Convention Committee Meeting 7/9/22, 9am to 11am

Council 799

Chairman Mike Courtney

Distinguished guests – Terry Fruge, State Deputy and Mike McLaughlin, Executive Secretary.

Courtney led prayer, Ken Franch led the pledge.

Convention dates are May 4-7, 2023.

State Deputy Terry Fruge expressed his thanks to the committee. Specifically mentioned sponsorships for ads and the golf tournament. Need to avoid accepting insurance ads outside the Knights as well as financial advisors. Will need to be careful with exhibits as well. Reminder on what host committee and state cover. Thanked the committee in advance for their work.

Executive Secretary Mike McLaughlin spoke for a few minutes. He is a wealth of information and in charge of hotel contracts.

Mike Courtney remarks. The Corpus Christi convention went very well and was well attended. A lot of people at the convention remarked about how excited they were to come back to Dallas. Urged the leaders here to start building momentum for the convention. Need donations for the Ladies events and Casino Night! Get your councils involved now! Why not get dormant councils involved as well?

Debbie Conway – Ladies registration table needed near delegate registration. Ladie’s bags, tickets, etc. will be given out at this table. They would like a table at Casino Night as well to sell raffle tickets. Center pieces at banquet. Talked about entertainment bingo at lunch. Will run by the First Lady.

Golf Tournament Dan Stoffel. Five people on his committee. Will look to setting up transportation to and from the hotel to the course. Last time we used a bus from St. Jude with a driver. Ed Stankunas chaired last timel. He has 60 dozen KC golf balls and some goodie bags. Need to solicit some golf items to raffle off and give away. Golf course contract needs to be reviewed by the State Advocate.

Casino Night – Reed Fontenot lead. Columbianetes out of St. Gabriel McKinney will assist with ticket distribution. Craig Modrinski will be point to get all the tables but we are short on blackjack dealers. Reed has signed a contract with a local band and we will need a dance floor. Prizes will be purchased starting in February but we will ask councils to donate some nice prizes. Terry Sullivan (214-533-9899) will be responsible for getting the tables there. Need two cash bars from the hotel as we will not supply food or alcohol. Mike McLaughlin may be able to find some dealers. Ask them all to wear a white shirt, black pants and black bowties. Need access to the venue at 2pm and there is a freight elevator. Breakdown to start after prize distribution? Need to review the ticket for chips process at the end. Need to nail down the stipend for the councils providing casino equipment. Send band contract to State Advocate David Pels.

Ad Sales – Jake, Jorge and Patrick. Web site is already built. Review of Corpus Christi results and expectations for Dallas. Getting a list of Corpus Christi convention committee to talk to for advice. Individual sponsorships are OK. Outside back cover reserved for the General Agents. Will sell full, half and quarter page ads. 1200 probable number of books to be printed. Forms booklet from State will be sent out to the councils early January. Recommended using Constant Contact to send ad form and templates to all Diocesan Deputies, District Deputies, Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries. Eliminating black and white ads. Have the new KC Emblem. Need pictures of all the Committee Leads for the ad booklet.

Country Store – Joe Mock. New emblem for KC shirts etc. is ready. Will add country store to the DDC Convention Website. Send first email mid-December to solicit ads and introduce country store.

VIP Transportation – Ed Diaz - typically wait to see list of VIP’s before line up drivers. Janie will be in charge of inside registration, keys and getting Bishops to the rooms, exterior only. Depend on DD’s as drivers. Tentative list of VIP’s will be confirmed two weeks before meeting.

Liturgy – Roy Rabenaldt. Bishop Burns has Mass on his calendar and has approved the two Mass’s (8 am) at the hotel. Roy is working with diocesan office for all the details and proper paperwork. Need Music for both Mass’s. St. Gabriel in McKinney. Stipend suggested of $500 and busing? Reed to talk to Father Don. Altar setup in the back of room on Friday morning. Suggest the DD’s serve as ushers – set that expectation. Color Corp will be provided by Ken and Pat. Mass will be set for 1,660 people. Will not know how many Eucharistic Ministers needed until we know how many Priests and Bishops are planning to attend.

Setup and registration. Jim Kowlaski. Has the men lined up for registration. 3 information people with a band on their arm to help direct people. State will set up an instruction meeting early Friday morning to train the volunteers.

50/50 and raffle. Registration opens at 10am to 6 pm Friday. Look in the old minutes for raffle ticket $ recommendations. Roy will find this.

Exhibit tables – Robert Repka – All the Directors will need tables as well

4th Degree – Ken Franch. Will have a 4th degree exemplification contest approved by the State Deputy. Would be a great time to have a live 4th degree? Will new exemplification be ready by them? Maybe we could be a test for this? 4th degree will staff the Thursday night hospitality suite.

Hospitality Suite – Chris Fowler and the Holy Smokers will cover starting on Thursday Night. Food for volunteers on Friday. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning for Dallas delegates and VIP’s. 10 hospitality rooms – recommend the different Dioceses to provide food for their delegations. Also need to have a list of recommended restaurants around hotel at the registration.

Finances – Jim Hale. Will be using Square for all financial transactions. DDC account is already set up. State Deputy asked that all financials be wrapped up by June 15th. State is on 90-day terms for us to pay them for their part. Everyone should go through the website for payments. Mike McLaughlin urged a simple way to separate State versus DDC financials.

State Pre-convention meeting March 10-12, 2023 at the Sheraton Hotel. Walk through @ 1pm on Saturday, March 11. Host committee post-convention meeting / meals should not be included with convention expenses.

Next meeting September 24 at Council 6042. Meeting after that will November 19.

Closing prayer led by Reed Fontenot.