PRIDE SERVICE RESPONSIBILITY

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

May 2020

Wisconsin State Website

Editors: SK Mike Tomsyck & SK Rob Christianson





State Deputy Notes

Greetings,

Lisa and I pray that you and your family are healthy and adapting to this COVID-19 pandemic. Do not lose sight of your faith and remember that Jesus is always with us, even in the midst of a crisis, and we will come out on the other side.

As you may know, we have had to postpone our State Convention, and we are planning to hold a "Virtual" Convention. Our 2020 State

Virtual Meeting on May 23rd. Supreme, along with our state team, has been working hard to ensure we can pull this off. The Annual Meeting with limited staff and state council delegates only. Supreme has mandated and has scripted the entire meeting, so rather than a three-day event, we will have a 90-minute session comprising of the passing of Resolutions, the election of State Officers and Delegates to Supreme Convention.

Additional information posted on the state website, and we will continue to send out Flocknote messages with any updates. The State is allotted ten delegates to represent Wisconsin at the annual Supreme Convention. One is the current State Deputy, and the second is the Immediate Past State Deputy. Due to COVID-19, we will not hold our traditional area caucus's this year to nominate the remaining eight delegates. However, we will still vote on a slate of Supreme Delegates

during our virtual meeting.

Memorial Day Traditions

Cities and towns across the state would typically be hosting Memorial Day parades, or by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues, perhaps because of Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer. Because of not despite the

pandemic, let us not forget our fallen soldiers, sailors, and airmen, those members of our military who have given and paid the ultimate price to ensure our freedom. God Bless our Military and God Bless America!

In the coming weeks, we will be announcing various award winners we would have customarily announced during our State Convention. I am happy to announce this year's Medallion Award Winners as well as each of the Families of the Year and State Family of the Year:

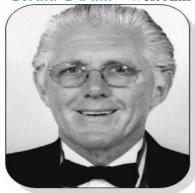
The Medallion award winners for the 2019-2020 Fraternal Year

At Large *Mark Wagner* - Menomonee Falls



Milwaukee Diocese

Gerald G Falk – West Allis



Madison Diocese *Dr. Paul E. Lang, Jr.* – Sun Prairie



Superior Diocese

Merritt L. Stigen – Hudson



La Crosse Diocese **Donald S. Tralmer** – Tomah



Green Bay Diocese *Michael O. Darne* – Niagara



The Family of the Year selections for 2019-2020 Fraternal Year

Superior Diocese *Robert and Terri Link* - Woodruff



Green Bay Diocese

Chris and Kriss Mosconi – Oconto Falls





Madison Diocese

David and Margaret McCarthy - Highland





2019-2020 Wisconsin State
Family of the year!
La Crosse Diocese
Albert and Shirley Kroll - Marshfield



Congratulations to you all!

Nunc Coepi! Vivat Jesus! Viva Cristo Rey!

ackhhlani

Jack Wrbanich State Deputy

State Chaplains Message

"Lord what are you trying to tell us?"

In the times we are in, it is important that we pray to God with the question, "Lord what are you trying to tell us?". As I said in my homily last week, I believe Our Lord is telling us, "You're going the wrong way!". It reminds me of the funny scene in the movie 'Planes, Trains, and Automobiles' but the message God is sending us today is not for humor, it's for our salvation. Through some discernment of the signs of our times I do not think it is so far-fetched to see that China, controlled by a tyrannical communist regime which forces the evil of abortion and seems to sell the human organs of those



who they deem disposable, should be ground zero for that the evil coronavirus. They are still dealing with it and I pray for their turn around. A turn around it what I believe God is asking for us here as well because of all the evil in our world. So, you may say we are not as bad as the Communists in China so why would this pandemic be allowed to come into our backyard? Here again, through some discernment of the signs of our times we can find that this may have something to do with our participation in the Culture of Death. In recognizing the Culture of Death in our midst we recognize the lack of the goods that should be in our culture and then we can see that we are going the wrong way.

The State of New York, not to long ago, celebrated new abortion laws that allow for abortion right up to the time of birth. Throughout our country abortions are highly promoted by organizations like Planned Parenthood. Along with evil organizations that promote abortion the "Wormtongue" media, presents abortion as a right and a good thing. What we need to realize is that as a society our understanding of what is right and wrong has been severely perverted in our popular culture and it seems like we may need to wake up and recognize the fact that we are going the wrong way. So, look up! We are on a road with a big red sign that says, WRONG WAY! It is time to turn things around and go back to God. To one degree or another we can all turn to get closer to God by growing in our prayer life and by living more sacrificial lives of love. If you do this, others may follow, and the whole culture can start turning onto the right path of the Culture of Life. It takes individuals to begin the turn around. It is going to take Knights to lead this turn around. Fight the good fight and do what you can to make it happen.

Fr. Andrew Kurz State Chaplain

Report of the State Advocate

First off, I hope all Brother Knights and their families are safe and healthy, and doing well in this trying time. It has been kind the 'adjustment' period for many of us as we go on 6 plus weeks of 'Safer at Home' restrictions. During this past month, I have encouraged councils to take advantage of this added time at home to get updated on their safe environment compliance. We are up to 170 councils compliant as of this submission--about 59% of our active councils in the State. Outstanding job to you all! Thank you as well to everyone who has responded to these updates to find out what is needed to comply, as by working together with Supreme we are able to get this addressed for the council. I still think it is possible to get to 200 plus councils compliant by the end of the year!

Of note, this program was rolled out approximately 3 years ago now, so some councils that have been fully compliant are 'dropping' off this status as they need to complete the 'refresher' courses and 'background' check once again. Please keep this in mind for your council that you can stay in front of this as we come upon an interesting summer of transition, potentially within your council leadership--that would mean new Grand Knights needing to comply. I have encouraged outgoing Grand Knights who are compliant to 'stay on' in either the Family, Program, or Community Director roles for their council as you have already completed this necessary training! If you have any questions on this program, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. As most of you have seen, I will reply within a 24 hour time period so that we can address the concerns immediately. By doing so, we have moved 'forward' this past year to an increase of roughly 100% year over year in our compliant councils! Communications is key!

Another role of the State Advocate is handling of the 'legal' matters for the State Council. Many of you have had questions and concerns about the running of your meetings during this time as well as your events and programs. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions on anything that your council is looking to do as we are in this period of restrictions and even as we have certain restrictions lifted, if there are still questions.

Lastly, these past few months has allowed us all to have 'new experiences' we never thought that we would've had during our lifetimes. Our State Convention this year will be another one of these new experiences, as we are conducting our FIRST EVER virtual convention meeting. I hope that all of your councils are able to attend this important meeting of our State Council! A common complaint at times from councils as to 'WHY' they don't attend the Convention is because of the 'TIME' and 'TRAVEL.' Well...both of these are now not an issue, as instead of being 1 1/2 days, the Convention will be 1 1/2 hours, and instead of traveling half way across the State you only need to travel half way across your family room to turn down the TV:).

The Resolutions part of this meeting will be a new encounter for us all. Soon, if you haven't already received by the time this newsletter is sent, you should be receiving your packet of information for the State Convention which includes this year's Resolutions booklet. I will be following up with all delegates via e-mail 2 weeks prior to the Convention to see if there are any questions or concerns with respect to this year's submission. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss these further so that we all are prepared and understanding of the Resolutions being presented prior to the day of the Convention.

I would also like to take this time to thank District Deputy Mark Becker, for once again serving as our Parliamentarian for this year's Convention! I would also like to extend my gratitude to our Resolution Committee who spent a day in Madison this February to review all of the Resolutions. This committee is made up of Immediate Past State Deputies Tim Genthe and Ron Faust, District Deputies Erin Kennedy (Madison) and Les Kostera (Milwaukee), and Grand Knights Kevin Konkol (Green Bay) and Duane Zweber (LaCrosse).

Fraternally, Corey Coonen State Advocate (920) 819-9409

Special Olympics Report

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WISCONSIN

With the COVID-19 pandemic going on we must not forget the Special Olympians that have also had to stop practicing and taking part in training. For many of them Sports is what drives them to keep going. I have not heard whether there will be Summer Games in Stevens Point in June this year. I would guess that this will be canceled, but hopefully it will happen sometime this summer. I pray and ask all to remember these athletes, that the program will be able to continue.



A BIG THANK YOU to all Councils who filed Form 4584 this January. Reports show that over \$830,000.00 was donated to Special Olympics for the year 2019. On another note the drive for Team Wisconsin 2022 has gone over \$67,000.00. We are now over halfway to our goal of \$125,000.00. Thank You.

Please remember Special Olympics and Special Olympics Team Wisconsin 2022 when you designate your Tootsie Roll proceeds. God Bless everyone and Good Health.

John Benisch Wis KC Special Olympics Coordinator

Pilgrimage to Shrine of Divine Mercy – RSVP date extended

Due to the current pandemic, the deadline for registration for the Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy scheduled for October 19th-23rd has been extended to RSVP by June 15, 2020 and full payment by July 15, 2020. For more information, please email Grand Knight Rich Mich at shercookr@yahoo.com or call Brother rich on his cell phone at 262-818-0839

State Membership

Two months left to go in this Fraternal Year. Have you reached some of your Councils goals? Not Supremes goals or the States goals but your Councils goals.

Did you set goals for your Councils?

If you did not, begin the conversation with other men in the Council about goals for the last two months and goals for next Fraternal Year. (No goals just make your Councils ship float aimlessly in the water.)



Not sure what to even set for goals? Below are some two-month goals and goals for next Fraternal Year:

- Have 2 Representatives for your Council at the Virtual State Convention coming up at the end of May.
- Try to get at least one new member and one advancing member at one of the upcoming Supreme Virtual Degree Ceremony.
- Send a Father's Day Card to every member in your Council. If he is not a Father, maybe he is a Father figure to someone.
- Set a date for a Ceremonial for new and advancing members in your church sometime in July, August or September. You have plenty of time to schedule it and come up with a plan of how to make it successful. Every Council in the State should have at least one Degree Conducted between July 1 and September 30.
- Set degree dates for the entire 20-21 Fraternal Year. Make it realistic. Don't just put dates down with no intention of trying.
- Don't suspend anyone!
- Attempt to hold a virtual Degree Ceremony in your Council or District.
- Learn how to fill out a digital Form 100.
- Add one new event/activity next Fraternal Year.
- Send in at least 1 Family of the Month to Supreme and the State before the end of the Fraternal Year.
- Do a History Book, even if it isn't great. They are fun to look at.
- Create a Facebook Page. Helps with pictures when making a History Book. It also helps to show members and nonmembers the good things the Council is doing.
- Get one man in your Council to attend a 4th Degree next year. Maybe to become a 4th Degree or maybe just to reexperience this incredible Degree. I am on the Western Team and I get more out of it every time we do it.
- How many guys did your Council bring in this year? Can you bring in one more than that number next year?
- Get on your Insurance Agents schedule for a Benefit Night for all member of your parish.

What does any of this have to membership?

All of it.

If you keep guys interested. Give them something to do. If you give them a goal. You might just be successful. Not sure how to do some of the things on the list? Even better because I bet there are guys in your Council who would not mind doing something more but maybe an officer isn't currently his thing. Call someone who is not in your inner circle to try see if they could assist or take care of something different for your Council. You might just take a guy on the fringes and make him a Grand Knight or District Deputy down the road just by making them feel like he has a purpose in the Order.

There is still time to reach some of your goals this year.

Thank you for all that you do for the Order. Mark Jelinek WI Membership Director

State Programs

Brothers,

While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with daunting challenges, we need to continue to be as active and engaged as circumstances allow! That means that we must be using Zoom, Uberconference and other technologies to be meeting and helping our Brothers, families, parishes and communities all we can. We also need to be actively encouraging prospects to be signing up with e-membership, using the new online Form 100s and getting these guys to register and participate in the online Exemplifications. Be checking the Supreme and State websites for assistance; and be participating in the Supreme webinars whenever possible, including the sessions provided by our Regional Trainer Jon Olson. Use the information in the Flocknotes sent by the Worthy State Deputy and other State Officers and the messages from Supreme to register for and participate in those programs.

This crisis presents us with immense opportunities to assist our Brothers and others in need. So, heed the call of the Supreme Knight and State Deputy to contact ALL your Council



and Assembly Brothers, as well as widows, to check on their welfare and needs. Do so for your neighbors as well. Download the "Leave No Neighbor Behind" guide and "Feed the Hungry" addendum from the Supreme website or material sent by the Worthy State Deputy and USE IT. Don't just shut your Council and programs down for the duration of the "Safer at Home" orders or the end of the pandemic. Do all you can to help – BE A KNIGHT.

Also, check in with KC State Disaster Relief Coordinator Paul Lang for more information on ways you can help in your area or throughout the state (pelang60@hotmail.com or

kcwidr@gmail.com). Help with your parish efforts (food pantries, shopping and rides, calling trees, chores to be done, etc.). Urge parishioners and the Council to give monetary support to the parish, to help with televised, Facebook or YouTube Masses. Help Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, Red Cross blood drives, community pantries...the list goes on and on where need exists and where we can help in many ways!

In addition, while things have slowed down, I strongly urge you to use this time to get your PKD and Culture of Life Fund donations arranged and sent in. Get those directors who have not yet done so to get on the computer and finish those Child Safety Requirements. Try to set up your ID/Tootsie Roll Drive for later in the year as best you can.

Supreme has recently announced revised criteria for the 2019-2020 fraternal year regarding Star Council; McGivney, Founders and Columbian Awards. Please see the State website for this information. It's still a good idea to get the forms for Columbian and Outstanding Council downloaded and filled out as best you can for what you've accomplished so far for the Fraternal Year.

Finally, continue to pray for us all, for the nation and world, for health and healing for all affected by COVID-19 in any way. Keep the faith and hope that things will get better. Vivat Jesus!

Bill Frayer

State Program Director

Intellectual Disabilities

Brother Knights,

I'm sure all of you are eager for the current situation with COVID-19 to change. I hope all of you are well and stay safe. I have had a few calls on the TR drive and as you might imagine we do not have a date in mind at this time. Please rest assured that once the state is opened up we will determine dates for the drive and the appropriate deadlines. Look at the bright side at least we should not be fighting a surprise snow storm unlike some years.

From what I have heard we may have a lift on the restrictions at the end of next month but our governor has been known to change his mind. Please take the time to check in on your brother knights that may be restricted to home life. Now is the time where we all must pull together.

Hopefully some of you have been able to hold a council meeting on ZOOM or some other online service. We actually had a good turnout for our April council and assembly meeting. As you know the state convention has been moved to May 23 online. I am hoping that all of your delegates are making plans to attend on their computer. It should be an interesting adventure to save the least. Please stay safe and hope to see all of you soon.

Vivat Jesus. Don Schoenherr Helping Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities – Director

Family of the Month

Hello Brother Knights! Thank you again for an **amazing** March! Below is a quick summary of our progress to date. All the details can be found in the Family Director Flocknote post

https://knightswisc.flocknote.com/FamilyDirector/note/6994710. Check it out!

Covid-19

Please read the note I have in the report at the link above. In short, make a difference where you can. But if you feel it is better to put your Family of the Month program on hold, then invest your time now to prepare for when the lockdown is lifted. Doing so will help set your council up for a great 2020-2021 fraternal year!

Supreme



Wisconsin is still in 1st place with a 38 FOMs, Michigan is in 2nd place with 32 and Kansas is in 3rd place with 31.

49 of the 82 jurisdictions submitted 310 FOMs, down 21% from February. Wisconsin submitted 12.3% of the FOMs submitted to Supreme! Well done everyone!

Here is the Supreme Family of the Month that will be receiving a nice certificate and letter.

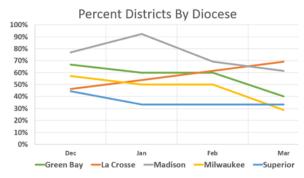
Benjamin and Nichole Nelson family council 1837, district 71, Milwaukee Diocese

Diocese

Here are the Diocesan families of the month that will be receiving a certificate and letter from the state. Please click on the link above to download the PDF that contains the amazing story of each of these families!

Green	Bruce and Virginia Howe	La Crosse	Bill and Cindy Schlegel
Bay			
Madison	Dave and Wendy Ianne	Milwaukee	Robert and Elaine Katzfrey
Superior	William and Nini Millbrath		

District



In support of the goal of having 100% districts submitting ONE FOM each month, here are the percentages by diocese.

La Crosse is in 1st place with 69%. Madison 62%, Green Bay 40%, Superior 33% and Milwaukee 29%

FOMs	District	Diocese
5	Chris Mosconi - 2	Green Bay
2	Paul Zimmerman - 21	La Crosse
2	Dennis Hampton - 43	Madison
2	Robert Kurczek - 44	Madison
2	Paul Quigley - 46	Madison
2	Paul Romanelli - 49	Madison
2	James Nabak - 71	Milwaukee
2	Paul Krenik - 81	Superior

This month's leading district deputy is Chris Mosconi submitting families from **all five of his councils!**Thank you, Paul, Dennis, Robert, Paul, Paul, James and Paul for having two FOMs each.

We had 8 districts with two or more FOMs!

Thank you, worthy District Deputies! Your leadership is greatly appreciated!

Gentlemen, we are at 47% district participation!

Worthy Brothers. Can we continue to find at least ONE family in the 12 parishes in each district that deserves to be honored for all they do for our parishes, community and councils? I believe we can!

Due to Covid-19, let us see if we can maintain 40% district participation through the remainder of the fraternal year.

Council

We had two new council that submitted a Family of the Month. Welcome to the program!

Our North Woods Catholic Cluster Council	The Blessed Father Solanus Council 17459
12738	

We had 38 fantastic families submitted to the state! To learn who they were, check out the link at the top of this article.

Every council should be striving to submit *at least one* family of the month before the end of 2020, so they can choose them as the council Family of the Year. The family can then be considered for the Diocesan family of the year, State family of the Year and International Family of the Year.

Please click on the link above and download the PDF containing the list of all these amazing families!

Closing

Through this awesome Family of the Month program, the Knights of Columbus has the privilege to bring joy to families for thanking them for all they do on behalf of everyone. The benefits are:

- The family is grateful for the recognition
- Everyone else is grateful to the Knights for stepping forward to honor the family
- The perception of the council increases for taking time to serve the parish in a very visible way

It is a win-win-win situation!

I am grateful that your councils are willing to take the time to choose a family, give them the recognition they deserve and submitting them for the Family of the Month.

Gentlemen, it is a privilege and honor to serve you and your councils! Please let me know if

there is anything I can do to help.

SK Joe Uchytil

In Velyt

Wisconsin Family Coordinator

State Charity Raffle – livestreamed on May 2nd

Thank you for selling as many raffle tickets as you could this year given the pandemic shutting down so many events where if would have been easier to sell tickets than over the phone. After discussing the legal alternatives, we decided that it would be best if we held this year's raffle drawing on time and in the same place as expected. Given social distancing rules in place, only the State Charity Committee and SD Jack Wrbanich will be there to conduct the drawing. You will be able to witness the drawing as Jack live-streams the event starting just before the first winners is randomly chosen 7:15 PM May 2, 2020. See the State KC web site for a link to view the event. We will work to get the 100 winners post to the web site on Sunday or Monday. The top winners will be called by me to start the ten-week paperwork process to get checks to them along with the state of Wisconsin paperwork. The ninety eight \$500 winners will receive their checks without a congratulatory phone call in a slightly shorter timeframe since the paperwork process is shorter.

By the time that you read this, you should have already turned in all sold 2019-2020 raffle tickets stubs to your diocesan representatives on the State Charity Committee. If you have any remaining, call them today!

I also want to thank the committee for their exceptional work this year and their bravery to travel to Green Bay to bring your ticket stubs and council data during the pandemic. God bless you, the Holy Spirit's ingenuity to keep your council programs going remotely, and God bless your compassion to take Christ's love to your neighbors far and wide!

Your diocesan representatives on the State Charity Committee are: <u>Green Bay Jeff</u> and Lily Janssen 920-489-0790 <u>jcjracer@gmail.com</u>; <u>La Crosse</u> Dan and Joan Spencer 715-305-0398 <u>spencer5062@outlook.com</u>; <u>Madison Bob and Colleen Pizur 920-285-0175 <u>anrca@charter.net</u>; <u>Milwaukee</u> Jim and Beth TenPas 920-207-6007 <u>jamestenpas@att.net</u>; Superior Dennis and Doris Berends 715-265-4186 <u>dennisberends@centurytel.net</u>.</u>

Mark Kohls State Charity Director

[Editor Note: State Raffle has been completed. Winners can be found on the State website. The raffle drawing was livestreamed on Facebook Live with over 1,630 viewers!!!]

2020 STATE CONVENTION



2020 State Convention Teleconference May 23, 2020

A lot is happening this year! The 2020 State Convention will be a teleconference!! A first of the Wisconsin Jurisdiction. To give everyone that "convention experience", please visit the State website for the latest information. Here you will find information about candidates for State Office as well as Supreme Convention delegate candidate information. The information on the sight is regularly being updated.

Another first will be a "Know Your Candidate and State Awards webinar on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM. The live webinar will provide an opportunity to hear from participating candidates for State office as well as Supreme Convention delegate candidates.

Advance registration is required for candidates that wish to participate as well as those who are interested in partaking/watching/listening to this event. Please copy the below link to your browser to register for the webinar.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN zh2D7s5GS2iIq-UieeD03w

Council Banners at State Convention



Let's keep the tradition alive! Our Worthy State Deputy is asking that Councils send him a picture of their Council Banner surrounded by some members (keeping a safe distance of course) The State Deputy is purposing to do a virtual parade of our council banners!

Any questions regarding the 2020 State Convention teleconference should be directed to our Worthy State Deputy, Jack Wrbanich.

Mike Tomsyck
State Secretary

Wisconsin Virtual Degree

The Wisconsin State Council will conduct two Virtual Degree Exemplifications on Saturday, May 16, 2020, one at 7:00 PM and the other at 8:30 PM. The Exemplification will be the same as that conducted by Supreme, but the presenters will be WISCONSIN KNIGHTS taking on the various roles.

Advance registration is required for each Exemplification. Please select a time from below and copy the link to your browser to register.

7:00 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN h 1yJut7SJezQY-2Z9 oNA

8:30 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN LEZLI1BtS6itXn0WqHM -w

Special Charity Grant Requests

On April 30, 2020, via Uber Conference, the State Officers approved the following Charity Grand Requests:

\$2,500 to Washburn County ADRC for their Meals-On-Wheels program which is out of funds to feed around 150 clients.

\$2,500 to each of the five Diocese for the purpose of giving to local food pantries that are in need in their respective Diocese.

Total funds allocated: \$15,000.00

Mike Tomsyck
State Secretary

Council Charity Grant Requests – Deadline Extended

The deadline for Councils to submit their request for Charity Grants has been extended from May 1, 2020 to <u>June 1, 2020</u>. The form can be found on the Wisconsin State Council website under "Charity" on the forms page. Please mail your completed form to the State Council Office to the attention of State Charity Director or email it to forms@wikofc.com.