



## MEETING: 6 JUN 2024

**Council was called to order at:** 6:30 pm by GK Robb McBurney

**Prayer was offered by:** Robb McBurney

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Minutes of the previous meeting:** Motion to approve April's minutes passed. Minutes posted online to Council's website.

**Faith Director Report:** by Dan Wagner (see attached)

### **The Grand Knight reported as follows:**

- We will vote on the slate of officers for the next year. Robb thanked everyone who agreed to serve.
- There will be no business meeting in July. There may be an installation of officers – we need to let Robb know our availability so he can invite the District Deputy.
- Robb thanks everyone who distributed flowers on Mothers' Day. He also thanks those who helped with the ordination and passed along Msgr's appreciation.
- Robb mentioned that we should obtain name badges if we don't have them so we can wear them at events. He will introduce this in New Business after the officers have been voted in. Robb asked us to let him know if we want a badge; we need to provide our names as we want it on the badge.
- Our Deputy Grand Knight will be leading a Bible study using the CORE program from the Knights, probably in the Fall. More details will be provided later.
- Robb asked us to remember D-Day (today is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.) He asked us to spend some time reflecting on the events of the day.

**Financial Report:** by Dan Wagner/Robbie Wiggs (see attached)

- Checking balance: \$8260.64
- Old checking balance: \$1270.00
- Savings balance: \$1107.79
- 6 month CD balance: \$2094.91
- 9 month CD balance: \$2078.52
- 12 month CD balance: \$2077.90
- Vouchers: vouchers for total of \$437.38
- Receipts: receipts for total of \$40.00

**Membership Report:** by Dan Wagner

- We had an exemplification at the end of May for Josiah and Gene (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> degree.) We have now met our new member quota for the year, but are still encouraged to recruit.
- We have 3 possible new members in the pipeline, one of whom is ready for an interview.
- Our membership is at 83, of which 30 are insurance members. We are all encouraged to consider taking advantage of the insurance and other financial services offered to members.

**Youth Report:**

- n/a

**Pro-Life Report:**

- Bob Nerbun reminded us of the times when people pray the Rosary at Planned Parenthood and asked for more volunteers

**Report of Fourth Degree:** by Robbie Wiggs

- There was an election of officers last month; most offices remained the same.



- Events scheduled this year: Thanksgiving (Sunday before Thanksgiving at Christopher Towers), Soldiers' dinner (12/27), First responders (3<sup>rd</sup> week of January).
- The Council supports the Tunnels to Towers foundation and will hold fundraising events for that effort. Robbie will work with TD Bank to have a separate account for these monies.
- The family of a deceased council member was able to donate hundreds of books to Christopher Towers.
- Robbie extended an invitation to volunteer with or join, the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.
- There will be a flag retirement ceremony at 1623 Marion St. at 6PM on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We can bring flags to be retired. Hot dogs and chips will be provided afterwards.

**Trustees' Report:**

- n/a

**The Insurance Agent reported as follows:**

- n/a

**The District Deputy reported as follows:**

- n/a

**Chaplain's Message:**

- n/a

**Unfinished business was taken up and disposed as follows:**

- The proposed slate of officers was presented and voted upon by acclamation. No requests for changes were made.

**New business was taken up and disposed as follows:**

- The Council will pay for badges for whoever wants one, up to 30. A badge costs \$10.50 from Omega Engraving. A motion was made to budget \$350 for badges. Old badges will still be good if we want to keep them.

**Lecture Reflection:** by Bob Nerbun (see attached)

Bob continued his lecture about George Washington.

**Knights in Distress:**

- See attached

**Closing prayer was offered by:** Robb McBurney at 7:20 pm.

Attest,  
*Mitch Michaelis*  
Mitch Michaelis  
Recorder

Knights of Columbus Council #12554  
6 June 2024

## Faith Director's Report

We are in the season of Ordinary Time.

Jun 1	First Saturday	Mass 8:30 AM
Jun 1-2	Corpus Christi	
	I Care, I Share Weekend	
Jun 6	<b>Council Business Meeting - Election of Officers</b>	6:30 PM
Jun 7	First Friday	Mass: 7:30 AM
	Presbyteral Ordination: Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Charleston	
Jun 14	Flag Day	
	Fourth Degree Flag Retirement Ceremony	
Jun 16	Father's Day	
	Return Birthright Baby Bottles	
Jun 19	Juneteenth	
Jun 29-30	Fifth Sunday: Second Collection for St. Vincent de Paul Society	

**Adoration**, in the Adoration Room, on Tuesdays following morning Mass (8:00 AM – 12:00 noon); Benediction at 12:15 PM.

July 2024 – A Look Ahead

Jul 4	Independence Day	
	NO Business Meeting	
Jul 6-7	I Care, I Share Weekend	
Jul 8-12	Vacation Bible School	
TBD	Installation of Officers	
TBD	Semi-Annual Audit	

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## Financial Secretary's Report

Receipts:

1. Assessment: Dues & Initiation – 1 member \$ 40.00

**TOTAL** \$ **40.00**

Vouchers:

1. Dan Wagner – Carnations for Mother's Day \$ 437.38

**TOTAL** \$ **437.38**

## **May 2024 Lecture for the Knights of Columbus Chapter 12554 -**

**George Washington** Tonight's lecture is really a February lecture and focuses on George Washington (Feb. 22, 1732 - Dec. 14, 1799). Washington has interested me at this time since we are in an election year and have a president who claims to be a Catholic with a rosary in his pocket as contrasted to George Washington, who it is claimed to have become a Catholic on his deathbed. Biden and the administration that he leads are by any measure the most pro-abortion, most pro-homosexual, most pro-transgender, and anti-Catholic administration in the history of our country. Tonight's lecture is the first of a two-part lecture that presents a contrast with: what each of us knows about Joe Biden, and that of our first President, George Washington. As Washington was dying and since no Anglican Catholic minister was available, Father Francis Neale, S.J. came to hear his confession, receive Holy Communion, and anoint him with Holy Oil. I like to think that on his deathbed he had a change of heart and repudiated his membership in the Freemasons and was reconciled with God. It is often said that God can "write straight with crooked lines" and in Washington's case he allowed God to "write a very straight a line" to effect amazing accomplishments.

In just a few minutes it is impossible to do justice to the career of George Washington - an American Founding Father, military officer, land owner, politician and statesman, and the first president of the United States from 1789 to 1797. Tonight I will only highlight several poignant facts from his early years and in the English militia in western Virginia and (next month) a single event that occurred later on at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. Janice T. Connell in her book "The Spiritual Journey of George Washington" provides a lot of information about Washington -the

development and achievement of his personal communication and writing skills, his dedication to a deeply spiritual life and commitment to daily prayer, his skills as a brilliant diplomatic and master of hospitality, and finally a plethora of information about his humble and compassionate personality. Tonight I will briefly cover his early war activities, that eventually culminated in his selection as head of the U.S. Continental Army.

According to Connell “he was born into Anglicanism, lived his life as a practicing member, and was **buried** with the full rituals of the Anglican Church [even though he had previously received the last rites of the Catholic Church] ... [He] descended from ancestors who strongly believed “life is empty without religion.” The encyclopedia Britannica says that in 1733 at age 11 Washington suffered the death of his father. In the aftermath he went to live with an older half-brother Lawrence, who owned the Mount Vernon estate. According to Britannica, George had irregular schooling from his 7<sup>th</sup> to his 15<sup>th</sup> year during which time he was well schooled in mathematics, making measurements, learning trigonometry, all of which he later used during his extensive work as a surveyor. Britannica also indicates that at the age of 17, Washington “received an appointment as official surveyor of Culpeper county,” [and] he also surveyed Frederick and Augusta counties, even making journeys exploring the western wilderness. Carroll states that in his early 20s Washington spent “long hours in the vast wilderness [of western Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania] on horseback as a surveyor [,] military leader [, and learning to thrive in the western wilderness]. ... During his early western travels, Washington found vast tracts of rich, fertile land, magnificent fruit-filled trees, and rivers and streams sparkling with fish. He observed Indian customs, [with] their weakness for hard liquor, and as a

young Major in the Virginia Militia, he had many encounters with wary tribal chiefs.

At age 22 [in 1773] he was commissioned as a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Virgin Militia and traveled to the western frontier to deliver a letter to the French stronghold of Fort Duquesne to disband and vacate their fort located at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. With only 150 men at his command, upon reaching the fort he wisely withdrew to post a report that a much superior force would be needed to take this fort, since the French were not disposed to vacate “their” fort. During this expedition he learned the art of guerilla warfare, as practiced by native American Indians. On their return trip bypassing a French fort close to Erie, PA, he had a near brush with death. When he and an aid took a short cut through dense woods, they were ambushed by French troops and Indians. “One of the prowling Indians, who was not 15 steps away, fired directly at Washington’s chest and a story survives [even today] that the bullets did not harm Washington at that close range. He merely brushed gunpowder off his uniform while the firing Indian instantly fell to his knees to worship the giant [6’4”] giant [that] his shotgun would not kill. ... Without hesitation, George ever a man of humor and quick wit, reached forward and lifted the quaking warrior to his feet [, and said] ‘I am a man just like you’ [.]”

Carroll points out that two years later “Washington again returned to Fort Duquesne ... as aid de camp under an aristocratic Edward Braddock, Commander-in-Chief of the King of England’s North American forces.” On the way there Washington himself became very sick due to bloody dysentery, fever, pain and weakness. Because of this, he approached the pending battle sitting on a cot in the back of a wagon. However, Carroll points out that “with the help of ... medicine, some of his pain was alleviated, allowing

retreating French troops. In 1758 after discerning that the fighting in western Virginia was over and the western settlers were now well protected by militia, Washington resigned his rank and retired to Mount Vernon.

According to Carroll in 1772, “sixteen years after the great Battle of the Monongahela, ... as Washington and a colleague ... were traveling through the Ohio Valley ... they were visited by an Indian tribe, whose aged Chief of lofty stature ... showed reverential deference to [this] Colonel Washington. He bowed to George Washington [and at one point said]:

‘I am chief and ruler over my tribes. My influence extends o the waters of the great lakes and to the far Blue Mountains. I have traveled a long and weary path, that I might see the young warrior of the great battle. It was on that day when the white man’s blood mixed with the streams of our forest, that I first beheld this chief. I called to my young men and said mark yon tall and daring warrior! He is not of the red coat tribe - he hath an Indian’s wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do - himself alone is exposed. Quick let you aim be certain and he dies. Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for him, knew not how to miss - twas all in vain, a power mightier far than we, shielded him from harm. He cannot die in battle. I am old and soon shall be gathered to the great council fire of my fathers in the land of shades, but ere I go, there is something bids me speak in the voice of prophecy. Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man, and guides his destiny - he will be come the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire.’”

To be continued in June ...



him in time to mount a horse after tying pillows to the saddle, and then join Braddock's forces for the approaching battle." Against Washington's advice, Braddock with his lack of back country travel coupled with a lack of knowledge of Indian fighting skills, led his untrained "red coats" into an ambush. The guerilla tactics of the French and Indians in the woods on the way to Fort Duquesne brought terror to the English militia who panicked and retreated in disarray. During this battle, it was Washington who risked his life to extricate a fatally wounded Braddock from intense fighting, only to have Braddock die on the return trip home from the battle. Britannia points out that all through the mayhem of the battle when the British broke ranks and retreated, Washington, in spite of his weakness as he was recovering from dysentery, displayed a "combination of coolness and determination coupled with ... [a seemingly limitless energy] and complete poise" throughout the battle. During the battle Washington had two horses shot out from beneath him. Yet each time he tied his pillows on his new horse and remounted quickly rejoin the fighting. It is also said that in this battle an unseen rifleman fired at his face and yet the bullet only pierced his hat. According to Carroll, "Eyewitnesses were both stunned and frightened by Washington's bravery and prowess. In Washington's [own] words: 'By the all powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability of expectation, for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt ... although death was leveling my companions on every side of me.'" ( This reminds me of Psalm 91:7 - "Though a thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but near you it will not come.")

Two years later in 1775 Washington returned with now his own troops. He achieved victory and raised the British flag over a burned-out fort left by

Sick or Distressed Members

Ron Childress

Bernie Corbett (brother of PGK Jim Corbett)

PGK Jim Corbett

Laddy Gatling

Bill Jones

James Kinard

Mitch Michaelis

Bob Nerbun

Paul Osemene

Fred Perry

Frank Toth

Terry McWaters

Bob McBurney (father of GK Robb McBurney)

George(?) LaPierre