

Knights of Columbus chapter mtg

Marysville July 18, 2026

Opening Ceremonies

- Meeting opened by chapter president at St. Joseph Parish, Sacramento
- Welcome from Father Michal Olzewski, pastor of St. Joseph Parish
- Opening prayer, morning offering to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call of officers

Chaplain's Report

- Father Michal delivered a written report (read aloud) on the Last Judgment and the Knights' mission
- Core message: service must flow from faith, not just charity for its own sake
- Called knights to deepen prayer, frequent the sacraments, and bring Christ's love into communities
- Quoted St. John of the Cross: "In the evening of life we will be judged on love alone"

Financial Reports and Approved Motions

- Treasurer's report: chapter ended the year with ~\$11,000 bank balance; total assets ~\$27,000 including CDs
 - Two existing CDs at \$5,000 each; ~\$250 interest earned this year
 - Motion approved to purchase a third \$5,000 CD
- Bills approved (vouchers 26-01 through 26-04):
 - \$263.34: testimonial dinner expenses (Charles Beltz)
 - \$400: contribution to state council for new monstrance for state chaplain (non-budgeted, approved)
 - \$1,000: donation to Columbian Retirement Home (non-budgeted, approved)
 - \$7,686.25: ultrasound machine for Women's Resource Center, Chico (pass-through, covered by Freitas family donation)

Memorial: Steve Freitas Donation

- Letter received from children of Steve Freitas, former district deputy
- Family donating \$10,000 in his honor to the ultrasound project
 - \$7,686.25 covers the Chico ultrasound machine
 - Remaining ~\$2,300 goes toward a second machine for Care Net in Gridley
 - Plaque to be made in Steve's honor at the Women's Resource Center

Membership and Recruitment

- Chapter membership objective: 545 new brothers this year

- Last year: only 43% of councils met intake goal; 8 councils had zero intake
- Chapter president forming recruitment teams to assist struggling councils
 - DDs and Grand Knights asked to identify strong recruiters
- Proof of Concept recruitment tool emphasized: one drive last year yielded 40% of a council's quota
- State Membership Director Polly Camara introduced "Each One Reach One" initiative:
 - Share your "why" with one person
 - Bring one guest to the next event
 - Reach out to lapsed members to close the back door
- Target: exceed annual membership goal by at least 20% (Pinnacle/Big P)
- Focus segments: Hispanic community, young adults, college students, other ethnic groups
- NCD target: 16 new councils this chapter year
- Hispanic Development training: August 28-29 in LA; chapter asked to send one Hispanic trainer (chapter covers overnight and mileage)

Intellectual Disabilities and Special Olympics

- ID Drive total for 2025-26: \$108,520.59 (first place in state of California)
 - New chapter record; previous high was \$107,426.19
- Top councils recognized:
 - Fair Oaks Council 6066: \$5,010.40
 - St. Joseph Morello Council 13518: \$5,557.08
 - St. Joseph's Council 9202: \$6,077 (Bronze)
 - Auburn Council 6149: \$16,449 (Gold)
 - Father Neil W. Seidl Council 13672: \$25,000 (Gold)
 - Arden Carmichael Council 4970: \$25,431 (Gold, top council in state)
- DD John Slamkowski recognized for 100% council participation in District 11
- Special Olympics: chapter fed ~3,000 athletes across three events (Spring Games + two regionals)
 - VIP Games (Very Inspirational People) also run by chapter secretary Bill Wagner in Sacramento area

Columbian Retirement Home

- Home is in financial distress; donations from councils have nearly dried up since COVID
- Risk of closure: 50-year-old institution subsidizing housing for elderly knights and widows at ~\$79/month
 - Recent \$6,000 emergency repair (water valve)
 - Currently 3 vacant rooms
- Chapter approved \$1,000 donation from chapter funds

- Marysville Council 1869 presented a \$500 check on the spot
- Capital campaign launching: "50 Years, \$50,000" goal for this Colombian year
- Chapter president challenged every council to donate \$500

Ultrasound Program and Wheelchairs

- State goal: reach 200 ultrasound machines (currently at 185, not counting machines in process)
- Councils asked to budget \$200-\$250/year for ultrasound machines
- Remaining balance needed for Gridley machine: ~\$5,900
- Wheelchair mission goal: \$500,000 (chapter raised ~\$400,000 last year)
 - Councils encouraged to host Wheelchair Sundays or run their own fundraising events
 - All 10784 forms should be copied to the chapter wheelchair chairman for tracking

Star Council Requirements (Updated)

- Major simplification this year: 16 events reduced to 8 (or as few as 6 with CORE)
- Key changes:
 - McGivney Award: intake threshold reduced from 7% to 6% of active membership
 - Founders Award: replaced fraternal benefit nights with 10% of associate members meeting the field agent (auto-approved unless field agent protests)
 - Columbian Award: now requires one flagship program (\$500 min to ASAP, Food for Families, Coats for Kids, or RSVP) plus one event each in faith, family, community, and life
 - CORE program: if started by April 1 with monthly meetings, counts as full outreach (replaces three "other" events)
- SP7 can be submitted as early as January
- All details and a one-page summary available at norcalknights.org under Grand Knight Resources

100th Anniversary and Upcoming Events

- Chapter 100th Anniversary: October 28, 2028 at the Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento
 - Weekend celebration: Friday welcome dinner, Saturday ladies' luncheon, breakout sessions, Mass with Bishop Soto, dinner and dancing
 - Committee: Ed (past state deputy), Frank Donaher, Michael Jones, Brian Taglan, Bill Wagner, Peter Tremblay
 - One-time \$15 assessment added to this year's dues to fund the anniversary

- GKs and DDs asked to help locate senior/past chapter members for the souvenir book
- Next chapter meeting: Saturday, September 12, 2026, hosted by District 2 Paradise, Council 7773, St. Thomas Moore, 767 Elliott Road, Paradise
- Knight of the Year awarded to Brother Percy Parker: recognized for recruiting, free throw, soccer challenge, and lifetime service
- Vigil Mass and officer installation: 4:00 PM today; meeting adjourned by 2:30 PM to allow setup

Next Steps

- **Submit committee reports and award details to chapter secretary**
All committee chairs who gave reports to send names, numbers, and awards for accurate minutes.
- **Order Keep Christ in Christmas poster and essay contest kits now**
Kits sell out by October/November; council level due Dec. 31, chapter level Jan. 31, state level Feb. 15.
- **Identify strong recruiters and send list to chapter president**
DDs and Grand Knights to supply names for regional recruitment teams targeting struggling councils.
- **Add Columbian Retirement Home (\$500) and ultrasound (\$200-\$250) to council budgets**
Both are recurring asks; Retirement Home is at risk of closure without renewed council support.
- **Complete Safe Environment certification for all qualified council officers**
Required for Star Council, diocese backing, and chapter challenges; takes ~40 minutes per platform.
- **Send council histories to Brian Taglan for the 100th Anniversary souvenir book**
Needed: charter Grand Knight, charter chaplain, and council founding history.
- **Register for Hispanic Development training in LA, August 28-29**
Chapter covers overnight stay and mileage; send one Hispanic trainer or DD per council.