



# The Explorer

A Publication  
Of The  
Kansas  
Knights of Columbus

VOL. 14 NO. 61

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

December 2009

## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

December is upon us and with it the Advent Season and preparations for the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. This is a time for family & friends and showing our love and appreciation for those around us. It's also a time for us to reach out to those in need. I encourage every Council and every Knight to look around your community to make sure that none are forgotten at Christmas. Your deeds may include providing food or clothing to the needy or simple acts such as visiting the homebound, providing transportation for someone to attend Christmas Eve Mass, or just being there as a friend to brighten a life at Christmas time. This season would also be a great time to take part in the Coats for Kids program to make sure the children of your area have a coat to keep them warm through the winter chill. The Supreme Council has also just last week implemented a new program titled Food For Families and I ask you to please be sure to read the reverse side of the Pro-Life Baby Shower insert in this issue of The Explorer for details. Remember, the magic of Christmas doesn't 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".



As we interact with family & friends this Christmas season, let's keep membership recruitment in the front of our minds. Membership in the Knights is one of the greatest gifts a Catholic man can receive and one which can change the life of a man and his family forever. It's the gift which will keep on giving for many years to come as new members will help to spread the charitable acts of the Knight to others they will come in contact with.

In this Year of the Volunteer, as Grand Knights and District Deputies we must ask ourselves: "Have I done all I can to encourage volunteerism and to help Pope Benedict XVI in his call "FOLLOW ME, HELP US BUILD UP THE CHURCH"? Have you encouraged your council(s) to recruit? Have you set first degrees dates for your membership to recruit toward? Have you developed prospect lists and made sure all these prospects are contacted about joining our great Order. Have you set major degree dates to give these men ample opportunities to join? The Holy Father is calling us all to join with him in "Building Up The Church" and if you have answered "no" to any of these questions then the time to act is now. December is a great time to schedule first degrees or major degrees as family and friends are home from college or on vacation. Many councils and districts have done an excellent job in recruitment thus far, however many others have done little. Now is the time to get the ball rolling in our recruitment efforts. Why not recruit a "Knight Before Christmas"? New members are our lifeblood and will insure great leadership for years to come.

Lori & I and our family wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Joyful New Year. May the magic of the Christ Child fill your heart with love, happiness and kindness. Vivat Jesus.

Francis G. Drouhard—State Deputy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- 1 Light up for Christ
- 5-6 Mid-year District Deputy Meeting at Hutchinson
- 5 Drawing for Religious Education Fund Prizes
- 15 Deadline to submit Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Reports & Checks to State Treasurer, Ron Zishka
- 22 Deadline for receipt of articles for the Knight's-Lite
- 25 Celebrate the Birth of Jesus with your family

### **JANUARY: Support Pro-Life Activities**

- 1-31 Council Free Throw Contests completed by end of month
- 1-31 Conduct 11th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower
- 3 Major Degree at Garden City #2795 & #8491
- 10 Major Degrees at Winfield #4713, Hoisington #1521 and Oakley #2866
- 17 Major Degree at Wichita #10483
- 22 37th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade decision
- 22 March for Life – Washington D.C.
- 23 **Deadline** to file Request to Host 2011 Men's Bowling & Sporting Clays Tourneys & 2011 & 2012 Golf Tourneys
- 30 Major Degree at Overland Park #10932
- 31 Major Degree at Atchison #723
- 31 **Deadline**--Form #1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities due at Supreme

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Kansas Knight of the Month is David Gordon from Nortonville Council #2093.

Family of the Month winners of a Holy Family Plaque from Supreme were:  
Gary & Robin Ebert Family of Council #902 - Flush; Dale & Ellen Haukap Family of Council #2937 – Garden Plain ; Charles & Ronda Smith Family of Council #5212 – Scott City.

## STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“HAVE YOU ASKED FOR A KNIGHT THIS MONTH?”

Yes, many have, as our membership numbers show. At this writing we are plus 262 members for the year. For those councils that these new members belong to, **congratulations**, you are doing the necessary things to be successful in membership growth. You are booking Degrees and getting your prospects initiated very soon. You are having a major degree now rather than waiting 3 or 4 months. Great job! Don't slow down! Keep up the good work, and we will see you at the “STAR DISTRICT” and “STAR COUNCIL” AWARDS.

I have just completed a study of the District Deputy reports for the first 4 months of our fraternal year. There are many Districts that have less than 5 new members thus far, and many of those have zero new members. In making numerous phone calls I find that many councils have prospect lists, some are sizable, and yet they don't have 1st degrees scheduled.

In a perfect world it would be great to have all candidates go through Major Degrees, all 3 degrees in the same day, however if we all used that approach, there is no way that we would have enough degree teams to go around for us to meet our membership goals. So let's get those 1st degrees booked and get these eligible catholic families into the Knights today; they shouldn't have to wait for the benefits of membership, let's give them the benefits now.

Let's look at it from a prospective member's perspective. If I have to wait till next year to join the Knights, they must not want or need me very much. But if we let them know that we are making a special effort to help them become members, they are going to feel special and they are special. Every member is special and needed.

Brother Knights, if we are going to do our part in this the “**YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER**” and helping Pope Benedict XVI to “**BUILD UP THE CHURCH**”, then we must grow our membership to do it. You can decide to have a 1st degree today and hold it tomorrow. It takes no more time than that. Yes, it does take some work, but it's the Lord's work so now that the farm work is done and winter is setting in, let us look for no more excuses, let's put our plans into action to **MAKE IT HAPPEN**.

Who is going to win the two TRAEGER PELLET GRILLS? Here are the top 5 recruiting Knights in Kansas in alphabetical order: Thomas A. Cavaliered, Neil B. Daughert, Cletus P. Doll, John J. Nelson, and Robert J. Stuhlsatz. Who is going to sink their teeth into those delicious steaks furnished by the Insurance General Agents as part of the top prize? Who will be the top three recruiters in Kansas on June 30th? Wow, something to ponder!!! Isn't it? The rewards are great—make your plans today to contact all those men you've been meaning to contact and you could be one of the three lucky winners. Don't forget the prizes your council can win in the Bowl Membership Series which finishes the end of December. Your council could win a water container for recruiting 5 new members during November and December or a sports blanket for recruiting 10. A sports chair awaits the top recruiting council in the state. Be sure to send in those Form 100's.

Marilyn and I wish you and your family a very Blessed and Happy Christmas. Vivat Jesus,

Gary L. Hoppe, Membership Director

## STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The fraternal year is nearly half over, but we still have many tasks ahead of us. Many successes have been achieved so far. Has your council been part of them? Has your council participated in state-sponsored programs along with local programs? Your help is especially needed to quickly wrap up the Adopt-A-Seminarian pledges and the Tootsie Roll Drive reports. Refer to the individual sections of this issue for information on these items. Please help our State Chairmen by submitting them today.

The **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities, Form #1728**, another council requirement for the coveted “Star Council” award is coming up. Although the deadline for receipt of this form at Supreme is January 31, it would be extremely helpful if you could get the form in by January 15. In doing so, you will save the cost of several phone calls and postage in trying to locate it at the last minute.

### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

#### *Adopt a Seminarian*

Church Activities Director and Vocations Chairman Vince Melvin III advises that over 80 councils have not yet submitted their Adopt-a-Seminarian Pledge Card. **This needs your immediate attention!** Vince needs to know your council's pledge amounts right away to insure that all 89 Seminarrians are adopted and that the pledges are equalized. The pledge cards were provided by your District Deputy. Contact Vince or your District Deputy if you haven't received or cannot locate your council's pledge card, Seminarrian List or Seminary Address List.

“**Light Up For Christ**” is scheduled for **December 1st 2009** at 8:00 p.m. Please be sure to turn on all your house and Christmas lights at that time to share the light of the Advent Season.

**Vocation Poster Contest:** This year's theme is “**A Year For Vocations**” Plan the details for your council's vocation poster contest at your December meeting so your council's posters can be easily completed, judged and forwarded to your District Deputy by the March 15th deadline.

#### *Religious Education*

Many requests for Religious Education Funds have been received by Fr. David Metz, Religious Education Fund Chairman. Money for the program will be dispersed to the Grand Knights in December. He asks that you present the checks quickly so the Religious Education Groups can make use of the money in a timely manner.

#### *Religious Education Fund Raising*

Religious Education Fund Raising Chairman Dean Haselhorst wishes to thank all those 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 5-6. Good luck on winning the \$25K!

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

#### *Youth Activity*

Have you sent in your Soccer Challenge participation form? Make sure copies go to Supreme and to the State Youth Activities Chairman Thomas Schmeidler. Is your council ready for your Free Throw Contest in January? Have you secured the gym and ordered your council Free Throw Kit? District Deputies will receive the district medals at the Mid-Year Meeting. Grand Knights, this would also be a good time to consider the Substance

Abuse Poster Contest and the Youth Essay Contest. These three programs are very important youth activities to consider.

### ***Columbian Squires***

If the Knights of Columbus will take care of the growing boy, then the boy grown into manhood will not only take care of the Knights of Columbus, but the Church and the nation as well. These young men need your guidance to develop into our leaders of tomorrow. Join Jeremy Rabe, Columbian Squires Chairman, in assuring the Squires Circles grow and flourish in Kansas.

## **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

### ***Family Life***

Participation has increased each month in the Family of the Month Program. Has your council been recognizing your most deserving families? If not, choose one this month and see how the family appreciates the recognition you give them. Be sure to send the entry form to Supreme by the 15th. Dan Wimberly encourages you to plan a family activity during the Christmas season and remember to "Keep Christ in Christmas".

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

### ***Community Activity Program***

Suggested activities for your council to participate in include a food or clothing drive for the needy, help Habitat for Humanity or participate in highway cleanup. Community Activity Director Dale Weber encourages councils to get involved in area community activities. Your community can and should benefit from your council's activities.

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

Early reports from the Tootsie Roll Drive indicate we are on track to break last years Tootsie Roll Drive record. Has your council submitted its Tootsie Roll report? Don't forget the **December 15th Reporting Deadline. Only councils submitting 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 Tootsie Roll Drive proceeds, to State Treasurer Ron Zishka, and the yellow copy should be sent to Commitment to Humanities Chairman Dale Weber. Checks for your designated agencies will be returned from Ron Zishka. If you 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 Dale, as he has extra forms available.

Grand Knights, remember to complete **Supreme Form 4584**, Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics. This form may be found in your Council Forms Booklet or it can be completed and submitted online! This form is also due December 15.

### ***Pennies From Heaven***

Pennies From Heaven Chairman Gary Wondra reminds councils to start planning now for items to bring to the State Convention "Country Store" and the "Pennies Auction" next May. The winter months are also a great time to have a fund raiser for the "Pennies Parade" at the Convention. Grand Knights are asked to be sure and have these items on the agenda of your next council meeting. Contact Gary 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.

## ***Pro-Life Update***

As we approach the halfway point of the fraternal year, it is time to check the progress of our Pro-Life Projects, especially the Evangelium Vitae Award and to prepare for the 11th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower to be held in January. This program will get a "Jump Start" at the Mid-year DD meeting in Hutchinson. Your council's planning for the Baby Shower should be finalized at your December meeting. If January doesn't work for your council or parish, it can be done at anytime but your Pro-Life report must be in our hands before April 1st, 2010. If you plan to conduct the Bottles for Life fundraiser you should have your bottles purchased, labeled and a month chosen to hand them out to your parish. A reminder to submit Pro-Life Scrapbooks for 2009-2010 under the newly created "Pro-Life" category and not the "Community" category. Pro-Life has been added as the sixth Service Program Category. For more information contact Pro-life Chair Couple Jim and Theresa Pritchard.

Don't forget the "March for Life" rally to be held in Topeka beginning with Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the Topeka Performance Arts Center, located two blocks east of Assumption Church at 214 E. 8th Ave. on January 22. Honor Guard will meet at Assumption Church at 9:00a.m. The walk will start at 11:30 from the TPAC to the Judicial Center at 8th and Quincy.

**Thank you** to everyone that helped with the Silver Rose Relay; it was a huge success its first year in Kansas.

## **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Council Activities***

This year's 66th Annual Knights of Columbus Men's Bowling Tournament will be held at Play-Mor Lanes in Newton, KS. The dates of the tournament are Feb.20-21, Feb. 27-28, and March 6-7. An invitation to participate should be 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.

### ***Fraternal***

Fraternal Chairman, Greg Lix, encourages councils to choose a Knight of the Month each month. If your council hasn't yet participated in this program, there isn't a better time to start. To honor that special Knight in your council, e-mail (complete the form found at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) or e-mail Greg at [fraternalchairman@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:fraternalchairman@kansas-kofc.org) with the information) or mail the entry form found on page 30 of the State Program and Membership Guide. Entries must be received by the 15th of the following month to be entered in the drawing.

### ***Publicity***

Greg Lix, Publicity Chairman, reminds all Councils and Assemblies to publicize your activities by submitting pictures and articles to your local newspaper, diocesan newspaper, Columbia Magazine, and your local newsletter and church bulletin. People need to know the good deeds we are doing.

### ***Knight's-Lite***

The next edition of the Knight's-Lite will be assembled in December. All articles must be received by Program Director Scott Maurath by **December 22nd** to make the publication date.

*(continued back page)*

**History**

State Historian Larry Marstall encourages all councils to continue updating their council history. This information will be valuable to future members wanting to know past history about councils for activities, etc.

**Webmaster**

In an effort to simplify and speed up communication with Grand Knights across the state of Kansas, all the email addresses of Grand Knights that have been collected have been entered into our email system. The State Council will now be able to send urgent and informational messages to Grand Knights as a single group. If there are changes please contact State Webmaster Todd Bachamp at [webmaster@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:webmaster@kansas-kofc.org). Information sent to Todd should include your name, council number, and whether or not you are the current Grand Knight. Rest assured that your email address will never be given or sold to anyone and messages are never sent unless they have been approved by State Deputy Francis Drouhard.

Scott A. Maurath  
State Program Director

**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 \$2,895,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

Central Kansas Agency: Chad Mishmash wrote \$1,425,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

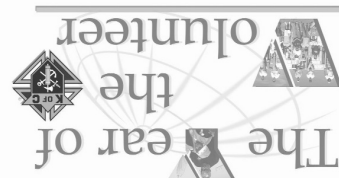
Western Kansas Agency: Justin Deges wrote \$3,043,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$27,406,435 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 for the Knights of Columbus insurance program in 2009.

Darin Reed	Kirby Schmelzle	Bill Roggenkamp
David Soukup	Jamie Cunningham	Dan Reed
Justin Deges	Steve Schmidt	Wade Greif

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.



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**Mark Roth  
2164 N. Carlton  
Liberal, KS 67901**

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KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
11TH 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 WHO MIGHT NOT  
OTHERWISE BE GIVEN THE “RIGHT TO LIFE.”**

WHEN: THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2010

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 Saturday, December 26, 2009 and continuing throughout January, 2010, 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. At the end of January take all the items and donate them to the Pro-life center(s) of your choice.
5. Document the items donated along with a fair market value of the items (retail may be used for the new items only).
6. Complete and file the Pro-Life Report Form with the State Pro-Life Chair—couple, Jim and Theresa Prichard, no later than April 1, 2010. (These donations count toward your council’s Pro-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 councils across Kansas participate in this activity.

Jim and Theresa Prichard  
Pro-Life Chaircouple  
111 Hillcrest Dr.  
Paola, KS 66071  
(913) 294-3303

CHARITY  
UNITY  
FRATERNITY  
PATRIOTISM

# KANSAS STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



State Deputy  
FRANCIS G. DROUHARD  
1105 E. Hwy 160  
Danville, KS 67036  
620-435-6487

November 25, 2009

Brother Knights:

Past State Deputy  
DONALD L. WAGNER  
1812 E. 152nd Circle  
Olathe, KS 66062  
913-829-9111

State Chaplain  
REV. DAVID METZ  
PO Box 395  
Hanover, KS 66945  
785-337-2342

State Secretary  
MARK W. ROTH  
2164 N. Carlton Ave.  
Liberal, KS 67901  
620-624-6645

State Treasurer  
RON ZISHKA  
23878 211th  
Leavenworth, KS 66048  
913-544-6037

State Advocate  
MIKE BAXA  
1619 I Street  
Belleville, KS 66935  
785-527-2103

State Warden  
PATRICK D. WINCHESTER  
510 Jones St.  
Lecompton, KS 66050  
785-887-1700

This Christmas and Holiday Season will be one of disappointment and sadness for many families across our great land. Many families are currently experiencing the loss of one or even two family incomes. Other families or individuals are finding themselves homeless and out on the street. A large number of these families are forced to turn to food banks or shelters for their meals and to provide for their families. You may have seen recent news and media reports regarding the great challenges that food banks and other charities are experiencing this season due to a significant decrease in contributions. A recent poll found that only 38% of Americans plan to donate to charities this Christmas season, down from the 49% who indicated they would give at this time last year.

For these reasons our Knights of Columbus Supreme Officers are calling us to step forward to take a leadership role in addressing this problem. I'm sure you agree that it is unacceptable to think of families in our parishes and communities that might go hungry during this Christmas season and the cold winter months that follow.

The Supreme Officers have implemented a new Food for Families program in which all councils are being asked to conduct a food collection and delivery drive to restock local food banks. I personally would like to see every Kansas Knights of Columbus Council take part in this very worthwhile project to help families in our communities. Our Supreme Officers have set aside a \$1 million fund to help in this project. Jurisdictions with at least 25% of their councils participating in this program will receive a share of the \$1 million fund to help restock food banks in their jurisdiction. I think you will agree that each and every one of our members joined this great organization to help those unfortunate individuals and families in need and this project will target those very souls.

I have asked our State Religious Education Fundraising Chairman, Dean Haselhorst to be our Food for Families Chairman as there will be a small amount of reporting that will be required from our Kansas councils. I ask you to please document the food donations you make to your local food banks in the days and months ahead and submit a report to Mr. Haselhorst at some point in the future. I do not yet know the deadline for reporting as this program was just announced, however a reporting form will be included in the January edition of The Explorer newsletter and we will also make the reporting form available on our state website at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org). More details will also be forthcoming regarding the reporting details for this program. Please join me and the other 36,000-plus Knights of Columbus members in Kansas in making a happier Christmas and winter season for all those families in need by conducting a food collection and delivery drive for your local food bank. May God bless your efforts and may He continue to bless you and the great work you do through the Knights of Columbus.

Fraternally,

Francis G. Drouhard  
State Deputy