



## *Knights of Columbus*

St. Joseph Council, No. 8417  
P.O. Box 242  
Waxahachie, Texas 75168  
(972) 937-8417



July 24, 2014

### **New Fraternal Year 2014 – 2015**

#### **Brother Knights,**

Brother Perry Popp presided over his first meeting as our new Grand Knight. We wish Perry, Deputy Grand Knight Larry Green, and all the new officers the best in the coming year.

#### **Welcome to New Member**

Allen Gradnigo introduced Leonard Piechocniski to the Council. Lenny is a transfer from Knights of Columbus Council 8419 in Royal Palm Beach, Florida. The Council members welcomed Lenny. Allen also asked all Brother Knights to go to the membership roster on our Council website and review and correct any outdated personal information.

#### **Report from the Diocesan Membership Director**

The Grand Knight introduced Jim Kowalski, Assistant Diocesan Deputy and Membership Director, who reported on recruitment goals and objectives. Jim emphasized our Order's "need to grow" and that by adding one new member per month we would go a long way toward meeting our Council's annual goal. He also suggested several ways for the Council to recruit new members and increase our membership:

- Hold membership recruitment drives or "blitzes" in October and March.
- Encourage each member to do his part to "spread the word".
- Adopt a strategy of "don't ask them, tell them they are needed".
- Don't just accept "no" for an answer—persistence is the key.

#### **Grand Knight's Report**

The Grand Knight reported that he will be developing a 12-month plan for this years' Council activities and programs. There will be a poker tournament in Ennis on July 26, the Oktoberfest annual school fundraiser is scheduled for September 20, and the Hike for Life will be on September 27. He also announced the following appointments:

- Glenn Beck has been appointed the Council's Safe Environment Director.
- Hugh Reynolds has been appointed Pro-Life Director.
- The Grand Knight is also in the process of selecting a Membership Director to replace Allen Gradnigo, who has faithfully and very effectively served in the position for the last five years.



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### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Thomas Buford reported the following figures for our several accounts:

- Knights of Columbus Account: \$ 2,363
  - Knights Columbian Club Account: \$10,042
  - Knights Capital Account: \$11,652
- TOTAL:** \$24,057

### **Pro-Life Activities**

Pro-Life Director Hugh Reynolds repeated that the Waxahachie Hike for Life (H4L) will take place on Saturday September 27 at Getzendaner Park. The H4L is the Knight's annual fundraiser for Dallas-Area Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Hugh said a lot of the planning has been done but a few more volunteers are needed to help with the set-up, cooking, clean-up, and bike patrol. He thanked Art Wernersbach, Stan Holcomb, Ron Naizer, and others for volunteering already.

Planned Parenthood is opening a new "ambulatory surgical center" in Duncanville across from Methodist Charlton Medical Center. This is a euphemism for "major abortion center". The Dallas Catholic Pro-Life Committee, Catholic parishes (including St. Joseph's), and other area churches are planning prayer vigils and peaceful protests at the new abortion facility in the coming weeks. These vigils will be conducted in connection with the *40 Days for Life* campaign, which runs from September 24 through November 2.

The good news is that abortions are down 13% in Texas. Abortion clinics are closing all over the state for failure to comply with the strict health and safety regulations passed by the Texas State Legislature last year.

Hugh also reported that he had spoken to Graham Hicks, Executive Assistant of *FirstLook*, Waxahachie's only pro-life medical clinic. In conjunction with Southwest Assemblies of God University (SAGU), FirstLook is sponsoring a pro-life concert in October. Hugh will send an email to Council members about this event and other upcoming pro-life activities.

### **Annual Barbeque Cookoff**

Dennis Williams is in the process of setting up planning meetings for the Annual Spring 2015 KC Barbeque Cookoff. The first meeting will be in September. Dennis is working on the raffle tickets and will need Council members to help sell them. More details will be coming soon.



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### **Building Committee**

Art Wernersbach reported that he is in the process of re-keying the Council Hall, which is the normal procedure after a change of officers. He requested that everyone in possession of a building key turn them in at the first meeting in August. Art is also establishing a "building inspection committee". The goals and objectives of this committee will be established in the August and September meetings. The following Brother Knights have volunteered to serve on this committee:

- Art Mallord
- Johnny Rodriguez
- Jim Pertll
- Paul Vinton
- Pat Moriarty
- Tal Tallett
- Harold Jerpi
- Robert Wilson
- Paul Valenta
- Bryan Banks

### **New Business**

The Grand Knight presented the Council's budget for 2014-2015 for approval. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the budget. The motion was approved with only one "Nay" vote.

### **Fourth Degree Report**

Faithful Admiral Hugh Reynolds again thanked the members of the Color Corps who turned out for Lee Douville's funeral last month. He also thanked the five members of the Council who faithfully recited the rosary with Lee before our meetings. These five Knights—Mike Becker, George Grmela, Joe Kucharczyk, Ed Maher, and John O'Brien—each took one decade of Lee's favorite Scriptural Rosary at the funeral home prior to the funeral Mass on June 23. This was very moving and significant to Lee's widow Lorraine because, even though she was not Catholic, she and Lee would frequently say the Rosary together. Hugh read a very gracious thank you note from Lorraine to the entire Council for all the support she received from us after Lee's death.

### **For the Good of the Order**

Luis Mata requested prayers for the repose of the soul of his mother-in-law Joan Finley, who recently passed away. The Council offered prayers for the Mata family and also for other family and friends on the prayer list. Deacon Dennis Bryant led the Prayer for Vocations.



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### **Lecturer's Report – For the Edification and Enjoyment of the Council**

Lecturer Hugh Reynolds reminded the Council that it was exactly 45 years ago today that Neil Armstrong and the other two astronauts aboard Apollo 11 returned to earth after the first moon landing in July 20, 1969. Hugh provided copies of the official government travel voucher submitted by Armstrong for his expenses during the two-week period surrounding the trip to the moon and back. The voucher showed all the points of travel between July 7 to July 27, including the exact times of each event—from Edwards AFB, California to Cape Kennedy, Florida to the Moon to splashdown in the mid-Pacific Ocean where they were picked up by the USS Navy Carrier Hornet, then taken to Honolulu, and finally returned to the Lunar Receiving Lab at NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston for "space quarantine" for several weeks. Armstrong claimed \$49.10 for reimbursement of his personal expenses for the 20-days of the mission. Hugh said it was a shame that Neil Armstrong could not have claimed 10¢ per mile for 480,000 miles, the average distance to make a round trip journey to the moon and back. That would have added \$48,000 to his claim—except that he was not driving his own personal spacecraft, it belonged to Uncle Sam.

Respectfully Submitted, Your Worthy Recorder and Scribe,

John O'Brien and Hugh Reynolds



**Astronaut Neil Armstrong on the Moon, July 20, 1969**