

DISTRICT MASTERS REPORT



Pennsylvania Central

April 11, 2026



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Worthy Sir Knights,

As we gathered for our Biennial Meeting, we were reminded that this moment is more than a routine obligation it is an opportunity to reflect on where we have been, recognize what we have accomplished, and determine the direction of our District moving forward.

Where We Started

When this administration began in 2022, the Pennsylvania Central District faced significant challenges. We were emerging from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, working to reestablish participation and reconnect our brotherhood. At the same time, we were navigating the transition from legacy regalia to the new uniform an adjustment that brought uncertainty and, for some, frustration.

There were real concerns about engagement, sustainability, and the future of the Fourth Degree in our District. Some even questioned whether it would continue to thrive.

I share this not to revisit difficulty, but to highlight the contrast with where we stand today.

A District Transformed

Through the dedication and commitment of our Sir Knights, the Pennsylvania Central District has experienced a remarkable resurgence.

Color Corps Growth and Excellence

- The District has grown to more than **100 active Color Corps members**
- Our Color Corps has significantly increased its presence at parish and diocesan events
- In 2025, the District was recognized as one of **5 winners in the Supreme Color Corps Competition** through the **Corpus Christi Challenge**

This recognition reflects not only excellence in appearance, but consistency in service and commitment.

In just recent weeks, our Color Corps has contributed **over 60 hours of service**, supporting Holy Week liturgies, funerals, and graveside ceremonies. This level of dedication ensures that we continue to answer the call of our bishops, priests, and parishes.

Special thanks are extended to **Sir Knights Allan Raffay and Steve Glinane** for their leadership in strengthening and expanding the Color Corps across the dioceses we serve.

Historic Recognition

In 2023, the Pennsylvania Central District brought home through the work of Assembly 938 the prestigious “**To Be a Patriot**” Award one of the highest honors in the Order and the first time it has been awarded to our District.

This achievement reflects the collective efforts the Assembly and the commitment of all our members to the principles of the Fourth Degree.

Assembly Revitalization

Across the District, Assemblies have become more active, engaged, and visible.

- Increased participation in programs and events
- Renewed focus on patriotic initiatives
- Stronger engagement within parishes and communities

As a result:

- The District recorded **two Star Assemblies last year**
- We are currently on track for **six to eight Star Assemblies this year**, reflecting significant growth and momentum.

Membership Growth

Membership has been a major area of progress.

- The District has welcomed **100+ new Sir Knights this year**
- Councils now have a stronger understanding of the Fourth Degree and its mission
- Interest and enthusiasm for joining continue to grow

This success is due in large part to the efforts of **Membership Coordinators Sir Knights Jim Szoszorek and Martin Sowa**, who have worked diligently to bring the message of the Fourth Degree directly to our Councils.

However, our work is not yet complete.

The District needs **75 additional members** to achieve its annual goal something that has not been accomplished in over a decade. With the progress already made, this goal is well within reach.

Innovation and Growth

One of the key initiatives contributing to membership growth has been the implementation of **Pop-Up Exemplifications**.

These exemplifications:

- Provide opportunities for candidates to join during the week
- Offer greater flexibility for those unable to attend traditional weekend events
- Reduce the financial burden associated with participation

This initiative has proven effective in reaching men who might otherwise not have joined, and it represents an important step forward in expanding accessibility to the Fourth Degree.

Leadership Moving Forward

The continued success of the Pennsylvania Central District depends on leadership at every level.

The progress we have achieved over the past four years is the direct result of Sir Knights who chose to step forward and take responsibility. That same commitment will be required to sustain and build upon this momentum.

We encourage all members to consider how they can contribute whether at the Assembly level or beyond as we prepare for the next chapter of District leadership.

Looking Ahead: 250th Anniversary of Our Nation

The upcoming **250th Anniversary of the United States** presents a significant opportunity for the Fourth Degree.

Assemblies are encouraged to:

- Plan meaningful and visible patriotic programs
- Engage their Color Corps in these celebrations
- Promote the principles of patriotism within their communities

District leadership looks forward to supporting and participating in these events and encourages Assemblies to extend invitations as they plan their celebrations.

A Personal Reflection

As my term as Master approaches its conclusion on **August 31, 2026**, I reflect with deep gratitude on the past four years.

Serving the Pennsylvania Central District in this role has been one of the greatest honors of my life not because of the position, but because of the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated and committed Sir Knights like you all.

While this marks the beginning of a transition, it is not a time to slow down. The District leadership team remains fully committed to advancing our mission and will continue working diligently through the remainder of this term.

Conclusion

Four years ago, there were questions about the future of the Pennsylvania Central District.

Today, there is no question.

The District is strong.
The District is growing.
The District is moving forward.

But our work is not finished.

We have the opportunity to:

- Achieve our membership goal
- Expand our leadership
- Continue building strong Assemblies
- Strengthen our presence in the Church and community

Together, we can ensure that the progress of the past four years becomes the foundation for even greater success in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued dedication, leadership, and service to the Fourth Degree.



Vivat Jesus!

Brian Hallock

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Master

Pennsylvania Central District

