

# Columbus Charities, Incorporated Meeting

**Kim L Washburn, President**  
**10555 Fox Rd**  
**Leavenworth, Washington 98826**

## MINUTES – General Meeting – 14 May 2022

Kim L Washburn	President	present
Gregory S Mahoney	Vice-President	present
Thomas C Williams	Treasurer	present
Scott E Hulse	Secretary	present
David H Olwell	Director	present
Fr. Kenneth St. Hilaire	Director	present
Patrick L Kelley	Director	present
Joseph Kessler	Chairman	present

President: The General Membership meeting of the Columbus Charities is now open. This meeting will continue to be recorded.

Only credentialed delegates and other authorized members are permitted in this meeting. We will be checking each attendee on this webinar against our list of credentialed personnel and removing any unauthorized attendees.

Participants in this meeting can either be panelists or attendees. The camera and microphone of attendees are disabled. If you wish to speak, you can use the Zoom “Raise Hand” feature, ask a question in the “Q&A” function, or send a message in the chat function. Once recognized to speak, your microphone will be enabled (assuming you have one) and you will be announced.

Unlike Washington State Council, discussion of Resolutions may take place and can be amended on the floor. Due to time constraint, we ask you to please be brief and to the point. Discussion will be limited to two minutes per speaker.

I note that since its inception in 1987 through April 30 of this year, Columbus Charities has donated \$1,555,868.31.

Minutes / financials are posted on the convention website. Without objection, they are adopted as submitted.

Is there any unfinished business?

Hearing none, we will now proceed to new business.

Brothers,

For the past several years the Columbus Charities Board has been working on finding another revenue stream to replace the dollars formerly derived from the old Columbus Charities Raffle. This new revenue stream will in NO WAY affect or replace the Tootsie Roll Program. The Tootsie Roll Program will remain as it has been, having raised well over \$1 million since inception.

You may have heard me speak about the LAMB (Least of All My Brethren) 1882 Program that I will start in the fraternal year 2022-2023. This program will be explained in further detail at our Summer Meeting in July with program information/support to follow to all councils and members.

This program will help support those organizations that fall through the cracks assisting in the homeless, feeding the hungry, aiding the disabled, education, pro-life, and a number of other efforts. With the membership and council help, this program will bring Columbus Charities to be a real formidable organization.

Currently, charitable giving occurs at the local council and at the Supreme level. There is no major source of funds for the Knights in the State to pool their efforts towards common state goals or programs. The Least of All My Brethren program allows the state to pool resources in Columbus Charities to together support initiatives that span across the state.

By pooling our donations, we can together make a much greater impact.

You will hear later this summer of a proposed donation of \$18.82 per year per member, in honor of our founding by Fr. Michael J McGivney in 1882. With every dollar earned, a matching donation up to \$500,000 will be made to the LAMB program. I am very excited about this program, just as much as seeing the Tootsie Roll Program come to fruition.

We now move to discussing our bylaws.

Columbus Charities bylaws are antiquated and in dire need of an update, as well as its website. It is imperative that the Resolution proposal that follows be approved in its entirety to set the stage for further growth. Potential donors visit our website to do their due diligence, and we need bylaws and a website that are current and effective. Being an organization that can pass the scrutiny of future large donors will ensure that Columbus Charities will become an even stronger, viable organization and a force for good will.

I would now ask Worthy Brother Joe Kessler, our guest consultant to Columbus Charities, to comment on the proposed revisions to the bylaws.

**Brother Joe Kessler:**

Thank you, Worthy State Deputy Kim. Good Afternoon Brother Knights.

As you know, Columbus Charities was initially formed in 1973 and subsequently revised in 2008 to create the charitable organization we have today. During these past forty-nine years Columbus Charities has supported numerous worthy causes in the State of Washington. During the 2009 Annual Meeting the goal was set to grow the Fund to at least \$1,000,000. Although various fund-raising programs have been undertaken over the years, the Fund is currently at less than 17% of the stated goal.

As the needs for charitable funding became more pronounced during the past two years due to the Pandemic and decreased charitable giving, it became apparent that we needed to evaluate the program in its entirety. We began by reviewing the current mission, and the goals and the strategies for meeting them. During this analysis the focus changed to making Columbus Charities a viable, impactful charitable fund that is sustainable in perpetuity.

In order to meet the mission and goals of the Fund, there needed to be substantive changes to the structure and management of the organization. During the past couple of years there has been many discussions and much work done to make these needs a reality. Procedures for managing this 501(c)3 non-profit corporation have not been as transparent as they could be, which created impediments to its growth. In

addition, the management of Columbus Charities was not set up to maximize its potential for growth and impact.

The proposed amendments to the By-Laws represent a clearer focus on the purpose and mission of the organization as well as streamlining its management and the delegation of duties. For example, under the current By-Laws, there is no mechanism for the Board of Directors to appoint committees. This is a critical component to create efficiency, and more importantly, clear focus on the mission of the organization. To this end, two permanent committees will be formed.

The Charitable Giving Committee will be charged with developing policies governing the process, procedures and policies for the decision-making process. The Committee will also be responsible for analyzing all donation requests, vetting recipient organizations and making recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Investment Committee will be charged with developing the investment policies, and to outline the goals, philosophy, guidelines, restrictions, management and review of all investments. The Committee will provide ongoing reviews and recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The implementation of the proposed By-Laws will provide clearer delineation of duties, process and responsibilities both in the management of the organization and oversight of the Fund.

These changes will help Columbus Charities become an even more vibrant and impactful vehicle for achieving one of our primary missions as Knights of Columbus – CHARITY!

As our Worthy State Deputy noted in his message, the LAMB (Least of All My Brethren) Program will be the primary fund-raising program to help achieve our goal of making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. We are asking each member in the State to donate a minimum of \$18.82 each year to help fund the critical work that is part of our role as Knights. The 1882 program is in commemoration of the year Blessed Father Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus. The goal of \$18.82 is just over 5 cents per day or \$1.50 per month for each Knight. Please prayerfully consider making this a regular part of your charitable giving plan.

I appreciate your attention. Thank you.

**President:**

Thank you, Brother Joe. Worthy Vice President Mahoney.

**Vice President Mahoney:** Mr. President, I move that the proposed revision to the bylaws of Columbus Charities be adopted effective 14 May 2022. Is there a second?

**Director Olwell:** Mr. President, I second.

**President Washburn:** Dave Olwell has seconded the motion. Thank you, Brother Greg. Is there any discussion on the proposed resolution? If so, please raise your hand.  
Is there any discussion on the proposed resolution?

Hearing none, we will now proceed to vote. I note that a two-thirds majority is required for the revision to the bylaws to pass.

**Voting Procedures**

**President:** Vice President Greg Mahoney will now provide the delegate count and instructions for voting.

**Vice President:**

The number of delegates is:

- 7 Board of Directors
- 125 Delegates
- 132 Total Voting Delegates

**President:** We now proceed to vote on the Revision to the bylaws of the Columbus Charities. I call on Vice President Greg Mahoney.

**Vice President:**

The ballot is displayed on your Zoom screen. Balloting will be open for one minute. Balloting is now closed. I now ask the tellers and judge to report the results of the ballot.

**Teller/Judges:**

For the resolution to revise the Columbus Charities bylaws, the results are 90% acceptance.

**Vice President:**

With more than 2/3 affirmative votes, the resolution is adopted

**President:**

Thank you, Greg. To start this program, I will now present a check for \$18.82 to Columbus Charities as the first donation for the LAMB program. With the generous match, it represents \$37.64 in funds! Is there any other new business before Columbus Charities?

Hearing none, the General Membership Meeting of Columbus Charities, Incorporated is adjourned.

Attested this date: 14 May 2022

*Scott E Hulse*

Scott E. Hulse  
Board Secretary  
Columbus Charities, Inc. Board of Directors