

Minutes of the First New Jersey District Biennial Convention

12 March 2022

Master Paul Pinkman opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. The Master appointed SK John Leclercq as Secretary and SK James DeLuccia as Pilot.

The Opening Prayer (Our Father; Mary, Queen of the Knights, Blessed Michael McGivney) was led by Fr. Dubernay.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary called the Roll of Assemblies.

SK Peter Bartkowiak, FMFD served as Chairman of the Resolutions Committee. He noted several assemblies submitted like or similar resolutions.

One resolution was to remove the oath of secrecy from the 4th Degree as it has been removed from the CUF Degree. This was submitted by Msgr. Stein Assembly. There was a question from SK Russ Petrocelli, FMFD, regarding the wording. The resolution was tabled.

One resolution was to adopt a RED patch for corpsmen.

One resolution was to restore the FLAG pin.

These resolutions were noted to be out of order as the 1st NJ District is bound by the laws and rules of the 4th Degree. With regard to the RED patch, the 1st NJ District has no authority to do so.

It was noted the resolutions must be corrected for Supreme to change the requirements. SK Paul Noonan (Assembly 1289) provided reasons for adopting the U.S. Flag pin. There was much discussion. The Master noted that if the resolutions are re-written, he will submit them to Supreme.

The Credential Committee Chairman, SK Michael Leyden, noted all in attendance had the proper credentials.

With regard to Communications, the Master noted that for an Assembly to be eligible for any awards, all forms must be submitted on time during the 2022-

2023 Fraternal Year. This includes Assembly awards, the Civic Award, and Star Assembly. Send copies of all reports to the Master.

Accept Minutes of the 2020 Biennial Convention (no in-person meeting was held). The motion to accept was made by SK Ed Durfee, second by SK James DeLuccia. Motion was accepted.

The Master read the State of the District report.

The Master surrendered the gavel to SK Russ Petrocelli, FMFD to conduct the selection of candidates to serve as Master.

SK Petrocelli noted this is not an election. There is no voting. The names of the candidates to be submitted to the Supreme Council are:

SK James DeLuccia

SK Peter Walentowicz

SK John Leclercq

No further names were put forward. These three names will be submitted the Vice Supreme Master.

The task is complete. SK Petrocelli returned the gavel to Master Paul Pinkman.

The State Officers in attendance were introduced.

SK Russ Petrocelli, State Advocate extended greetings from the State Deputy, James Stoever. The State Convention will be held in Wildwood on May 13 and May 14. Please support the ad journal. The 1st NJ District is taking the lead this year with regard to Color Corps involvement. Please bring your uniform and plan to participate. He thanked the Master and the Marshal. SK Petrocelli noted he did agree with SK Paul Noonan regarding the Flag pin. SK Petrocelli commented on the deaths of SK William Sarno, FMFD and SK Michael Risoli, FMFD. He thanked Sal LaRosa for the hospitality. He congratulated Master Pinkman on a job well done.

SK James Sweeney, State Secretary spoke to those gathered in convention. He thanked all for the support he has received. He enjoyed the meeting and the stimulating discussion. He commented on the death of Father Jody Baran from

the Paterson Diocese (Eparchy of Passaic). Thank you for the hospitality. Thank you to the 4th Degree. Keep up the good work. Keep recruiting.

Master Paul Pinkman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The Master led the closing prayer (Our Father, Hail Mary for the people of Ukraine). All joined in singing GOD BLESS AMERICA.

The Master adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

John C. Ledersca

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Secretary, 1st NJ District

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