

2024 Spring Biennial District Meeting Summary

District Update

Recognition

- 4 assemblies are at 100% of quota
- 2 assemblies are 1 short of quota
- 4 assemblies are 2 short of quota

Membership

- Started the year with 3132 Sir Knights, exemplified 73 this fraternal year, but now have 3137 Sir Knights (+5)
- Most of the difference is due to deaths
- Average Sir Knight's age in our district is almost 69
- Just over 1700 members are in their 60's and 70's; the rest are about evenly split at 80 and above and 59 and below
- It is for this reason we must recruit
- FN's should: a) visit each council for which they are responsible at least twice per year; and b) have business cards
- Each assembly should have a goal to recruit at least one new member from each council for which they are responsible
- Sir Knights in inactive assemblies will receive a letter from me in April encouraging them to transfer to an active assembly

Color Corps

General

- We have received compliments from the Archbishop for our turnout at the Cathedral and the State Deputy for our turnout at PSD/FVSM Tom Clark's funeral
- Please do what you can to encourage participation in the Color Corps with programs to help buy the uniform as well as loaning of swords

Assignments

- All assignments, even "local" assignments, should be sent to the marshals so they can a) know that the assembly is involved in an event; and, b) have the event put on the district Color Corps calendar

Beret Patches and Baldrics

- Supreme asked for the number of Color Corps wearing the various colors
- IT appears they plan to try to get better color alignment between beret patches and baldrics, though I don't know how or when this might occur

Help

- Bob Seeterlin volunteered to be out assistant VAVS representative
- Ron Thoms volunteered to run the teleprompter for the exemplifications
- Would still like to have a Sir Knight take the Exemplification Class picture (contact the District Master)

Exemplifications

Rumors

- New ceremonial is expected in the 2025, the 125 anniversary of the Fourth Degree
- Social Baldrics are NOT going away and we will continue to furnish them as long as they are offered
- I plan to keep the candidate exemplification cost at \$70 (Supreme has said we can charge as much as \$90)

Future Exemplifications

- 2024 Spring Exemplification will be at SS. Cyril & Methodius, Ryan and 18 Mile Rd in Sterling Hts (this location in alcohol free)
- 2024 June Mini Exemplification will likely be at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Grosse Pointe, early June, date TBD
- Working on a 2024 Sacred Heart Major Seminary Mini Exemplification, date TBD
- 2024 Fall Exemplification is TENTATIVELY at Monroe KofC Hall, September 28
- 2025 Spring Exemplification PERHAPS MIGHT TENTATIVELY be at St. Edith, Livonia, date TBD

Dress code for all exemplifications is still dark suit, dark socks, dark tie, black shoes, white shirt

Baskets donated for the basket raffle are always appreciated and help defray the exemplification cost

Mini Exemplification

- Smaller event that has all the meat and no of the other stuff and can be done in about 80 minutes

- Keeping the size small aids in finding a venue as well as making it easier to serve dinner

Future District Meetings

- Because the first Saturday in November 2024 is All Souls Day, and the first Saturday in November 2025 is All Saints Day (a Holy Day of Obligation), the Fall Harvest and Packing Party will be moved to the second Saturday in November
- For the 2024 Fall Harvest and Packing Party, SS. Cyril & Methodius has TENTATIVE offered their location but will need to check the church calendar
- For the 2025 Spring District Meeting, the location will be Knights of Columbus – Columbia Banquet and Convention Center, St. Clair, date TBD
- We still need a location for the 2025 Fall Harvest and Packing Party; note that two large rooms are required

Officer Installations

- No more than two per marshal (on average 4 per event), though more than four can be done if the room size permits
- Prefer to do in July and August (unavailable the first week of August due to the Supreme Convention)

Supreme Topics

4th Degree Newsletter

- The Supreme Master has been publishing a newsletter since December; all copies are available on the district web site and were email to all FN's and Comptroller for them to share with membership
- If you have something of interest you think might be appropriate, send to me and I will look at it and forward as appropriate

Youth Protection – Supreme is considering if FN's should take this; no determination yet

Korean and Vietnam War Recognition

- On April 26, 2025, the Supreme Knight and Supreme Master will be at a Memorial Mass at the Basilica in Washington DC, after which they plan to lay wreaths at the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials
- A census of all World War participants was done after WW1 and WW2, and Supreme wants to do a census for the Korean and Vietnam Wars
- The Supreme Master has asked the Fourth Degree to head this up; assemblies will need to work with councils to gather the names of those fraternal members both living and dead that participated
- I am seeking clarification from the VSM regarding a) if we include everyone in the armed services during the conflicts; or, b) only those that received the Vietnam and Korean Service Medals (I have not heard back yet)
- All forms are on the district web site

Charities

Patriotic Charities of Importance to Supreme

- Warriors to Lourdes (kofc.org, search for **Warriors to Lourdes**); Supreme Master is asking for support now
 - Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund (kofc.org, search for **Father McGivney Military Chaplain**); Supreme Master is asking for support in the summer
 - Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (milarch.org); AMS receives no government funding, only donations
- Michigan WW2 Legacy Memorial (flier was given at the meeting)
- Woodward Ave north of 13 Mile Rd
 - A small portion of the total plan is completed
 - Looking for donations to complete the project