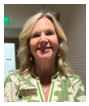
October 26, 2026

Minutes for the Greater Austin Chapter Meeting

Location: John Paul II Life Center, Austin, TX

Opening



Before the Meeting: Tricia Churchill of the JPII Life Center welcomed the Knights to the Center and expressed her gratitude for the Knights of Columbus' longtime support for the Center and its pro-life mission.

- **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Ramiro Balli.
- **Opening Prayer** was offered by our Chaplain, Fr. Charlie Garcia.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by President Ramiro Balli.
- **Recognition of Host:** President Ramiro Balli thanked the JPII Life Center for hosting the meeting and preparing the meal.
- **Roll of Officers**: The roll of officers was called and noted as follows (P=Present, A=Absent, E=Excused):

President (WCP)	Ramiro Balli	P
Vice President (WCVP)	Vacant	E
Treasurer (WCT)	Mike Hyzak	P
Secretary (WCS)	Lee Fracker	P

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 28, 2026 meeting, posted on the Chapter website at https://kofcaustin.org/home/about/meeting-minutes, were approved.

Officer Reports

Chaplain's Report: WCC Fr. Charlie Garza offered a reflection on current events, including the midterm elections. He urged Knights not to forget to pray: "Instead of getting riled up, get prayed up," and invite God into the process. He reminded everyone that the Rosary is one of a Knight's greatest weapons and encouraged all to make prayer part of their preparation to vote. He asked Knights to pray the Rosary on October 31, a time of heightened occult activity, and encouraged families to dress children as saints rather than monsters. He thanked everyone for their support of and prayers for our seminarians.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: WCT Mike Hyzak posted his report online via the kofcaustin.org website. The report was discussed; a summary follows.

Beginning balance:	$8,099.71
Income:	$0.00
Expenses:	$100.38
End balance:	$7,999.33

A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and approved.

President's Report:

- President Balli is seeking volunteers to staff a Chapter booth at next year's Catholic Men's Conference. Interested Knights should contact him for details.
- The next Chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 23 (Thanksgiving week). Host council and location to be announced.

Diocesan Deputy's Report: Worthy Diocesan Deputy (WDioD) Michael D'Antonio reported on changes to the diocesan leadership team. The Diocese needed an EFF Coordinator, and Mike McLaughlin has volunteered to take on this role. Leo Saenz is taking on the role of Membership Director. Meetings with the field agent are progressing slowly; Field Agent George S. will help move this forward. He stressed that Safe Environment compliance is being taken seriously, and Grand Knights who are out of compliance are being removed. Membership is not progressing as hoped.

Program Director's Report:

- Worthy Program Director Mike Hyzak asked everyone to take several Boxes of Joy home, fill them, and return them no later than the November 23 meeting.
- He also reported that two councils in the Diocese are participating in the State Soccer Challenge this year.

EFF Director: Mike McLaughlin confirmed that he is taking on this role.

Chapter Committee Reports

Membership: WTL Leo Saenz reported that he has just assumed his responsibilities as the new Membership Director.

Clergy & Religious Appreciation Dinner (CRAD): WTL Mike McLaughlin reported that the CRAD team held its first meeting last Tuesday. St. Williams Council has purchased a new AV system for the CRAD venue, which everyone agreed was badly needed. Invitations to clergy and religious have already been sent. The team decided that the meal price will remain $35 per plate, while beverage prices will increase to $2 for water and $5 per bottle of beer.

RSVP Report: WTL Ramiro Balli reported that four new seminarians have been added to the list of those needing support.

Special Olympics: WTL Bill Boiko submitted his Special Olympics report (attached). He noted that the Bowling Competition begins November 2 and runs through the end of November, and he encouraged Knights to come out and volunteer.

Wheelchair Report: WTL Bill Boiko reviewed his current Wheelchair report (also attached). He noted that only two 20-inch wheelchairs remain.

Sacred Heart Icon Report: WTL Ricardo Renteria thanked Mike Hyzak for hosting the Pilgrim Icon last week at the Men's ACTS retreat. The St. Louis King of France Council now has the Icon.

Silver Rose: WTL Blake Krass submitted the Silver Rose report (attached).

Safe Environment Coordinator: No report.

Emergency Response Coordinator: WTL Lee Fracker reported that there were no emergency response requests during the past month.

State Charities and Star Councils: WTL Kevin Martinez reported that charity collections are improving; however, 47 councils have not yet paid their charity assessments, and about 40 councils still owe their state per capita.

Free Throws: WTL Mike Hyzak reported that the State Free Throw competition is scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2027. Councils should plan their own Free Throw schedules accordingly.

Culture of Life: WTL Michael Rush reported that October is Life Month. He highlighted the Walk for Life planned for Saturday, January 23, 2027, in downtown Austin from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Ceremonial Team: WTL Lee Fracker reported:

- There have been no new requests for ceremonial team support.
- Two members of the previous ceremonial team have confirmed they will continue to serve; no members have declined.
- The team has developed a bilingual CUF script for occasions with both Spanish- and English-speaking candidates. Mike Hyzak noted that his council has been successfully running bilingual CUFs for some time.
- There are currently five councils and one district publishing recurring CUF schedules. Most are monthly; two are quarterly.

Spanish Council Coordinator: The Chapter currently does not have a Spanish Council Coordinator. Worthy Diocesan Deputy Mike D'Antonio said he is working to recruit one.

Spiritual Director's Report: Deacon Phuc reflected on the Transfiguration and emphasized that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. He then led attendees through a five-minute exercise illustrating the structure and content of a COR meeting.

COR: State Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) Director Ed Tydings followed up Deacon Phuc's report with a discussion of COR at the council level.

Communication/Newsletter/Website: Lee Fracker reported that a new look and feel for the Chapter website is coming. The new design will make it easier for visitors to find what they are looking for and do what they came to do. It will also make the site easier for administrators to maintain by automating several previously manual tasks, such as creating links to documents and removing expired events.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- President Balli called for an election to fill the vacant Vice President position. Leo Saenz was nominated and elected by unanimous acclamation.
- President Balli proposed engaging Lee Fracker, a digital user experience professional, under a pro bono contract to refresh and restructure the Chapter website.
    - During discussion, several members asked what would happen to the existing hosting platform and content. Lee clarified that the site would be refreshed and restructured but would remain on WordPress, and that existing content would be unchanged.
    - A motion to proceed with the project was made, seconded, and approved.

State Committee Reports

Coats for Kids: WTL Leo Saenz reported that boxes purchased during the Buy One, Get One (BOGO) event must be turned in by mid-November.

Financial Secretary Training: Worthy Diocesan Deputy Mike D'Antonio thanked Peter Donohoe for his ten years of service as the Chapter's Financial Secretary Trainer. Mike noted that he is looking for a new trainer following Pete's retirement.

State Office: Executive Secretary Carlos Gonzalez reminded everyone that the Quick Starts deadline of Wednesday, December 30, is fast approaching.

District Deputies' Reports

There were no District Deputies' reports this evening.

Patriotic Order Report: Worthy District Master Blake Krass submitted his report (attached). The next Patriotic Exemplification is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2027, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station, Texas.

Good of the Order

- The Closing Prayer was led by Deacon Phuc.
- The Closing Blessing was given by Deacon Phuc.
- The meeting was adjourned by WCP Ramiro Balli at 9:00 pm.

Attest:

Secretary: **Lee Fracker**

Attachments

- Special Olympics Report
- Wheelchair Report
- Silver Rose Report
- Patriotic Degree (District 6) Report

Special Olympics events in the Austin Diocese

Statewide & National Events

02/12-13/27. Winter Games, HCI Sports & Fitness, Lakeway & Bee Cave, TX

Area 6 (Bremond, Caldwell, Bryan, College Station) (East Region)

11/07/26. East Region Volleyball Competition, FAST Complex, Houston, TX
11/07/26. East Region Fishing Competition, Brazoria County Parks, Angleton, TX
11/14-15/26. Area 6 Bowling Competition, Time to Spare, Conroe, TX
11/21/26. Area 6 Equestrian Competition, A.V. "Bull" Sallas Park, New Caney, TX
12/11-13/26. East Region, Bowling Competition, Grand Station Entertainment, College Station, TX

Area 12 (Waco, Temple, West, Mexia, Killeen) (Central Region)

11/13-14/26. Area 12 Bowling Tournament, Bowlero – Waco, Waco, TX
11/14/26 Central Region Flag Football Tournament, Lehman High School, Kyle, TX

Area 13 (Austin, Round Rock, Pflugerville, San Marcos) (Central Region)

11/02-07/26. Area 13 Bowling Competition, Spare Time Texas, Pflugerville, TX
11/09-10/26. Area 13 Bowling Competition, Spare Time Texas, Pflugerville, TX
11/14/26 Central Region Flag Football Tournament, Lehman High School, Kyle, TX

Area 14 (Mason, San Saba) (West Region)

11/06/26. Area 14 Bowling Competition (ISD), Stadium Lanes, San Angelo, TX
11/07/26. Area 14 Bowling Competition (Delegations), Stadium Lanes, San Angelo, TX
12/05/26. Area 14 Volleyball Competition, San Angelo YMCA, San Angelo, TX

These events are on the sotx.org web site
If Councils want to help with Special Olympics in your area verify with sotx.org for your area for any changes to the events.

Report 102626

Sizes	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	Total	
Amount Avaliable 07/0126	0	1	1	40	26	0	0	68	10/26/26

Wheelchair requested
Council / Assembly / Other

Council 13927					1				St. Vincent de Paul
Council 6453					1				St. William
Council 12642					10				Rockne-Spring Prairie
Chapter					6				One Way Baptist Church
Council 11277					2				St. Stanislaus
Council 8131				1	2				St. Mary of the Visitation
Chapter					2				One Way Baptist Church
Council 8141				1					Sacred Heart

Amount left	0	1	1	38	2	0	0	42
Amount given out	0	0	0	2	24	0	0	26

Silver Rose report for 10/26/2026 Chapter meeting

It took a while, but we eventually got all the weekends in the fourth quarter through the Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day covered except the two where I need to take it out of town.

- 7/25-26 San Saba St Mary
- 8/1-2 Goldthwaite St Peter
- 10/3-4 Austin St Thomas More
- 10/10-11 Lockhart St Mary of the Visitation
- 10/17-18 Austin St Austin
- 10/24-25 Gatesville Our Lady of Lourdes
- 10/31-11/1 Lago Vista Our Lady of the Lake
- 11/7-8 San Marcos St John the Evangelist
- 11/14-15 Marble Falls St John the Evangelist
- 11/21-22 Horseshoe Bay St Paul the Apostle
- 11/28-29 Johnson City Good Shepherd
- 12/11-12 Austin St Louis King of France

Texas District 6 report for 10/26/2026 Chapter meeting

Exemplifications

- We welcomed 34 new Sir Knights, including two priests, on 10/17 at St Paul in Austin.
- The next exemplification is 2/6 in at St Mary in College Station. Details will be announced soon.
- Another exemplification is planned for May unless we get at least 60 new SKs in February.

Other news

- When the new Sir Knights from the recent exemplification get processed, District 6 will be at 56% of quota and several Assemblies will have met their quota.
- Blake was honored to march in the Columbus Day parade in New York City. He got to meet the Supreme Master for the fourth time and the Supreme Knight for the first time. Texas was represented by two District Masters and two Former DMs among the 160+ SKs in the parade.
- Supreme Master Michael McCusker is being promoted to a position overseeing Council Programs, so we will have a new Supreme Master effective November 1st – a Past State Deputy of South Carolina.
- Blake will participate in the Laredo Silver Rose transfer in December for the third straight year.

District 6 website: https://tinyurl.com/texasdistrict6