

SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias

***FRIENDS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A
BETTER COMMUNITY***



**NEWARK LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL**

**ONE HOTEL ROAD
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**

JOEL D. FIERSTIEN
SUPREME CHANCELLOR

ALLEN S. MORRIS
SUPREME SECRETARY

**SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING
SUPREME LODGE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
NEWARK LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MARRIOTT
HOTEL**

One Hotel Road
Newark, New Jersey
February 23, 2019

Supreme Chancellor Joel D. Fierstien called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

Supreme Prelate D. Mark Mead delivered the opening prayer.

Roll call of the Supreme Council found the following members present:

Supreme Chancellor Joel D. Fierstien (NJ)
Supreme Vice Chancellor Bruce H. Brown (SC)
Supreme Prelate D. Mark Mead (VA)
Supreme Secretary Allen S. Morris (MA)
Supreme Treasurer Alan J. Ast (NY)
Supreme Inner Guard Donald Stamm (WV)
Supreme Outer Guard Bryan Schwartz (AZ)
Chairman of the Foundation Randall Northcutt (TX)
Chairman of Finance Dennis O. Adams, PSR (IN)
Chairman of Law Philip C. Greenwald (CA)

Absent:

Supreme Master at Arms Mark W. Ward (TN)
Past Supreme Chancellor Alan Krell (NY)

SC Fierstien welcomed the following guests who introduced themselves:

Michael Horowitz (NY)
John Lux, AST (IL)
E. Ian Rothnie, Recorder Sup. Tri (BC)
George Symons, AST (ONT)
Toby Balivet, SCT (NH/VT)
Joe L. Bennett, AST (TX)
David N. Bellask, GS/SR (NJ) co-chair 2020 S.L. Convention
Marvin I. Diner, SR (NJ) co-chair 2020 S.L. Convention

- SC Fierstien called on CST Balivet, who indicated as he handed a copy of the Tribunal's Docket agenda to SS Morris, it's been a quiet season for the Supreme Tribunal. They have two (2) cases pending, and said in the five (5) plus years he's been on the Supreme Tribunal, they've never had more than one (1) party involved in an issue appear. He's also looking to see if anyone has any suggestions, or input in adding to, or modifying the Rules of the Supreme Tribunal.
- SC Fierstien excused the members of the Supreme Tribunal, who retire to another room to continue their deliberations.

- Foundation Chair Northcutt (TX) said the overall Rules of the Knights of Pythias Foundation are in order, saying they are in good shape.

RULES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING:

- SC Fierstien indicated rules for motions and discussion on matters before the body; Three (3) minutes for the maker to discuss his motion, one (1) minute per member for rebuttal – similarly, no more than three (3) minutes to discuss a topic other than a motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

INCOMING:

- Received 1/7/19 from Supreme Chief Joan Way, a Proclamation on the passing of PSC Georgia Jean Byrd on 12/4/18.
- Received 2/3/19 from Whiting & Company LLC, Certified Public Accounts and Consultants, the Auditor's report for the Fiscal Years 2017-2018. **See a copy of that report at the conclusion of these minutes.**
- Phone call from American Solicitors, saying they received a request from a member (wouldn't give the name) asking if they could reproduce Pythian Jewelry. I told the gentleman I spoke with, we have our own jeweler, and all jewelry is made up and/or ordered through this office – not a third party. He said he understood and would make sure the party that called him was given that information.
- Received 2/11/19 from Whiting & Company LLC, Certified Public Accounts and Consultants, all the paperwork the Supreme Lodge Office had sent them to conduct their audit.

OUTGOING:

- E-mailed 11/15/18 to all Grand Secretaries and secretaries of Grand Lodges/ Subordinate Lodges under the immediate control of the Supreme Lodge – the New Semi-Annual Password for the period beginning 1/1/19.

MINUTES OF 8/8/18 SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING:

- Approved as written.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

- Officer Reports and Reports of Committee Chairs, other than listed below **can be found at the conclusion of these minutes.**
- SP D. Mark Mead gave a report on the NEW website, saying it's up and running. There are presently three (3) Webmasters to handle various parts of the site.
- SC Fierstien asked how information should be submitted for inclusion – he was told they're working on a method by which the average member can submit articles and pictures. More will be forthcoming as the site progresses.
- Membership Chair Stamm (WV) asked about a Membership Link; was told it is being worked on.
 - SIG Stamm said, in his travels he's noticed that lodges that are active within their communities are thriving; those that are not are not... They need to be motivated. He had examples in New Mexico and Alabama.

- SVC Brown said more than one SL Officer visiting a domain is helpful, makes the domain feel the Supreme Lodge cares.
- SIG Stamm said, if you have a conflict in dates regarding domains you are scheduled to visit, go to the domain that needs the most assistance.
 - SC Joel thanked both Brothers Stamm and Brown for taking the time out of their lives to help domains that are in need of guidance.
- Finance Chair Adams (IN) asked ST Ast about a line item in the budget (Internet and Website), and why they are lumped together. ST Ast said they should go together, SS Morris disagreed, saying Internet belongs with Telephone and Fax since it's all on one bill, and Website should be a stand alone item.
- Report from CDSC Steve Glise (MO). **See a copy of that report at the conclusion of these minutes.**

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

- SVC Brown said we need to get our name into the public eye, in a positive manner, and we need to keep it there.
 - Michael Horowitz (NY) said we need a breakdown of responsibilities, from Supreme, to Grand, to Subordinate Lodges. We need a plan of action, a goal with timetables. We need a positive dissemination of information – advertising, social media, website.
 - Our mission? “We help people!”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- SS Morris said it's time we do something with the District of Columbia, because they're doing nothing except going down in numbers and ignoring the requests of the Supreme Lodge.
 - SP Mead agreed with the SS saying he has also tried to contact someone in authority there and has failed in every attempt.
 - SIG Stamm asked if we could transfer Franklin Lodge #2 to New Jersey. He was told no... And that if the membership of Franklin Lodge transfers their membership to NJ, Franklin Lodge #2 will cease to exist. We need to protect Franklin Lodge #2, because it is the oldest lodge in the Supreme Domain.
 - Law Chair Greenwald suggested reaching out to Ross Clemens, convince him to rejoin the Knights and ask him to help with the situation, he is after all in Maryland.
 - Foundation Chair Northcutt said the GS of DC is in violation of every obligation he took in the Knights of Pythias.
 - SS Morris was asked to contact Ross Clemens and discuss the matter.

NEW BUSINESS (Taken out of order due to time constraints):

- Motion by SS Morris (MA), seconded by SVC Brown (SC), “that due to a calamity arising, the Supreme Council invoke Article VIII, The Legislative Department, Section 8, and change the location of the 2020 Supreme Lodge Convention be changed from the Newark Airport DoubleTree Hotel and Convention Center, in Newark, New Jersey, to the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel, One Hotel Road, Newark, New Jersey on the same dates (July 30th through August 6,

2020) as originally adopted at the 2018 Supreme Lodge Convention in New York City, New York.” Motion passed.

2020 SUPREME LODGE CONVENTION:

- A brief, but concise report of the 2020 Convention was given by Co-Chairs David Bellask and Marvin Diner, both of New Jersey. Friday evening, the members of the Supreme Council and Supreme Tribunal were treated to a talk given by the staff of the Hotel and the Newark Visitor’s Bureau; we were then treated to a complimentary dinner. Co-Chairs Bellask and Diner distributed informational pamphlets, and said there will be a Banquet on both Sunday and Wednesday evening at the 2020 Convention.

Meeting recessed at 9:55 AM

It reconvened at 10:25 AM

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Cont.):

- ST Ast said he’s attempted to contact the GC of Connecticut without success, has been waiting three months but hasn’t heard back from the GC. Brother Ast said they have only two lodges, need a third to be a Grand Lodge.
 - SC Fierstien recommended the GVC as the contact, not the GC.
 - SIG Stamm said he and SVC Brown are ready to travel, would like to meet with the GC and the Officers if time permits – but first they need to make contact to set up a meeting date. Brother Stamm will keep the Council in the loop.
- SS Morris reported that the Audit has been completed and the Auditor’s Report had been sent to the Supreme Chancellor (given that morning to SS Morris to be filed in the office) There were a number of items listed on the report found to be out of the ordinary – most of them internal, in the process of being straightened out. **See the report of the Audit at the conclusion of these minutes.**

NEW BUSINESS (Cont.):

REIMBURSEMENT:

- SS Morris reminded all on what we are entitled to when visiting a Grand Lodge to represent the Supreme Chancellor/Supreme Lodge: 15¢ a mile, regardless of how we travel – if we drive we do not get reimbursed for gas, tolls, lodging on the way, parking at the convention facility, or parking at the airport if we fly - **we get 15¢ a mile** plus \$75 per day, calculated from the day you arrive at the convention site through the day of your departure.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS FOUNDATION:

- PSR Northcutt, Chairman of the Foundation said they, the members of the Foundation, will make up “Rules for their Conduct of Business”, similar to those made up by the Supreme Tribunal. The Foundation presently has a “Mission Statement”. **See the report of the Foundation at the conclusion of these minutes.**

CHARITY ACCOUNT:

- SS Morris said there are thousands of dollars in the “Charity Account”, given to the Supreme Lodge to be donated to charity – no monies have been donated from that account in at least the last seven years most of the money had been sent to be given to the American Cancer Society. To that end SS Morris (MA) moved, seconded by SVC Brown (SC), “that the Supreme Lodge donate a total of \$10, 941 to charity, the entire amount sitting in the Charity Account held by the Supreme Treasurer, thus closing that account for ever.”
 - Amendment by ST Ast (NY), seconded by SVC Brown (SC), “that \$1,000 that had been inadvertently deposited into the General Account from monies directed for the Charity Account be transferred into the Charity Account, making the amount be donated to the American Cancer Society \$11,941.”
 - The amendment was passed; the motion as amended, “that the Supreme Lodge donate a total of \$11, 941 to charity, the entire amount sitting in the Charity Account held by the Supreme Treasurer, thus closing that account for ever,” was passed.

WISCONSIN:

- Finance Chair Dennis Adams (IN), who visited the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in October 2018 said they have shown a positive attitude regarding growing the Grand Lodge. He said he has hopes they will survive.
 - SVC Brown and SIG Stamm would like to accompany Brother Adams on his next visit to WI.

PHILIPPINES:

- Law Chair Greenwald said, the penalties that could be imposed on an individual or individuals for Rank Work (which the government considers as hazing) could result in imprisonment for those responsible, and suggested we stay away until and unless the restriction is lifted. We had a request, a question on how to go about instituting a new subordinate lodge.
 - Motion by Law Chair Greenwald, seconded by SIG Stamm, “That the Supreme Council recommend that the Supreme Chancellor inform any Brothers we may have in the Philippines, in writing, that they are not authorized to initiate any members into Our Order until further notice, due to the serious potential of criminal charges being brought against members of fraternal orders under the current laws of the Philippines, pertaining to fraternal organizations, and that this notification is to be acknowledged, in writing by our brothers in the Philippines forthwith by return mail. passed unanimously”. The motion passed.

PROCLAMATION BY THE SUPREME CHANCELLOR:

- On September 13, 2018 a Proclamation regarding the American Cancer Society was emailed to, at least as indicated on the heading of the letter, all Grand Secretaries and secretaries of Subordinate Lodges under the immediate control of the Supreme Lodge, Subordinate Lodge Secretaries; Deputy Supreme Chancellors and Supreme Lodge Officers. The cover on the email read as follows:

Brothers,

SC Joel directed the ACS Committee to disseminate the attached Proclamation, as the Supreme Secretary's office was unavailable or unable to send out, as is customary.

As Grand Secretary, this Proclamation is to be disseminated in a timely manner to every Subordinate Lodge Secretary and the DSC of your respective Domain.

Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding.

Fraternally,

Dan Cowan, KGS/PSC

Co-Chairman, ACS Committee

- On the morning of September 14, after speaking with the Chairman of the American Cancer Society, who indicated he had no knowledge of the Proclamation; a call was placed to the Supreme Chancellor who indicated he acquiesced after several calls from the author of the Proclamation. My comment to the SC was, I'm on an Official Visit on your behalf, this couldn't have waited three days until I returned to the office? If I had it I could have sent it from my hotel room.
 - The Supreme Secretary received several phone calls the following week from several members, including Supreme Lodge Officers who said they found the cover letter on email to be highly insulting.
 - "SC Joel directed the ACS Committee to disseminate the attached Proclamation, as the Supreme Secretary's office was unavailable or unable to send out, as is customary".
- SC Fierstien said all Proclamations going forward will be sent by himself or the Supreme Secretary.

COMMITTEE ON CHARITIES:

- SC Fierstien said he received an email from PSC Cowan, informing him he has to appoint a "Committee on Charities", indicating the requirements can be found in Supreme Statutes § 1.19.013. Section 1.19.013 was adopted at the 2006 Supreme Lodge Convention, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia and since its adoption, according to the Journals of Proceedings from 2008 forward, no Supreme Chancellor, including PSC Cowan (2008-2010) has appointed such a committee. In view of the ACS Committee, no further action was taken.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

- SC Fierstien reminded all of the three (3) Constitutional Amendments that were agreed to at the 2018 Supreme Lodge Convention; all of which are out to the Grand Lodges and need to be ratified in order to become law. He stressed the importance of the Supreme Officers speaking actively on behalf of their ratification at the Grand Lodge Conventions they visit.

JULY 2019 SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING:

- SC Fierstien reminded all that the July 2019 Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 28 at the Imperial Palace Convention in Roanoke, VA. The members of the Council will be expected to attend the Imperial Banquet that Sunday evening, and attend the morning session of the Imperial Palace Convention on Monday, July 29 – in white jackets. He asked that the members make their travel arrangements for home on the afternoon of the 29th.
 - SP Mead indicated that his committee is looking into the same location for the 2024 Supreme Convention.

PROPERTY IN GEORGIA:

- SIG Stamm said we have property in Georgia, and asked, “Should we sell it?” We have had an inquiry from an abutting property owner, asking if we’d consider selling, but no offer was made. There is no structure on the property, but its value is approximately \$7,500. Brother Stamm said we could use a “Quick Claim Deed” and sell if the buyer is agreeable to the asking price.
 - Motion by SS Morris, seconded by SOG Schwartz, “that the Supreme Lodge sell the property”. Motion passed.
 - Motion by SS Morris, seconded by SIG Stamm, “That the sell price be left to the discretion of SVC Brown and SIG Stamm when they seal the deal with a buyer. Motion passed.

BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE:

- Law Chair Greenwald said he’s been in contact with the National office of the Boy Scouts in Irving, TX, and they have no authority to lower the cost for our attendance below \$5,000... That would be for a 10’ square table to be manned by two or four Brothers; and that he would be looking for \$10,000 from the Knights of Pythias Foundation (for Membership) if accepted by the Supreme Council.
 - Motion by Law Chair Greenwald and seconded by SIG Stamm, “To authorize Supreme Secretary to send a voucher for the approval of the Knights of Pythias Foundation, then for the Foundation Chairman to send that approved voucher to the Supreme Treasurer for the issuance of a check in the sum of \$5,000, payable to the ‘National Headquarters Scout Office, BSA’ for payment to the World Jamboree committee for participation of the Supreme Lodge at the 24th World Jamboree to be held in West Virginia, from the last week in July through the first week in August, 2019”. Payment will include the cost of two brothers to enter the grounds of the jamboree each day of the jamboree. Motion passed.

A period of Good of the Order followed.

SP D. Mark Mead offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2019 AT THE HOLIDAY INN VALLEY VIEW, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA. (Imperial Palace Convention)

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Allen S. Morris, KGS
Supreme Secretary