

Owatonna



Council 945

# The Key

to greater Council unity.

AUGUST  
2019

## COLUMBIAN CENTER

820 Elm Avenue South  
P.O. Box 623  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-451-6103

## KC LOUNGE

Open: Mon-Sat 3:30-12:30  
Happy hour Mon-Fri 4 - 6  
Free Hors d'oeuvres during  
Friday happy hour.  
Member discount for Hall rental.

## BAR BINGO

Every Tuesday in the  
Lounge at 7:00 p.m.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Officers' Meeting - KC Hall,  
First Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
General Meeting - KC Hall,  
Second Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
Fourth Degree Meeting - KC Hall,  
Fourth Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

## KC WEBSITE

visit our website  
[www.kofccouncil945.org](http://www.kofccouncil945.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**August 3** - Supreme Convention  
**August 7** - Officers' and Gambling  
Meeting  
KC Hall - 7:30 p.m.  
**August 12** - Building Meeting  
KC Hall - 7:00 p.m.  
**August 21** - General Meeting & Picnic  
Jaycee Park  
Social - 5:00 p.m.  
Meal - 6:00 p.m.  
**August 13 - 18** - Steele County  
Free Fair  
Steele County Fairgrounds  
**August 28** - Fourth Degree  
Assembly Picnic  
Jaycee Park

## MINNESOTA TWINS

Stop by the Club to catch all  
the Minnesota Twins action.  
Play Taters For Toddlers for  
chances to win free drinks.

## COMING EVENTS

### OFFICERS' MEETING

Wednesday, August 7

KC Hall  
Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

### FALL FISHING TRIP

September 28

Cut Foot Sioux (off the NE corner of Lake  
Winnibigoshish)

For more info, please contact Walt Spindler  
(451-7613).

### TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CLUB

Serving BLTs and salad Tuesday, August 6, 20, & 27  
5:45 - 6:45 p.m. in the Lounge.

### SAVE THE DATE

KC Council #945 Golf Outing  
Saturday, September 7 - Brooktree Golf Course

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRANDSTAND BEER SALES

Steele County Free Fair  
Wednesday, August 14 - Enduro  
Thursday, August 15 - Chris Hawkey  
Friday, August 16 - Chris Kroeze  
Saturday, August 17 - CBRA Bulls-N-Barrels  
Please contact LaVerne Klecker at 451-4102 or  
(507) 456-6738 or Joe Elbert at (507) 279-4015  
if you would like to help. Please be at the event one  
hour prior to it starting. Thanks for your  
participation in these events.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOOD STAND

Steele County Free Fair  
There will be no food stand at the fair this year.

### HELP WANTED

Pancake Breakfast Committee, looking for  
volunteers to help in this committee. We are still in  
great need of an Advocate, Warden, Outside Guard,  
and Director of Life Activities. Please contact Tom  
Jirele at (507) 213-9765.

### GENERAL MEETING & PICNIC

Jaycee Park

Social - 5:00 p.m.

Meal - 6:00 p.m.

Note that our August Council meeting will be held  
**August 21** at Jaycee Park, located at 631 Rice Lake  
Street.

We will be treating the Tootsie Roll workers to a meal.  
All members, spouse/guest, and children are invited  
to attend.

Checks will be presented to the Tootsie Roll Fund  
Drive beneficiaries: Therapeutic Recreation  
(Owatonna Park & Recreation), Cedardale Homes,  
Cedar Valley Services, and Steele County Special  
Olympics

A short meeting will follow the meal.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### LITOMYSL 48th ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL AND KC FAMILY CORPORATE COMMUNION

Sunday, July 28

KC Chorus will sing before Mass, at 9:30 a.m.

**Polka Mass - 10:00 a.m.**

Fourth Degree Honor Guard will participate  
Festival - 11:00 a.m - 4:30 p.m.

### SUMMER STEAK FRIES ARE BACK

Served in the Lounge

Friday, August 2, 9, and 23

Served from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Serving our wonderful grilled steaks and  
other grilled items.

### MINNESOTA TWINS BUS TRIP

Sunday, August 4

Minnesota Twins vs. Kansas City Royals

Great seats, no driving or parking worries.

Call Mark at the Club to reserve your seats.

### BINGO AT THE FAIR

St. Mary's Home & School Association will be  
running the bingo stand at the Steele County  
Free Fair this year.

The bingo stand is located east of the Four  
Seasons building.

**Come and Play!**



## Chaplain's Message by Rev. James Starasinich

Dear Brother Knights,

August is here and summer is passing quickly! We are looking forward to the Supreme Convention in Minneapolis as we begin the month. It is a great honor to host this year's convention and I look forward to joining you for a few days of fellowship, faith, and fraternity.

In the middle of the month, we honor Our Lady for the Solemnity of the Assumption on the 15th. I have been fortunate to celebrate this day in Estonia, Latvia, and Guam as well as numerous places here in the United States. Our Lady has different titles and nearly every nation has a special devotion and title given to her. In neighboring Wisconsin, we have the only approved apparition of the Blessed Mother in the United States. It is on the outskirts of a small town called Champion, Wisconsin, within the Diocese of Green Bay. In 1859, a young Belgian immigrant, Adele Brise, had several apparitions of Our Lady. Mary told Adele: "Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation." Adele responded: "But how shall I teach them who know so little myself?" And Mary answered: "Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing. I will help you."

For years, pilgrims flocked to this simple farmland site and celebrated the Assumption of Our Lady. In 1871, the great Peshtigo fire destroyed everything in that region of Wisconsin with the exception of "the convent, school, chapel and five acres of land consecrated to the Virgin Mary." It would be the miracle that brought approval of the apparitions, never forgotten by the faithful who gathered for the great solemnity of the Assumption on those hallowed grounds for over 150 years. On December 8, 2010, "Bishop Ricken approved the apparitions in a formal declaration at the Feast of the Immaculate Conception." Today, the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help welcomes pilgrims, encouraging them to be a part of the new evangelization, as Adele was in her days, helping instruct the children in their faith as Our Lady had asked her. May we continue our mission as Brother Knights to assist in the new evangelization, not only of our children but of all who need to hear the Good News!

## Benefits Corner by Michael Flanagan



If you have questions or need help with your KC Insurance program call or email Michael.

Michael Flanagan  
Phone number 507-696-6833  
E-mail michael.flanagan@kofc.org

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Saturday, August 24, meet at the KC Hall at 8:30 a.m., work at 9:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. No tools or experience needed. Let Rich Gerts (507) 456-3684 know if you can make it.

### SUPREME CONVENTION

Minneapolis, August 3 - 8

A combined Chorus will be led by Brother Knight Stephen Nelson and is slated to sing at the Basilica of St. Mary's for the first Mass of the Convention. Seeking additional voices!

## Grand Knight's Message by Tom Jirele

Brother Knights,

This is an exciting month for we have the Supreme Convention in Minnesota. The chorus will be performing on August 3 at the Basilica Church along with two other Councils. Thank you for all your hard work and a special thank you to Stephen Nelson for the extra time he has put in organizing and working with the other Councils.

We have two buses going to the Twins game to see Supreme Knight Carl Anderson throw out the first pitch. Mark Cunningham has done a great job again for organizing this event.

I'm looking forward to the picnic August 21, as it is a great time to socialize and a lot of fun. Lee Jardine is working hard organizing this event.

A special thank you to all the people who worked at the Relay For Life and making it a huge success.

## 2019-20 Council Officers



Front row from left to right: Grand Knight Tom Jirele, Chaplain Sir Knight Father James Starasinich, Deputy Grand Knight Lee Jardine.

Back row from left to right: Financial Secretary Dan Wolfe, Recorder Greg Nelson, Chancellor Richard Gerdtz, Past Grand Knight Dan Sawyer, Trustees Nic Matejcek and Gary Sanford.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS EXEMPLIFIED ON JULY 8



**Dan Nolte** is a member of Sacred Heart Parish. He is a graduate of St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona and is employed by Wengers. He is pursuing a career in applied mathematics. He was sponsored by Brother Sir Knight LaVerne Klecker.



**Nicholas Spinler** is a member of St. Joseph Parish. He is employed by U.P.S. He was sponsored by Brother Knight Tom Jirele.



## 12TH ANNUAL SMOKIN' IN STEELE

The whole Smokin' in Steele committee gives a heartfelt thank you to all of Council 945 for another wonderful year. More than 200 Brother Knights donated a total of close to 3,000 man hours for this year's event. It does not matter if you worked all year, or only an hour or two during the weekend. Every bit of help was vital and is much appreciated.

Being blessed with good weather helped this year's festival be successful. In the BBQ Contest part of our weekend, for the second year we received a grant from Smithfield Pork that increased our prize pool. PGK Dustin Reese of team Hogline followed up last year's Grand Champion by winning Reserve Grand Champion this year. Hogline is a major contender in any contest they enter. Make sure and congratulate Dustin when you see him. Council 945 is fortunate to have his talent helping us.

The music lineup this year was really amazing again. The Beer Garden was crowded with hungry and thirsty music fans. In fact on Saturday night it was full wall to wall. The group of music fans who come and stay for the whole weekend continues to grow each year. The 5K run is very important to our weekend. The sponsorship of Gopher Sport for the 5K is an important partnership for us. Say thanks to Gopher Sport employees that you know. The Antique Tractor and Hot Rod Show is a positive addition that gives our weekend wider appeal. The Kids Q and Blues 4 Kids harmonica lessons continue to be important activities to round out our family appeal.

The Thursday night VIP dinner fed just over 250 sponsors and is vital for showing our appreciation and for strengthening our bond with those who provide money and services to us. The Backyard event broke records again. The crowd in Fair Square Saturday afternoon was amazing. Fareway Foods, again this year was another strong partner with the BBQ portion of our weekend. They donated all the ribeye steaks for the Steak Cookoff and challenge money for the Backyard Contest. When you are at Fareway, tell them you are a KC and thank them for their help with KC's in general and Smokin' in Steele in particular.

Curiosity may bring spectators or participants to Smokin' in Steele once. But we have people who come back year after year. That return business is because of the positive experiences they have here. And a lot of that is because of you, my fellow Knights. Many thanks again.

We don't have final numbers yet, but this was another good year for us. Special Olympics will benefit greatly again. There is a lot to feel good about and a lot to be thankful for again this year with Smokin' in Steele.

After 12 years of events with virtually the same group on the committee, there are several areas where we are in need of help.

If we are going to continue to work to help Special Olympics, we need additional people. So, give us some consideration. We will be talking about specific needs soon. Be ready to lend a hand and have some fun.

## 2019 SMOKIN' IN STEELE MEMORIES







## 2020 13TH ANNIVERSARY SMOKIN' IN STEELE MAY 29, 30, & 31

### 2018-19 BREAKFAST SEASON IS OVER

June 2 was the date of the final breakfast of the season. Held in conjunction with Smokin' In Steele, the proceeds will be used to help fund numerous community efforts throughout the year. St. Mary's cafeteria saw 276 customers enjoying the regular menu enjoyed by so many during the rest of the year.

Thanks to the Saturday Prep team of: *Jerry Barry, Tom Bremer, Brian Carlson, Bob Grebe, Mike Jensen, John Oberstein, Lyle Snider, Ken Thurnau, Matt Thurnau, Earl Wheeler, and Ron Wolf.* Thanks also to the Sunday cook and serve team of: *Pat Baldwin, Tom Burke, Shari and Brian Carlson, Tim Chicos, Tony David, Tom Docksey, Kevin Gallagher, Tom Gebur, Jason Gerdts, Richard Gerdts, Karen and Steve Graff, Vince Guggisberg, Jeff Hall, Lee and Paul Jardine, Nick Jirele,*

*Joe Kearin, Mark Kearin, Dennis Kelm, LaVerne Klecker, Izzy Leonard, Troy Liebl, Reegan Lindholm, Pat McGrath, Al Nelson, Ethan Pieper, Will Pieper family, Dan Sawyer, Lavern Soukup, Jerome Spindler, Curt Supalla, Troy Titus, Eric Tucker, Rick Wittrock, Dan Wolfe, and Dave Wunderlich.*

The next season will start in September – so take a little break – enjoy the summer – we'll be back at it in a few quick months.

## 2019-20 COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chaplain: ..... Fr. James Starasinich  
 Grand Knight: ..... Tom Jirele (507) 213-9765  
 Deputy Grand Knight: ..... Lee Jardine  
 Chancellor: ..... Richard Gerdts  
 Advocate: ..... Open  
 Warden: ..... Open  
 Inside Guard: ..... Eric Wandersee  
 Outside Guard: ..... Open  
 Financial Secretary: ..... Dan Wolfe (PGK)  
 Treasurer: ..... Tom Eichten  
 Recorder: ..... Greg Nelson  
 Trustee (3 year): ..... PGK Gary Sanford  
 Trustee (2 year): ..... PGK Nic Matejcek  
 Trustee (1 year): ..... PGK Dan Sawyer

### Directors and Chairmen

Program Director: ..... Lee Jardine (DGK)  
 Membership Director: ..... LaVerne Klecker (PGK)  
 Adv/Publicity Director: ..... Dan Wolfe (PGK)  
 Aid & Assistance: ..... Greg Nelson  
 KC Chorus Director ..... Stephen Nelson  
 Building Director ..... Tom Elbert  
 Director of Faith Activities: ..... Dave Lax (PGK)  
 Director of Family Activities ..... Nic Matejcek (PGK)  
 Dir. of Life Activities: ..... Open  
 Dir. of Community Activities: ..... Lee Jardine  
 Gambling Manager: ..... Terry Evans  
 District Deputy: ..... Gary Sanford (PGK)  
 KC Hall Manager: ..... Mark Cunningham (PGK)  
 Field Agent: ..... Michael Flanagan

## Knight of the Month



John Schulz

This month we honor as our Knight of the Month, a Brother Knight from a nearby Council, who has also been an active volunteer with our Owatonna Council as well. John Schulz has been a member in the Faribault, Minnesota Council for more than three decades and he credits his father as the inspiration for joining the Knights. John is also a Member of the Fourth Degree Assembly here in Owatonna and is a regular member of our KC Chorus, thanks to the urging of fellow chorus member, LaVerne Klecker.

John grew up on a farm outside of Faribault, one of seven siblings. John made farming his career and is still planting and harvesting crops today. John and his wife, Cathy, have raised two girls and a boy and also have one grandson. Outside of his farming chores, John enjoys fishing when he gets a chance to hit the water. He is looking forward to singing with our KC Chorus at the Mass in the Basilica in

Minneapolis, as part of the Knights of Columbus National Convention the first weekend of August.

Thank you, John, for your many years of service to the Knights and your support of our Council and Assembly. Congratulations on being our Knight of the Month.

## Membership by LaVerne Klecker

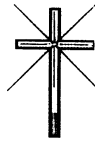
Welcome to our new members who joined July 8. July 1st started a new fraternal year. Our goal is to achieve Star Council. To achieve Star Council we need to have 35 new members. Star Council is the highest award that a Council can achieve from Supreme. We are planning to have a First Degree Exemplification in the near future at the KC Hall in Owatonna. If your son or grandson is home for the summer, please invite him to join the Knights of Columbus.

We need the help of our entire membership to make our Council's membership goal. Now is the time to make contact with your prospective member. If you need any material or help in signing up a member, please contact me at (507) 451-4102 or (507) 456-6738. The publication rack at the club also has Form 100s and information brochures. New members are important to our Council. Don't wait any longer, call and visit your prospective member today. Explain our Council's accomplishments and invite them to join us, they will thank you.

The members in the KCs who are involved in our projects have a lot of enthusiasm and enjoy the projects that they participate in. We need to continue to sign up new members to provide us with new ideas for projects that we could bring into our Council.

Any members who have not paid their dues for the past year, please get them paid. Statements have been sent out for the 2019 dues. Please pay them as soon as possible so you can remain a member in good standing. We need the money from our dues to make ends meet for our Council expenses.

## Aid & Assistance by Greg Nelson



Please remember in your prayers and thoughts all of our sick or injured members of the Knights of Columbus and their families. Let's also offer up prayers for all deceased members and their families.

Let us be united in prayer for those facing ongoing challenges...

*Les Abraham, Dan Bauer, Julie Bauer, John Berning, Ted Blockey, Barb Claeys, Mark Cunningham, Margaret Deml, Jack Dillemath, Marilyn Dillemath, Lois Doyle, Joanne Fagen, Jan Fandel, Terri Grose, Otto Havelka, Rose Hoffman, Lorraine Jirele, Roxanne Johnson, Harlan Kern, Tom Kingsley, Jim Klecker, Larry Klocek, Marlys Knight, Mary Lax, Bev Macht, Gil Mamer, Mary Mamer, Msgr. James McCauley, Mary Meixner, Suzanne Miedema, Father Ed Mountain, Dorothy Mulert, Darlene Mumm, Willard Peterson, Karen Pirkl, Kevin Raney, Steve Roden, Pat Rose, Paul Schneider, Mike Seykora, Ivan Snorek, Jeanine Snyder, Duane Spindler, Eugene Spindler, Dick Thamert, Garrett Thigpen, Mary Lou Thurnau, Robert Vosejka, Joe Wagner, Eric Wandersee, Gary Wandrey, Jerry Weber, Jim Wiggins, Irene Wierzbinski, Jim Wierzbinski, Shirley Wierzbinski, Steve Wiese, and Tim Ziemke.*

**If anyone knows of a Brother Knight who is sick or injured, please call Greg Nelson at (507) 676-1748.**

Dues Reminder: Annual dues renewals have been mailed out. Please pay your annual dues as soon as possible and make arrangements to pay any past-due dues. State and Supreme Council continues to charge Council #945 for all members, so it is essential that we collect our dues in a timely manner to pay these on behalf of each member and to allow us to do all we do as a Council.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Council No. 945  
P.O. Box 945  
Owatonna, MN 55060

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



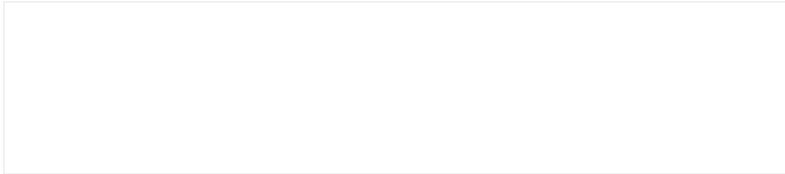
**General Meeting & Picnic**

**Wednesday, August 21**  
**Jaycee Park**  
**Social - 5:00 p.m. Meal - 6:00 p.m.**

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Owatonna, MN  
Permit No. 202

**Steele County Free Fair**

**Steele County Fairgrounds**  
**August 13 - 18**



**AUGUST 2019**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Summer Steak Fries KC Hall 6:30 - 7:30 pm	3 Supreme Convention
4 Minnesota Twins Bus Trip Minnesota Twins vs Kansas City Royals	5 Bldg Mtg - 7:00 pm	6 Bar Bingo - 7:00 pm  Tuesday Night at the Club 5:45 - 6:45 pm	7 Officers' Meeting and Gambling Meeting - 7:30 pm	8	9 Summer Steak Fries KC Hall 6:30 - 7:30 pm	10
11	12	13 Furst day of the Steele County Free Fair  No Bar Bingo	14 Enjoy the fair  KC Grandstand Beer Sales	15 KC Grandstand Beer Sales	16 KC Grandstand Beer Sales	17 KC Grandstand Beer Sales
18 Last day of the fair  Play a game of Bingo at the St. Mary's Home & School Assn Stand	19	20 Bar Bingo - 7:00 pm  Tuesday Night at the Club 5:45 - 6:45 pm	21 General Meeting & Picnic Jaycee Park Social - 5:00 pm Meal - 6:00 pm	22	23 Summer Steak Fries KC Hall 6:30 - 7:30 pm	24
25	26	27 Bar Bingo - 7:00 pm  Tuesday Night at the Club 5:45 - 6:45 pm	28 Fourth Degree Assembly Picnic Jaycee Park	29	30	31