

# **Alabama State Council**

## **Knights of Columbus**

**State Convention Meeting – April 30-May 1, 2016**

**Huntsville, Alabama**

### **Call to Order:**

R. Evan “Pete” Parrish, State Deputy, called the meeting to order.

### **Opening Prayer:**

Reverend Monsignor G. Warren Wall, State Chaplain gave the opening prayer.

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Steve Koach, District Master and IPSD, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Credentials Report:** All present possessed a membership card of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. No 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> degree members were present.

**Recorded Message was played from the Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson.**

**State Deputy’s Report:** State Deputy Pete Parrish thanked everyone for their efforts both for charity and in membership. We supported seminarians financially. The Christopher Fund had a return of \$8,800. We helped a brother Knight who had financial difficulties. We also helped a military family who were in financial crisis. He spoke on membership. We put in two new councils – one in Monroeville and one in Tuscaloosa. We need to finish the fraternal year strong. We have the possibility to finish the year positively. The year is not over.

### **Bishop’s Remarks: Archbishop Rodi and Bishop Baker**

Bishop Baker welcomed everyone to the northern part of the state and thanked everyone for attending the convention. He spoke on the new program FOCUS to bring young people back to the Church. He spoke on the legal battles of EWTN.

Archbishop Rodi commented on the marching orders presented from the Supreme Knight. The Knights are called to be the yeast which raises our Church. We are all missionaries and expected to evangelize. We evangelize in our ever day lives and we should do more. God is good and we should share him. As men of faith we are called to be witnesses. He thanked the Knights for their support of seminarians.

**Presentation of the Proceeds from the Priesthood Scholarship Fund:** \$6000 was presented to both was present to Archbishop Rodi and Bishop Baker.

**Remarks on Insurance Program:** General Agent John Stice spoke about Golf Tournament. He spoke about the Hospitality Suite. He introduced his Field Agents. Agent of the Year was Mark Stice. Council 4083 had highest purchases of insurance winning two separate plaques.

SD Parrish brought up question about the \$100 annuity with the General Agent. There appears to be a conflict between what agents are being told and what the state council is being told.

**Roll Call conducted by State Secretary Griffin Shreves:**

ROLL CALL – April 30, 2016  
 Alabama State Council  
 Knights of Columbus  
 Huntsville, AL

ROLL CALL		# count	
State Officers	State Officers	7	
District	Council		
1	3568	2	
1	7679	2	
1	12618	1	
1	13152	1	
1	13512	0	<b>Absorbed or merged</b>
1	15845	0	
2	3227	1	
2	5597	1	
2	10331	0	
2	11215	0	
2	12270	2	
2	13513	1	
3	2631	0	
3	4083	0	
3	7584	1	
3	11537	2	
3	15367	0	<b>Absorbed or merged</b>
3	16400	0	
4	9550	2	
4	9676	2	
4	13446	1	
4	13519	0	<b>Absorbed or merged</b>

5	5164	2
5	7213	2
5	8551	2
5	10354	1
5	14894	0
6	893	0
6	12150	1
6	15093	0
7	2738	2
7	10731	1
7	12011	0
8	4888	2
8	11366	0
8	13125	2
8	14507	2
9	2736	2
9	10903	1
9	12765	0
9	13339	1
10	5636	2
10	6727	2
10	11480	2
10	15810	0
11	764	2
11	1484	0
11	4080	2
11	10232	2
11	11672	2
11	16248	1
13	666	0
13	3565	0
13	13174	2
13	15247	1
13	15715	0
14	3038	0
14	13085	1
14	13163	1
14	13367	2
14	16381	0
15	2737	0
15	8959	1
15	11554	1
15	12914	0
16	3986	1
16	3989	1

**Absorbed or merged**

16	6661	2
16	13679	2
17	2734	1
17	7270	0
17	8740	0
17	15490	1
18	635	1
18	4304	0
18	9862	2
18	10064	1
18	10567	2
19	3859	2
19	8696	1
19	13415	1

**54 councils represented  
89 delegates**

**Reading of Minutes from Last Meeting by State Secretary Griffin Shreves:** Motion to approve minutes as published on the website. Motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

**Communications:** No communications to be presented at this meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** 3 reports presented to the membership by the State Treasurer Jason Esteve.

**Audit Committee Report:** Committee Chairman Steve Koach, IPSD and DM, stated the committee had met and agreed with the reports and accounts as presented.

**Membership:** G. V. "Skip" Gentle, PSD, FVSM, and Membership Director gave talk on membership. He started by saying the Star Council goal is important. Recruitment is vital to the Order. He showed charts of goals and progress. He discussed individual councils and the overall need of everyone to recruit. There was group discussion on the subject of membership recruitment. He is proud to be a Catholic. He mentioned the \$4.50 rebate for achieving Star Council. It is not just about numbers, it is about the men. He announced awards for membership. DD Heitzman and DD Wrobel won membership awards. 60 days to go before the end of the fraternal year. Everyone can meet their goals. The options are extensive. He has really enjoyed working with us all. He described his request for prayers for David Weiner and the prayers were answered.

**Programs:** Bill Mores – Program Director spoke on the many different programs of the councils. The awards will be presented this afternoon. He asked the Directors and Chairmen if they had any comments.

**Special Olympics:** Jerry Brecher stated all councils should seek out an event they could participate in. He stated the State Special Olympics would be in May.

**David Renda** was asked to speak on Vocations. He helps with seminarians in the Birmingham area. He told of all the many different ways we can help and support them.

**Culture of Life:** Dave Birchmeier encouraged councils to promote Natural Family Planning programs in all parishes. The root cause of abortion is artificial contraception. He spoke on how important teaching the Natural Family Planning to the children. Lee John Bruno described several Ultrasound Initiatives going on. He described an effort ongoing for an ultrasound machine at Lanett. A small fundraising effort occurred at this time. The state council is the sponsoring fundraiser. The state ultrasound initiative has seen over \$500,000 raised.

**Youth Activities** – John Blackburn expressed gratitude to the state officers and district deputies for their help during the State Free Throw contest. He also told the District Deputies that he has medals for the Soccer Challenge and extra T-Shirts from the Free Throw Contest for the asking.

Bill Mores fully described the steps for achieving the Star Council Award.

**Campaign for Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities:** Ron Belz thanked the state officers who had helped with the campaign. He gave a great description of the program.

Council 635 Grand Knight presented on the FOCUS program. He gave a moving description of their work. He challenged other councils to make donations to this cause. His council 635 will match all donations \$1 for \$1.

**Fourth Degree Report:** Steve Koach, IPSD and District Master, he reported we have brought in 72 new Sir Knights so far this fraternal year. He thanked the SD and other State Officers for their support of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree. He spoke on the importance of patriotism in this election year.

**Appointment of Tellers:** Bill Mores, Steve Ghent, Joe Ching, Pat Jackson, Mark Stice, and Juan Cepero were appointed by the State Deputy.

**New Business:**

**Election of Officers:** Jerry Brecher served as Parliamentarian and conducted the election process. He explained the processes for both the Election of State Officers and the Election of Supreme Convention Delegates.

The process began with the State Deputy position. The choice for the position from the caucus was Griffin Shreves. He was nominated and his nomination was seconded. There were no other nominations for the position of State Deputy and one unanimous ballot was cast and Griffin Shreves was elected to the position of State Deputy. Mr. Brecher then proceeded to the election of State Secretary. The choice for the position from the caucus was Jason Esteve. He was nominated and his nomination seconded. There were no other nominations for the position of State Secretary and one unanimous ballot was cast and Jason Esteve was elected to the position of State Secretary. Mr. Brecher then proceeded to the election of State Treasurer. The choice from the caucus was Joe Flaherty. He was nominated and his nomination seconded. There were no other nominations for the position of State Treasurer and one unanimous ballot was cast and Joe Flaherty was elected to the position of State Treasurer. Next Mr. Brecher proceeded to the election of State Advocate. The choice from the caucus was Danny Garcia. He was nominated and his nomination was seconded. There were no other nominations for the position of State Advocate and one unanimous ballot was cast and Danny Garcia was elected to the position of State Advocate. Jerry then proceeded to the election of State Warden. There were two choices from the caucus and they were both nominated and seconded. They were Jack Hahn and Robert Rigsby. The 2 nominees were asked if they wanted to address the body. Jack spoke on his desire to serve and be an example. Robert spoke on how close he is to the Knights and how it is like family to him. The paper ballots were distributed and the voting occurred.

Mistakenly the ballots were passed out for the Supreme Convention Delegates. Historically the one vote is concluded before the second vote is taken.

The State Deputy moved on the agenda while the counting was taking place.

**Supreme Representative's Remarks:** Dave Tebo, our MPC, spoke on how we are like family to him. Supreme supplies remarks which were 17 pages long. He was able to condense the points down to 3.5 pages. He spoke on the Supreme initiative called Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish. Membership growth builds and enables our councils to be effective. His remarks were very inspirational.

The Tellers returned and Jack Hahn was elected incoming State Warden.

**Election of Supreme Convention Delegates:**

The nominees were Joseph Flaherty, Jason Esteve, Danny Garcia, Jack Hahn, Robert Rigsby, and Skip Gentle. Paper ballots were distributed.

While waiting Dr. Bill gave some convention housekeeping announcements. Monsignor Wall thanked SD Pete Parrish for his great leadership. Jason has old State Pins for sale for \$1.

The Tellers finally returned and the delegates elected for the Supreme Convention were Joe Flaherty, Jason Esteve, Danny Garcia, and Jack Hahn.

The alternates were Skip Gentle and Robert Rigsby.

**Closing Prayer:**

Monsignor G. Warren Wall, State Chaplain, led the closing prayer.

Day 1 meeting was adjourned by State Deputy Pete Parrish.

**Resolutions:** The following resolutions were passed by the membership:

**THANKING ALL LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS FOR THEIR SERVICE**

To Whom This May Come:

**WHEREAS**, The men and women of our local, state, and federal law enforcement and first responder agencies, regularly put their lives on the line on a daily basis to protect and to serve all, and

**WHEREAS**, The members of our local, state, and federal first responder agencies are working hard each and everyday to insure that our lives and property are safe; and

**WHEREAS**, Many of the men and women who proudly serve in local, state, and federal law enforcement and first responder agencies are Catholic Christians, and

**WHEREAS**, Many of these men and women are Knights or family and friends of Knights, and

**WHEREAS**, Supporting local, state, and federal law enforcement and first responder agencies is a major focus of the Knights of Columbus;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we should express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all our local, state, and federal law enforcement and first responder agencies, and pledge our unwavering support to them and offer our continuous prayers for their safety; and be it,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be submitted for adoption by the Supreme Council.

**ADOPTED in State Convention Assembled This 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2016 in the City of Huntsville in the State of Alabama.**



**APPRECIATION AND UNWAVERING SUPPORT  
FOR POPE FRANCIS**

To Whom This May Come:

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis has been a faithful servant of the Church and global Christian community throughout his lifetime, and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis has faithfully and dutifully served the Church and needs of the global Christian community since his election as Supreme Pontiff in March 2013, and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis known for his humility, his emphasis on God's mercy, his concern for the poor, and his commitment to interfaith dialogue, and has ardently worked to maintain that the Church should be more open and welcoming, and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis maintains the traditional views of the Church and has been a major supporter of the cause of the Culture of Life, and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis served the Church in the role of Cardinal from his native country, Argentina, and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis has been a champion for world peace, and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis has traveled extensively around the world spreading the gospel of Christ;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we express our deepest appreciation to Pope Francis and dedicate our unwavering support to him in serving the Church and the needs of the global Christian community; and be it,

**FUTHER RESOLVED**; That the Alabama State Council, meeting on April 28, 2016 in Huntsville, Alabama hereby petitions the Supreme Council to express our gratitude to the Holy Father for his dedication to Christ and His Holy Church,

**ADOPTED in State Convention Assembled This 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2016 in the City of Huntsville in the State of Alabama.**

## **EXERCISE OF RESPONSIBLE AND FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP**

To Whom This May Come:

**WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus shares the Church's conviction that our obligation to shape the moral character of society is a requirement of our Catholic faith; and

**WHEREAS**, All Christians have a responsibility to seek the justice of God's kingdom, restoring the temporal order and directing it to God through Christ; and

**WHEREAS**, The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that it is morally necessary to exercise the right to vote, to defend one's country, and to offer prayers for all who exercise authority; and

**WHEREAS**, The Church affirms that democracy is the best expression of the direct participation of citizens in political choices; and

**WHEREAS**, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds all Americans, that responsible citizenship is a virtue; and

**WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus has a long history of encouraging its membership and others to act on their duty of responsible and faithful citizenship;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That in the upcoming election season, we rededicate ourselves to advocacy on behalf of the poor, the voiceless, and especially on behalf of the dignity of human life, the sanctity of marriage and family life, and the right of all to practice their faith privately and publicly according to the dictates of their conscience; and be it,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, We will seek to build upon past efforts and programs designed to educate fellow citizens of their duties of faithful citizenship, and in a non-partisan way to help fellow Knights and other citizens to participate fully in the political process; and be it,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, We will remember our founding principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism in all of our interactions with others, particularly during the current election season, so that we may conduct ourselves according to Our Lord's commandment that we love our neighbors as ourselves, for he said, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35), and be it,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be submitted for adoption by the Supreme Council.

**ADOPTED in State Convention Assembled This 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2016 in the City of Huntsville in the State of Alabama.**

## **DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE**

To whom this may come:

**WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus takes all its principles from our Holy Mother Church; and

**WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus has as its principles Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism; and

**WHEREAS**, The Holy Mother Church teaches that a Marriage is Between One Man and One Woman; and

**WHEREAS**, It is from this teaching that our Beloved Order takes its stand that a Marriage is between One Man and One Woman;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alabama State Council, meeting on April 28, 2016 in Huntsville, Alabama, hereby petitions the Supreme Council to ask the U. S. Congress to defeat any and all attempts to change the Law of God and Nature.

**ADOPTED** in State Convention Assembled This 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2016 in the City of Huntsville in the State of Alabama.

## **GRATITUDE TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL**

To Whom This May Come:

**WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus is the leading Fraternal Organization in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, The Knights of Columbus is enjoying growth in its Membership and Insurance in force; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Alabama could not be a Leader in the Knights of Columbus without the leadership and assistance from the Supreme Knight and his staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the dedication of all those working at the Supreme Council is displayed everyday through assistance to our State Council and its membership;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Knights of Columbus membership of the State of Alabama meeting on April 28, 2016 in Huntsville, Alabama, wishes to thank the Supreme Knight, the Supreme Officers, the Board of Directors and the Staff of the Supreme Council for a job well done, and asks the Supreme Knight to relay our gratitude to all those who work tirelessly for the success of our State Council.

**ADOPTED** in State Convention Assembled This 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2016 in the City of Huntsville in the State of Alabama.

## **IN SUPPORT OF OUR MILITARY**

To Whom This May Come:

**WHEREAS**, The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has supported our Military since the beginning of our Beloved Order; and

**WHEREAS**, The Supreme Council has worked diligently to provide aid and support the men and women who both currently serve and have served our country; and

**WHEREAS**, The Supreme Council has programs to aid our wounded warriors as they return home to their families; and

**WHEREAS**, The Supreme Council holds a special place in the hearts and minds of all Brother Knights;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alabama State Council meeting on April 28, 2016 in Huntsville, Alabama wishes to thank all our Military Service Members for standing watch and keeping the United States free and safe from all harm and ask the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus to thank these brave men and women for their service to the United States of America.

**ADOPTED** in State Convention Assembled This 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2016 in the City of Huntsville in the State of Alabama.

### Meeting reopened on Sunday, May 1, 2016

ROLL CALL		# count
State Officers	State Officers	7
District	Council	
1	3568	0
1	7679	1
1	12618	1
1	13152	0
1	13512	0
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17	7270	0
17	8740	0
17	15490	1
18	635	0
18	4304	0
18	9862	1
18	10064	1
18	10567	0
19	3859	0
19	8696	1
19	13415	1

**45 councils represented  
68 delegates**

**Resolutions were passed and the change to the State By-Laws was passed.**

## **Bylaws:**

Proposed Changes

Article 8, Section 2: (b.) The committee recommends Adoption to this change of the By-Laws

The suspension of councils not having paid duly levied assessments within 180 days be change to (3 months and 10 days)

## **Remarks from**

Membership Director Skip Gentle  
Programs Director Bill Mores

**Necrology Report:** SS Griffin Shreves gave short report on deceased brother Knights.

**Supreme Representative's remarks:** Dave Tebo said how much he enjoyed the weekend.

## **Past State Deputies' remarks:**

Skip Gentle  
Maurice Dupont  
Ray Carney  
Steve Koach

## **State Officers' remarks:**

Jack Hahn – Incoming State Warden  
Danny Garcia – State Warden and incoming State Advocate  
Joe Flaherty – State Advocate and incoming State Treasurer  
Jason Esteve – State Treasurer and incoming State Secretary  
Griffin Shreves – State Secretary and incoming State Deputy  
Pete Parrish – State Deputy

**Necrology report for the past year was read.**

**Closing Prayer by Monsignor G. Warren Wall**

**Meeting adjourned by State Deputy Pete Parrish**

Respectfully submitted,  
State Secretary Griffin Shreves