



# The Knightlighter

The Official Publication of the Knights of Columbus, Msgr. James R. Jones Council  
3303 and Kenneth I. Parker Assembly 1820, New Bern, NC



## Grand Knight's Comments

May

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bingo
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Business Meeting. @ 7 p.m.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly Officers Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Bingo
- 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly Business Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Bingo
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Bingo
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Officers Meeting @ 7p.m.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Tent Setup for Yard Sale
- 29<sup>th</sup> Bingo

Volume: 2023 – 05  
Editor: Edward Martinez  
[mdej99@comcast.net](mailto:mdej99@comcast.net)



Brother Knights,

Congratulations to the Council Knight of the Month – Sir Knight Pat Rocco and Family of the Month – Sir Knight Ron and Denise Biggs.

Our Lenten Fish Fry's at St. Paul's Church Family Life Center in February and March were a huge success. Once again, on behalf of the Council, thank you to Ralph Aviles and all the Knights and Ladies who assisted with cooking, setup and serving. Also, a huge thank you to the ticket sellers and ticket collectors.

Thank you to Vince Fragnito, Denny Colbert, and the team of Knights, who delivered Easter Lilly's to the Widows. Refer to the article included in this Knightlighter edition. Council 3303 and Assembly 1820 delivered donation checks to New Bern High School for 4A State Football Championship Rings – Please refer to article in this Knightlighter issue.

LAMB collections have resumed at the local New Bern grocery stores. Thanks to Tom Henry for coordinating collections with the stores and staffing with our Council Brothers.

Please note – the Founder's Day Breakfast has been rescheduled to Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus Hall.

The Council Slate of Officers will be presented at our next Business Meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have a full Officer Slate, however, if you are interested in a Council Officer position, please notify one of the Trustees – Clark French, Phil Nassef or Mike Lynch to be included on the ballot for the elections at our June Business Meeting.

We are also working on the next Fraternal Year Budget, which will also be presented at our May Business meeting. The Budget will be posted in the Chamber to review and will be voted on during our June Business meeting. If you have any organizations for the Council to consider for donations, please contact the Financial Secretary, Al Casciello or me.

Deputy Grand Knight, Paul Masotta and I will represent the Council as Delegates to the Knights of Columbus North Carolina State Convention in Winston-Salem – April 28-30. Our next Business Meeting is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7 PM - Columbus Club Hall, Council Chamber.

**Randall Ramian**  
Grand Knight

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## 300 Club Results for the Month of April

Below are the winners of the April drawing. Your membership is especially important to us because it allows our Council to contribute to about 28 charities in the area

### April Winners

	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$25</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$10</u>
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Jamilah Smith	Freddy Kruske	Donna Purk	Eva Hernandez
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Stuppiello	Dolores Carter	Rose Bottcher	Tom Hartman
April 21 <sup>th</sup>	Beverly Hartung	Fred Ammirata	Bob Dietrich	Michael Lynch
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Vince Fragnito	Kevin Blust	Paul Scharf	Bob Sisco

**Gerald Brenc**  
Co-Director

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## Yard Sale Workers Appreciation Cookout

Everyone within the Council and Assembly is pretty much aware of the enormous amount of work that is put into the Yard Sale almost every week of the year. Aside from the short breaks taken immediately after the events, workers from the various departments are in the building sorting thru new donations and preparing it for sale during the actual yard sale event. All the while the Truck Monkeys are out on the prowl picking up donations and delivering them back to the facility.

Well, on April 13<sup>th</sup> we held another Workers Appreciation event to treat our volunteers to a great meal and provide them an opportunity to enjoy some time with the other workers that contribute to the success of this event throughout the year. We decided to try something different this year, and held a casual event at our hall, catered by Roland's BBQ out of Beaufort. After the attendees enjoyed a happy hour with Beer, Wine, Cheeses, Pepperoni, Grapes, Veggies Platters, dips, and other snacks, the 70 volunteers and spouses enjoyed some delicious Ribs, Fried Chicken, and Pork BBQ with all the fixins.



The event was scheduled in mid-April as things will really start ramping up in the next month for the Summer Yard Sale, which runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we wanted to provide the volunteers with an enjoyable event prior to the ramp up for the final sale of the fiscal year! As reported at the Council and Assembly Meetings over the past several months, we are close to reaching our budgeted income for the year already, given the success of our first two events. With the storage areas quickly filling with 7 weeks until the start of the sale, we should have another profitable sale on

the books by the end of the fiscal year on June 30<sup>th</sup>. . The only thing we are really missing is Rosie's Boettcher's question as to "Where in the hell did all this #%\$#@&\*^ come from?"

Thanks once again to all the volunteers that make these events successful – we obviously can't do it without your contributions!

**Pat Rocco & Craig Baader**

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## Easter Lilly's Delivered to Widows from Council 3303 Knights

To celebrate Easter, Knights from Council 3303 led by Vince Fragnito and Denny Colbert delivered Lilly's once again this year to the Widows of our Council. The team consisted of the following Knights and the area covered:

Dan Macsary - Trent Woods, Doug Uhland - Taberna/James City, Denny Colbert – Homebound / Hospital, Henry Schafranski - Fairfield Harbor, Kevin Blust - River Bend and Vince Fragnito -Greenbrier/Glenburnie.

On behalf of Council 3303 thanks again for your efforts.

**Randall Ramian**

**Grand Knight**

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## Council 3303 and Assembly 1820 Assist New Bern High School with Donations to Purchase Football Championship Rings

On March 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly 1820 Faithful Navigator, Phil Nassef and Council 3303 Grand Knight, Randall Ramian presented donation checks to Torrey Nowell – Varsity Head Football Coach and Jerry Simmons – Principal at New Bern High School. The donations are to assist New Bern High School with their campaign to raise money to purchase Championship Rings for their 2022 4A North Carolina State Football Championship Team players after completing a perfect season.



Pictured Left to Right: Jerry Simmons, New Bern High School Principal, Phil Nassef, Faithful Navigator – Assembly 1820, Torrey Nowell, New Bern High School Head Varsity Head Football Coach, and Randall Ramian, Grand Knight – Council 3303.

**Randall Ramian**

**Grand Knight**

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## LAMB Report

In March we solicited funds for tootsie rolls at Food Lion on MLK and collected \$511.00. Saturday April 15 there is a collection at Harris Teeter on MLK. There is also a date of Saturday May 20 for a collection at Piggly Wiggly on Simmons St, still need a couple of volunteers for this one. We have secured a spot at Mumfest again this year. I requested the same spot as last year. It will be held on October 14-15 2023.

Thanks again for all your assistance

**Tom Henry**  
**LAMB Administrator**  
**K of C Council 3303**  
**bluewing1@centurylink.net**  
**252 259 8548**



## Knight of the Month - April

Sir Knight Patrick A. Rocco is the Monsignor James R. Jones Knight of the Month for April.

Sir Knight Pat affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, Monsignor James R. Jones, Council 3303 in 2009. Pat has been very active with the Council in a variety of leadership positions, such as Recorder, Deputy Grand Knight, and District Deputy. In 2010 Pat completed his Fourth Degree with Assembly 1820. In addition to his busy schedule with the Council and District positions, Pat also held Assembly positions as Faithful Pilot, Faithful Captain, and Faithful Navigator. He currently is the Yard Sale Chairman.

Sir Knight Pat is involved in every function from Bingo to Shrimp Boils to Fish Fry's. If you are looking for Pat, look no further than the Knights of Columbus Hall or Yard Sale building, because that is where he spends most of his days and evenings.

Council 3303 is proud to honor Sir Knight Pat Rocco as the Knight of the Month.

**Randall Ramian**  
**Grand Knight**



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## Family of the Month – April

### April 2023 Family of the Month: Sir Knight Ron and Denise Biggs

Sir Knight Ron Biggs is married to Denise Callahan and have one daughter, Carlyn and a granddaughter Lillianna. Ron and Denise met in Nicaragua and married in 1986. Denise has a Masters Degree in Education and worked at the international school in Nicaragua then in San Salvador.

As a Floridian, Ron was born in Miami in 1953 and later lived in Key West and eventually Fort Myers. After graduation, Ron joined the US Marines in August 1972. He served overseas in Okinawa, Japan, was a Drill Instructor at Parris Island, SC and was assigned Embassy duty as Detachment Commander in Bangladesh, Nicaragua and San Salvador.

Ron also served as Officer Candidate School Drill Instructor at Quantico Va. He served as 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt of Alpha Co (Northern Europe), in Frankfurt Germany. If these achievements weren't impressive enough, Ron also served as Sgt Major with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 10th Marines Artillery as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 6 Infantry, and Marine Security Guard School and Battalion Quantico, VA. Ron retired from the Marines in 2002 after 30 years of distinguished, honorable service.

He then worked for the State Department Physical Security for 2 years and as a US Army contractor in the role of customer support head for the satellite communications program.

Ron joined the Knights of Columbus in 2015 and has since been actively involved with the council and Assembly filling various roles and positions. Currently, he is the Captain for the Assembly. His many volunteer efforts include working with the yard sale donations pickup team, setup and tear down teams, the Bingo kitchen team, the Lenten Fish Fry team and the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree color corps.

Denise has been active in the Yard Sale working in the dish section setting up displays and sales during the Yard Sale. Ron and Denise also regularly assist in the setup and tear down of dinner nights and other functions.

Council 3303 is proud to honor Ron and Denise as the April 2023 Family of the Month.

**Terry Anderson**  
**Recorder**

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## Membership Director's Desk

Once again, we are closing in on the end of our fiscal year as far as having the required recruitment number of new Knights joining our council. I believe we have exceeded the quota of 15 new members to receive the Star Council Award although I haven't seen the figure from Supreme to date. We have the months of May and June to recruit new Knights to ensure we not only meet our quota but exceed it. With that said I would like to ask all my brother Knights to help in the recruiting effort and help to grow our council. As men of faith, we know all our efforts and good works have made a tremendous impact on our community and parish over the years. We are following in God's footsteps whether we realize it or not. Let's give other men of faith the same opportunity by asking a simple question, "Have you ever considered joining the Knights of Columbus"? Once you ask that question follow it up what we stand for as a Knight and how we offer the opportunity to grow in their faith while helping others and supporting the church to become better Catholics. Membership in the Knights is important, valuable and meaningful to the prospective candidate and his family.

**Dan Macsay**  
**Membership Director**

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## Faithful Navigators Report



I would like to thank everyone who came to the yard sale dinner. We had a great time celebrating our accomplishments in fellowship together. In total, we had about 75 people who attended this event. We do this every year for the workers so please come out and help so you can join us for this great event. The yard sale would not be successful without the hard work and dedication of those who show up on Monday and Tuesdays to make it all possible.

On Saturday April 15th we will have 4 new 4th degree members and we look forward to having them join us. In other news we will be donating \$2,500.00 to RCS this month. This money will continue to help the vets that live there. And is the reason why our yard sales are so important.

I would like to wish everyone who had a birthday or anniversary for the month of April and many blessings. The yard sale will be June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and we will be putting up tents on May 26th at 9am. If you can help please come out and lend a hand with the tents setup. Lunch and free beer will be provided so its worth the work.

Once again from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank each and every person who helps make these yard sales a success. Our community depends on our success.

May God bless you and may he turn his face to you!

**Philip Nassef**  
**Faithful Navigator**



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## Sir Knight of the Month – April

**April's Assembly 1820 selection for SK of the month is Sir Knight Ralph Aviles**

Ralph was born in upstate New York and his family moved to Brooklyn where he joined the Marines after high school and served in Viet Nam from 1966-67. After Ralph left the military he worked with his brother and drove fuel tanker trucks for Mobile and Exxon for a short time. He worked for IBM until his retirement. He is married to Gerry and they have one daughter. He Joined the Knights of Columbus in 2011 and he quickly became involved in the Council and the Assembly, holding several leadership positions including faithful navigator. Ralph continues to head up the Lenten Fish Fry, coordinating the food delivery and the assembly of personnel to work the three fish fries. He also helps with the setup and tear down of the tents for the yard sale event. Ralph has been a main stay for the the Council and Assembly.

**Ron Biggs**  
**Faithful Captain**

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## How I Came From Islam to Protestantism to Belief in the Real Presence



FIGURE 1: MASTER OF PORTILLO, "THE MASS OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT"

There is a Eucharistic chapel at St. Francis Church in Raleigh. That's where I go on my free days to spend an hour with the Lord. During that hour I hardly speak a word. It used to be that I probably spoke far too many words while in prayer. Sometimes a flash of piercing insight will dawn on me during that hour. Days such as that are the exception. The reason that I go there is to spend time with the One who calls us friends. Sometimes I even wonder whether he gets lonely when that room is empty.

My thoughts tend to wander, several times, during that hour. My mind gets seized by various concerns, hopes and dreams, events of the day, or events yet to come. Buddhists have a term for this: monkey mind. I once again focus on where I am whenever I catch this monkey mind by its tail. I do wish that I could remain fully present throughout the hour. Sometimes my physical presence is all that I'm able to give.

I do this because the Blessed Sacrament is what it is: Jesus Christ, really, truly, and substantially present. I'd gone to Holy Hours for about as long as I've been Catholic. Catholic Underground in New York, a cultural apostolate of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, offered a Benediction service that I'd found especially powerful. But spending time with the Blessed Sacrament had, for me, been rather sporadic until a year ago.

It occurred to me during Lent of last year that regardless of whether I could "feel" the Lord's presence in any given moment, he is still very much present in the Blessed Sacrament, that spending more hours in such close quarters with the Body of Christ would always be time well-spent. My initial plan had been to visit him several times, each week, up until the end of that Lenten season. By Easter, I knew that I would continue going.

How many men and women throughout history have dreamt of having easy access to a king? How many of us today dream of being in the entourage of some political figure, celebrity, athlete, or billionaire? Such men and women have far too much going on in their lives to give most of us the time of day. Our idols are just too busy for those of us who are deemed "ordinary."

Our idols, like ourselves, have a Maker whom they ultimately must answer to. An opportunity for fellowship with the King of kings is always there, so long as a church housing him just happens to be near enough. In fact, he waits for us to visit him. The peace we get from being in his presence far surpasses that of being in the presence of any idol. Is this an opportunity which most of us take for granted?

*"The purpose of the Holy Hour is to encourage deep personal encounter with Christ. The holy and glorious God is constantly inviting us to come to him, to hold converse with him, to ask for such things as we need and to experience what a blessing there is in fellowship with him." —Archbishop Fulton Sheen*

I vividly remember learning about the Real Presence for the first time. It was in January 2008. I'd struck up a conversation with one of the pastors of Redeemer Presbyterian Church after a Sunday evening service at First Baptist Church in New York. (Redeemer didn't have its own building quite yet.)

"Did you know that Catholics believe in something called transubstantiation?" the pastor told me. "They believe that the bread and wine literally turn into the body and blood of Christ." "Really?" I replied, tilting my head. I'd just been baptized some months prior to that. Having grown up Muslim, and having fancied myself as some kind of "reasonable" person, believing in the Incarnation was already something of an upper limit of what I was willing to accept as possible. This belief in transubstantiation seemed to go much too far, as it had for many of Christ's disciples themselves (John 6:60). "That's so weird," I told the pastor.

Learning this sure made me glad that I hadn't ended up becoming a Catholic. I had indeed thought about becoming a Catholic during those months leading up to my baptism. My paternal grandmother had been a Catholic (my father is a convert to Islam). St. Patrick's Cathedral was the first church I regularly attended while learning more about Christianity. I also learned during that time that to become a Catholic would mean having to go through something called RCIA, which looked to be rather time-consuming. Times Square Church, on the other hand, would baptize me so long as I took just one class. Times Square Church was where I got baptized. In December 2007, on a Sunday in which I'd been unable to attend St. Patrick's, I went to one of Redeemer's services instead. I was immediately drawn in by Tim Keller's world-class preaching, and my thoughts of joining the Church were momentarily left behind.

I formally joined Redeemer in April 2008. The year 2008 also happened to be the year that a friend of mine, with grandiose dreams of preaching to the rich and famous, had found an office in Turtle Bay which let him hold services for a church he was trying to jumpstart. To be very frank, this friend was remarkably unqualified to give spiritual direction to anyone, or almost any kind of advice at all for that matter. But he was a fellow North Carolinian living in New York, and above all a friend who'd asked me for "a little help" with his church, and so I agreed. The services held in that office space were typically attended only by me, this preacher friend, and another friend of ours who'd gotten roped in.

This preacher-friend called me up one Sunday morning. "Hey, do you think you could pick up some bread, and some grape juice, on your way here?" he asked me. "Sure," I replied. It was obvious what those items were needed for. "Any kind of bread in particular?" "Any bread's fine," he assured me. I bought a loaf of Wonder Bread, and a plastic jug of Welch's grape juice, at a nearby drugstore on my way to the office. That's what we, the three of us attending that service, had used for "communion." I did what I could to resist the thought of Jesus Christ yanking a bread clip off a plastic bag, lifting a slice of white bread up in the air, and saying, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

I'd stopped helping my friend out with his church a few months later when it became clear that he and I had very different ideas of what "a little help" really meant. But the questions raised from the experience of helping him, including those concerning the proper uses of sliced bread and grape juice, had unwittingly inched me closer to again consider joining the Catholic Church.

I knew rather little about differences between Catholic and Evangelical understanding when I'd first become a Christian. I learned a fair amount about those differences in the years that followed. The proper place of the Virgin Mary and the saints, the authority of the Magisterium led by the Holy Father, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the role of tradition, were all among those differences. I found myself sympathizing far more often with the Catholic outlook upon reading about them just a little bit.

But how was I to interpret that "outlandish" belief in transubstantiation when everything else that the Catholic Church believed had made so much sense? Why did so many of those saints whom I'd been growing to admire accept it as true? Was it my own pride, in fancying myself as some kind of "reasonable" person, that prevented me from believing in the miraculous? Who was I, or anyone, to impose any such limits upon God with my own self-estimation?

Was the Eucharist instituted as an act of solidarity and/or remembrance, or as something far more holy than just that? Could it have been that Our Lord meant exactly that when he had said "this is my body" and "this is my blood"? And if such words were not meant to be taken so literally, then when did the Church begin teaching this, and why on earth would she even begin doing so?

I began to wonder why Redeemer itself used sparkling grape juice, rather than actual wine, during "communion." Having had enough years as a practicing Christian, as well as years removed away from Islam, that upper limit of what I could accept as possible had been considerably raised, that the Catholic understanding of the Eucharist didn't appear to me as crazy as before.

It turned out that my time at Redeemer was a preparation. It was where God saw it fit for me to go during those years between my baptism and my being received by his Church. In September 2011 I finally started RCIA, at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, very eager to finally be able to partake in the Eucharist.

*"It is one thing to say that Jehovah is an all-pervading presence in the universe; it is something else to say that Jesus Christ has just entered the room." —G.K. Chesterton, *The Thing**

"Let there be light," God said, and the universe had burst into existence. We can look up at the vast firmament to witness God's greatness. But not every marvel requires us to look up. "This is my body," said Our Lord. The Passion was imminent, mere hours away, when he said it. And yet he had promised to remain with us, concealed under the appearances of bread and wine, and has kept his promise since that very first Holy Thursday 2,000 years ago.

The opportunity to visit him is always there. The question is, and has long been, whether we will seize such an opportunity.

**This article taken from the National Catholic Register and was written by Zubir Simonson, April 6, 2023**





## May is the Month of Mary

*“She is that woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the saint among the saints, blessed above all others.*

*She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side.*

*She does not let us remain fallen and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us.”*

*—Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate*

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us. Why does Mary have such a prominent place in the communion of saints?

As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reflected in *Deus Caritas Est* (Dec. 2005), “Outstanding among the saints is Mary, Mother of the Lord and mirror of all holiness. Mary’s greatness consists in the fact that she wants to magnify God, not herself. She is lowly: her only desire is to be the handmaid of the Lord (cf. Lk 1:38, 48).”

Mary, more than anyone, can show us Jesus, lead us to him and teach us to know and love him, “so that we too can become capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world.”

May is also dedicated to recognizing moms, grandmothers, stepmoms, mothers-to-be and all women who in and through their lives encompass the qualities of motherhood. It’s also important to realize that Mother’s Day can be difficult or painful for women who struggle with infertility, the loss of a child or children, or who are estranged from their own mothers.

Deacon Jim Hackett

The most prominent Marian feast days in the General Roman Calendar are (note: Solemnities and feasts are in bold face. Memorials are in regular face.)

- **January 1: Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
- **February 2: Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary also known as Candlemas**
- **March 25: The Annunciation of the Lord**
- **May 31: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- **August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- August 22: The Queenship of Mary
- **September 8: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary also known as Marymas**
- September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows
- October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary
- November 21: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Optional Marian memorials in the General Roman Calendar are:


- February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes
- May 13: Our Lady of Fatima
- July 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- August 5: Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major
- September 12: The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- December 10: Our Lady of Loreto
- December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe



## Mother's Day Prayer

"I thank you, Creator of us all, for my mother. I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me all those years. She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others. She taught me that it was okay to cry and that I should always tell the truth. Bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today. Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her. Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace. Bless her this day with your love." Amen.

**Note: This prayer was taken from prayers for and by mothers on Creighton University's Online Ministries. This website and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offer prayers for mothers struggling through a variety of challenges as well as blessings.**



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The Tech Team

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### THE KNIGHTLIGHTER

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 Assistant Editor: Open  
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For information on the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, contact:  
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 SK Phil Nassef  
 (252) 229-9799