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# State Awards & Service Program Award Winners



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



**OREGON STATE  
COUNCIL**



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## KNIGHT OF THE YEAR

Mark Welter, Council 2325

Mark Welter is a Knight of Columbus of 39 years duration and received his 4<sup>th</sup> Degree in April 1985. He currently serves as Financial Secretary of Council 2325, a position he has held for 32 years. He is also the current Program Chairman of the Council and is Chairman of one of the council's largest fundraisers, the Oktoberfest dinner held every September. For this dinner, the council serves homemade German Potato Salad which Mark and his wife make each year at their home.

As Program Chairman, he submits all the reports to State and Supreme in the Faith in Action Programs which has resulted in Council 2325 achieving four consecutive Columbian Awards, Council of the Year in 2018-2019, Community Activities Award for Division I Councils in 2017-2018 & 2018-2019. Mark is the Council Archivist and the Council Historian maintaining records, awards, and memorabilia for a council that was established 99 years ago. Mark also originated and maintains the council website as their webmaster. He is constantly updating the site that contains all events calendar, prayer requests, Council news, announcements, photo gallery of events and Council Officers, State Council Officers, links to the State Council Website, Supreme Website, and other links of interest. In the Members Only Category, the council can find the Financial Secretary's Reports, Council Treasurer's Report, Council Budget, etc. All of these requires continual maintenance and Mark does 100% of the work. Mark has also automated forms and reports for the council and State Council. With his experienced he was asked by the State Deputy to train incoming Financial Secretaries and he is very generous with his time and has assisted the Council Grand Knights in the performance of their duties.

Mark also serves in many activities within St. John the Apostle Parish. In 2019 he served as its Acting Chairman for rebuilding the Choir loft staircase when the church acquired new pews which necessitated the removal of two staircases and construction of a single larger one. He took on the demolition and construction project for over three weeks. Mark was also involved in the installation of a new church sound system and security for the Parish Officer and serves as the point person in refining tweaks necessary to make this system operable and efficient. Mark serves as an usher and works a month at a time for four times each year, he organized the ushers for two of the largest funerals held at St. John the Apostle Church and because of his work the Church's Funeral Planning Committee has asked the Knights to assist in other funerals. This has helped the Pastor greatly.

Mark participates in Bible Study on Thursday mornings for 1 1/2 hours, attends daily mass and serves as an altar server at least once a week. He was the leader in getting the Knights and the St. John's parishioners to participate in the Oregon City Walk for Life having the largest turnout ever. He organized the six teams of cross guards.

Mark also assists neighbors with yardwork, power washing their sidewalks, driveways, and RV's. He installed a handicapped ramp and rebuilt a front porch for a knight from another council and delivers food boxes for St. Vincent De Paul for folks who cannot drive to the Food Center. Mark is also a devoted family man and to his entire family and extended families. He drives up to Moses, Lake Washington multiple times a year to deliver food, household items and meds to his parents who are no longer able to drive. He also drives his brother to his medical appointments. He is very generous in giving his time to his family, parish, and the Oregon City Council and he deserve the award to be the 2019-2020 Knight of the Year! Congratulations Mark!!

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## COUNCIL OF THE YEAR

### ST. PATRICK COUNCIL 3484 – CANBY

This outstanding council has achieved both the Fr. McGivney Award (Membership goal) and Founders Award (Insurance goal) as well as having fulfilled their Safe Environment. Some of the many programs the Council has done this fraternal year to serve both their parish and the Canby Community.

The council spearheaded redoing all the landscaping and making the parking area more efficient and flow better. The Council did not just stop with the landscaping they also put in a new sprinkler system saving the parish a total of \$35,000 and this allowed the parish to utilize the savings to other needed ministries.

Also, the Council Chaplain and Auxiliary State Chaplain Fr. Arturo Romero along with Jesse Villareal and Ricardo Hernandez helped bring Monsignor Eduardo Chavez the world's most renowned expert on the Guadalupe apparitions to Portland and shared his knowledge about Our Lady of Guadalupe at The Grotto in September of 2019. This was a great well attended event. Congratulations to the Canby Council a job well done.

## COUNCIL OF THE YEAR

### ST. AUGUSTINE COUNCIL 11258 – CENTRAL POINT

This outstanding council has achieved both the Fr. McGivney Award (Membership goal) and Founders Award (Insurance goal) as well as having fulfilled their Safe Environment. Some of the many programs the Council has done this fraternal year to serve both their parish and the Central Point Community.

The councils teamed with the Rogue Valley Council 1594 to help raise a total of \$16,000 to help the Magdalene Home keep their doors open for single mothers in Southern Oregon.

The Council celebrated Holy Mass at Shepherd of the Valley with 12 priest and one Deacon from around the Rouge Valley area. Following the mass, the council hosted a poetry reading from Jessica Florex, Manuel Conjura and a beautiful priest reflection by Past Grand Knight Doug Smith who reminded everyone that priests are human just like you and me. Congratulations to the Central Point Council great job.

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## **DISTRICT DEPUTY OF THE YEAR**

District Deputy Sean Fornelli, District #4

District Deputy Sean has an outstanding district with all the council active in bringing in new members and highly active in the four programs of Faith, Community, Family, and Life.

Currently District #4 has four council who have achieved or are close to achieving their goals. Council 16934 is 250% of their membership and 133% of their insurance goal, Council 5060 is at 80% of their membership goal and 200% of their insurance goal, Council 9263 is at 80% of their membership goal and 133% of their insurance goal, and Council 2439 has achieved 56% of their membership goal with the district achieving 97% of the districts membership goal and 92% of the districts insurance goal. Congratulations Sean.

## **DISTRICT DEPUTY OF THE YEAR**

District Deputy Scott Kessler, District #8

District Deputy Scott too has an outstanding district with all the council active in bringing in new members and highly active in the four programs of Faith, Community, Family, and Life.

Currently District #8 has three councils who have achieved or are close to achieving their goals. Council 2939 is at 100% of their membership and will achieve their insurance goal when they attend the Fraternal Benefits Seminar, Council 4087 is at 160% of their membership goal and they too will achieve their insurance goal when they attend the Fraternal Benefits Seminar, and Council 3154 is at 50% of their membership goal with the district achieving 115% of the districts membership goal. District Deputy Scott also help with the formation of the new St. Jude Council 17442. Congratulations Scott.

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## LADY OF THE YEAR

Connie Moyer, Nominated by the Rogue River Council 1594

As the Regent of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Mary #1800, Medford, Oregon, Connie Moyer worked with Knights of Columbus Rogue River Council 1594 to establish a Parish wide fund-raising dinner that supports both Magdalene Home and St Vincent de Paul Society. With her gracious nature, she approached the Knights of Columbus to suggest the fund-raising dinner be a joint event. She has regularly assisted with Breakfasts by welcoming folks and taking orders, she also help serves the breakfast meals and always helping with the clean-up. Connie's involvement has established such a good bond between the Knights and Catholic Daughters that regular events previously done individually are becoming more joint events. This includes Knights of Columbus Summer and Winter Family gathering events.

When the parish wants something done that most people would turn down, Connie Moyer is who they call. She has gone from being the Director of Religious Education to running the entire parish youth program due to her past experienced in running these programs when her boys were young, the parish once again turned to Connie when the Parish Youth Coordinator suddenly departed the area due to a family emergency. She was able to sweet talk a few other adults to assist her and the parish hardly missed a beat. Over the years, Connie has been an integral part of the Sacred Heart Funeral Reception team, this last year hosted over 60 funerals. She has been on all the Parish Committees at one time or another and is also an active Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. She also finds extra time to manage the Sunday morning Parish Outreach program that includes Coffee & Donuts for the parish.

In 2001 there was need in our community for a home where pregnant and parenting homeless girls could go to be safe and choose life. Along with then Fr. Liam Cary (now Bishop Cary), Connie Moyer helped coordinate the community to establish the first safe house for young pregnant girls called Magdalene Home. As the first Director of the home and as a "House Mom", she set the standard that is still used today to guide the girls in continuing their education while building life skills in cooking, budget management and raising their young children. Magdalene Home has housed, educated, and prepared approximately 245 moms and their babies to live safely out on their own or in a safe environment. Connie has been on the board of directors of Magdalene Home since the beginning and currently serves as President of the Board which has become almost a permanent position. Her commitment to the mission of Magdalene Home, with God's grace has been a driving force in the success of Magdalene Home. As a member of the local group of ladies called the Red Hat Club, they actively raise funds for local charitable donations that include about \$200 year for the Magdalene home.

Connie Moyer is an exceptional example of a Lady Catholic Leader. She says "Yes" to tasks that the average person would rather shrink and scurry out the door. When she got involved with the local Quilters group, the "Stitches", the group expanded to become another successful charity by providing quilts to the area hospitals for patients in need of special comfort.

As the Catholic Daughter's Regent, Connie was instrumental in lobbying the State chapter of Catholic Daughters to become Magdalene home donors, along with the local chapter. As a "charter member" of the Magdalene Home Executive Board, her support has never wavered. Connie and her husband Richard (Financial Secretary in Council 1594) are major contributors to the annual Angel Banquet, Magdalene Home's signature fundraising event held each February. Leading by example she fills a table at the banquet and encourages other board members to also fill at least one table. Her efforts in gathering donations for the auction lead to the most successful banquet ever held.

Alongside all of Connie's involvement with the Knights of Columbus, Parish and Community activities, she has also been battling Cancer for the past 12 years. All the activities she has tackled, have coincided with her never ending cancer treatment. Knowing what she is going through and imagining the on-going challenge, the normal person cannot see that she has slowed, because her love and determination to stay active in her Parish Community is so especially important to her daily life. Connie Moyer deserve the 2019-2020 Lady of the Year!

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## FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Antonio Rodriguez Family, Christ the King Council 9257

Immediately upon joining the Council, Antonio volunteered for many activities. He works on all our breakfast events, and his children often help. Mercedes and Antonio bring contributions to all our potluck events (bingo night, Fat Tuesday, picnic, etc.). The entire family organizes and presents an annual play portraying the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. They make and erect the backdrops and lighting, recruit the actors, and direct the performances.

During our La Posada events, the children portray the Holy Family leading the processions.

Antonio was elected as our Deputy Grand Knight in 2018. In the last two years, he recruited eleven new members for the Knights of Columbus, which is a 10 percent increase in the council membership. Antonio is also a 4th Degree member and a member of the honor guard.

The family attends Mass together weekly and are often at Masses during the week. They regularly participate in Eucharistic Adoration at the parish. Their children are altar servers and Antonio is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

They help with the local St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and volunteers at the parish school. Antonio is passionate about community gardens, he volunteered for many years installing community gardens, and when his previous employment ended, he became an employee of a community garden organization.

The Rodriguez family is exemplary in their participation in the parish life, and they are a bridge between the Anglo and Hispanic communities, being active in both.

Congratulations to the Rodriguez Family of the Year 2019-2020 Fraternal Year!

## BUD STEINBACHER AWARD

Daniel Ramirez, Christ the King Council 9257

Dan grew up in Burns, OR and served 4 years in the army, where he trained in electronics. That led him to work for Intel and other semiconductor companies. Dan currently volunteers at OMSI, serves on his homeowner association boards, active in theater and music groups in his senior community, and has been an usher at Christ the King parish.

Dan joined the Christ the King Council 9257 on February 1989 and received his Third Degree in 1991. Dan served as the council's Recorder in 1990 to 1992 and 2012 to present, Warden from 2010 to 2012, Deputy Grand Knight, from 1992 to 1994, Grand Knights from 1994 to 1996, and Trustee from 1996 to 2009.

Dan has served as the leader of the council's first degree team since 1992 and has been involved with the State Second and Third-Degree teams since 1994.

Dan joined the Assembly 2251 and is currently the Faithful Comptroller and was the Assembly's previous Faithful Navigator.

Dan has been involved with the State Council and served as a District Deputy for State Deputy Pat Irish and again for State Deputy Bob Kish. He also served as the State Webmaster for the past 10 years and has been the Liaison for the State Council and the UKnight platform server.

Congratulations Daniel Ramirez winner of the Bud Steinbacher Award 2019-2020 Fraternal Year!

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## Community

**State Service Program Award Winner** – St. Pius X Council 12656

Division 1 – Fr. Robert Patrick O'Hara Council 9137

**Honorable Mention** – Our Lady of the Valley Council 3591

Division 2 – Christ the King Council 9257

**Honorable Mention** – St. Thomas More Council 8129

Division 3 – St. James Council 3509

**Honorable Mention** – Our Lady of the Dunes Council 15773

## Culture of Life

**State Service Program Award Winner** – Holy Trinity Council 14802

Division 1 Winner – Fr. Robert Patrick O'Hara Council 9137

**Honorable Mention** – Dr. John McLoughlin Council 2325

Division 2 Winner – Rev. James P. Heade Council 7246

**Honorable Mention** – St. Thomas More Council 8129

Division 3 Winner – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 16482

**Honorable Mention** – St. James Council 3509

## Family

**State Service Program Award Winner** – St. Pius X Council 12656

Division 1 Winner - Fr. Robert Patrick O'Hara Council 9137

**Honorable Mention** – Mt. Angel Council 1767

Division 2 Winner - St. Thomas More Council 8129

**Honorable Mention** – Coos Council 1261

Division 3 Winner – St. James Council 3509

**Honorable Mention** - Our Lady of the Dunes Council 15773

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## Faith

**State Service Program Award Winner** – St Pius X Council 12656

**Division 1 Winner** – St. Pius X Council 12656

**Honorable Mention** – Albany Council 1577

**Division 2 Winner** – Christ the King Council 9257

**Honorable Mention** – St. Thomas More Council 8129

**Division 3 Winner** - St. Paul Council 2221

**Honorable Mention** - St. James Council 3509

**State Service Program Leave No Neighbor Behind** - Coos Council 1261