KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Oliver Plunkett Council 13440

3200 Brooks Drive

Snellville, GA 30078

http://stoliverskoc13440.org/

MEETING MINUTES – BUSINESS MEETING 10/19/2026

Opening of Meeting – 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order in due form. All non-members were asked to retire from the chamber and the guards assumed their stations. Opening prayer was led in the absence of the chaplain by Brother **Robert Barnard**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Prayer of Blessed Michael McGivney and St. Michael prayer intentions were incorporated into the opening prayer.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Members reported not all members were receiving council emails and newsletters. Financial Secretary **Frank Montelione** agreed to verify and update email addresses.
A correction was identified in the previous minutes:

- Recognition for service as Grand Knight during the previous fraternal year should have been awarded to **Javier Tavira**.

A discussion followed regarding the review process for meeting minutes prior to publication. Members agreed additional review may help improve accuracy of names and events.

Motion

Motion to approve the minutes with the above correction.
Motion: Tito Espina

- **Second: Tom Bloom**
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Grand Knight's Report

Grand Knight **Patrick Chieh** delivered a heartfelt address stressing unity and participation within the council.
Key points included:

- Members voluntarily joined the Knights of Columbus and should honor their commitment.
- The council needs broader participation from all members rather than relying on the same volunteers.
- Members should work together as brothers and avoid unnecessary conflict and division.
- Council growth remains a priority and requires active participation from all members.
- New methods and ideas should be embraced to grow membership and increase visibility within the parish.
- Greater member involvement is needed in programs such as:
    - Divine Mercy Chaplet
    - Gwinnett Stripers Program
    - Coats for Kids
    - Parish events and service programs

The Grand Knight emphasized that council activities are performed in service to God and the parish, not for individual members or officers.

Coats for Kids

Discussion was held regarding the recently received Coats for Kids shipment.
The council learned:

- The state council mistakenly shipped the order without children's coats.
- Children’s coats were found at the monastery and after checking with the state, they were the coats left off of the order.
- The coats have been stored in the council shed.
- Distribution opportunities include:
    - St. Vincent de Paul

    - Local shelters through Bill Hedges
    - Title I schools within the area
    - School counselors who can identify children in need

District Deputy **Robert Barnard** encouraged working directly with local schools to preserve the dignity of children whose families may lack resources for winter clothing.
Responsibility for coordinating distribution was discussed and clarified. Chairman assignments will be finalized and communicated separately.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Grand Knight reminded members that the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be conducted following all Masses on the upcoming Sunday.
Past GK **Javier Tavira** announced:

- A volunteer sign-up sheet is available.
- A group text message will be sent to participants.
- Information will also be posted through parish communication channels.

Members were strongly encouraged to participate to improve council visibility within the parish community.

Ladies Auxiliary Discussion

A substantial discussion occurred concerning the proposed formation of a Ladies Auxiliary.
Topics discussed included:

- The organization would function as a support organization for council activities.
- Membership would include wives, daughters, girlfriends, widows, and interested women of the parish.
- The group would operate under the support and oversight of the Knights.
- Activities may include:
    - Monastery sales
    - Parish breakfasts
    - Bake sales
    - Yard sales
    - Assistance with council programs

The proposed Ladies Auxiliary was presented to members at the council planning meeting. **Ellen Milligan-Montelione** and **Becky** attended the planning meeting and answered questions posed by members.
The proposal was subsequently presented to the council for consideration.

Motion

Motion was made to table the proposal until the next council meeting and to request that the ladies involved be present to present the proposal to the council.

Knight of the Month Award

Grand Knight Patrick Chieh presented the **Knight of the Month Award for August 2026** to **Ray Prosek** in recognition of his service to the council, including:

- Support of the Stripers Program
- Ministry to the sick
- Ongoing volunteer service

Members congratulated Brother Prosek on the award.

Certificate was presented to **Carlos Sanchez** for July Knight of the Month since was not present as previous month's meeting

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Membership and Exemplification

The Grand Knight reported on upcoming opportunities for new members to complete their exemplification.
Potential candidates currently working toward exemplification were discussed.
District Deputy Robert Barnard emphasized:

- Membership growth remains a priority.
- New online members should complete exemplification and become fully active members.
- Every member should personally invite Catholic men to join the Knights.

District Deputy Barnard reminded members:
"Invite, not recruit."
Personal invitation remains the most successful method for council growth.

District Deputy Report

District Deputy **Robert Barnard** delivered greetings from:

- Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly
- Georgia State Deputy Kevin York
- Supreme Board of Directors
- Georgia State Council

Topics included:

Membership Growth

- District membership growth is behind expectations.
- Every council must actively invite new members.
- Exemplifications should be conducted whenever candidates are ready.

Council Culture

Discussion focused on:

- Charity
- Unity
- Fraternity
- Respectful disagreement

Members were reminded that differing opinions are acceptable provided discussions remain respectful and charitable.

Ladies Auxiliary

District Deputy Barnard described the Ladies Auxiliary at St. Lawrence Parish and other councils. It was explained how it operates successfully in support of Knights activities.

Fourth Degree Report

Upcoming Fourth Degree Exemplification:

- Greensboro, Georgia
- November 14, 2026

Additional information:

- Fourth Degree Assembly is pursuing Star Assembly status.
- Participation in color guards and honor guards is encouraged.

Loganville Parade

The Fourth Degree Assembly will participate in the Loganville parade.
Details:

- Four ceremonial flags will be carried.
- Members and families are invited to participate.
- Knights may march, carry banners, ride on the trailer, or distribute candy.

Members interested in participating were asked to contact Assembly leadership.

Financial Secretary Report

Financial Secretary **Frank Montelione** presented proposed future budget adjustments for discussion purposes only.
Items discussed included:

- Increased Stripers revenue projections
- Elimination of picnic expenses
- Adjustment of golf tournament funding
- Scholarship budget revisions
- OCIA Bible expenses

Adjustments to the budget didn't need a vote since it was only adjustments to the passed Budget

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Life Teen Retreat Request

A request was received from the parish Life Teen program seeking assistance for retreat participants needing financial aid.
Discussion revealed:

- 16 teens requested assistance.
- 6 teens required full scholarships.
- Cost per teen was approximately $175.

Motion

Motion made to provide additional funding sufficient to sponsor approximately six retreat participants.

- **Motion: Mark Blair**
- **Second: Robert Barnard**

Vote

- Approved unanimously.

Amount Approved

$1,050 total financial support for Life Teen retreat assistance.

Health Update

Financial Secretary Frank Montelione reported that **Stanley** was hospitalized following a minor stroke.
Although hospitalized, Stanel had already arranged and paid for refreshments provided for the meeting.
Members were asked to keep Stanley and his family in their prayers.

Financial Secretary Succession Planning

District Deputy Robert Barnard announced that Financial Secretary **Frank Montelione's** current term concludes in July 2027.
Members were asked to prayerfully consider serving as the next Financial Secretary.
Discussion included:

- Duties of the office
- Training process
- Appointment procedure through Supreme Council

Frank agreed to assist and train any future successor.
Members were encouraged to contact council leadership if interested.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Mark Blair** presented the September financial report.

Beginning Balance

$15,519

Income

$1,012
Including:

- Stripers Program: $962
- Meal donations: $50

Expenses

$554
Including:

- Supreme per capita assessments
- Meeting expenses
- Fourth Degree contribution

Ending Balance

$16,077
Report accepted as presented.

Blood Drive

Brother **Carey Scruggs** reported:

Upcoming Blood Drive

- Date: November 15, 2026
- Location: Kelvin Center
- Time: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- Setup Begins: 7:00 AM

Volunteers are needed for:

- Setup
- Registration
- Hospitality
- Cleanup

A sign-up sheet was made available following the meeting.

Good of the Order

The following prayer intentions were specifically mentioned during the meeting:

- **Stanislaus Nwachukwu** and family following hospitalization and stroke concerns.
- Youth attending the parish Life Teen retreat.
- Growth and unity of Council 13440.
- Success of the Divine Mercy Chaplet ministry.
- Success of the proposed Ladies Auxiliary.
- Council members and families participating in Fourth Degree activities and upcoming exemplifications.
- Stanislaus Nwachukwu
- Bill Milligan
- Brother Sid Sartor
- Sanchez Family
- Charlly Ezirike
- Michael Dalton
- Tom Bloom
- Little Ernest
- Council 13440
- Young Adults
- Antione
- All Family & Friends
- Mike Blanchard
- Ann Harbaugh
- Mary Jo McIntosh
- Ray
    - Eye Surgery Nov.
    - Retest on PSA number increase
- Andy Bartlett

- John Aguiar
- Ryan Barnard

Closing

The Grand Knight concluded the meeting by again encouraging greater participation, cooperation, and fraternity among members.
The Good of the Order intentions were remembered in prayer.
The meeting was closed in due form at **8:58pm**.
