



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Medina Knights of Columbus #4168

November 11, 2025

Grand Knight: Rick Dudas - present

Deputy Grand Knight: Kevin Lynch - present

Financial Secretary: Steve Durbin - present

Chancellor: Dan Cathcart - excused

Recorder: Jon Cwalina - present

Treasurer: Mark Shee - present

Warden: Barry Norris - present

Advocate: Matt Lower - absent

Inside Guard: Dave Swancer - present

Outside Guard: Michael Conley - present

1 Year Trustee: Andy Swancer - absent

2 Year Trustee: Tom Maren - excused

3 Year Trustee: Brian Coughlin - excused

Spiritual Director: Bob Cavanaugh - present

Lecturer: Brian Lombardi - excused

Call to order:

1. Knights in attendance: Jon Cwalina, Barry Norris, Tim Leahy, Jim Prebis, Dave Swancer, Gregg Finkler, Vincent Arndt, Marty Tusim, Deacon Bob Cavanaugh, Ed Bugner, Mike Conley, Kevin Blinkhorn, Steve Durbin, Mark Shee, Kevin Lynch, Tom Schmidt, Justin Bryant, Brian Cerio, and Rick Dudas.
2. Meeting officially began at 7:04 p.m. All in attendance recited The Lord's Prayer (Our Father) and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. A motion to approve last month's Meeting Minutes by Marty Tusim, Second by Mark Shee. Motion Approved.

Chaplain's Message (from Deacon Bob Cavanaugh): Why are our wives fascinated with Hallmark movies? They're always movies with a happy ending, predictable, and are unlike our lives. Sometimes, our lives are complete and utter chaos. Jesus Christ our Lord was born in a barn in Bethlehem and very poor. As we get ready for the Christmas, we need to be spiritually present in this Advent season. As Knights, we can be the Christ in our families. Thank you Deacon Bob.

Grand Knight's Report:

1. Sale of the former Hoffman Hall 131 N. East St. - As everyone knows, the building closed in August. We received a net amount of \$113,690.49 as a result of the sale. Right now, we have about \$120,110.25 (as of September 30, 2025) sitting in a Money Market fund. After the sale was completed, I contacted the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Community Foundation. Frankly, I did not receive enough solid / concrete information from Christopher Winston - our K of C Insurance Agent. In August, I contacted Patrick Grace (Executive Director) from the CCF (Catholic Community Foundation - Diocese of Cleveland) and received a message back, but no followup. I found out later that Dan Cathcart, Kevin Blinkhorn, and Tom Schmidt (or some combination of these Brother Knights) contacted Mary Lou Ozimek (Assistant Executive Director) of the CCF in August or September - no followup here either. I contacted Mary Lou last week and she called me the very next day. We had a nice conversation and she has referred me to Moira Wopershall, who will be our contact. I will find out about the mix of the investment and get that money to start earning dividends for the future of the Medina Knights Charities (this will be under the banner of the Medina Knights 501C3 and in a separate account (different than the Tony Imburgia Scholarship fund)). Do we have any problem moving this money to the Medina Knights? Do we need to dissolve Herman Dorey? In regards to Herman Dorey, we are in process of filing the taxes for 2025. As a part of this discussion, we found out our tax year ended 06/30/2025, which was right before the sale was completed. Before this money can be invested, we need to get answers to all of our questions like moving Herman Dorey 501C8 money to Medina Knights 501C3 for future Charitable Commitments and Contributions. More Information to Come, soon.
2. Clambake - net profit \$607.28. We will need to raise the prices next year. I thanked everyone in last Month's Minutes, but special mention needs to go to Kevin Wright, Dennis Dube, and Steve Mehallo for all they did for the event - as well as ALL OF THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS. Thank you from Knights of Columbus Council 4168.
3. Annual Raffle - This month, we will need to start gearing up for our Annual Raffle. After the printing, we will attempt to sell 1,000 raffle tickets for \$20.00 each while awarding a GRAND PRIZE of \$3,000.00 to the Winner. The Drawing will be held starting on February 9, 2026 based on the Ohio Lottery Pick3 number drawn at 12:25 PM. If no winner is drawn, we will closely watch the 7:25 PM drawing that day. It goes on and on until we have a winner. I

will see if I can get **Gary Chidsey** to donate the cost of printing the tickets. Do we have Sales Tax Exempt Status (as a 501C8 or Medina Knights as a 501C3)? Any discussion? We Do NOT have Sales Tax Exempt Status as a 501C8 Organization, so we will PAY Sales Tax on the ticket printing.

4. Salvation Army Bell Ringers - a few months ago we invited our Brother Knight Larry Aylward and Captain Kevin Knappins of the Salvation Army to talk to us about the Good the Salvation Army provides from its Kettles and Bell Ringer fun raising effort every year. Any discussion? If you want to become a Bell Ringer during the Christmas season, please talk to Larry or contact Captain Kevin Knappins.

5. The Ohio State Council is holding a Matching Funds program to raise funds for Catholic Education. The Ohio State Council will match the first \$25,000.00 donated to this effort. In 2024, the Ohio State Council raised \$71,627.00 for Religious Education and Evangelization Departments in the State's Dioceses. No Discussion

6. Seminarians:

A. Support Our Seminarians - Ohio State Council - First Turn-in is December 15, 2025 - Last Turn-in is March 15, 2026. Should we donate? Last Year, we gave \$0, we earmarked \$300.00 under SOS - Seminarians. Should we donate after December 15, 2025? We will bring up this donation at the December Monthly Meeting.

B. Cameron Galla is no longer a Seminarian.

C. Quinn McNeil is a new Seminarian as well as a 3rd Degree Knight and is a parishioner at Sacred Heart in Wadsworth. He came to our meeting in August and addressed our Membership. Do we want to donate to Quinn

D. Another Sacred Heart parishioner, Gabriel Kasper is also a Seminarian? What should we do?

E. I sent Father Andy Turner a message today. I basically said "if we as a fraternal organization decide to donate to either or both of these young men, how should we handle the donations? We look to you as the Rector / President of Borromeo Seminary to guide us in the best way to donate". I received a message from Father Andy Turner within minutes and he states: "We would welcome your prayerful and financial support of these two men. You are welcome to send us a check made payable to "Borromeo Seminary" with the amount you want to donate, and with the designation of these two seminarians. We will make sure they receive the funds to support their formation. This provides the Knights the ability to make a tax-free gift to a non-profit. I have included Angie Pavlik, my assistant, in this email so she can provide you further details about how to direct your giving. She can also work with you to schedule a time to visit the Seminary, if you would like to do that again."

F. We brought this topic up for discussion with the Membership in Attendance. A motion was made by Tom Schmidt to give \$500.00 to Seminarian Quinn McNeil and Seconded by Kevin Blinkhorn - Motion Passed. Another motion was raised by

Tom Schmidt and Second by Ed Bugner to Give \$500.00 to Seminarian Gabriel Kasper (a St. Sebastian Parishioner). Motion Passed.

7. #WeGiveCatholic is coming up on December 2, 2025. We have slated a donation of \$2,000.00 in the name of St. Francis Xavier. Is someone going to manage this donation? A discussion ensued on this Topic. Deputy Grand Knight Kevin Lynch told everyone this year's #WeGiveCatholic campaign at St. Francis Xavier is to add seat cushions to all the pews. Kevin made a Motion to change the donation in the name of #WeGiveCatholic to \$1,000.00, the motion was Second by Tom Schmidt and this Motion Passed.
8. Charitable Donations for 2025 - What checks need to be written and distributed to what charities? Kevin Lynch / Matt Lower? Deputy Grand Knight Kevin Lynch listed all of the Charities we chose to donate to in April, which were not paid as of this meeting. Kevin was going to meet with Treasurer Mark Shee after the meeting to rectify these outstanding payments.
9. I had a message, today, that Brother Ed Martin could not attend tonight's meeting because of other commitments. I have a brochure for everyone to look at and want to read Brother Ed's message about the Peace Light: I spoke last week about the Peace Light coming to Root Candle Company tomorrow with a public ceremony at 4pm. The Peace Light is a flame that has travelled from the grotto of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, across continents and oceans, carried primarily by Scouts and volunteers in a mission of friendship, peace and light. Root will be hosting the Light through January 6. Individuals are encouraged to take a candle, infuse it with the flame, then take the extinguished peace-infused candle and re-light it upon reaching their destination where it can be kept lit for an evening, a week, or even a year—or better yet--shared with friends, family, community groups, or anywhere open to receiving the message of peace. The Peace Light will also be presented at SFX Sunday the 23rd at the beginning of the Light to the Nations concert (also at 4pm). SFX is also expected to host the Light through Epiphany. Please let our Knights know they are welcome and encouraged to participate in this activity promoting our principles of unity and fraternity (The brochure was passed along to all Knights in Attendance).
10. Are we going to host a Breakfast with Santa this year? I do not think we have anything on the Church Calendar, plus Michael Schuerger has decided not to volunteer his services as Santa Claus (no discussion).
11. Next month's Officer's /Leadership Meeting on the First Thursday of the month will be at the Medina County Library Room 2B - 2nd Floor at 6:30 PM on Thursday December 4, 2025.
12. I have been kind of lackadaisical in the maintenance and updating of the website. I am going to make a strong effort to get the website ready for the raffle. Stay Tuned.
13. We have to stay in contact with Father Tony - the Creche assembly will be taking place a week or 2 after Thanksgiving.

14. The One Year Anniversary of the death of Brother Knight Bob Bilbrey on January 18, 2026. I have already been in contact with Father Tony about reserving some pews for Knights at the Noon Mass to honor Bob.

15. If Mike Conley is present, ask if he could talk about the “Boo Bash”. Mike said in previous years, they had an attendance of 250-300 children. This year about 140 children attended.

16. CORE. Matt Lower - work in progress.

Financial Report:

Treasurer’s Report:

<u>Charity</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Gimme5</u>	<u>Troop 506</u>	<u>Seminarian</u>	<u>Clambake</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
\$20,061.48	\$8,054.36	\$1,459.81	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$607.28.	\$33,182.67

Financial Secretary Report:

Present any bills not previously approved for payment. Motion Raised by Tom Schmidt, Second by Kevin Blinkhorn, All Approved and Motion Passed.

Membership report: (From Brian Lombardi): Regarding the Membership recruitment, I’m still pursuing Jim McLaughlin, Bill Maltato and Jacob McCormick but have yet to confirm their sign ups. Otherwise, we all need to continue to identify names, approach people personally, and be prepared with the links to the signup forms. It has been a bit more difficult than I expected to get men to say yes after I first approach them. The key barriers seem to be twofold: first is that they are already overwhelmed with life’s commitments and reluctant to take on any more. And second, they just don’t know what a wide array of benefits that come with being a Knight. I’d suggest to our fellow Knights, that when they bring up the topic, be ready to assure them that their level of activity is totally voluntary and that they will get more out of the Knights of Columbus than they have to give initially. WGK: Brian has also suggested we add “Swag” to the recruitment process by we have to figure out HOW we can get Keegan Coughlin - Brian and Regina’s Son - to become a Knight of Columbus. Not for him to take on roles, but so he can participate in some of the Knights of Columbus Insurance programs. Someone mentioned something about a CD used for Exemplification purposes at the Leadership Meeting. Any thoughts by a Brother Knight?

Chancellor’s Report (from Dan Cathcart):

- It’s November and we are lifting up in heartfelt prayer all our loved ones and brothers who have gone before us! We especially pray for the soul of Bob Bilbrey who tragically left us in January.....
- Speaking of Bob, the 34th Annual Charity Golf Benefit we founded w/our SFX 1991 Men’s Renewal team raised over \$58,000.00 this past September to benefit Society of St. Vincent dePaul and the St. Francis Xavier Parish, an increase of 61% over last year thanks to the Golf Committee which includes brothers Mike Baumgartner and Matt Getz. The Event was SOLD

OUT with many brothers donating their time, \$\$\$, and prizes! THANK YOU, AMDG (for the Greater Glory of God)!

- At our Leaders Mtg this past Thursday, we worked on details for this year's Super Bowl Monday Raffle, which is the largest fundraiser for our Knight's Charities! As in past years, the Knights who sold 10 Tickets will be invited to celebrate at the Cathcart's for a Feast by Patty, fine wines and bourbons. Also, with every 10 tickets sold earns a chance for a bottle of rare bourbon! Details will be forthcoming very SOON! Are you ready for some Raffle Fun!!! One more Dan suggestion on the Raffle - do we want to use the service "Pay Meta" for a cost of \$100.00 to try and boost the sales of the raffle? Discussion? **A Motion** was raised by Tom Schmidt to Pay an advertisement cost (TO META) to help our Raffle Ticket Sales Campaign. Second by Marty Tusim. Motion Passed (All in Favor).
- Chancellor Dan also had another suggestion for a fund raising event - a Bourbon Raffle. I will see if he can pass along some more detailed information before we send out the meeting minutes (none received).
- Another Record year for the Annual Race for Glory led by PGK Tom Schmidt with special thanks to the team of PGK Kevin Blinkhorn, Brian Coughlin, PGK Mike Conley and myself (Dan Cathcart) on August 23, 2025. Again, many brothers were volunteers and sponsors! Thank you for your effort. With that being said, Brothers Tom Schmidt, Kevin Blinkhorn, and Mike Conley addressed the membership, thanked everyone for their sponsorships and volunteer effort. They commented, they raised 1/2 the donations and Chancellor Dan Cathcart raised the other 50% of the donations to the Race for Glory. Next, these 3 PGKs presented the Knights of Columbus (4168) a check for \$4,000.01.

Lecturer's Report (from Brian Lombardi): Brothers, As the weather turns from beauty of colorful Fall leaves to the starkness of Winter, it's a good time to reflect on the importance of seeing God in this change of seasons and relate it to our lives. We began the month by remembering the Saints in Heaven and the poor souls in Purgatory. If we take this seriously, as we should, it's easy to recognize that no matter our age and physical condition, death is coming. We have a wonderful term for this recognition that we will all face death someday - Memento Mori (literal translation: remember that you must die). Many of us men in the parish that follow Exodus 90, just finished the 9 day Memento Mori challenge where we prayed special prayers for our departed loved ones, and I especially offered prayers for our departed K of C brothers who departed from us this past year. Sometimes we intentionally look away from the face of death because it frightens us, but we are not a Halloween people that celebrates fear, but rather a band of Christians that see the deeper reality that we must die eventually to reach our final reward. Many of us jump directly from Halloween to Thanksgiving because it's easier to focus on the sweetness of our wonderful family gatherings at the end of the month. We think of our family's traditions of food and sweet desserts and smile, and rightfully so. But I'd also like us to recognize that there is a distinct link between remembering the dead and Thanksgiving. That

link quite simply is the Eucharist, which is literally derived from the Greek word-Thanksgiving. At the Last Supper, when Jesus was facing His human death in the face, He instituted the Eucharist as He thanked God the Father for allowing Himself to be sacrificed for our salvation. And He instituted the Eucharist-this true Thanksgiving feast that we Catholics celebrate at every Mass, as an expression of gratitude into our daily spiritual lives. So the challenges for this month are clear. First, we need to not only attend Mass, but be truly thankful for our ability to share in the Eucharist during Holy Communion. Let's say a prayer of thanksgiving before and after we receive the Eucharist. Second, let us demonstrate the giving of thanks to our friends, families and coworkers in the way we live our lives. Let's be especially conscious of the message that we're sending them by our words and actions. As men and leaders, we're always being watched and copied especially by our children and grandchildren. What we say and do on Thanksgiving can change lives for the better or worse. We need to recognize and face that responsibility head on and intentionally be prepared to show them that we are indeed "Thankful" and thus "Eucharistic". And lastly, let us prepare for the Church's New Year that begins at the end of this month as we begin the season of Advent. Prepare for Advent now, by planning your Advent spiritual program. I'm personally doing Bishop Barron's daily Advent readings and reflections. I have extra booklets available if you would like to join me, but there are also many Advent spiritual programs available at the normal sources for Catholic content. Be thankful my brothers, for I am certainly thankful for all of you!

Grand Knights Summary: Get ready to buy and/or sell raffle tickets, which will help fund our Charitable Donations in 2026.

Closing Prayer - Before proceeding to the closing prayer, let me ask: Does any brother know of a member of this council, or a brother of the order or any family members who are sick or in distress?

Read off the list of Sick below _____

Anonymous Donor - HM

Prayers for Our Country

Betty Braskie

Reno Buca

Kim Cathcart

Rob Musial

Brian Cerio Family

Debbie Coons

Courtney Courtney

Amber Doucet

Kasper Family

Ed Martin (continuing Recovery)

Terry Moynihan brother of Mark Moynihan

Ed Greer

Joan Selby

Aiden Bugner

Bernadette Swancer

Jerome Dietrich

Elderly in Nursing Homes (and staff caring for them)

Eric Uturo Jessica Park Daughter in law of Mike Park

Wayne Boggs Nick Wallace

Joseph Richards Mary Maren (Stroke)

Herman Dehring Tony Cathcart (Heart)

Kim Ford friend of Steve Braskie

Lois Cathcart Martha Anderson

Mark and Lindsey Phillips Success of Pope Leo

Jim Sieniawski

Please let us recite the Prayer for the Canonization Blessed Michael McGivney as we pray for the distressed and close this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM Motion by Barry Norris Second by Mark Shee Motion Passed.