

# News Report From District 4, KSJ Int'l

BY Sir Knight, Titus Osuagwu

## *Courtesies of:*

**Col. James J. Schafhausen,**  
*Supreme Under Secretary, KSJ Journal.*

**Brigadier General George J. Hoffman Jr.,**  
*President, Knights of St. John Int'l,  
New York Grand Commandery.*



MEDIA & INFORMATION OFFICER  
4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, COMMANDERY 680,  
KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN INTERNATIONAL  
NEW YORK GRAND COMMANDERY

## **ACTIVITIES REPORT FROM NOVEMBER 2011 – JANUARY, 2012:**

Activities all through the quarter strongly suggest that Brother Knights and Ladies Auxiliaries are becoming more aware of their duties and responsibilities by dedications and selfless services which are the principal attribute of the Noble Order of St. John International. Members of this District have continued to make great sacrifices in the service of humanity and mankind. This news report features joyful accomplishments and numerous efforts of the leaders of various Commanderies and members towards improving the quality of our performances in the 4<sup>th</sup> District of New York Grand Commandery.

## **Commandery 676, Trenton New Jersey:**

Commandery 676 and LAUX 598 Trenton NJ celebrated their 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, November 19, 2011. That occasion also marked the Christmas and End of Year Party for the Commandery. In his welcome and opening remarks, Capt. Bruce Stowers, the Worthy President, reiterated "we have come a long way; we have initiated 18 new members. Today we have 29 members overall". Capt Bruce also announced that the initiation of 17 Cadets is underway. He thanked members of his Commandery for their wonderful job and for what they have accomplished so far. Major Charles Abiakwe, 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander, graced this occasion. In his comments, he praised the KSJ family bond which is reigning supreme. He stated that we are a family, we project the family, and that's what we stand for. He concluded by stating "Let the spirit stand and continue to grow". Commandery 680 was represented by Sir Chief Titus Osuagwu, Sergeant at Arms of the New York 4<sup>th</sup> District & 680 BOT Member. Lady Marcelina Akanno, coordinator of Laux 592, represented the Laux. Bother Sam K. Okyre, Worthy President of Commandery 615 Philadelphia and Bro. Thomas-Paye Dahn, Financial Secretary of Commandery 615 Philadelphia also graced the occasion. In her vote of thanks, the Respected President of Ladies Auxiliary #598, Lady Darlene Stowers, on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary, thanked everyone for coming to show love and support. The Commander of 676, Lt. Chukwu Ethel Akalaegbere, was the chief of protocol and ensured that everything went on smoothly. The event featured a dinner party and dance all through the night.

The following day, November 20<sup>th</sup>, Commandery 676 had their Inspection and Muster conducted in compliance with General Order No. 1. Their full and detailed Inspection Report was accordingly forwarded to the Inspector General. Below is a photo of members of Commandery 676 in full uniform after the Inspection.



**GROUP PHOTO OF KNIGHTS OF 676 AND LADIES 598  
WITH GUESTS DURING THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



**IT'S BOOGIE TIME AS MEMBERS OF 676 AND LAUX 598 CELEBRATE THEIR ANNIVERSARY**



**MEMBERS OF #676 AFTER INSPECTION & MUSTER**

## **Commandery 680, Blessed Sacrament, Newark NJ:**

2011 Thanksgiving Service was celebrated with a Solemn High Mass which was liturgied by the Spiritual Advisor, Monsignor Anselm Nwaorgu and fully participated by Brother Knights of Commandery 680 and Ladies Auxiliary 592 at the Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark NJ on Thursday, November 24, 2011. In her extended efforts to support and care for all those in need, members of Commandery 680 and Ladies Auxiliary 592 actively and joyfully participated in the 2011 Soup Kitchen by serving cooked and prepared foods to over 150 homeless people within that vicinity. This exercise took place immediately after the Mass Service at the Blessed Sacrament Church Cafeteria. In continuance of her charitable mission, the Commandery is also fully involved in the establishment of a Food Pantry in the Blessed Sacrament Church to serve the needy. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chinedum Harold Uche, the Financial Secretary of 680 and Paymaster of District 4 is the pioneer in the collection of both canned and raw foods including beverages for this center.



**BROTHERS & SISTERS OF 680 & 592 READY TO SERVE FOOD TO THE HOMELESS**



**BROS & SISTERS SERVING THE HOMELESS**



**THE FOOD PANTRY WITH THE ATTENDANT**

### **Inspection of Commandery 680:**

In compliance with Order No. 1 of Knights of St. John International Military Department issued by the Adjutant General's Office dated September 1, 2011, Commandery 680 conducted the inspection and muster of all members under her command on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Members of the Commandery were clad in full military uniforms with their bags and were jointly inspected by Major Charles Abiakwe (Commander of District 4), Lt. Sebastian Ike (Inspector of District 4 and 680 Worthy President), and Captain Joseph Ofodile (680 Military Commander). Full and detailed Inspection Report was accordingly forwarded to the Inspector General.



BROTHERS OF #680 BEING INSPECTED BY MAJ. CHARLES ABIAKWE (DISTRICT 4 COMDR), LT. SEBASTINE IKE (INSPECTOR), CAPTAIN JOE OFODILE (COMMANDER)

### **Commandery 680 Christmas and End of the Year Party:**

Commandery 680 and Laux 592 celebrated the 2011 Christmas and End of Year Party with a bang on Sunday, December 18, immediately after the Church Service all through the night. Commandery 626 New York officers were special guests namely - Sir Augustine Emeh (Worthy President), Sir Kenneth Uchendu (First Vice), Sir John Akuobi (Secretary) and Sir Charles Igwebuike (former Commander). Coincidentally, Commandery 676 Trenton were holding cabinet officers election same day but they sent in fraternal goodwill message to Commandery 680 and Laux 592 to wish them successful event.

This occasion featured honoring and recognition of members who have gone beyond the call of duty for their hard work and dedication to the cause of the Commandery and KSJI in general. Distinguished among the recipients of the award is Sir Chief Titus Osuagwu, Media Relations & Information Officer and Sergeant at Arms of 4<sup>th</sup> District. Sir Osuagwu was

recognized for his great humility, tireless efforts in the KSJI Order and for his outstanding efforts towards the mobilization of new aspirants into the Commandery. Other members who were recognized are: Brother Emmanuel Oguh, for exemplary by not missing one Holy Mass and the partaking of Holy Communion in the calendar year; Lady Martina Enwere for her outstanding services in Ladies Auxiliary 592, and lastly Lady Marcelina Akanno for her efforts in the effective leadership and coordination of activities of the Ladies Auxiliary 592. The Worthy President, Brother Sebastian Ike and the Respected President Lady Aurelia Ike, made the presentations. They enjoined the members to emulate all the recipients of the awards who were honored today for their perseverance, exemplary achievements, and sincere commitments.

The Worthy President of 680, Brother Sebastian Ike used that occasion to showcase over 15 (fifteen) new aspirants who are currently undergoing Catechism classes and training towards the next 680 Induction Ceremony of the Commandery slated for April, 2012. He charged all the aspirants to work hard in their training so as to scale through the rigorous screenings preceding their induction and above all, be prepared to tow the path to generosity and charitable causes. Major Charles Abiakwe, New York Grand 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander, who moderated the event, in the spirit of the Christmas Holidays and the New Year, thanked all the members of Commandery 680, Laux 592, the clergy community, distinguished guests for all their support and amazing response, and as we look forward to 2012, we all should leverage the lessons learned from the past years as a springboard to a better stewardship in 2012. He called on all members to continue to strive and work hard, build charitable faith, hope, values and integrity so that those to whom we shall hand the baton will just find it a little easier to follow and stay on the course.



AWARD RECIPIENTS: L-R: SRS. MARCELINA AKANNO, MARTINA ENWERE, SR. AURELIA IKE (RESPECTED PRESIDENT), CHIEF TITUS OSUAGWU, MAJ. CHARLES ABIAKWE (DISTRICT 4 COMDR), LT. SEBASTINE IKE (WORTHY PRESIDENT), SIR EMMA OGU

### **4<sup>th</sup> District Meetings:**

Live meetings and teleconferences have continued to be held towards the fulfillment of the wishes of St. John International and the Catholic Church. We have made tremendous progress in our respective Commanderies. On Sunday, January 29, 2012, a live meeting of all officers of District 4 and its uniformed members was held at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament – Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd, 716 Bellevue Avenue, Trenton, NJ. Commandery #676 was the host. According to the District Commander, Major Charles

Abiakwe, this January meeting was supposed to be held in December 2011, but it was postponed to allow brother knights from New York 626 Commandery to formally integrate into District 4 as approved by both the Grand and Supreme Headquarters. This January meeting was aimed at laying the road map for the District for the 2012 calendar year. **Among the resolutions taken** was the empanelling of the Bylaws Committee. Members of this Committee were charged with the responsibility of writing the Bylaws and to present the draft for reading and adoption within 90 days. The committee is composed of three members each from the three Commanderies of the 4<sup>th</sup> District. **Another resolution was** the joint initiation of new aspirants by the District. The District resolved to have a joint initiation of new members after the adoption of the Bylaws governing the District. **Also a three-member committee was set up** (each Commander from the three Commanderies) to work out the modalities along with the Bylaws Committee. This will not affect any already scheduled initiations by some Commanderies prior to approval of the new Bylaws. The ordering and presentation of arms and the salute to the Flags were orderly conducted by the District Messenger, Lt. Chukwu Akalaegbere and the Sergeant at Arms, Sir Titus Osuagwu.

At the end of the meeting, members were availed with the opportunity to undergo Prostrate Cancer Screenings which was organized by the Parish Council of the Church of The Blessed Sacrament, Trenton. The screening entailed Laboratory Blood Works and physical examinations by the Urologist.



**OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF DISTRICT 4 AFTER THE MEETING**

### **Upcoming Events:**

Commandery #680 and Ladies Auxiliary #592 Newark NJ will be having her 2<sup>nd</sup> Induction Ceremony for the new aspirants on the weekend of April 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 through 29<sup>th</sup> and everyone is invited to come and grace this event. More news will be coming in the months ahead.