



A Knight's View

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island State Council
Knights of Columbus

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

November 2019

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Council News

During the previous month (October) we naturally celebrated the day of our namesake, Christopher Columbus, the great explorer who opened the Americas to European awareness which led to the expansion of Christianity. Knights delegations attended 3 Parades held for the occasion. Parades were held in Westerly, Providence and Woonsocket.



The delegation at the Federal Hill Columbus Parade

Congratulations!

Clergy Night was held October 14th at Twelve Acres Restaurant in Smithfield. Those who attended enjoyed a night of fellowship with our clergy. In attendance were over 30 clergy, including Bishop Evans and State Chaplain Fr. Paquette. The highlight of the night was the announcement of our Chaplain of the Year. While all the nominees are worthy of the honor, only one could be chosen. Congratulations go to Father John Soares of St. Thomas the Apostle Council.



Marchers in the Westerly Columbus Parade



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Chaplain of the Year Fr. John Soares surrounded by members of St. Thomas the Apostle Council #11684



Priests attending the biennial Clergy Night

A Frosty Knights' Gala

This year's State Charity Ball will be held on December 8th at Quidnessett Country Club. Theme: *A Frosty Knights' Gala* .

Included will be a Silent Auction, Wine Grab and a \$1000 Raffle. And a grand social function. Councils are encouraged to participate in various ways. You can buy Tables of 8 (there are also a limited number of Tables of 10). You may also provide a gift basket for the Silent Auction, bottles of wine & gift cards for the Wine Grab, place an ad in the Program Book, or purchase a ticket(s) for the \$1000 Raffle.

This is a great opportunity for fellowship with Knights and their families from around the State (even my then 16-year-old daughter enjoyed herself).

This is the principle fundraiser for the State, please help our charitable endeavors, they are



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**your. The local Councils are the
State Council. Join us.**

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321,000, a drop of nearly 40% over 18 years. It gets worse. The decline in Sunday Mass attendance has dropped 57%, from 188,000 to just 80,000 today. The annual number of Catholic weddings has declined from over 2,000 to just under 700 last year. Baby Baptisms and First Communions have each dropped from over 6,000 to less than half, and Confirmations have fallen from 4,800 to 2,900. Additionally the call to Vocations had dropped to record lows, with only 134 priests in active ministry, down from 216 in 2000. The diocese expects to ordain 13 new priests over the next six years, but in that time more than twice as many will attain the retirement age of 70 years old.

Membership News

A CALL TO ACTION - KNIGHTHOOD

Rhode Island has long been referred to as "the most Catholic state" in the U.S. As people of the Catholic Faith, this is an accolade we have all been proud to accept. However Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, Ordinary of the Diocese of Providence recently released some startling statistics related to trends of practicing Catholics in Rhode Island.

In 2000, Rhode Island's Catholic parishes reported 525,000 parishioners. Today that number is

Further, and on a personal note, I recently attended the Sacrament of Confirmation Ceremony at St.



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Bernard. It was a great class with a wonderful sense of spirituality from those being Confirmed. It was great to see Brother Knight Phil Reilly there as a Sponsor for his grandson. However, I was struck by the great number of young men that did not have a male Sponsor. While we thank God for our women, it has to be asked, "where are the men?"

My greatest reason for being a member of the Knights of Columbus is that it allows me to interact with all of you. You are men who are not afraid to profess your Catholic Faith and raise your families accordingly. We raise money for Charity, we work together to make the lives of the less fortunate more bearable. We encourage each other to be better Husbands, Fathers, Uncles, Brothers, and yes, better Catholics. We support our Parishes, and our Clergy.

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You lift me up. I am convinced men like us are needed now more than ever, and while it is true that there are fewer men coming to Church, there are still plenty who are, and yet have never been asked to join us.

Sometimes it is difficult to put ourselves out there and ask someone we are not familiar with to join. Perhaps we fear we don't have all the answers should they ask questions, or perhaps we fear rejection should they say no. I know, I have had both of these feelings.

I am happy to report the Knights have a new website which makes it easier than ever before to ask a fellow Catholic man to be a Knight of Columbus. Simply introduce yourself and let them know you have seen them at Mass (or other event) and believe they may have all the



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attributes to be a Knight. Then encourage them to visit www.kofc.org to get more information. That's it! You are done! All the information they could possibly want is there, and they can join online as well. No Form 100's from you, and no need to collect money. Once the candidate fills out the online application, he is in! The only follow-up required of you is to ask if he enjoyed the experience.

I am challenging each of us to identify someone over the next two months, especially men with school age families, and ask them to visit the website. Nothing more. If they do not join, at least you tried. The worst that can happen is they may know a little more about us, and perhaps their Faith is strengthened. However if they do join, they win, and we win, but more importantly

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Christ's Church wins, and one at a time we can begin to reverse the current negative trends before it is too late. Our Church needs strong Catholic men like you!

Visit www.KofC.org. See for yourself.

Vivat Jesus!

IPSD Michael Benson,

Council Membership Director

Making Councils Stronger

Strong Councils through Membership Growth & Engagement

NOW is the time to recruit younger members (middle-age & older members are still okay too)!

Following are the upcoming degrees scheduled (so far):



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November 7th – 1st @ St. Mark's
Council at 8:15 pm, candidates at 7:45

November 9th – 1st/2nd @ St.
Thomas Council (Providence) at 12 noon,
candidates at 11:30 am

November 14th – 1st @ Neumann
Council at 7 pm, candidates at 6:30

November 18th – 1st @ Pius XII
Council (at St. Thomas More Church) at 7
pm, candidates at 6:30

December 4th – 1st @ Newport/
Middletown at 6 pm, candidates at 5:30

December 5th – 1st @ St. Mark's
Council at 8:15 pm, candidates at 7:45

Degrees and Ceremonials Director
Bob Lynch would like to see more on
the calendar, let's help him out.

**Remember! *One member
per Council per month!***



Woonsocket Council Warden Joe Crisafulli (left) and
Council Program Director Arthur St. George staffing an
Informational Table at Autumnfest

Patriotic Degree News

The following is from an email
from Supreme:

We are pleased to welcome
“The Supply Room” (TSR) as the
new distributor of Knights of
Columbus Fourth Degree regalia.



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TSR is a world-class, leading distributor of military and law enforcement uniforms, located in Oxford, Alabama. In addition to 100+ years of experience and a solid reputation for quality, they will offer customer service representatives dedicated to Knights of Columbus uniform orders. Our uniforms will remain of the highest quality, while the cost will drop to \$449. Because of the transition, all ordering of uniforms will be suspended Nov. 1 and resume on Dec. 1.

What to know:

As before, orders may be placed at kofcuniform.com.

The customer service number remains the same and is available at 1-833-562-4327.

TSR customer service is able to assist with questions regarding

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uniforms ordered from the previous fulfillment company.

We remain grateful to our Sir Knights and are proud of the dignity and respect with which you represent the Order in your parishes and communities.

From the Master

Again I want to remind all that when Bishop Gelineau first came to the Diocese of Providence he approached the leaders of the Knights of Columbus if they could help make Christ the King Sunday something special.

With the secular agenda that seems to be taking over our country, Christ the King Sunday would be a great opportunity for the Knights, and their families, to be "IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR BISHOPS AND PRIESTS" by being at the 10:00 AM



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Mass at the Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul 30 Fenner St. Providence on November 24, 2019 as Bishop Tobin will be celebrating that Mass.

Members please wear your council shirt or a jacket or something with the K of C logo visible. Sir Knights please wear your tux or a suit with dark jacket, shirt with tie and your social baldric under the jacket. Let's show Bishop Tobin that we, "the Knights" are with him.

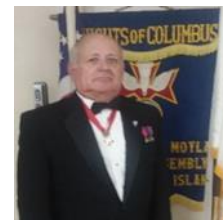
It would also be great if you would join us immediately after the Mass for a brunch in the Cathedral hall downstairs. Buffet of Scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, Home fries, French toast, Danish, juice & coffee. Cost for the Brunch is \$15.00 per person, \$7.00 under 13yrs. There is a \$40.00 per family (2 adults & children 13 yrs. and under).

Grand Knights / Faithful Navigators, please assign someone from your council / assembly to take names and payment of those members coming to the brunch for

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me, (don't need 100 people calling me) and have that person contact me. Checks made to 'Master of the 4th Degree'. Please, if you plan to come to the brunch I need to know by Monday, November 18, so I can give my caterer a head count.

Bishop Tobin will be at the brunch. Let's be there for him also.



Robert (Bob) Gallant

4th Degree District Master,
Rhode Island



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General Agent

them to reciprocate and support your
causes.

General Agent
John Ruffo is available
for all your Fraternal
Benefits questions. He
can be reached at
john.ruffo@kofc.org or by phone at
860-807-3234 (office) & 860-531-
8883 (cell). God Bless!



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

Events of Note

- **November 1st** – All Saints Day
- **November 2nd** – All Soul's Day
- **November 7th** – Mother of Life
Annual Rose Dinner
- **November 8th** – Bristol Council
Pasta Dinner
- **November 8th** – State Meeting at
Cranston Council
- **November 10th** – Scalabrini Council
Game Dinner
- **November 11th** – Veterans' Day
- **November 12th** – RI Right to Life
Pro-Life Awards Banquet
- **November 24th** – Christ the King
Mass & Brunch
- **November 24th** – Hickey Council
Game Dinner
- **November 28th** – Thanksgiving Day

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



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- **November 30th** – Woonsocket
Council Toy Drive

Check the State Website regularly for details
and new listings.

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.....



State Charity Raffle tickets are now
Available. As in recent years, cost to the
Council is \$1 per book of 6 tickets. Please
contact DD Jack Tracy to order your needed
quantity of Books of tickets. You can do this by
emailing: jklmc.tracy@att.net.

This can be an easy way to raise money
for your Council's charitable causes, the return

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on investment is 400%. So, for a \$100
investment, you could realize \$400 for your
Council's charities. Let's not forget that the \$1
you spend to purchase the books from the
State also supports charitable causes. The last
3 years of the Charity Raffle have contributed
over \$6000 to the causes of the Knights of
Columbus in addition to the monies raised by
each of the participating Councils.

Delivery of tickets began at the September
State Meeting and will continue through early
April 2020.

.....while doing good works.

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

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



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Life Activities

St. John Paul II (St. Cecilia) in Pawtucket has had to change their viewing date. The new date is December 7th (7pm)



The Servants of Christ for Life reported on November 1st that a life had been saved that morning by the efforts of Sidewalk Counselors outside Planned Parenthood in Providence. This was the 3rd such save over the last 7 weeks. Thanks be to God.

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.

Many councils have hosted or are hosting a viewing of the movie *Unplanned*, some of the showings are:

November 8th (7pm) at Quidnessett Baptist Church and November 9th (6:30pm) at St. Luke's in Barrington

As many of you are aware, Knights Councils often hold Blood Drives (a recognized Life Activity benefiting the Community). We never know the ultimate destination of our efforts (which is proper). However, once in a while we are given a general idea. Here is one such notice. St. John Paul II held a blood drive on Sunday, November 3rd. When the



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Blood Bank sent the flyer for the drive, they included the following:

One of the pints donated at St. John Paul II Parish last drive (in September) was sent to Hartford Hospital.

At 10:21 am on Oct 2nd, the RI Blood Center received a STAT (urgent) order from Hartford Hospital for blood products to help the survivors of the WWII B-17 plane crash at Bradley International Airport in Connecticut. The RIBC was able to help and quickly delivered 100 units of Type O red blood cells and units of fresh frozen plasma to help.

Gratefully, at the end of September, St John Paul II ran a blood drive and a number of units donated at the blood drive was sent to help those in need in Hartford. As you know, Tragedies like this cannot always be prevented, but only because of you, can we be ready when they do.

Thank you, St. John Paul II, for your incredible support!

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The 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign concluded on November 3rd but there will be another campaign in the spring. In the meantime we need to stay alert for Legislative and other efforts which are injurious to life. Please respond to any calls for assistance as your situation permits.

Community Activities

Feeney Council participated in the Scituate Arts Festival on Columbus Day Weekend (an annual event for them) at which they raised money for the council's charities – notable is their scholarship fund – and made their presence felt in the community.



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Operation ROVAC

(Remembering Our Veterans At Christmas)



It's time to begin collections for Operation ROVAC. Below is a list of requested items:

Images of the Feeney Council volunteers at their Arts Festival booth (above & below). Note the familial nature of the participants (we **are** a Family Organization)

Requested **BRAND NEW w/ TAGS (ONLY)** donations should include:

Winter hats, gloves, and scarves

Men's pants – khaki & jean

Long sleeve flannel shirts (Up to 4X)

Men's flannel button down pajamas (Med to 4X)

Cotton boxers and short legged underwear

Under shirts (Medium to 4X)

Sweat pants and flannel pants (Up to 4X)

Button down sweaters, fleece & vests (Up to 4X)

Winter jackets (Medium to 4X)

Shoes/sneakers (Velcro tab) Sizes 8 through 12.5

Handkerchiefs





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Men's slippers (Shoe type) w/ backs & rubber bottoms

ABSOLUTELY NO BOOKS OR FOOD PLEASE!

New Word/find search books (Large print ONLY)

New puzzles / New decks of playing cards

New DVD movies

New Music CD's

2020 Calendars

NEW TOILETRIES

(NO TRIAL SIZES):

Dove Soap / Irish Spring soap

Men's stick deodorant

Shaving cream

Men's cologne / ladies perfume

Toothpaste / Tooth brushes



Below are some FAQs with answers regarding Collection:

Q: What is the date and time for the 2018 ROVAC Saturday Collection Event?

A: Place: E. P. Council #1528 - 3200 Pawtucket Avenue; East Providence

Date: Saturday December 14th

Time: 10AM to 4PM (Publicity photo shoot at 4:30PM)

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(Hot lunch will be available and our Sports Bar opens at Noon)

Q: Can my Council get publicity for participating in Operation ROVAC?

A: YES! Please bring in your donations any time after 9AM along with your Council banner. We will take a photo of you (ON YOUR CAMERA WITH YOUR COUNCIL BANNER) behind all of our donations. That photo along with a short press release (Simply fill in your name(s) and Council information) that will be emailed to you, will allow you to submit both to your local newspaper and generate wonderful publicity for your Council.

Q: What if I have donations for ROVAC, but I cannot get them to E.P. Council #1528 on December 14th?

A: No worries. Please call Big Blue Bug Solutions at (401) 941-5700 and explain that you have a donation for Operation ROVAC. Big Blue Bug Solutions will send one of their local Technicians to your address who will identify themselves and collect your donation. Your donation will be added to all the donations from across the state and delivered to the R.I. Veteran's Home in time for Christmas.

Q: How can I assist the Operation ROVAC Collection Drive?



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A: We would greatly appreciate any manpower to assist in the organization of the donations at any time between 9AM and 6PM on Saturday, December 14th. All of our collections will be bagged and boxed for shipment at the end of the day on the 14th. On December 15th, we will also greatly appreciate any manpower between 10AM and Noon as we pack the donations in our rented truck, drive them to Big Blue Solutions in Providence, and unload them.

Operation ROVAC Timeline

Late October: All Councils across the state should have this FAQ / Timeline sheet and the generic ROVAC flyers (Simply change to your Council name, address, and contact information)

Absolutely No Later Than November 15th: All ROVAC collection boxes with your flyers attached should be posted in your Council chambers, Council halls, local Catholic schools, and/or Catholic churches

Saturday, December 14th (At E. P. Council #1528): 9AM to 4PM – Drop off all donations at E. P. Council #1528

Noon – Bar open / hot lunch available / sports on our multiple big screens all day

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4:30PM – Major photo opportunity with all of our donations from across the state and our State Officers

5PM – Bag and box all of our donations for pickup on Sunday morning

ALL DAY SATURDAY: Individual photos with each Council (Please bring your own camera and your Council banner) for submission to local print media. A short press release template will be emailed to you for local press submission (Along with the photo on your camera) for all Councils who participate.

Sunday, December 15th: 10AM to Noon - Truck picks up all of our donations at E. P. Council and delivers them to the Big Blue Bug Solutions warehouse in Providence.

Faith Activities

Each first Saturday of the month, East Providence Council sponsors a Family Rosary at the Council home, 3200 Pawtucket Avenue.

St. Philip's Council leads 5th Sunday Rosary prior to all Masses on the 5th Sunday weekend. All are welcome to join them. Check the parish website for Mass times.



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(from the State Website) at
Alhervieux@cox.net or phone Al
with any questions; his cell # is
401-359-2586.

Family Activities

Soccer Challenge

The State Soccer Challenge was held on Saturday, October 26 at the Lusitana club in Cumberland.

Congratulations to Allison Patten from Warwick who won in the girls age 10 grouping and to Logan Moore from Coventry in the boys age 13 group.

Keep Christ in Christmas

Now is the time to plan and order for *Keep Christ In Christmas* Poster contest and Cards.

If you are interested in ordering Christmas cards you can email Al Hervieux the order form

Fraternal Training and Communication

Training

There are many training opportunities throughout the year (see the Supreme Website – www.kofc.org), 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 stevec618@aol.com.



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State Website

Check out the State Website at www.kofcri.org. 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 rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com, through your DD, who will forward it to me, or the various program Directors.

State Meeting

Remember! these meetings allow interaction between local Councils, and allow information to be

exchanged between the local and State Councils (in **both** directions). Each Council should ensure that it is represented at these meetings.

The next **State Meeting** will be on **November 8th** at **Cranston Council**, 70 Pettaconsett Ave., Cranston. Meeting time is **7:30 pm**. State meetings are a good opportunity to exchange information with the State and other local Councils. Remember, these meetings belong to **YOU**. The State Council does not exist without the local Councils.

Fraternal Concern

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.



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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. In my home Council, I have designated a member to scan the newspaper obituaries. However, with fewer people utilizing the newspaper obits we must now add word of mouth or social media methods of communication.

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

Prayers Requested



Please pray for the repose of

Natalie A. (Baron) Swift (wife of Neil R. Swift Bristol Council)

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Ann Galligan Kelley (sister of SK Fr. Charles Galligan, Chaplain for Lincoln Council)

And God's comfort to their families

Prayers are also requested for Bishop Louis Gelineau, Fr. Dennis Reardon, Fr. Robert Bailey, Faith Director Mike DeAngelis, 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 Assembly), GK Jerry Marra, Ellen and PSD Normand



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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.

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

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State Advocate Joe Carrigan
joe.carrigan@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 –
jtougassr@gmail.com

District Marshall Warren Rensehausen -
wrensehausen@hotmail.com

Executive Secretary Ron Ross -
1970cheron@gmail.com

District Deputies

District 1 Al Nunes – al.nunes@trimarkusa.com

District 2 PSD Peter Lentini -
tireman966@hotmail.com

District 3 Bob Moniz – rjm51@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

District 8 John Kay – jkay4021@aol.com

Contact Information

Officers

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mdziok1067@aol.com

State Chaplain Fr. Joe Paquette
JoePaquette1@gmail.com

State Secretary Dave Quinn
davequinn.rikofc@aol.com

State Treasurer Dave Bebyn
dbebyn@beconsulting.biz



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District 9 Keith Roberts -

Krobertsappraisal@gmail.com

District 10 Jack Tracy - ijklmc.tracy@att.net or

rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com

District 11 Alan Lamake – allamake@aol.com

Directors

Membership Director PJ Shea –

sheapi@yahoo.com

Degree & Ceremonial Director Bob Lynch

rlynch1@cox.net

Program Director Jeff Gaulin

jagaulin@verizon.net

Church Director Mike DeAngelis

deangelis36@msn.com

Community Director Steve Perry

brady12qb@verizon.net

Family Director Mike Guerra

mikegonemad@gmail.com

Life Director – PSD James Gilcreast

jwellingtonwells@hotmail.com

Staff et al.

Exec. Secretary Mike Krzywonos

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

Vivat Jesus!

