

**OHIO STATE COUNCIL, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**MINUTES OF THE 123<sup>rd</sup> OHIO STATE CONVENTION**  
**Kalahari Convention Center, Sandusky, Ohio**  
**May 14-15, 2022**

**General Session**

State Deputy Mark Siracusa opened the 123<sup>rd</sup> State Convention at 1:01 PM on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. State Warden Christopher Sarka reported that those in attendance were duly qualified Third-Degree members for this business session.

Reverend Fr. Adam Hertzfeld led the opening prayer and offered some opening comments thanking the Knights of Columbus for the great work that they do for the church, vocations, witness for life, and promotion of the family. Fr. Adam provided a reflection on St. Joseph and how he carried out his mission of raising, guarding, and preparing Christ quietly, courageously, and faithfully.

Edward Ponder, Vice Supreme Master, Hennepin Provenance of the Fourth Degree, led the Pledge of Allegiance which concluded with the Ohio Knights of Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Posting of the Colors.

**Roll Call**

State Warden Christopher Sarka took the Roll Call of the State Officers and high-ranking Officials:

State Chaplain	Rev. Fr. Adam Hertzfeld	Present
State Deputy	Mark Siracusa	Present
State Secretary	Jeffrey Kiliany	Present
State Treasurer	Michael Felerski	Present
State Advocate	James Maslach	Present
State Warden	Christopher Sarka	Present
IPSD	Robert Byers	Present
Supreme Director	Michael Benson	Present
Vice Supreme Master	Edward Ponder	Present

The Opening Ode was led by the State Warden and sung by all.

## Report of the Credentials Committee & Roll Call

State Deputy Mark Siracusa was provided with a report of the Credentials Committee by State Secretary Jeff Kiliany and a roll call of delegates. The report listed those in delegates in attendance at the convention:

7	State Officers
248	Council Delegates
<b>255</b>	<b>Total Voting Delegates</b>
8	Past State Deputies
35	District Deputies
43	Non-Voting Floor Privileges

Without objection the roll of delegates submitted by the Credentials Committee will be the official roll of voting members of the convention.

State Deputy Mark Siracusa invited the State Legal Consultant and Parliamentarian, Richard Meyer to provide an overview of the Rules of the Convention including the rule for obtaining a quorum. The state convention will be conducted honoring these rules. A motion was made that the Rules of the Convention be accepted. There was a proper seconded. Motion approved.

State Advocate and Chair of the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee moved that the convention standing rules and the Order of Business be adopted. There was a proper seconded. Motion approved.

State Deputy Mark Siracusa declared that the 123rd State Convention was formally in session and a video by our Supreme Council of Worthy Supreme Patrick E. Kelly was presented and played for all to view at the business meeting.

## Welcoming Remarks

Supreme Representative Michael Benson provided opening remarks. As a native of Ohio (Dayton area), Mr. Benson gave his gratitude for all the hard work and achievements Ohio has shown. Special mention that 5 Past State Deputies of other jurisdictions are also originally from Ohio. Ohio should be proud of providing many great leaders in the order.

State Deputy Mark Siracusa introduced all Past State Deputies and Former State Chaplains in attendance.

## Appointment of Committees

State Deputy Mark Siracusa officially appoints all committees as published in the 123<sup>rd</sup> Convention Program book.

## Report of the State Officers

State Deputy Mark Siracusa entertained a motion that in lieu of reading all the reports of the State Officers--that these reports were to be accepted as printed and distributed in the State Convention Report Book. This motion was provided and seconded. No discussion, motion approved.

## Nomination of State Officers & Election of State Officers

State Deputy, Mark Siracusa – Nomination and motion conducted by Christopher Bercaw, Past Grand Knight of Council 2584. Seconded by Duane Bassett, Past Grand Knight of Council 10043. After a call for further nominations, and none further were presented, the chair entertained a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mark Siracusa as State Deputy. Motion by Council 310, seconded by Council 2155. Motion approved.

State Secretary, Jeffrey Kiliany – Nomination and motion conducted by Patrick Kiliany, Past Grand Knight of Council 1569. Seconded by Giacomo Di Donato Grand Knight of Council 507. After a call for further nominations, and none further were presented, the chair entertained a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jeffrey Kiliany as State Secretary. Motion by Council 14769, seconded by Council 341. Motion approved.

State Treasurer, Michael Felerski – Nomination and motion conducted by Edward Ponder, Vice Supreme Master and Past Grand Knight of Council 10125. Seconded by Andrew Nuckols, Past Grand Knight of Council 3891. After a call for further nominations, and none further were presented, the chair entertained a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Michael Felerski as State Treasurer. Motion by Council 14665, seconded by Council 2374. Motion approved.

State Advocate, James Maslach – Nomination and motion conducted by William Howe, Former Master Ohio District 1 and Past Grand Knight of Council 360. Seconded by Linton Higgins, Grand Knight of Council 4498. After a call for further nominations, and none further were presented, the chair entertained a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for James Maslach as State Advocate. Motion by Council 4893, seconded by Council 1750. Motion approved.

State Warden, Christopher Sarka – Nomination and motion conducted by Stanley Pederson, Past Grand Knight of Council 10941. Seconded by Dale Galion, Past grand Knight of Council 5776. After a call for further nominations, and none further were presented, the chair entertained a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Christopher Sarka as State Warden. Motion by Council 10863, seconded by Council 3727. Motion approved.

## Report of Committees

### Audit Committee:

State Secretary Jeffrey Kiliany asked the members who were present and served on the Audit Committee to stand and be recognized for their work. State Secretary Jeffrey Kiliany gave the audit report. He moved that the report of the Audit Committee be accepted as part of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ohio State Convention minutes. Motion by Council 1750, seconded by Council 1405. Motion approved.

### Resolutions & Bylaws:

State Advocate James Maslach asked the members who were present and served on the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee to stand and be recognized for their work. State Advocate James Maslach gave the official report in which the committee moves to adopt all resolutions as presented. Each resolution was gone through and those present were read in their entirety. He moved that the report of the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee be accepted as part of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertainment the motion. Motion by Council 4498, seconded by Council 2158. Motion approved.

### Assistant Wardens:

State Warden Christopher Sarka recognized all Assistant Wardens located at each door to the meeting room and thanked them for their work. State Warden Christopher Sarka gave the official wardens report. He moved that the report of the Assistant Wardens be accepted as part of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertainment the motion. Motion by Council 13260, seconded by Council 3777. Motion approved.

### Credentials:

State Secretary Jeff Kiliany presented the Credentials report and recommended that it be accepted as part of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertainment the motion. Motion by Council 626, seconded by Council 14457. Motion approved.

### Elections / Tellers:

State Advocate James Maslach recognized all who help serve on the committee. State Advocate James Maslach completed his full report. He moved that the report of the Elections and Tellers be accepted as part of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertainment the motion. Motion by Council 3777, seconded by Council 11450. Motion approved.

### Good of the Order:

Immediate Past State Deputy Robert Byers recognized those who served on the committee. Noted euchre tournament conflicting with Friday Night Party. In addition, they recommended State Council invest in their sound system. Noted it would be nice if hotels of conventions can have priority lane passes for convention check-in. He moved that the report of the Good of the Order be accepted as part of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertainment the motion. Motion by Council 11216, seconded by Council 5023. Motion approved.

## Annual Meeting Minutes:

State Treasurer Michael Felerski noted the official review of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Ohio State Convention meeting minutes. During the review, the committee recommends that the name of the elected State Warden, Christopher Sarka, be added to the elections section of the meeting minutes. He moved that the report of the Meeting Minutes be accepted as part of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertained the motion. Motion by Council 11208, seconded by Council 10941. Motion approved.

## Election of Supreme Delegates & Alternates to the Supreme Convention

State Deputy Mark Siracusa and the Immediate Past State Deputy Robert Byers are automatic delegates for the Ohio State Council.

State Warden Chris Sarka nominated State Treasurer Jeffrey Kiliany as the alternate for the State Deputy and State Advocate Michael Felerski as the alternate for the Immediate Past State Deputy. There were no nominations from the floor or objections. The nominations have been accepted. Seconded by Council 2790. Motion approved.

Ohio can elect eight (8) more Third-Degree members to represent Ohio at the Supreme Convention of which four (4) insurance members and four (4) associate members. The area caucus meetings were held prior to the state convention. State Advocate James Maslach nominated the following from the eight (8) area caucuses:

Area 1 Chair: Tim Bohls Jr  
Area 2 Chair: Mike Incorvati  
Area 3 Chair: Brett Hazen / Teran Taggart  
Area 4 Chair: Mark Kahanca / Chris Dodon  
Area 5 Chair: Tim Mangan  
Area 6 Chair: Gerard Eckstein  
Area 7 Chair: Mike Nau / Tom Offenberger  
Area 8 Chair: Andrew Nuckols

The nominations include the following Brother Knights as Delegates and Alternates to the 140<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention:

Caucus #	Delegate	Council #	Alternate	Council #
1	Edward G. Mendez	10043	Sephen F. Majer	11450
2	Edward Verkin Jr.	1750	M. Stewart Vetter	752
3	Brandon Robinson	15023	Kelly Statham	2726
4	John Timko	7491	Michael Michetti	13260
5	Michael Freil	14504	Danny G. Sprouse	14504
6	Orval Blake Jr.	11216	Joseph Moore	10863
7	James E. Colegrove	1405	Thomas Payar Manley	4804
8	James J. Marks	10272	William F. Johansen	11355

Motion for these nominations was seconded and motion was approved.

## Unfinished Business

Mileage and Per Diem Report from previous state conventions. The report of unfinished business is available on the state website in its entirety.

At the 101st Annual State Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus, four Councils (733, 2726, 3269 & 4847) submitted to a resolution on "Mileage and Per Diem" rates. This Resolution(s) mandates the State Council to study the current cost and recommend to the 102nd Annual State Convention Delegation, appropriate adjustments to bring Ohio State Council's Mileage and Per Diem to within = or – 10% of the Federal Government Rates. The Delegates amended these resolutions to require the Committee to also recommend an appropriate revenue/Per Capita increase to cover all additional costs. The Delegates at the 101st Annual Convention approved this amended Resolution(s).

State Deputy Albert F. Hickey III established a "Mileage and Per Diem Committee" comprised of the State Secretary and the State Treasurer. They were charged with collecting costs and making recommendations based on their findings. The study at the time of review by the State Officers covers actual cost from May 1 thru March 31, 2001. (Our Fiscal Year runs from May 1 thru April 30). April's Mileage and Per Diem costs are small and should not have a big impact on the study numbers. Final cost numbers were presented at the convention.

At the 122nd (2021) State Convention in Cincinnati and held virtually, the state officers are making no recommendation for an increase in per capita. Following that, the state officers recommended to increase the Mileage Rate from \$0.45 to \$0.55 and to increase the Per Diem from \$45 to \$55 beginning July 1, 2021. This recommendation and by-law change were overwhelmingly approved by the delegates to that convention.

At the 123rd (2022) State Convention in Sandusky, the state officers are making no recommendation for an increase in per capita.

The chair entertained a motion to accept the recommendation as read. Motion by Council 12155, seconded by Council 3869. Motion approved.

## New Business

No new business was presented before the delegation.

## Conclusion

Each State Officer provided closing remarks to the delegation present. Commending brother knights for their hard work and dedication in Faith in Action programs, membership growth, and support of our respective dioceses in the State of Ohio.

Discharge of delegation conducted by the Assistant Wardens. Cards received and to will be reviewed by State Secretary.

Closing Ode conducted by State Warden, Christopher Sarka.

Closing Prayer conducted by our State Chaplain, Fr. Adam Hertzfeld.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Sarka, State Warden

*Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus*

*Note: An official recorded transcript of the convention is available. The Annual Minutes Committee will review this report of the 123<sup>rd</sup> State Convention at the 124<sup>th</sup> Ohio State Council convention at Hilton Columbus Downtown, Columbus Ohio.*