

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
124th OHIO STATE CONVENTION
Hilton Downtown Columbus - Columbus, Ohio
May 19-21, 2023

General Session

State Deputy Mark Siracusa opened the 124th Ohio State Convention at 1:01 PM on Saturday, May 20, 2023. State Warden Christopher Sarka reported that those in attendance were duly qualified Third-Degree members for this business session.

State Chaplain, Reverend Fr. Adam Hertzfeld led the delegation in opening prayer.

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

Roll Call

State Warden Christopher Sarka took the Roll Call of the State Officers:

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

Noted Guests in Attendance:

Supreme Treasurer	Ronald Schwarz
Vice Supreme Master	Edward Ponder

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 delegates in attendance at the convention:

7	State Officers
261	Council Delegates
268	Total Voting Delegates
8	<i>Past State Deputies</i>
47	<i>District Deputies</i>
55	<i>Non-Voting Floor Privileges</i>

State Secretary Jeff Kiliany reviewed the current council status as the following:

- 426 Total Councils
- 56 Inactive Council
- 21 Delinquent Councils
- **349** Total Councils in Good Standing

State Secretary Jeff Kiliany confirmed a quorum shall be no less than the equivalent of all the councils in the State of Ohio, less the inactive councils, and less councils who are delinquent in state per capita. The number of councils in good standing shall be divided by three revealing the number of delegates required for the quorum. Confirming 268 total voting delegates, it was verified that a quorum was present for the proceedings of the 124th Ohio State Convention.

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. 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 second. Motion was approved.

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

State Deputy Mark Siracusa declared that the 124th State Convention was formally in session. A video from our Worthy Supreme Knight, Patrick E. Kelly, was presented for all to view.

Welcoming Remarks

Supreme Treasurer Ronald Schwarz provided opening remarks. He noted to all in attendance that he was honored to be once again in Ohio with all brother knights, families and guests in attendance. Our Supreme Treasurer noted our Orders continued progress in support of programs such as A.S.A.P. (Aid and Support After Pregnancy), supporting our Seminarians, Cor, our continued aid and support for Ukraine and our continued success on growth with assistance of the Affiliate Initiative. A challenge was presented to Ohio to obtain Circle of Honor with membership growth as it is critical for the success of our Order. In his closing remarks, he asked those in attendance to remember the “why”. Why we do what we do, how we can help the church, others and ourselves in how we can be the best we can be.

State Deputy Mark Siracusa offered his gratitude to those in attendance as for the first time during a convention, we took a collection for the ASAP program. Total collected that day was \$2,523.32.

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

Appointment of Committees

State Deputy Mark Siracusa officially appointed all committees as published in the 124th Convention Program Book.

Report of State Officers

State Deputy Mark Siracusa proceeded to read his official report on the condition of the Order in the State of Ohio. In conclusion offered sincere thanks to his predecessors, fellow state officers and the entire state team. A motion was made to accept the report of the State Deputy as presented. This motion was seconded. No discussion, motion was approved.

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

Nomination of State Officers & Election of State Officers

State Deputy, Jeffrey Kiliany – Nomination and motion conducted by Patrick Kiliany, Past Grand Knight of Council 1569. Seconded by Past State Deputy Gary Eckstein and member of Council 2898. Further second was offered by Past State Deputy Robert Collins Jr. and member of Council 15065. Additional support of seconds for nomination of Jeffrey Kiliany for State Deputy by councils 2565, 9804, 10792, 14665, and 5286. 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 Deputy. A motion was presented and seconded. Motion approved.

State Secretary, Michael Felerski – Nomination and motion conducted by Jason Staas, General Agent and member of Council 3730. Seconded by Dan Warnock, Past Grand Knight of Council 11550. Additional support of seconds for nomination of Michael Felerski for State Secretary by councils 14665, 3724, 1195, 1750, and 9804. 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. A motion was presented and seconded. Motion approved.

State Treasurer, James Maslach – Nomination and motion conducted by George Metz, Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator for Cleveland Diocese and member of Council 310. Seconded by Michael Incorvati, Diocesan Membership Chairman and member of Council 10936. Additional support of seconds for nomination of James Maslach for State Treasurer by councils 2565, 5598, 3864, 3777 and 14769. 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. A motion was presented and seconded. Motion approved.

State Advocate, Christopher Sarka – Nomination and motion conducted by Michael Sarka, Past Grand Knight of Council 5996. Seconded by Peter Golato, Past Grand Knight of Council 10941. Additional support of seconds for nomination of Christopher Sarka for State Advocate by councils 3864, 310, 3529, 1776 and 13705. 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. A motion was presented and seconded. 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 from the meeting that was conducted via Zoom online meeting Wednesday May 17, 2023, 7:05pm. Noted that the full audit from Blue and Company would be presented online the following week due to an error in printing for the convention material. He moved that the report of the Audit Committee be accepted as part of the 124th Ohio State Convention minutes. Motion was seconded and 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 124th Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertainment the motion to approve resolutions and bylaws committee report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Annual Meeting Minutes:

State Treasurer Michael Felerski noted the official review of the 123rd Ohio State Convention meeting minutes. During the review, the committee recommended page numbers be added. He moved that the report of the Meeting Minutes be accepted as part of the 124th Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertainment the motion to approve the annual meeting minutes of the 124th Ohio State Convention. Motion was seconded and approved.

Credentials:

State Secretary Jeff Kiliany presented the Credentials report and recommended that it be accepted as part of the 124th Ohio State Convention minutes. Chair entertainment the motion. Motion was seconded and approved.

Elections / Tellers:

State Advocate James Maslach recognized all who help serve on the committee. State Advocate James Maslach completed his full report. There were 9 of the 12 committee members present during the meeting which was held on Saturday May 20, 2023. The committee reviewed the procedure for the collection and counting of ballots. The meeting concluded in prayer. Chair entertained the motion that the report of the Elections and Tellers be accepted as part of the 124th Ohio State Convention minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

**Note: Meeting concluded at 3:42pm and scheduled to reconvene Sunday May 21st at 10:15am.*

General Session

Deputy Mark Siracusa re-opened the 124th Ohio State Convention at 10:15am on Sunday the 21st of May 2023. State Warden Christopher Sarka reported that those in attendance were duly qualified Third-Degree members for this business session.

State Faith Director Tony Offenberger led the delegation in opening prayer.

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

Roll Call

State Warden Christopher Sarka took the Roll Call of the State Officers:

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

Noted Guests in Attendance:

Supreme Treasurer	Ronald Schwarz
Vice Supreme Master	Edward Ponder

Election of Supreme Delegates & Alternates to the Supreme Convention

State Deputy Mark Siracusa noted that by virtue of his office, the State Deputy is a delegate to the Supreme Convention in addition to the Immediate Past State Deputy. Therefore, State Deputy-elect Jeffrey Kiliany and the Immediate Past State Deputy Mark Siracusa are automatic delegates for the Ohio State Council.

State Warden Chris Sarka made a motion to nominate State Secretary-elect Michael Felerski as the alternate for the State Deputy-elect and State Treasurer-elect James Maslach as the alternate for the Immediate Past State Deputy. There were no nominations from the floor or objections. The nominations were seconded and 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 at 4:15pm on Saturday May 20, 2023 at the Greater Columbus Hilton during the 124th Ohio State Convention.

Caucus Area Chairman:

- Area 1 Chair: Jim Collins
- Area 2 Chair: Tim Bohls Jr
- Area 3 Chair: Robert Walsh & George Metz
- Area 4 Chair: Mark Kahanca
- Area 5 Chair: Tim Mangan
- Area 6 Chair: Dave Bogner
- 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 141st Supreme Convention:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council #</u>	<u>Member Type</u>	<u>Caucus Area</u>	<u>Del or Alt</u>
Daniel K. Roggelin	14344	Insurance	1	Delegate
Gregg Davis	11370	Insurance	2	Delegate
Dennis Jacobs	14111	Insurance	3	Delegate
Raymond Zornjak	3813	Insurance	4	Delegate
Daniel Niese	4378	Associate	5	Delegate
Von D. Downing	10876	Associate	6	Delegate
Daniel A. Hitchcock	15401	Associate	7	Delegate
Robert Richter	968	Associate	8	Delegate
Chris Bercaw	2584	Insurance	1	Alternate
Stephen Majer	11450	Insurance	2	Alternate
Thomas Goodhart	3410	Insurance	3	Alternate
John Mashiska	3930	Insurance	4	Alternate
Nicholas R. Kiel	1592	Associate	5	Alternate
Patrick Gins	1016	Associate	6	Alternate
Shawn E. Zarych	4361	Associate	7	Alternate
Rev. Ron Williams	2374	Associate	8	Alternate

A motion to accept these nominations was presented, seconded and the motion was approved.

Report of Committees (cont.)

Good of the Order:

Immediate Past State Deputy Robert Byers recognized those who served on the committee. Comments from the committee were to ask if the State Council can review convention costs to help aid smaller councils to attend. The committee asked if more food could be supplied during the Friday Night Party. Ask was for coffee to be served after Mass. A more detailed map for parking at the Hotel. Fantastic job with the Liturgies. The great work with choosing the hotel and their staff has been wonderful to work with. He moved that the report of the Good of the Order be accepted as part of the 124th Ohio State Convention minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

Assistant Wardens:

State Warden Christopher Sarka noted the assistant Wardens committee met at 11:33AM in the Kojo Kamau ballroom at the Hilton Downtown Columbus on Saturday May 20th, 2023. In attendance was the State Warden and 11 of the 12 committee members as assigned to serve on the committee. There was an overview of the responsibilities of assistant wardens and other duties as assigned regarding the General Business Session at the 124th Ohio State Convention. In addition, an outline of the rules regarding admission for membership in the 3rd Degree was examined. Meeting adjourned at 11:55PM. The State Warden recognized those who have served on this committee and thanked them for their assistance. He moved that the report of the Assistant Wardens be accepted as part of the 124th Ohio State Convention minutes. Motion was seconded and 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 124th (2023) 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 was seconded and approved.

New Business

1. By-Law Amendment

- a. State Advocate James Maslach conducted a review of the proposed by-law amendment change submitted by Father James O. Byrne Council 1592 of St. Mary's Ohio.
- b. The proposed changes state that the State Deputy shall make "both a written and oral report" on the condition of the Order within the State of Ohio to the State Council at its Annual Meeting.
- c. In addition, the projected budget shall be presented in a format which itemizes accounts in the same detail as the Audited Financial Reports. "Both budget and the Audited Financial Report shall be printed documents and distributed to delegates during the business session on the first day of the Annual Meeting."
- d. Discussions:
 - i. Noted the fiscal year of operation, as printed, was a typographical error. Correction should be "April 1 – March 31".
 - ii. All by-law changes are submitted to Supreme for final approval. The final adoption will not be made until the Supreme Board of Directors gives their approval.
- e. The proposed by-law change was seconded, and motion was approved.

2. Election of State Warden

- a. State Warden, Anthony Offenberger – Nomination and motion conducted by Stewart Vetter, State –Membership Coordinator from Council 752. Seconded by Thomas Dyar, Past Grand Knight of Council 4617. Additional support of seconds for nomination of Anthony Offenberger for State Warden by councils 1716, 10941, 1234, 1494 and 10876. 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 Anthony Offenberger as State Warden. A motion was presented and seconded. Motion approved.

Conclusion

State Evangelization and Faith Formation Director, Arron Mier, presented information and additional video support on Cor from Supreme.

Awards were presented to the winners of the Euchre Tournament and Annual Monsignor Krispinsky Golf Tournament.

Past State Deputy, Robert Collins Jr., provided a report on the Ohio Charity Foundation Scholarship Program and how the investments with example of the Christopher Funds provides scholarships for our high school youth. In addition, if councils wish to help present funds to help support this program, please see Robert Collins Jr.

State Deputy-elect Jeffrey Kiliany concluded with closing comments on his upcoming term as State Deputy. He offered his appreciation and support.

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.

Prayers were offered for brother knights sick or in distress and noted as part of the Good of the Order.

Discharge of delegation conducted by the Assistant Wardens. The collection of delegate cards was completed and deposited with the 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 124th State Convention at the 125th Ohio State Council convention at Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Covington, Kentucky.