

**Knights of Columbus**  
**St. Luke's Council #16053**  
*Business Meeting Minutes*

**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2026

**Call To Order Time:** 6:45 p.m.

**Location:** *St. Luke's Catholic Church Main Hall* (basement)

| <b>Officer</b>                                       | <b>Name</b>     | <b>Attendance</b><br>(Present, Excused, or Absent) |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Grand Knight</b>                                  | Joe Lofgren     | Present                                            |
| <b>Chaplain</b>                                      | Fr. Taillon     | Present                                            |
| <b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>                           | Paul Languirand | Present                                            |
| <b>Chancellor</b>                                    | Matty Blake     | Excused                                            |
| <b>Recorder</b>                                      | Greg Funaro     | Present                                            |
| <b>Financial Secretary</b>                           | Doug Johnston   | Present                                            |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                                     | Chris Ernster   | Present                                            |
| <b>Advocate</b>                                      | Walt Rok        | Present                                            |
| <b>Warden</b>                                        | Bob McGovern    | Present                                            |
| <b>Inside Guard</b>                                  | Jim Cunha       | Present                                            |
| <b>Outside Guard</b>                                 | David Roach     | Excused                                            |
| <b>Trustee 1</b>                                     | Tony Ballirano  | Present                                            |
| <b>Trustee 2</b>                                     | Joe Palazzolo   | Present                                            |
| <b>Trustee 3</b>                                     | Rich FitzGerald | Excused                                            |
| <b>Lecturer</b>                                      |                 |                                                    |
| <b>Program Director</b>                              | Joe Lofgren     | Present                                            |
| <b>Membership &amp; Retention Director</b>           | Matty Blake     | Excused                                            |
| <b>Evangelization &amp; Faith Formation Director</b> | Paul Languirand | Present                                            |
| <b>District Deputy</b>                               | Sean Andrade    | Present                                            |
| <b>Field Agent</b>                                   | Jim Fielding    | Excused                                            |

**Other Council Member Attendees: Present, Excused, or Absent**

| Name/Attendance |         | Name/Attendance |         |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Chuck Arneson   | Present | Dave Pearson    | Present |
| John Beaulieu   | Present | John McAdams    | Excused |
| Michael Canini  | Present | Bob Nichols     | Present |
| Bill Donohue    | Absent  | Ted Paull       | Present |
| Ed Fitzgerald   | Absent  | Chris Salvadore | Absent  |
| Ted Lally       | Present | David Seel      | Present |
| Paul Maloney    | Present |                 |         |

1. **Call to Order:** Joe Lofgren called the meeting to order (6:45).
2. **Opening Prayer:** Fr. Taillon led the opening prayer during installation (6:30).
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Sean Andrade led the pledge during installation (6:30).
4. **Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:** Minutes approved, Joe Lofgren announced minutes will be posted to web site.
5. **Chaplain's Message:** Fr. Taillon, greetings, introductory remarks, announced intention to celebrate feast of St. Luke's with official event "St. Luke's Country Feast" on Saturday, October 17 (6-8:30pm). Expressed desire for Knights to participate and help organize. Discussion followed about ideas, planning, requirements, etc. Motion approved to sponsor.
6. **Grand Knight's Report:** Brief, general report on success of H.O.M.E. Mission, Backpacks, Mother of Life Center Open House.
7. **Financial Report**
  - **Financial Secretary:** Doug Johnston nothing to report, passed around card to sign for Nancy Fitzgerald. Brief discussion re. logistics for upcoming exemplification.
  - **Treasurer:** Chris Ernster. As of August 31, 2026: Operating: \$7044.44 Reserves: \$650.00 Available: \$6,394.44. Motion approved to accept Treasurer's Report (see table below).

| Account      | August 31st 2026  | Reserves        | Avail. Funds       |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Operating    | \$3,148.53        |                 | \$3,148.53         |
| Member Dues  | \$3,895.91        | \$650.00        | \$3,245.91         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$7,044.44</b> | <b>\$650.00</b> | <b>\$ 6,394.44</b> |

#### 8. Programs

- **Faith:** Dave Pearson, update RSVP funds for seminarian Alex Richardson. Motion for \$500 approved.
- **Family:** Doug Johnston, Joe Lofgren suggestion re. Build-a-Bed. Announcement and discussion that *Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest* happening again this year.
- **Community:** Joe Lofgren, *Coats for Kids* logistics/deadline (Sept. 20). See attached flier. Doug Johnston motion to earmark more funds for purchase of 4 cases of coats instead of 3 (approx. extra \$400). Motion approved. Update re. food truck status.
- **Life:** Chris Ernster, brief discussion re. Day of Remembrance Sept. 12 (Saturday) 10am at Gates of Heaven. Joe Lofgren announcement re. Jericho Walk – March for Life, Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m. (RI Right to Life sponsor). See Joe for details.

9. **Membership & Retention Committee:** Joe Lofgren (for Matty Blake), target 5 new members by spring. Brief discussion re. planning.

10. **Evangelization & Faith Formation Committee:** Joe Lofgren, goal is to get *Core* integrated into what we do. Knights “Heart of the Gospel” retreat, on site here at St. Luke’s. Discussion with Dave Pearson about planning. Fr. Taillon suggestion of possibility of trip to grave of Michael McGivney in New Haven.

11. **Program Planning Committee:** Ted Paull and Joe Palazzolo, discussion of national list of best practices as basis for St. Luke’s KofC best practices. Also putting together list of programs.

12. **Insurance Agent:** See attached fliers from Jim Davis.

13. **District Deputy:** Sean Andrade, introductory remarks. Desire to ensure councils are “healthy and sustainable.” Succession plan, changes in reporting, insurance program changes, Columbian Award changes, recruiting, etc. See State web site for events and dates. Sean and Fr. Taillon, discussion re. recruiting and operating strategies of other successful councils (Woonsocket, Narragansett).

14. **Unfinished Business** (motions carried over from previous meetings): Joe Palazzolo, brief heads-up that he will be requesting funds to replace leaflet stands affected by fire. Also, keep a lookout for requests for member directory updates.

15. **New Business** (new motions): Chris Ernster, Parish Assembly (re. parish priorities request from Bishop) on Tuesday, September 22, 6:30-8pm St. Luke's hall. See bulletin for details.
16. **Good of the Order** (awards, recognition): Joe Lofgren, announcement of council receiving Columbian Award.
17. **Lecturer's Reflection**: N/A
18. **Grand Knight's Summary**: N/A
19. **Closing Prayer** (including intentions for sick or distressed members): Joe Lofgren led the Prayer for Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney. Also, read note/update from Rich Fitzgerald on his wife Nancy.
20. **Adjournment Time**: 8:01pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

*Drafted by Recorder Greg Funaro; attested by Grand Knight Joe Lofgren*

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August 2026

Brothers,

Every August, Knights from across the country and world gather to celebrate our Order's recent successes and look forward to what's next. This year is no exception. I want to congratulate you on your outstanding efforts that give us reason to celebrate. We recently heard the latest, Order-wide numbers shared at the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention in Denver. Know that your council helped make that success possible. Congratulations!

I believe we're making Blessed Michael McGivney proud. We celebrate his feast day on August 13, so this month is a fitting time to ask his continued intercession for our work. In founding the Knights, Father McGivney created a way to help men stay close to the Lord, to each other, and to help them and their families secure a financial future. He knew this was a way to strengthen families and protect them when they're at their most vulnerable.

Your council continues that legacy with every program you put on, every dollar you donate. But you also continue it when you choose financial products and services with the Knights. That's a concrete way you help make possible not just the Knights' local impact here in our community, but our impact around the world.

Every day, I feel immensely blessed to be part of our brotherhood, and especially to serve it as an agent. It's such a privilege to carry out Father McGivney's mission of faith, fraternity and financial protection in that way. If we've never connected, or if it's been a long time, I will be glad to meet with you to review your current coverage or find the coverage to match your family's needs.

Vivat Jesus!

|                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                         | <br><b>Knights of<br/>Columbus</b><br><small>Connecticut &amp; Rhode Island Agency</small> |
| <b>Jim Davis, FIC</b><br><i>Assistant General Agent</i><br>Office: 401-424-6007<br>jim.davis@kofc.org<br>166 Valley St, Bldg 6M Ste 103<br>Providence, RI 02909            |                                                                                                                                                                               |
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