



# Knights of Columbus

## North Carolina District

### De Soto Province

#### Fourth Degree



## 2026 Biennial Meeting Minutes

### Opening Procedures

The meeting was called to order at 9:49 AM by District Master Sir Knight Chris Losack. SK Joe Metz led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an opening prayer delivered by SK Denis Carter.

### Faithful Pilot's Report

Sir Knight Joe Crowe confirmed that all members present possessed a valid Council membership card, a valid Assembly membership card, and a rosary.

### Welcome and Introductions

District Master Chris Losack expressed his gratitude to everyone attending the meeting.

### Appointments

- Faithful Scribe - District Secretary SK James Davisson, Assembly 3552
- Faithful Pilot – SK Joe Crowe, Assembly 2446
- Faithful Outer Sentinel – SK Mark Furphy, Assembly 2254
- Faithful Inner Sentinel – SK Anthony Palozzolo, Assembly 2282

### Staff

- District Secretary – SK James Davisson
- District Friar – Rev. William “Bill” Lesak, Capt. USN Ret.
- Regional District Marshal 1 – SK Joe Metz
- Regional District Marshal 2 – SK Ed Rogosich
- Regional District Marshal 3 – SK Jean Dion
- Regional District Marshal 4 – SK Ed Shaver II
- Regional District Marshal 5 – SK Tom Berstene
- Regional District Marshal 6 – SK Vic O’ Ferrall
- Regional District Marshal 7 – SK Tony Mansi
- Former District Master SK JP Horvat
- Former District Master SK Jack Murray
- VAVS Rep – SK Tom DuPree

## Credentials Committee Report

SK James Davisson provided the report for the Credentials Committee.

### Committee Members

- SK Reggie Fernandez
- SK Steve Graybill

### Report Summary

- 37 Delegates registered out of 82 authorized delegates
- 11 Alternates registered out of 82 authorized alternate slots
- Total present for the meeting: 48 Delegates and 7 Members of the Fourth Degree
- All members presented a current Third Degree membership card, Fourth Degree membership card, and a rosary prior to entering the chamber
- All authorized Delegates were issued a ballot and informed of its required use

### Approval of Previous Minutes

The Biennial Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2024 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by SK JP Horvat, seconded, and carried.

### Messages

#### Supreme Master's Message – SK Michael McCusker

- Emphasized the privilege of serving in the Fourth Degree
- Highlighted the importance of wearing Official Regalia and serving as visible representatives
- Reminded leaders to serve at the bequest of the Supreme Master with seriousness and dedication

#### Vice Supreme Master's Message – SK Daniel Barton

- Explained that the De Soto Province functions similarly to a state-level structure, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico
- Emphasized maintaining consistency in ceremonials: meetings, Honor Guards, Color Guards, and Exemplifications
- Noted the need to follow ceremonial guidelines, understanding where flexibility is allowed while maintaining proper form and dignity

#### District Master's Message – SK Chris Losack

- Emphasized that the group represents "the best of the best," as demonstrated in awards and praise from priests
- Encouraged persistence in submitting questions to the District Master and following up if clarification is needed
- It is essential to promote ongoing growth and actively recruit new, younger members.

## Report of Resolutions Committee

SK Joe Metz reported that no resolutions were presented to the committee.

### Committee Members

- SK Frank Kopenek
- SK Scott Freeman

### Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business from the previous meeting

### New Business

- There was no new business to be discussed
- Motion made by SK JP Horvat, seconded and approved

### Required Forms

- Form 186 – Report of Officers Chosen for the Term – Online Only/Paper for New Assemblies
- 1315 – Annual Audit for Assemblies – Due August 1 – Revised August 2023
- Form 1728 A – Due by January 31 of each year – Revised February 2021
- IRS Form 990 – Due annually based on member billing
  - May 15 if billing is on the Calendar Year
  - November 15 if billing is on the Fraternal Year
- Form 2321 Civic Award – Due by June 30 – Revised January 2023
- TBP-2 To be a Patriot Award – Revised February 2021
  - Due to the Master by April 30

### Nominations for District Master

- SK Chris Losack by SK Branden Sibb Assembly 2446
- SK James Davisson by SK George Beserock III Assembly 3552
- SK Joe Metz by SK JP Horvat Assembly 3952

A motion to close nominations was made by SK Roy Linscott.

### Master's Audit Committee

- The committee will be comprised of assemblies local to the District Master to facilitate coordination.

### Drill Manual Training – SK Joe Metz

- SK Joe Metz provided instruction on the proper wear of the Official Fourth Degree Regalia.
- He reviewed the correct use and handling of the sword.
- All training instructions and answers were based on the Color Corps Drill Manual #808 (Current Revision: May 2025).
  - An updated version will be released, and the newest information can always be found online.

## Upcoming Opportunities (State or Diocesan)

- NC Knights of Columbus State Convention held in Durham
  - May 15 - 17
- Special Olympics
  - Opening Ceremony May 29, 2026
- The 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage
  - “One Nation Under God”
  - Monroe, NC – May 30, 2026
  - Charlotte, NC – May 31, 2026
  - Statesville, NC – June 1, 2026
  - Greensboro, NC June 2, 2026
- Charlotte Diocese Ordination
  - Diaconate – May 23, 2026
    - Huntersville, NC
      - St. Mark
      - Honor Guard arrive by 0800.
      - Mass at 0900
  - Priest Ordination – May 30, 2026
    - Huntersville, NC
      - St. Mark
      - Honor Guard arrive by 0800.
      - Mass at 0900
  - Raleigh Diocese
    - Diaconate – June 27, 2026
      - Raleigh, NC
        - Holy Name of Jesus Christ Cathedral
        - Honor Guard arrive by 0900
        - Mass at 1000

## Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) – Tom Dupree

During the meeting, Tom Dupree led a brief discussion highlighting the significance of the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program in North Carolina. He emphasized the essential role members play in supporting veterans through dedicated service and outreach efforts. To further assist assemblies in their outreach, a handout was distributed for all assemblies to take home and review.

## Boots for Vets – Presented by Tony Palazola

Tony Palozzolo introduced the Boots for Vets program, which originated after an event where it was noticed that several veterans were wearing worn-out shoes. This observation prompted the question of how funds could be raised to provide proper footwear for veterans in need. The program has since grown through collaborative partnerships with local councils, assemblies, and parishes, particularly in the Winston-Salem and Greensboro areas. Boots for Vets provides veterans with appropriate footwear, typically offering up to \$120.00 per individual. Additional funding may be made available as needed for specialty sizes or specific footwear requirements.

## America 250 – DM SK Chris Losack

District Master SK Chris Losack addressed the America 250 initiative. He informed members that information and guidance regarding this program will be provided by the Supreme Council in the near future.

## Patriotic Prayer or Rosary – DM SK Chris Losack

SK Chris Losack presented the Patriotic Prayer or Rosary as an opportunity to support the spiritual needs of members and their families. He encouraged assemblies to make use of this practice during funeral services and recommended that a rosary be prayed following funerals for the repose of the deceased member's soul and for the comfort of their family.

## Additional Programs

The District Master invited all present to consider ways to expand programs beyond their home assemblies. He asked attendees if there were any additional programs worthy of recognition. The following initiatives were mentioned:

- Missing Knight Table – Utilizing items related to the Knight's time of service.
- Capes for Angels Unaware – Used to create gowns and pillows.
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Beds for Kids (Supreme Program).

## Membership and Recognitions

The meeting included the presentation of several distinguished awards. These honors recognized outstanding achievements and contributions among assemblies. The awards presented were the Star Assembly Award, the Civic Award, and the State To Be a Patriot Award.

## Assembly Anniversaries

Milestone anniversaries were acknowledged during the meeting. Assembly 2713 celebrated 25 years of service, marking a significant achievement. Likewise, Assembly 2725 was recognized for reaching its 25th anniversary.

## New Assembly Development

The formation of a new assembly was announced. Notably, this marks the establishment of the first Hispanic Assembly in North Carolina. The official assembly number will be assigned in the coming months.

## Closing Comments

Former District Masters were invited to provide remarks. SK Jack Murray and SK JP Horvat both indicated they had no comments at this time.

## State Deputy Remarks

State Deputy SK Sergio Miranda was unable to attend as he was participating in a Transitional Diaconate ordination. He sent his regrets and expressed his gratitude for the dedication and work being carried out within the Fourth Degree. Additionally, he encouraged all members to continue their service in caring for the needy and the outcast.

## Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting concluded with a closing prayer led by RDM SK Tom Berstene. The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



SK James Davisson  
North Carolina District Secretary

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