



# The Explorer

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## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!! I hope 2008 was very kind to you and that 2009 will be even better!

With the New Year comes new experiences and new responsibilities. With the tough economic times facing our nation, there are a lot of people with needs in our society and we need but look a very short distance 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 make

better the lives of those in need around us. Challenge your council to find these needs and then do your best to see that these needs are fulfilled.

Membership recruitment must also continue to be a high priority as we try to accomplish the work the Lord has set out 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 build up our membership to numbers great enough to minister to the needs of those around us.

At this time let us not forget the challenge issued by our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI: **"FOLLOW ME, HELP US BUILD UP THE CHURCH"**. It is by helping our fellow man in these troubled times that we help build up the church. It is also by recruiting more men to help us accomplish these tasks that we help build up the church. Now is the time to re-evaluate 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 this manner will we truly be helping to **"Build up the Church"**.

In reviewing the major degree schedule, I am pleased in the number of scheduled degrees, however there are certain areas of the state that still need to schedule one. State Membership Director Gary Hoppe will be working with District Deputies to make sure all areas of the state are covered. Make sure that you're 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 this New Year of 2009, please remember to be charitable in your works, united in your

programming & recruitment efforts, and fraternal toward your brother knights. Vivat Jesus.

Francis G. Drouhard, State Deputy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- 1-31 Council Free Throw Contests completed by end of month
- 1-31 Conduct 10th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower
- 4 Major Degree at Garden City (District 53)
- 11 Major Degrees at Frankfort (#1383), Salina (#601), Winfield (#4713)
- 18 Major Degree at Lawrence (#1372)
- 22 36th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade decision
- 22 **Deadline** to file Request to Host 2010 Men's Bowling, Golf & Sporting Clays Tournaments
- 22 March for Life – Washington D.C.
- 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)**

- 8 Major Degrees at Atchison (#723), Gardner (#10407), and Hutchinson (#612)
- 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
- 15 Major Degree at Olpe (#1589)
- 21 Major Degree at Manhattan (#8488)
- 21-22 65th Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Topeka (1st Weekend)
- 22 Major Degrees at Paola (#1149) and Pittsburg (#883)
- 28-March 1 65th Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Topeka (2nd Weekend)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Knight of the Month is Philip V. Lenz from Ft. Leavenworth Council #13354

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

Benedict & Deb Jilka Family of Council #902-Flush; David & Janet McAfee Family of Council #2093-Nortonville; and Joe & Carol Betzen Family of Council #4458-Derby

## STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

WOW, BOOM, BANG, we have broken through a new calendar year. As of this writing we are NET **382** for the year. Our goal is to start this new calendar year by breaking through the 400 net barrier. **WOW, we have 2 councils over 200% of quota & we have 12 councils over 100% of quota.** "Have you asked for a Knight this month?" The most productive time for many councils to add new members is just starting. I am hearing the good news that many of you are not only asking but getting YESES. My, what a wonderful time to be a Knight in the State of Kansas. We are going GREEN, we're GROWING.

Let us look at the Division Leaders, by % of quota as of December 1st.

<u>DIV</u>	<u>COUNCIL</u>	<u>% OF QUOTA</u>
1	2127 Logan	60%
2	7446 Mound City	40%
3	13354 Ft. Leavenworth 12093 Prairie Village-St. Ann	200% 140%
4	8511 Manhattan – KSU	120%
5	10786 Osawatomic 11853 Baldwin	120% 100%
6	2408 Bonner Springs	133%
7	2680 Scipio	100%
8	1149 Paola	100%
9	4708 Atchison – Benedictine 11661 OP – Holy Spirit	227% 190%
10	7909 Olathe – Prince of Peace 900 Leavenworth	124% 100%

Many of you have been waiting for the New Year to explode in membership growth. Well, believe it or not, the New Year is here. Let us continue to carry the spirit of Christmas into the New Year by helping more good catholic men become Knights. We are like HIS voice in the desert, calling for the help we need, **"FOLLOW ME, HELP US BUILD UP THE CHURCH"**.

Let us make sure that there is a minimum of one degree in each District every month for the balance of this fraternal year; whether it be a 1st Degree or a Major Degree. We cannot afford to let the momentum we have built up to slip away. We simply control that by setting dates for degrees and recruiting toward those dates. Many of you will have more than one degree per month, which will insure against those who cannot make it on a certain date. We have to allow for those busy family schedules.

By now I am sure you have had the opportunity to attend District Meetings to learn from your District Deputies & State Officers what was suggested at the State Mid-Year Meeting in Hutchinson a few weeks back. There was a tremendous amount of work that went into that meeting by all who presented the latest GAME PLAN. If you are a Grand Knight and you missed out on the boat load of information presented at that meeting and if your District meeting has already been held, please contact one of the Membership Team members for some powerful information. It's just like getting new members, all you have to do is ask.

With a **STATE-WIDE TEAM** effort we can win this battle and all enjoy the fruits of our hard work during the State Convention in May at Lawrence, Ks.

Vivat Jesus,

Gary Hoppe, Kansas State 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 five 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 Activity Director Vincent Melvin III reports that \$190,692.00 has been pledged by the Councils and Assemblies reporting thus far. 223 Councils and 23 Assemblies have reported their participation in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program. If your council has not sent your yellow pledge card to Vince, please do so immediately. We must have all council's participation in order to have all 81 seminarians adopted with equal monies pledged to them. Councils are also asked to fulfill their pledges as soon as possible, as the seminarians need money now to pay for school bills and expenses.

#### ***Vocation Poster Contest:***

This year's theme is **"Vocations – A Call to Serve"** Plan the details for your council's vocation poster contest at your January meeting so your council's posters can be easily completed, judged and forwarded to your District Deputy by the March 15th deadline.

#### ***Religious Education***

Fr. David Metz, 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 Dean Haselhorst reports all tickets were sold. The raffle drawing was held at the Mid-Year DD Meeting on December 6 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, 2009.

The **State Free Throw Contest** will be held **3/1/2009** at the Sacred Heart High School Gym, Salina, KS at 1 p.m.

Youth Activities Director, Tom Schmeidler, reminds all Grand Knights to 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**.

### ***Columbian Squires***

Columbian Squires Chairman Jeremy Rabe reports that the State Columbian Squires Convention will be held in Paola KS, March 21st& 22nd, 2009. We ask all councils to make arrangements for their Squires to attend. Congratulations to the new Squires Circle #5265 at Wichita-St. Jude/St. Pats. Five other councils across Kansas are looking at setting up circles. Be sure to contact Jeremy for assistance in setting up your circle today.

## **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

### ***Family Life***

Family Life Director Dennis Schrick reports that now is the time to start thinking about your Family of the Year. Select 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 forwarded to the State Family Life Judges (Dennis will report the names of the State Judges in his January mailing). From these District Families of the Year, Diocesan and State Winners will be chosen. The winners will be recognized at the State Convention.

Please keep the Icon of “Our Lady of Charity” on track according to the schedule set up by Dennis. If you have any questions about the Icon, please call Dennis at 913-774-2930.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

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

Pennies from Heaven Chairman Dale Weber, is still 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 Dale 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, goes to State Treasurer Ron Zishka and the yellow copy goes to Commitment to Humanities Chairman Pat Winchester. The Special Olympics Basketball Tournament is scheduled for March 19, 20, and 21, 2009 in Hays. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the event should contact Pat Winchester.

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

Has your Council began your Pro-Life Baby Shower? If not, there’s still time in January, February or even March. Once concluded, make sure to document the value of the items before donating them to the pro-life center(s) of your choice. To insure your council receives proper credit and is eligible for recognition at convention, make sure that a copy of this document and other pro-life fundraising efforts are included with and reported on the **Pro-Life Report Form**, which is due **no later than April 1st**. Don't forget the **Evangelium Vitae Award Application due March 20th**. The March for Life will be held in both Topeka and Washington, D.C. on January 22. Make plans to attend one of these rallies or participate in a local rally. Please send pictures of pro-life memorials or road signs to Jim & Theresa Pritchard.

## **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Council Activities***

The Annual State Bowling Tournament will be held in Topeka on the weekends of Feb. 21st–22nd, Feb. 28th–March 1st, and March 7th–8th. Information was sent in mid November; if you did not receive it please contact your District Deputy or State Athletic Events Chairman Dave Koch. Entries are still being accepted for this year’s tournament.

Any councils desiring to host any of the State sporting events for 2010 must let Dave know in writing by January 22nd, 2009

Health Services Chairman Dave Koch wants to remind all councils a healthy council is a vibrant council. Councils are encouraged to take an active role in community health by planning a CPR training course, blood pressure Sunday or perhaps even a Parish walk.

### ***Fraternal***

Many councils are participating in the Knight of the Month program and the number is growing each month. This program is an excellent way to recognize a brother knight for service to your council, parish or community. To make it even more meaningful, the Grand Knight is encouraged to present a Knight of the Month Certificate, form # 1476, to the recipient at a council function. Send your entries by e-mail or snail mail to State Fraternal Chairman Greg Lix.

Knight of the Year information will soon be arriving in your mailbox. Every council is encouraged to select a Knight of the Year and submit that nomination to their District Deputy by March 10, 2009. Make this a “New Year’s” resolution for your council.

*Continued on back page*

**Publicity**

*Continued from Page 3*

Many councils participate in special projects during the Christmas season. If your council adopted a family or child, collected food for the local shelter, delivered Christmas meals or did some other special activity during the season of our Lord's birth, please remember to publicize the information. A picture is worth a thousand words and draws attention to the article. Include the story in your council or parish bulletin and submit copies to the local or diocesan newspaper. If you need help, contact State Publicity Chairman Greg Lix for assistance.

**Webmaster**

During the State Mid-Year Meeting at the start of December all District Deputies were asked to submit an updated schedule of major degrees in their districts. This information is updated on the calendar of events on the state website at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org). Please visit the site for the latest schedule of events and lots of other information.

**Knights-Lite**

Knights-Lite Editor, Duane Engel thanks everyone who submitted articles by the December 22nd deadline for the January issue of the Knight's Lite.

**History**

State Historian Larry Marstall still needs updated history from several councils. Please don't delay any longer—Do it now before it slips your mind.

Scott A. Maurath, State Program Director  
stateprogramdirector@kansas-kofc.org

**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: Joseph Cummings wrote \$2,275,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.

Central Kansas Agency: Marty Greene wrote \$1,355,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.

Western Kansas Agency: Jim Hensley wrote \$1,685,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in November.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$36,758,110 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 2008.

David Soukup    Mark Stallbaumer    Bill Roggenkamp  
JJ Deges        Darin Reed            Dan Reed

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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