

Rhode Island State Council Knights of Columbus



formed in 1893 as

the first State Council

Celebrating 125 Years of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism

December 2017

Volume I, issue 5

Council news

Membership News

Countdown to the Convention

The State Convention is fast approaching, it is only 4 ½ months away. There are several things each Council needs to do to be ready. Have you:

1. Is your Council Banner ready?
2. Do you have relics and mementos chosen for display?
3. Are you talking up attendance for the events, especially the open ones? (opening Mass, Memorial Mass, Hospitality Suites, State Banquet)

It is none too soon to prepare these items. Remember, this is a big year for us. Our State Council is First in the Order, but it only exists to serve the local Councils.



The State Council has brought in about 58 new members to date. We are at an alarmingly slow pace toward our goal. Our target for this Fraternal Year is 280 new members. We need to redouble our efforts. To help with this, Supreme is once again offering a \$4.50 rebate (per active member) for attaining Star Council. Additionally, Supreme is offering a lottery incentive for 10 couples to attend the World Day of Families in Dublin, Ireland – **all expenses paid**. Every time you recruit a new member between December 1st, 2017 and June 30th, 2018, your

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name will be entered into a drawing. 10 names will be drawn at random on July 1st, 2018.

The State Council is adding its own incentive to Supreme's. Adopting a program used successfully in Alabama called *A Knight Before Christmas*. All proposers whose candidates take their Admission Degree in December will be entered into a drawing for a men's *Samsonite* Business Backpack and a lady's *Lipault of Paris* weekend duffel.

Proposer receives an entry for each Candidate making his 1st Degree.

Remember! *One member per Council per month!*

Following are the degrees scheduled for December (so far):

13th – 1st/2nd at St. Philip's Council, candidates at 6:30pm

14th – 1st/2nd at Bishop Neumann Council, candidates @ 7:00 pm

State Deputy Message

Family life continues to erode in our secular society, and has had catastrophic consequences. The shooters who took the lives of innocent people in Las Vegas, NV, Newtown, CT, Charlestown, SC



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and Sutherland Springs, TX had a common trait. They all came from broken homes. The preservation of families in our cultures is critical.

At a Religious Education Workshop presented by the Diocese of Boston to educators of the Diocese of Providence shared the following:

- 7% of Catholics live their faith, attend Sunday if not weekday Mass, support their parishes and raise their families to be Catholic.
- Another 10% are more or less Catholic, attend Mass on some Sunday's but not likely during weekdays, and don't use the faith they have to influence others, including their families.
- The remaining 83% of Catholics are not engaged with their faith, go to Church on any regular basis, and would likely not defend their

faith if it meant not fitting in with the secular culture.

- Most surprising was to learn that 88% of Jehovah's Witnesses are fallen Catholics looking for a stronger commitment to God. This is incredible to me considering everything the Catholic Faith has to offer.

This is not new. In 1882 the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche declared *God is Dead!* Fortunately, that was also the same year a young parish priest at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT. started the Knights of Columbus to protect Catholic families! From the beginning, we have always been about protecting our faith and creating solutions for the disadvantaged.

Two years ago, the Supreme Council launched the Building the Domestic Church initiative. It was

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at first perceived as another Knights of Columbus Church program, when in fact it is the new driving force behind our mission.

and their wives as the Building the Domestic Church chair-couple of each jurisdiction. Lee Ann and I accept the Supreme Knight's challenge, and will solicit the assistance of the State Council Church Director and his wife, Michael & Martha De Angelis, who have already taken the lead on this initiative..

- The Building the Domestic Church is intended to strengthen our Catholic faith as individuals, and instill our faith as the base of our families.
- Strong Catholic families will make strong Catholic parishes. Strong Catholic Families will make strong Catholic leaders, and help us engage the disconnected, and solve problems with faith-based answers. Strong Catholic families will be incubators for young people discerning religious vocations!

In turn, I am asking all District Deputies and their wives to be the Building the Domestic Church Chair-couples of their Districts, and all Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators and their wives to be the chair-couple of their councils and assemblies. More on this under Church Activities.

This effort is so critical that Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has appointed all the State Deputy's

(Editor's Note: our Worthy State Deputy also has noted the many activities, past and future, which have made him grateful to be our leader. These will be found in the

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various activity segments found below. I would note that we as Brother Knights are also grateful, for the leadership which Mike and his fellow officers exemplify to us).

Woonsocket at noon. Bishop Tobin's *Keep the Heat On Concert* at the Cathedral was at 3 pm and local Councils also had events that day, Delaney Council had its Christmas Breakfast that morning and Scalabrini Council held its Game Dinner at 1 pm. There may have been others as well.

In Closing, Lee Ann and I hope you and your families have a safe, Blessed and Merry Christmas.

December 16th is the final collection day for Operation ROVAC with delivery to the Bristol Veterans Home on the 17th.

Upcoming Events

"Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service," – Mother Teresa

Service (love in action) is the difference between the Knights of Columbus and other Catholic men's groups – State Deputy Mike Benson

Bishop Hickey Council holds an Advent Service and Pot-Luck Dinner on the 19th.

Check the State Website regularly for details and new listings.

Early December is full of activity: On the 10th we held the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and celebration at All Saints Church in

State & Local Happenings

Below are just a few of the many activities held by Councils

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around the State. Many of our functions build a spirit of Fraternity.....

numerous charities around the state.

Other activities help unite us to others in service to our community, such as the Nativity Lighting at the RI State House



Attendees at the East Bay Charity Ball on November 4th

.....while doing good works.

The above photo is from the 53rd East Bay Charity Ball, a co-operative effort of Bishop Hickey (Riverside), Fr. Boehr (Tiverton), Fr. Rooney (Portsmouth), Bristol, and Newport-Middletown Councils. Monies raised support the RI State Council Charity Fund, benefitting



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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.

Community Activities

Operation ROVAC is in full swing. New items such as hats, gloves, underwear, and puzzle books are just some of the items which can be contributed. Final

collection date is December 16th at East Providence Council, to be transported from there to the Bristol Veterans Home. Thanks go to Big Blue Bug Solutions and Tony DeJesus for helping with logistics (and the initial effort establishing this cause).

Woonsocket Council held its annual *Toy Drive in Memory of Ron Auger* on Thanksgiving weekend (in conjunction with the Woon. Police Department). Over 330 toys and approximately \$3800 were raised, both increases from last year.

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As we conclude *A Year with*

Mary, the State Council helped to promote the efforts of Woonsocket Council #113 to support our Hispanic brethren at their yearly Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and celebration at All Saints Hispanic Community in Woonsocket. State Chaplain Fr. Joe Paquette was a concelebrant.



Church Activities

Another successful Silver Rose Program year concluded with the hand-off to Connecticut. Thanks go out to Mike Krzywonos and Arthur Boisse for another tireless year promoting and guiding this program.

Youth Activities

Youth Director Mike Guerra reminds all that they should be preparing for the Basketball Free Throw Competition.

He also is encouraging promotion of the newly created Youth of the Year award. Circulate flyers to your local schools, Scout Troops and youth organizations.

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There are some fantastic youth serving their communities, let's help recognize them.

Information is available on the State Website.

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will once again be provided by the great chefs of Kennedy Council.

Details for each of these can be found on the State Website.

Culture of Life Activities

The Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass will be held on Saturday, January 13th at St. Paul Church in Cranston (1 St. Paul Place) at 9am.

The Annual March for Life is scheduled for January 19th. The RI contingent will be leaving on the evening of the 18th.

The 2018 Pro-Life Dinner will be held on January 27th. St. John Paul II Council and Chaplain of the Year Fr. Mike Sisco will once again host at St. Cecilia Church, Central Ave., Pawtucket. The evening begins with Mass at 4:30 pm. The dinner

Council Activities

89th Annual State Charity Ball

The Quonset O Club was the site of the 89th Annual Charity Ball, held on Sunday, December 3rd with the theme of ***The Jingle Bell Ball***. We even were graced with the presence of both St. Nicholas and Santa Claus (who was in a jovial mood – though his jokes fell a little **short**).

It was a great example of fellowship accomplished while doing good works, fulfilling our ideals of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

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Proceeds of the event go toward the many charities which the State Council (and through it, the local Councils) supports.

Below are some photos from the event which tell the story much better than I can describe.

The photos show some of the attendees and the Silent Auction items available.



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State Newsletter

State Charity Raffle

Tickets will cost the Council \$1 per book (each book has 6 tickets) which you can then sell for \$5 per book, realizing a potential **400% profit**. This is an easy fundraiser for your Council. Contact Jack Tracy (ticket Chairman) at ijklmc.tracy@att.net or 401-749-0987 with the number of books you want and he will work with you to get them delivered. You can also bring your check at the same time. (Note: while they will be available throughout most of the Fraternal year, the earlier you get them, the more opportunity to sell them.)

News items for the newsletter can be sent through the various program Directors, including myself, or your DD, who will forward to me. I will draw event items for the Local Council section from your input. I also welcome photos from the event itself: ijklmc.tracy@att.net

State Meeting

The next State Meeting will be held on January 26th at 7:30 at Cranston Council #1738.

Remember that 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.

State Website

Check out the new look of 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. *The Links of Interest* tab will connect you to Council event flyers.

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Prayers Requested

Contact Information



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State Warden Joe Carrigan
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IPSD Peter Lentini
Tireman966@hotmail.com

Please remember the following in your prayers:

For the repose of PGK Richard Mourningham of St. Paul Council and Sebastian Porta of east Providence Council.

Also, we ask for ongoing prayers for DD Gene "Bud" Garceau, who has had another setback and is again in the ICU at the VA Hospital.

(to have someone mentioned, contact me @ ijklmc.tracy@att.net)

Staff et al.

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District Deputies

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District 4 Bob Moniz – rjm51@cox.net

Contact information of subcommittee chairmen and other State Staff can be found on the State website www.kofcri.org

District 5 Lee Rossetti – lee.rossetti@cox.net

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

District 6 Ted Benz – ted@benztesters.com

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Closing Note (1)

Remember, this is here for you, the membership, so please let me know what you want, find useful or even what you feel is not helpful. Contact me at ijklmc.tracy@att.net.

Also, (and I know I said this above) please send me content to promote your Council and its good works. Photos are

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good, too. I will include as much as possible and run as many pages as it takes (it is an online newsletter, after all, I don't need to print it. – said laughingly)

- *Jack Tracy*

Closing Note (2)

And, finally, in the spirit of the season, I leave you with this little contribution from St. Philip's Council GK Chuck Brailsford (to me through Bob Gallant):

Twas the **Knight** before Christmas, when all thro' **RI state**,
2 Not a **mortal** was stirring, not even **fate**;
3 The **form 100's** were hung by **Eric** with care,
4 In hopes that **Worthy Michael** soon would be there;
5 The **grand knights** were nestled all snug in their beds,
6 While visions of **star council** danc'd in their heads,
7 And **Lady Di** in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
8 Had just settled our **ideas** for a **short** winter's nap-
9 When **the council suddenly awoke with noise**,
10 I **sprung from our chamber with poise**.
11 **Away with the gavel**, I flew like a **bird**,
12 **Memberships were waiting and I knew the word**.
13 **It was time to recruit among** the new fallen snow,
14 **As activities had created a flow**;
15 When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
16 **As I has no tear**
17 But **Knights in Armor**, headed by our **DD Ted**,
18 **With quick wit and humor**, I knew we would be **led**,
19 **Then appearing so suddenly**, I did not fear.
20 **It was Worthy Michael**, who did appear.
21 As he **screamed and shouted and call'd them by name**:
22 **"Now! Fr Joe, now! Michael, now! David, and David,**
23 **"On! Joseph, on! Peter, on! Master Rick and Jim;**
24 **"To the top of Circle of Gold! to the top of them all!**
25 **"Now race away! race away! race away to the wall!"**
26 **As actions become awards**, we must listen
26 **the story of Father McGivney** will make you glisten;

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42 First State Council .One Hundred and Twenty Five Years
43 It took Brothers, Fathers, Sons and Peers
44 Widows were the reason and we will never forget:
45 We are a fraternity that must be met ;
47 A wink of his eye and a call to Bob Gallant
48 Soon gave me to know that was all I would want.
49 He spoke not a word, but went straight to his file,
50 And signing all the form 100's; then turn'd with a smile,
52 And giving a nod, straight to Eric he spoke.
53 It going to be a Home Run Year, it is no joke!
54 Star Council, Star Council: Will lead the way
55 It will be a forth Circle of Gold and that's OK
56 Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good **Knight**.



Vivat Jesus!

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