



# The Explorer

A Publication  
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Kansas  
Knights of Columbus

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January 2012

## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!!! I hope 2011 was very kind to you and that 2012 will be even better! With the New Year comes new experiences and new responsibilities. In these tough economic times facing our nation, there are a lot of people with needs in our society and we need not look very far from home to find them. Our membership in the Knights of Columbus is a great way to see that these needs are being met. To him to whom much is given, much is expected in return. This should be the foundation of our work in the Knights of Columbus. We all have a great deal to be thankful for and we have all been given a tremendous amount of talents and treasures by our Lord. Now is the time to use those talents to better the lives of those in need around us. Challenge your councils to find these needs and then do your best to see that these needs are fulfilled. By truly trying to live by this year's theme "I am My Brother's



Keeper" let us renew that spirit that brought us to the Knights of Columbus by seeking out ways in which to help our fellow man.

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

In reviewing the major degree schedule, I am please in the number of scheduled degrees; however there are certain areas of the state that need to schedule one. State Membership Director Jim Gerber will be working with District Deputies to make sure all areas of the state are covered. Make sure that you are part of the contagious momentum sweeping across Kansas and schedule those first degrees and major degrees and then get your recruitment team into action.

As we progress into the New Year of 2012, please remember to be charitable in your works, united in your programming and recruitment efforts and fraternal toward your brother knights.

Vivat Jesus.

Mark W. Roth  
State Deputy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- 1-31 Council Free Throw Contests completed by end of month
- 1-31 Conduct 13th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower
- 8 Major Degrees at Chanute(#1046), Oakley (#2866), Garden City(#2795), Winfield(#4713)
- 15 Major Degree at Kingman (#1269)
- 19 **Deadline** to file Request to Host 2013 Men's Bowling
- 22 39th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade decision
- 22 Major Degrees at Hays – St. Nick's (#10044), Great Bend (#862)
- 23 March for Life – Washington D.C. and Topeka
- 29 Major Degree at Overland Park - Ascension (#10932)
- 31 **Deadline**--Form #1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities due at Supreme

### **FEBRUARY:**

- District Free Throw Contest (First Two Weeks)**
- Regional Free Throw Contest (Second Two Weeks)**
- Select Council Knight of the Year at Monthly Meeting**
- Select Council Family of the Year at Monthly Meeting**

- 11 Major Degree at Manhattan (#8488)
- 12 Major Degree at Victoria (#1867)
- 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
- 19 Major Degrees at Halstead (#15100), Salina (#601)
- 18-19 68th Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Olathe (1st Weekend)
- 25-26 68th Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Olathe (2nd Weekend)
- 26 Major Degrees at Dodge City (#2955), Atchison (#723)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Knight of the Month is Horace (Tony) Stutey of Wichita-St. Jude, Council #12049

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

Francis & Mary Mermis Family of Council #1867-Victoria; Robert & Roxanne Grant Family of Council #2838-Fayetteville; and Leroy & Thelma Braun Family of Council #6660-Phillipsburg.

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Brother Knights,

Many of you have been waiting for the New Year to jump start your membership growth. Well, guess what, the New Year is here!!! Let's continue to carry the spirit of Christmas into this year by asking more Catholic men to become Knights.

Let's make sure there is a minimum of one First Degree in each district every month for the rest of the fraternal year. We cannot afford to let the momentum we have built up slip away. We simply control that by setting degree dates and recruiting for those dates. Many of you will hold more than one degree per month. This will insure that candidates have plenty of chances to join if they cannot make it on a certain date. We have to allow for those busy family schedules. Remember, since Supreme will allow you to read the first degree, no candidate should have to wait to take their first degree.

By now I am sure you all have had the opportunity to attend your District meeting and received many suggestion for your play book that were given to your District Deputy. There was a tremendous amount of work that went into that meeting by all who presented the latest Game Plan. This month we are starting two new membership contests; the "Hardwood Hoops" and the "Drive To 1425". If you are a Grand Knight and missed out on the information presented, please contact your District Deputy or one of the Membership team and we will be sure that you receive this powerful information. Just like recruiting a new member, all you have to do is ask.

Are you in line to win one of the big prizes for membership recruiting this year as a top proposer? The field is still wide open for anyone who steps up to the challenge to be a top proposer for the state. Good luck and Happy Recruiting!!

Let's look at the Division Leaders by % of quota as of December 1st.

Here are the **Top (2) Leaders** we have in all 10 divisions: Division 1) #13550 Wichita 66.67%, #9699 Wichita-St. Patrick's 175%

Division 2) # 14218 Ft. Riley 125%, #1066 Herrington, # 6660 Phillipsburg

Division 3) # 8505 Hiawatha 40%, #1086 Solomon 25%

Division 4) #12093 Prairie Village 66.67%, #10778 Salina 66.67

Division 5) #6817 Iola 114.29%, #13354 Ft. Leavenworth 114.29%

Division 6) #3146 Basehor 125%, #11777 Topeka-Guadalupe 50%

Division 7) #10834 Lansing 60%, #2609 Belleville 40%

Division 8) #2408 Bonner Springs 83.3%, #13012 Topeka- St Matthew 69.23%

Division 9) #4708 Atchison 172 73%, #2937 Garden Plain 66.67%

Division 10) # 534 Topeka 73.08%, #10932 O.P. - Ascension 60.0%

Let's start the New Year off right with a new year's resolution; Recruit, Recruit, Recruit. Don't deny a Catholic man the opportunity to become a Knight of Columbus by not asking them to join.

Vivat Jesus,

Jim Gerber, Kansas Membership Director

## STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

**Grand Knights Don't Forget Star Council Report Requirements:** The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities (Form # 1728) is one of those requirements. Although the **deadline** for receipt of this form at Supreme

Council is January 31, it would be of great assistance to have it there by **January 15**. In doing so, you will eliminate the need for follow up phone calls at the last minute. Be sure to send a copy to our State Deputy at the same time. The report form can be found on pages 17 & 18 of the Council Report Forms booklet and also on the Kansas K of C web site. This information assists Supreme in providing documentation to retain our non-profit status. Your DD was asked to provide copies of the form to you prior to the District Meeting.

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

### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

#### *Adopt a Seminarian*

Church Activities Director and Vocations Chairman Mike Johnston reports as of December 17th, 202 councils and 26 assemblies have reported pledges of \$173,525.00. This is behind previous years. If your council has not contacted Mike regarding the "**Adopt a Seminarian**" program please do so immediately. Mike asks all councils to complete their pledges to their seminarians as soon as possible and to send cards and letters of support to their adopted seminarian. Mike also asks all councils to continue to **Pray** for all seminarians.

#### *Vocation Poster Contest*

Mike Johnston encourages all councils to participate in the **Vocation Poster Contest**. The theme is "Created and Called to Serve". Plan for the vocation poster contest to held at the latest during January or February. The winning posters must be sent to your District Deputy by March 15th.

#### *Religious Education*

Fr. Ken Schuckman, Religious Education Fund Chairman, has processed all the Religious Education Fund requests. Checks for the program were 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 Raffle Ticket sales were a great success again this year. Religious Education Fund Raising Chairman Tom Schmeidler reports all tickets were sold. The Raffle drawing was held at the Mid-Year DD meeting on December 3th and a list of winners was sent to all Grand Knights. **A Special Thanks** to all Brother Knights for their hard work in selling the tickets. Because of this great effort, nearly **\$90,000** was dispersed for Catholic Education in Kansas this year.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

#### **Free Throw Contest**

Council Free Throw Contests should be held during the month of January. District Contests will be held the first two weeks of February and All Regional Contests Are Scheduled for the last two weekends in February, 2011. The State Free Throw Contest will be held March 4, 2012 at the Sacred Heart High School Gym, Salina, KS at 1 p.m. Be sure the Official Contest Rules from Supreme are followed to the letter with no exceptions. Meet with your judges and scorers ahead of time to insure everyone is well prepared. Immediately after the contest, complete the Council Winner Free Throw Report – Advancing to District, provided to you at your District Meeting, and forward it to your District Deputy. At the same time, be sure to file the Form FT-1 participation report with Supreme and our State Deputy by January 31. It is found on page 11 of the

Council Report Forms Booklet or on the Kansas K of C web Site.

### ***Substance Abuse Poster Contest***

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

### ***Essay Contest***

Encourage all 8th grade through 12th grade students to enter the Essay contest for a chance to have lunch with Governor Sam Brownback in his office. The topic is the responsibility of a Catholic in a free society. Authors from each grade level from each diocese will be chosen for lunch with the governor. Submit the entries to Youth Director Rod Hoffman by March 1.

### ***Columbian Squires***

Columbian Squires Chairman Edwin Schmeidler Jr reports that the State Columbian Squires Convention will be held either March 10-11 or 17-18, 2012. The Garden Plain's Circle will serve as the host circle. We ask all councils to make arrangements for their Squires to attend. Be sure to contact Edwin for assistance in setting up your new circle today.

## **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

### ***Family Life***

Family Life Director Greg Lix reports that now is the time to start thinking about your Family of the Year selection. Choose a family, complete the form in the Family of the Month booklet and forward it to your District Deputy before March 10th. He will select a District Family of the Year, which will be sent to the Diocesan judges. From these District Families of the Year, Diocesan and State Winners will be chosen. The winners will be recognized at the State Convention. There will be a mailing in January with all of the details. This is also a good time to begin putting your Family Activities Scrapbooks together. Greg needs to receive them by April 1 so they can be judged for the State Convention. The Food for Families Program continues the same incentive as last year. Councils completing the requirements for the program by serving in soup kitchens and donating supplies to food pantries will fulfill all 4 of the Family Activity requirements on the Columbian Award application. Don't forget to report the monies raised and hours donated on the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

### ***Pennies from Heaven***

Pennies from Heaven Chairman Rick Weigel, is looking for several nice donated items for the Country Store and Pennies from Heaven Auction. If you have a member who is talented in woodworking or crafts items, encourage them to make an item to donate. The sale price of these items will be credited to your Council's Pennies From Heaven donation. Please contact Rick as soon as possible so he can plan accordingly.

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

Has your council filed its **Tootsie Roll Report? It was due December 15.** If not, please file it immediately. The original, along with the check from your fundraiser needs to be sent to State Treasurer Vincent Melvin III and the yellow copy goes to Commitment to Humanities Chairman Gary Wondra. The Special Olympics Basketball Tournament is scheduled for March 15, 16 and 17, 2012 in Hays. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the event should contact Gary Wondra.

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

Has your council already started plans for the "Baby Shower"? If not, it's not too late. You can do it any time

of the year your council chooses. Once concluded, make sure to document the value of the items before donating them to a Pro-Life center of your choice. To insure your council is receiving proper credit and is eligible for recognition at convention, make sure that all copies of fundraising reports are on the Pro-Life report form, which is due April 1st. This year at the mid-year meeting held in Topeka, \$857 was raised to kick-off the Pro-Life Baby Shower. The Evangelium Vitae report is due March 20th. The March for Life this year will be held in Topeka and Washington, DC on January 23.

If your council hosted the 2011 Silver Rose Program do not forget to count it on the Fraternal Survey (due Jan. 31, 2012)

Do not forget that the Pro-Life activities are a separate program for the Columbian award. In the past Pro-Life activities have been listed under Community Activities. Some suggestions of activities to report under Pro-Life are:

1. Participation in the "Silver Rose Relay".
2. Pro-Life "Baby Shower" program.
3. Pro-Life "Bottles for Life" program.
4. Put Pro-Life articles in your church bulletins.
5. Lead rosaries at church and/or at KofC meetings for Pro-Life.
6. Hold fundraisers to help buy an ultrasound machine.
7. Fill out an Evangelium Vitae and/or Pro-Life program and turn in on time.
8. Enter a scrapbook in the Evangelium Vitae and/or the Pro-Life Program.
9. Hold a Pro-Life fundraiser for a Pro-Life center of your council's choice.
10. Have an active Pro-Life chair couple for your council

## **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Council Activities***

The 68th Annual Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament will be held at Mission Bowl Olathe, in Olathe, Kansas. The dates of the tournament are February 18-19, February 25-26 and March 3-4. All Brother Knights are encouraged to participate. You need not be a league bowler to participate. All that is required to participate is a current Knights of Columbus membership card. For applications or information please contact Jim Secondo, 6348 Hadley Street, Merriam, Kansas 66202, or phone (913) 722-3909. Or visit [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) for more information.

No submittals requesting to host the 2013 sporting clay tournament or the 2014 golf tournament have been received at this time. Only one request to host the 2013 bowling tournament has been received. All requests to host any tournament need to be submitted in writing to Steve Abels, Council Activities Director, 8831 Hadley, Overland Park, Kansas 66212. The deadline for bids to host the 2013 bowling tournament are due by January 19, 2012. The deadlines for bids to host the 2013 sporting clay tournament are due by March 1, 2012. The deadlines for bids to host the 2014 golf tournament are due by June 1, 2012.

### ***Fraternal***

As we begin the new calendar year I remind and ask all councils to resolve to recognize one of your members as your council 'Knight of the Month' for each month for the remainder of the fraternal year. Acknowledge their accomplishments and present them with a certificate (form #1726) at your council's meeting that month. Also I ask you to submit his information to State Fraternal Chairman Doug Wietharn to give that brother a chance to be selected as the 'Kansas State Knight of the Month'. Happy New Year!

*(continued back page)*

### **Publicity**

Several councils hosted special Christmas activities during the holiday season. If you held a special project did you remember to publicize it in your council newsletter or parish bulletin? It is not too late to share that information. Please remember to continue to submit your articles regarding those events to your diocesan or local newspaper as well as the State Publicity Chairman Doug Wietharn.

### **History**

State Historian Stan Krier reminds councils that have not updated their history, it's still not too late to get past years history up to date. Please don't delay any longer. Do it now before it slips your mind.

### **Webmaster**

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

## **JAN/2012 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: Mark Stallbaumer wrote \$1,920,303 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.

Central Kansas Agency: Wade Greif wrote \$1,736,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.

Western Kansas Agency: J. J. Deges wrote \$960,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$43,343,463 in life insurance during the month of November.

Please join us in congratulating the following men for their outstanding performance. These men lead the state for the Knights of Columbus insurance program in November of 2011.

J. J. Deges	Wade Greif	Doug Martinek
Donald Goode	Adam Bruna	Darin Reed
Gary Johnson	R. J. Meyer	Luke Henry
Joe Cummings	David Soukup	Shaun McGovern
Kirby Schmelzle	Bill Roggenkamp	
Mark Stallbaumer		

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.

**Scott Maurath**  
**State Secretary**  
**3511 Cedar Crest**  
**Oakley, KS 67748**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



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*Kansans  
for Life*

# RALLY FOR LIFE 2012

AT THE CAPITOL IN TOPEKA  JANUARY 23

## Rally Day Tips

- Visit your state representative and senator at the Capitol and tell them why you are pro-life!
- Take a free tour of the Kansas State Capitol! Tours start at 9 am.
- Bring pro-life signs, banners, and spirit!
- Wear very warm clothes (hats, scarves, gloves, heavy socks) and comfy shoes!

## Rally Day Info

- Join us to commemorate the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the US Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.
- 8 am: Registration at Mater-Del/Assumption (Church)
- 10 am: Mass for Life at Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC)
- 11 am: March for Life from TPAC to the Capitol
- 11:30 am: Rally for Life on the south steps of the Capitol with music and pro-life speakers
- 12:30 Lunch at the Church
- Pro-life workshops at the Church before and after the Rally

## Contact

Topeka  
785.234.2998  
Wichita  
316.687.5433  
KC  
913.642.5433  
More at [kfl.org](http://kfl.org)



Will you be there?

## New Military Scholarship Program

Worthy Sir Knights and Brother Knights,

Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, has asked our Supreme Council for help to fund the education of Seminarians preparing to become Catholic Chaplains in the United States Armed Forces. The United States Military Archdiocese, which supplies Catholic Chaplains, estimates that it needs 800 priests to fully serve the Catholic men and women in uniform today, but they are currently only able to supply 280. This is barely a third of the number needed. The Military Archdiocese contracts with each participating Diocese to fund 50% of the cost of a seminarian's final 5 years of education, typically \$12,500 per year. In return the candidate agrees that following ordination and three years of service at a parish, he will commit to serve as a military chaplain under the auspices of the Military Archdiocese for a minimum of 3-5 years.

The Supreme Council has responded to Archbishop Broglio's request and has instituted the new Military Scholarship Program and has committed the Knights of Columbus members of the United States to raise one million dollars to fund this program. The quota for each Jurisdiction is \$20,000. The Supreme Council has asked each District Master of these State Jurisdictions, in unison with the State Deputy, to develop and implement a plan by which our Assemblies can coordinate and solicit the help of their respective councils and all members in meeting this quota of \$20,000.

I will ask all Faithful Navigator to lead their Assembly in the requesting of donations from not only their Assembly but to solicit donations from all councils and members represented by them. This will include all 3rd and 4th degree members across the state. After collecting these donations they will then forward the monies collected to State Treasurer Vincent Melvin for accounting and forwarding to the Supreme Council. Please make the checks payable to the Kansas State Council and mark them for the "Military Chaplains Scholarship Program". It is our goal to have these funds collected and sent in by the State Convention this spring so time is of the essence. I ask you to get in touch with all members as soon as possible and request donations for this worthy cause. We will also use the K of C website and the "Explorer" to get the word out.

My brother Knights, many of you are veterans or know of someone who is or was. Take this program to heart, and prove by our actions, that we not only care about our service men and women's human needs but also their spiritual needs. Remember our fellow Kansan, Fr. Emil Kapaun, who made the supreme sacrifice in service to his men during the Korean War. Let's strive to carry on his legacy in providing for the spiritual needs of our men and women in the Armed Forces of our nation.

If you have any questions concerning this program please contact me.

Bill Baalman, District Master