



Pennsylvania Central District
2026 Biennial Meeting Minutes
Scranton, Pennsylvania
Saturday April 11, 2026

Organization: Pennsylvania Central District – District Assembly

Date: April 11, 2026

Location: Urban Co-Works Conference Center, Scranton, Pennsylvania

Time: 12:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by District Master Brian C. Hallock at 12:10 PM.

2. Appointments

- **Pilot:** SK Allan Raffay
- **Sentinels:** SK John Scandle; SK James Wnek
- **Secretary of the Meeting:** SK John S. Meenan
- **Scribe:** SK Joshua Bryer

3. Certification of Membership

Membership cards were certified and verified by SK John Scandale.

4. Opening Ceremonies

- Presentation of the Colors by the District Flag Team
- Opening Prayer by Rev. Michael Boris
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Master Brian Hallock
- Opening Ode led by SK John Meenan

5. Committees Appointed

- **Credentials Committee:** Chairman – SK John Meenan; Members – SK Francis Kennedy, SK William Carlin
- **Resolutions Committee:** Chairman – SK Martin Sowa; Members – SK Christopher Plominski, SK James Szoszorek, SK James Braski

6. Credentials Report

A total of 22 voting delegates were present (20 delegates, 1 alternate, 1 Master). All delegates were properly credentialed.

7. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. A motion to approve was made by SK William Hallock and seconded by SK Francis Kennedy. Motion passed.

8. Reports

8.1 District Secretary Report

SK John Meenan reported on district growth and challenges. The district currently includes 26 Assemblies and 2,873 Sir Knights. Membership has grown significantly, with over 100 new members added, though losses due to mortality remain a concern. The Color Corps expanded from approximately a dozen members to over 100, with more than 400 appearances in the past two years.

He emphasized the importance of recruitment, encouraging assemblies to invite Catholic men to join and participate actively. Upcoming exemplifications were highlighted as critical to meeting membership goals.

8.2 District Friar Report

Rev. Michael Boris delivered a reflection encouraging members to act with faith and conviction, emphasizing belief in the mission even when results are not immediately visible.

8.3 District Marshal Report

SK Allan Raffay reported strong participation in Color Corps activities, noting over 400 events including funerals and parish functions. He stressed the importance of uniform standards, training, and participation, encouraging members to increase involvement.

8.4 Report of the Master

Master Brian Hallock delivered an extended reflection on the state and direction of the Pennsylvania Central District. He emphasized that the purpose of membership in the Fourth Degree is rooted in service to faith, church, and family, and challenged attendees to reflect on their personal commitment to that mission.

He noted that at the beginning of his term, the district faced significant challenges, including the effects of COVID-19, political turmoil, disruptions and the transition between legacy regalia and

new uniforms. Despite these obstacles, the district experienced a strong resurgence, driven by the dedication of members who remained engaged and committed to rebuilding the Order's presence and professionalism.

Master Hallock highlighted measurable progress, including the dramatic growth of the Color Corps, which expanded from a minimal presence to over 100 active members, and recognition as one of the top-performing units within the Order. He acknowledged the significant time commitment made by members, citing extensive service hours during recent liturgical seasons and events, and expressed gratitude for the sacrifices made by members and their families.

He stressed the importance of continued membership growth, noting that while progress has been made, reaching quota remains critical for long-term sustainability. He encouraged all Assemblies to actively recruit new members, promote exemplifications, and mentor prospective candidates. Special emphasis was placed on innovative approaches such as "pop-up" exemplifications, which have proven effective in increasing accessibility and participation.

Master Hallock also urged Assemblies to strive for Star Assembly status, indicating that the district has the potential to significantly increase the number of qualifying Assemblies through improved reporting, engagement, and program participation. He encouraged alignment with upcoming national and patriotic initiatives, including the America 250 celebration, as opportunities to demonstrate visible leadership and commitment.

In closing, he reminded members that leadership is not defined by title but by action and unity. He encouraged all present to leave the meeting with renewed commitment, to build upon the district's momentum, and to ensure its continued strength and relevance.

Master Hallock reinforced his message with several key statements, including: "Why are you here?" and "It's not about a title; it's about being better together." He also reminded members, "Showing up means something," underscoring the importance of visible, active participation in the life of the Church and the Order.

Note: The full District Master's report is available on the district website: 4KofC.org/Biennial2026

8.5 Color Corps Training Report

SK Martin Sowa reported that approximately 55% of members have completed training. Additional training sessions are scheduled throughout May–August 2026.

8.6 Membership Coordinators Report

Reports highlighted the need to offset attrition, noting the average age of members is approximately 74. Recruitment efforts continue across dioceses, with emphasis on engaging younger members and addressing uniform cost barriers.

8.7 Necrology Report

SK John Fitzpatrick (State Deputy Nominee) presented the necrology report, honoring 42 deceased Sir Knights.

See website for full Necrology Report 4KofC.org/Biennial2026

8.8 Committee on Resolutions

No resolutions were presented. Motion to accept the report passed.

9. Unfinished Business

None.

10. New Business

10.1 Nominations for Master

No initial nominations were received. Following several additional solicitation, SK Joshua Shaffer nominated himself for the position of District Master.

A motion to recommend SK Joshua Shaffer for District Master since he was the only nominee, pending Supreme approval, was made and passed.

10.2 Election of Master's Audit Committee

A nomination to re-elect SK Steve Dondero, SK Thomas May, and SK Brian Hughes was made and passed unanimously.

10.3 Stamps for Veterans Program

Presented by SK Steve Glinane, outlining support for wounded veterans through fundraising and stamp collection initiatives.

10.4 Star Assembly and Patriotic Programs

Master Hallock emphasized requirements for Star Assembly, including membership growth, timely reporting, and active patriotic programming.

10.5 Collaboration with Third Degree Councils

Strategies discussed included increased presence at council meetings, mentorship, and simplified exemplification processes to boost membership.

11. Upcoming Events

Upcoming events include:

- Exemplifications (May, August, and additional sessions)
- Silver Rose Program (August–September 2026)
- Blessing of the Swords Mass
- Ongoing Color Corps training sessions


12. Closing Ceremonies

- Retirement of the Colors
- National Anthem led by SK John Meenan
- Closing Prayer by Master Brian Hallock

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Master Brian Hallock at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



SK Joshua Bryer

District Warden
Pennsylvania Central District
Scribe of the 2026 Biennial Meeting

Submitted by:
SK Joshua Bryer
Scribe

Approved by:
Brian C. Hallock
District Master

For more information, please visit: 4KofC.org/Biennial2026