



Knights of Columbus Council Meeting Notes

October 2025

The October Council meeting focused heavily on strategies to improve membership engagement, given that only about 30 to 40 members currently handle most activities. Discussions resulted in the formation of a Mini Campaign Committee tasked with reaching out to inactive members. Financial reports confirmed a profitable Fall Festival, resulting in a \$3,800 donation to the PTO, and noted the September profit from the First Sunday donuts was \$81. Upcoming charitable events, including the Tootsie Roll Drive and Veterans Dinner, were reviewed, requiring immediate volunteer and coordination efforts. Logistics were also addressed, including security suggestions for the Knights' Room door.

Financial Report

Income & Events:

- The September profit from the First Sunday donuts event was **\$81**.
- The goal for contributions to seminarians is \$600 each for three seminarians, traditionally was \$500 each. The program budget provides \$1,500 towards the three seminarians, with the donut profit used to supplement this budget item.
- Regarding the Fall Festival, sales were down compared to the previous year (\$3,600 this year versus \$4,300 previously), but expenses were lower (\$1,100), resulting in a higher profit.
- The total profit from the Fall Festival was calculated at **\$3,796.24**, rounded up to **\$3,800**, which the Council voted to donate entirely to the PTO. The commitment is to donate whatever profit is made each year, regardless of the amount.
- An expenditure of **\$230** for the purchase of **two ABC fire extinguishers** was noted (to be used at the trailer used during the Old Settlers Days yearly event).

Expenditures:

- **An invoice for \$230 for the purchase of two ABC fire extinguishers was noted.**

Membership Status (Current Figures):

- **The Council is 377 members strong.**
- **Approximately 93 members (or 25% of the total) are age 65 and over and are Honorary Life members who do not pay dues.**
- **There are approximately 33 members who are considered inactive (not paying dues or participating).**
- **About 20 members reside outside the state but continue to pay dues.**

Director Reports

Membership Director (Alfredo Diaz)

- E-joint prospects include Miles Love, David Anderson and Dwayne Dickerson
- New Knights who are joining in October were Rich (Retze) Santos (Rich, who is Filipino), Robert Stegeman and Ron Foltz
- The next **simplification** (degree ceremony) is scheduled for **Monday, October 20, at 6 PM** before the business meeting. There are five candidates, including the 3 who are joining in October, they will complete the 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees all at the same time.
- Fourth Degree events are scheduled for October (near Wichita) and November (near Hayes).
- The recent Delta Drive yielded "a lot of seeds" planted, resulting in one e-join and one transfer in from the 5 o'clock Sunday mass. An anomaly was noted on the sign-up roster, where someone signed using the name of Novel Sarate, who passed away in December 2023.
- A major issue is membership engagement, as the same 30 or 40 guys seem to do everything.
- A **Mini Campaign Committee** was formed to address membership engagement and target inactive members. Members include **Richard, Jeff, Tom, and Bill**. This committee will develop strategies for execution, including potential budgetary needs, and report back at the next meeting.
- Suggestions for increased engagement included **one-on-one personal interaction** (e.g., meeting for coffee). A strategy was proposed for each board member to adopt a new Knight for personal introduction and mentorship following the exemplification.
- The Supreme Knight's "Go for Two" promotion, offering a run for \$1,500 for recruiting two men before December 31st, was mentioned.

Programs (Charity & Service – Tom Keegan)

- **St. Mary's Food Kitchen: Approximately 7 Knights helped serve a total of 325 lunches (269 first servings and 56 second servings).**
- **Educational Tickets: Outstanding payments are due. The request was made to send individual emails to members who owe money, asking them to pay by the 20th of October.**
- **Scout Breakfast: On the last Sunday in October.**

Life Director (Troy Mills)

- **Frozen Hamburger/Sauce Sale: Advertisements are posted in the bulletin and Narthex, and the Worthy Life Director is receiving calls/emails. Money**

collection for the orders is required upon pickup, which is scheduled for the last week of October. Jeff volunteered to handle the money collection.

- **Mrs. Genie's Birthday Celebration (25th):** George Martin needs assistance setting up 12 round tables and 6 chairs per table by 11:00 or 11:30 AM.
- The dinner at Shalon's House took place on September 18th.

Social Concerns (Bill Schoep)

- **Uplift Blue Jean Bash:** This event is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. Individual tickets cost \$75 and include an open bar (beer/wine) and food catered by Garozo's. Discussion occurred regarding the Council donating \$150 (for two people) or \$300 (for four people) for members to attend, Board approved for 2 member to attend – Alfredo Diaz and Alex Montgomery-Soares will represent the Council 7909. Bill Schoep also will attend, he already had gotten the ticket and said that he does not require the Council 7909 to reimburse him.
- **Tootsie Roll Drive:** The council was initially denied participation by the Walmart corporate system, but Manager Tommy Brown provided approval under the condition that volunteers remain 10 feet from the door and keep the arrangement discreet. Saturday afternoon slots (2-4 PM and 4-6 PM) are important for collecting money. Help is urgently needed to collect money from both Walmart and High V locations around 6 PM on Saturday.
- **Veterans Dinner:** Scheduled for November 8th. Help is required in the kitchen/set up by 9:00 AM that morning (5-6 people needed). Servers are also needed, and a Sign-Up Genius will be created. The expected budget for the meal is around \$650.

Knight & Family of the Month Designees (John Williams)

- **Knight of the Month Nominee:** Henry March was nominated for his work in the Delta Drive and Friends of St. Anthony, serving as a sacristan and Christ minister, and being Father Francis' right hand. He is also the Deputy Grand Knight.
- **Family of the Month Nominee:** Jeff and Julie Bartz were nominated, specifically for their help handling money during the Fall Festival 2025.
- **Knight/Family of the Year:** A reminder should be issued that the vote for Knight of the Year and Family of the Year will take place at the November meeting. The ballot covers nominations from December through November.

Old Business

- **Fall Festival Funds:** The motion was approved to donate the full profit of \$3,800 to the PTO.

- **Taco Trailer:** It was confirmed that all food has been removed, but the trailer requires a better cleaning. Supplies such as nacho trays and boats need to be consolidated and moved from the trailer to the closet. Henry Marsh was asked to double-check that the key for the AC door, which was tied up after the last event, is now secured for the winter that is coming.
- **China Plates:** After discussion about giving away surplus China, the Council decided to retain 100 plates. Bill Schoep and John Kimmy coordinated a schedule pickup of the remaining plates.

New Business

- **Fire Extinguishers:** Approval was given for the purchase of two ABC fire extinguishers for \$230.
- **Knights' Room Security:** A suggestion was made to improve security by installing a digital lock on the Knights' Room doorknob. This would allow the code to be changed annually and addresses the common issue of lost keys.
- **Catholic Charities Snowball Gala (January 17th):** The Council decided not to attend the 52nd annual black-tie event at the Overland Park Commission Center. It was agreed that the money budgeted for this (\$2,000 for Food for Families) would be better spent directly on other local causes or the Food for Families program itself, rather than the gala.

Action Items & Due Dates

Responsible	Action Item	Due Date / Note
Richard, Jeff, Tom, Bill	Form Mini Campaign Committee to develop strategies for reaching inactive members.	Report back at the next meeting.
Tom	Send individual emails to members who owe money for educational tickets.	Before October 20th meeting.
Jeff	Process the invoice for the \$230 fire extinguishers.	ASAP.
Jeff	Collect money for the frozen hamburgers/sauce sale.	During pickup, last week of October.
Henry	Coordinate the set-up of 6-8 round tables and chairs for Mrs. Genie's birthday.	By 11:00 or 11:30 AM, October 25th.
Henry	Double-check and confirm that the AC door on the taco trailer is locked (as the key was previously tied up).	ASAP.
Henry	Consolidate supplies (nacho trays, boats, etc.) from the taco trailer and move them to the closet.	ASAP.
Bill & Alex	Coordinate money collection logistics for the Tootsie Roll Drive (from Walmart and High V).	Saturday afternoon (e.g., coordinate meeting at 2 PM, 4 PM, and 6 PM pickups).
John Williams	Finalize menu and confirm the budget (expected \$650–\$800) for the November 8th dinner for the Veterans Dinner	ASAP.
John Willilams	Send out Sign-up Genius for volunteers (5-6 kitchen help, plus servers) for the Veterans Dinner	Sometime in October.