



Amador County Council 1849 Knights of Columbus

Thursday, April 9, 2020

Brother Knights:

We are moving into a new look at meetings from a distance. Since the next few months are critical to the suppression of the COVID-19 dangers, Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has passed a resolution to allow, and pursue, electronic meetings.

That would mean a rethinking on how Councils do business for the next at least two months and possibly more. Along those lines, there are several possible solutions. However all the solutions involve the use of the Internet.

Internet connections need to be secure and substantial. This can be accomplished in several ways. The Internet meeting protocols of most online systems provide the security. But your home Internet connections need to have the bandwidth necessary for these types of meetings.

If you plan on using your smart phones for these meetings, that will work as well. 4g networks will handle the bandwidth that is needed. Anything less than 4g could be problematic.

There are several things you need to do to make sure all is ready. We plan on using the Cisco "Webex" program. While you can download a small program to make the connections more efficient, the Webex system is entirely usable using your normal Internet browser.

It would be better, if you can, however, to download the program for your computer, smartphone, or tablet. To do that, go to www.webex.com. Follow the directions on that site to download what you need. There is no cost since we will be using the basic system. Doing so will allow committees to work together without having the entire membership online.

On Monday, next week, we will have a test Council meeting to test the connections. If you have the programs ahead of time, all should work well. If you need additional help in making the connections, we will have time to do that before the officer or regular meeting that Grand Knight Joe Trassare will be calling. The invitation for that test meeting has been sent via email.

To work correctly, your computer should have its own built in or USB camera. It should have its own built it sound system or one connected to the audio outputs. Laptop computers generally have both built in. Desktop computers may need peripherals. Smartphones and tablets generally have those included. Just make sure the camera you are using is the one facing you. Generally, that choice is automatic with these meeting programs.

Fraternally,

Nicholas Ragusano
Communications Director
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Knights of Columbus