the relief committee?

That is correct

You are proposing a similar thing here.

That is correct.

Asking, why is it only \$250.

The actual fine rules of that article is that it's hundred dollars increments, and that \$500 is given to the FS is total for that year and so what I am proposing, it is a little bit more which is up to \$250 per incident or per person. So as just a little bit different wording, but it is actually a little bit more leeway as far as being able to give out funds for those in need,

Before we take these two questions over here, I'm of the opinion that this is a motion and not a resolution. And, as such, I would ask that we pass this as a motion and then open back up to discussion.

Do I have a motion for "G" s presentation that "G" gave? So Moved. Do I have a second? Okay. Discussion

Now, I may have missed it but I didn't hear any sort of review after the fact. Not people liable for credibility. But what if, you know, if this opportunity, someone comes on the road and says, hey, this is actually \$250 that I can give myself? I would like to see a second committee review before the funds are disbursed.

I heard something about the council helping with manpower or monetary before the applicant would be eligible for help. Is this something that is part of this resolution or is that part of the previous rules.

No, that is two separately, different things. What you are asking about is when state is approved funding for somebody who has the need, one of the things that we look at is, has the council helped out this brothers' need at all. If the council is not helping out, it's really hard to get State or Supreme to say, hey, let's get him a gift card, or you know approve him for a grant. In this case, we're talking about funds from the chapter and, and the funds are there just for this purpose. What I'm trying to do with this is bring forth to the membership that, you know, if the money is needed. NOW. We have the buildings, with the team of the officers to approve it and get it in the hands now, so we don't have to wait four to six weeks to the next meeting to approve something.

That was our second discussion. Third call for discussion.

Several times I've heard in what you were saying you mentioned Beryl, this last storm, I think you should strike that and say emergency response.

There was no mention of the storms name in the exact reading. It was just in the discussion.

Worthy, Question.

Okay, the question has been called all those in favor. Opposed. Passed.



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Thank you very much. Any other new business. Any other new business.

Antonio "Tido" Perales

Recognized Fr. Paul, Worthy State officers Worthy Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers and Brothers All.

Last month, if you recall, our Diocese Catholic Charities was here and made a presentation about helping out the Mimi George Food Foundation who help poor families in need.

Last month, we served 740 families and the month before that was over 800 families.

We are asking if you can take this pledge card that I have on the table, along with some information to your councils. Could you see if your councils can help with a small one-time donation or whatever to help out this place.

This place usually uses about anywhere between five to ten thousand dollars a month on food donations. Right now, they are looking for any kind of food, any kind of money you can give them.

Give the pledge cards out to your council members as a donation as little as \$10 or \$15 helps.

Thank you, Brother Knights.

And that, that was a call for donations and man hours, right?

Yes, donations and man hours from councils.

All right, any other new business.

Charles Cantell – Chapter Treasurer

Brothers All.

I bring you great news with more numbers about the audit that we just had.

The auditors were "G", Sam Gonzales, and David Keating. Took two and a half hours to go through the books.

We started out with \$104,139, took in \$68,281, wrote checks for \$105,708 and the ending balance was \$97,439. You add in all our accounts on top of that, plus \$396 for outstanding dues, which is a record from the past ten years. Our total assets were at \$219,434.54. We had in liabilities, which is outstanding checks, \$2,747.95. Our total net assets is what the chapter is worth right now, is \$217,186.59.

If you would like to see the audit, come see me. I have it over here.

Thank you.

Have a motion to approve. Second.

All right Any other new business.

Larry Pellerito



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**

CHAPTER PRESIDENT ROBERT ALCALA
Meets at the Northside Columbus Club
607 E Whitney St
Houston, TX 77022



We have an opportunity to spend a little bit of the Emergency Response money you have.

A gentleman, a Knight in your diocese did not have house damage but a tree demolished his truck, with Beryl. Because we just have so much money it tends to go for house damage.

I met with the Charity Committee for Beryl this afternoon and the gentleman's application was discussed. The state could give him some money but we thought he needed more.

With the Chapter meeting tonight PSD Leo Harness suggested I come and make a request. He had two ideas in mind. One was to see if anyone knows or has an older truck that would be available inexpensively.

He is a painter and needs a truck in order to work. Currently he is borrowing a neighbor's truck, which allows him to work a bit. He needs his own wheels to do his business.

The other option he thought to ask the Chapter to help him out financially and the state would match that amount up to \$1000. So I would like to throw this out as an option tonight.

First a question. Is this going to be presented to the Emergency Response?

He already received \$200 in gift cards and his application for a grant was discussed and this is what is being presented.

Okay, so this is a request of the Chapter Treasury, correct?

Is there a motion out of this?

Motion is made to help this gentleman with \$500 from the Chapter.

We have a second on the motion.

Second, second, discussion.

The Knight is Adrian Laura of council 12818 and has been a knight for eight years. The council has helped with \$170 in food. He is a good practical catholic.

We had a call for discussion. We had a second call for discussion. Third call for discussion.

All in favor. Opposed.

Thanhe best you can because your k you brothers, a check, for \$500 will be cut from Chapter funds

Diocesan Deputy Report – Ron Frerich

Recognized Fr. Paul, Worthy State Officers, Chapter Officers and Brother Knights

I would like to remind you that you know we're all volunteers and everything and I need you to do the best you can because your time as a DD, or Grand Knight, or Officer position, that you're in is going to go by really fast and you're going to regret it if you didn't do the best you can. So starting off this New Year, I need you to think about that.

We finished up last year with 20 Star Districts. That is the most in the state. We had 46 Star Councils. That is an all time record, the most in the state and the most in the United States.

I am encouraging you now to get on your Safe Environment and Fraternal Benefits and stay on these the whole year. Don't let them bit you at the end of the year as some did this past year.

Still have about 12 councils that have not submitted there new 185 and 365. Please get these completed. Council audits are coming in, they are due in a couple of days.

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes August 2024



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**



CHAPTER PRESIDENT ROBERT ALCALA
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You should have already ordered your Catholic Citizenship and Soccer Challenge kits. September is going to be here before you know it so stay on top of the dates for these two youth programs. Get ready for the Poster Contest in December and Basketball in January. Order your kits.

On the Diocese Charity Goal, I am going to remind you the Cardinal has changed where he is going to spend the money. The money is going to the Retired Priest Retirement Fund. There is not a council in here that can spend this money better than he is going to spend it. I highly encourage you to do your hundred percent. The District Deputies each have 25 Charity Pins. Do not use the \$20 donation as part of your charity quota. We want each council to do 20% more than their quota. The State wants to reach a million dollars for Charity and due to AMI program, this is hard.

On September 7 we're having a statewide CUF. Every district in the state should be conducting a CUF on that day. Also the relic from Father McGivney is going from Victoria, Corpus, Brownsville, Laredo, and then San Antonio. It will return later in the year for other areas of the state.

Just a reminder, because the year has just started, please do Family of the Month. Please recognize the Family of the Month, it is a great program and worth two credits if you do it the right way.

A quick acknowledgment of Grand Knight University. It was held this past Saturday from eight to four in the afternoon and we still didn't have enough time to conduct all the business that we needed. But I do want to recognize our instructors ADD Sam Gonzales, ADD John Williams, ADD Rick Johnson, ADD Juan Perez and ADD Toney Scarpa. Also, there was Dr. George, Dan Regia, and last but not least, Our State Secretary Bob Goss. Thank You, guys. St Lawrence Council donated the use of their Hall, so we also appreciate them. I am hoping the Grand Knights learned so much, and from the comments it seemed they did.

I have multiple items that need to be picked up, please see after the meeting and we will go through them.

We're doing great this year. Everybody so far is on track to make Star Council. Thank you.

Thank you very much Worthy Diocesan Deputy Ron Frerich. I also wanted to point out again, second call on those raffle tickets. Knights for Life Raffle tickets. The ones that don't get picked up, go home with Ron.

Chapter President asked for State Committeeman and our Master to come forward and provide their reports.

JD Gurtierrez – Membership State Committee

Recognized Fr. Paul, Past State Deputy, State Secretary, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, and Brothers All,

I am the CUF exemplification Coordinator for the state. I want to make sure you all get Bill Tilletson's email AND read it. As you know there are some links toward our one drive. That one drive has a spreadsheet, and it has one of all the CUFs. It's cleaner and been brought up to date. It has essentially every CUF, date, location and now has contact information of everyone across the state. It is broken out into every diocese by tabs. You can go to the AGH tab and see all the CUFs since we been tracking.

So far our diocese have had about 80 CUFs. Right now there are 61 that are upcoming. Okay, twelve districts have been reporting CUFs, so only twelve districts in Galveston/Houston, and I believe we have more than twelve.

Our State Deputy would like to have every district have a CUF every month. He is looking at this very closely.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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District Deputies go back to your councils and come up with a game plan for the year. Get them on the tracker, you can always contact me to either change it or cancel. To get it on the tracker there is a form which is found on the Chapter website, you'll see it on the margin.

We're also doing monthly Webinars. This month Clint Mendonca, our online membership coordinator will be hosting on Thursday, August 29, at 7:00pm. Please sign up on the email that Bill sent out. Since this is a ZOOM meeting, if you miss it on that date you can go back and look at this one and previous one also.

One final thing. If you need to make changes to an existing CUF, contact me. Send me an email. Text me. Call me. Please, any changes contact me. Thank you.

Bob Schmidt – State Charity Committee

Recognized Fr. Paul, Past State Deputy, State Secretary, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, and Brothers All,

I'm with the charity committee fund raising. Part of my position is to let you know that we are doing okay, but we're at the beginning of the year. The last report that was received was, how should I say, not record breaking.

Councils just received their charity goal from state, so make sure your council gets their checks in process. This is ½ of the Quick Start Award, the other being your per-capita paid. I would like to see every council in the Galveston/Houston chapter receive this award. Don't sit on this even though you have until December 31 to make it happen.

The District Deputies should be giving their councils a Charity Pledge letter to be completed. In this letter it is asking the councils if they will be able to just meet their 100% charity goal or reach an additional 20%. This will help the committee determine if we will be meeting the State Charity Goal or hitting the plus 20%.

Thank you.

All rise for District Master – James Hatcher

We just completed our Diocesan Conference about three weeks now. Our Diocesan Deputy once again cut me out of the program due to time constraints, so he is going to have to listen to my message to the conference tonight. In all fairness to our Diocesan Deputy, the Fourth-Degree joins with him for the growth and virality of the Diocese and the First District.

For each of the last two years, under the leadership of our Diocesan Deputy, Ron Frerich, and the District Deputies of Galveston/Houston, we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of star councils.

These figures demonstrate that our councils are engaged. Engaged in giving good Catholic gentlemen the opportunity to secure protection for their families through our insurance programs, and to help all knights grow in their faith by participating in COR and all the Faith in Action Program designed to strengthen all of us, and to help those in need. Star councils represent this and more.

My message to all Knights is we stand in union with our councils in growing our Order and promoting and participating in the many opportunities we find in our great diocese and the First District. As Fourth Degree, we know that by joining with our councils in recruitment, we have an opportunity to mentor good Catholic Gentlemen in their journey and hopefully into the ranks of the Fourth Degree.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**



CHAPTER PRESIDENT ROBERT ALCALA
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I do want to remind everyone that our Fall Exemplification is coming up on October 12, 2024, at St Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church in Beaumont. For those of you that have never visited St Jude, it is a beautiful church, and it is just a short drive to Beaumont. I have put flyers for your viewing. Reach out to those good Catholic Gentlemen and come join us.

We will have a sword training and protocol class September 7, 2024.

Today is the Feast Day of our Founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney.

In closing, you have all heard the motto, "United We Stand and Divided We Fall". We must all be united in solidarity with our priests, help evangelize our faith, and stand in the breach against the Culture of Death running rapid in our country.

I urge all Knights to do your part to promote the Order, to grow the Order, and to profess the true charity of our Order which is Jesus Christ.

God Bless you. Thank you.

Worthy State Secretary, Bob Goss

Recognized Fr. Paul, Past State Deputy, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, and Brothers All,

First and foremost, we started a new year, you know, your new State Deputy looks to Galveston/Houston. We mean a lot to Texas. Look at where we are sitting at the end of July. We basically got seven new members. We were in eleventh place. That's how much you make a difference.

So, what has been asked of us is this, if you are a DD, you know you must schedule a CUF. Make sure you get one a month scheduled.

For Grand Knights, what you must do is simple, talk to your priest, get a room for the CUF, and make sure you can make a presentation from the pulpit. And that's what you need to think about. The people out there, some of your very best recruiters are the wives, because point out the benefits the knights give them. By asking a man to come in, what do you do? You give that man the opportunity to one, help others, help the community, help the parish, help his priest and helps your council. Second, that man can take care of his family.

You've all heard the stories before from me. Get those phone calls from the now widow, what do we do. At the diocesan meeting we had here, the insurance agent pointed out, by just being a member, you get some benefits at your passing. But think about that. Your family will not be worried about it. Another thing is your spouse can buy that insurance. She can get her own. And I know that's not a real happy subject, but it's a selling point. Everybody worries about their family, that if something happens to you, they will not be struggling.

So, think about an elevator speech. They don't care about the history of the Order. Hit them really quick at the pulpit, or any time somebody meets you, wear your shirt, wear your badge. And if people ask, remember, people may be intimidated by you. Maybe concerned. May not want to talk. Be friendly. Invite them in by talking about them. Tell them, hey if you ever wanted to help father, come on in. You know Merv Albert does a sneaky, like, three-month program. He invites them over, then gets them to help and so forth and then in. Actually, it's just getting to know you. It is a longer approach.

If you can secure a room, then do a recruitment drive, and a CUF that week. Get the brothers in, and use the electronic Blessed McGivney. You know Blessed McGivney is still valid, so they don't have to pay supreme per-capita. So please get out there and recruit, because we have moved slowly up to number five today, we can do better. The immediate past State Deputy

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes August 2024



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**



CHAPTER PRESIDENT ROBERT ALCALA
Meets at the Northside Columbus Club
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Houston, TX 77022

will tell you, He did a lot better. But every time it was you that made that happen. Galveston/Houston saved us. In December, we made it, I think 17 people at the end of the year, we did make Pinnacle, and that's important for having a seat at the table of the board of directors.

At the Grand Knight University, I threw out an incentive. It's mine. It's not costing anybody except me something. But our Diocesan Deputy pointed out we have small, medium, and large councils. As part of that, I said, on December 31, for the top council on those three divisions, I'd offer dinner to where I want to go, because I know the people, and they're really good. Offering four people from the from the winning council, the Grand Knight, and three people he can pick. If he wants Sheryl and I to go then we'll be happy to. If you don't then you get Frefrich.

The Criteria is simple: You do your forms, 185, 365, and the semi-annual audit. Next, the top membership percentage. You paid your charities in full. Then you've done your Fraternal Benefit Events, which kills us. And Safe Environment. I've told you why safe environment is so important, and that's why I included it. If your interested tell your councils out there if you're a Grand Knight. The restaurant that I'll take you to is Christie's. It has both seafood and steak.

With that please go back to your councils. Please reserve the room, have your presentation, and then do your CUF.

Thank you so much for everything. God bless you

Immediate Past State Deputy – Terry Fruge'
Fr Paul, Worthy Officers, Brother Knights.

You know, we've had a great two years, and obviously this Archdiocese helped lead in what Texas did accomplish. Maybe you've seen the numbers, for the two years, the first year we were 4911 for our intake for the state, which was the fifth highest that Texas has ever had in its hundred twenty plus, plus year history. This last year we hit now the, previous record first place was attained by State Deputy Javier Martinez, with this then membership director, Terry Simonson. Both of these gentlemen have gone to their reward. But on the last day, with the great help of Galveston/Houston and with the help of the Diocesan Deputy we did hit 5244, which broke that record by about six brothers. We have the record for all time for first place. For that, thanks for you, That also gave us the record for the two year total of 10,155 Brother Knights we brought into the Order in two years.

On the charity front, to have, for the first time ever, to do 15 out of 15 dioceses in the state of Texas, to have a hundred percent of the charity goal has never come close to having before.

We had 569 Quick Starts last year, and 60 honor rolls. That's 632 councils of the 730, roughly active councils that did a hundred percent of their charity goal.

We had \$850,000 for state charities last year which was, again, as mentioned by Diocesan Deputy once, because of the AMI and losing almost 30,000 brothers to transfer over the last couple of years. I can tell you, right now the newelped out by Jojn State Deputy is no going to use that for an excuse. A million dollars is what he's looking for and I think he's going to work to get there.

For Star Councils, last year, we broke the record for Texas. We had 208 Star Councils. This past year we did 217, so we broke our own record, not only for Texas, but for the order. There never been that many Star Councils in the Order. So that's just what you guys did.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**

CHAPTER PRESIDENT ROBERT ALCALA
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Houston, TX 77022



The wheelchairs, helped out by John Williams, did the first year over \$966,000. Last year, we did \$1.2 million for a two-year total of \$2.2 million for the American Wheelchair Mission out of Texas. So at \$1.2 million we did last year, second place was California with \$250,000. I think it's called leaving them in our dust.

On council growth we had eight new councils brought into the Order in Texas and three reactivated councils. The two-year total of 15 new councils and eight reactivations.

This was a fantastic year, and I just want to take this opportunity to thank you guys for the leaders that you are.

I shared this previously that there's not a doubt in my mind, though, a year from now, with the leadership that I know that State Deputy Ron Alonzo, in the team he's put together, that we're probably looking at his team probably be pull out of the records we just shared right there next year. I hope they, we, break everyone up, and I'm still part of that team. Knowing the organization skills that Ron has and the way I've seen him do for the last 20 years I've known him; it probably can happen.

I attended the Supreme Convention and had the privilege of being a delegate from Texas. The State Deputy and I were the two delegates from Texas and then the others came from the Caucasus James DeGelder was your delegate from Galveston/Houston. Also, David Keating attended, along with Peter Tan and Fred Gilary. They were I think the only ones from here that were able to make it. But I tell you, as good as it was, the devil was doing his best to keep it from happening. There were so many stories and mine was one of us almost not making it. American Airlines sure wasn't helping out, because there were so many stories of them losing luggage. They canceled my flight 7 hours before my flight at 07:20 in the morning. So we had some challenges, but we were able to overcome those. We got to hear a lot from the new reports that came out and the report Patrick Kelly shared with us. It was numbers like \$198 million in charitable contributions last year. Also 49 million hours of volunteer services, and so forth. We will be talking more about that in the future. Next year, the Supreme Convention will be in Washington, DC, so if any of you plan on attending or want to be a delegate, start getting your speech ready.

Some conversation about the Father McGivney statue pavilion.

So again, Brothers, thank you guys for the incredible job you did. It was a pleasure being the State Deputy knowing that I had you guys having my back in Galveston/Houston. God bless you.

At this time, I'll ask District Deputies, we'll go from right to left to give any announcements you'd like to share. Please make these announcements relevant to the next 30 days.

Chapter President I'd like to announce that the annual Parish Clergy Appreciation done by council 8042 will occur on September 8.

Thank you. Any other District Deputies. At this time we'll go to Grand Knights. Any events that's coming up in the next 30 days. Grand Knights on this side, left, right.

So on behalf of our Grand Knight Mike Stamic, council 17060, which is from the Church of the Annunciation. As always I want to invite everyone tomorrow bright and early 05:30am to Annunciation to our Jesus man cave. We've got a holy hour, a regular hour. This is the core. Before we had core, we had exposition and adoration. There's confession available, Core. And mass. The morning mass is at 06:30am, and after mass, have some breakfast in the plaza with some spiritual direction from our pastor Fr Paul Felix. Remind everyone the Feast of the Assumption is Thursday, so you've got to get to church. So at the Church of Annunciation, there will be a vigil mass that Wednesday as well in the evening at 6:30pm. It's an extraordinary form, so if you don't know anything about it. Come and join us. We have plenty of booklets you can read along. What a wonderful



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**



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thing that would be for you to go to confession before you go into the Feast of the Assumption. You could do it in the morning or 15 minutes before Mass.

And then leading up, we have our biggest event of the year coming on the Feast of St Michael the Archangel on September 29. This is where we prepare meals for all our local law enforcement. There are over a thousand lunches prepared and distributed to the sheriffs at the jails and the different police stations. Council 803 is going to help with this since the Blue Mass is at the Cathedral on the same day. If anyone wants to assist us with manpower or a donation, please see me after the meeting.

Council 6557 is raffling a barbecue pit in support of charity. Though it's on October 5th, we're asking that your councils go ahead and commit volunteers for MOSY and do that within the next month so we can have a good count. Usually, 500 teens attend and we need your councils involved. All volunteers must be Safe Haven trained.

Council 10390, on August 20 we will have a CUF. All are welcome. And then on September 17th, we will have our first Fraternal Benefit Night at St Vincent de Paul, our insurance agent will be presenting. We've plenty of space available so please attend.

Council 3217 is having our monthly fish fry on September 6th. Also wanted to mention that The Shrine of the True Cross is having there fall festival raffle. The grand prize is a \$30,000 gift card from McCree Ford and additional prizes will be awarded. Tickets are \$20 or six for \$100. If interested, please see me. It's on October 20th from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

Council 10861, St Ignatius. This past Sunday we visited the Veterans Medical Center. Five members attended from the council. The veterans truly appreciate our time to visit and pray with them. We are holding our COR meetings on Saturday mornings at 8:00am. We've been studying various book from the bible and going to switch to our Sacraments going forward. We will have a parish-wide Stewardship Fair on August 24th and 25th. We will be recruiting and will follow up early next month with an open house allowing us to meet and answer questions. This will then be followed up with a CUF on the 21st.

Council 11023, Holy Rosary. We will have a Fraternal Benefit night on August 27th. We are also having a CUF on August 21st at 7:30pm.

Chapter President asked of there any other GK Reports. Hearing none, we are moving on to the 50/50 drawing,

The 50 - 50 Drawing:

Amount \$110.00. Thank you for your donations. We will have additional prizes this evening.

Sick and Distressed Prayer List.

I will call our Chapter Vice President, Vincent Stasio, to read the sick and distressed prayer. This time to focus on the people who need our prayers.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council/Assembly</u>	<u>Reason</u>
• Sheryl Bowles	14700	Recovery from surgery
• Charles Pipkins		Cancer
• Thomas Bandzul		Cancer
• Don Hale	3217	Respiratory Illness
• SK Miguel Navarro	2917/1141	RIP
• Frank Kasowski	2917	Cancer
• Leroy Lopez	2917	Diabetes, Partial foot amputation
• Josh Alderete	8293	Renal Failure
• Bob and Chelsea Summit	8293	Health Issues



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- Robert Seputveda 8293 Health Issues
- Aleida Comerillo 8293 Thyroid Cancer
- Fr. Frank Guenter 4550 Slip and Fall Now In Hospital
- Alan Augusta 8293 Kidney Issues
- Maria Borius 8293 Cancer
- Jose Augusta 8293 Health Issues
- Fr Drew Wood 11343 Cancer
- Ray Holt. 6878 R I P
- Joe Camado 6878 R I P
- Richard Means 10861 R I P
- David Keating 8771 COVID
- Frank Basurto 7728/2243 Health Issues
- Elmo London 9310
- John Anthony Martinez 7901 Health Issues
- Jim Baron 6878 COVID

Closing Prayer: Fr. Paul led all in closing prayer: The litany for Blessed Michael McGivney. For those named which we have been asked to pray, and for the intension of Life and those intensions quietly in our own hearts. Let us prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney.

Closing ode: Please see the QR code .

Meeting adjourned 9:16pm. Next Chapter meeting is Tuesday, September 11, 2024

Attested: Robert Alcala, Knights of Columbus Galveston-Houston Chapter President

Attested: Bob Schmidt, Knights of Columbus Galveston-Houston Chapter Secretary