



The Explorer

A Publication
Of The
Kansas
Knights of Columbus

VOL. 21 NO. 8

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

September 2017

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

After the crazy, lazy days of summer, with kid's home from school and everyone taking a vacation, and everyone else taking a better vacation than I, most of us have settled back into the routine of life that seems to reset itself every September.



That means that your Council's Meetings and activities should settle back into some semblance of routine, also! If your Council has not done so, make certain that

Forms 185 (Report of Officers),
365 (Service Program Personnel Report) and
1295 (Semi-Annual Council Audit Report)

have been completed and submitted to the appropriate distribution list.

Remember that each "new" Fraternal Year is another year and another opportunity to be successful. **Let's make this year an exceptional year.** Your Council should have had a representative at the District/Regional Meeting in your area and your Council should have gotten copies of the Official State Directory, the Programming and Membership Guide, Fraternal Success Planners, the necessary forms, books and everything and anything else you will need to insure your Council's success. If you still have not gotten this information, please call your District Deputy. If you can't get ahold of him, email me (Statedeputy@kansas-kofc.org) and I will help you.

Remember that Charity was is and will always be the first principle of our Order. Your Council should be planning programming activities to take place throughout the year. These activities should be in the six programming areas, including Council, Church, Community, Family, Culture of Life and Youth. Activities in these areas can include, but should not be limited to State and/or Supreme sponsored programs. Listen to your membership and give them the opportunity to contribute their special talents to your council. As Grand Knight, ask for their help and keep them busy! Busy councils are successful councils.

Last month I asked and encouraged you to start recruiting new members to help carry out the

charitable works of the Order. I mentioned the Order wide membership drive in October, and I suggested that your council order any pamphlets, flyers and/or posters so they will be available for your Council's recruitment drive. Your Council still has time if you haven't gotten this done, but don't delay any longer! If you don't order soon, your order may be too late to help you with your October membership drive!

Last year, I heard our Supreme Consultant, Levi Leyba, talk about how important a council achieving the Star Council Award is. This award identifies success in three very important facets of our Order, and will pay dividends in the future. First, it identifies success on the most basic tenet: Charity. Second, it recognizes the Council's efforts to spread fraternalism by recognizing the membership growth necessary to maintain a vibrant council. Finally, it acknowledges your Council's commitment to the well-being of its members who have taken the necessary steps to ensure that, in the event of an untimely tragedy, the member families will be financially secure.

The Star Council Award is indicative of successful year. Why not have your year as Grand Knight recognized as a successful year?

Vivat Jesus,

Vincent P. Melvin III
State Deputy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Form #468 Columbian Squires Officers and Counselors Report Due
- 11 K of C World Day of Prayer for Peace
- 15 Family of the Month due to Supreme
- 17 Major Degree in Derby- District 32
- 24 Major Degree in Great Bend- District 47
- 25 Major Degree in Goddard- District 34
- 28 Deadline for Religious Education Fund Requests to State Chaplain

OCTOBER

October is Respect Life Month—

Schedule a Culture of Life Fundraiser or Seminar

October is Order-Wide Church Drive Month

- 1 Respect Life Sunday – participate in life chains, culture of life rallies, etc.
- 8 Major Degrees in Goodland- District 52
- 9 Columbus Day
- 10 Columbus Day Observed
- 13 Order Christmas Poster Contest kit
- 13-15 Conduct Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Campaign
- 15 Major Degree at Manhattan- District 25
- 15 Family of the Month due to Supreme
- 25 Deadline for GKs to return Religious Ed Fund Tickets & Donations to DD
- 28 Deadline to report Soccer Challenge reports to Supreme & State Council
- 28-29 5th Sunday Rosary Prayer Service and or Corporate Communion
- 29 Major Degree Leawood- District 11
- 30 Order Free Throw Championship Kit

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Knight of the Month for July is Rex Eymann Council 16027 District 34.

Supreme Family of the Month winners for July: John Scott Family Council 834-Horton, Daniel Anderes Family Council 1181- Chapman, Keith Kinman Family Council 1521-Hoisington, Sam Harter Family Council 3018-Ottawa, Richard Hatch Family Council 8411-Topeka-Christ the King, and the Robert Lucas Family Council 12546-Wea
Congratulations to all our winners.

STATE CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Reverend Dan Gardner, State Chaplain

“I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall ever walk in darkness....”

(John 8:12)

Well, some of us walked in darkness for a couple of minutes on August 21st, during the totality moment of the solar eclipse. It was something. Up at Benedictine College in Atchison with a few thousand people milling around (including the students), the light was slowly fading away, and then, suddenly, it was total darkness. The street lights came on, people were yelling and hooting and just in awe at this celestial moment. Unfortunately, it was also cloudy and rainy and we saw very little of the eclipse in process. For a few brief moments, and I mean brief, we saw a small

stage of the eclipse. The last moment we saw a sliver of the sun still shining before the clouds obscured everything. My older brother was visiting and estimated that we saw a total of 10 seconds, when added together, of the eclipse. About an hour later, the clouds did clear up enough to see the last few waning moments of the moon covering a small part of the sun.

Disappointed? Yes I was. My brother flew in from Washington State. My sister came from Dallas. This was a rare event and for the most part it was missed. Several thoughts ran through my mind, including the fact that people had been praying for rain for the crops, but could that not have waited a half day?

Yet people turn to God in prayer expressing their praise, hopes, needs and concerns. One who turns to the Lord will not walk in darkness, even though there are dark moments in our lives. It's tough to remember sometimes that Jesus is present wherever we are and in whatever we are doing. Some people live with disappointment all the time. They struggle in helping their child who has been molested. They struggle with earning enough money to pay even the basic bills. They struggle with the aftermath of people taking advantage of their good will and generosity. They struggle with loved ones who suffer from addictions. They struggle on how to pay for a debilitating disease. There are a lot of dark moments in a person's life, and it is only God who brings light.

Disappointed? Yes, I was. Yet my brother expressed the positive. We saw a little bit. We saw people we haven't seen for a while. We met people from other locations. We enjoyed the enthusiasm of the college students. We experienced the darkness and it was short. We began making plans for the siblings to be together next May for his 70th birthday. And, we made plans to be at my sister's house in Dallas in April, 2024 for the next eclipse! Disappointed? Yes, but I am more gratified for the experience which brought out unexpected surprises. Thank you, Lord. *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 Miffleton.

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

John W. Schulz, State Membership Director

John W. Schulz, State Membership Director
One of the many questions I get asked is “How do I find new members?” The answer is not an easy one. You should be looking around your parish.

Every Mass I attend at my home parish, I am looking around after Mass to see who is not a Knight and try to strike up a conversation. You can't do it with 10 people at one Mass. There is not time. But if you do it twice a month, there is 24 potential new Knights. Will you be successful every time? The answer is no. But even if you get a commitment from one a month, there is 12 new Knights. If just a few guys do this routinely, you can build your Council quickly.

Now for those that say "Everyone I see is already a Knight", then you need to start asking those men if their sons, grandsons, brothers and other family members are Knights. It surprises me how many men do not encourage their sons to become part of our brotherhood. It starts with one simple question: "Are you a Knight of Columbus?" That right there is how you **Become the Cornerstone** of your Council.

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Tom Schmeidler, State Program Director

The Regional District Meetings have been completed and the programs for 2017-2018 have been presented to the councils. With all the information fresh in your minds, now is the time for Grand Knights to plan strategies with your officers and program team to be "Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening our Parish" and make this year the most successful in history. If you haven't already, be sure to hold your planning meetings soon. The most urgent programs at this time are the Religious Education Fund Requests/Ticket Sales, Adopt-A-Seminarian, The Family Fully Alive, and Commitment to Humanities Drive to "Help People with Intellectual Disabilities". Remember to call your local radio stations and ask them to play our PSA with the voice of Gregg Marshall, coach of the Wichita State Shockers Men's Basketball team, for the Tootsie Roll Drive scheduled for October 13-15.

Are you using your "Fraternal Leader Success Planner" as much as possible? Be sure to review the "Reminders" and "Things to accomplish" sections to help you with planning and tracking your council's activities.

Has your council selected a Publicity Chairman? By submitting this member's name on the form 365 Report of Program Personnel, he will receive helpful information from the Supreme Council concerning publicizing your council activities. This person could also be responsible for ensuring scrapbooks are submitted in each of the six programming areas.

Most of us carry a cell phone that is capable of taking pictures. Encourage members to take pictures at the different events and send them to the Publicity Chairman. In addition to the traditional scrap-

book, you could also use a service such as Shutterfly, Snapfish, Wal-Mart, Costco, or others to print and bind a book to submit to the many Activity Scrapbook competitions. Many councils go unrecognized for the fantastic programs and activities that their councils participate in. Scrapbooks are a visual reminder of the great works you do to share and help develop other councils.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Adopt-A-Seminarian

All councils are reminded to support their bishops, parish priests and seminarians as we: "Build the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish". Church Activities Director, Gary Wondra, has contacted the Diocesan Vocation Directors in each diocese to request a list of seminarians. The official list of seminarians will be distributed to all councils, assemblies and circles soon. Every council, assembly and circle should submit to Gary the online pledge form or the post card pledge form provided by your District Deputy, by November 1st. Any council, assembly or circle that needs a new or additional seminarian should contact Gary instead of trying to select one on their own. By allowing the state council to assist in appointing seminarians, this ensures equal amounts of financial assistance may be provided to all seminarians. Seminarians need your financial assistance at the beginning of their school year as many of their expenses are incurred at this time. In addition to your financial support, seminarians also need your prayers, cards, letters of encouragement, care packages and phone calls. Make sure your adopted seminarians know the Knights of Columbus will always be there to support them on their journey to the priesthood.

Religious Education Fund Applications

Religious Education Chairman Rev. Dan Gardner awaits receipt of the applications for funds from your parishes. He would like to remind you that September 28 is the deadline for submitting those applications and reminds you to get them in early so they can be tabulated and funds can be distributed.

Religious Education Fund Raising

By now, Grand Knights should have received your council's tickets. Steve Abels requests your council to work diligently at getting the allocated tickets distributed far in advance of the October 25 deadline to return tickets and funds to the District Deputy. A reminder: any person, group, parish, or organization may participate in the purchase of these tickets! Please be sure to request additional tickets to help make this the most successful year ever!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Have you ordered your Free Throw Contest Kit, Essay Contest Kit, Soccer Challenge Kit and Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Kit from Supreme? Bob Duffin Youth Activities Director, reminds all councils to order them right away. The order forms are online on the Supreme Council's website. www.kofc.org/surge

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Scott Nichols Family Life Director would like to thank each council that has selected a Family of the Month and submitting their name to Supreme by the 15th of the following month. By doing so, they are entered in the drawing for one of 100 Holy Family Plaques awarded each month by Supreme Council.

ALSO... please recognize these outstanding families by publishing their name in your parish bulletin, the council newsletter, and by presenting them with a Family of the Month Certificate. Using this program to honor families for their service to Church, community and council promotes the example we wish to display in building the domestic church.

FINALLY, please take time and seek out "The Family Fully Alive". A great list of prayers, devotions and family activities to utilize, so look it over, plan ahead, lead and enjoy our responsibility as Catholic gentlemen.

Google this: kofc.org/familyfullyalive

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Rolls)

Please encourage your councils to step up to the challenge and raise funds through the Tootsie Roll drive. Have you ordered your Tootsie Rolls, asked the local radio stations to play Coach Marshall's public service announcement? Be sure that you have contacted your fund drive locations to assure they are secured for the weekend of October 13, 14 and 15. Chairman Barney Wolters reminds that arrangements should be made early so all locations in your area are covered. Don't forget to ask merchants if there are matching funds or if base donations are available. Many will do this. Remember to seek donations for case quantities of Tootsie Rolls. With everyone's hard work, we can achieve the goal of raising over \$400,000. The Knights in Kansas will again be sponsoring the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Hays and Topeka next March. Helping citizens with intellectual disabilities in Kansas and seeing their faces light up will make all your hard work worthwhile.

Pennies from Heaven

Bruce Luehring reminds Grand Knights that you should have already started your fundraising efforts for the Pennies from Heaven Program. It will

be easier to obtain your "Goals" when you raise funds each month. Contact Bruce Luehring with information on the items you have for the Country Store or the auction at the State Convention. District Deputies are asked to remind all councils to become involved in this worthy program. You never know who in you District or community you will be able to help through the EDAP program.

CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

October is "Respect of Life Month" and now is the time for planning your council's Culture of Life activities. Fundraiser activities for councils to take part in include "Bottles for Life" and the "January Baby Shower". These activities were described in the regional meetings. Fundraisers should be planned with the goal of reaching at least \$6.00 per council member by April 1, 2018 which is the deadline for the Culture of Life form to be completed and turned in.

Other efforts that your council can be performing to further promote the Culture of Life would include praying the rosary to the promotion of the sanctity of life before your council meetings. Also you could host an event in your parish in which a speaker from your dioceses comes to educate attendees on subjects that the diocese promotes, or crisis pregnancy centers in your area and how we can assist them, prevention of abortion and euthanasia. We also recommend a speaker about the process of planning and promoting adoption.

Turning to the Evangelium Vitae Award. This award requires councils to be involved in the four-part plan of action described on page 26 of the Program and Membership Guide. Every council can contribute something, so let us work together that we may attain a goal of 100% participation for this year's Culture of Life program. For questions about any of the areas mentioned above please contact the State Culture of Life Director, Lino S. Munoz at 785-249-2075 or cultureoflife@kansas-kofc.org

Athletic Events

Council Activities Director and Athletic Events Chairman Randy Testa reports that an excellent weekend of golf was held at Emporia Municipal Golf Course in Emporia on July 22 and 23 site of the 2017 Kansas State Golf Tournament. Twenty-four teams participated in this wonderful annual event from across the state. Nine teams emerged as winners across three flights; with first, second and third place winners in each flight.

Championship Flight

1. Joe Bachofer, Jerry Ryan, Bob Mohler and Jeremy Ryan

2. Joe Hay, Mitch Knipp, Mikeal Knipp, and Stan Knipp

3. Jim Randell, Tony Dellasega, John Keller and Johnny Pucket

A Flight

1. Bob Bergman, Kevin Blochlinger, Ryan Brushwood and Lloyd Tajchman
2. Vincent Hammerl, Richard Moore, Johnny Clark and SJ Moore
3. Mike Baalman, Todd Basgall, Neil Jacobs, and Jim Stroot

B Flight

1. Mike Dvorak, Kim Nelson, Ed Owens and Dave Dvorak
2. Bill Baalman, Lynn Enslinger, Kevin Moeder and Kevin Baalman
3. John Schwartzman, Earl Stoecklein, Jay Bezdek and Bob Power

A delicious prime rib banquet was held after Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday evening. Where all attendees socialized and participated in a raffle. Thank you to the Leo Council #727 of Emporia and the Knights Ladies who were wonderful hosts. Special thanks go out to Gene Ohlman tournament director for all his efforts in putting on a fantastic tournament.

Please plan to join us in Dodge City at the Mariah Hills Golf Course on July 21 and 22, 2018 for the 2018 State Golf Tournament hosted by Council 2970 of LaCrosse. Keep watching the Explorer and the state website for more information as it develops. We are still looking for a council to host the 2019 and the 2020 golf tournaments. If your council is interested please contact Randy Testa, Council Activities Director and Athletic Events Chairman for more details.

Fraternal

All councils should recognize a member every month for their outstanding contribution towards the council goals. Submit your council's Knight of the Month to Fraternal Chairman Alex Neises by the 15th of each month and your brother Knight will be eligible for the "State Knight of the Month" drawing. The winner will receive a certificate, crucifix and will be listed on the homepage of the state website and in the monthly newsletter. Please submit monthly entries via mail, e-mail or electronically from the Forms/Kansas link on the state website. All name and address corrections for the State Directory should be sent to State Secretary Dale Weber.

Publicity

Everyday councils do tremendous work to help our Church, Youth, Family, Culture of Life, Communities and Councils. Councils must publicize the works that we do! The council Publicity

Chairman or any other designated member is encouraged to write newsletters and submit articles to get your council information and good works noticed. Your Publicity Chairman will receive mailings from the Supreme Council for tips and ideas. If you have not already, please create a Facebook page for your council and look at Social Media 101 on the Supreme website. Additional help can be found by contacting State Publicity Chairman Alex Neises.

Webmaster

Webmaster Doug Wietharn reminds all councils and assemblies to please review their respective information which can be found under 'Councils' on the Knighthood Degree page or "Assemblies" on the Patriotic Degree page, then 'By City' or 'By Council Number or Assembly Number'. Please e-mail any updates to webmaster@kansas-kofc.org. Has your council ever needed to host an Admission Degree but the council's team is not available? We would like to help. Councils can e-mail their Admission Degree information to the webmaster and it will be posted for other councils to see. The information should include the date, time, location including street address, and contact person. Please note that hosting councils that publish their first degree date on the state website must be prepared to hold the Admissions Degree even if they have no candidates as there may be candidates from other councils that may be attending. Let's work together to help ensure that candidates don't wait weeks or months to take their Admission Degree.

Knights-Lite

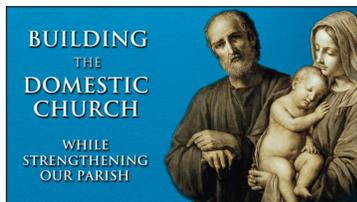
January 1 is the upcoming deadline for articles to be sent to Tom Schmeidler, Editor, in order to make the edition. Submit them early.



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
AXTELL KS
Permit No. 9

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"Become the Cornerstone"



INSURANCE AGENCY MESSAGE

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: Jon Reboulet wrote \$2,318,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in July.

Central Kansas Agency: Darren Mueller wrote \$1,485,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in July.

Western Kansas Agency: Hector Soler wrote \$3,415,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in July.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$40,892,579 in life insurance during the month of July.

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 July of 2017.

David Soukup
Darin Reed
Adam Bruna

Tyler Meyer
Kirby Schmelzle

Dan Reed
Luke Baker

Mark McKnett
John Schibi

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.