



The Explorer

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January 2017

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!!! I pray 2016 was very kind to you and that 2017 will be even better! With the New Year comes new experiences and new responsibilities.



In these tough economic times facing our nation, there are a lot of people with needs in our society and we need to not look very far from home to locate them. Our membership in the Knights of Columbus is a great way to see that these in need are being met. To him to whom much is given, much is expected in return.

This should be the foundation of our work within the Knights of Columbus. We all have a great deal to be thankful for and we have all been given a tremendous amount of talents and treasures by our Lord. Now is the time to use these talents to better the lives of those in need around us. Challenge your councils to find these needs and then do your best to see that these needs are fulfilled. By truly trying to live by this year's theme "Fishers of Men - Building the Domestic Church while Strengthening our Parish" let us renew that spirit that brought us to the Knights of Columbus by seeking our ways in which to help our fellow man.

Membership recruitment must be a high priority as we try to accomplish the work the Lord has set before us. With a larger and stronger membership, the programs our councils conduct will be better and farther reaching and greater will be the number of lives who are touched by our charitable acts. Now is the time to reevaluate your Action Plan and your goals that were set six months ago. If the goals have already been met, set them higher to challenge your council(s) to accomplish, not what is easily accomplished, but to accomplish what is possible.

In reviewing the Major Degree schedule, I am pleased in the number of scheduled Major Degrees, however there are certain areas of the state that need to schedule one. State Membership Director John Schulz will be working with District Deputies to make sure all areas of the state are covered. Make sure that you are part of the contagious momentum sweeping across Kansas and schedule those Admission Degrees and Major Degrees and them get your recruitment team into action.

As we progress into the New Year of 2017, please remember to be charitable in your works, united in your programming, recruitment efforts and insurance promotion and fraternal toward your Brother Knights.

Vivat Jesus,
Vincent P. Melvin III, State Deputy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY: Support Culture of Life Activities Select Council Knight of the Year at Monthly Meeting Select Council Family of the Year at Monthly Meeting

- 1-31 Council Free Throw Contests completed by end of month
- 1-31 Conduct 19th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower
- 1 Deadline for articles to be submitted for the Knight's Lite
- 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: M. Roth
- 11 Admission Degree – Council 1149 – Paola
- 12 Order Church Drive Kits for March
- 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
- 23 March for Life – Washington D.C.
- 23 March for Life – Topeka, KS
- 28 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 16 – Host 796–Location: Fort Scott–CO: Wagner
- 28 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 18 – Host 1372–Location: Lawrence–CO: Melvin
- 28-30 5th Sunday Rosary Program
- 29 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 32 – Host 12858 – Location: Wichita/St Anne – CO: Weber
- 29 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 10 – Host 7909–Location: Olathe–CO: Grothoff
- 31 Free throw report form due
- 31 **Deadline** – Form #1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities due at Supreme
- 31 **Deadline** – Form #4584 Partnership Profile Report due at Supreme

FEBRUARY:

- 1-14 District Free Throw Contest
- 11 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 25 – Host 8488 – Location: Manhattan/Thomas Moore – CO: Steier
- 12 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District - 40-41-Host 2224 Location: Sharon–CO: Weber
- 12 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 42 – Host – 3034 Location: Russell – CO: Kaiser
- 12 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 28 – Host 601 – Location: Salina – CO: J. Roth

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS February Continued

- 15 Submit Squire, Circle & Counselor of the Year Applications to Squires Chairman
- 15 Form #1295, Semi-Annual Audit Report, due at Supreme
- 15 Deadline for Council Substance Abuse Poster Contest Winners to District Deputy
- 18-19 73rd Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Topeka (1st Weekend)
- 19 Regional Free Throw Contest at designated locations. Gyms open at noon. Contests at 1:00 pm
- 19 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 29 – Host 5222–Location:McPherson–CO: J. Roth
- 25-26 73rd Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Topeka (2nd Weekend)
- 26 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 35 – Host 12049 – Location: Wichita/St. Jude–CO: Weber

Congratulations Knights:

Knight of the Month: Joseph Vesterling Council 2296 District 30 Congratulations to Brother Knight Joseph. Joseph will receive a beautiful Crucifix and certificate.

Families' of the month, Council 834-Tim McClaskey family, Council 862- Clarence Suppes family, Council 1149-Ron Sullivan family, Council 2296-Dennis Todd family, Council 6761- Travis Rupert family, Council 9510- Anthony Weber family, Council 11692- Timothy Kempf family and Council 12932-Gary Pratt family

STATE CHAPLIN'S MESSAGE

The most Reverend Dan Gardner, State Chaplin
Some musings to share with you at the beginning of 2017:

During a recent meeting of Ecumenical Ministers, one of two groups to which I belong, one minister was expressing her excitement that we live in a time of change. She mentioned that about every 500 years there are major changes in the church, and thus a renewal of the faith. Not everyone agreed with her.

As I listened to them speak, my mind wandered as to the major changes in Church history. My thought was the first and most important change came when Jesus came upon the earth, and taught us the great love and mercy of God, calling us to follow him to the kingdom, and believe in eternal life in heaven.

Perhaps the next major change came in the early fourth century when the persecutions ceased and the church was able to organize and develop the creed we profess each Sunday 1600 centuries later.

Unfortunately, the next major change came around the turn of the millennia, circa 1,000 A.D. During this time we had the first major split between the Eastern and Western branches of the church, a split which continues to this day.

Now, beginning 500 years ago, the Protestant

Reformation led to more changes in the church, with many people leaving the Catholic Church and form their own, for many reasons. There was a lot of corruption in the church, yet many faithful Catholics tried to reform the church from within, with various amounts of success, or lack thereof.

For me, the 1900's brought forth another important change in the church. First with the treaty with Mussolini which created Vatican City State, and for the first time in about 1500 years, we no longer needed to be a civil government, but concentrate on the mission that Jesus gave us through the apostles. Finally, I thought, we get to do what Jesus wants us to do without a lot of secular distractions. The Vatican Council in the 1960's continued this mission with the "medicine of mercy" led by now Saint Pope John XXIII. This is supported by the great Divine Mercy devotion sweeping the church, another revelation of the past century and promoted greatly by Saint Pope John Paul II.

So, generally, big changes happen in the church on the average of every 500 years. We are living in a time of change.

Pope Francis mentions in a talk given Nov. 14, 2015 in Florence the following, "*It can be said that today we do not live in an age of change but in a **change of age**. Therefore the situations we are living in today pose new challenges which for us at times are difficult to understand. Our times require that we live problems as challenges and not as obstacles: the Lord is active and at work in our world.*" I mentioned this topic at the mid-year meeting in December. It came from a blog article by retiring Bishop Lynch of St. Petersburg. He heard this from his seminarians studying in Rome. The emphasis is mine.

This can be our approach to the Knights of Columbus, face our "*problems as challenges and not as obstacles*". Too many of our councils face problems as obstacles, and stunt their growth and ability. Instead, and what I hear other Knights say, become creative in how we live as Knights and in how we invite others to join us. The Apostles opened themselves to new possibilities, so much we. Fr. McGivney was creative for his time, let us be for ours! Vivat Jesus!
Fr. Dan Gardner, State Chaplain

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! As we begin the start of calendar year 2017, we need to keep in mind that we are now halfway through the fraternal year. As we are at the midpoint, if your Council is sitting at 50% or more of their membership goal, you are in good shape and we congratulate you for being on track for Star Council. If you are not at 50% or more yet, it's time to get busy.

The key to recruitment is simple: You have to ask prospective members to join. You need to tell prospects that we are a family and they need to become part of the Knights of Columbus family. This is especially important to the wives. Yes, men are the actual members but we are a family organization. We were created

to protect the spouses and children of a departed brother. It is our mission to take care of families. We do that through a variety of different ways. You can see many examples of that on the pages of this newsletter. We are not just another men's group. We change lives. The only way we can do it is to have men join the family.

We have a couple of incentives just announced at our mid-year meeting last month. Once again, Supreme is giving a \$4.50 credit for EVERY billable member if your Council makes Star Council. In addition, the State Council is going to draw one Council name out of the Councils that is at 75% of their membership goal or higher by February 1st. The winning Council will receive a dinner prepared, served and most importantly paid for by the State Council Officers. The State Officers want to reward you for a job well done so far. Now is the time. Don't wait until May to recruit a member. Go be FISHERS OF MEN!

John W. Schulz
State Membership Director

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Grand Knights - Don't Forget Star Council Report Requirements: The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities (Form # 1728) is one of those requirements. Although the deadline for receipt of this form at Supreme Council is January 31, it would be of great assistance to have it there by January 15. This will eliminate the need for follow up phone calls at the last minute. Be sure to send a copy to our State Deputy at the same time. The report form can be found on the Supreme website and also the Kansas Knights of Columbus web site. This information assists Supreme in providing documentation to retain our non-profit status. Your District Deputy was asked to provide copies of the form to you prior to the District Meeting.

Your council's scrapbook(s) in one or all six programming areas should be well under way. This is a year-long process, not something thrown together right before the State Convention. Be sure your Directors and Chairmen are working on this. The deadline to submit is April 1.

As the new year arrives and we search for new ways to share with our brother knights how to become a man of faith, I would suggest the Knights book "Into the Breach". It was written by the Most Reverend Bishop Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix. I was intrigued as to read the book as for a short time Bishop Olmsted lead the Wichita Diocese before heading to Arizona. I believed that hearing more from him would be beneficial, and it was! For the "readers digest" version of the book it explores the battle we fight as a Christian man in today's world. It shares daily, weekly and monthly suggestions to become a stronger Catholic man for yourself, your family and parish community. You will find this book to be part of the many programs under the "Building the Domestic Church while Strengthening the Parish". I would suggest ordering enough copies of this book to allow every new Knight in your council to

have an opportunity to read this short but very informative book.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Vocation Poster Contest

Vocations Director Gary Wondra encourages every council to engage their youth by participating in the Vocation Poster Contest. The theme is: "**Passing on the Faith**". Councils should hold their contest in January or February. The winning poster in each division must be received by your District Deputy no later than March 15th. Additional guidelines are available in the Program and Membership Guide. These guidelines must be followed to prevent a poster from being disqualified.

Adopt a Seminarian

Church Activities Director and Vocations Chairman Gary Wondra reports that as of December 10th, 149 councils and 28 assemblies have reported pledges of \$161,915. We are off to a GREAT start but there are still many councils that have not submitted their pledge cards. If your council has not submitted a seminarian pledge, please contact Gary to get the names of seminarians that still need support. All councils are asked to fulfill their pledges to their seminarians as soon as possible. Councils should encourage their seminarians with cards, letters, emails and phone calls. Gary reminds all councils to please continue praying for all seminarians

Religious Education

Religious Education Fund Raffle Ticket sales were a great success again this year. Religious Education Fund Raising Chairman Steve Abels reports all of the tickets were sold. The Raffle drawing was held at the Mid-Year District Deputy meeting on December 3 and a list of winners was sent to all Grand Knights. A **Special Thanks** to all Brother Knights for their hard work in selling the tickets. Because of this great effort, over **\$90,000** was dispersed for Catholic Education in Kansas this year.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Free Throw Contest

All youth ages 9 to 14 years old are invited to participate in the free throw contest again this year. Please refer to the rules in your packet. The winners from your council will compete in the District, Regional and State Contest.

Council Free Throw Contests should be held during the month of January.

District Contests will be held the first two weeks of February.

Be sure the Official Contest Rules from Supreme are followed to the letter with no exceptions. Meet with your judges and scorers ahead of time to insure everyone is well prepared. Immediately after the contest, complete the Council Winner Free Throw Report – Advancing to District, provided to you at your District Meeting, and forward it to your District Deputy. At the same time, be sure to file the Form FT-1 participation report with Supreme and our State Deputy by January 31. It is found on the Kansas K of C web site, or www.kofc.org/forms In the past three years, six of our

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statewide winners have also won the international contest.

Regional Free Throw Contest notes: District Deputies please see the flyer given at the Mid December meeting of all Regional locations. Regionals will be Sunday, February 19, 2017 Gyms will open at Noon and regional contests begin at 1 pm at all locations. If the weather is bad enough to cancel make-up dates will be the last weekend of February.

State Contest will be Sunday, March 5, 2017 at Sacred Heart Junior-Senior High School, 234 E. Cloud Street. Salina Kansas. State Contest Chairman is Doug Mergen 785-452-8355 (demergen@cox.net)

Substance Abuse Poster Contest

Grand Knights, be sure your Substance Abuse Poster Contest is completed by the end of January so they can be judged the first week of February and the winning posters sent to your District Deputy by February 15th.

Essay Contest

Encourage all 8th grade through 12th grade students to enter the Essay contest. The topic is, "The Importance of Religious Freedom." Submit the entries to Youth Director Bob Duffin by March 1.

Columbian Squires

Columbian Squires Chairman Bob Duffin reports that the State Columbian Squires Convention will be held April 1-2, 2016 in Garden Plain. The Garden Plain Circle will serve as the host circle. We ask all councils to make arrangements for their Squires to attend.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Life

Congratulations to every council who has been selecting a Family of the Month. We anticipate making many more Rosaries for councils completing filling each quarter with 3 families of the month.

It's time to begin thinking of who your council may want to select as the Family of the Year. In doing so, you may want to consider the stronger members of your council, parish, and community. Remember, when selecting the Family of the Year, the husband must be a member of the Knights of Columbus. If he is not a member, this would be a great opportunity to hold a first degree to bring him into our Order.

When you have the information you think you need to fill out the Family of the Year form, ask the family to look over the information and add to it. Make sure the forms are completed and sent to your district deputy no later than March 9. Your district deputy has a short period of time to make his selection before making sure the paperwork is sent to the Diocesan judge for your area. If you are late with your paperwork, your council family won't be judged, and may have lost an opportunity to be the State Family of the Year. The State Family of the Year and Diocesan winners will be recognized at the Kansas State Convention in Topeka.

Finally, please start turning in your Family Life scrapbooks, no need to wait until April 1. A minimum request, "ask" at least 10 of your members to help with completing the scrapbook. A qualified "ask" is if the

request is done in front of the wife to assure a full consideration of completing a scrapbook. I trust many of you will have outstanding Family Life scrapbooks by completing this request (:). Scrapbooks need to be sent to the Family Life Director Scott Nichols before April 1 for judging. The winners will be announced at the Kansas State Convention in Wichita.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Commitment to Humanities

Tootsie Roll Update

Has your council filed its **Tootsie Roll Report? It was due December 15.** If not, please file it immediately. The original hard copy, along with the check from your fundraiser needs to be sent to State Treasurer Mike Grothoff. The yellow copy goes to Commitment to Humanities Chairman Barney Wolters. Electronically mailed copy of the report to Barney is also acceptable.

The Special Olympics Basketball Tournament is scheduled for March 16, 17 and 18, 2017 in Hays. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the event should contact Barney Wolters.

Please send Barney a copy of your Form 4584 Partnership Profile with Special Olympics. If you send to State Deputy he will have to forward them on to Barney. Remember due date for this form as shown on preceding Calendar of Events.

Pennies from Heaven

Pennies from Heaven Chairman Bruce Luehring would like to thank all of the councils that have donated to the hurricane disaster relief this year. These donations will be credited to the councils Pennies from Heaven account. All councils should be looking forward to the State Convention to be held in Topeka in May. A highlight of the convention is the Pennies from Heaven auction held on Saturday night at the convention. Bruce is looking for several nice donated items for the Country Store and Pennies from Heaven Auction. If you have a member who is talented in woodworking or crafts items, encourage them to make an item to donate. The sale price of these items will be credited to your Council's Pennies from Heaven donation. Please contact Bruce as soon as possible so he can plan accordingly. If you can, take a picture of your item and a write a brief description about it and email it to pennies@kansas-kofc.org.

Culture of Life Update

January is often the month that councils will host their baby showers in their parishes. If you need suggestions for council and parish newsletters of items needed, here are some of the most requested: Baby blankets, baby clothing (new or gently used) disposable diapers, and baby wipes. Financial donations for the upkeep of life changing equipment (ultrasound machine) and continuing education are also needed. Keep in mind the activities that your councils perform in support of the Culture of Life should be included on your report form that is due **April 1, 2017.** At the December District Deputy meeting, several of you shared the events that your councils performed in support of the Culture of Life. I encourage you to share

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those ideas in the Culture of Life scrapbook for the Convention as well towards the traveling Evangelium Vitae award. Through the continued generosity of your councils, we can provide the assistance necessary in support of the unborn children in the state of Kansas through the Ultrasound Initiative. Through your efforts, we are placing an ultrasound machine in Lawrence and Junction City.

A very special thank you to all the District Deputies and their wives that donated to the annual baby shower at the Midyear Meeting. Your generosity allowed us to present several large bags of baby items and monetary donations to the Three Diocese and the Archdiocese of Kansas.

Concerning the Silver Rose Program, if your council hosted the Silver Rose, do not forget to count this on your Fraternal Survey (due on January 31, 2017). Also, do not forget that the Culture of Life activities are a separate program from the Columbian Award.

Some suggested activities to report under the Culture of Life are:

1. Participation in the "Silver Rose Relay".
2. Culture of Life "Baby Shower" or "Baby Bottles for Life" program.
3. Place Culture of Life articles in your Knights newsletters and church bulletins.
4. Lead rosaries for the Culture of Life. "From conception until natural death".
5. Host fundraisers to support the Ultrasound Initiative and/or a pregnancy crisis center.
6. Fill out the Evangelium Vitae and the Culture of Life report form and turn by **April 1**.
7. Enter scrapbooks for the Evangelium Vitae and the Culture of Life Program by **April 1**.
8. Have an active Culture of Life chair couple for your council.

Wrap up the month with the 44th Anniversary of Roe vs Wade by attending the March for Life Rally in Topeka Kansas on Monday, January 23, 2017. For more information on registration, lobbying, workshops, Mass and march visit: <http://www.kfl.org>

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Athletic Events

Council Activities

The 76th Annual Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament will be held at Westridge Lanes in Topeka and hosted by the councils of District 19. The dates of the tournament are February 18-19, February 25-26 and March 4-5. All Brother Knights are encouraged to participate. You need not be a league bowler to participate. All that is required to participate is a current Knights of Columbus membership card. For more information and to register for the event, visit the Kansas State website at www.kansas-kofc.org.

Any council interested in submitting a bid to host the 77th annual tournament must make their submis-

sion in writing to Tom Schmeidler State Program Director, before January 22, 2016.

The date for the Annual Sporting Clay Tournament in 2017 has not yet been finalized. It will be confirmed by January 15 please see website for further information. If you are interested in participating keep alert to new information in the coming weeks.

Fraternal

Mike Barnard would like to thank all councils who have submitted your monthly Knight to be honored application. I know many councils take part in this effort but many more are not taking up this cause. Please remember to let your Knights know that their efforts of dedication and commitment to the order are appreciated. Also at a time when dues are being collected please take the extra time to contact every knight in your Council. Inquire about how they are doing, how their families are doing and invite them to a meeting or function.

Publicity

Mike Barnard would like to encourage all councils to look at the Knight of Columbus supreme site for the Publicity and Public Relations Guide. It can be found at: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/service/council/publicity.pdf>

We all are called to use this guide to learn how to share the great work we do with church and community which is our best kept secret which we need to share with others. By sharing our great works it has been shown to increase the number of new men who can join the order and help us continue our work for others. I believe you will find this tool useful in helping us share the word with all.

Website Update

Is your council receiving email messages from the State Council? The State Council sends emails concerning sickness or death of current and past state personnel, updates on programs, and important messages from the Supreme Council and the Bishops of Kansas. Email addresses are never sold or shared, and messages are only sent with the approval of the State Deputy. If your Grand Knight does not wish to share his personal account with the State Council, perhaps your council would consider creating a council email address using one of the many free email services available today. There would be no cost to your council, and when the Grand Knight changes there is no need to notify the State Council of an email address change. The email address could be "kofc" and the council number like kofc1234@gmail.com. Please contact Doug Wietharn at webmaster@kansas-kofc.org if you have any questions.

History and Centennial Book

State Historian Jim Pritchard reminds Councils and Assemblies that have not updated their history to do so as soon as possible. **It is never too late to update.** Out of 256 councils, only 91 have their history up-to-date and 46 Councils just need one year. Out of the 53 assemblies, only 22 are up-to-date. These numbers are as of December 1. There has been several councils and assemblies requesting information on specific ques-

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tions. If your council or assembly history is on file, this information is available to you quickly. Please don't delay any longer, do it now before it slips your mind. The due date has changed; the reports are due to Jim on July 1st but they can be sent any time before then. There are still several copies of the Fraternalism and Leadership, The Second Fifty Years of the Knights of Columbus history books to sell, contact Jim if you would like to purchase any, they can be mailed any-time. The order form is on page 88 in the official directory or call Jim.

Tom Schmeidler, State Program Director

INSURANCE AGENCY MESSAGE

January/2017 Explorer 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: Joe Cummings wrote \$1,500,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.

- Central Kansas Agency: Adam Bruna wrote \$382,424 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.
- Western Kansas Agency: J. J. Deges wrote \$3,600,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$36,564,330 in life insurance during the month of November.

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 November of 2016.

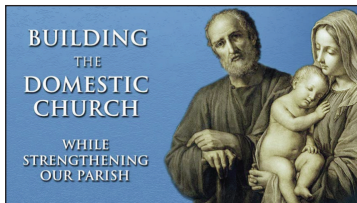
J. J. Deges, David Soukup, Wade Greif, Adam Bruna, Dan Reed, Darin Reed, Jon Reboulet, John Schibi, Zachary Caro, Bill Weber, and Shaun McGovern

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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