



The Explorer

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November 2009

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

November has arrived and marks the start of our 5th month of fraternalism for the 2009-10 fraternal year. In six months we will meet in Wichita for the State Convention. Every council should have in place its plan of action to achieve Star Council and now is the time to implement those plans. Be sure to set your goals high and the rewards will be great. With everyone working together there's no doubt our goals will be reached.



Our Order-wide membership blitz and the "Father Wants You To Be A Knight Of Columbus" program has been a great success. Be sure to schedule first degrees to bring these new recruits into our Order this month and put them to work in council activities so they will be a valued member for years to come. In this "**Year of the Volunteer**", membership recruitment must continue to be a high priority as we try to accomplish the work the Lord has set out for us. With a larger membership our programs can be further reaching and much more of God's work can be completed through our volunteer efforts. Be sure to continue scheduling those first degrees often and keep your membership recruiting new members to our great Order. To help celebrate this year proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI as the "**Year of the Priest**", all first degrees should be held in honor of a priest.

Be sure to read the insert in this issue of The Explorer as I have included a letter on the Culture of Life Fund set up by the Supreme Council.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. In these turbulent financial times let us always remember the things that matter most in life, i.e. God, family and friends and let us be thankful for the blessings that have been bestowed on us. Let us also be cognizant of the fact that there are many around us who are unemployed or who need help in one way or another. Let us work hard to help these in need so they can have a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving as well. As we interact with family and friends during this month of Thanksgiving, be sure to offer membership in the Knights of Columbus to all those eligible Catholic men you come in contact with. Ask them, and encourage them to become part of the greatest Catholic Family Fraternal Service Organization in the world. Ask them to join us in this "**Year of the Volunteer**" as we continue to answer the call of Pope Benedict XVI to "**Follow Me, Help Us Build Up The Church**".

Lori and I and our family wish you and your family a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Vivat Jesus

Francis G. Drouhard – State Deputy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER:

Remember Deceased Members with Memorial Mass

- 1 Deadline for DD's to return Religious Education Fund Donations & Tickets To State Religious Education Fund Chairman, Dean Haselhorst
- 1 Submit checks and Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Report To State Treasurer, Ron Zishka
- 1 Deadline to submit Free Throw Contest Kit Request Form to Supreme
- 8 Major Degrees at Hiawatha #8505, Mulvane #7486 and Schoenchen #4166
- 8 Major Degrees at Dodge City #2955 and Chanute #1046
- 14 4th Degree Exemplanation in Shawnee
- 15 Major Degree at Overland Park #11661

DECEMBER:

Share the Light of Advent by keeping Christ in Christmas

- 1 Light up for Christ
- 5-6 Mid-year District Deputy Meeting at Hutchinson
- 5 Drawing for Religious Education Fund Prizes
- 15 Deadline to submit Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Reports & Checks to State Treasurer, Ron Zishka
- 22 Deadline for receipt of articles for the Knights-Lite
- 25 Celebrate the Birth of Jesus with your family

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Knight of the Month is Russell Ginest from Council 7279-Hutchinson .

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

Christopher & Stephanie Wolf Family of Council #1181-Chapman; Kevin & Jennifer Bahr Family of Council #2100-Olmitz; Andrew & Lisa Nash Family of Council #3114-Clonmel-Schulte and Leroy & Carla Jones Family of Council #6761-Haysville.

The Knights of Columbus of Kansas were awarded the 2009 Community Support Award by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, Inc. (DSNWK) for their donations from the Commitment To Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Program. Congratulations!

**STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S
MESSAGE**

“HAVE YOU ASKED FOR A KNIGHT THIS MONTH”? By the reports I am receiving, it appears that many of you have. WOW, we have one council with 233% of quota already. Gee, that council could hit 500% by year end. I believe it does pay to recruit in the first half of the year, doesn't it? What a great job some of you are doing. I realize some councils in the rural communities won't get rolling until this month, and I know you will catch up in a hurry. Find below the Division Leaders as of October 1st. 2009, along with the Top 5 Districts.

Div	Number	Council	% Quota
1	11735	K.C. Holy Name	67%
2	10321	Effingham	33%
3	2114	Aurora	25%
	3210	Dighton	25%
	6671	Valley Falls	25%
4	13354	Ft. Leavenworth	233%
	12960	Lawr. Corpus Christy	67%
	13394	Corning	67%
5	12049	Wichita St. Jude	57%
	8059	Topeka Mater Dei	17%
6	12858	Wichita St. Anne	43%
	10279	Sabetha Fidelity	43%
7	1901	Greeley	78%
	3018	Ottawa	56%
8	12577	Leawood St. Michael	64%
	8196	Salina	18%
9	976	Newton	47%
	10408	Wichita Magdalen	32%
10	10483	Wichita SEAS	36%
	4458	Derby	35%

DD#	Name	%Quota
11	Chris Mnichowski	39.2%
5	Robert Hall	35.1%
32	Bruce Luehring	29.7%
13	Michael Martin	29.6%
3	Norbert Otter	27.2%

It appears the leadership in the Kansas Knights of Columbus is accepting the challenge of increased quotas this year over last by forging ahead with membership growth as usual. Many Knights are working toward being the top recruiter in Kansas and winning a new Pellet Grill to use on their deck this summer while cooking some of those \$300.00 worth of Steaks they could receive from the Insurance leadership of our great state of Kansas. Remember, your name and membership number must appear as the sponsor on the Form 100 to be eligible.

As of this writing our GREAT state of KANSAS has made the finals of the “World Series of Membership” contest sponsored by Supreme. Thanks to all who worked on membership thus far during this fraternal year. It seems Kansas will not be denied when it comes to growing our order. You deserve a big pat on the back for a job well done.

As always, our work has just begun. Now that we have implemented the “FATHER WANTS YOU” blitz, it is so very critical that we follow up with, first getting form 100s completed on prospective candidates and then making sure that we have either 1st degrees or Major degrees for them to attend. Please do not rely on just one degree. As you should know from past experience, not all candidates can attend a degree on the same date, so it is important to have more than one date scheduled.

Once the degrees are completed, we must get the form 100s sent to Supreme for recording. I am sure some of you are not sending your forms in as soon as the degrees are complete. Remember that many different people are relying on the councils to send in forms. So even if you have just one to send in, please do it.

Worthy Grand Knights, you are the key person in every council that makes things happen. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in helping with membership growth in the beginning of the year instead of waiting till the end. We have much work ahead of us, however most races are won in the starting blocks, and you are proving that it can be done. With continued efforts from all of us on a statewide basis we will not only hit our goals but surpass them.

Vivat Jesus,
Gary L. Hoppe, Kansas State Membership Director

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The first four months of our fraternal year have come & gone and now would be a good time to assess your council's progress thus far. By now you should have filed your Form 365 at Supreme, submitted four (4) Family & Knight of the Month entries, completed your Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Drive, submitted your Adopt-A-Seminarian pledge, applied for your Parish Religious Education Funds, sold all your Religious Education Fund Raffle Tickets and returned them to your District Deputy, started your fund raisers for Pro-Life & Pennies from Heaven, and brought your council's history up to date. REMEMBER, the job's not done till the paperwork's in. In order to receive proper recognition, the reports associated with these programs must be filed on time. If any of these reports haven't been completed, now would be an excellent time to submit them.

What about your council's scrapbooks? Has your council begun compiling information to capture the special activities you have undertaken? Wouldn't it be nice to be recognized for one or more of your council's activities at the Convention in Wichita next spring? Work begins early for a quality product. I'll look forward to announcing your council's name for the scrapbook awards in Wichita. Grand Knights, work with your Directors & Chairmen to assure this is on their agenda.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Adopt-A-Seminarian

Church Activities Director Vince Melvin III reports that only about half of the councils have sent in their Pledge Form. Have you submitted your Adopt-A-Seminarian pledge? Time is of the essence. To insure that all 89 Seminarians are adopted and pledges are equalized, it is imperative that every council submit their pledge cards

right away. Post Card Questionnaire / Pledge Cards were provided to your District Deputy in July. Contact him or Vince if you don't yet have one. Grand Knights should have the list of Seminarians and the addresses of the Seminaries. If you have already pledged to a Seminarian, begin sending your assistance and prayers. Don't wait until next year; our future priests need our help now.

Religious Education Fund Applications

Religious Education Chairman Rev. David Metz reports a majority of councils have submitted their request for parish Religious Education Funds. He wishes to thank all those responding. Grand Knights should receive the checks by mid-December.

Religious Education Fund Raising

October 25 was the deadline to return your tickets and monetary donations to your District Deputy. District Deputies are reminded that if they haven't returned their tickets and proceeds to Religious Education Fund Raising Chairman Dean Haselhorst, please do so as soon as possible! Should the remote possibility be that tickets are still outstanding or unsold at this point, Dean will be contacting the District Deputy. If you still need extra tickets, be sure to call Dean or your District Deputy to see if unsold tickets are still available. The drawing for prizes will be held on December 5th at the Mid-year District Deputy meeting.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Activities

Youth Activities Director Tom Schmeidler advises the Regional Free Throw Contest locations have been determined and the dates are now being set. Has your council ordered the Free Throw Championship Competition Kit? The deadline to place this order to Supreme was November 1. Obtain the order form from the Council Report Forms Booklet and submit it right away so your council will be prepared to conduct your Free Throw Contest in January. Please pay special attention to the "Free Throw Championship Program Guide" found in the Free Throw Kit. It contains several new promotional items from Supreme including Official K of C Free Throw Championship Basketballs, which may be used at your Free Throw Contest. If your council hosted a Soccer Challenge please send in your participation form and the results to Tom right away.

Columbian Squires

Wouldn't it be great to have a yearly flow of 18 year old men as new members into your council? A Squires Circle could do just that. Squires Chairman Jeremy Rabe would like to help you make that a reality. Contact him for help.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Life

Protecting, preserving and recognizing traditional family values are a hallmark of the Knights of Columbus. By taking advantage of the Family of the Month Program, each council can help celebrate family values and life. Make it a habit to choose a family of the month every month. Submit their name to Supreme by the 15th of the month and they will become eligible to receive one of 100 Holy Family Plaques given each month by the Supreme Council. This past month 50 councils in the state submitted names and Kansas had 3 plaque winners. Was your council one of the 50?

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Rolls)

The October Campaign Drive to Help People with Intellectual Disabilities is now complete across Kansas and Chairman Dale Weber is excited with early returns. Dale reminds you that although the designated weekend for the event has passed, your council can still solicit and accept donations to help use up any remaining Tootsie Rolls. Evaluate your council's results to see if it can be improved next year. Now comes the paperwork. Every participating council must submit the white copy of the Tootsie Roll Report Form, along with a check for 100% of the proceeds, to State Treasurer Ron Zishka, and a yellow copy of this report to Commitment to Humanities Chairman Dale Weber. This should be done right away so Ron can send the recipient checks back to you. Dale would like to extend a thank you to all Knights helping with this very worthwhile endeavor. Be sure to publicize the results of your fund drive in your local newspaper and parish bulletin and extend a thank you to all who donated.

Pro-Life

All councils are encouraged to work on their fundraisers, programs, charitable works and prayers for Pro-Life. Start making plans now for the Pro-Life Baby Shower to be held in January. If your council plans on conducting the Bottles for Life fundraiser, you need to start making plans now and determine when to have it. If you need information on this, call or e-mail the Pro-Life Chair Couple. Be sure to continue working on the Evangelium Vitae Award requirements. The traveling trophy would look good in your council's award display. If anyone is interested in going to Washington DC or Topeka for the pro-life rallies in January, call or e-mail Theresa and Jim Pritchard for information. A baby crib will be set up at the December Mid-Year District Deputy Training Meeting to help kick off the 11th annual Pro-Life Baby Shower. Attendees are asked to bring at least one baby item.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Council Events

Council Activities Director Marcel Braun reminds all councils to begin putting your teams together for the State Bowling Tournament in Newton, starting on February 20. If you don't currently have league bowlers in your council, a team still can be assembled and sent to the tournament. Letters and Entry Forms were sent out in October to Grand Knights and Team Captains. Work at putting a team together to make this a successful tournament. If your council is interested in hosting the 2010-2011 Bowling, Golf or Sporting Clays Tournaments, a written request must be sent to Marcel by January 23, 2010. Call Marcel for details.

Fraternal

Does your council select a "Knight of the Month"? It's a great way to honor a member for his participation in activities. Be sure to send your nomination to Fraternal Activities Chairman Greg Lix by the 15th of the following month so he can be entered in the State Knight of the Month drawing. Last year, 99 out of 261 councils participated.

Publicity

Publicity Chairman Greg Lix reminds all councils to publicize all their activities. Making the public aware of

(continued back page)

who we are and what we do is important to the council, the Order, and our members.

Webmaster

Fourth Degree information is now available on the state website at www.kansas-kofc.org. All assemblies are listed along with pertinent information including contact name, meeting time, day and physical address, a website address if one exists and a list of the Third Degree councils to which the assembly is assigned. All assemblies are asked to please review their information which can be found under 'Assemblies' then 'By City' or 'By Assembly'. Please e-mail all updates to webmaster@kansas-kofc.org.

Assemblies are also encouraged to send exemplification information to the webmaster to be added to the site. This information should include a copy of the letter that was mailed to area councils as well as registration forms. Electronic copies sent via email are preferred, but paper copies can be scanned.

Knights-Lite

The next edition of the Knights-Lite is scheduled to be published in early January. However, the deadline for articles to be submitted is December 22nd for them to be included.

COUNCIL HISTORY

State Historian Larry Marstall reminds all councils to continue updating their council history.

The annual update reports will leave a documented

legacy to the future members of the councils and the Order in Kansas.

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: David Soukup wrote \$1,840,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in September.

Central Kansas Agency: Jim Zuperku wrote \$1,785,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in September.

Western Kansas Agency: Darin Reed wrote \$2,249,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in September.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$25,375,528 in life insurance during the month of September.

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	Wade Greif	Joe Cummings
David Soukup	Dan Reed	Kirby Schmelzle
Jamie Cunningham		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



October 25, 2009

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To: Grand Knights
District Deputies
State Personnel

Dear Brother Knights:

At the Supreme Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in August, 2009 the delegates to the convention were asked to vote to make a permanent funding mechanism for the Culture of Life Fund. The delegates overwhelmingly passed a \$2 per capita assessment to fund this need. You may recall last year this was a \$3 assessment and that it was hoped this would be a one time assessment but that the Supreme Board of Directors would re-examine the need in a year.

The Culture of Life Fund, which was set up at by the delegates at the 2008 Supreme Convention, has already had some very far-reaching results and helped to bring about some big wins in the Pro-Family and Pro-Life arena. The Knights of Columbus spent a great deal of money in the states of Arizona, California and Florida to get the passage of marriage amendments in these states in the November, 2008 elections. Had these not been passed the Knights of Columbus would most likely be involved in court battles now and in the future to protect our priests from state governments requiring them to perform same sex marriages. This battle over same sex marriage will most likely continue into the future in other states and the Knights of Columbus will be there to protect the family and its rightful place in the rearing of children in our society.

As you know there have been several court battles waged by atheistic individuals requesting the words "under God" be taken out of our Pledge of Allegiance. Since the Knights of Columbus were instrumental in getting these words placed in the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954, the Knights of Columbus have asked for and received permission to take an active role in court battles in defending the words "under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance. The Knights of Columbus have successfully twice defended this cause and this will most likely need to be defended again in the future.

The Pro-Life Cause has lost ground since the November, 2008 elections and the Knights of Columbus will continue to defend life from conception to natural death. This means not only defending the unborn but also defending the elderly from such atrocities as euthanasia or assisted suicide. These are just a few of the issues which the Culture of Life Fund will help to promote and defend against. The need will never go away and the Supreme Council needs a source from which to garner funds to "Build a Culture of Life".

(please see reverse side of insert)

Vivat Jesus

The late Pope John Paul II referred to the Knights of Columbus as the “Strong Right Arm of the Catholic Church”. Pope Benedict XVI has also called on the Knights of Columbus to be strong leaders. I ask each of you to please step forward and support this Culture of Life Fund assessment by encouraging your members and your councils to wholeheartedly support this assessment by the Supreme Council. If the Knights of Columbus doesn’t step forward to wage battle in these issues, who will?

The \$2 Culture of Life Fund assessment will be assessed in two billings of \$1 each by our Supreme Council. The first half will come in January and the other half will come in the month of July. I know some councils might feel this puts a hardship on their council but I also feel if the Knights of Columbus doesn’t step forward to battle these issues, the hardship on us all and our future families and friends will be much greater than \$2 per person. The strength of the Knights of Columbus lies in our numbers and our unity, and we must stand firmly united in our support for the Culture of Life.

Last year some councils raised their council membership dues by \$3 per member to help defray the cost of last year’s \$3 Culture of Life assessment. Some councils held a special fundraiser to avoid raising council dues. I bring the new \$2 assessment to your attention now so that your council will know of it in case a dues increase or a special fundraiser is warranted.

Please promote the Culture of Life Fund and this assessment to all your Brother Knights and together we will continue to wage the battle on all these Culture of Life issues. Vivat Jesus.

Fraternally,

Francis G. Drouhard
State Deputy