



# The Explorer

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Of The  
Kansas  
Knights of Columbus

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<http://www.kansas-kofc.org>

April 2017

## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

In just a few weeks, we will meet in Topeka for the 116th Kansas State Convention! The Convention is and will always be a great time to renew old friendships and to celebrate the achievements of the fraternal year. It looks we'll have many things to celebrate: new records in tootsie roll donations, a record amount of Religious Education monies raised, the installation of two sonogram machines in pregnancy crisis centers, and the installation of two new Knights of Columbus Councils!



I was looking at the State membership numbers and I realize that we are doing much better this second half of the year. Kansas hit its

membership goals for both January and February. It is hoped that by the time you read this, Kansas will have achieved its goal for March, also.

Now... about April, May, and June: membership is one great big momentum machine. Once a Council or a District becomes membership active, don't stop! You've got to keep it going! It is much easier to keep your First Degree Team sharp if you have more than one or two degrees a year.

I would like to remind you that the coveted Star Council award can still be achieved. As if being recognized by Supreme as one of the top 10% of Councils in the entire Order was not enough incentive, Supreme offers an even bigger prize: if a council qualifies for the Star Council Award in 2016-2017 Fraternal Year, that council will receive a credit for the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year of \$4.50 for each billable member on the roster as of July 1st, 2017! That's right! If your council has 100 billable members on your roster, your council will receive a \$450 credit from Supreme towards, per capita, culture of life, etc.! If you are close on the membership requirement, get busy! Schedule a couple of First Degrees and recruit to fill them. If you lack membership make certain that your Field Agent know this and encourage him to work your Council's new and/or Associate Members. If you don't have a Field Agent, make certain that you contact your General Agent for help.

A little reminder if your Council or District is considering Star status: suspensions and withdraws count against your membership numbers. What is the best way to keep these suspensions and withdraws from occurring? Recruit members, get them to the 3rd Degree, and then involve them in Council functions. If a member has not paid his dues or stops coming to Knights of Columbus meetings,

contact him. Find out what is going on. Invite him back to meetings. Remind him of the benefits of membership in the Order. Most of all, doing nothing will get you nothing.

As we approach the end of Lent and Easter Sunday, I wish all Knights and their families a happy and joyous Easter! May the love of God, family and friends nourish your soul, and renew in us all a sense of God's love.

Vivat Jesus

Vincent P. Melvin III  
State Deputy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Updates to all State Knights events and deadlines at <http://www.kansas-kofc.org/>

Additional Forms and Resources can be found on the Supreme Knights website at <http://www.kofc.org/en/members/resources/forms/council.html>.

### **APRIL**

- 1-2 End of Outreach Week in honor of Father McGivney
- 1 **Deadline** for the following:
  - o Fulfillment of Adopt-A-Seminarian Pledges
  - o Diocesan Knight of the Year winners to Fraternal Chairman
  - o Diocesan Family of the Year winners to Family Life Director
  - o Scrapbook entries to appropriate Directors/Chairmen
  - o Culture of Life Report Form to Culture of Life Chairman
  - o Evangelium Vitae Award Applications to Culture of Life Chairman
  - o Submit RSVP/Plaque Applications to Supreme
  - o Essay Contest winners to State Youth Director
- 1-2 Squires State Convention in Garden Plains
- 2 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 34  
Host: 10483 - Location: Wichita St.  
Elizabeth Ann Seton- CO: Weber
- 2 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 45  
Host: 10044 - Location: Hays -  
CO: Kaiser
- 8 Patriotic Degree Exemplification in Newton
- 10 Councils that are in arrears will be suspended
- 22 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 5  
Host: 900 - Location: Leavenworth -  
CO: Winchester

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS Continued

- 23 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 44  
Host: 1857 - Location: Plainville -  
CO: Kaiser
- 23 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 2  
Host: 4219 - Location: Holton-  
CO: Melvin
- 23 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 11  
Host: 12577 - Location: Leawood /  
St. Michael- CO: Grothoff
- 23 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 37  
Host: 921 - Location: Beloit- CO:Steier
- 29 5th Sunday Rosary Program

## **MAY**

- 4-7 State Convention in Topeka
- 10 Admission Degree - Council 1149 - Paola
- 21 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 6  
Host: 3020 - Location: Roeland/St. Agnes  
Fairway - CO: Wagner
- 21 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 31  
Host: 2937 - Location: Garden Plain-  
CO: Weber

## CONGRATULATIONS KNIGHTS

The State Knight of the Month is Steve Moser from Council 1777 Marysville

Families for the Month of December: Scott Klepper 1187, Glenn Mies 2987, Ben Ramsey 3273, James Wilson 7485, Andrew Burr 8196, and Albert Rottinghaus 10301.

Families for the Month of January: Blake Butler 883, Brent Blocker 1181, Joshua Maher 1913, Richard Ketner 2217, Dion Lake 4254, Orville Huffies 10301, and Gates Brown 10834.

## STATE CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

The most Reverend Dan Gardner, State Chaplain

As I was looking at Michelangelo's Pietà one day, and reflecting on the beauty of it all, a song came to mind which startled me a bit for it is traditionally a Christmas song, but fits incredibly in with this scene. *"What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? ....This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary."*

One can imagine that when Jesus was born he laid in the lap of his mother, and one can also imagine, as did Michelangelo, that when Jesus was brought down from the cross, Mary again cradled her son in her arms and held him tight as we see in the Pietà. In both of these scenes, one can imagine her great love for him, one of great joy, the other of great sadness. None of these scenes are recorded in Scripture, so it is our imagination that creates these two scenarios.

So here we are in the month of April in which we celebrate the Passion, Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, our Savior. This celebration means nothing without the birth of Christ. He came to die. He died to rise. He came to be with us. He rose so that we can be with him. *"What Child is this... This, this is Christ the King... Haste, haste to bring him laud..."*

May your Lent have been fruitful, your Easter be joyful, your hope in eternal life be renewed and the love of God deepen in you each day. Happy Easter!

## STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Brothers, hopefully your Council held a Church Drive in March. Your District Deputy was told to insist on one for your Council. Did you do one? If you did, I bet you got some results from it. For smaller parishes that may have only been one or two new members. For larger parishes that could be a dozen or more. Recently, I was at Christ the King Parish in Wichita for a church drive there. I saw unbridled enthusiasm from organizers, current members and prospective new members about establishing a new Council in this location. The men of Christ the King did a great job in holding this church drive. I saw many occasions where the organizers would say "Hey Joe, are you ready to transfer into this new Council?" or "Steve, you really need to join the Knights of Columbus". In almost every case, that prospective member or transfer signed the form. Men, the key to recruiting is talking to people. You must communicate, you have to say "We want you!" There is how to do a successful church drive. By the way, that Council should be up and running with over 35+ men before the State Convention. All 35 of them were asked. You need to ask. That is how to be a FISHER OF MEN!

Now, if your Council didn't do a March Church Drive, it's okay. You can do one in early April. They are not hard to do. A two minute speech at Mass (presuming your pastor allows that), and standing in the back of church and saying "We need you". All you have to do is make sure you have some pamphlets from Supreme and plenty of Form 100's. This is the easy way to make your Star Council Membership goal and your Sunflower Award for excellence award Membership goal.

Don't forget to talk to and recruit your RCIA classes. Those men are eligible April 16 following Easter! These are men looking for a way to participate. May you all share the peace and of love of Christ this Easter season. Go forth and be a FISHER OF MEN!

God bless you and God bless the Knights of Columbus.

John Schulz  
State Membership Director

## STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thomas Schmeidler, State Program Director

"Together we are an enormous force for good in a world that so obviously needs the love of God and love of neighbor, which must be reflected in our work."- Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight

Never have I seen a better example of this then when my wife Gail and I had the opportunity to attend the Kansas Special Olympics for Basketball and Cheerleading in Hays. Where part of the donations collected by your councils provided sponsorship for this event. It was a beautiful reflection of how your time and fund raising efforts manifested in a great fellowship experience for all who attended

Now for more exciting events the 116th Annual State Convention is being hosted by Topeka Council #8411 in Topeka. Please visit <http://ctkknights.org/Topeka2017> for more information.

The State Convention is less than one month away. Deadlines for submitting reports for programs, Knight of the Year, Family of the Year and scrapbooks was April 1. Directors and Chairmen are busy choosing the winning entries for awards to be presented at the convention. See above the calendar dates for websites to reprint forms you may have misplaced.

The State Convention should be the highlight of the fraternal year. Third degree members are eligible and encouraged to attend the business sessions. All members and spouses are welcome to attend the Convention Mass, banquet, dinner, workshops, and other activities.

What about Star Council? Will your council receive this prestigious award? One of the required reports to be filed at Supreme is the form SP-7 - Columbian Award Application. Samples of four (4) activities required in each of the six (6) areas of programming can be found inside the back cover of the Program & Membership Guide. Please review these activities right away and complete the application form. If there is an activity planned for May or June, go ahead and put it on the form. **Prior to the convention, all councils should submit their form SP-7 to their district deputy. He is asked to bring them to the convention and turn them in to me. I will record them and mail them to Supreme.**

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### *Adopt a Seminarian*

Church Activities Director Gary Wondra encourages all councils to fulfill their seminarian pledges and submit the RSVP form to Supreme. Councils must file the report with Supreme to receive the \$100.00 refund and the year plate for your plaque. If your council is not entitled to a refund, you

should still submit the report listing your seminarian and the nature and amount of your support. If you have not done so, please update Gary with the name of the seminarian(s) you are supporting and the amount of financial assistance given to each so the information can be recorded. There are still some seminarians needing additional financial assistance. Contact Gary if you would like the name of a seminarian to sponsor.

### *Vocation Poster Contest*

Vocations Chairman Gary Wondra thanks all of the councils and districts that submitted their posters for the Vocation Poster Contest. The winners will be announced at the State Convention.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### *Free Throw*

The State Free Throw Contest was held March 5th in Salina. Youth Activities Director Bob Duffin reports it was well attended. The contestants were the top shooters in the state and showed it. See the back page for the list of State Winners. A BIG "Thank You" to all who helped make it a success, especially Doug Mergen. Bob reminds all councils to file their Free Throw Contest Report (FT-1 form) with Supreme. Please don't forget.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The State Council's Family of the Year will have been selected by the time you read this; however, don't forget to continue submitting the Family of the Month applications. Remember the council family chairman submitting families to supreme 3 consecutive months will receive a hand-tied rosary in recognition of their efforts. Please note submissions must be made prior to the deadline.

Finally, a tremendous effort has been made involving the Holy Family Prayer program. Your efforts are gaining momentum and each district has expressed challenges and success. Gentlemen as I said it is gaining momentum and I want to thank everyone for their efforts and continued support as you offer ways to inspire Strong Catholic Families.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### *Pennies from Heaven*

Thank you to the councils that have responded with donations of items for the auction or to sell in the Country Store at the State Convention. We still need more items for the Saturday night auction and to sell at the Country Store. Time is getting short, but it's not too late to consider bringing an auction or country store item. Popular items are homemade furniture or handcrafted items. If you are bringing

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items, please call Bruce Luehring, Pennies from Heaven Chairman, at 316-788-4663 so we know what to plan for. The sales price of the item will be credited to your council's Pennies from Heaven donation. **Credit cards and debit cards will be accepted for payments in the Country Store and for auction items.** Cash and checks are also accepted.

This is also a reminder that councils must turn their Pennies From Heaven donations in to the County Store by noon on Saturday at the convention.

### ***Tootsie Roll Update***

State Tootsie Roll Chairman Barney Wolters thanks all the councils that participated and helped make the program very successful this year. Together we helped over 1,200 athletes enjoy the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament and Cheerleading Competition, which was held in Hays March 16-18.

### ***Culture of Life: April 2017***

#### ***Lino Munoz***

Just a quick quiz. Without looking now. What was on the cover of the Columbia magazine, Volume 97, Number 1. OK, go ahead and look. Did you get it? Another helpful hint, try January 2017. Well in case you missed it or just forgot, it is the ink sketch depicting a child in the womb, by Leonardo da Vinci. Beneath the sketch are the words of the late U.S. Representative, Henry Hyde, "The law exists to protect the weak from the strong."

Henry Hyde joined the Knights of Columbus in 1955 to the Fr. McDonald Council 1911 in Elmhurst, Ill. And although he co-sponsored a bill to legalize abortion, he later studied the bill, changed his mind and led the opposition to defeat it. This is a very good article by O. Carter Snead and I recommend taking time to read it as it describes a man that was obviously touch by the Holy Spirit to become a great defender of the unborn.

Now you may be wondering where could he be going with this? Well, let me ask you as I ask myself. What would you have thought if someone said to you that someday, you would be part of a Catholic Order and that you would be working to place an ultrasound machine in a clinic to help protect the life of an unborn child in the state of Kansas? Would you have thought that your life would be much like that of Henry Hyde, although not a part of Senate or Congress, yet working in the same battlefield defending the weak from the strong?

Would you have thought that your life would be touched by the same Holy Spirit to become a great defender of the unborn? Well you are, and some of the lives we are working to save may, by the power

of the same Holy Spirit, someday become much like that of Henry Hyde or ourselves. Our 2nd ultrasound machine is in Junction City at this time and we are establishing a date for the dedication. Working together to Build the Culture of Life and Establish the Domestic Church.

## **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Athletics***

Tom Hablieb reports that the 73rd Annual Knights of Columbus State Bowling Tournament was a successful and well-attended event. A very special thank you to Mike Barnard and Dave Janner who were instrumental in the planning and flawless execution of this year's tournament, and to the councils of District 19 - 13012 St Matthews, Topeka. In addition, a big thank you goes out to the West Ridge Bowl in Topeka for the excellent job they did. Final bowling tournament results will be available soon on the State Website at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org).

There was a hotly contested campaign for the host of next year's tournament. In the end Lawrence outlasted strong bids from Great Bend and Derby and will host of the 74th annual Knights of Columbus State Bowling Tournament. I want to thank all three councils for their interest in hosting the event in 2018. I ask all councils to consider making a bid to host the bowling tournament in 2019.

The 2017 Knights of Columbus Sporting Clay tournament will be held at Sportsman Acres on Milford Lake, 5120 W. Highway K244, Junction City 66441 on May 20, 2017. Council 1029 Junction City will host the tournament. Registration and contact information should be on State website by March 31st. Information about Shady Creek Sporting Clays can be found at their website [www.gearycountyfis-handgame.net](http://www.gearycountyfis-handgame.net). Councils interested in hosting this event in 2018 should do so in writing to Tom Schmeidler State Program Director.

### ***Fraternal***

Fraternal Chairman Mike Barnard thanks all the councils that submitted many outstanding Knight of the Year applications last month. Our state has numerous dedicated Knights making judging by our district deputies and diocesan judges very difficult. Congratulations to all of the brother knights chosen as their Council Knight of the Year.

For the remainder of the fraternal year, Mike reminds all councils to continue selecting a Knight of the Month and submitting those applications to him by the 15th of the following month to be eligible for the State Knight of the Month Award. The State Knight of the Month will receive a crucifix and certificate.

All councils are also asked to keep your addresses up to date. All changes or corrections need to be sent to State Secretary Dale Weber.

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### Publicity

Publicity Chairman Mike Barnard asks all councils to continue to send him copies of articles on important newsworthy events in your council. By sharing the details of these events, other councils may get some ideas for a program they would like to sponsor. Please publicize your council events to let our communities understand what the Knights of Columbus is all about and to help with recruiting new members.

### History

State Historian Jim Pritchard asks that councils with items they wish included in their history folder to bring those items to the State Convention in Topeka and give them to him. Letters went to all faithful navigators and grand knights March 1 with information to update the assembly and council history. Emails were sent to all district deputies during the month of March as a report on their councils and assemblies. Please help to update the history and keep it up-to-date. There has been a good

response and reports continue to come in. Please note the change for the history report due date. The fiscal year is July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 and the reports are now due by July 1, 2017. This year is the first year for this change although reports can be sent to Jim early. If there are any questions, call Jim at 913-294-3303.

### Webmaster

Has your council or assembly hosted an event recently? We would appreciate it if you would share that information. Email a short summary and a picture of the event to State Webmaster Doug Wietharn at [webmaster@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:webmaster@kansas-kofc.org). The more councils and assemblies that share their event information the more publicity and excitement we can gain for our order. These events will be posted in the "Kansas Knights in Action" section of the website. Please make note to contact the State Webmaster in order to sign up and start receiving official state email notifications.

*Insurance Report back page*



The Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Championship was held in Salina, on Sunday March 5, 2017 at Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School Gym. The state contest was hosted by the three Salina Knights of Columbus Councils #601, #8196 and #10778 and was under the directions of Bob Duffin the State Youth Activities Director. The winners' scores will be sent to the Knights of Columbus Supreme Office in New Haven, Connecticut to be entered for the International Contest.

	GIRLS		BOYS	
9 year olds	Elle Robinson	19	Jackson Stanfield	20
10 year olds	Mia Eskina	20	Will Wegerer	21
11 year olds	Taeben Stallbaumer	20	Isaac Detweiler	22/5
12 year olds	Trinity Lutters	21	William Rost	23
13 year olds	Jennah Jeffrey	21	Mark Bogner	24
14 year olds	Cadlee Stallbaumer	21/5	Caden Parthemer	20

## INSURANCE REPORT

The Knights of Columbus agency department is proud to congratulate the following men for achieving the honor of Field Agent of the Month for their respective agencies:

- Eastern Kansas Agency: David Soukup wrote \$2,887,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in February
- Central Kansas Agency: Adam Bruna wrote \$910,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in February.
- Western Kansas Agency: Darin Reed wrote \$2,042,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in February.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$35,186,077 in life insurance during the month of February.

Please join us in congratulating the following men for their outstanding performance. These men lead the state or the Knights of Columbus insurance program in February of 2017.

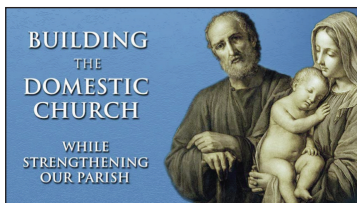
Darin Reed, David Soukup, Steve Schmidt, Josiah Keith, Kirby Schmelzle, Adam Riopel, Bill Weber, John Schibi, Adam Bruna, Tyler Meyer, Luke Baker, Dan Reed

If you or someone you know would like to join our winning team of Field Agents please call 1-866-391-8781 for more information.

**Dale A. Weber**  
**State Secretary**  
**514 E. 33rd St South**  
**Wellington, KS 67152**

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**“Fishers of Men”**

