

North Carolina District

Biannual Meeting

13 April 2024

1. Call to order at 10:00 a.m. by the District Master, J. P. Horvat, Jr.
2. Scribe volunteers: Jack Murray, Joe Metz, and District Secretary Brian Daneker; Pilot: Frank Bio; Inner Sentinel: Tony Mansi; Outer Sentinel: Ed Schaeffer
3. Opening prayer. DM
4. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
5. There were no resolutions presented.
6. Minutes from the last Bi-annual meeting were approved.
7. District Master thanked the audience for their support the past two years. He mentioned information concerning the Supreme Master Michael McCusker and his expectations. Explained the importance of the Veteran related e-mails forwarded to the Assemblies via e-mail from the District Secretary Brian Daneker and why he wanted them distributed to all members.
8. Unfinished Business: none
9. New Business:
 - a. The new 4th Degree Exemplifications will be shorter and family and friends will be able to attend.
 - b. Explained and demonstrated the proper placement of name badges on the regalia. Badges cannot be worn when wearing service baldric.
 - c. Distributed information about the colors of the baldrics, the new baldrics, and how baldrics are worn.
 - d. Spoke about the increase in cost of the Exemplification to \$80 and informed the maximum cost could be \$90. The increased cost of the Exemplification is due to hotels costing more and inflation.
 - e. Reinforced the use of the Fourth Degree pin (PG-113). The DM read a quote from the Supreme Master's MEMO on the 4th Degree pin; the SM expressed uniformity, and we are all Patriots!
 - f. All Regalia changes are being incorporated into the Drill Manual.
 - g. Pointed out that each Assembly should have a copy of the Fourth Degree Color Corps Drill Manual.
 - h. Addresses the proper wear of the beret and how to maintain it. Also explained the background colors behind the badge and what they represent.

- i. Spoke about the trousers, alterations, the “new” built-in elastic tabs to make waist adjustments, sizes, and cuffs in the trousers are not authorized.
- j. Worthy Sir Knight and District Regional Marshall Joe Metz spoke about how the DM is “inspected” by the VSM during each Exemplification and how the uniforms worn by individual members reflects upon his proficiency.
- k. Forms and Reports:
 - i. To Be a Patriot Award: please submit to the DM and copy the District Secretary. It’s due by the end of April and the DM will submit the top one to the VSM.
 - ii. Submit the Civic Award – best four activities. Due Supreme, VSM and DM by 30 JUN.
 - iii. Copy the DM and the District Secretary on submissions of all forms and reports. This way there is dated evidence when the reports were submitted if they become lost. **DO NOT MAIL FORMS!**
 - iv. Form 186: if you do not have all billets completed, submit the form with the incomplete billets. The importance is sending it on-time! You may resubmit the form as you complete the billets. Having the FN and Comptroller submitted on time assists in their access to Member Management. Use Member Management to update the Form 186. A “how to” will be available in the “Golden Plume”. When the Form is sent to Supreme info the DM and District Secretary on the same E-mail, so they know it’s complete.
 - v. Spoke about the different awards and due dates for Form submissions, the importance of submitting on time, who receives the reports, and how to qualify for Star Assembly.
 - vi. Explained the importance of submitting the Form 990 and the Annual Audit.
 - vii. Spoke about incidents where the Comptroller has died leaving the Assembly without access to records and funds. Explained different options where the FN or another member would be able to assist if the Comptroller passed.
- l. Explained information about the Chalice Program and how Assemblies can participate.

- m. Explained the importance on maintaining membership and communication with members. Don't be too quick to drop brothers in need, work with them. If the Council drops a member or makes them an Affiliate dropped. Noted that members may continue to maintain membership with an Assembly even if they relocate.
 - n. State Treasurer Sir Knight Rick Lewis delivered words from the State Deputy Chris Losack and "thanked the 4th Degree for our support". He mentioned bringing Regalia to the State Convention to assist in the Honor Guard at Mass and Adoration. Explained that the lady's event will be exciting. Explained that growth of councils and assemblies are very important and if you aren't growing, you're dying. The State Council has met membership goals, and the Assemblies must continue to as well and to continue to grow and evolve – go after the "target enriched environment" for membership! Get creative with programs and events!
 - o. SK Manny Comas spoke for Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) director Tom Dupree explaining different ways to assist veterans. Spoke about collecting money to assist veterans to get to the Wheelchair Games in New Orleans as well as the Golden Age Games; Support Military Families; and the fact that they had supported 1,800 families last December. They are asking for volunteers to assist in Jacksonville, Goldsboro, and Fayetteville. Information was handed out to all in attendance.
 - p. The DM asked if anyone knew how many Star Assemblies there were from fiscal year 2022-2023. There were 10 and it was mentioned in the "Golden Plume". Provide the DM with dates when you'd like to be awarded Star Assembly to be presented.
 - q. Discussed Star Assembly eligibility and expanded on how the DM can and has assisted those Knights who are unable to attend Exemplifications. He included a story about how he was able to visit a Sir Knight on hospice and in a hospital.
 - r. **11:45 – 12:15 Break for Lunch – Grace was said.**
10. Nominations for District Master
- a. Nominations for District Master were Ron Cortopassi, Pat Rocco, Joe Banks, and Chris Losack
 - b. Motion that nominations closed was seconded and passed.
 - c. Each voting member was provided a ballot to vote for the candidates.
 - d. The ballots were tallied, and the three nominations are Ron Cortopassi, Joe Banks and Chris Losack.

11. A motion was made by Jack Murray to destroy the ballots. The motion was seconded and passed.
12. A motion was made to have the DM's home assembly provide the audit committee for the Master's Fund. Gene Ziembra made the motion. The motion was seconded and passed.
13. Important Dates:
 - a. 26 & 27 April -United by Truth
 - b. 3 – 5 May is the State Convention
 - c. 18 May is the last Exemplification by DM JP Horvat.
 - d. 29 May – Ordination of the new Charlotte Bishop
 - e. 30 May – Installation of the new Charlotte Bishop
 - f. Labor Day Weekend – Charlotte Diocese Eucharistic Conference
 - g. 18 May – Raleigh March for Life
14. Closing Information
 - a. DM suggested that members with the old Regalia may donate their capes (satin) to make burial garments for children. He mentioned a resource to send the capes; however, he will circulate the address via e-mail in the coming week. Assemblies can use this as a program.
 - b. John Goldie mentioned the Least Amongst My Brethren (LAMB) program is turning 50 and is requesting the Assemblies collect and donate \$50 per member to enable a million dollars to be raised.
15. Closing prayer. DM
16. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Murray at 12:53. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



SK Brian K. Daneker, FDD, PGK, PFN
North Carolina District Secretary

Copy to: Supreme Secretary
Supreme Master
Vice Supreme Master
District Master
Files