10/27/2025

Minutes for Greater Austin Chapter Meeting

Location: St John Paul II Life Center – 4201 Marathon Blvd, 3rd Floor, Austin, TX 78756

Opening

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Ramiro Balli.
- The Opening Prayer was led by WCP Ramiro Balli in Deacon Phan's absence.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Ramiro Balli.
- The roll of officers was called and noted as follows (P=Present, A=Absent, E=Excused):

President (WCP)	Ramiro Balli	P
Vice President (WCVP)	Michael D'Antonio	P
Treasurer (WCT)	Mike Hyzak	P
Secretary (WCS)	Lee Fracker	P

President Ramiro Balli thanked the St John Paul II Life Center for hosting and providing the evening meal.

Guest Speakers: We had multiple guest speakers this evening:

- Ramiro's daughter, Marisol Bustamante, shared a very personal experience with a late pregnancy in her forties. She was pregnant with identical twins, suffering from Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS), an imbalanced blood flow between the two twins. But with prayer and good doctors' care, she gave birth to two perfectly normal baby girls, both of whom were present in our meeting this evening.

- Linda Ruff, CEO of the JPII Life Centers, spoke of the strong relationship between the Center and the Knights of Columbus. She highlighted the seven ultrasound machines donated to the Center by the Knights and noted that many pregnant women have decided to keep their babies after seeing their baby on one of these ultrasound machines. With support from the Knights, the number of mothers served by the Center has grown from 500 in 2021 to over 2,000 this year.

- Great Plains Territorial Growth Director, Jim Caffrey (203-214-7955, james.caffrey@kofc.org) described a new "proof of concept" Church Drive that has proved successful everywhere it has been tried. He noted that in one instance, the new approach brought in 20 new Knights from

just one church drive! Kits for the new approach are now available through Officers Online, including a guidebook, script, four brochures (10099, 11541, 11730, 11586) and the new enrollment card (Form 11881).

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the September 2025 meeting were emailed in advance of the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded, and unanimously approved.

Chaplain's Report: No Report. The Chapter is working on securing a new chaplain.

Vice President's Report: WCVP Michael D'Antonio reported one new council has joined the chapter.

Treasurer's Report: WCT Mike Hyzak distributed his report via email prior to the meeting (see attached). The report was reviewed, discussed and approved. See the Summary below.

- Checking account balance: $12,104.78
- Expenses this month: $0.00
- Total income this month: $56.29
- Net Surplus: $56.29. Note that we still have a net deficit for the year ($1,242.12).

President's Report: WCP Ramiro Balli reported:

- Due to rising costs, the CRAD price has increased to $35/plate.
- Future Chapter Meetings
    - Our next meetings will be on November 24th at St John the Baptist (KC Hall) – 107 Texas Avenue San Marcos, TX 78666
    - There will be no meeting in December
    - We are still looking for hosts of the February, May, and June meetings
    - **Note: The schedule of future Chapter meetings is available online at https://kofcaustin.org/ about half way down the page.**
- Councils should turn in their Chapter registration forms along with the $50 fee for Chapter membership. DD's should promote Chapter membership with their councils who are not already members.

Diocesan Report: WDioD Victor Medina reported the following:

- State Charities: Currently we have collected at $42,416l, which is 41.4% of our goal. Last year at this time we were at 61%.
- Membership: Our goal this month is 69. We need 18 new members this week. Looking at the Year to Date, we have brought in 164 members.
- District Deputy Incentive: The first DD to bring in 20 new members will be awarded $150.00.
- Forms: The State office is still missing Forms 185/365 from several councils. These councils are submitting their forms to Supreme but failing to copy the State council.

- Our next Chili cookoff will be held on Saturday, 14 March 2026 at St Ignatius Catholic Church (same location as last year).

Program Director: Worthy Program Director Mike Hyzak reported that several Boxes of Joy had already been collected and would be turned in next week.

Committee Reports

- **Clergy & Religious Appreciation Dinner (CRAD)**: Worthy Team Lead (WTL) Mike McLaughlin reported that the CRAD scheduled for February 5 has been confirmed with Bishop Daniel Garcia. The location will be St Helen Catholic Church in Georgetown. See https://kofcaustin.org/clergy-appreciation/ for more information.
- **Wheelchairs**: WTL Bill Boiko reported that so far we have given out 19 wheelchairs through seven councils. We started out with 104 wheelchairs of various sizes and now have 85 wheelchairs left, including a large number of 18 and 20 inch wheelchairs available (47 and 37, respectively). Please see the Wheelchair Report attached to these minutes.
- **Special Olympics**: WTL Bill Boiko reported:
    - The Austin area Special Olympics bowling competition will be held on Nov 12-16 at Spare Time in Pflugerville for ages 8-21. For contestants 22 and older, the Bowling Tournament will be held at Highland Lanes in Austin. For more information, see https://www.sotx.org/event-detail/2025-austin-area-bowling-competition-19112864.
    - To date four councils have contributed a total of $5,540.33 to the Special Olympics including Council 2574 ($450), 6543 ($25), 10131 ($4295.33), and 13255 ($770).
- **Sacred Heart Icon**: WTL Ricardo Renteria noted that the Sacred Heart of Jesus icon was present at the meeting this evening, and would be going to Pflugerville in November.
- **Silver Rose**: WTL Blake Krass reported that November 29-30 is still open for any Council to schedule the Silver Rose on its journey to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. See the handout on SilverRose in the attachments. For more information on the Silver Rose program, see https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/life/silver-rose.html.
- **Emergency Response Coordinator**: WTL Lee Fracker reported that Alonzo Calderon, who was flooded out of his home in July, has finally begun to rebuild. The delay was caused by the process of obtaining building permits.
- **EIM-SE Coordinator**: WTL Lee Fracker had nothing new to report. Worthy District Deputy Webster Veade initiated a discussion on who is responsible for enforcing EIM protocol requirements. WTL Lee Fracker noted that it is up to the individual parishes to ensure that Councils adhere to the EIM protocols.
- **State Charities & Star Councils** – WDioD Victor Medina encouraged Grand Knights and District Deputies to continue pushing charity pin sales, and to focus on helping their councils to achieve Star Council. He stated the Diocesan goal is to have 27 Star Councils this year.

- **Culture of Life**: WTL Mike Rush encouraged councils to support the Rally for LIfe in downtown Austin on 24 January from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
- **Free Throws** – WTL Victor Medina stated that the Diocesan Free Throw Competition is scheduled for 15 February 2026 at San Juan Diego parish. The State Free Throw competition is scheduled for the first weekend in March 2026 in San Antonio.
- **Seminarian Report**: No Report.
- **Spanish Council Coordinator**: No Report
- **Ceremonial Team**: WCVP Mike D'Antonio offered to help councils throughout the Diocese organize Exemplications of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity (CUFs), including offering to provide CUF teams and supplies as needed. He also invited district and council leaders to add their names to his list of CUF team volunteers.

Spiritual Director's Report

Deacon Phuc Phan was not present this evening, but you can read his latest homily at https://dcnphuc2019.blogspot.com/2025/10/.

Communications/Newsletter/Website: No Report.

Unfinished Business

- Can You Pay for CRAD Online? Worthy Treasurer Michael Myzak followed up on the question from our September meeting on whether councils and individuals can pay for their CRAD tickets, table sponsorships, and gift cards online. He explained that online payments are now available through Square: https://kc-austin-chapter-2025.square.site.
- See also the Greater Austin Chapter Square Site flyer in the attachments.

New Business

- Worthy Financial Secretary Trainer Peter Donahue reminded everyone that he is available to provide in-depth training and answer questions for new and old Financial Secretaries alike in the Greater Austin and San Antonio areas. He can be reached at 512-995-0505.
- Peter also stated 990 reports are due in November for some councils.

District Deputies Reports

- **WDD #160, Gary Reeves** noted that a long-time 4th degree member passed away recently. His funeral will be held on Thursday, October 30 at St Paul's Catholic Church in Horseshoe Bay (near Marble Falls).
- Gary also introduced Frank Hanel, the Financial Secretary of newly formed council 18787.

Field Agents Report:

- Worthy Field Agent (WFA) Charles "Chuck" Malburg, a Fraternal Insurance Counselor in the Britten Agency responsible for seven councils in the Greater Austin Area, encouraged councils to take advantage of the next Fraternal Benefit webinar on November 5 and 12 focused on preparing for retirement.
- WFA Malburg also emphasized the important role of Term Life Insurance, especially for younger Knights.
- Finally, he encouraged councils to consider using a new website platform designed to give all councils a consistent look-and-feel. This platform is the same one used by the State Council (https://connectingmembers.com/) and is available to Knights of Columbus councils for a special negotiated price.

Fourth Degree Order Report: WDM Blake Krass reminded everyone that the next Exemplification of Patriotism will be hosted by Assembly #3688 at St Mary Margaret Catholic Church on Saturday, January 10, 2026 starting at 10:00 am. Registration opens at 7:30 am. See the attached flyer.

Good of the Order:

WCP Ramiro Balli collected the Prayer Petitions from the meeting attendees and offered them to the Lord in the closing prayer.

WCP Ramiro Balli closed the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Attest:

Secretary: **Lee Fracker**

List of Weblinks

Weblink	URL
James Caffrey's email	james.caffrey@kofc.org
Chapter CRAD Information	https://kofcaustin.org/clergy-appreciation/
Chapter Meetings	https://kofcaustin.org/ (half way down the page)
Special Olympics	https://www.sotx.org/event-detail/2025-austin-area-bowling-competition-19112864.
Silver Rose Program	https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/life/silver-rose.html.
Spiritual Director's Report	https://dcnphuc2019.blogspot.com/2025/10/.
Web Platform for Councils	https://connectingmembers.com/ Negotiated price for K of C Councils

Attachments

The following documents are attached to these minutes (see subsequent pages):

- Treasurer's Report, provided by Worthy Treasurer Mike Hyzak.
- Wheelchair Report, provided by Worthy Team Lead Bill Boiko
- Silver Rose Report, provided by Worthy Team Lead Blake Krass
- Greater Austin Chapter Square Site, provided by Worthy Treasurer Mike Hyzak
- Exemplification of Patriotism Flyer for Saturday, Jan 10, 2026.

GREATER AUSTIN CHAPTER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
TREASURER'S REPORT

10/18/2025

	Sep-25	Oct-25	Year to date	Budgeted
CHECKING ACCOUNT				
STARTING BALANCE	$11,904.29	$12,104.78	$13,403.19	$13,403.19
INCOME				
Chapter Dues	$200.00	$56.29	$756.29	$1,500.00
CRAD Revenue			$0.00	$18,000.00
Hospitality Suite Payments			$0.00	$3,500.00
Donations			$0.00	$0.00
Dividends	$0.49		$1.59	$0.00
Other Income			$0.00	$0.00
James Avery Charms			$0.00	$0.00
Chili Cook-off			$0.00	$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	$200.49	$56.29	$757.88	$23,000.00
EXPENSES (Pending Budget Approval)				
CRAD			$0.00	$11,000.00
Austin Bishop's Charity			$0.00	$6,000.00
Hospitality Suite - State Conv.			$0.00	$3,500.00
JP II Life Center			$0.00	$2,000.00
Seminarian Support			$0.00	$500.00
Other Charity			$1,000.00	$5,000.00
Admin Expenses			$0.00	$1,000.00
Convention Expense			$0.00	$0.00
James Avery Charm Expense			$0.00	$0.00
Uncleared 2024-2025 Donations			$1,000.00	$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	$0.00	$0.00	$2,000.00	$29,000.00
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	200.49	56.29	(1,242.12)	(6,000.00)
BALANCE - CHECKING	$12,104.78	$12,161.07	$12,161.07	$7,403.19

GREATER AUSTIN CHAPTER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
TREASURER'S REPORT

10/18/2025

SAVINGS ACCOUNT				
STARTING BALANCE	$0.20	$0.20	$0.20	
INCOME				
Dividends	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	
WITHDRAWALS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	
BALANCE - SAVINGS	$0.20	$0.20	$0.20	$0.20
SET ASIDE ACCOUNT				
HOSPITALITY SUITE				
STARTING BALANCE	$1,451.10	$1,451.10	$1,451.10	$1,451.10
Income	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$3,500.00
Expenses	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$3,500.00
NET HOSPITALITY SUITE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
ENDING BALANCE	$1,451.10	$1,451.10	$1,451.10	$1,451.10
CURRENT BALANCES				
TOTAL CHECKING	$12,104.78	$12,161.07	$12,161.07	$7,403.19
Hospitality Suite set-aside	$1,451.10	$1,451.10	$1,451.10	$1,451.10
James Avery Charms				
NET WORKING CAPITAL	$10,653.68	$10,709.97	$10,709.97	**$5,952.09**
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	$0.20	$0.20	$0.20	$0.20

Outstanding Checks
None

Austin Chapter Wheelchair Report
as of 27 October 2025

	Wheel Chair Sizes							
	12	**14**	**16**	**18**	**20**	**22**	**24**	**Total**
Beginning Available	0	1	2	50	50	1	0	104
14943: Ascension				1				
8141: Sacred Heart				1				
2574: La Grange				2	1			
2574: La Grange					3			
8141: Sacred Heart						1		
14674: St Joseph				1				
13927: St Vincent de Paul					1			
8141: Sacred Heart					1			
14166: St Barbara					1			
10148: San Jose					1			
8141: Sacred Heart					1			
8131: St Mary of the Visitation					2			
Austin Chapter					2			
Distributed	0	0	0	5	13	1	0	19
Ending Available	**0**	**1**	**2**	**45**	**37**	**0**	**0**	**85**

Silver Rose 2025 Austin Diocese

Oct 4-5 St Thomas More
Oct 11-12 Lockhart
Oct 18-19 St Austin
Oct 25-26 Horseshoe Bay

Nov 1-2 San Marcos
Nov 8-9 Luling
Nov 15-16 Marble Falls
Nov 22-23 Dripping Springs
Nov 27 Thanksgiving
Nov 29-30 open

Dec 6-7 Midyear meeting (Corpus Christi)
Dec 10 Laredo transfer
Dec 11 St Louis

Greater Austin Chapter Square Site

Can electronically pay for:

- Council/assembly chapter dues
- Council/assembly convention hospitality fee
- CRAD tickets
- CRAD table sponsorship
- CRAD gift cards

https://kc-austin-chapter-2025.square.site/



Knights of Columbus
FOURTH DEGREE
Patriotic degree of the Order.
One Nation Under God

EXEMPLIFICATION OF PATRIOTISM

SATURDAY JANUARY 10, 2026

HONORING:

SK JOHN W HICKS, FDD, PGK, PFN

HOST: SK Blake S Krass, DM 6

Our Lady of Guadalupe Province

Host Assembly: St. Rafael Guizar y Valencia #3688

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

1101 W New Hope Dr

Cedar Park TX 78613

512-259-3126

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: Saturday January 10th, 2026

7:30am-9:30am – Registration and Photos (BC)

9:30am-9:45am – Assemble & Group Photo (BC)

10am-11:30am – Exemplification/Knighting (C)

11:30am – Closing Remarks (C)

Noon-12:45pm – Mass (C)

1pm-2:30pm – Luncheon (BC)

BC = Benish Center; C = Church

Family members are welcome to join you at the Exemplification of Patriotism.

Please inform your sponsor on the number who plan to attend with you.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATE

Candidate fee to participate is $80.00 (includes your meal)

Additional meal tickets are $30.00 each

Fourth Degree Membership Pin

Certificate suitable for framing

HOTEL INFORMATION

Because of the timing of this exemplification,
we do not anticipate people needing hotel rooms.
If you wish to spend the night,
most major chains have a location
within about three miles of the church.

PLEASE NOTE:

IN ORDER TO ENSURE CERTIFICATES AND PROGRAMS ARE CORRECT, WE ASK THAT ACOMPLETED FORM 4 AND ALL FUNDS BE
RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 3, 2026

Send your paperwork to:

6th Texas District Master
SK Blake S Krass

Address: 1107 Twin Creek Dr
Pflugerville TX 78660

Phone: 512-657-7472

Email: bkrass@swbell.net

Make checks payable to:
SK Blake S Krass

Dress Code: Candidates as described below:

Dark Blue, Grey or Black business suit (Slacks and sport coats are not acceptable), white dress shirt with lay down collar (no collar buttons); tie; dark socks; and dress shoes. Or Fourth Degree Uniform regalia







Dress Code Exceptions (for candidates)

Military—Dress Uniform or dark suit
Police and Firemen—Formal Dress Uniforms or dark suit
Priests—Regular Clerical Dress
Seminarians—Dark Suit and Tie or Seminarian Collar with Black Suit

Dress Code for Others
Fourth Degree Members/Observers

Fourth Degree uniform regalia.
Dark suit with tie is acceptable.

Honor Guard

Uniform for ceremony, Beret, white gloves, baldric, and swords

Flag Bearers

No Sword

Color Guard Escorts

Fourth Degree Uniform for ceremony, Beret, white gloves, baldric and sword





Knights of Columbus
FOURTH DEGREE
Patriotic degree of the Order.
One Nation Under God

WE NEED YOU TO JOIN THE COLOR CORPS.

OF THE FOURTH DEGREE

The color corps is made up of the honor guard and color guard members who serve the fourth-degree assemblies by:

- Presenting & posting the flag of our nation at Knights of Columbus event
- Standing as part of an honor guard for brother Knights who have passed away
- Form honor guards for Priests celebrations, like anniversaries
- Participate in Honor Guards at your Bishops request, like the dedication of new churches
- Take part in Honor Guards for Holy Relics
- Being part of the Fourth Degree Exemplification team
- Honoring our Veterans at Memorial Day celebrations

The fourth-degree Uniform package includes:

- **Blazer/coat**
- **Trousers**
- **Tie**
- **Beret & Badge**
- **$475.00**
- **Sword & Baldric are sold separately @ kofcsupplies.com**

To order the uniform:

Call: 833-562-4327

Or go to

kofcuniform.com



6th Texas District Master

SK Blake S Krass

Address: 1107 Twin Creek Dr

Pflugerville, Texas 78660

Phone: 512-657-7472

Email: bkrass@swbell.net