



# The Explorer

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## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Our fraternal year is two-thirds complete but the home stretch remains and what is accomplished in the final one-third of our year will tell the true story of our accomplishments. Our results thus far are to be respected and look encouraging as we have set records for dollars collected in the Tootsie Roll Drive and dollars pledged in the Adopt-A-Seminarian Program. Our membership numbers are looking excellent in many parts of the state and the contagious enthusiasm is growing by leaps and bounds in membership recruitment!! The Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney is surely smiling at the accomplishments of our charitable acts and growth of his Order in Kansas. However, we must not slow down now because if we quit recruiting now and allow suspensions to grow, a historic year could quickly turn into a year of shortcomings. Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and cap this year off with teamwork by every member across our state!



We still have several programs to focus on—Our Pro-Life efforts must continue as never before as our past accomplishments are in jeopardy with FOCA looming over our shoulders. The lives of the unborn are depending on all our efforts and donations to help bring these precious lives to fruition instead of to a dismal end. Our Pennies From Heaven program still needs your support to rebuild our funds after the tornadoes, floods and storms of the past several years. To make all of our programs flourish and maximize our good works we still need to add members to each and every one of our councils across our state. Has your council done its part to maximize your charitable contributions and to grow our Order so the maximum amount of God's work can be accomplished? If not, the time to start is now. Your Church and community needs your leadership as never before. Now is the time to answer the call of Pope Benedict XVI to **"Follow Me, Help Us Build Up The Church"**.

Your State Officers recently met with the Bishops of Kansas to report to them the accomplishments of our Order in this fraternal year. They were proud of and thankful for the hard work of our members across Kansas. They were especially proud that our membership continues to grow and of the success of the "Father Wants You To Be A Knight Of Columbus" program. The success of this program shows the cooperation between our priests and our councils and the support and respect each has for the other. They have given their full support and encouragement to the program during the month of March as well. We all agreed that we are all a team and we must work together for the glory and honor of God. We must continue to be the "Strong Right Arm Of The Catholic Church".

During the months of March, April and May we will be in competition against other states in the **"Membership Madness"** contest set out by our Supreme Council. This contest parallels the "March Madness" of the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Kansas will be competing head-to-head with the State of Maryland in membership recruitment during the month of March. Other states will be going head-to-head in other bracket contests as well. The winners of the March brackets will advance to take on other jurisdictions within their brackets during the months of April and May. We have set up tournament brackets for the 55 districts within the State Of Kansas as well and your district will be competing head-to-head against other districts over the next three months. District Deputies should be presenting this competition to you at your March meeting. Be sure to contact him for the details so you can be part of the fun and excitement of **"Membership Madness"** over the next three months!!! We must all put forth our best team effort to uphold the rich history of membership recruitment in Kansas and to again put Kansas atop the leader board! Happy recruiting—I'll see you in the winners circle! Vivat Jesus.

Francis G. Drouhard, State Deputy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH:

- 1 **Deadline** for District Substance Abuse Poster Contest Winners to State Youth Chairman
- 1 **Deadline** for Credentials and Necrology Reports to State Secretary Mark Roth
- 1 State Free Throw Contest in Salina
- 1 Major Degree at Willowdale #2662
- 7-8 65th Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Topeka (3rd Weekend)
- 8 Major Degrees at Atwood #3033, Topeka #13012 & Great Bend #862
- 10 **Deadline** for Council Knight of the Year & Family of the Year to DD
- 15 **Deadline** for Council Vocations Poster Contest Winners to DD
- 15 Major Degrees at Hanover #1743, Schulte #3114 & LaCrosse #2970
- 19-21 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
- 21-22 State Squires Convention in Paola
- 22 Major Degree at Seneca #1769
- 25 **Deadline** for District Vocation Poster Contest winners to Church Director
- 25 K of C Day of the Unborn Child
- 27 **Deadline** for receipt of articles for the Knights-Lite
- 29 Major Degrees at Leavenworth #900, Andale #2217 & Hill City #5631
- 29 Founders Day, 127th Anniversary of Knights of Columbus

### APRIL:

- 1 **Deadline** for the following:  
Diocesan Knight of the Year winners to Fraternal Chairman  
Diocesan Family of the Year winners to Family Life Director  
Fulfillment of Adopt-A-Seminarian Pledges  
Scrapbook entries to appropriate Directors  
Pro-Life Donations Report Form to Pro-Life Chairman  
Council History Reports to State Historian
- 1 Submit RSVP/Plaque Applications to Supreme
- 5 Major Degree at Osborne #4759
- 18 Major Degree at Leavenworth #900
- 19 Major Degree at Shawnee-St. Joseph #2332
- 26 Major Degrees at St. Paul #760, Wichita-Magdalen #10408, & Dodge City #2955

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Knight of the Month is Michael Waite of Council #1148 Esbon.

Family of the Month winners of a Holy Family Plaque from Supreme were: Allen & Betty Burkhart Family of Council #1862-Wright; Daniel & Susan Schoenecker family of Council #3114-Clonmel-Schulte; Jim & Barbara Scherer Family of Council #10834-Lansing.

The 108th Annual State Convention will be held in Lawrence, May 2-4, 2009

**SPECIAL NOTE: The starting time for the Golf Tournament at the State Convention has been changed to 8 a.m. from 9 a.m.**

## STATE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Mark Roth, State Secretary

**Attention Grand Knights:** You should have received report forms for Credentials and Necrology from State Secretary Mark Roth. They should be completed immediately and sent back to Mark as the due date was **March 1**. **District Deputies**, please double check to insure these forms are in from all your Councils.

## STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

It is my sincere hope that preparations are complete for the "FATHER WANTS YOU" to become a Knight program as our BLITZ month is upon us. HAVE YOU ASKED FOR A KNIGHT THIS MONTH? This question should be foremost in your mind as a Knights of Columbus leader during this the month of March. The subject of membership growth should be addressed each and every month in every council, with a special emphasis during the month of March, as this is the anniversary month of our founding as an order.

Many councils are doing a tremendous job, and in looking closely, I find that membership growth is a \*PRIORITY\* in these councils. When this happens, all other activities excel. Success in recruiting new members is directly proportional to the amount of enthusiasm the active members of a council exemplifies. People with a great deal of enthusiasm are having fun and when people see a group having fun, they want to be part of that group. From the following statistics we can see that there are many Knights having fun;

As of Feb 1, 2009 – Membership %s;

Districts with 100% of quota & above -- 7

Districts with 50% to 100% of Quota -- 9

Councils with 100% of quota & above -- 22

Councils with 50% to 100% of Quota -- 53

KANSAS is #13 out of 72 jurisdictions in NET GAIN with 570, a job well done thus far. The fact is we still have 112 councils who have not yet recruited a member. I am sure this number will become much smaller as we are just approaching, historically, the most productive time of year. Our very capable District Deputies will be keeping a watchful eye on their councils to insure that the councils that are growing will continue to do so, and the councils that have yet to be active will become so. Also, our Worthy District Deputies will be working with any councils who have the threat of suspensions cropping up. Brother Knights, we cannot afford to lose even one member to suspension. Charity is the first principle of our order. In these trying times we must be vigilant to help our members remain active. It is never acceptable to suspend a member because he can't afford to pay his dues.

Let us now turn our attention to recruiting new members. I suggest that many times we can fall into a rut as to how we approach new prospects. In talking to many Knights, I find that some only use one method of asking a prospect to join us, such as: How about joining the Knights? Granted, that is much better than not asking at all, however we need to look at different approaches to insure that we don't miss prospects. If a prospect doesn't know what the Knights are all about, his answer will usually be no. As leaders of our order we must teach, as Jesus did, our members in the more effective ways to

approach prospects. Why not try this approach? First, be observant and if a prospect has children (they will be following him out of church), introduce yourself and then say something like this: As a good Catholic Family man, do you feel it is important that we have many good activities for the young people of our parish? When he says yes, say: You know that is one of the many things that the Knights of Columbus does around here. Wouldn't you like to join us and help us continue to look for ways to make that happen? Make sure you ask a question that would be very hard for him to say no to. Always ask questions that are almost impossible for a normal individual to say no to. It is very hard to GAIN anything in life until we say YES. We can use the same technique by using the other main activities, such as Special Olympics, Seminarians, Pro-Life, helping the less fortunate, etc. etc. Let us all continue to look for more ways to "Help build up the Church".

Vivat Jesus,

Gary Hoppe, Kansas State Membership Director

## STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities (Form 1728) is one of the most important documents a council can prepare each year. Supreme needs this report from **every council** in order to document our tax exempt status. A thank you is extended to all councils for your timely filing of this report at Supreme. To finish out the fraternal year there is one remaining report, along with council membership and insurance quotas, that is required to qualify for the **Star Council Award**. The form is the **SP-7 form – Columbian Award Application**. Four (4) activities are required in each of the five (5) programming areas – Church, Community, Council, Family and Youth. You will find twenty (20) examples of potential activities for each group inside the back cover of the Program & Membership Guide. Please review these activities to see if any are applicable for your council in completing the form. **All councils should have this form completed and submitted to your District Deputy prior to the Convention. DD's will be requested to bring these to the Convention.**

Your council's **Knight and Family of the Year** should have been chosen by now, as these need to be submitted to your District Deputy by **March 10th**. It is very important we recognize those chosen for this exemplary title. Be sure to submit your entry to your District Deputy on time. **District Deputies**, please be sure to complete the lists of Council Knights & Families of the Year and submit to the Family Life Director and Fraternal Chairman by **March 20th**.

All **scrapbooks** should be in the finishing stages and need to be **received by** the appropriate State Director by **April 1**. All reports required by Directors and Chairmen with an April 1st deadline must be received **prior to April 1** to be eligible for awards at our Convention.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### *Adopt a Seminarian*

Seminarian Pledges should be fulfilled as soon as possible so your seminarians have the funds for their expenses. Councils should complete and submit the RSVP form to Supreme as soon as they are able. Some councils have not yet conveyed their pledge intentions to Church Activities Director Vince Melvin III. Grand Knights, both of these items need to be completed ASAP.

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

The theme for this year's contest is "VOCATIONS – A CALL TO SERVE." Vocations Chairman Vince Melvin encourages every council to be involved in this program and reminds all Grand Knights that council winners must be submitted to their District Deputy by March 15th. District Deputies must have your District winners submitted to Vince Melvin by April 1st.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Free Throw***

A big "Thank You" to all councils sponsoring free throw contests this year. The State Council and our youth across Kansas applaud you for your efforts and hard work! Be sure to file your report #FT-1 with Supreme, and a copy to our State Deputy. The results need to be documented and suggestions submitted. The Kansas Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Championship will be held on Sunday March 1, 2009, at Sacred Heart High School Gym, 230 East Cloud Street, Salina, Kansas at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend to watch some of the best shooters in Kansas compete for the state titles.

#### ***Columbian Squires***

The State Squires Convention is set for March 21-22 in Paola. April is commonly referred to as Squires Month. This gives the Squires Circles a great opportunity to promote growth. Councils can also help with this growth by sponsoring a Squires Circle. Let's spread the word about the importance of investing in our Catholic youth. Contact State Squires Chairman Jeremy Rabe at 785-227-2395 for information on setting up a Squires Circle in your parish.

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

Your council should have already selected a Family of the Year. Be sure to complete the Family of the Year Application and submit it to your District Deputy prior to March 10 (Be sure to keep a copy in Council Files in case any applications are lost in the mail). District Deputies are to make their District Family of the Year selections and have them submitted to the Diocesan Judges by March 20. DD's be sure to submit your list of Council & District Winners to Family Director Dennis Schrick by March 20 for inclusion in The Convention Report Book.

Family Life Director Dennis Schrick reminds you to keep the "Our Lady of Charity" Icons on schedule. Any questions regarding the schedule should be directed to Dennis Schrick at 913-774-2930.

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

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

**Help!!!** Pennies From Heaven Chairman Dale Weber needs your donations for the Country Store and Auction at the State Convention. To date, results have been slow. Give him a call right away at 620-326-6304 to confirm an item for the auction or store. Has your council's Pennies from Heaven Fund reached its full potential? There is still time to hold a fundraiser.

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

The 2008 Tootsie Roll Drive has been completed. Donations are up from last year and a record has been set for this program. Commitment to Humanity Chairman Pat Winchester thanks everyone who participated in this record-setting program this year—Great Job!! Many charitable

organizations depend on this money for their activities throughout the year so please finalize this report today if not already done so. Pat also invites you to join us at the Kansas Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Hays March 19-21.

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

Thank you for all your Pro-Life efforts! Your Pro-Life Baby items should be distributed soon after your event. Remember the **Pro-Life Report Form**, along with a brief listing and value of supplies/clothing and monetary donations, is **due April 1st** to State Pro-Life Chair-couple Jim and Theresa Pritchard. The **Evangelium Vitae Award Application is due March 20th** and the **K of C Day of the Unborn Child** is March 25th. Consider sponsoring a "**Day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**" in conjunction with this celebration.

### **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Athletics***

The 65th Annual Kansas State Men's Bowling Tournament is underway in Topeka. See the calendar of events for the schedule.

#### ***Fraternal***

Have you selected your **Council Knight of the Year**? Remember, your selection must be submitted to your District Deputy by **March 10**. Keep a copy of your application in your council's files. DD's are reminded to send a list of Council & District winners to State Fraternal Chairman Greg Lix for inclusion in the Convention Report Booklet. District Deputies need to send their District Knight of the Year **Application** to the appropriate Diocesan Judge by **March 20**. Please remember to sign the winning application. Every council should continue to select a Knight of the Month and submit his name to Greg by the 15th of each month. Address changes or corrections need to be sent to State Secretary Mark Roth to insure the mailing list is kept current.

#### ***Publicity***

State Publicity Chairman Greg Lix reminds councils to send him articles on important news worthy events in your council. Remember to "**Get the Good Word Out**" on the good works of the Knights of Columbus.

#### ***Webmaster***

The State Convention will soon be here. To keep up with planned activities, check the Kansas State Council Web Site at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org). Registration forms and other information will be available on the website as it is received.

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

The next edition of the Knight's-Lite will go to press in early April. All articles need to be sent to Knight's Lite Editor Duane Engel by **March 27th**.

#### ***History***

Your council's history is of extreme importance when considering future generations. State Historian Larry Marstall encourages all councils to follow-up on the letter they recently received asking for their council history to be brought up-to-date. **History reports** are due **April 1, 2009**.

Scott A. Maurath  
State Program Director

## JANUARY 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 \$2,952,500 in life insurance protection on members and their families in January.

Central Kansas Agency: Trey Coleman wrote \$948,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in January.

Western Kansas Agency: Ralph Stierlen wrote \$1,025,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in January.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$26,425,590 in life insurance during the month of January.

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.

Jim Hensley	Darin Reed
Joe Cummings	Dan Reed
Marty Greene	Bill Roggenkamp

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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