



The Explorer

A Publication
Of The
Kansas
Knights of Columbus

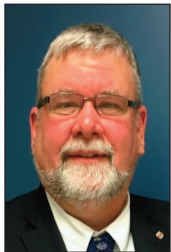
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November 2016

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Our Fraternal Year is now officially one-third of the way completed. Your Council should have its' Forms 185 (Report of Officers), 365 (Program Personnel Report Form), and 1728 (Semi-Annual Council Audit) completed and submitted to both the State and Supreme Offices. Your Council should have scheduled its' Programming Activities throughout the Fraternal Year. Your Council should have a Membership Director, Membership Team, Retention Chairman and a Retention Team in place to handle membership recruitment and retention efforts. Finally, your Council should have established an Action Plan to both grow and retain its' members.



I often get asked "why do you guys put so much emphasis on membership?" The answer is really simple: if you are not growing, you are shrinking. If you aren't inviting "new" membership, your membership will get old. If you don't recruit, encourage and include new members in any and all activities, including Council offices, your "old" membership will drop out, get out, or burn out. Our Supreme Programming and Membership Consultant, Levi Leyba, often talks about a "phantom" council in his home state, that decided it had enough members and decided not to recruit any new members. This strategy worked great, until the existing membership got tired of playing musical chairs with the Council leadership positions. Eventually, these men dropped out of all activities and council offices. Even though this Council doesn't meet anymore, complete forms, recruit, or participate in any programming activities, the entire membership of the Council had insurance. Because of this, the Council is still on the books!

I am frequently told that "we have recruited every man in the Parish. "There is no one left to recruit." That may be true, but it usually isn't. I am reminded of the town of Axtell, home of Past State Deputy Tom Rottinghaus. While the town of Axtell has a population of about 400, the Axtell Council #1163 had 253 members at the end of last year. I am told that every High School Senior in the Parish is recruited. Brother Knights, I promise that there is always at least one guy out there that isn't a member

because he either hasn't been recruited, hasn't been asked to join, has said no because he hasn't been sold on the benefits of membership, or maybe, just maybe, his life situation has changed. He has gotten married or has a new family member and his insurance needs have changed. Maybe he needs some financial planning or needs to set up a retirement income strategy. While the Knights offer these benefits, is your Council aware of these benefits? Are your members aware? If not, invite your Field Agent and host a Fraternal Benefit Night. I am sure that every Field Agent in the State is prepared to present the benefits of insurance to members and prospective members alike. Most importantly, be not afraid to be "Fishers of Men!"

Finally, November 8 is Election Day. Make certain that you vote. We have an obligation to vote. Our Religious Freedom is at stake during every election. This year is no different. Inform yourself on the views of the Candidates and make your vote count.

November is also special in a couple of other regards. Veterans Day will be celebrated on November 11, and Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 24. We should certainly thank the Veterans who have made many sacrifices to fight for and defend our Country, and we should honor the blessings that have been bestowed on each of us. My wife, Barb, and I wish each and everyone in the Order in Kansas a blessed Thanksgiving.

Vivat Jesus,

Vincent P. Melvin III
State Deputy

Congratulations! Past State Deputy Francis G. Drouhard

Past State Deputy Francis G. Drouhard was appointed by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson to serve as our Supreme Warden. This is an outstanding honor for Francis and Lori and the Jurisdiction of Kansas. Congratulations, Francis and Lori and the Drouhard family.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STATE CHAPLIN'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER:

Remember Deceased Members with Memorial Mass

- 1 All Saints Day
- 1 Deadline for DD's to return Religious Education Fund donations and tickets to State Religious Education Fund Chairman, Steve Abels
- 1 Submit checks and Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Report to State Treasurer, Mike Grothoff
- 2 All Soul's Day
- 5 Deadline to order Free Throw Contest Kit from Supreme
- 5 Soccer Challenge Report Due to Supreme and State council
- 6 Formation/ Knighthood Degree- District 32- Host 4458 - Derby
- 9 Admission Degree – Council 1149 – Paola
- 13 Formation/ Knighthood Degrees – District 19- Host Council 8059 –Location: Topeka Mater Dei- Assumption
- 20 Formation/ Knighthood Degrees – District 17 – Host: 3316- Location: Pittsburg
- 25 Council Charitable Outreach Day
- 27 First Day of Advent

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
- 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

Congratulations Knights:

State Knight of the Month: J.T. Horacek - Council 1539 - District 50

Supreme Family of the Month winners; Charles and Beth Smith- Council 883 – Pittsburg, Steve and Peggy Hilger – Council 2217- Andale, Bill and Lillian Francisco- Council 10321 – Effingham and Pat and Alicia Keegan – Council 13087 – Baileyville.

“Give thanks and remember; Here is a living sign: That one man's dying and rising transforms our bread and wine.” Give Thanks and Remember by Jack Mifflon.

These words come to mind as we prepare for the great national feast of Thanksgiving. This song reminds us that all that we have comes from God. Anyone who lives out in the country or has had a garden is acutely aware of how much we depend upon God as we grow our crops. The sun and rain are so important for us to be able to feed people around the world. Because of the English language, using homonyms, we can say the following: The Son and his Reign are so important for us to be able to nourish the word of God around the world. As we die and rise, He transforms us into His bread and wine on earth. We are the living sign of Jesus on earth.

With that in mind, let us give thanks to those who feed us, nourish us, and allow Jesus to be present in them.

We give thanks to the Knights and their families who were involved in the Tootsie Roll Campaign, raising money to serve others in Special Olympics and local causes.

We give thanks to the Knights and their families who collect baby items and money to help single mothers.

We give thanks to the Knights and their families who organize Fish Frys to raise money for their councils in order to serve others.

We give thanks to the Knights and their families who help local groups and organizations in any way they are able.

Looking at this from another angle, let us give thanks that this presidential election cycle is at an end.

Knowing the challenges our Catholic faith faces with opposition to our beliefs and practices, let us give thanks that the Holy Spirit continues to fortify us, and gives us insight into new ways of explaining our faith, the eternal truths that never change.

Now, turn to each other and give thanks for their presence in your life, for in doing so, we give thanks to Gods' loving presence in our life.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fr. Daniel L. Gardner, State Chaplain

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I would like to take a moment here and give thanks out in the month of Thanksgiving to all those Councils who have recruited new and returning members. We cannot do our charitable works without men willing to participate. Don't place the burden of various Council programs on two or three men. Make sure you get involved and help out.

We are almost halfway through the year and it's time to get our recruiting efforts going full blast. The church drives each Council should have hosted in October is hopefully bearing fruits. If you weren't able to do a church drive in October, it's not too late. A Thanksgiving themed church drive can help. Do not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of upcoming holidays and say I don't have time to recruit. Go out there and ask men to become a Knight of Columbus. Go be Fishers of Men!

May this Thanksgiving bring family to your table, love in your hearts, the joy of our faith into our minds and many new recruits to your Council! Happy Thanksgiving.

John W. Schulz
State Membership Director

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Just as the seasons are beginning to change and the summer checklist of mowing the lawn and setting up a tee time are quickly changing to grabbing the rake and dusting off the snow blower. Have you checked on your Knights monthly checklist?

By now, your council should have completed a number of things including filing Forms 185 and 365 with Supreme, submitting four Family of the Month and Knight of the Month entries, completing the Commitment to Humanities Drive, submitting an Adopt-A-Seminarian pledge, helping your parish/school apply for Religious Education Funds, selling all of the Religious Education Fund Raffle Tickets assigned to your council and returning them to you District Deputy, starting fundraisers for Culture of Life and Pennies from Heaven, items for the Country Store, and updating your council's history. That is quite a check list of accomplishments, but remember, the job's not done until the paperwork is in! The reports for each program must be filed on time for your council to receive recognition for their hard work. Remember that this checklist doesn't have to be done by one individual. To increase involvement within your council you must engage fellow brothers to become

actively involved. You can achieve this by mentoring and involving your council members. We will increase our capacity to help our councils, parishes, and our Domestic Family, the Church. I ask you is it easier to rake all the leaves in your yard alone or with help? In the November's reading in the Domestic Church the Family Fully Alive, "It is life, it is the daily fabric of life, it is the journey of generations who pass on the faith together with love and with the basic moral values. It is the concrete solidarity, effort, patience, and also a project, hope, future." Gentlemen, this cannot be accomplished if your council does not embrace mentoring of members old and new to encourage their involvement in activities and programs.

Do you have members involved in leading activities and programs? Have you started working on the council scrapbooks? Wouldn't it be great to be recognized for one or more programs at the Convention next spring? Did you know some have even been recognized by the Supreme Council? Utilize your resources just like changing the oil in your car, you can do it yourself or take it to Orville's Oil and Tires. Members of your council can put together a traditional scrapbook, or use a program such as Shutterfly to create a scrapbook. You also don't have to wait until April 1 to send in your Council's scrapbook to the appropriate director or chairman. Do it, make it, send it!

The chairmen, directors and I are here to help implement and improve programs and activities in councils across the state. Please do not hesitate to call or email us. We are glad to visit with you and to provide assistance to you in any way we can. We can also arrange council visits for a face-to-face meeting if that is what you need. We ask councils to update us and let us know what other programs and activities your council is actively working on. Every program promoted by the State Council started as a council activity somewhere in the Order. Maybe your council's activity could become a new state program someday!

Tom Schmeidler
State Program Director

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

Is your council promoting the new initiative: "Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parishes"? Every council should be in constant communication with their parish priests to make sure the Knights of Columbus is fulfilling any needs that their parish may have. All councils are reminded that four of the twenty-four activities required for the Columbian Award must be "Building the Domestic Church" programs.

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Adopt a Seminarian

It is imperative that every council submit their pledge cards immediately to insure that all 105 diocesan seminarians in Kansas are adopted and are receiving equal amounts of financial assistance. Contact your District Deputy or Church Activities Director Gary Wondra if you don't have a pledge card. Pledge cards may also be submitted using the form on the state website: www.kansas-kofc.org. A list of seminarians and the addresses of the seminaries has been mailed to all councils and assemblies. This list may also be viewed on the state website. All councils and assemblies are asked to pray for their adopted seminarians at all meetings, develop a spiritual relationship with them and send their financial assistance with cards and letters of encouragement. The seminarians are all very appreciative of your support.

Religious Education Fund Applications: Religious Education Chairman Rev. Dan Gardner reports that as of October 10, 56% of the councils have requested funds for their parishes and schools. Rev. Dan thanks all those responding. Grand Knights should receive the checks by mid-December.

Religious Education Fund Raising: The deadline for all councils to return their raffle tickets and monetary donations to their District Deputy was October 25th. District Deputies are reminded to return their tickets and proceeds to Religious Education Fund Raising Chairman Steve Abels as soon as possible! DO NOT mail tickets after November 1 unless you contact Steve **first**. If extra tickets are needed, contact Steve (913-579-2505) or your District Deputy to see if any unsold tickets are still available. The drawing for prizes will be held on December 3rd at the Mid-Year District Deputy meeting. Thanks to all who have helped distribute tickets and collect donations.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Activities Director Bob Duffin advises the Regional Free Throw Contest Locations have been determined and dates are being set. Councils should prepare to conduct Free Throw Contest in January. Pay special attention to the "Free Throw Championship Program Guide" found in the Free Throw Kit. The Essay Contest is open to all students from 8th grade to high school seniors. Additional information about this program and order form for a participation kit are on Supreme website. All essays winner's names and copies of their essays are to be forwarded to Youth Activities Director Bob Duffin by April 1, 2017 for reporting council participation. Please refer to the Youth Activities section of the Supreme website for details. If your council hosted a Soccer Challenge, send your participation form and results to Youth Activities Director Bob Duffin.

Coats for Kids

The minimum order is one case of 12 coats, and the cost is \$220 per case (\$18.33 per coat). Shipping charges are included. Each case of high-quality coats will contain either boy's coats or girl's coats, both of which come in a variety of sizes, styles and colors. The order form can be found on the Supreme website www.kofc.org/forms and can be submitted online or printed and mailed. or a link on the state website where the form can be downloaded and sent in. Any questions please contact Bob Duffin, Youth Director.

Colombian Squires

Wouldn't it be great to have a yearly flow of 18-year-old men as new members into your council? There are Squires turning 18 every day and these men are ready and willing to join a growing council. Squires Chairman Bob Duffin has a list of all of the Squires in the state that are turning 18 years old every month. Contact him to see if any of these men are near your council. Contact him for help at squires@kansas-kofc.org.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Life

A great way to make it known that your Knights of Columbus Council is active with the Church, Family, and Community is by selecting a family every month and honoring them as your "Family of the Month." Once you have chosen a family, go to this website <http://www.kofc.org/forms> - scroll down to the online form 1993A, open the form and fill it out. It will only take 10-15 minutes to complete. After you have completed the form, print it and mail it to the Supreme office. The form can also be scanned and emailed to fraternalservices@kofc.org. Each month the Supreme Council selects 100 families from all those submitted for a special award. Wouldn't you like one of them to be from your council? So far Kansas has been averaging 43 of the 261 councils participating in the "Family of the Month" program. We need to have at least 150 councils participating. Who in your council warrants recognition for a job well done? Should you need assistance, let me know, Scott Nichols, Family Life Director, family@kansas-kofc.org.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Rolls) The October Campaign Drive to Help People with Intellectual Disabilities is now complete, and Chairman Barney Wolters is excited with early returns. Barney reminds you that although the designated weekend for the event has passed, your council may still solicit and accept donations to help use up any remaining Tootsie Roll inventory. Now is the time to evaluate your coun-

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cil's results and see if improvements can be made for next year. Like any other program, no drive is complete until the paperwork is done. All councils must submit their reports by December 15. The white copy of the Tootsie Roll Report Form, along with a check for 100% of the proceeds, must be sent to State Treasurer Mike Grothoff. Please make sure your Councils send the yellow copy of this report to Commitment to Humanities Chairman Barney Wolters. These two tasks should be completed as soon as possible so Mike can send the recipient checks back to the councils. It is also imperative that every council submit Form 4584 Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics. This form may be found on Supreme website. Every council should submit this form even if they didn't contribute volunteer hours towards the Special Olympics. Barney extends a huge thank you to all Knights assisting in this worthwhile endeavor. Be sure to publicize the results of your council's fund drive in your local newspapers & parish bulletins and extend a thank you to all who donated.

In the Food for Families program. The Knights of Columbus Food for Families Reimbursement Program was established in 2012. Through this program, local Knights of Columbus councils or assemblies make an annual contribution of \$500 or more, or 1,000 pounds of food to a local community food bank or parish food pantry. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food contributed, the council or assembly is eligible for a refund of \$100 from the Supreme Council. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$500 per fraternal year. The Food for Families report form #10057 can be found on the Supreme website. For full information; kofc.org/food

Culture of Life Update

As the month of October closed we completed another "Respect of Life Month". It is our hope that all councils participated in the many Culture of Life activities during the past two months. Thank you to all councils that participated in the Silver Rose Run, attendance to these events were good. We are indeed blessed to be a part of this international program, I encourage each council to continue to pray the rosary for healing for those that have been affected by abortion in our communities, state, country and around the world. All councils are encouraged to continue working on the Evangelium Vitae Award with prayers for the Culture of Life, council charitable works, programs, and fundraisers. There will be a Baby Crib set up at the December Mid-Year District Deputy Meeting to help kick off the 14th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower. Attendees are encouraged to bring at least one baby item to place in the crib, monetary donations can also be accepted. Begin making plans at this time for the Pro-Life Baby Shower to be held by your

council in January. Should your council plan to conduct a Bottles for life fundraiser, they should be making plans now and determine when to have it. Many speakers on topics such as adoption needs, helping the poor and homeless and rights of the elderly are making up their schedules for 2017, now is a good time to get your council on their schedule. If you need information on the Culture of Life, call or email Culture of Life Chairman, Lino S. Munoz at [785-249-2075](tel:785-249-2075) or cultureoflife@kansas-kofc.org

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

At this time, we are aggressively looking for a council to host the The Annual Sporting Clay Shoot. Bids to host the 2017 tournament need to be turned in by December 1, 2016.

Fraternal

Has your council selected a "Knight of the Month"? Every council should be participating in this program by honoring a brother knight for his contribution to your council's activities. The Grand Knight or selection committee should make it a point to recognize a member at every council meeting and submit your monthly application to Fraternal Activities Chairman Mike Barnard by the 15th of the following month. Your applicant will then be entered in the State Knight of the Month drawing. This program will help create enthusiasm and increase participation in your council. All councils are also encouraged to hold a memorial Mass honoring your council's deceased brother knights in the month of November.

Publicity

Publicity Chairman Mike Barnard reminds all councils to publicize their activities. We must all do a better job of letting the public know who we are and the activities we sponsor. Councils should submit articles to your local newspapers, church bulletins, and diocesan newspapers. Using social media is also a great way to publicize events. Remember to send Mike copies of all your council newsletters and all articles related to your council activities

Website Update

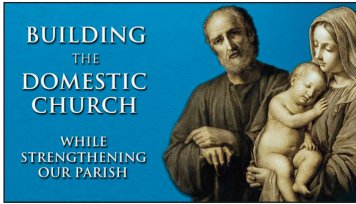
Have you ever needed to know who your Field Agent is? The Field Agent information for your council can be found on the council's information page on the State's Website. Locate the council information page under Councils, then By City or By Council Number. Click on the insurance agent link and your council's insurance agent contact information will be shown as well as the other councils he serves. To see what councils are assigned to a particular agency or field agent, go to Insurance, then Kansas Agencies and then Western, Central or Eastern Agency.

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“Fishers of Men”



State Historian

Jim Pritchard asks all Grand Knights to verify their council history and make sure it is up to date. Council history reports compile a lasting reminder of your council’s activities for today’s members as well as future generations of members. Jim would also like to suggest that this would be a good time to order a copy of the book titled, “Fraternalism and Leadership. The Second Fifty Years of the Knights of Columbus in Kansas.”. It would make an excellent Christmas gift for your council or for a member. If any Grand Knight or member has questions or needs information call Jim at 913-294-3303 or email using the KofC State email address.

INSURANCE AGENCY MESSAGE

November/2016 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: David Soukup wrote \$1,950,000 in life insurance protection on members

and their families in September.

Central Kansas Agency: Adam Bruna wrote \$735,359 in life insurance protection on members and their families in September.

Western Kansas Agency: Tyler Meyer wrote \$4,601,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in September.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$38,059,248 in life insurance during the month of September.

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 September of 2016.

Darin Reed, Luke Henry, David Soukup, John Schibi, Kirby Schmelzle, J. J. Deges, Wade Greif, John Reboulet, Dan Reed, Shaun McGovern, Zachary Caro, Adam Bruna, and Mark McKnett

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.