

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

March 2021

[Wisconsin State Website](#)

Editor: SK John Huttenhoff



What is our 'FIRE' and the 'LIGHT' that Guides us?

'We call them cool / Those hearts that have no scars to show / The ones that never do let go / And Risk it the tables being turned / We call them fools / Who have to dance within the flame / Who chance the sorrow and the shame / That always come with getting burned / But you got to be tough when consumed by desire / 'Cause it's not enough just to stand outside the fire / ..., Convinced it's not living if you stand outside the fire. ' 'Life is not tried it is merely survived / If you're standing outside the fire ' (Garth Brooks, 1993 'Standing Outside the Fire')

One of my favorite music artists is country singer Garth Brooks. This song stands out as a reflection over this past year looking back on the pandemic we have faced and what is to come.

As we enter a period of 're-opening' at our Parishes and hopefully within our councils—we will be seeing struggles of people to 're-engage.' For the last 12 months, the routine of our daily lives has changed—and as uncomfortable as change can be it is just as uncomfortable to change back. As I have reached out to many Grand Knights and leaders over these past few months—a common theme has been 'waiting' or this 'anticipation' of the pandemic ending so that we can return back to normal life.

Unfortunately—the reality is that when this pandemic ends, things won't just 'RESET' back to what they were prior. We may be faced with challenges to 'welcome' parishioners back to our parish and to 'engage' our council members with activities once again! Planning for this inevitable event doesn't START when the pandemic ends—IT NEEDS TO BE a topic of conversation now within our Councils! We need to be having conversations with our Priests of how we can serve a role in 'WELCOMING' all back to Church! None of us have experienced a Pandemic in our lifetimes—so there is no 'PLAYBOOK' as to what is needed to be done following it! This will be as 'NEW' to all of us—our Parish Priests included--as the last 12 months have been.

In my mind—this song serves as a parallel to what we preach as Knights to 'STEP INTO THE BREACH.' As leaders—we should be consumed by the desire to serve others and to serve our Parish Priests by being a resource now more than ever. No longer should we step back and wait to see what is to come, or what 'other' leaders within the Parish come up with a solution for this challenge we are to face. We need to step forward 'into the fire' and be the strong right arm of our church! We need to share this desire with our Council Members NOW and get them excited for WHAT IS TO COME!

During Lent and the upcoming Holy Week is our opportunity to show our BURNING DESIRE for welcoming our Parishioners back to the Church and LEAVING NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND in our councils as we await with anxious anticipation of 'normal council activities' as we do the anticipation of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. As we light the Paschal Candle on Holy Saturday—reflect on this as our 'new beginning.' Our light of Jesus Christ burns strong in our councils and in our hearts—soon to dispel the darkness of this Pandemic.

Corey Christopher Coonen
State Deputy



Spiritual Poverty

Dear brothers, as we make our way through the Lenten season toward a glorious celebration of Easter we are called to embrace the spirit of poverty that opens our hearts to the giving of alms. When living with the means of relative wealth in this nation of abundance we can live out this spirit through a detachment that comes from charitable giving or we may be challenged to embrace the spirit of poverty by some misfortune that comes our way. Recently, I have experienced the latter with an auto accident that sent my vehicle spinning into a snow bank and tipping onto its side. Thanks be to God I have no injuries but asking the good Lord what he was trying to tell me through this providential event I think He was telling me I was too attached to my neat little car. This Lent has especially called me to embrace a spirit of poverty, maybe I should have planned to embrace it more in the spirit of charitable giving.

The spirit of poverty frees the poor from the pain of being without things in this world while it can free the rich from the pain of being without God in the next. Give this some thought as this bit of wisdom works on different levels.

Sincerely, Fr. Andrew Kurz

Knights of Columbus, Wisconsin State Chaplin

Worthy District Deputies,
Worthy Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries,
Brothers,

This is a friendly reminder of some important upcoming deadlines for the 2021 State Convention.

* **DELEGATE CERTIFICATION: Due by March 15th**

* **PRE-REGISTRATION: Due by March 15th**

* **IN MEMORIAMs: Due by March 15th**

Per previous communications, this year's State Convention will be conducted in person with limited capacity. We will also be telecasting this 'VIRTUALLY.' More details to come on this in future communications.

Please reach out to your State Officer with any questions or concerns!

Thanks,
Corey Coonen
State Deputy



Online Membership

We are in the middle of the Lenten season. What did you give up for Lent this year? I hope it was not engaging men and inviting them into the Order and your Council, but to me it seems that may be the case. Of course, I refer to the following list of councils who have a member who has taken their degrees but is yet to be transferred into the council. Please take note of the degree dates as some of these men have been waiting almost a full year to be brought in. All it takes is a little paperwork or online action. Use the Officers Online Prospect and Candidate tabs as appropriate.

Co No.	Dist	Deg Date	Co No.	Dist	Deg Date	Co No.	Dist	Deg Date
2210	4	4/16/2020	4416	40	4/16/2020	4831	72	4/23/2020
1690	70	4/30/2020	664	61	6/28/2020	1471	42	6/29/2020
6487	25	9/21/2020	6568	47	11/20/2020	4831	72	1/13/2021
2836	3	1/14/2021	7798	60	1/31/2021	5798	12	2/11/2021
5798	12	2/11/2021	5798	12	2/11/2021	614	10	2/12/2021
531	47	2/20/2021	16079	45	2/21/2021	1033	9	2/22/2021

Red = 3-months to 10-months of waiting.

Councils with assigned e-members but there does not seem to be any movement in getting these men into a council. Again, note the joined dates. **Red** = previous fraternal year – **Cyan** = 2 to 4-months – **Magenta** = 4 to 7-months

Date Joined	Co No	Dist	Date Joined	Co No	Dist	Date Joined	Co No	Dist
6/26/2020	664	61	2/7/2021	2487	63	2/4/2021	4520	69
5/28/2020	710	12	8/4/2020	2770	20	1/17/2020	4634	24
8/3/2020	746	46	10/12/2020	2820	40	12/28/2020	4648	64
1/31/2021	746	46	12/25/2020	3095	62	2/17/2021	4706	69
2/8/2021	1033	9	2/14/2021	3095	62	12/2/2019	4831	72
2/22/2021	1257	22	1/3/2021	3249	24	10/24/2019	4869	2
5/18/2020	1471	42	8/28/2020	3249	24	1/18/2021	4871	52
7/27/2020	1558	27	12/10/2020	3396	50	1/3/2021	4877	71
2/16/2021	1558	27	12/30/2019	3450	46	8/23/2020	4879	51
12/30/2020	1647	73	12/13/2019	3450	46	1/6/2021	4896	4
7/15/2020	1690	70	10/15/2020	3492	26	8/18/2019	5397	87
12/29/2020	1744	90	8/9/2020	3562	63	9/28/2020	5415	85
12/21/2020	1797	5	8/29/2020	3562	63	7/23/2020	5456	32
12/29/2020	1799	30	11/1/2020	3702	62	2/5/2021	6051	89
6/13/2020	1825	62	8/4/2020	3702	62	2/18/2021	6051	89
3/27/2020	1825	62	9/4/2019	3702	62	8/5/2020	6460	51
2/5/2021	1838	10	2/19/2021	3924	45	1/23/2021	6508	50
1/31/2021	1838	10	12/31/2020	4106	72	7/27/2020	6690	48
10/17/2019	1838	10	12/23/2020	4439	6	12/9/2019	7370	41
8/5/2020	1840	26	9/1/2020	4439	6	8/18/2019	7732	11
11/18/2019	1964	66	1/18/2021	4520	69	10/10/2020	7798	60

10/8/2020	7798	60	2/21/2021	12596	15	1/31/2021	16333	13
2/19/2021	7895	5	2/12/2021	12673	23	7/29/2020	16582	15
2/19/2021	9082	47	9/10/2019	13583	64	2/21/2021	16994	43
12/7/2020	9385	25	10/1/2020	15090	64	2/21/2021	16994	43
12/31/2020	10522	30	2/3/2021	15739	32	7/6/2019	16994	43
2/23/2021	10552	7	7/28/2020	16079	45	8/31/2020	17135	32
1/4/2021	10914	25	3/28/2019	16079	45	11/19/2020	17348	8
11/23/2020	10920	42	1/31/2021	16333	13	11/19/2020	17348	8

Let's get all these e-members through the degree ceremony and transferred into a local council. You need their help to perform your charitable acts, and they want to help as indicated by their action of joining online.

Council / district whose members have taken their degree online (now 3rd degree) but still show as 1st on the rosters:

1922	3	6228	14	6630	42	746	46	4879	51	4648	64	15659	72
5008	3	12793	14	6630	42	3450	46	4879	51	16821	65	6554	73
2210	4	607	15	12491	42	531	47	4879	51	16821	65	8172	73
2210	4	4295	20	3924	45	531	47	4879	51	16821	65	832	80
16244	5	4295	20	3924	45	4527	47	4879	51	16821	65	4902	81
6279	6	4125	23	10559	45	4527	47	4879	51	973	67	2137	83
6279	6	839	25	10559	45	4527	47	4879	51	973	67	9546	87
6279	6	839	25	16079	45	4586	47	4879	51	973	67	12609	89
6279	6	839	25	16079	45	16863	47	6997	51	973	67	12609	89
6279	6	10914	25	16079	45	16863	47	12588	60	4706	69	12609	89
11305	10	16444	25	16079	45	16863	47	12588	60	4706	69	499	91
11305	10	16444	25	746	46	596	49	12588	60	4877	71	499	91
7732	11	13880	27	746	46	6508	50	4648	64	4106	72	499	91
5798	12	6630	42	746	46	4879	51	4648	64	4831	72		

The FS must update this data as Supreme will not. You want their membership cards to reflect their degree, but they will not print the correct degree status if the degree dates are not entered into Member Management.

Here are the upcoming online degrees by the state officers:

3/4/2021	Thursday	7:00 PM	State March 4, 2021 7:00 PM
3/8/2021	Monday	7:00 PM	State March 8, 2021 7:00 PM
3/15/2021	Monday	7:00 PM	State March 15, 2021 7:00 PM
3/25/2021	Thursday	7:00 PM	State March 25, 2021 7:00 PM
3/30/2021	Tuesday	7:00 PM	State March 30, 2021 7:00 PM
4/6/2021	Tuesday	7:00 PM	State April 6, 2021 7:00 PM
4/12/2021	Monday	7:00 PM	State April 12, 2021 7:00 PM
4/22/2021	Thursday	7:00 PM	State April 22, 2021 7:00 PM
5/13/2021	Thursday	7:00 PM	State May 13, 2021 7:00 PM
5/25/2021	Tuesday	7:00 PM	State May 25, 2021 7:00 PM
6/14/2021	Monday	7:00 PM	State June 14, 2021 7:00 PM
6/29/2021	Tuesday	7:00 PM	State June 29, 2021 7:00 PM

All these State offered degree links are also available on the state website degree schedule page.

Anyone may go to [Online degree info](#) at **any** time to access links to the Supreme [On Demand](#) degree and invitation letters. Please share these links with your new member candidates and existing members wanting to advance to 3rd degree. Then do not forget to follow up by transferring them into your council and updating their status.

You could make this a Lenten 'sacrifice' by getting it done before Easter.

State Online Membership Coordinator
William G. Hitt

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus State Charity Raffle

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus State Charity Raffle

Pop quiz in what year did the Wisconsin State Charity raffle begin? The answer may be in next month's news article (if I remember). The year is not important, the brothers that started it should be saints, and the many Wisconsin families it has helped will be forever grateful. Do your part to continue the tradition, **SELL, SELL, SELL** those tickets. The pandemic has created more needs, and caused challenges to distribution, show the true colors of the Wisconsin Knights, we will not wilt in the face of obstacles to help our neighbors in need.

Council Raffle Chairmen's should be promoting this worthy cause because we receive many grants weekly and we want to help all those in need. Council Chairman, please make at least one deposit each of the upcoming months of March and April to your Diocesan Charity Coordinator to help reduce the amount of money brought to the convention.

Council Charity Grant Fund Request Forms must be filled out and sent to **the state office** prior to May 1 by every council, to prevent delays in receiving council payments.

All Knights are eligible to fill out individual grant requests for families in need. Please download the form off the state web site.

God Bless,
Bernie Heit
Charity Director

DELEGATES TO THE 139th SUPREME CONVENTION

Denver, Colorado AUGUST 2-5, 2021

Wisconsin is allowed ten delegates to the Supreme Convention. The State Deputy and the Immediate Past State Deputy automatically serve as the first two delegates. The remaining eight delegates are selected by the vote of those delegates attending the State Convention. Delegates to the Supreme Convention must be 3rd Degree Knights, and at least half of our Delegates must be Insurance Members.

Supreme Council reimburses delegates per diem at \$400 per day for 3 days and mileage at \$.30 per mile one way.

In 2020, the Wisconsin State Council offered the opportunity for Candidates for State Office and those seeking election to be Delegates to the Supreme Convention to submit a Resume and Nomination Statement to be posted on the State Website. This information was well received by the membership as it allowed the delegates to get to know who they were voting for prior to the State Convention.

Since the Wisconsin State Council State Convention in 2021 is currently planned to be a Hybrid Convention, we are again offering the opportunity for those members wishing to be Candidates for either State Office or a Delegate to the Supreme Convention to submit a Resume, Picture, and Nomination Statement to be posted on the State Website.

The Delegates to the State Convention will meet during the Saturday afternoon session to nominate and elect deserving members who may represent them at the Supreme Convention. Per the State Council Bylaws, only seated Delegates can make nominations and have the privilege of a vote; although non-delegates can be nominated. Previous delegates to the Supreme Convention should not seek a nomination in order that other members be given a similar opportunity to serve as a Supreme Delegate.

It is very desirable that Delegates to the Supreme Convention be Knights who have been extraordinary in promoting Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism in the Knights of Columbus. The Delegates to this State Convention should be made aware of this Knight's accomplishments by the nomination speech given on his behalf.

Those seeking to be nominated as a Delegate to the Supreme Convention are encouraged to submit one or more of the following:

- One Page Resume
- Picture
- One Page Nomination Speech or Statement
- 3 Minute Video Nomination

It is requested that information be submitted prior to April 1 so that Councils can review the information and provide voting instructions to their delegates. Materials can be emailed to State Secretary John Huttenhoff at jhuttenhoff@wikofc.com.

Public Relations

Sharing the 3 main goals of publicity

Good public relations at the council level requires that councils fully understand the need and value of publicity.

1. Your council's story deserves recognition for their volunteer efforts. When your council receives recognition, members are more likely to continue to perform and remain active.
2. It helps to educate and inform men of your parish or community who are not Knights, increasing their interest in becoming a Knight.
3. Publicizing successful programs and good works is your most effective tool for council growth and reflects positively on the Order.

Six simple methods to success

1. Use the parish bulletin. A brief mention of the council's work for Habitat for Humanity, a parish clean-up, or visits to nursing homes can help educate the parish about the work that Knights do. Invite men in your parish to participate in future events giving the date, time and location to meet.
2. Feature your charitable activities, with photos, on the front page of your council newsletter and put copies in the literature rack in your church.
3. Ask local newspapers to publish a photo of Knights performing some charitable or community activity. Check your local newspapers to find out which print such photos, and then check the masthead to find the contact information for the faith, community or neighborhood section editors.
4. Remember that articles must be newsworthy, have broad appeal and be concise with complete information. Always answer the five "w's"— who, what, when, where and why (and don't forget the "how").
5. Keep it short— use no more than 2 to 3 sentences for a photo caption and a few hundred words for an article. Only include relevant information — people care little about the details of your council, who the grand knight is, when and where you meet, but they are interested in the good works you do.
6. Share your story with your diocesan newspaper or magazine, your state council newsletter, Columbia and Knightline. If any of these want a more detailed story, they will contact you.

Creating your own newsletter

The Wisconsin State Council has a monthly newsletter, put together by a dedicated team of Knights. We have Guidelines on How to Write an Article so that everyone knows what we are looking for. As a digital newsletter, it's easy to share: We share it via Flocknote, Facebook and on our State website.

Using social media

The main goal of establishing a social media presence on social media is spreading awareness about who we are as an Order, what inspires us to act, and how we put our faith into action. We hope these elements inspire men to join us. But they need content to engage with, something that relates to them. Good engagement on posts can drive your channel's followership. For instance, one post we had that firmly stated Jesus is the Son of God garnered more than 200 followers alone. It's important to understand your audience, once you understand them, go provide them with good, positive content because, at the end of the day, if we're not relevant to the audience we want (Catholic men) or giving them what they seek, then we might as well not have accounts.

Jack Wrbanich, IPSD
Public Relations Chairman
Wisconsin State Council

“THE BADGER BULLETIN”

How To Write An Article

Newsworthy • Broad Appeal • Concise • Complete • Factual • Accurate

Answers the Questions: **Who, What, When, Where, Why & How**

Badger Bulletin reports on local council activities throughout the entire State of Wisconsin.

- Article size: 300 words ideal (half page) to 500-600 words max (full page)
- Articles submitted as an attachment in Word format - not in the body of an email
 - o PDF submissions are for ads or promotions - not articles.
- Pictures need to be sent separately as an attachment and the original pictures. Please do not format them in any way, we will do it—DO NOT embedded in a Word document.
- Articles need to be brief, highly relevant, and actionable
- At a minimum, Who, What, When and Where needs to be in the first paragraph,
- Articles need to be brief, to-the-point and of interest to the entire State Council
 - o What is the event/activity about?
 - o Whom did it benefit?
 - o What was the result?
 - o Who are the key players/Knights?
- Similar story submissions will be consolidated/batched into one article by the Editors
- Authors must submit on time per the Editor production calendar- Deadline 1st of each month
 - o Late submittals will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (use spellcheck)
- Document filename should reflect the office/title, i.e. Council 499 Food Drive
- **“Wisconsin Knights in Action”** section is new - GKs submit brief 1 or 2 paragraphs only
 - o The new section is similar to the in the Columbia magazine. Every council is doing something each month. Here is where it is shared. Pics would also be great.



Call all MEN of your parish(es) to a short, 4-hour:
“Bishop’s Retreat on Charity!”
April 10, 2021

Is there any greater Charity than Divine Mercy?

Invite them to join with other men to:

- Experience the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ thru His Sacraments!
- Spend quality time with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
- Learn the Power of Charity in Action in:
 - Your Life
 - The Lives of Your Brothers in Christ
 - The Life of Your Family
 - The Life of Your Parish
 - The Life of Your Community

How do we pack all that into only 4 hours?

Easy! Our Bishops deliver their Apostolic Teaching directly to busy men, getting right to the point, no wasting time. As busy men themselves, they totally relate to us!

How can our Bishop’s be in all those parishes at the same time?

LOL!! Via pre-recorded video, of course! **REGISTER TODAY!!** Please have the GOTO person for your council enter their contact information at this link and we will make sure they can download the videos in advance.

[Parish Men's Retreat Videos](#)

Suggested Schedule:

8:00 AM Mass

8:45 AM Adoration with Confession
9:45 AM Break with Light Refreshments
10:00 AM Presentations
NOON Prayer and Dismissal

COST: Free will offering. With many parishes hurting financially these days, we suggest 80% stay with the parish and 20% be used to thank your Bishop! You can make the Bishop's donation online at:

[Donate to Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus](#)

At "Write a note (Optional)" please enter the name of your diocese.

Or you can mail a check to your State Council at:

Knights of Columbus
Wisconsin State Council
4297 West Beltline Highway
Madison, WI 53711

Please put "Bishop's Retreat" and the name of your diocese in the memo line.

Suggested Donation: For those who might appreciate a little guidance, feel free to suggest a donation of \$20.

Light Refreshments: To maximize the benefit to the parish, we humbly ask your council to absorb the cost of the light refreshments.

DATE OPTION!

April 10 does not work for you? Or you need to start earlier? Or later? **NO PROBLEM!** Because the presentations are all pre-recorded, you can do this at a date and time which fits for your parish. The theme of Charity is not limited to any particular date or time. Our goal is to amplify the Apostolic Teaching of our Bishops to the maximum extent possible.

For more info, contact: Ron Faust

ronaldfaust@reagan.com

Cell: 608.225.7281

PKD and Culture of Life

Council PKD and Culture of Life Contributions

Its that time of year again where PKD and CoL collection will come due. I'd like to review how a council can verify what they owe for each, and where to send payment.

As you know, PKD or Penny a Knight a Day supports Catholic Education across the dioceses of Wisconsin. Your contribution stays in your diocese, and a check is provided by the State Council each year to your bishop to be used in supporting your local Catholic schools.

PKD is calculated by multiplying \$3.65 for each member of your council minus honorary and disabled members. The amount due for your council can be found on the State Council Website. To get there, type WIKOFC.com into a web browser and it will forward you to UKnight for the St Council. Scroll down the main page to Penny-A-Knight-A-Day where you'll see the fearless knight in armor. Click on "Read More" which will open a window, then click on the red button on labeled "Council P.K.D. Contributions As Of xx/xx/xxxx" date. This will open a PDF of a spreadsheet where you can look up your council and see what you owe. As checks are deposited you will see the updates and verify your contribution has been received.

For Culture of Life (CoL), amounts due are calculated similar to PKD except the rate is \$3.50 per. To look up what your council owes, again go to the State Council webpage, but this time click on the gold button "State Forms" under the picture of Blessed Michael McGivney. Scroll about half way down the page to Community, then sub title Culture of Life, then click on Culture of Life Council Fund Donations FY 2019-2020 (xx/xx/xxxx) date. Again, a PDF of a spreadsheet will open allowing you to look up your council's Donations and Amount Above (or below) Goal. This amount is a combination of donations from the CoL mailer that went out in November and your council's contributions. Both the PKD and CoL donations are listed on member dues each year but are not required to be paid by members or councils, yet highly encouraged. CoL contributions help fund grants to Pro Life agencies and services across the state.

Checks should be written to Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus or WI State Council Knights for short. Payments should be sent to the State Council office: Knights of Columbus, 4297 W Beltline Hwy, Madison WI 53711.

Administrative Manage, Steve Geishirt

Online Ceremonial Team

Brother Knights!

As most of you know, your State Officer team as well as a few others have been running a few others have been running a virtual online exemplification a few times a month. This has shown to be a very beneficial tool to numerous councils throughout the state to bring in new members, or advance current 1st degree members. We are still continuing to host these through the end of the fraternal year. We currently have 5 scheduled for the month of March. Those dates are the 4th, 8th, 15th, 25th. We have done this so as councils start to open up and get more active again, they have every opportunity to bring in prospects. Also, this gives your council a chance to try to take advantage of the State Incentive program and reach your quarterly quota and have your April Per Capita waived.

The State Team is also actively looking for additional Knights from across the State to join our team. Our goal is to eventually have a team in every diocese. If you would like to assist in this, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at mcasey@wikofc.com and we can have you work with our current team. We could really use the help!

Vivat Jesus

Miles Casey
State Treasurer

MARCHing Into GROWTH

Membership Growth in Wisconsin is definitely on the upswing!

Undoubtedly, the “Per Capita Forgiveness” INCENTIVE is the primary reason for the Growth we have seen.

From July through December, Wisconsin had 230 new members join our ranks, or just over 38 new members per month. In the first two months of 2021, **we have added 109 new members**, or 54+ per month. That is a **70% increase**, which means our trajectory is definitely trending upward.

The results from the “Per Capita Forgiveness” INCENTIVES are pretty impressive but we still have FIFTEEN more days to improve upon them. That being said, **as of FEBRUARY 28th**:

- **SIXTY Councils are “On the Board” with at least ONE New Member**
- **TWENTY-FOUR Councils have MET Their Target Number** and will NOT have to pay “Per Capita” this spring
- **TWELVE Councils have EXCEEDED Their Target Number** and will also NOT have to pay “Per Capita” this spring. That means **36 councils** have already saves THOUSANDS!



- ✓ The SIXTY Councils represent just under 20% of our total number of councils in the state in the game.
-



Training Opportunities:

I'm still teaching the "Membership Growth in the New Year" seminar; we had three dates in February and there are three additional dates in March, including:

3/2 @ 7pm LINK: [MEMBERSHIP TRAINING on Tuesday, March 2nd at 7pm](#)

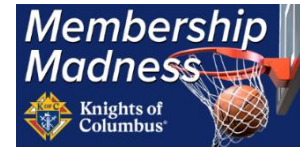
3/9 @ 7pm LINK: [MEMBERSHIP Training on Tuesday, March 9th at 7pm](#)

3/11 @ 8pm LINK: [MEMBERSHIP Training on Thursday, March 11th at 8pm](#)

March is our Month to GROW. People are coming out of their houses and getting back to church. This is when we can truly shine as a Council who wants to GROW and become better.

Councils should be scheduling **Membership Drives**, planning **Open Houses/Informational Meetings** and **EXEMPLIFICATIONS**. Our DD's need to get their District and their Councils back to scheduling and holding a Multi-Degree Exemplification in EVERY District EVERY MONTH!!

There is a new Incentive for Wisconsin, along with nine other states and the District of Columbia, called **March Membership Madness**. The ten states and DC are split into two teams with each state and team trying to Invite more New Members in March. From the two teams, the first and second place in each team will compete head-to-head in early April, then the winners will square off. Because the competition is based upon percentage of growth, not raw numbers, ALL of the states have a fair chance to win. I'll keep you in the loop on how we are doing with periodic emails to DD's, GK's, FS's, State Officers and RMC's.



Let's close out the "Per Capita" Incentive with a BANG!! Here are more than 140 Councils that are ONE New Member away from saving themselves hundreds of Dollars while GROWING Their Council. **Do it NOW!**

Rick Raulin – State Membership



Programs

Brothers,

As we enter into March with hopes for spring after the intense cold and snow of February, we reach the ¾ mark for this Fraternal Year. The COVID pandemic has continued to wreak havoc on our Councils' normal operations in regard to programs, meetings, etc., but the ramping up of the immunizations and loosening of some restrictions, likewise gives us hope for brighter days ahead, as does our Lenten journey toward Easter. In that same vein, I remind you to download your SP7 Columbian Award form and Wisconsin State Outstanding Council Award form from the Supreme/State websites and start to work on them now! In the process, ask yourselves: are we at least 75% to our membership goal for the year (better 100% or more)? Have we completed our Child Safety Training Requirements? Do we have all of our forms in so far (185, 365, Audit, Fraternal Survey, 10784 forms sent to Supreme, State Forms address for Faith in Action and Leave No Neighbor Behind programs when completed)? Have you worked with your Field Agent/General Agent to get your 2 Fraternal Benefits Nights arranged/completed?

If you can answer yes to these questions, congratulations; you're well on your way toward your Star Council and Outstanding Council goals. If not, there's work to be done and it's time to get moving. Work with your officers, committee chairs, pastor and his team, DD, your RMCs and Diocesan Program Coordinator, etc. – all can join in to help achieve your goals and reach success for this Fraternal Year.

Remember also that your History Book should've been completed and in to your DD Feb. 1; your State Service Program Award nominations were due to State Officer or to me by March 1. State judging for these is due March 20. If not yet in, do so at once or contact me right away for more information.

In spite of the issues we've been facing, realize that many programs can still be done utilizing drive by, no contact, curbside, virtual and other forms of operation, as well as hybrid methods as well. Holy Hours, Spiritual Reflection and Rosary programs, Into the Breach, Food for Families and other pantry/meal programs, Family Fully Alive, Coats for Kids, knowledge and Free Throw Contests, Soccer Challenge, Helping Hands, Novena for Life, Pregnancy Center Support, fundraisers for many programs, parish programs and fundraisers, are only some of the possibilities. From fish fries to blood drives, many programs can still be done with restrictions and cautions.

A new program, the "Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour" has just been introduced by Supreme as a Faith in Action program in and substitute for the Icon Program for the 2020-21 Fraternal Year. Details and resources are now available from the Supreme website. For more information, contact Sean Pott at sean.pott@kofc.org.

Be sure to get your State Convention registrations in soon – preferably online or contact State Office if necessary. We'd like to see you in attendance at the Convention whether in person or virtually.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I did not mention that the Worthy State Deputy and I have spearheaded an attempt to survey all of the parishes and pastors in the state regarding the KC presence in their parish,

Faith in Action and State programs they presently have or would like to have, prospects for new Councils and Roundtables, etc. While this is still a work in progress, one of the conclusions that stood out to me from the majority of parish responses so far was this: “the #1 thing we want from the Knights is to be visible in the parish, to participate in and support the programs the parish already has (and to help get people back to Mass), not to start new programs or impose KC programs on top of what we already have.” I think that speaks loudly and clearly to us in terms of what we are doing, need to do. It also accents the idea that the programs listed on the previously mentioned SP&s and Outstanding Council forms need not be only those listed on the forms as examples or strictly FiA programs. They can be parish or local programs. The key thing is that they actually involve Knights, parishioners, families, hopefully serve as membership opportunities as well whenever possible and are more than just giving out a check.

I wish you much success in your March program efforts. Keep the faith – better days are ahead!

Fraternally,
Bill Frayer
State Program Director

4th Degree Eastern District Exemplification

The Eastern District Fourth Degree is scheduled as a Virtual Degree on May 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z-Gdhv5XTogh3HJEOs6oPQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

For mor information, Contact Worthy Eastern District Master James TenPas

jamestenpas53@gmail.com

920 207-6007

4th Degree Western District Exemplification

The Western District Fourth Degree will hold a live face to face Degree on May 15, 2021. The Degree will be held at St Patrick's Catholic School Gym in Onalaska, Wisconsin starting at 1 pm. There will be no banquet at this Degree, just the exemplification. If Covid 19 takes a turn for the worse we will do this Degree virtually. The Hononee for this Degree is Curtis Noll. Let's make this Degree a huge success. More information will follow.

Dan Hull
Master of the Western District



General Agent Message

Dear State Family and Brother Knights,

A look into this Lent is exciting and far less daunting to me than others. I have always associated Isolation to Lent, going into the dessert, fasting, ash and sack cloth. This year the mask is the sack cloth and the isolation has been real for quite a while. Having an Easter with Mass will be more than a welcome sight for these sore and another year older eyes. (Wishing you a fruitful Lent)

Last Tuesday we had another successful Fraternal Benefits Live Event, with more than 200 people joining via the State Zoom account. We are thankful so many could join us! Dan Purtell, Brother Knight, and Estate Attorney from Madison Wilson Law group, and Myself discussed the main issues of having and protection your assets through trust and wills as well as Life and Long-term care products. We had several questions we will try to provide answers to over the coming weeks. We will be sending out a three-question survey to those who attended, so if you were on a watch party, we may need you to let us know. You can do that by emailing me at timothy.nowak@kofc.org. We are looking for feedback to always upgrade these events to help recruit new members, retain existing members and engage you more fully with the thoughts of information and interaction. I consider it an honor, as do the Field Agents, to not only serve you but be part of your trusted family.

As this year continues, we with the insurance of the Knight of Columbus, are committed to growing the number of members in Wisconsin. Through engagement not only fraternal Benefits nights, but parish drives and engaging with our Priest and parish for names of people to ask to consider if now is the time to be a part of the Knights of Columbus. Please consider inviting your agent to speak at your church drive and at any local events you may have so they can help share our story. We have a great group of agents and are looking to add 10 more in the years to come. If you know of someone who you think would be a great agent, please share those names with me as well. Recruitment is all of us together, thank you to those who have already helped in so many ways.

Lastly someone asked me about the Fraternal Benefits Night and how they can help. We would recommend that you could have a pulpit announcement and then run something in your bulletin for two weeks prior to your event as well as do an email blast which would invite your whole parish to come and learn and see what the Knights of Columbus has to offer. We know this will be effective to bring awareness and opportunity to share Fr. Michael McGivney's story. Please consider doing something new in your parish to refresh our mission.

Vivat Jesus,
Tim Nowak, GA

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
PARTNERSHIP PROFILE REPORT WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS
FORM 4584

All Councils should have filed the form 4584 by January 31st. I am sad to report that only 66 Councils in the state of Wisconsin filed for the calendar year 2020. It asks for member involvement, hours donated and monetary support given during the last calendar year. This form is very important to determine the size of the grant that we receive from Supreme. **EVERY COUNCIL** needs to file, even if they have not done anything for Special Olympics. I would be willing to bet that if you asked your membership, that at least a few members have done something to support Special Olympics, whether it was through a Council activity or on their own.

Effective immediately Special Olympics programs should be reported on the online Form 10784. This replaces the Form 4584 that has been used for years. As I understand Councils should report on this form as soon as possible after a donation or event for Special Olympics. Councils are not to wait till the end of year to report.

TEAM WISCONSIN DRIVE

We are now at \$80,301.70 of our goal of \$125,000.00. Remember to send Tootsie Roll checks that you want to go to Special Olympics to me. My address and phone number is in the directory. We are getting to the crunch time for this drive and we are \$45,000.00 short of covering our goal.

Thank You to all who support Special Olympics through our drive or directly to Local Chapters. Your donations help to support about 10,000 athletes.

John Benisch

Special Olympics Coordinator

Supreme Training Webinars

Brothers,

Here are the upcoming training sessions I have scheduled for the month of March. Please note which time zone you are in. I have also attached some graphics you can use for publicizing the training session. The RSVP link will let you pick which date for that presentation.

Delta Drive

Dates: 3/9/21 at 5PM CST (6PM EST)

Presentation will cover The Prospect landing page and interaction with the prospect. Come learn how to adapt the Delta drive Method to your council's next event.

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5225935198970840847>

Council Growth

Dates: 3/8/21 at 6PM CST (7PM EST)
3/16/21 at 8PM CDT (9PM EDT)



The presentation will help Fraternal leaders resolve to leave councils, parish, and community better than how they found it.

Leader should also learn how to develop a simple, specific, year-round plan in place for growing council membership, that involves participation from the whole council.

Attendees should commit to work with their pastor(s), field agent, and DD to accomplish their goals.

Leaders should understand the importance of hosting regular ceremonies, incorporating recruitment into every event, and running membership drives.

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/2443777155535353868>

Enhancing Member Experience

Dates: 3/1/21 at 6PM CST (7PM EST)
3/22/21 at 6PM CDT (7PM EDT)

We will cover in this training

- Understand what's meant by the terms membership experience and membership engagement and how the two terms are related.
- Complete the Council Engagement Assessment to assess their council's strengths and weaknesses with regards to member engagement.
- Understand that member engagement is the council's responsibility. Successful council engagement leads to members having positive opinions about their membership.



Learn the five steps in the engagement cycle and how they relate to one another, ultimately leading a member to go through them again.

Discover tools that will help address deficiencies in your council's current member engagement as based on your council's engagement score.

Understand that retention issues result when a council has failed to engage a member and show the value of his membership. These issues can be overcome by discovering where this breakdown occurred.

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5746747468787826448>

You are your programs

Dates: 3/3/21 at 7PM CST (8PM EST)
3/24/21 at 7PM CDT (8PM EDT)

We will cover in this training



Understand the council's perception by fellow parishioners, particularly that of inactive members and future potential members. Construct a council mission statement that reflects the council's vision and goals. u Understand the Faith in Action program model and its four categories – Faith, Family, Community and Life. Identify the council's flagship program(s).

Access the council's current program regimen and identify the current strengths and weaknesses among its program calendar.

Develop a calendar for the next 6-12 months that responds to the council's mission statement and addresses some of the council's strengths and weaknesses identified above.

Understand the Program Director's role in leading the council's programming efforts.

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7809145409472604432>

Tootsie Roll Drive – ID Program Update

Brother Knights,

Tootsie roll orders have slowly been trickling in. I realize that only about 100 councils ran a drive last year but I have not seen that many orders yet. Please check your stock and make plans for your drive. All Tootsie Roll orders need to be in by March 15. Councils must send their requests to their respective District Deputies. There is free shipping for us if an order is 33 cases or more. The state will pick up shipping costs for 18-32 cases. No orders can be processed if less than that amount which is why we combine districts when necessary. Orders must be in writing, do not send a phone message as there must be a written record. If you do not have a district deputy, send your council order to me.

Since we have opened the window for your drive we hope that summer may be a better time for your drive. As an example my council ran it the last weekend in August and set a new collection record in spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Have your members wear masks and gloves and most people will not be concerned about having contact.

Monies from the drive must be submitted by September 1st of this year. Due to the COVID situation we were down roughly \$100,000 from our normal intake. I hope that your council will have great success in their drive.

Have a wonderful New Year.

Fraternally yours,

Don Schoenherr

WI KofC ID Director

Polar Plunge

Are you and your council ready to help get **Special Olympics Wisconsin's Team Wisconsin** to the **2022 USA Games in Orlando, FL**? Now is your opportunity to **show your support** by challenging each other to assemble a team for the **Polar Plunge**! Special Olympics WI is **hosting** events around the state and you are receiving this note as one is coming up in your area soon. **Note: this year's Plunge is not the traditional event. Instead of plunging into cold water, you can sled down a hill or snowshoe for a COVID-safe event. An at-home DIY plunge is also available. Or choose not to plunge and support an athlete by [Cheering on a Champion!](#)**

Get the word out. Get your fellow knights involved to help our brothers and sisters with intellectual disabilities so they can compete at the games.

More information at PlungeWI.org.

Thanks,



Corey Coonen
State Deputy

Welcome to Knights on Bikes - International

I am pleased to introduce myself as the President of the Madison Diocese of Knights on Bikes (KonB). It is an International Organization consisting of members of the Knights of Columbus who are also motorcycle riders. The Knights on Bikes was formed in the United States in April 2005. It started with Willie C. Davidson, Freddy Galindo, Michael Savage, and continues to grow with many new groups around the country and the world.

My name is Richard Watson I live in Kieler Wisconsin. That is in far southwest Wisconsin. This is a new opportunity for KC members of Wisconsin that enjoy riding motorcycles of any type, two or three wheeled. I invite all KC members to contact me for more details of this new opportunity for fellowship service charity and unity. There are a couple of videos available that can introduce you to the KonB and answer many questions you may have. Links to information and contact information are listed here.

Recruiting video#1 <https://youtu.be/Odt9BuAoVf8>

Recruiting video#2 <https://youtu.be/cyyWCN3uazk>

KonB web site <https://www.knightsonbikes-international.org/home>

Madison Diocese President Rich Watson richcarolwatson@hotmail.com

Wisconsin State President Darrell Toth darrell.yorkieltd@gmail.com

Members of the KonB proudly wear a vest that clearly promotes the Knights of Columbus Organization.

"In God We Trust and Ride"
"In Service to One, In Service to All"
"Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism"

Ultrasound Project Update

February 28th is the day!

February 28th is a big day for me! I turn 55 – the big “double-nickel!” Help me celebrate my birthday by helping our brothers and sisters in Christ get a birthday who are still in the womb by helping out these two councils listed below who are raising funds for a local ultrasound initiative.

- Did you know that Wisconsin KofCs have funded 43 ultrasound machines since the program started in 2010?
- Did you know that over 97% of abortion-oriented women who get an ultrasound at one of the more than 62 pregnancy resource centers located throughout Wisconsin CHOOSE LIFE?!
- As you know, raising funds in these times is extremely difficult, so we are casting the net into the deep and could really use your help! If your council has funds set aside for ultrasound projects, here is your chance to save hundreds, if not thousands of babies, from abortion in Wisconsin.

I know there are some councils out there who are positioned to donate big for a fundraiser like this. Would you consider committing possibly \$100 for every year I've roamed the earth? Pray about it. Lives depend on it. I believe that the future of our nation actually depends on it. We are in a negative fertility rate in the US at 1.78 births per woman of childbearing age.

Msgr Heim Council #15665
FS Mark Mandry
513 Lewis St
Burlington, WI 53105-1021

Ashland Council #832
FS Robert Eaton
1321 6th Avenue West
Ashland, WI 54806

If you have individual donors who want a tax credit, they can send their donation through the WI KofC 501(C)(3). To ensure it goes to a specific ultrasound project, they MUST include the council number in the memo portion of the check (eg: #15665 ultrasound or #832 ultrasound).

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc
Memo: Council #(*insert council number*) Ultrasound
4297 W Beltline Highway
Madison, WI 53711-3859

Once these two ultrasound campaigns are funded, Wisconsin Knights of Columbus local councils and Supreme Council will have purchased 45 ultrasound machines for our precious Wisconsin babies! Vivat Jesus!

Through Christ,



Dan Miller
State Director Culture of Life Committee
State Council – Knights of Columbus
Oconomowoc Council #2487
4th Degree Assembly #1304
Dan.M@ProLifeWI.org – 262-993-6262

Faith in Action – Family Programs

Hello Brother Knights!

January continues the great progress for the Family of the Month program. A quick summary is below but click on the Flocknote link below for all the details.

This is followed by information on the **Good Friday Family Promotion** programs.



Family of the Month

Thank you again for an **amazing** month! All the details can be found in the Family Director Flocknote post <https://knightswisc.flocknote.com/FamilyDirector/note/11099927>. Check it out!

Supreme

Wisconsin is in 1st place in the order with 55 FOMs representing **12.4%** of all FOMs received by Supreme. The Supreme family of the month is the **Jeff and Sharon Schwartz Family** (St. Croix Council 1762, District 81, Superior Diocese). Please read about them in their section below.

Diocese

Madison Diocese led with **85%** district participation and was the diocese with the most FOMs by submitting 16 families.

Here are the Diocesan Families of the Month. Read about them in Flocknote link above.

Green Bay	Thomas and Patty Bekkers	La Crosse	Gary and Valorie Niziolek
Madison	Mitchell and Darlene Carl	Milwaukee	Jerry and Linda Helmert
Superior	Patrick and Luann Becker		

District

66% of the districts submitted at least one family. **Districts on Fire:** Four districts submitted three or four families and ten districts submitted two families.

Council

There was three new council submitting a family of the month. Welcome **St Joseph Council 4586** from Madison, **St. Raphael's Council 11305** from Oshkosh, and **Fr. Michael J McGivney Council 12621** from Lomira!

February Family of the Month deadline is March 15.

Golden Family Councils

Golden Family Councils are those that submit a family of the month each month of the fraternal year starting in July and ending in the following June. There are **40** Golden Family Councils that submitted for the months of July through December. Thank you, councils, as you are demonstrating true leadership in this program.

Supreme News

Please start using the new Online 10784 form for your family of the month submissions. Supreme will accept the existing 10668 FOM form until the end of the fraternal year. **The WILL NOT accept the 10668 starting in July 2020.**

There is a problem with the online 10784 where the family summary is restricted to 250 characters. Supreme is aware of the problem and are in the process of fixing it but it may take until the end of the fraternal year.

Here is a link to the video on how to fill out the new **online** version of the 10784 form.

https://players.brightcove.net/802593642001/y6FLiLa0f_default/index.html?videoId=6196175376001.

After you fill out the online 10784, you will receive a PDF file that you can include in your council history books. **Please forward this PDF to forms@wikofc.com** so that your family can be considered for the Diocesan Family of the Month award.

Family Programs

Good Friday Family Promotion

This is a Supreme Family program that encourages families to attend the Good Friday mass on April 2nd. It is also an opportunity to educate parishes about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land.



- **Website** <https://www.kofc.org/goodfriday>
- **Guide Sheet** <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/family/good-friday-family-promotion/10611-good-friday-family-guidesheet.pdf>

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.**

Vivat Jesus!



SK Joe Uchtyl
State Family Coordinator