
THE SILVER KNIGHT



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A Message from the Desk of the State Deputy

SK Toni Pascua



State Deputy

My Dear Brothers In Christ:

Pleasant greetings!

Hope this message finds everyone in good health and spirits while keeping ourselves as well as our families safe with the new normal/ necessary precautions amidst the easing down restrictions of this pandemic.

Our recently concluded 110th Annual Nevada State Council Convention and Elections on virtual and teleconference mode was a successful one.

Our Special Thanks to the Supreme Representative- Supreme Treasurer Ron Schwartz, who was our Keynote Speaker and gave valuable insights for our State Convention. Likewise, Thank you to our State Officers, Directors, and Convention Committee (responsible for the planning and logistics) and all Participants, Delegates and Alternates for making this a productive endeavor.

Congratulations to our Newly Elected State Officers, all on a second term! We can't thank you enough for sharing your wonderful efforts, time, talent and treasures in making our State Council a better version of what we can do for the common good of the Order.

The drawing for the Annual Seminarian Raffle Funds followed at the conclusion of the State Convention. Winners were drawn by the ladies/spouses of the State Officers. Congratulations to the Winners who were contacted and announced on the website. (Special mention goes to The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Las Vegas, Second Prize Raffle Winner of \$300.00 Cash, was donated back to the cause). We made net total of \$12,001.61 this year to support and add to the education/scholarship of our Seminarrians! Thank you for your patronage and contribution!

Some key points in the State Convention we'd like to share:

- Now more than ever to be a Brother Knight is a calling as we remember the needy especially at this unprecedented time.
- We are called to step up not step back and continue to use our resources to help each other.
- As a family, council, community, church, we should launch our spiritual ammunition to fight this battle in challenging times, the day will come to rise from this pandemic, with our sense of mission that it must grow beyond the breach and put more faith into action.
- Your stewardship at this historic moment to weather this predicament is appreciated.

Most livelihood, lifestyles and sociability at the very least, were cut short. A catalyst, a life changer, kinship and neighbors became distant. It changed the behavior of learning and maintaining relationships.

At this unrivaled time, where the answers still has to be found, the future holds uncertainties. We had no prior experience nor instruction manual/bases to follow, we did what we had to do Leave No Neighbor Behind. We figured it out on how to tread each day, be gracious and be mindful of people in need as we count our blessings.

Thank you to our families and friends who continue to understand and support us. We will look back one day and say, "We did it."

Here's to high hopes for the rest of the year 2020 to remember...not for moments lost, but for moments created. And life must go on...as we move forward to a new month (June), the middle of the calendar year, a last month of this fraternal year- trusting God, believing in the power of prayer, and having faith to overcome our tribulations and trials into positivity and triumphs.

Let us make this, and the incoming year to exceed our goals and expectations, let us put Nevada State Jurisdiction to always be number one!

Be safe and stay well.

Vivat Jesus!

Leadership Positions

Nevada State Officers 2019 - 2020

State Deputy	Toni F. Pascua
State Chaplain	Rev. Manny Ramirez Guico
State Secretary	Joe Haun
State Treasurer	Meynard Infantado
State Advocate	John Long
State Warden	Tom Villardi
State Chaplain Associate of Southern Nevada	Rev. Gerald Grupczynski, SChr.
State Chaplain Associate of Northern Nevada	Fr. Arlon Vegara
Immediate Past State Deputy	Thomas Thorn

District Deputies / Councils

District 1	Councils 978, 4997, 7322, 16207	Mathew Mareno
District 2	Councils 2380, 4928, 10577, 12877, 14588	Herbert Melendez
District 3	Councils 4828, 6688, 11174, 13897, 13924	Peter Comerford
District 4	Councils 4781, 12845, 13842, 13944	John E. DeBord
District 5	Councils 2511, 2666, 11512	Richard Senninger
District 6	Councils 5448, 9437, 9899, 13691	Jesus Sanchez
District 7	Councils 1340, 11179, 13754	Charles Reifsnyder
District 8	Councils 2828, 9102, 13392	Joseph Williams
District 9	Councils 10442, 10780, 14144, 14784	Raymond Foster
District 10	Councils 3741, 13456, 14820, 15061, 15790	Dan St. Pierre
District 11	Councils 7708, 8078, 8282, 12690	Richard Menard
District 12	Councils 5693, 11029, 12543, 14544	Dennis Murtaugh

Other Nevada State Officers 2019 - 2020

State Executive Secretary	Richard Senninger
Webmaster & Communications Director	Kenneth J. Sawyer
State Training Coordinator	Richard Senninger
State College Council Coordinator	Don Cortez
State Young Adult Coordinator	Lance Pascua
State Budget Committee Chairman	Nestor Tan
State Disaster Committee Chairman	Chuck Baker
State Public Relations Director	Tom Bush
Health Services Chairman	Dr. Thomas D'Amato
State Historian	J. Michael Brady
State Newsletter Editor	Al Cuccinelli

State “Faith in Action” Program Director

State Faith in Action Program Director

Christopher West

State FAITH “*Faith in Action*” Programs

State Faith Program Director

Hilarion Cordero Jr.

State Fr. McGivney Guild Chairman

Milton Ham

State Keep Christ in Christmas Committee Chair

Charles P. Reifsnyder

Marty Bushman, Co-Chair

State Seminary Education Fund Committee Chair

Thomas Thorn

State Vocations Committee Chairman

Michael Rinaldi

Reno Diocese Holy Family Prayer Committee Chair

Mark B. Foxwell

LV Diocese Holy Family Prayer Committee Chair

Robert McNamara

State (North) Silver Rose Run Committee Chairman

Steven P. Schiwart

State (South) Silver Rose Run Committee Chairman

Mariano Santana

State COMMUNITY “*Faith in Action*” Programs

State Community Program Director

Raymond Brewer

State Campaign for People with Intellectual

Disabilities Committee Chairman

John Suchewski

State Special Olympics Committee Chairman

John Suchewski

State 365 Club Committee Chairman

Ray Gardea, PSD

State Convention Committee Chairman

Tom Villardi

State Legislative Committee Chairman

Mark B. Foxwell

Council Retention Committee Chairman

Gerry Rockwell

Las Vegas Diocese Military & Veteran Committee Chair

Robert Hartman

Reno Diocese Military & Veteran Committee Chair

Joseph J. Fournier

State Recognition Committee Chairman

Daniel Mathews

State Audit Committee Chairman

Jim Holmes

State Round Table Committee Chairman

Charles P. Reifsnyder

State New Council Development Committee Chairman

Edmundo C. Verceles

State FAMILY “Faith in Action” Programs

State Family Program Director	Edgardo Infantado
State Marian Hour Committee Chairman	Mark B. Foxwell
State Athletic Events Committee Chairman	Daniel Barry
Las Vegas Catholic Citizens Essay/Poster Contest Committee Chairman	Jim Shurtliff
Youth Director	Michael Caudell
State Squires Committee Chairman	George A. Minter
Soccer and Free Throw Chairman	Robert Hartman
Vegas Culture-of-Life Service Program Director	Gerry Holinski
Reno Culture-of-Life Service Program Director	Mark B. Foxwell

State Programs Directors / Chairs

State Membership Director	Tom Villardi
Online Membership Chairman	Dennis Miguez
State Member Retention Committee Chairman	Raymond A. Troik
State Recruitment Committee Chairman	Gerry Rockwell
State Shining Armor Award Committee Chairman	Dennis J. Murtaugh
Council Reactivation Chairman	William Harmon
LV Diocese Insurance Promotion Committee Chair	Stephen Melancon
State Ceremonials Director	David Strait, PSD

Supreme Council Announcements

Father McGivney Moves Closer to Sainthood

SK Carl A. Anderson

Dear Brother Knights,

It is with particular joy that I write to share with you the news that, at Noon today in Rome, the Vatican announced the formal recognition of a miracle attributed to our founder, Venerable Father Michael McGivney.



Supreme Knight

With this announcement, a Mass of Beatification will soon be scheduled.

This joyful news is the culmination of many years of determined effort, and I ask for your continued and increased prayers as we prepare for the day when our founder will be known as “Blessed Michael McGivney.”

The Vatican announcement can be found below:

Decrees of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints

On May 26, 2020, the Holy Father Francis received in audience His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. During the audience, the Supreme Pontiff authorized the same Congregation to promulgate the Decrees regarding:

[...] the miracle, attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Michael McGivney, Diocesan Priest, Founder of the Order of the Knights of Columbus; born on August 12, 1852 in Waterbury (United States of America) and died in Thomaston (United States of America) on August 14, 1890; Venerable Michael McGivney was the founder of the Knights of Columbus, now the world’s largest Catholic fraternal organization. After studies in Canada and the United States, he was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop James Gibbons in Baltimore. He founded the Knights of Columbus as a mutual aid society, geared especially to working men and their families. He was known for his tireless work among his parishioners. He died at the early age of 38 from pneumonia.

I would ask each brother Knight to learn more about our founder at the newly updated Father McGivney Guild website where the Order will also regularly post news and updates related to the beatification.

And if you would like to learn even more about our founder’s heroic life and continuing legacy, please consider reading Father McGivney’s biography, [Parish Priest](#), and the newly-released book [The Knights of Columbus: An Illustrated History](#).

Sincerely,

2019/2020 Circle of Honor Award

SK Mark McMullen



Senior Vice President –
Membership &
Marketing

Worthy State Deputy Toni,

Congratulations to you and Team Nevada for achieving Circle of Honor this fraternal year. You are at 102.29% of goal. Well done!

You got off to a strong start and kept the momentum going all year. To achieve your goal with over 6 weeks remaining in the current fraternal year is an achievement for which you should be very proud.

Again, congratulations to you and your entire team.

Keep the momentum going and - keep recruiting!

Thanks for your leadership, Toni!.

State Officers Announcements

State Deputy May 2020 Highlights

SK Toni Pascua



State Deputy



110th State Convention Command Center

Photo shows State Officers during the State Virtual Convention (left to right) State Warden Tom Villardi, State Treasurer Meynard Infantado, State Deputy Toni Pascua, State Secretary Jo Haun and State Executive Secretary Rick Senninger.





LEAVE NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND

State Council donated \$900.50 to Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Photo shows State Deputy Toni Pascua giving the donation check to Julia Occhiogrosso of Las Vegas Catholic Worker. In Photo (left to right) Executive Secretary Rick Senninger, State Treasurer Meynard Infantado, Julia, SD Toni and State Secretary Joe Haun.



Photo shows State Officers with Julia Occhiogrosso at Las Vegas Catholic Worker Pantry with Brother Ray and Diane McCollum of St Anthony of Padua Council 14544, Las Vegas (the couple are regular volunteer of LVCW).

Thank You Letter:

May 28, 2020

Dear Tony and all the Knights -
 Great meeting you all and getting to show you around some. Thanks for your very generous gift to our ministry serving the poor and homeless. Our 7 formerly homeless guests are able to "skelter in place" if they choose in our 5 homes, each has their own room. The partnership with the group of young folks has worked well for us, they pick up the 350 meals we make and give them out.



Coronavirus change: 'To Go'

On Sat., April 4, we made 350 "to go" containers with Pasta (which Julia ladled out) and then Henry (left) added Cheese and a slice of Garlic Bread, then Gary (right) put a spoon in and put them in crates. A similar operation happened in our pantry with Robert. Then a group of young folks who have been giving out food to the homeless took them and gave them out at the Care Complex, they recently lost their kitchen, so it is a great partnership. They are as careful as possible and use N95 respirators, etc. They gave out all 350. We are doing this every Wed. and Sat.

ALL WILL BE WELL!
 -Julian of Norwich

Blessings
 and
 Thanks for
 your
 generosity
 Julia
 For ALL OF
 us!

State Chaplain's Message

Father Manny R. Guico

Dear Brother Knights:

Greetings!!!

By the time you receive & read my June State Chaplain's Message, I should be back in Las Vegas, Nevada. I waited until it's safe to travel & fly from Asia to USA.



Nevada State Chaplain

First of all, I wish to extend my congratulations to our newly elected (most of them re-elected) State Officers. We all look forward to supporting your leadership & guidance for Fraternal Year, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. This also implies that I will remain your State Chaplain for another year.

We've jointly experienced quarantines & restrictions for almost two months due to Covid-19 Pandemic. Our Diocesan & Parish activities had been affected & physical presence curtailed. Let's be positive & optimistic that we will find innovative & creative ways to serve as active members of the Knights of Columbus.

Let me share this beautiful PRAYER written by Father Adolfo Nicolas, SJ - the 30th Superior General of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus) who recently passed away in Tokyo, Japan. Based on the miraculous catch of the fish narrated by Saint John in chapter 21, it's an excellent synthesis of his Ignatian spirituality, very timely prayer for all of us.

"Lord Jesus, what weakness did you see in us that made you decide to call us, in spite of everything, to collaborate in your mission? We give you thanks for having called us, and we beg you not to forget your promise to be with us to the end of time. Frequently we are invaded by the feeling of having worked all night in vain, forgetting, perhaps, that you are with us. We ask that you make yourself present in our lives and in our work, today, tomorrow, and in the future yet to come. Fill with your love these lives of ours, which we put at your service. Take from our hearts the egoism of thinking about what is "ours", what is "mine", always excluding, lacking compassion and joy. Enlighten our minds and our hearts, and do not forget to make us smile when things do not go as we wished. At the end of the day, of each of our days, make us feel more united with you and better be able to perceive and discover around us greater joy and greater hope. We ask this for our reality. We are weak and sinful men, but we are your friends. Amen"

May we continue to be "Knights of Charity, Unity & Fraternity" especially during these challenging times.

Vivat Jesus!

Supreme Family of the Month Announcement - April 2020

SK Thomas Thorn



Immediate Past State Deputy

Congratulations to **PSA Brother Thierry Barkley**, MaryEllen and the rest of the Barkley family as Supreme's selection for Nevada April Family of the Month.

Thanks to the councils below that submitted their families for consideration.

Nevada 4928

Nevada 7322

Nevada 13842

Nevada 14784

Vivat Jesus,

A Message from the State Secretary

SK Joe Alvin Haun



State Secretary

WSD Toni, WSC Manny, and WSO's,

Here are the winners from the Seminarian Raffle Drawings.

1st Prize Winner:	Olga Jones	\$1000.00
2nd Prize Winner:	OLLV Women's Guild	\$300.00
3rd Prize Winner:	OLLV Catholic Church	\$200.00
4th Prize Winner:	Paul Sciarani	\$100.00
5th Prize Winner:	Ray Fritz	\$75.00

Total Money Collected: \$14,436.61

Council that Collected the Highest Amount: St Jude Council #9102

Council that Collected the Highest amount per Member: St John Paul II Council #6688

Vivat Jesus!

A Message from the State Warden & Membership Director

SK Tom Villardi



State Warden
State Membership
Director

Brother Knights,

I would like to thank all of you who attended our virtual State Convention. No, it's not what I had planned and it's definitely not what I wanted to see happen, but as always, we have to adjust to the times.

As most of you know, we are number 3 in the jurisdiction of 75 around the world. We are only 44 members away from moving up to number one and we have until June 30 to complete this task. I am so proud of what we've accomplished this year with recruitment and retention and am looking forward to the 2020/2021 fraternal year.

As we begin a new Columbian year on July 1 let us not forget our Brothers and their families. It is very important that we continue to stay in touch and to make sure that they are not in need.

With a little bit of hope, I will be traveling to church in the next few weeks; I'm really looking forward to it.

With all the unrest going on in our country, it is so important that we, the men of the Knights of Columbus continue to stay strong in supporting our churches and our neighbors.

Again, I ask of you haven't done so already, for all Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries to reach out to Supreme and get your Delta Drive package for recruitment. When we do come back to church it will be very important for us to hit the ground running. So please, on the recruitment side let's be ready for our churches to re-open.

I would also like to quickly address an issue regarding retention. We always think of retention as being the responsibility of two or three people in our Council, but this is not accurate. Retaining members is the responsibility of every Knight in the Council. When a Brother who has joined us has decided to leave or no longer makes contact with us; something has happened. He joined for a reason and he left for a reason. It is our job to understand both of these reasons so we can help him come back.

When your Council puts out a retention list, every member should review it and see what names are on that list they know and then try to make contact with him right away to see that he's OK.

Thank you all for your great work this year and I am looking forward to visiting as many Councils as I can.

State Program and Knight Awards

State of Nevada



2019 - 2020 Awards

Congratulations to:

FAITH Program:	St Andrews Council 8079 Boulder City
FAMILY Program:	St Francisco Garces Council 5693 St Francis De Sales, Las Vegas
COMMUNITY Program:	Ponderosa Council 4928 Sparks
LIFE Program:	Ponderosa Council 4928 Sparks
Chaplain of the Year:	SK Fr. Gerry Grupczynski St. Jude Council 9102, Las Vegas
Grand Knight of the Year:	SK Charles Goucher Ponderosa Council 4928, Sparks
Knight of the Year:	SK Joe Suarez St. Jude Council 9102, Las Vegas
Family of the Year:	SK Tom and Lady Gigi Villardi St. Jude Council 9102, Las Vegas

State Directors/Chairs Announcements

A Message from the Nevada General Agent

Kevin Tuuri, FICF



General Agent

What a month this has been! I pray that all of you are safe and well and that you remain so. Let's pray for those who have lost their lives, especially those heroes, those health care workers that made the ultimate sacrifice to help save others.

A short essay has made its way around the internet over the past month. It spoke to me and I would like to refer to it and the comparison of these last weeks.

The very first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. On the very first Easter the disciples were locked in their house. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid...If they left their homes their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk.

Alone in their homes they dared to believe that hope was possible, that God's love was the most powerful...Eventually, they were able to leave their homes, when the fear and danger had subsided. They went around celebrating and spreading the good news that Jesus was risen and love was the most powerful force on the earth.

This year, we might get to experience a taste of what that first Easter was like, still in our homes daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then, after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out, gathering together, singing and shouting the good news that God brings life even out of death, that love always has the final say!

This year we might get the closest taste we have had yet to what that first Easter was like.

Although the author is unknown, it's a sobering thought to remember that the disciples were worried, scared, hiding alone..."sheltering in place."

Perhaps being with our loved ones for this extended period of time has opened your eyes a bit. I know it has opened mine. What's really important in my life? What are my priorities? What are my opportunities to serve...to love?

As we pray for a return to our normal lives let's pledge to not let the lessons of these past weeks be forgotten when we return to the hustle and bustle of "normalcy."

Vivat Jesus!

A Message from the State Retention Director

SK Raymond Troik

RETENTION vs. CORONAVIRUS



State Retention Director

Ok, we've retained 90% of our Council. It was a dream; but I can dream; can't I? Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream; he didn't see it's fulfillment. But he had the dream. If we don't dream we will NEVER BE INVENTIVE. I must admit; I've got to dream. I've shared everything with Nevada State Knights on RETENTION. It all comes down to CONTACT.

We have to REACH OUT. Inactive knights are not going to come running to us. They seldom if ever come to a meeting. Since we've had all this free time I know we've called all delinquent knights. Right?

I hope and pray that YOU can reinvigorate YOUR Council ALL the time. It's not just something we have to do at the end of the fraternal year; it's a never ending project. Keep in mind something that Jesus did. He had risen from the dead and was going around seeing his friends. Probably scaring the bejeeves out of them! Well one day he's down on the beach tending a fire. Sees some fishermen; he knows whom they are. He tells them to throw their nets on the port side. They caught a lot of fish. Peter says: "It is the Lord!" Jumps out of the boat and pulls the net with lots of fish ashore; where Jesus cooks lunch for them. What's so important? #1. If what you've been doing to get the delinquent knights back into the council; TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT. Cast your efforts in a NEW direction. #2. Let the GK pull in the delinquent brothers. Welcome them back; invite them to help out. Show them what their council has accomplished!

Happy Father's Day, brothers. Don't forget to pray for those who are sick from the coronavirus and other diseases. Let's support businesses that had to shut down. If we do something positive as Knights; document it. VIVAT JESUS!

State Historian Report and June 2020 “Knight in the Light”

SK J Michael Brady



State Historian

Brother Knights – We look forward to our new 2021 Columbian Year! Wishing you an enjoyable summer as we continue to safeguard our love ones and country. Keeping in mind “Honored Glory Remembered” from our Memorial Day celebrations.

Other updates are as follows:

1. I will identify our new District Deputy’s and Grand Knight’s to make sure each Council has a respective Council Historian, for this new Columbian year and going forward. The Council Historian will assist the State Historian in reaching into the respective Council archives for access to the significant events or activities of the Council and Brother Knights. In some Councils this role will reside with the Grand Knight, due to size of Council membership. Please be prepared to discuss who is best suited for this position in your Council. As always, this is your chance to tell and record your Council’s continuing story!
2. In concert with our new Worthy State Deputy Toni F. Pascua and myself, we recommend Councils setting up a “cloud based” storage system for each Council’s records, photos, activity accounting, etc. The continuity of record keeping can then be documented/updated over the continuing “Columbian Year” by the Council Historian.
3. To accomplish the infill of Past State Deputy’s Biographical information, from 2000 to the current Columbian year; I will continue to work with resources from Supreme and PSD Ray Gardea to collect and archive this information. As mentioned before, we have received Biographical information for a few PSD’s.

Please use my email address: historian@nv-kofc.com to assist in adding any historic documentation, as indicated above, to capture the Nevada State history of our Fraternal Order. I look forward to continuing to work with my Brothers. Be diligent as we wrap up the details of our 2019-2020 Columbian year and elect our State and Council officers for 2020-2021.

Knights of Columbus History Fact:

More information about the “The Forming of Our Founder”

2020 March *Knights of Columbus Columbia* Article

Michael McGivney was preparing for final exams at a Jesuit-run seminary in Montreal when he heard the tragic news. His father, Patrick, had died suddenly at the age of 48. In June 1873, 20-year-old Michael promptly headed home to Waterbury, Connecticut, where his mother and six younger siblings were reeling from their loss.

A few months later, after ensuring his family’s financial security, McGivney received support from his bishop to continue his priestly formation. He did not, however, return to Sainte-Marie College in Montreal. In-stead, in what proved to be a decisive turning point in his vocational journey, he began studies at a different St. Mary’s, a Sulpician-run seminary in the bustling port city of Baltimore.

Father Joseph G. Daley, a priest who knew McGivney, later described the Sulpician fathers’ impact on Father McGivney in a June 1900 article in *The Columbiad*. “To them he unfolded his mind anew; and they... diverted his entirely from the thought of joining the Jesuits,” Father Daley wrote. “Humanity, and not the humanities, should engage henceforth his most devoted study; sympathy for human woes was a property more intrinsic than knowledge to store up knowledge was good, they admitted; but to save souls was incomparably better.”

Farther McGivney received his formation over a period of four years in Baltimore, where he was ordained in 1877 by Archbishop (later Cardinal) James Gibbons. He was assigned to St. Mary’s Church in New Haven Connecticut, and his passion for healing human woes and saving souls was immediately put into action. Several years later, the same passion, kindled during his studies in Baltimore, would inspire his founding vision for the Knights of Columbus.

“He was the Christian gentleman he wanted Knights to be, he was naturally that way, but I think his priestly formation strengthened those qualities within him.” said Supreme Chaplin Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore.

Please continue praying for the Beatification of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney!!!

Looking forward to our founder being known as “Blessed Michael McGivney”.

J. Michael Brady, State Historian

Nevada State Council

“Knight in the Light”

Worthy Nevada State Executive Secretary Sir Knight Richard L. Senninger, DD and Council FS

Richard L. Senninger (Rick) was born in Flint Michigan in May of 1957 to his parents a College Instructor (Earl J. Senninger Jr, Ph D in Geography) and Educational Administrator (Barbara Rochelle Epstein, M.S. – Special Education). The oldest of three children of Earl and Barbara Senninger he has two (2) younger siblings David J. Senninger, Architect employed as Associate Director / Interiors at Stanford University, CA and Melissa A. Murphy residing in Pahrump, NV.

Rick’s career profile has always been working with and for the public, business sectors, and communities. Serving as a Consumer Products Manufactures Representative, Manufactures Representative to General Motors for engineering design products, Radio and Television Broadcasting, Advertising / Marketing and ironically the Funeral Industry. The common thread throughout all his career was his emphasis on collaborating, communicating, and educating those within the communities he lived. Regardless if the platform was in Community Players, Professional Broadcast, Entertainment, Board Room, Small Business, or a Funeral Home Rick’s most notable trait remains in his ability to communicate sincerely.

Rick’s formal education began at St. Matthews Elementary School (St Augustine Order Parish) with completion of his senior year at Luke M. Powers Catholic High School, Class of 1975. Both Catholic learning institutions were in Flint, Michigan. The last of his college education concluded at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, MI where he openly admits that competitive Snow Skiing and becoming a college cheerleader should have been his Major instead of Business Administration.

Today, Rick owns and manages 1st Call Pet Cremation, LLC a startup concept he investigated, pursued, and developed for nearly two (2) years prior to its launch in January 2019. The premise of the business is simple; converting his knowledge and experience from the traditional Funeral Industry serving 2-legged family members and begin serving families who suffer the loss of 4-legged family members. Acknowledging the grief involved by the death of any companion deserves compassion. 1st Call Pet Cremation currently serves an average of 100 families per month within the Las Vegas market.

Distinctions and Honors:

- Society of Kentucky Colonels bestowed by the Governor of Kentucky
- Advisor of Presidential appointment committee for Veterans Services – Washington DC
- Advisor for The Center of Security Policy, Washington, DC
- Board of Directors – Real ID initial Legislative Initiative – New York City and Washington, D.C.
- Paul Harris Fellow – Rotary International, Orlando, FL.
- Board of Directors: West Orlando Rotary Club
- Board of Directors: Sales and Marketing Executives- Orlando
- Associate Director: of The Buick Open PGA Golf Tournament, Grand Blanc, MI
- Board of Directors: Southern Christian Leadership Conference – Cleveland Chapter
- Appointment: Catholic Board of Education, Genesee County, Michigan.

Service within the Knights of Columbus:

- Initiation into the Knights of Columbus 1980, Flint Michigan
- 4th Degree Exemplification 1982, Flint Mi
- Captain in 4th Degree Assembly 1982 -1984, Flint, MI
- Council Financial Secretary 2018-2019 Las Vegas, NV
- State Training Coordinator, 2018-2021, Nevada
- State Executive Secretary, 2019 – 2021, Nevada
- District Deputy, District 5, 2020 – 2021, Nevada

Greatest Accomplishments: Two wonderful Daughters; Eldest daughter Lauren R. Senninger married to Ben Jones (both Attorneys in Florida) and providers of my First Grandchild, “Elowyn”. My second daughter is Miranda Hunnicutt, stepmom to three wonderful children and committed to their father “Brandon Smith” who is a building contractor in Orlando, FL. That makes his sons-in-law “Smith and Jones”.

J. Michael Brady, State Historian

Nevada State Council

The Truth About Annuities

Kevin Tuuri, FICF



General Agent

NEVER INVEST IN AN ANNUITY!! You've no doubt seen this kind of headline in the financial pages or you've seen pop-up ads on your computer, or you've heard some friend repeat what he's heard from his buddy's Uncle. Are they serious?

Let's start with the basics: An annuity is a tax-favored savings instrument. The government gives it special tax treatment because it's designed for retirement income. An annuity can be qualified or in other words, funded with money that you have not yet paid taxes on, like an IRA or an RRSP in Canada. Or non-qualified, that is, funded with money you've already paid the tax on. Like money you take from your paycheck or out of your savings account. Either way, the tax on the growth in your Knights of Columbus annuity each year is deferred...you pay no current tax on it and pay only when you withdraw money.

I'll tell you that I think an annuity is a is a great product in the right situation. Especially a Knights of Columbus annuity. In addition to tax deferred growth, here are a few more reasons why I think that way:

1. Your minimum interest rate is guaranteed...for life! There is a floor that the interest rate will never drop below. The good news is that we've always paid a higher current interest rate than the guarantee. This feature means nobody has ever lost a dime in a Knights of Columbus annuity...and never will!
2. Your principal is guaranteed by the Knights. Now that kind of guarantee is only as good as the company backing it...and we've had 40+ years of Superior ratings from A. M. Best for financial strength. (As of March 2020, rated AA+ by S&P)
3. You are charged no administrative fees each year...100% of your money goes to work for you earning interest from day one.
4. Even though annuities are designed for long-term growth, after one year you can access 10% of the value without any KofC penalty.
5. Owners of annuities name a beneficiary; this means that at death, the proceeds bypass probate. This saves time and usually money, too.
6. You can enjoy an income that you (and if you wish, your wife) can never outline!

But let's be fair; an annuity is not the answer every time. It's not a short-term product. It's not designed to be a "put and take" account where you stick some money in and then take it out a short time later. There is a reducing early withdrawal penalty over the first seven years if you take out more than the 10% free withdrawal. That feature, in all annuities, not just the KofC, is to encourage people to leave the money alone until retirement age.

So, although there are situations where an annuity is not the proper product, there are many where it is...And we haven't even talked about triple compounding, protection from creditors and other features.

How do you know if an annuity is right for you? Meet with your Knights of Columbus field agent to take a look at your goals. It might be the perfect fit.

Where do you keep your safe money?

Vivat Jesus!

Assembly/Council Announcements

VanSkee Memorial

SK Robert J Hartman

Brother Knights:

These are photos taken after the annual Memorial Day Service at the tomb of Rev. Theodore VanSkee. Our Chaplain Deacon Dan DePozo led the service.



Veterans Affairs Chairman
(Southern Region)



