



# The Explorer

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Of The  
Kansas  
Knights of Columbus

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December 2016

## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

State Membership Director John Schulz has repeatedly told me that “we are not where we want to be for Membership.” Our Supreme Programming and Membership Consultant, Levi Leyba, has mentioned that we are going to really have to “pick it up” if our Councils are going to reach their Membership Goals this year. I have assured both John and Levi that our “team,” the Knights of Columbus in Kansas, is a “second half team.” Men, it is now time to set up for success and get things lined up for the second half! Let’s be “Fishers of Men.”



I have always been an optimist in regards to membership, and, for me, membership is easy: You acquire a prospective member, you ask him to join, you handle objections, you ask for the sale, you invite him to the Admission Degree, you personally go and pick him up and take him to the degree, you explain things to him and mentor him, and then you give him some ownership in the Council- a job, a task, a purpose- and then you let him go to work.

Our Corporal works are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, harbor the harborless, visit the sick, ransom the captive, and bury the dead. The Knights of Columbus, through our various programs, allow each of us the opportunity to participate in these endeavors.

With Advent upon us, what better time of the year to participate in the Corporal Works of Mercy then... now! The “Building the Domestic Church,” “Coats for Kids” and “Food for Families” programs are excellent examples of these works, and they are Knights of Columbus programs that are both worthwhile community activities, as well as great programs to get your membership involved and “living their faith.” We can all understand that there are needy in every community. We can all participate in helping those less fortunate. Remember, the magic of Christmas does not come in a box, it can’t be bought, but it can be given by each and every one of us. Let’s remember to “Keep Christ in Christmas.”

Of extra special importance this year is an opportunity: The opportunity to install not one, but two new Sonogram machines pregnancy crisis centers in the Lawrence and Junction City areas. The State Council has not had the chance to install a sonogram machine in a few years, and contributions to the Sonogram Initiative have been a little slow. Because of this, the State Council’s Sonogram Fund has enough money to purchase one machine, but not the second. I ask each Grand Knight and each Council to consider making a contribution to this very worthwhile and life-saving cause prior to Christmas. Let us all provide the chance give the gift of life this Christmas.

Barb and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Joyful New Year.

Vivat Jesus.  
Vince Melvin III, State Deputy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **DECEMBER:**

#### **Share the Light of Advent by keeping Christ in Christmas**

- 1 Deadline to submit a bid to host the State Sporting Clays Shoot
- 3-4 Mid-year District Deputy Meeting in Topeka
- 3 Drawing for Religious Education Fund Prizes
- 6 Light up for Christ 8 p.m
- 8 Immaculate Conception
- 11 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 22 – Host 1383 – Location: Frankfort – CO: Winchester
- 15 Deadline to submit Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Reports and Checks to State Treasurer, Mike Grothoff
- 16 Christmas Poster Report form Due
- 25 Celebrate the Birth of Jesus

### **JANUARY: Support Culture of Life Activities**

- 1-31 Council Free Throw Contests completed by end of month
- 1-31 Conduct 18th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower
- 1 Deadline for articles to be submitted for the Knight’s Lite

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS January Continued**

- 8 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 36 –  
Host 4713 – Location: Winfield –  
CO: Weber
- 8 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 53 –  
Host 2795/8491 – Location: Garden City –  
CO: Roth
- 11 Admission Degree – Council 1149 – Paola
- 15 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 20 –  
Host 8411 – Location: Topeka Christ the King  
CO: Winchester
- 15 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 52  
Host 3033 – Location: Atwood  
CO: Maurath
- 22 Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade decision
- 22 March for Life – Washington D.C.
- 22 March for Life – Topeka, KS
- 28 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 16 –  
Host 796 – Location: Fort Scott –  
CO: Wagner
- 29 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 32  
Host 12858 – Location: Wichita/St Anne –  
CO: Melvin
- 31 **Deadline** – Form #1728, Annual Survey of  
Fraternal Activities due at Supreme
- 31 **Deadline** – Form #4584 Partnership Profile  
Report due at Supreme

### **Congratulations Knights and their Families:**

Brother Knight: Dave Jones – Council 10932 –  
District 10

Supreme Family of the Month winners from the following councils : 1661- Abilene – District 26, 1913- Olathe/St Paul- District 10, 3828 – Danville – District 41, 7446 – Mound City – District 13.

### **STATE CHAPLIN'S MESSAGE**

The most Reverend Dan Gardner, State Chaplin

As we enter upon this busy time of the year, let me share various thoughts with you.

Our country has chosen Donald Trump as our next President. What that means remains unknown to us for many reasons, but initially I feel the weight on my shoulders a little lighter in regards to the challenges our faith has been receiving lately. I believe that the Little Sisters of the Poor and others who faced unnecessary “health” mandates will be relieved of their worries. We must remain vigilant as evil never rests, nor should we.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy has come to an end and I trust that everyone has grown in their understanding of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, and in their participation of those works. Last June, I joined with a few priests and laymen who cooked and provided a meal for men in a shelter. It was quite interesting to listen to the stories of those men living there.

This coming year the church faces two major anniversaries which call for our attention. First, October 31, 2017 will be official 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Fortunately, for the past 52 years since the Ecumenical Vatican Council in the 1960's, we and our separate brethren have been diligently working at repairing that division. I meet with two different Ecumenical Ministers Groups and we work together for social activities, to provide emergency services, and some religious ceremonies. This past summer a priest from India was with me and he was impressed that we work together because in India the different Christian groups speak against each other. Much work continues to bring our differing paths together into one.

Second, 2017 will be the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of our Lady of Fatima; a reminder of the necessity of prayer, especially the rosary, for world peace and harmony.

On the local level, we can do our part to lead the family at home. I encourage you to use the Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive program. It begins this month. If you don't have a book, you still have time to get one. But men, brothers, we must first be men of prayer in order to lead others in prayer. So thank you for your faith, service, and love. God bless you all and may you have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year!

### **STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

I cannot believe we are almost to the Christmas holidays. It seems that time just flies by so quickly. Just a few months ago we began the fraternal year and now we are almost halfway through. It seems like recruiting goes the same way. By the time your Council starts thinking about recruiting, half the year is already gone.

There still is time in 2016 to recruit members. Yes, the hustle and bustle of shopping for our wives and children take much of our time and Christmas parties are aplenty. I think you all know the poem “'Twas

the Night before Christmas". Well, NOW is the time to recruit a Knight before Christmas. It is the season of joy and giving. Why not give someone a gift that will last their entire life, offer them membership in the Knights of Columbus. It is simple to do. All you have to do is ask someone. If you see a man or perhaps his older sons at Mass, ask him if he is a Knight of Columbus. Tell him we need him to help build up the Domestic Church. Give them the opportunity to fulfill the warning of St. James epistle: "As the body without spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." If we are to share in his eternal reward, we must do more for our fellow men and women. We can do that by being Fishers of Men for the Knights of Columbus.

May this Christmas season bring you joy and glad tidings. May our Lord bless you with the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out our mission of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism and may you enjoy the Christmas season surrounded by family and loved ones.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all....GO RECRUIT A KNIGHT!

John W. Schulz  
State Membership Director

### **STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Tom Schmeidler, State Program Director

It seems hard to believe, but the fraternal year is nearly half over! How is your council doing? Has it participated in a First Degree somewhere in the district each month? Are all of your reports filed? Many councils across the state have achieved programming and membership successes, but there is still more to be done, and more successes to experience. There are still seminarians to be adopted, and Commitment to Humanities Drive reports to be filed. Soon, religious education fund checks will need to be distributed. The holidays will add even more opportunities to our already busy schedules. Continue reading for information from the state chairmen and state directors, and please help them by submitting the requested reports and information as soon as possible.

Another deadline will be here soon on January 31, 2016. The **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities**, Form #1728, is a requirement to attain the coveted "Start Council" award. Although the report is not due until January 31, it would help immensely if you would submit it no later than January 15, 2015. This will save the cost of phone calls and postage in trying to locate the report at the last minute.

As we enter the holy season of Christmas and celebrate the new year, please take a moment to stop and review your council's Building the Domestic Church program. Supreme offers a number of programs that enable your council's and parish's to get involved in to bring the family closer together in our Catholic Faith and strengthen our Parishes. The first of these programs is the "Family Fully alive".

The second program would be the "Holy Family Prayer" program. This program features an image of the Holy Family. Our State received several Holy Family images, which will be the centerpiece of prayer services conducted in churches and council meeting places throughout the Order for the duration of the program. Please check out the Family Activities for more information. The Holy Family Prayer Program is the 17th Marian Prayer Program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Please check with your District Deputies dates for when the Icon will be in your area and plan for a Prayer service.

By in acting these seasonal programs and the others throughout the calendar year, you can help teach the children of the families in your council's, the importance of humbly looking to God for assistance in all things.

From Gail and I, may you and your family have a very blessed Christmas season

### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

***Church Activities***— Gary Wondra

"Consecration To The Holy Family" is a new program provided by the "Building The Domestic Church" initiative. Now is the time for every council to learn about this program, as well as the "Journey To The Inn" program, by visiting the website: [www.kofc.org/en/domestic-church](http://www.kofc.org/en/domestic-church). Christ is the reason we celebrate Christmas and everyone is asked to join in "Spread the Light of Christ" on December 6, 2016 at 8:00 pm by turning on lights and Christmas lights at this time.

"Passing On The Faith" is the theme for the Vocation Poster Contest this year. Refer to page 15 of the Program and Membership Guide for rules and deadlines.

***Adopt a Seminarian***— Gary Wondra

All councils that have not submitted their "Adopt a Seminarian" pledge cards should contact Vocations Chairman immediately. We have many seminarians that are in need of your support. Gary reminds all councils to encourage their adopted seminarians with Christmas cards, letters and additional prayers during the Advent season.

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### **Religious Education – Steve Ables**

Religious Education Fund Raising Chairman Steve Ables thanks all who sold tickets, especially those who requested additional tickets over and above their original allocation. The drawing will be held at the Mid-Year DD meeting on December 3rd. Good luck on winning the \$25K!

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

#### **Youth Activity – Bob Duffin**

Have you sent in your Soccer Challenge participation form? Make sure copies go to Supreme and to State Youth Activities Chairman. Is your council ready for your Free Throw Contest in January? Have you scheduled the gym and ordered your council Free Throw Kit? District Deputies will receive the district medals at the Mid-Year Meeting. Be sure to promote the Substance Abuse Poster Contest and the Youth Essay Contest. All Catholic School Principals have been asked to promote the Essay Contest. Thank you for all you do for the young people of Kansas.

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Family Life – Scott Nichols**

The family fully alive program is designed to be flexible to meet the continuously changing needs of your family. This program can be started during any month of the year, completing projects and saying prayers at the times and places most suitable for your family. Some suitable times would be after family dinner or shortly before bedtime, making it easier to deal with the challenge of bringing the entire family together.

However, you decide to incorporate the family fully alive program into your family's busy schedule, one thing is certain — it will change your life. The monthly cycle of themes, prayers, reflections, meditations and family projects will help your family focus on the important things in the world. They will help build your domestic church as a place of faith, hope and charity, where each member will grow with grace toward his or her full potential in God.

Please use the [kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) website and explore Your family, fully alive <http://www.kofc.org/en/domestic-church/resources/index.html> Councils should order the full printed program book for families to use at home. You can place your order online through Knights Gear or by calling or emailing our Supply Department at 203-752-4214 or [supply@kofc.org](mailto:supply@kofc.org).

Thank you for continuing to submit your Families of the Month and note the following councils that will soon host the Marion Prayer program. A full sched-

ule of the 2016-2017 Marion Prayer travel schedule may be viewed @ [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) or call Scott Nichols and he will provide you with a copy. 620 353-0458

### **Marion Hour Prayer Icon Traveling Schedule**

Start Date	District	Councils Icon 1	District	Councils Icon 2	District	Councils Icon 3
12/4/2016	42	1325, 1867, 1924, 2794, 3034	16	796, 883, 7607, 10032	19	2608, 4254, 8059, 13012
01/01/2017	45	6984, 10044, 10211, 11687	14	760, 924, 1046, 2289, 6817	18	1372, 11352, 11853, 12932, 12960
01/22/2017	48	2133, 2538, 4043, 4113, 5050	13	1052, 1368, 1901, 2680, 7446	12	1149, 3018, 10786, 12437

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Community Activity Program – Barney Wolters**

The need for charitable works exists in our communities year round. As we enter the Christmas season and colder months, our opportunities to serve multiply. Suggested activities for your council to participate in include Food for Families, local shelters and food banks, Habitat for Humanity or volunteering for Special Olympics. Community Activity Director Barney Wolters encourages all councils to get involved in area community activities. Your community will benefit immensely from your council's participation in activities and it will provide visibility for your council.

#### **Commitment to Humanities – Barney Wolters Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities (Tootsie Roll drive)**

Early reports from the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities indicate we are on track with last year's results. Has your council submitted its report? Don't forget the **December 15 reporting deadline. Only councils who submit their report by the deadline will be eligible for awards at the State Convention.** Send the white copy of the report along with a check for 100% of the proceeds to State Treasurer Mike Grothoff. Send the yellow copy of the report to Commitment to Humanities Chairman Barney Wolters. Checks for your designated agencies will be returned from State Treasurer. If you have misplaced your report form, a copy can be printed from the State K of C Web Site ([www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org)), or call Barney as he has extra forms available. Remember to complete **Supreme Form 4584**, Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics. This form may be found in your Council Forms CD or it may be completed and submitted online. **It is important that all councils complete this form and submit it by January 31.**

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### **Pennies From Heaven** – Bruce Luehring

Pennies from Heaven Chairman Bruce Luehring reminds councils to continue planning for items to bring to the State Convention "Country Store" and the "Pennies Auction" next May. The winter months are a great time to have a fund raiser so the proceeds can be turned in at the Convention. Grand Knights are asked to be sure and have these items on the agenda of your next council meeting. Contact Bruce at pennies@kansas-kofc.org or call him at 316-788-4663 if you plan to bring items. Remember, proceeds from the sale of donated items will be counted toward your council's Pennies from Heaven donation. Bruce is also looking for volunteers to help in the Country Store so let him know if you know of someone that wants to help.

### **Culture of Life Update** – Lino Munoz

How swiftly the months go by as we find ourselves midway into the fraternal year. At this time, it is our pleasure to inform you that we have applications for 2 new ULTRASOUND SYSTEMS in Kansas to help save the lives of the innocent and protect the wellbeing of the mother. Gentlemen, remind your councils that their fundraisers help provide for these lifesaving systems in support of these clinics missions. Remind your councils to check their progress on the projects they have selected for the Culture of Life as well as the Evangelium Vitae Award for this fraternal year. The 18th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower is scheduled for January; however, we are getting a "Jump Start" at the Mid-Year District Deputies meeting in December in Topeka. Worthy Grand Knights your councils should be finalizing their plans for the Baby Shower and/or Bottles for Life campaigns during their December meetings.

April 1 Deadlines include:

- Baby Shower and/or Bottles for Life fundraiser results
- Evangelium Vitae Award application (see report form for the 4 categories)
- The Culture of Life Scrapbooks

### **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

#### **Athletic Events** – Tom Hablieb

This year's 76th Annual Knights of Columbus Men's Bowling Tournament will be held at Westridge Lanes in Topeka. The dates of the tournament are February 18-19, February 25-26, and March 4-5. An invitation to participate is extended to all Brother Knights in your Council. The tournament is open to league and non-league bowlers. A current membership card will be required when checking in. Any Council interested in hosting the 2017 Tournament MUST MAKE their request in writing to Tom Hablieb, Council Activities Director, before January 22, 2016.

### **Fraternal** – Mike Barnard

I would like to thank all councils who sent in the Knight of the month for November. This was the best turn in this year. I would like to see every council take the opportunity to turn in a Knight of the Month to honor our Brother Knights and their stewardship and participation in their council and too the order.

### **Publicity**– Mike Barnard

Have you publicized your council's activities? All Councils and Assemblies should submit news articles and pictures to local newspapers, diocesan newspapers, parish bulletins, council newsletters and the Columbian Magazine. Social media are also an excellent avenue to get the word out. We must let the public know about all of the good works that we do thru the Knights of Columbus. This is one of the best ways to share our good news with others and bring more Knights into the fold.

### **Website Update** – Doug Wietharn

For the State Council personnel to enable better communication with all Grand Knights across the state of Kansas, all of the email addresses of Grand Knights that have been collected have been entered into our email system. 156 out of 258 Grand Knights' email addresses have been received so far. If, as the Grand Knight, you have not been receiving information from the State Council via email, then we probably do not have your email address. Please contact your District Deputy or State Webmaster – Doug Wietharn at [webmaster@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:webmaster@kansas-kofc.org) to get signed up for email communications as soon as possible. If you previously had been and are no longer receiving emails please contact the state webmaster. He will look into it and get you setup so that you will once again receive the emails.

### **Knights-Lite** – Tom Schmeidler

The next edition of the Knight's-Lite will be assembled in January. All articles must be received by Program Director Tom Schmeidler by **January 1** to make the publication date.

### **History and Centennial Book** – Jim Pritchard

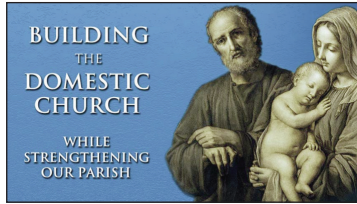
State Historian Jim Pritchard encourages all councils and assemblies to continue updating their history. Updated information will be passed out to all District Deputies at the mid-year meeting in December. Please review the information and work with the Grand Knights to get reports to Jim as soon as possible. This information will be valuable to future members wanting to know about past council and assembly activities. There have been several councils and assemblies contact him for information about their

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

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**“Fishers of Men”**

history. Do this for your councils and assemblies future.

It is still not too late to order a copy of, “Fraternalism and Leadership, The Second Fifty Years of the Knights of Columbus in Kansas,” as a Christmas gift or to have one for the council files.

**INSURANCE AGENCY MESSAGE**

December/2016 Explorer Insurance Report – Greg Schafer, General Agent

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 \$2,142,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

Central Kansas Agency: Wade Greif wrote \$2,055,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

Western Kansas Agency: Darin Reed wrote

\$931,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$32,663,588 in life insurance during the month of October. 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 October of 2016.

Darin Reed, Wade Greif, Luke Henry, Jon Reboulet J. J. Deges, David Soukup, John Schibi, Dan Reed Shaun McGovern, Zachory Caro, Adam Bruna

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.

# KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BABY SHOWER

**PURPOSE: A PRO-LIFE CLOTHING & SUPPLY DRIVE TO BENEFIT MOTHERS-TO-BE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE CHOOSE ABORTION, AND TO ALSO BENEFIT THE UNBORN THAT MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE BE GIVEN THE “RIGHT TO LIFE.”**

**WHEN: THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2017**

**WHERE: AT YOUR COUNCIL’S HOME PARISH(ES)**



## **HOW TO CONDUCT:**

1. Obtain your priest’s permission to set up a baby bed or play pen in the entrance or foyer of your church.
2. Find a baby bed or play pen to use. Most councils will have a member who has a used bed in nice condition and no longer in use.
3. Beginning December 24, 2016 and continuing throughout January 2017, ask your parish priest to announce to the congregation, or get permission for one of your council members to announce, that you are conducting a Pro-Life Baby Shower with the proceeds to be given to the Pro-Life organization of your choice. Also place a notice or insert in your church bulletin each week. Ask parishioners to donate new or used baby or maternity clothing, baby and pregnancy supplies, diapers, bottles, formula, etc. Be sure to “seed” the baby bed with some nice articles of clothing and supplies as this always helps! Make a nice sign to put up, so people who miss the announcements will know what the bed is for.
4. Document the items donated along with a fair market value of the items (retail may be used for the new items only).
5. At the end of January, take all the items and donate them to the Pro-life center(s) of your choice.
6. Complete and file the Culture of Life Report Form with the State Culture of Life Director, Lino Munoz, no later than **April 1, 2017**. (These donations count toward your council’s Culture of Life donations. Awards will be given at the State Convention!)
7. Please conduct this activity in addition to your regular Pro-Life Fund-raisers held during the fraternal year. We would like to see 100% of the councils across Kansas participate in this activity.