



The Explorer

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STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Our District Meetings are now completed and all Grand Knights should be focused on the remaining five months of fraternal activity. Only three short months remain until we meet in Lawrence for our State Convention and then only two more months until the end of our fraternal year.

It is time to re-evaluate where we are, as compared to where we need to be, in our membership recruitment and our programs. We all want to do, and must do, our part in answering the call of Pope Benedict XVI to "Follow Me, Help Us Build Up The Church". What better time to expand our team of volunteers and to "Help Build Up The Church" than in this "Year of the Volunteer"?



Have we checked on those needy families in our community to see what their needs are and that these needs are being met? Have we held our fundraisers to adopt the increasing number of seminarians and help them with their financial and spiritual needs? Have we offered our time and talents to our priest and parish to improve parish life? Have we done our part to help mothers-to-be with crisis pregnancies so they have an alternative to abortion? These are just a few of the things that we, as Knights of Columbus are called to do. We are all called by God and our Holy Father to do our part to make our world better. More numbers in our councils and in our order will enable our programs to be further reaching and will allow us to complete more of the work that God has set out before us.

Have you approached all the eligible catholic men in your parish and community and solicited their help in these endeavors? Most catholic men will answer the call when asked for help. In answering your call for help they will also be joining the greatest catholic family fraternal service organization in the world – The Knights of Columbus. Be sure to solicit their help today and in so doing you will gain some very energetic new members for your council.

The month of March is just around the corner and with it, our order-wide membership blitz. In Kansas we have implemented the "Father Wants You To Be A Knight Of Columbus" membership campaign in conjunction with the March Blitz. You should have already received a letter from State Membership Director Gary Hoppe regarding this program which is supported and fully endorsed by our four Kansas Bishops. Be sure to utilize this support in your recruitment efforts. Enlist the support of your parish priest to help in this program. Set your goals high for your March Blitz, plan the program well and make sure you have plenty of members in attendance at the Masses to help with your recruitment & sign-up efforts. With the support of the Bishops and your parish priest, your results should be grand enough to surprise even you.

Good luck in your recruitment efforts and council activities in the coming months. Vivat Jesus.

Francis G. Drouhard
State Deputy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

- District Free Throw Contest (First Two Weeks)**
- Regional Free Throw Contest (Second Two Weeks)**
- 14 Major Degree at Salina (#601)
- 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 DD
- 20 Major Degree at Manhattan (#8488)
- 21 Regional Free Throw Competitions
- 21 Major Degree at Plainville (#1857)
- 20-21 66th Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Newton (1st Weekend)
- 27-28 66th Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Newton (2nd Weekend)
- 28 Major Degrees at Paola (#1149), Pittsburg (#883) and Beloit (#921)

MARCH:

- 1 **Deadline** for District Substance Abuse Poster Contest Winners to State Youth Director
- 6 4th Degree Exemplification in Topeka
- 6-7 66th Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Newton (3rd Weekend)
- 7 State Free Throw Contest in Salina
- 7 Major Degrees at Andale (#2217) & Ellis (#2133)
- 10 **Deadline** for Council Knight of the Year & Family of the Year to DD
- 14 Major Degrees at Clonmel-Schulte (#3114) & Phillipsburg (#6660)
- 14 Major Degrees at Fairway (#3020 & #843) & Fredonia (#1291)
- 15 **Deadline** for Council Vocations Poster Contest Winners to DD
- 18-20 Special Olympics Basketball Tournament at Hays
- 20 **Deadline** for District Knight of Year to Diocesan Judge
- 20 **Deadline** for District Family of Year to Diocesan Judge
- 20 **Deadline** to submit Evangelium Vitae Award Applications to Pro-Life Chairman
- 21 Major Degrees at Seneca (#1769), Marysville (#1777), Willowdale (#2662), Wilson (#1924)
- 25 K of C Day of the Unborn Child
- 25 **Deadline** for District Vocation Poster Contest winners to Church Director
- 27-28 State Columbian Squires Convention in Wichita-St. Jude Parish
- 29 **Deadline** for receipt of articles for the Knights-Lite
- 29 Founders Day, 128th Anniversary of Knights of Columbus

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Knight of the Month is Roger Rife from Hays Council #1325 .

Family of the Month winners of a Holy Family Plaque from Supreme were:

Richard & Ann Bertels Family of Council #2093-Nortonville; Charles & Madge Carroll Family of Council #3033-Atwood; Jerry & Anita Farthing Family of Council #7485-Andover.

The 109th Annual State Convention will be held in Wichita, May 1-3, 2010.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

All councils wishing to donate to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Effort is asked to send a check payable to the Kansas State Council, C/O State Treasurer Ron Zishka, 23878 211th, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Founder's Day, March 29, is the 128th Anniversary of the Order receiving its charter from the State of Connecticut. Work with your councils in planning celebrations, for example, a clergy appreciation dinner or similar event, to mark this special occasion.

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I hope this finds all of you as survivors of the Christmas Holy Days. The membership team is looking forward to working hard with all of you in attaining our goals this year. **HAVE YOU ASKED FOR A KNIGHT THIS MONTH?** By the number of both Major Degrees and 1st Degrees being conducted across the state, we can tell that many of you are joining the ranks of active councils. As of this writing, we are NET 390 for the fraternal year. I know of many degrees that have taken place, but the form 100s have yet to reach the Supreme office for recording.

Let me take this opportunity to summarize the % of quota for councils across the state. We have 10 councils 100% and above, 4 councils between 80 and 100% of quota, and 24 councils between 50 and 80% of quota thus far this year. This is certainly not a true picture, as I am writing this January 18th and there are certainly many additional councils who have recruited many members the last half of January.

Why it is so necessary for us to be concerned about **NEW MEMBERSHIP** in the Knights? Just this past month we have surpassed, in membership net gain, the number of Knights lost due to death during this past year. The numbers discussed here are reflective of the way we keep score.

Have you stopped for a moment recently and given some thought as to the many graces you have received since you became a Knight? Possibly how you have become an improved Catholic, a better husband, a more effective father to your children or just maybe a better citizen in general? Brother Knights, there are dozens upon dozens of good Catholic men and their families who are not getting the opportunity you have been given just because we are not **ASKING** them. As we know, the Knights of Columbus gives us the tools to put our **FAITH** into **ACTION**. Charity is the first principle of our order. To not aggressively pursue new members is a very serious dereliction of duty as knights. We have a great obligation to recruit new members and we, as Grand Knights, District Deputies and State Officers, are required to teach all other Knights about this responsibility.

We cannot fail to consider that new membership growth is a tremendous opportunity for our councils to be much more effective in every one of the many programs we work

on every year. There are many more places that our Knights could be seen giving out Tootsie Rolls, as well as an increase in the amount of financial support our seminarians could be receiving. We all have recently seen the increased need for our EDAP program, as well as the tremendous needs our parishes encounter, especially those with Catholic schools. What about the tremendous battle we have to constantly wage against abortion, same sex marriage and the many other temptations against the will of our Lord? We have no room to become complacent about growth in any council in this great state. If your council is successfully growing and the council next door is not, then it's our duty to extend a helping hand, which many of you are doing.

So please don't misunderstand the real reason that the membership team is constantly talking to you about Major Degrees, 1st Degrees, Blitzes, etc. It's our job, and with your help, we will continue this great teamwork with a zeal and enthusiasm that is required for success in almost anything we do in life.

As you probably know, the State Council is offering some incentives to the top three recruiters in Kansas. 1st place prize is a Large Traeger Pellet Grill (\$1350 value) complete with \$300.00 worth of **Steaks**, 2nd place prize is a Large Traeger Pellet Grill without the amenities and 3rd place is a beautiful encased BBQ Tool Set. The competition is fierce and the top 10 recruiters, as of January 1st were: Thomas A. Cavaliere, John J. Nelson, James Zuperku, Thomas L. Dinges, Joseph A. Cummings, Robert J. Stuhlsatz, Scott T. Buescher, Neil B. Daugherty, George F. Williams, and John M. Washburn. Will the winner be one of these men or someone who is not on the list yet? Only time will tell, Good Luck and happy recruiting! Vivat Jesus,

Gar y Hoppe, Kansas State Membership Director

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Was your Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities (Form # 1728) submitted by the January 31 deadline in order for your council to remain eligible for the Star Council Award? If you missed the deadline, the report must be sent or faxed in right away so the numbers can be included in our Order's statistics.

ONLY THREE MONTHS UNTIL THE STATE CONVENTION and significant amounts of work and several deadlines lie ahead of us! Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the deadlines listed in the Calendar of Events above. Be sure to get started early for the remaining activities. Select your **Knight & Family of the Year** and **Vocation Poster Contest Winners**. Complete your Pro-Life donation information and begin putting together your application for the **Evangelium Vitae Award**. Assemble your **Council Scrapbooks** in attractive presentation binders and submit them to the appropriate State Directors prior to April 1. Remember, determining the appropriate category for the scrapbook is very important. An error could result in disqualification. For help in determining the proper category, call any of the programming directors or myself.

State Secretary Mark Roth reminds all Grand Knights to complete the forms recently received from him. These include the **Necrology Report, the 50 Year Member Report, and the Report of Delegates**. These are due back to Mark by March 1 to allow time for these names to be recorded in the Convention Mass Program and the Convention Program Booklet. District Deputies, please

check with your Grand Knights to make sure these forms are submitted.

State Advocate Mike Baxa reminds all Grand Knights that **Council Semi-Annual Audits** are due at Supreme by February 15th. This is the responsibility of the Grand Knight and Council Trustees. It assures stableness and integrity for your council as well as retaining the bonding for the Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Adopt a Seminarian

Church Activity Director Vince Melvin III reminds all Grand Knights and District Deputies that a complete listing of councils and assemblies adopting seminarians is needed for a report to the Bishops of Kansas. 206 Councils and 35 Assemblies have reported on their participation in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program. If your council has not sent in your pledge card to Vince, please do so immediately. Vince also asks all councils to fulfill your pledges as soon as possible so the seminarians can benefit from the funds to take care of expenses while they are at school.

Vocation Poster Contest

Vocation Poster winners are due to your District Deputy by March 15, 2010. The theme for this year's contest is "A Year for Vocations". This program must be started immediately in order to meet the March 15 deadline. Vocations chairman Vince Melvin III encourages every council to be involved in this contest. A religious vocation from your council or parish could be the result of this simple program.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Activity

All Council Free Throw Contests should now be complete. Youth Activities Director Tom Schmeidler asks that all council winners' lists and score sheets be turned in to your District Deputy right away. Don't forget to send your council's participation form (FT-1) to Supreme. The District Contests will follow the same rules as the local contests. At completion, District Deputies are to send the winners list to the Regional Director where his district will attend. Remember, all winners within a district must attend the same regional competition.

Substance Abuse Poster Contest

Councils should have their winning Substance Abuse Posters to their District Deputy by February 15th. District Deputies should have their District Winners to the State Youth Activities Director by March 1.

Columbian Squires

Planning is under way for the State Squires Convention in Wichita on March 27-28. All Squire, Circle and Counselor of the Year selections are due to State Squires Chairman, Jeremy Rabe by February 15th. Several councils are working on developing new Squires Circles in their parish. For help in setting up this great opportunity for the young men in your parish, please contact Jeremy at 785-227-2395 or e-mail columbiansquireschairman@kansas-kofc.org.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Life

Family Life Director, Dan Wimberly, encourages all councils to continue selecting a Family of the Month. Every council should select a **Family of the Year** at the February council meeting and mail the **Family of the Year** application to your District Deputy by **March 10th**. **This form is in your Family of the Month booklet and also available on the State K of C Website.** If you have any questions, please call Dan at 316-943-4906.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Pennies From Heaven

Plans are under way to raise \$75,000 for the Pennies from Heaven Fund, at the State Convention. Each Council across the state is asked to bring art, crafts, and/or baked goods to be sold in the general store. Money generated from the sale of the merchandise will be credited to the council that donated that particular item. Any council with an item to be considered for the auction is asked to contact Gary Wondra by March 10th.

The Annual Pennies from Heaven Parade is scheduled to take place during the State convention, with recognition of the councils with the highest dollar-per-member in each division and the District Deputy with the highest dollar-per-member in his district. All participating councils will receive a certificate. Plaques in this competition will be awarded after the convention. Gary says thanks to all participants thus far and also thanks in advance to those participating during the convention. **All councils wishing to donate to the Haiti Earthquake relief effort are asked to send a check payable to the Kansas State Council, C/O State Treasurer Ron Zishka, 23878 211th, Leavenworth, KS 66048**

Commitment to Humanities

Some councils have not yet reported their Tootsie Roll Drive results or sent their check to State Treasurer, Ron Zishka. This should be done immediately as the deadline was December 15th. Any Knights members who are interested in volunteering to help with the Special Olympics Basketball Tourney in Hays on March 18-20 should call Commitment to Humanities Chairman, Dale Weber, at 620-326-6304.

Pro-Life

All councils should be in the rap-up stages from the "Baby Shower". Upon completion be sure to donate your items to the Pro-Life Center(s) of your choice. If your council also participated in the "Bottles for Life" fundraiser be sure to include the results from both programs on the Pro-Life Report Form (Due to Jim & Theresa Pritchard by April 1). This form is available on line at kansas-kofc.org or from your District Deputy. In addition, be sure to send your Evangelium Vitae Award Application by March 20th. In the coming months, try to show the stem cell video at church, council meetings or a public forum if possible. Don't forget to send Jim & Theresa any digital photos of your memorials to update the pro-life memorial scrapbook.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Athletics

The Annual State Bowling Tournament will be held in Newton on February 20-21, 27-28, and March 6-7. Information was sent in mid November; if you did not receive it please contact your District Deputy or State Athletic Events Chairman Marcel Braun. It is not too late to get an entry in for this year's tournament.

Fraternal

Fraternal Activities Chairman Greg Lix thanks all councils that are submitting Knight of the Month entries by the 15th of each month. Every council is encouraged to submit their **State Knight of the Year** entry to their District Deputy no later than March 10. If you haven't received your Knight of the Year application, it's available on the State K of C Website or by calling Greg at 620-225-1299.

Publicity

Publicity Chairman Greg Lix encourages councils to continue to publicize all their council activities. It is a good

(continued back page)

way to attract the attention of prospective new members. Please continue to send copies of published articles to the State Publicity Chairman.

Webmaster

Webmaster Todd Bachamp reminds all councils to send him updates for the website. It is important to keep the information current. If you have any questions you may contact Todd at webmaster@kansas-kofc.org

Knights-Lite

The next deadline for articles for the Knight's-Lite is **March 29th**. The next issue will be published prior to the State Convention.

History

State Historian and Archivist Larry Marstall reminds all councils to submit their past years history updates. This information needs to be preserved for future generations. The history update form can also be found at http://www.kansas-kofc.org/forms/history_update.pdf

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: Charles Mahon wrote \$\$605,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in December.

Central Kansas Agency: Jim Zuperku wrote \$183,233 in life insurance protection on members and their families in December.

Western Kansas Agency: Shaun McGovern wrote \$1,745,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in December.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$21,113,434 in life insurance during the month of December.

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
Jamie Cunningham
Dan Reed
Justin Deges
Luke Henry
Joe Cummings
Chad Mishmash

Steve Schmidt
David Soukup
Kirby Schmelzle
Mark Stallbaumer
Bill Roggenkamp
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

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