

formed in 1893 as the first State Council

Serving the Church & Community through Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism

Easter 2023

Volume 7 issue 7

State Convention

It is that time of year again, the 130th RI KofC STATE CONVENTION will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 2081 Post Rd., Warwick 02886 For Reservations +1 (800) 333-3333 or <u>https://www.radissonhotelsamericas.com</u> Be sure to ask for the 'Knights of Columbus' room rate.

Schedule

Friday, April 28 6:30 PM - Hospitality Night Saturday, April 29 8:00 AM - Business Meetings 5:00 PM - Memorial Mass 6:00 PM - Cocktail Reception 7:00 PM - Cocktail Reception 7:00 PM - Awards Dinner 12 Noon - Ladies Luncheon - Baby Shower to Benefit the *Mother of Life Center.* (Participation counts toward the *Aid and Support After Pregnancy* program)

To purchase tickets online go to the State Website at <u>kofcri.org</u> or Contact: Convention Chair: PJ Shea, <u>SHEAPJ517@GMAIL.COM</u> or Co-Chair: Mark Paul, <u>MPAUL@ASTRONOVAINC.COM</u>

Further information can be accessed via the State Website at <u>kofcri.org</u> and click on the Convention tab at the top of the homepage.

Baby shower flyer here

State Deputy's Message

With the State Deputy currently preparing his Annual Report for the State Convention, your editor has given him this month off from writing this column. I encourage you to attend the Saturday session of the State Convention open to ANY Brother Knight- to get the report first hand.

Patriotic Degree News

As mentioned in previous editions, District Master Victor Silva has been informed by the office of the Supreme Master that there will no longer be Virtual Exemplifications. In that light, RI will need to re-assemble and enhance its 4th Degree Exemplification team. In addition to the existing members, we will need to fill in some spots where we have lost a Brother Sir Knight. We also would like to have enough members to go 2-deep to better ensure availability as we all sometimes have conflicting commitments. As of this writing, we have only heard from a few Sir Knights. Therefore I would remind you that any Sir Knight wishing to join the Degree team can contact PJ Shea (Delaney Assembly Navigator) or Jack Tracy (Exec. Secretary to the Master). Their contact information can be found on the end page. You can, of course, also reach out to District Master Vic Silva as well. Please note that you MUST have the Uniform to participate on the **Degree Team**.

From the District Master

Worthy Sir Knights, Brothers and family,

Let me start by thanking all the Sir Knights that attended the Founders Day Mass on March 29th, in total we had 43 Sir Knights in uniform for the Mass. Bishop James Healy Province was well attended with all 6 Districts in attendance. The RI District had 8 Sir Knights in uniform. Our New Supreme Master was very pleased along with our Vice Supreme Master Rich McDermott.

It was my first trip to New Haven and to see where it all started down in the basement of St. Mary's gave me chills just looking at all the original hardwood floors and to think that Fr. Mc Givney started it all there with just a few men. And, look at us now. We still have time to grow in our own District, the more 3rd Degree members we have, the more we can invite to join the 4th Degree. We can do it brothers! I know on April 23rd in New Haven there will be an Exemplification at St Mary's church. I will not be able to go then because of other commitments, but if interested let me know.

Let me finish by wishing you a blessed Happy Easter to you and your families.

Vivat Jesus!



Victor Silva District Master

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."-Mother Teresa"



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From the State Secretary

Brothers,

A Blessed Holy Week, and a happy and holy Easter to you all. As we prepare for the state convention, later this month, a friendly reminder to Councils that Per-Capita payments were emailed to all Grand Knights & Financial Secretaries, and are now past due. To have your council represented at the convention, State Per-Capita payments must be current. In that respect a friendly reminder that Supreme is no longer mailing bills and is only available through the membership online portal. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me at statesecretary.rikofc@gmail.com . Also if your Council takes advantage of the Liability insurance, (All church councils now MUST carry this insurance, per Diocesan ruling) those were also emailed to the Financial Secretaries & Grand Knights, and are also now due. Finally delegate forms are available on the state website and must be emailed to me no later than April 19th.

> Joe Carrignan State Secretary

Membership News

Brothers,

Rhode Island has made good strides toward reaching its membership goal for this Fraternal Year. We currently sit at 150 new members, just under 75% of our goal. Let's not lose the momentum and continue enriching our Order with new members who may have new ideas. The State leadership team, including Membership Director Mark Paul and the District Deputies, will happily help you with Church Drives, other membership initiatives, resources and answers to your questions.

Don't forget **Free on-line membership!!!** That's right... Supreme is still offering free on-line membership. The code is *BlessedMcGivney*, which is one word and not case sensitive. Let's continue to bring in those extra hands & new ideas. While programming is the heart of the Order, membership is our lifeblood.

Finally, remember that Membership Director Mark Paul and the State Officers & District Deputies are here to help.

Fraternal Benefits

Easter greetings!

As we roll through the first full month of spring we celebrate Easter with thoughts of gratitude for the gift of new life. The Resurrection and thoughts of our Savior's sacrifice and triumph over death are fresh in our minds and hearts. The dreariness of winter and Lent fade away with April rains that seem to have their own scent. All nature seems in bloom. Trees barren not long ago are now budding and flowers begin to poke through the warming soil. For many, it's their favorite season of the year.

Along with everything else going on in April, it is also Autism Awareness month. The Autism Speaks website (<u>www.autismspeaks.org</u>) contains much more information than I can give you here. Autism has been more widely discussed and better understood in recent years. Although the TV show "The Good Doctor" portrays a doctor who has autism, those with Autism Spectrum Disorder exhibit a broad range of characteristics. Many have much less functionality than the doctor portrayed on the show.

I mention this because many of us know someone who is on this autism spectrum. If diagnosed early in childhood and intervention begun, those with autism may still live a relatively normal life. However, many with autism struggle and have other complicating medical or psychological issues and need much support during their lives.

That's where the Knights of Columbus Family Fraternal Benefits may be able to help. The Family Fraternal Benefits cover a number of situations. One benefit addresses the child who is older than 60 days and younger than 18 years and is uninsurable according to our ordinary underwriting practices. Many children with autism as a primary or secondary diagnosis fall into this category...uninsurable. For those children, the Order has a special family fraternal benefit that allows the issuing of an ordinary permanent life insurance policy on this uninsurable child. Some members may be unaware of this benefit, but it's great news for any parent with a child who does not qualify for life insurance. There are some other qualifiers for the parents and any other children in the family, including that the father must be a member in good standing in his council. I won't go into the others here, but this is a very worthwhile benefit,



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not only for those children with autism, but for any child who may be uninsurable.

If you know of a Catholic family that may have a child with autism or any family with a child who is uninsurable, please reach out to me. They may be unaware of this benefit. I will be happy to contact them to explain this valuable protection that is available. If you prefer, give my name and contact information to that parent so they can contact me at their convenience. As always, there is never any requirement to purchase any product, but a consultation about this benefit may bring them some small comfort.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you, my members. Enjoy your spring!

Vivat Jesus! John Ruffo & the Ruffo Agency

Our Fraternal Benefit agents are willing to work hard on your behalf. AGA Jim Davis is currently lining up dates for virtual & in-person Fraternal Benefit Nights. If he calls & asks your Council to host one, please work with him to make it happen. Remember - your Council must have 7 members or member-eligibles in attendance to count toward the Founder's Award.

There are also virtual Fraternal Benefit Seminars scheduled by our General Agent, see below for the next one:

 The Urrutia Region welcomes Jim Effner "Importance of Whole Life as part of Retirement Plan" on April 26th at 7:30 PM EST

Flyer Link:

<u>https://uknight.org/States/Effner_Generi</u> <u>c-Apr_26.pdf</u>

To Register:

https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?e i=1596189&tp_key=cd0c9c2e3e&sti=urruti aagents4-26-2023

FBE Resources:

<u>https://uknight.org/StateCouncilSite/articl</u> e.asp?ID=789

An additional note from GA Ruffo on the FBE webinar: Our Order needs new members, I love

seeing our members attend these FBE's but it would be even better if we got some of the non-members eligible men from out parishes to also join and see what the Knights can offer them. Our Insurance is one of the Highest rated companies in North America; rated by AM Best for over 40 plus years as a Superior rated company, 2 years in a row now by S&P as the Number 1 Insurance company, and by Forbes now 2 years in a row as Americas Best Company! So we should be proud of using it to lure in new members and show them some of the benefits of being a member are a whole lot more than they may be thinking!

There is also a link near the bottom of the homepage or our State Website (<u>kofcri.org</u>) for Fraternal Benefit Seminars (Events) which is updated regularly.





AGA Jim Davis

GA John Ruffo

Programming Activities

All our State sponsored and promoted activities can be used to satisfy requirements of the Columbian Award. Note also that some of our biggest State initiatives began as a local Council activity (e.g. – Operation R.O.V.A.C.). Supporting the causes of other Councils will also get them to reciprocate and support your causes.

- Fraternity begets Unity and together lead to an increase of Charity.

Procedural Note

Whenever you file a program form with Supreme (usually #10784), remember to copy State Program Director Bob Lynch (<u>programskofcri92@gmail.com</u>) in addition to the officers listed at the bottom of the form (e.g. - State Deputy & District Deputy).

Dates of Note

• April 9th -Easter Sunday - He is Risen



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- April 16th Testimonial for IPSD Dave Quinn
- April 28th State Convention Hospitality night
- April 29th State Convention Business Meeting, Mass, Banquet, Awards

Check the State website for further information on these & other events at <u>kofcri.org</u>.

State Meeting

The next State Meeting is the State Convention on April 28th & 29th at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick. Hospitality Suites open Friday night, Business meeting & more on Saturday. See the article above for more information.

IPSD Testimonial

The Brothers at Hickey Council are hosting a testimonial for IPSD Dave Quinn on April 16th at St. Luke Church in Barrington (108 Washington Street). The event begins with a Mass at 11 am. A Banquet will be held immediately following Mass in the school hall. Tickets are \$30 per person. Deadline to purchase tickets is April 7th. Tickets may be purchased online via the State Website (kofcri.org) or by contacting DD Ken Maynard 401-527-3010 or Gus Morelli 401-465-2488.

Community Programs

Bishop Hickey Council has gone international by helping sponsor a youth team in Uganda. Fr. Jude Kasaija, a member at Hickey Council and a priest of the Fort-Portal Catholic Diocese in Uganda (Christ the King kitumbi Parish) helped to connect Bishop Hickey Council and his girls football (soccer) team who won their local tournament. The Council has purchased uniforms for Fr. Jude's team.



Helping Hands

There will always be a need for assistance to those less fortunate - as there has always been. Don't let your Helping Hands programs lapse. Our brothers & sisters experiencing some disadvantage, temporary setback, or disaster (natural or personal) will always need our help. Charity is the 1st Principle!

Faith Programs

Men of St. Joseph Men's Conference

The Annual Men's Conference was held Saturday March 25th, (Solemnity of the Annunciation) at St. Philips Parish in Greenville. Featured speakers were Ralph Martin of Renewal Ministries and our State Chaplain, Fr. Mark Gadoury. We also heard from MOSJI Chaplain Fr. Chris Murphy. State Deputy Dave Bebyn also addressed the attendees about building a partnership between the 2 organizations. There were approximately 250 attendees with a significant number belonging to both groups (something this editor has known for a long time). For more information on the Men of St. Joseph, visit their website at <u>mosji.org</u>.

Eucharistic Revival

Supreme has instituted a new Faith program, to coincide with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Eucharistic Revival. There will be an increased focus on Holy Hours & Eucharistic Processions. These are simple to do but very powerful for our Faith. Details are available on the Supreme Website or reach out to Faith Director Ed Misiolek. eimisiolek@gmail.com.

Icon Program

This year's Icon Program is dedicated to St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Family. Contact Faith Director Ed Misiolek at <u>ejmisiolek@gmail.com</u>. You can also get more information on the Supreme website (kofc.org) under the *Faith In Action* programs.

RSVP

While we have all pledged support of our Priests, let's not overlook our seminarians. Supporting our future priests



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in their formation is every bit as important as supporting our current priests in their ministry.

Novenas

Novenas for Life, Novenas to St. Joseph, Novenas to the Blessed Mother, Consecration to the Holy Family and similar programs can be done anytime of the year and are an important spiritual boost. Include them in your programming on a regular basis.

Family Programs

Basketball Free Throw



The State Basketball Free Throw Contest was held on Sunday, March 26th at Hendricken High School. Congratulations to the winners. Below is a photo of all the winners (Bristol & Lincoln Councils each sponsored multiple winners). Thank you to Chairman Walter Sebastianelli for his efforts & to "host" DD Rich Silvia.



Family of the Month/Year

One of the easiest programs to run at the

Council Level. Currently, only a small handful of Councils take part in this program. Given the ease of operation & the rewards in uplifting our members/community, let's see if we can't push it to 100% participation. Volume 7 issue 7

Each month, the council Family of the Month committee selects one parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. For Family of the Month/Year resources, visit www.kofc.org/familyofthemonth.

N.B. - Submission of "Family of the Month" via online form #10784.

Life Programs

We must always be vigilant when it comes to Life issues. Never be afraid to engage your local, State and National officials in a dialog of truth. While we should always be respectful and civil in this dialog, we need not fear the truth regarding the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

Silver Rose

Life Director Paul Gebhart has been given the 2023 Schedule for the Silver Rose. It will be here in R.I. from 9/10 - 10/7.

Begin discussing your plans with your Council. If your council has never run a Silver Rose prayer service, please contact Paul and he will be happy to assist you running one. His email is paul gebhart@outlook.com. Or, Cell phone:

401-578-9014.

Registration will begin in mid-summer. Watch for more details coming soon.

Mother of Life Center

Thrilled to celebrate Baby A and Baby B, a very generous donor couple, who wish to remain anonymous, has offered to match your donation dollar-for-dollar up to an aggregate of \$3,750!

When your donations meet their promise, together you will have met our \$7,500 goal for our ultrasound machine 3-year warranty renewal!

Every gift will matter twice as much! This golden opportunity is also retroactive. The donations we have already received (Thank you!) will also be matched.



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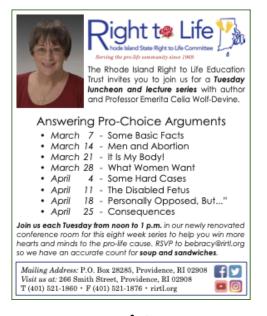
Contribute securely online at <u>motheroflife.org</u>. On the transaction page, please click the field entitled Write a note and type Warranty.

You can also mail a check (memo: Warranty) to Mother of Life Pregnancy Center, 400 Atwells Avenue, Providence, RI 02909.

Thank you for your perpetual support!

RI Right to Life

One of our Pro-Life partners, RI Right to Life is hosting a lecture series, see the flyer below. And, for more information on the speaker click the link below. <u>https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/0Mdf4mfx</u> <u>HqpolLSqdK1e7q</u>



Kandi Drive

It is that time of year again. With (hopefully) Covid19 somewhat behind us. The Special Olympics need us now more than ever. There are more than 1,000 athletes participating this year.

Chairman Bruce Guindon is asking that ALL Councils participate in the Kandi drive this year. This event is at the very core of what we as Knights do! Help those in need. Please get to Bruce with your Volume 7 issue 7

order for Tootsie rolls ASAP. If you can't get volunteers to work the streets/stores, Bruce is challenging every non-participating Council to make a donation to Special Olympics via the State Council (you can also donate directly to Special Olympics Rhode Island).

Thank all of you for your time and help with this very worthwhile event.

40 Days for Life

The Spring/Lenten 40 Days for Life Campaign began on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd and continues through March. Join us in this peaceful demonstration in support of Life. It is extremely important that we continue the struggle to have all acknowledge the sanctity of human life.

Aid and Support After Pregnancy

The Supreme Council has instituted this new program option this year. This program will be similar to the RSVP program, your District Deputy will have more information or go to the Supreme Website <u>https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-prog</u> <u>rams/life/pregnancy-center-support/11371-aid-and-su</u> <u>pport-quide-book.pdf</u>

January is traditionally Pro-Life month and thus, a good time for this program. BUT, it can be done any time of the year.

Fraternal Training and Communication

KnightCast

The Supreme Council has created a member exclusive web series, *KnightCast.* This is an ongoing series of webcasts on topics of interest to Knights. While you do need to register (have your membership number handy), the one-time registration will get you all the webcasts as they are presented, or on demand after the initial broadcast.

You can sign up here:

https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6105948/KnightCast-Registration



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Training

Brothers; There are many training opportunities provided throughout the year by the supreme website. They are open to ANY Brother Knight who may be interested. Executive Secretary, Jim Fielding has made accessing these webinars even easier by adding this to our website kofcri.org.

Under CURRENT NEWSLETTERS you will now find FRATERNAL TRAINING. This will bring you to "Scheduled Online Training Webinars", from there you can register for any of the upcoming training webinars, Or, you can scroll down to "Recorded Online Training Webinars", select any that might interest you and watch it right then.

As always, any questions you can reach me at <u>bobgal664@gmail.</u>

Training Director FM Bob Gallant

A Note of Fraternal Concern

Brothers, while we are making progress, our membership is still older. Implicit in that is the fact that we have many older members with medical issues. These Brothers often are unable to regularly attend meetings and functions. This can lead to Councils losing track of them and, unfortunately, should they pass away, we fail to recognize their significance and membership in our Order. I am asking that the word be spread among your membership and families to be vigilant to the passing of a Council member or Council family member and relay the information to the Grand Knight.

Regardless, we must be informed to properly **Honor the Dead.**





Please pray for the repose of: Mary Smith (wife of PSD Richard Smith) Junior Isaacs (St. Lawrence Council) PGK Joe Bedard (Pascoag Council) Karen Nazareth (sister of Ron Mitson-Feeney Council)

And pray for the following

PSD Rene Trudel & wife Peggy (medical issue) Danielle Carrignan (wife of State Secretary Joe Carrignan)(medical)

Our Brother Knights & families in the Ukraine & their families here in the USA in general & RI in particular

For all affected by weather events here in the USA & abroad

For the victims of the recent school shooting in Nashville

Ongoing prayers are also requested for Bishop Louis Gelineau, Fr. Dennis Reardon, Fr. Robert Bailey, Annette Bebyn (mother of State Deputy David Bebyn), Anthony Machado (Blessing Chancellor), Michael Kinnear (S. Carolina), FDD Ron Trottier & wife Adrienne, Don Godin (Sullivan Council), Dave Riendeau (St. John Paul II Council), Orlando Giansanti Jr., PGK Tom Boucher (St. Thomas Council, Cumberland), Ron Portella (Hickey Council), Don Stubbs (Frehill Council), Denis Richard, Pauline Neri, Moses Segbe, Patricia Moran (grandmother of State Warden PJ Shea), Gerry and Pat Desmarais (St. Eugene Council), Barry Chevrette (Pascoag Council), Matt Parent, Nancy Forest (wife of PGK Richard Forest), PFN Rick Regan, Roger Depot, FDD Mike Krzywonos, PGK/PFN Stanley Eason (Woon. Council/ Moylan Assembly), GK Jerry Marra, Ellen Charpentier (Wife of PSD/FM Normand Charpentier), Bob Jackson (St. Francis Council), Mike Magill, DD Alan Lamake, David Riendeau (John Paul II Council), and FDD Dave Lucas, as they each deal with various health concerns.

(to have someone mentioned or if someone wishes to be removed from the list, please contact me at <u>rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com</u>. You can also ask the state to add them to the prayer list on the website as I check that regularly).

News items for the newsletter can be sent to me at <u>rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com</u>, through your DD,



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who will forward it to me, or the various program Directors.





Mailing address for the State Office - PO Box 9091, Providence, RI 02904. State Website – <u>kofcri.org</u> Supreme Website – <u>kofc.org</u>

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A happy and blessed Easter to you all

Christ is Risen!!!