

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 126th
OHIO STATE CONVENTION
Downtown Cleveland Hilton-Cleveland, Ohio
May 23-25, 2025**

General Session

State Deputy Jeff Kiliany opened the 126th Ohio State Convention at 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 24, 2025. State Warden Anthony Offenberger reported that those in attendance were duly qualified Third-Degree members for this business session.

State Chaplain, Reverend Fr. James Lang led the delegation in opening prayer.

Baci Carpico, Former Vice Supreme Master, Hennepin Province of the Fourth Degree, and Past State Deputy led the Pledge of Allegiance which concluded with the Ohio Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Posting of the Colors.

Roll Call

State Warden Anthony Offenberger took the Roll Call of the State Officers:

State Chaplain	Rev. Fr. James Lang	Present
State Deputy	Jeffrey Kiliany	Present
State Secretary	Michael Felerski	Present
State Treasurer	James Maslach	Present
State Advocate	Christopher Sarka	Present
State Warden	Anthony Offenberger	Present
Immediate Past State Deputy	Mark Siracusa	Present

Noted Guests in Attendance

Supreme Director	John Appelbaum	Present

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

Report of the Credentials Committee & Roll Call

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

7	State Officers
257	Council Delegates
<u>264</u>	Total Voting Delegates
8	<i>Past State Deputies</i>
47	<i>District Deputies</i>
55	<i>Non-Voting Floor Privileges</i>

State Secretary Michael Felerski reviewed the current council status as the following:

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

State Advocate, Christopher Sarka 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 264 total voting delegates, it was verified that a quorum was present for the proceedings of the 126th 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 Jeff Kiliany invited the State Advocate, Christopher Sarka 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. That motion was seconded. Motion was approved.

State Deputy Jeff Kiliany declared that the 126th 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 Director John Appelbaum provided opening remarks. He noted to all in attendance that he was honored to be in Ohio with all brother knights, families, and guests in attendance. Our Supreme Director, John Appelbaum, noted our Order's continued progress in support of programs such as Supporting our Seminarians and COR programs. He acknowledged how close that Ohio is to obtaining Circle of Honor with membership growth. He is asking the Knights not to stop at your membership goals but continue to invite men into our Order. In his closing

remarks, he asked those in attendance to help Catholic Men to become better men to not only serve the church but society.

State Deputy Jeff Kiliany introduced all Past State Deputies and Former State Chaplains in attendance.

Appointment of Committees

State Deputy Jeff Kiliany officially appointed all committees as published in the 126th Convention Program Book.

Report of State Officers

State Deputy Jeff Kiliany proceeded to read his official report on the condition of the Order in the State of Ohio. In conclusion he 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. There was no discussion, motion was approved.

State Deputy Jeff Kiliany 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 126th State Convention Report Book. This motion was seconded. There was no discussion, motion was approved.

Nomination of State Officers & Election of State Officers

State Deputy, Michael Felerski – Nomination and motion conducted by David Helmstetter, Past Grand State Deputy from council 1529. Seconded by Past State Deputy Robert Byers and member of Council 4617, and another second by Tristan Felerski, member from council 8115. Additional support of seconds for nomination of Michael Felerski for State Deputy by councils 472, 2927, 478, and 4324. After a call for further nominations and none further were presented, the chair entertained a motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Michael Felerski as State Deputy. A motion was presented and seconded. Motion approved.

State Secretary, James Maslach – Nomination and motion conducted by Matthew Smith, District Deputy and Diocesan Rejuvenation Coordinator from council 2238. Seconded by Robert Walsh, District Deputy and Diocesan Rejuvenation Coordinator from council 2643. Additional support of seconds for nomination of James Maslach for State Secretary by councils 2643, 4847, and 310. 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 Secretary. A motion was presented and seconded. Motion approved.

State Treasurer, Christopher Sarka – Nomination and motion conducted by David Bogner, Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator from council 4324. Seconded by Christopher Crum, member of council 10941. Additional support of seconds for nomination of Christopher Sarka

for State Treasurer by councils 11208, 2890, and 14344. 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 Treasurer. A motion was presented and seconded. Motion approved.

State Advocate, Anthony Offenberger– Nomination and motion conducted by Baci Carpico, Past State Deputy from council 4361. Seconded by James Colegrove, Financial Secretary from council 1405. Additional support of seconds for nomination of Anthony Offenberger for State Advocate by councils 478, 2890, and 15569. 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 Advocate. A motion was presented and seconded. Motion approved.

State Warden- The election of the State Warden will take place Sunday morning after the re-opening of the business session.

Report of Committees

Audit Committee:

State Secretary Michael Felerski asked the members who were present and served on the Audit Committee to stand and be recognized for their work. State Secretary Michael Felerski gave the audit report from the meeting that was conducted via Zoom online meeting Tuesday May 20, 2025, at 8:00 P.M. 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 126th Ohio State Convention minutes. The chair entertained the motion to approve the Audit committee report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Resolutions & Bylaws:

State Advocate Christopher Sarka asked the members who were present and served on the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee that took place on Thursday May 15, 2025, at 8:00 P.M. via Zoom to stand and be recognized for their work. State Advocate Christopher Sarka 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 126th Ohio State Convention minutes. The chair entertained the motion to approve resolutions and bylaws committee report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Annual Meeting Minutes:

State Warden Anthony Offenberger noted the official review of the 125th Ohio State Convention meeting minutes. During the review, the committee found some spelling mistakes which were noted and corrected. He moved that the report of the Meeting Minutes be accepted as part of the 126th Ohio State Convention minutes. The chair entertained the motion to approve the annual meeting minutes of the 125th Ohio State Convention. Motion was seconded and approved.

Good of the Order:

Immediate Past State Deputy Mark Siracusa recognized those who served on the committee. Comments from the committee were to have more snacks at the Friday night party and to have some sort of entertainment also. It was great work 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 126th Ohio State Convention minutes. The chair entertained the motion to approve the Good of the Order report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Assistant Wardens:

State Warden Anthony Offenberger noted the Assistant Wardens committee met at 11:33AM on Saturday May 24th, 2025. In attendance were 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 126th Ohio State Convention. In addition, an outline of the rules regarding admission for membership in the 3rd Degree was examined. Meeting adjourned at 11:55AM. 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 126th Ohio State Convention minutes. The chair entertained the motion to approve the Assistant Wardens report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

The discharge of delegation was conducted by the Assistant Wardens. The collection of delegate cards was completed and deposited with the State Secretary.

**Note: Meeting concluded at 4:40 PM and scheduled to reconvene Sunday, May 25th at 10:05AM.*

General Session

State Deputy Jeff Kilianny re-opened the 126th Ohio State Convention at 10:15am on Sunday the 25th of May 2025. State Warden Anthony Offenberger reported that those in attendance were duly qualified Third-Degree members for this business session.

State Chaplain Rev. Fr. James Lang led the delegation in opening prayer.

Baci Carpico, Former Vice Supreme Master, Hennepin Province of the Fourth Degree, and Past State Deputy led the Pledge of Allegiance which concluded with the Ohio Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Posting of the Colors.

Roll Call

State Warden Anthony Offenberger took the Roll Call of the State Officers:

State Chaplain	Rev. Fr. James Lang	Present
State Deputy	Jeffrey Kiliany	Present
State Secretary	Michael Felerski	Present
State Treasurer	James Maslach	Present
State Advocate	Christopher Sarka	Present
State Warden	Anthony Offenberger	Present
Immediate Past State Deputy	Mark Siracusa	Present

Noted Guests in Attendance

Supreme Director	John Appelbaum	Present

Credentials:

State Secretary Michael Felerski presented the Credentials report and recommended that it be accepted as part of the 126th Ohio State Convention minutes. The chair entertained the motion. Motion was seconded and approved.

Election of Supreme Delegates & Alternates to the Supreme Convention

State Deputy Jeff Kiliany 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 Michael Felerski and the Immediate Past State Deputy Jeffery Kiliany are automatic delegates for the Ohio State Council.

State Advocate elect Anthony Offenberger made a motion to nominate State Secretary-elect James Maslach as the alternate for the State Deputy-elect and State Treasurer-elect Christopher Sarka 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 5:00 pm on Saturday May 24, 2025, at the Downtown Cleveland Hilton during the 126th Ohio State Convention.

Caucus Area Chairman

- Area 1 Chair: Daniel Roggelin
- Area 2 Chair: Robert Boyer
- Area 3 Chair: Robert Walsh and Dewitt Gober
- Area 4 Chair: Mark Kahanca and Chris Dodson
- Area 5 Chair: Tim Mangan
- Area 6 Chair: Dave Bogner
- Area 7 Chair: David Schramm
- Area 8 Chair: Andrew Nuckols

The nominations include the following Brother Knights as Delegates and Alternates to the 143rd Supreme Convention:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Member Type</u>	<u>Caucus Area</u>	<u>Del or Alt</u>
Michael Hasting	17654	Associate	1	Delegate
George Kellerbauer	11450	Associate	2	Delegate
David L. Bowling Jr.	2726	Insurance	3	Delegate
Paul E. Haig	554	Insurance	4	Delegate
Michael Vondenhuevel	2158	Insurance	5	Delegate
Keith Rubadue	14457	Associate	6	Delegate
Brett Martz	1716	Associate	7	Delegate
Ed Ehrhardt	16706	Associate	8	Delegate
Eric Loprete	14344	Insurance	1	Alternate
Michael Fragle	711	Associate	2	Alternate
Frank James Hlad	310	Insurance	3	Alternate
Charles C. Dodson	15458	Insurance	4	Alternate
Jeremy Begines	3730	Associate	5	Alternate
Lawrence Cihon	1973	Insurance	6	Alternate
Shawn Zarych	4361	Insurance	7	Alternate
Thomas Marvel	12359	Insurance	8	Alternate

A motion to accept these nominations was presented, seconded and the 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 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 have 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 costs 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 126th (2025) State Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, 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

Election of the New State Warden:

M. Stewart Vetter-Nominated by Robert Byers, Past State Deputy from council 4617. Seconded by Robert Collins Jr., Past State Deputy from council 15056. Additional support of seconds for the nomination of M. Stewart Vetter for State Warden by councils 11445, 478, 2280, and 3777.

Greg Singlar-Nominated by Sean Weirich, State AV Coordinator from council 15905. Seconded by Dr. Eric Yang, Diocesan Growth Coordinator from council 11216. Additional support of seconds for the nomination of Greg Singlar for State Warden by councils 14502, 3864, 14504, and 5227.

There were no other nominations, so there was a motion and second to close nominations. Motion passed.

Report of Committees (cont.)

Elections / Tellers:

State Treasurer James Maslach recognized all who helped serve on the committee. State Treasurer James Maslach completed his full report. There were 10 of the 12 committee members present during the meeting, which was held on Saturday May 24, 2025, at 11:30 A.M. The committee reviewed the procedure for the collection and counting of ballots. The meeting

concluded at 11:45 A.M. with prayer. The committee reassembled on Sunday May 25, 2025, to count the ballots for the election of State Warden between M. Stewart Vetter and Greg Singlar. M. Stewart Vetter was declared the winner. He moved that the report of the Elections/Tellers Committee be accepted as part of the 126th Ohio State Convention minutes. The chair entertained the motion to approve the Election/Tellers report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Conclusion

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

State Deputy Jeffrey Kiliany concluded with closing comments as his term as State Deputy is ending. 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.

The discharge of delegation was conducted by the Assistant Wardens. The collection of delegate cards was completed and deposited with the State Secretary.

Closing Prayer conducted by our State Chaplain, Fr. James Lang.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and a proper second. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Offenberger, 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 126th State Convention at the 127th Ohio State Council convention.

