

#### The Newsletter of the Rhode Island State Council **Knights of Columbus**

formed in 1893 as the first State Council

Serving the Church and Community through Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism since 1893

May 2020 Volume 3, issue 11

#### State Council News

#### 27 State Convention

This year saw a first for our State Convention – a Virtual Convention Due to the restrictions imposed in response to the COVID19 Pandemic, most convention activities were eliminated. Voting for State Officers and Resolutions was conducted through a virtual meeting. Let me introduce you to the newly elected Officers for Fraternal Year 2020-2021: State Deputy David Quinn, State Secretary David Bebyn, State Treasurer Joseph Carrignan, State Advocate Eric Batista, State Warden PJ Shea, and elected as Delegate & Alternate to the Supreme Convention DD Jack Tracy & DD Mark Paul. Fr. Joseph Paquette has agreed to stay on as State Chaplain. State Deputy-elect Quinn is currently assembling the rest of his leadership team for the

next Columbian year and we will introduce them to you when he has finished that process.













Officers-elect (left to right, top to bottom)

SD Dave Quinn

SS Dave Bebyn

ST Joe Carrignan

SA Eric Batista

SW Philip (PJ) Shea IPSD Mike Dziok



State Chaplain Fr. Joe Paquette



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#### State Charity Raffle



The State Charity Raffle Drawing was held at the State Office on Sunday, April 26th in the presence of State Deputy Michael Dziok & State Advocate Joe Carrignan with gotomeeting app access available to interested parties (slightly over 20 joined us). The actual drawing of winners was done by Linda Tracy in the usual descending order of value. The \$1000 winner is Rick Bartel, the \$500 winner is Jack Cotter, and the \$250 winner is Thomas Noel. Congratulations to each of you. And THANK YOU to all who helped to make this year's Raffle another success. (as an aside, I have already offered State Deputy-elect Quinn to serve as next year's Raffle Chair).

#### Membership News

Hello fellow Brother Knights and friends,

I hope that this finds you all well and continuing to look forward to the days that we can all be back together again. During these times we must look to be innovators within our Councils and communities.

Recently, the Supreme Council has changed the way we can conduct our membership activities like never before - they have made it easier. They helped to make the process of conducting a Church Drive easier through the Delta Church Drive and the Prospect Landing Pages. They have also made the process of actually bringing a new member into our council in two new ways. First, they have established the Online Membership process through KofC.org/JoinUs - here a new



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member can join the Order instantly. Additionally, they have recently opened a portal for Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries to use the Officers Online portal to manually input the basic information of a new Knight from their Form 100 and electronically process a new member.

Finally, the Supreme Council has made it possible to welcome new Brother Knights through online presentations of the new Exemplification of Charity, Unity & Fraternity. To that point - in no way will this replace the in-person Exemplifications experience that we all know and love, it is only a way for us to adapt to the most health-conscious methods possible.

All of the Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries should have received the details around these online Exemplifications. If you are interested in elevating to the 3rd Degree or, if you know of a future Brother Knight that would like to join, reach out to your Council Leadership or to the State Membership team and we will assist you in any and every way possible.

I hope that you will all take advantage of this great and new opportunity and continue to pray for the success of our order and its growth that will allow us to help more people in need throughout our communities.

Vivat Jesus,



PJ Shea
State Membership Director
Membership.RIKofC@gmail.com
(401) 480-2365



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#### Making Councils Stronger

#### Strong Councils through Membership Growth & Engagement

Supreme has scheduled a number of on-line exemplifications to assist us during the pandemic, dates & times are on Thursday, May 7 @ 7 AM EDT, 2 PM EDT, 7 PM EDT, 10 PM EDT. Also, non-English Exemplifications are offered at the following dates & times:

FRENCH SPANISH

Sat., May 9 @ Wed., May 13 @ 9:00 pm EDT

 Wed., May 13 @
 Sun., May 17 @

 7:30 pm EDT
 9:00 pm EDT

**NOW!** is the time to recruit members of all ages and ethnicities!

Remember! One member per Council per month!

Contact Degree & Ceremonials Chairman Bob Lynch at <a href="mailto:degreekofc@gmail.com">degreekofc@gmail.com</a> with questions or concerns.

News from Supreme

#### Awards Criteria Adjustments

The Supreme Council has adjusted the criteria for earning of Supreme's annual recognition Awards. This is a one-time change for the current year only. Please note the adjustments below:

#### Columbian Award

(Programs). Conduct 10 programs; At least 2 in each category of Faith, Family, Community and Life; At least 2 additional in any category; Specific programs are no longer required



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- McGivney Award (Membership). 40% reduction in quota
- Founders Award
   (Insurance). 50% reduction in quota, or host a benefits seminar with field agent by June 30

#### Star Council Award.

- Achieve the revised Columbian, McGivney, and Founders awards.
- Payment of Supreme assessments and per capita are not required for this year
- All other Star Council requirements (reports, safe environment, etc.) remain in effect

The 990 Tax filing deadline has been extended (along with other Federal deadlines) to July 15<sup>th</sup>.

## As a reminder, here are the filing options:

- Councils reporting gross receipts of \$50,000 or less may comply with their obligation by filing the Form 990-N electronic postcard (also known as the e-Postcard).
- Councils with total assets of less than \$500,000, and reporting gross receipts of more than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000, must file the Form 990-EZ.
- Councils with total assets of \$500,000 or more and reporting gross receipts of \$200,000 or more must file the Form 990.

If you have questions relating to your council's tax reporting obligations, please contact the Knights of Columbus Legal Department by email at <a href="mailto:tax.ein@kofc.org">tax.ein@kofc.org</a>

Message from the State Deputy

Brothers & Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic goes on yet another month, but we should be proud of the work so far of many of our councils embracing



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the Leave No Neighbor Behind Program. Councils have started meal distribution programs, and weekly food and household supply collections. Councils have assisted in the production of the weekly online masses at their parishes. The State and a local council provided \$3000.00 in Stop & Shop gift cards when the Diocese reached out to the Knights to assist them in assisting families in need.

We have assisted the Little Sisters of the Poor at Jeanne Jugan Manor when they sought financial assistance to buy foodstuffs and were able to secure 1000 much needed disposable face masks through our Supreme Council. There is a need and we must continue to reach out and make every effort to ensure that it is met.

During this time, the business of the Order must go on, and our 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention was held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, albeit virtually.

Seventy –six delegates representing 38 councils participated by listening to the convention proceedings and voting on their phones. Under this revised format, supervised by Supreme, all presented resolutions were approved, as was the proposed budget. For those elected to a one year term effective July 1, 2020 see the lead article above.

My congratulations are extended to the newly elected RI State Council slate of officers!

We are still awaiting word on the status of this year's Supreme convention scheduled to take place in Washington, DC.

As a reminder, each council should have their nominating committees working to establish a slate of officers for the elections in June, as well as formulating a process to vote remotely. Councils are asked to seek advice from their



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District Deputies for available meeting and voting options.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, an on-line exemplification of Charity Unity Fraternity was held, and as a result twelve new brother Knights joined our ranks in Rhode Island. The online exemplifications are set to continue (see Membership article above) and councils should direct new candidates to avail themselves to this platform during our declared state of emergency.

I pray that you and your families remain healthy and safe.

Vivat Jesus!



Michael Dziok

**State Deputy** 

#### Patriotic Degree News

The Jurisdiction of RI held its Biennial Meeting via the *gotomeeting* app (with voting through *surveymonkey*). We were joined by VSM Richard M°Dermott for the meeting in a rare opportunity. The Jurisdiction expressed its overwhelming preference for PSD Peter Lentini to serve as our next District Master. Thank you, Pete. We now await the appointment from the Supreme Master, to be made after the Supreme Convention.

Also, the next Exemplification of the Patriotic Degree scheduled for **Sunday, May 31, 2020** at St. Teresa Church hall, 358 Newport Ave., Pawtucket may end up suffering cancellation or postponement due to COVID-19 issues. For now, it is still on the schedule because it is easier to cancel than start from scratch. Stay tuned for further details.



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#### Master's Message

Brothers,

Thanks to this pandemic, in a short period of time we find ourselves in a very different world. Regardless, as promised the Biennial Meeting of the 4th degree was held virtually on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at 7:00 PM. Thank you SK Jeff Gaulin and SK PJ Shea for making this happen for me. I want to also thank the many Brother Sir Knights, who were able to join in.

On the plus side of this technology, the Vice Supreme Master of the James A. Healy Province, Richard McDermott, was also able to join in from New Hampshire.

The highlight of the meeting was the resolutions submitted for the next District Master. A very special thank you goes to District Deputy and Faithful Navigator SK Jack Tracy, State Faith Program Director and Faithful Navigator Mike DeAngelis and Past State Deputy and District

Deputy Peter Lentini for their interest in this position. Though the delegates chose their preference that PSD Peter Lentini be the assigned choice, it is really up to the Supreme Master and the Supreme Knight.

Thank you, State Deputy Michael Dziok, for your kind words in support of me and the Patriotic Degree. The same goes for Vice Supreme Master Richard McDermott, for his kind words and support, stressing the challenge of recruitment and awards under the present situation we find ourselves in.



Robert (Bob) Gallant
4th Degree District Master,
Rhode Island



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#### General Agent

The agents of RI are available to assist you in any way needed during this time and encourages Councils to work with us to hold virtual Fraternal Benefits nights to help you qualify for the *Founder's Award* 



General Agent John Ruffo is available for all your Fraternal Benefits questions. He can be reached at <a href="mailto:john.ruffo@kofc.org">john.ruffo@kofc.org</a> or by phone at 860-807-3234 (office) & 860-866-8712 (cell). God Bless!

### Programming Activities

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

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

## Events of Note

- May 10<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day
- May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day
- May 31<sup>st</sup> Pentecost Sunday Birthday of the Church
- May 31<sup>st</sup> Patriotic Degree
   Exemplification Tentative
   pending COVID19 restrictions

Check the State Website regularly for details and new listings.



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#### Milestone Celebration



**Woonsocket Council #113**,

whose 125<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary date was January 27<sup>th</sup>, is likely to again postpone their Gala Celebration. It will still be at *St. Ann's Arts & Cultural Center* on Cumberland Street in Woonsocket (just down the road from the Council home @ All Saints Church). With questions, or to participate, contact State Program Director Jeff Gaulin (event chair) at <a href="mailto:iagaulin@verizon.net">iagaulin@verizon.net</a> or District Deputy Jack Tracy at <a href="mailto:iklmc.tracy@att.net">iklmc.tracy@att.net</a>.

From the State Program
Director

Brothers,

We are working to close out the year over these next 2 months, for sure since Mid-February the COVID virus we are all dealing with has been a major effect on our councils throughout the state. In case some of you did not see my email in regards to the SP7 form, Supreme has stated that if you had a program scheduled but had to cancel because of the restrictions that the state has implemented, you can put those items down in your respective category and get credit for them. Secondly, requirements for Membership and for Insurance have been reduced. Example here is if you had a quota of 10 for membership, they have reduced by 40% that means you would need 6 New Members, for insurance its reduced by 50% so if



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your quota was 6 now its 3 new insurance members or if you schedule a virtual Fraternal Benefits call with your council and have members attend, that will count for your insurance quota. Supreme is being flexible so let us make sure we take full advantage of this and ensure your councils get recognized for your GREAT Work!!! (cf. Supreme News article above)

Lastly, thank you for your work and support over this last fraternal year, your councils are making a difference and for that, we are very appreciative.

Vivat Jesus!



Jeff Gaulin
RI State Program Director

#### State & Local Happenings

Below are just a few of the many activities held by Councils around the State. Many of our functions build a spirit of Fraternity.....

.....while doing good works.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? (Jas 2:14)





Photos from Lincoln Council weekly pantry collections

So also, Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (Jas 2:17)



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#### Community Activities



Lincoln Council has been holding Food Pantry Collection via "Dropoff Events" on Fridays. They have changed the beneficiary group on a weekly basis. And, their efforts have been recognized by the Supreme Council.

Woonsocket Council has collected donations of "gift" cards to local food stores which have been distributed by host Pastor Fr. Joe Upton based on a need list provided by the Diocese of Providence. This is an ongoing project which is approaching the \$1000 mark.

#### Life Activities



You are urged to remain alert to the actions of our state legislators and other elected officials when they purport to speak for us. Do not fear correcting them and informing them of the truth (politely & civilly but firmly) when they are in error. This applies to our national legislators & officials as well.

Always remember that the fight to protect life never ends. Whether it is end of life causes, treatment of the living in this world (social justice issues) or treatment of the not yet born.



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#### Faith Activities



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

On April 18, the Knights of SS John & James Council in West Warwick and Msgr. Blessing Council in Coventry joined together to hold their Spiritual Reflection event as part of their Faith in Action program. The event included lectures from Fr. Nicholas Fleming on Prayer, Virtues, and the Devil & Sin. The event concluded with praying the Rosary. It was hosted by GK Jeremy Pezza of SS John &

James Council and GK Paul Lemek of Msgr. Blessing Council, and was attended by 19 families, which included nearly 40 participants.

Inspiration to hold the event came after council members attended the Supreme Council's webinar on tools and resources for conducting Knights of Columbus business and events online. The councils used the Zoom Cloud Meeting Platform which has the capability to hold online events for up to 500 participants.

# Family Activities Youth Recognition

Youth of the Year was awarded to Hannah Kline from St. Philip's Parish, nominated by St. Philip's Council. A presentation will be scheduled once restrictions are lifted. Congratulations to Hannah



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and her family. Thank you to St. Philip's Council for recognizing this worthy candidate's merits.

#### Youth Scholarship & Book Awards

Deadline for Scholarship & Book Awards has been extended to July 15, 2020.

This was determined to be appropriate given the impacts of the current coronavirus situation, and to be in line with extended national and state tax filing deadlines

Applications can be found on the Site website under Links of Interest. (<u>www.kofcri.org</u>) for more information.

## Fraternal Training and Communication

With the many changes that have occurred during this Fraternal Year, some permanent while some

are temporary, it would be wise to re-invest in your training. There are numerous webinars available and we have a superb advisor in State Training Director Steve Ciolfi. Please avail yourselves of both. (see also the next article).

#### Training

There are many training opportunities throughout the year (see the Supreme Website – <a href="www.kofc.org">www.kofc.org</a>), they are open to any Brother Knight who may be interested. You can register from the Home Page of the supreme website: go to Members, Resources & then the Fraternal Training tab. You must register to participate, but once registered, you do not have to view it live. Rather, you can view it later at a time of your convenience.

Additionally, the State Council has a Training Officer available to assist with any topic. PSD FM Steve Ciolfi is here to help. You can reach him at <a href="mailto:stevec618@aol.com">stevec618@aol.com</a>.



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#### State Website

Check out the State Website at <a href="www.kofcri.org">www.kofcri.org</a>. It is connected to UKnight Interactive (kofcknights.org) and allows connection to any local Council website that is also a part of the UKnight family. There are also links to other sites of interest such as Fathers for Good, the Supreme Council et alia.

#### State Newsletter

Reminder: I include as much as possible in this newsletter. But I need your help by sending me information & photos from your events.

News items for the newsletter can be sent to me at <a href="rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com">rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com</a>, through your DD, who will forward it to me, or the various program Directors.

#### State Meeting

The next State Meeting will be announced when the pandemic restrictions have been lifted.

# A Note of Fraternal

Brothers, as noted previously, our membership is older, with an average age of 62. Implicit in that average is the fact that we have many older Brothers. These Brothers often are unable to regularly attend meetings and functions. This can lead to Councils losing track of them and, unfortunately, should they pass away we fail to recognize their significance and membership in our Order. I am asking that the word be spread among your membership and families to be vigilant to the passing of a Council member or Council family member and relay the information to the Grand Knight

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

Prayers Requested



Many of us know people who have contracted the Corona Virus (COVID-19). Please pray for them, their



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caregivers and families. Below find a prayer for protection distributed by Supreme:

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen. Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs. despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Please pray for the repose of:

SK Oscar Nichols (Woonsocket Council/Moylan Assembly)

Anna Guerra, aunt of State Faith Director Mike DeAngelis

And God's comfort to their families

Prayers are requested for Orlando Giasanti. Ongoing prayers are also requested for Bishop Louis Gelineau, Fr. Dennis Reardon, Fr. Robert Bailey, PGK Daniel Danis (Blessing Council), Kristen Jarret, FVSM Michael Donnelly, GK Joseph Bedard (Pascoag Council), Becca and Brianna Arel (granddaughters of Woonsocket Council Chancellor OJ Auger), Phil Shea Jr., Patricia Moran (grandmother of Membership Director PJ Shea), Gerry and Pat Desmarais (St. Eugene Council), Barry Chevrette (Pascoag Council), Matt Parent, Nancy Forest (wife of PGK Richard Forest), Pat Logan (wife of PGK Greg Logan), Cheryl Tedeschi (wife of FDD Anthony Tedeschi), PSD/FVSM Sav Giusti, FDD Ray Riel, PFN Rick Regan, Roger Depot, Executive Secretary Mike Krzywonos, PGK/PFN Ernie Pennine, PGK/PFN Walter Jalbert. PGK/PFN Stanley Eason (Woon. Council/ Moylan



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Assembly), GK Jerry Marra, Ellen and PSD Normand Charpentier, Bob Jackson (St. Francis Council), Mike Magill, DD Alan Lamake, David Riendeau (John Paul II Council), FDD Dave Lucas, and FDD George Plante as they each deal with various health concerns.

I am sure I am missing others, and for that I apologize. Please feel free to add them to this list of those we pray for and remember.

And I (selfishly) ask for prayers of thanksgiving and health for the pregnancy of Kara (Tracy) & SK Jonathan Taft.

(to have someone mentioned, contact me at <u>rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com</u> or ask the state to add to them to the prayer list on the website)

Contact Information

Officers

State Deputy Michael Dziok <a href="mailto:mdziok1067@aol.com">mdziok1067@aol.com</a>

State Chaplain Fr. Joe Paquette JoePaquette1@gmail.com

State Secretary Dave Quinn davequinn.rikofc@aol.com

State Treasurer Dave Bebyn dbebyn@beconsulting.biz

State Advocate Joe Carrignan joe.carrignan@outlook.com

State Warden Eric Batista ebkofc@gmail.com

Immediate Past State Deputy Mike Benson MBenson.rikofc@gmail.com

Patriotic Degree

District Master Bob Gallant – bobgal664@gmail.com

District Marshall John Tougas – <u>jtougassr@gmail.com</u>

District Marshall Warren Rensehausen - wrensehausen@hotmail.com

Executive Secretary Ron Ross - 1970cheron@gmail.com

#### **District Deputies**

District 1 Al Nunes – <u>al.nunes@trimarkusa.com</u>

District 2 PSD Peter Lentini tireman966@hotmail.com

District 3 Bob Moniz – rim51@cox.net

District 4 Mark Paul - mpaul@astromed.com

District 5 Victor Silva – vmsilva58@gmail.com

District 6 Mike Colvin – mikegcolvin@gmail.com

District 7 Matt Belair – mattbkofc@gmail.com



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District 9 Keith Roberts -

Krobertsappraisal@gmail.com

District 10 Jack Tracy - <u>jklmc.tracy@att.net</u> or <u>rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com</u>

District 11 Alan Lamake – allamake@aol.com

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Degree & Ceremonial Director Bob Lynch degreekofc@gmail.com

Program Director Jeff Gaulin jagaulin@verizon.net

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Community Director Steve Perry brady12qb@verizon.net

Family Director Mike Guerra mikegonemad@gmail.com

Life Director – PSD James Gilcreast <a href="mailto:jwellingtonwells@hotmail.com">jwellingtonwells@hotmail.com</a>

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Contact information of subcommittee chairmen and other State Staff can be found on the State website <a href="https://www.kofcri.org">www.kofcri.org</a>

Remember, these men are here to help you and your Council. Do not be afraid to contact them for help or with any questions you may have.





Vivat Jesus!