



# The Explorer

A Publication  
Of The  
Kansas  
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March 2010

## 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 are very close to our records set last year 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 we have lost ground on this front since the elections of November, 2008. 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. We continue to accept donations for the ultrasound machine which we hope to place in the Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic in Kansas City, Kansas. This will only be accomplished through a teamwork effort and through this effort the lives of countless babies will be saved. As a reminder to bring this program to your March council meeting, I have placed my February 11th letter as an insert in this issue. Our Pennies From Heaven program also 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. We must step up our efforts in this "Year of the Volunteer" for 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 that 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 honor and glory of God. We must continue to be the "Strong Right Arm Of The Catholic Church".

**Membership Madness** continues but will wrap up at the end of March. Have you been keeping up with the progress of Kansas by logging onto the Supreme website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and clicking on the "For Officers" tab and then clicking on

"Membership Madness Brackets"? The results are updated daily. You can also check out how your district is doing in the state-wide competition by logging onto the state website at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org). In January, Kansas defeated the State of Maryland. At the time of this writing we are leading Iowa by a score of 108 – 66. In terms of percentage of Circle of Honor quota we are leading by a score of 7.2% - 5.3%. Hopefully we will be in the championship round during the month of March when you read this. 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
- 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 Topeka (St. Matthew) #13012, Clommel-Schulte, #3114
- 14 Major Degrees at Phillipsburg #6660, Fairway (St. Agnes) #3020, 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 Marysville #1777, Wilson #1924, Willowdale #2662, Seneca #1769
- 25 **Deadline** for District Vocation Poster Contest winners to Church Director
- 25 K of C Day of the Unborn Child
- 27-28 State 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

### **APRIL:**

- 1 **Deadline** for the following:
  - Diocesan Knight of the Year winners to Fraternal Chairman
  - 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
- 10 Major Degree at Leavenworth #900
- 10 Sporting Clays Tourney at Gypsum Sporting Clays
- 11 Major Degree at Shawnee-Good Shepherd #11126
- 18 Major Degree at Dodge City #2955
- 18 Major Degree at McPherson #5222
- 25 Major Degree at Wichita-Magdalen #10408

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Knight of the Month is Lee Crane from Ottawa Council #3018.

Family of the Month winners of a Holy Family Plaque from Supreme were: Mike & Diane Harmon Family of Council # 1521-Hoisington; Jerry & Lorie Amthor Family of Council #1993-Goodland; James & Nancy Wilson Family of Council #6781-Kansas City.

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

## 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'S MESSAGE

It is my sincere hope that preparations are complete for the "FATHER WANTS YOU" to become a Knight of Columbus 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 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 of the councils are doing a tremendous job, and in looking closely, I find that membership growth is a **PRIORITY** in these councils. When that 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 in Kansas;

As of Feb 1, 2010 – Membership %s;

Districts with 100% of quota & above -- 1

Districts with 50% to 100% of Quota -- 10

Councils with 100% of quota & above -- 13

Councils with 50% to 100% of Quota -- 32

KANSAS is #19 out of 72 jurisdictions in NET GAIN with 562, a job well done thus far. The fact is we still have 105 councils who have not recruited a member as of this time. 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 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 to 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 I feel that sometimes we need to talk about different approaches to help insure that we don't miss prospects. If a prospect doesn't know what the Knights are all about, then 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. Always ask questions that are almost impossible for a normal individual to say no. 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" and what better time than in this "Year of the Volunteer". Best of luck in your recruiting efforts!

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 – Columbian Award Application**. Four (4) activities are required in each of the **six (6) programming areas** – Church, Community, Council, Family, Youth and **Pro-Life**. **This is a new form this year** as Pro-Life has been split out into a category by itself. You will find twenty (20) examples of potential activities inside the back cover of the Program & Membership Guide. Pro-Life activities are included in the Community Activities section in the example. Remember to separate these activities for this year. 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. If you can't locate your form it is also available at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) under the "Forms" tab. DD's will be requested to bring these completed council forms 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 "A YEAR FOR VOCATIONS." 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. Congratulations to those youth who captured the top spot and then participated in the district, regional or even the state contest. The Kansas Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Championship will be held on Sunday March 7, 2010, 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 27-28 in Wichita-St. Jude Parish. 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 Dan Wimberly by March 20 for inclusion in **The Convention Report Book**.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

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

**Help!!!** Pennies From Heaven Chairman Gary Wondra 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 620-586-3328 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 2009 Tootsie Roll Drive has been completed, but several councils have yet to report. Many charitable organizations depend on this money for their activities throughout the year. Please finalize this report today. Commitment to Humanity Chairman Dale Weber thanks everyone who participated in the program. Dale also invites you to join us at the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Hays March 18-20.

### ***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. Please ask your council to donate toward the ultrasound machine which we hope to place in the Wyandotte Pregnancy Center in Kansas City, Kansas. Details can be found in the State Deputy's insert in this issue.

## **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Athletics***

The 66th Annual Kansas State Men's Bowling Tournament is underway in Newton.

### ***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 WebSite 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 me by **March 29th**.

### ***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, 2010**.

Scott A. Maurath, State Program Director

## MARCH/2010 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 \$1,300,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in January.

Central Kansas Agency: Wade Greif wrote \$2,649,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in January.

Western Kansas Agency: Robert Meyer, III wrote \$2,448,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in January.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$29,459,500 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 January of 2010.

Darin Reed  
Justin Deges

David Soukup  
Jaime Cunningham

Kirby Schmelzle  
Darin Reed

Shaun McGovern  
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.

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

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# KANSAS STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



February 11, 2010

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Worthy Grand Knight:

The Knights of Columbus is proud to be a Pro-Life organization fighting hard to preserve the right to life of every unborn child. In our fight to win this battle, education must be one of the most important fronts from which we must wage our attack.

Ultrasound Machines in Crisis Pregnancy Centers are proving to be a very valuable tool in the education of women in crisis pregnancies. An ultrasound image of the baby in the mother's womb shows these women that this change going on inside of them is truly a living baby with a head, body, limbs and a face they can see and even a heartbeat they can hear.

Statistics show that 70% of women who are considering abortion choose life for their child after seeing an ultrasound image of their child. Statistics also show that 90% of all other women choose life after seeing an ultrasound image of their child. These are very important statistics because they show that we can reduce abortion by 70% in that group of women who consider abortion to be a very realistic way of dealing with their crisis pregnancy. It also shows that these women are ignorant to the fact that they truly are carrying a life within their womb until they are shown this through ultrasound technology.

Based upon the importance of these statistics our Supreme Council has created a program through which an ultrasound machine can be purchased and placed in Pro-Life Centers which meet certain criteria. State and Local Councils can raise funds which will be matched by the Supreme Council to purchase such a machine. The State Officers of the Kansas State Council considered the needs of all four dioceses. A most critical requirement was found at a crisis pregnancy center in the Kansas City area which meets the criteria set forth by our Supreme Council. The Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic is located in Kansas City, Kansas and is housed in the old rectory of Christ the King Parish at 3021 N. 54th Street. This pregnancy clinic is not funded by the Archdiocese of Kansas City and relies on donations and fundraisers to fund its operating budget. This center currently has a very old ultrasound machine which is in poor working condition and for which new parts are no longer available. For these reasons I am writing to you to ask for your council's assistance to help us raise funds equal to half the purchase price of the ultrasound machine. The Supreme Council would then fund the other half.

*(Continued on reverse side)*

The Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic has evaluated several machines on a trial basis and has chosen the machine which will best fit their needs. This machine, after the manufacturers discount, will cost \$53,438. This means we need to raise \$26,719 before we can request the matching funds from Supreme Council to place this machine in use to save countless babies' lives. I write to you with "hat in hand" asking that your council be as generous as possible so this machine can be purchased in the very near future.

Please send your check payable to the Kansas State Council, C/O State Treasurer Ron Zishka, 23878 211th, Leavenworth, KS 66048. On the memo line of your check please be sure to write "Ultrasound Machine Program". We have set up a special bank account to accept these donations. Individuals desiring to make a tax-deductible donation for this program can also send their checks, made payable to The Kansas State Council, directly to State Treasurer Ron Zishka but they must be sure to write "Ultrasound Machine Program" on the memo line of their check. Ron will keep a log of names, addresses and amounts donated and these will be passed on to the director of the Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic when the machine is purchased. Tax-deductible receipts will be issued by the Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic at that time.

Donations made by councils to this program can be counted toward their Pro-Life Donations for divisional awards given at our State Convention. These donations should be reported on the Pro-Life Report Form which is due to State Pro-Life Chairman Jim Pritchard by April 1st. If individuals sending donations directly to State Treasurer Ron Zishka would like their donation to count toward their council's Pro-Life Donations for awards purposes, the individual must make their council aware of their donation. The council could then include it in the totals reported on the Pro-Life Report Form which is filed with State Pro-Life Chairman Jim Pritchard.

I am both excited and thankful for the opportunity given to us as Knights of Columbus members in Kansas to have a hand in saving the lives of many babies through this new program. I thank you in advance for your consideration and support of this life-saving program. If you have any questions regarding this program I ask that you please contact our State Pro-Life Chairman Jim Pritchard at [pro-lifechaircouple@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:pro-lifechaircouple@kansas-kofc.org) or by phone at 913-294-3303. Vivat Jesus.

Fraternally,

Francis G. Drouhard  
State Deputy

Pc: District Deputies