

Minutes, June 24, 1959

General Convocation of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, held Wednesday, June 24th, 1959 at 2:00 p.m. in the Faculty Room of St. Andrew's School, near Middletown, Delaware.

Combined meeting called to include the members, Supreme Council and Board of Directors, to conduct the regular business of the Order.

Permanent Chairman: The Hon. Alfred N. Phillips.

Permanent Secretary: Chas. L. T. Pichel.

Having called the meeting to order, Major Phillips called upon Brother, the Rev. Walden Pell III. to deliver the invocation, which he did in the following words:

"Almighty God, under whose guidance we believe this Order to have been established for the relief of suffering and the defense of truth, we who gather in Thy Name and presence on this Festival of Thy servant St. John the Baptist pray thee to bless this, our Convocation, with a full measure of thy Spirit.

"Inspire us to gain clearer insight into thy will for this Order and its members; save us from all false choices; give us the true humility of the servants of Christ, and the courage of those knights who fought under His Cross of old, that we with them may be used to bring in Thy Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Following the Invocation, Major Phillips threw the meeting open to nominations for Permanent Chairman of the Convocation. Inasmuch as his name was placed before the meeting and seconded, as Permanent Chairman, he turned the Chair over to Brother, the Hon. Clarence B. Hewes, to act as Presiding Officer while the choice of a Permanent Chairman was made.

Presently Brother Clarence, from the Chair, having put to a vote the necessary motions, announced that Major Phillips was unanimously elected Permanent Chairman of the Convocation.

In similar fashion a Permanent Secretary was chosen, with Major Phillips in the Chair, and Brother Chas. L. T. Pichel, Grand Chancellor of the Order, was unanimously elected Permanent Secretary.

The Secretary announced that a quorum was present, whereupon

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The Chair then asked the Secretary to place the proxies on the table for examination and consideration. By unanimous vote these proxies were received and filed.

Unanimously, the following decision was made: -that Brother John T. McCarthy be appointed Chairman of a Finance Committee of

three members, with Brother McCarthy selecting the other two members. It was the sense of the meeting that this Finance Committee could and would thus aid in bringing in and placing the financial structure of the Order on a sound basis.

Col. Pichel, as Treasurer announced that he was turning his financial report over (if agreeable to the meeting) to Brother John McCarthy of St. Paul, Minn. as Chairman of the Finance Committee. This was done by unanimous vote.

By a standing vote, Brother Chas. Pichel was thanked unanimously for his fine work and untiring service to the Order.

Similarly, Brother Phillips was thanked for his work and efforts for the "Maltese Cross" Quarterly Bulletin.

A rising vote of thanks was unanimously given the Headmaster of St. Andrew's School for being the hosts of the Order in Convocation, and to Brother Walden Pell for making the arrangements which brought this about.

On a request read to the meeting by Brother Pichel, and by motion of Brother Hewes, seconded by Brother West, the resignation of Graf von Zeppelin would be accepted with regrets as soon as another Lieutenant Grand-Master could be decided upon. Passed by unanimous vote.

By a similar vote it was decided to replace Mr. William Alexander Valentine as a member of the Board of Directors, because it appeared that Mr. Valentine could not find the time to take part in the meetings of the Order. On inquiry by Brother John McCarthy, it was determined lawful to replace Mr. Valentine with that of Mr. Kirby Patterson as Board member and Attorney General, at this meeting. Passed by majority vote.

After considerable discussion, and on a motion by Dr. John Parr, seconded by Brother Hewes, it was decided that the Order might discontinue mourning for the loss of Rhodes, and thus replace the black ribbon of ~~the~~ various insignia with that of red. It was also decided that those who preferred or who already possessed insignia with the black ribbon might continue to wear the same at their pleasure. Passed by majority vote.

Unanimously, it was voted to commend Brother, General H. Terry Morrison for his efforts and work in securing excellent decorations for the Order.

On a motion of Brother Walden Pell, seconded by Brother Hewes, the Right Reverend Lauriston L. Scaife, Anglican Bishop of Western New York, was unanimously elected A Knight of Justice and Prelate of the Order.

It was unanimously voted by all present that the Convocation approve, ratify and confirm all previous actions of the Supreme

Council, the Board of Directors, and those acts of the Grand Chancellor, as being in full accord with the Constitution and By-laws of the Order. Passed by unanimous vote.

On a motion by Brother Pichel, seconded by Brother Phillips, it was moved that a list of proposed amendments for the Certificate of Incorporation be read, discussed and considered for proper action at a future meeting of the Board of Directors. Proposed amendments were read and passed among the members. Passed by unanimous vote.

On a motion by Brother West and seconded by Brother Tabbutt, it was moved that a list of resolutions for addition to the By-laws and Constitution of the Order be read and considered for action at a future meeting. Passed by unanimous vote.

On a motion by Brother Hewes, seconded by Brother Parr, it was moved that the Grand Chancellor make the necessary arrangements to establish a French Priory of the Order. Passed by unanimous vote.

By a majority vote it was decided that the next Convocation be held on the following June 24th as St. John's Day, if agreeable to the officers in charge. Passed by majority vote.

In closing the Convocation, Brother Rev. Walden Pell delivered the Benediction, and in so doing following the time-honored custom, included in his Benediction, the following:

"Have mercy, O Lord, we beseech Thee, upon the souls of all our departed Knights, and in return for the benefits which they bestowed upon us on earth let them obtain an eternal reward in heaven. Amen."

There being no further business at hand, and upon a motion, duly seconded, it was moved to adjourn the Convocation at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Walden Pell
Secretary.

Corporate Seal.