

# Rhode Island State Council Knights of Columbus



formed in 1893 as

the first State Council

## Celebrating 125 Years of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism

January 2018

Volume I, issue 6

*Happy New Year!*

May the new year bring many blessings to our Councils and all our families. May our works be fruitful and our Charity be bountiful.

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)

## *Council news*

### *Countdown to the Convention*

The State Convention is fast approaching, it is only 3 ½ months away. There are several things each Council needs to do to be ready. Can you answer yes to the following:

1. Is your Council Banner ready?

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. Your participation is vital.

And speaking of the Convention, it is time to plan for the following:

1. Hospitality Suites – are you hosting? Start planning your offerings and décor
2. Delegates – who will be your Council's delegates and alternates?

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3. Memorial Mass – do you have your list of deceased Brothers prepared to turn in?
4. Program Book – are you placing an ad? They need to be in by March 1, 2018

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, your name will be entered into a drawing. 10 names will be drawn at random on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Remember! *One member per Council per month!*

## Membership News



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

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

2<sup>nd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at Sullivan Council, candidates @ 6:30pm

9<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bishop Hickey Council, candidates @ 6:30 pm

11<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at Bishop Neumann Council, candidates @ 6:30 pm

16<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bishop Hickey Council, candidates @ 6:30 pm

18<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at Delaney Council, candidates @ 6:30 pm

24<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at Narragansett Council, Candidates @ 6:00 pm

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**24<sup>th</sup>** – at Pope Pius Council, candidates  
@ 6:30 pm

**30<sup>th</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Francis Council,  
candidates @ 7:00 pm

were 12 Star Councils awarded last year, and almost 30 councils that earned the Columbian Award for Service. Collectively we earned the prestigious Circle Of Honor Award presented by the Supreme Council for attaining Membership, conducting Programs, and Insurance quota attainment. On behalf of the State Officers, Directors and District Deputies, we sincerely thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of others under the banner of the Knights of Columbus,

### *State Deputy Message*

Dear Brother Knights, Happy New Year. Lee Ann and I pray this message finds you and your families in good health, good spirits, and poised to have an amazing 2018. We also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your good works representing the Knights of Columbus in your parishes and communities, and for your support and friendship.

There was much for us to be proud of in 2017 as individual councils and districts, and collectively as a Jurisdiction. There

The coming year holds much promise for us. 2018 will mark a number of milestones for us, most notably our 125th Year as a Jurisdiction, having been incorporated in 1893. This milestone is made more significant when considering that of the Knights of Columbus 76

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Jurisdictions around the globe, Rhode Island is the Order's very first State Council, and thus its oldest. We will celebrate this momentous occasion at the State Council Convention on April 21 with a Gala that will include the presentation of the Hope Award, our state's most prestigious, that is presented to an individual making a positive and dramatic impact on the lives of others. Please mark the date on your calendars and plan to participate. Stay tuned for more details. We look forward to all councils sharing their part in the celebration of our storied history.

In the meantime, we have much to do. Our legacy as council officers and members will be remembered for our part in growing the Order to provide strong programs that will benefit our families, parishes, and councils. To

this end the Supreme Council introduced the Building the Domestic Church Program designed to make us more faith-filled Catholics, grow spirituality in our families, make our parishes stronger, and our councils sustainable. In other words, to be the organization Fr. McGivney envisioned when he created the Knights of Columbus 136 years ago at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, CT. Some Rhode Island councils are well on their way to fully adopting the Building the Domestic Church initiative in their programs, and their parishes and councils are already showing the positive effect this has had. Others are in various stages of understanding the program and implementing it, but I am encouraged by the benefits realized already. We will spend

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more time this year working with you to implement this program, and make our councils even more successful.

Do not forget to include men with young families in your focus. For many of us, the Knights of Columbus was an integral part of our family's life, and our families were made stronger as a result. Pass the "*Opportunity of a Lifetime*" onto them.

New members, and their involvement, are the lifeblood of any organization, and are crucial to our success. In the last three years more than 900 new members have entered Knights of Columbus councils in Rhode Island, yet our overall growth is less than 200 members. This is because of the number of Brother Knights who have entered into Eternal Life. Nothing emphasizes the need for new members more than this. Given our longevity as a jurisdiction, we are an aging organization. As leaders, it is our responsibility to replenish our ranks, and integrate the new members into positions of responsibility within our councils.

To that end we have Membership recruitment work to do. At the Fraternal Year's half-way point, Rhode Island councils have added 80 new members against our responsibility to add 280 for the year. This means we will need to go from bringing in 13-14 members per month as a jurisdiction, to 33-35. Thus, the final six months will require our focus at every meeting and event. The key is to have every council plan for 2-3 Admission (1st) Degrees between now and the end of June, and encourage every member of your

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### *Thoughts from the General Agent*

council to recruit to them. Be sure to communicate your Degree Schedule to your council and parishes with the same importance that Program Events are. We have much to be proud of as an organization given all that we have accomplished. Let's make one of our New Year's Resolutions be that each member invites another practicing Catholic man to join us in the opportunity of a lifetime.

As always, we as State Officers, Directors and District Deputies stand ready to help each council become the best version of ourselves. We look forward to your council's success in 2018. God Bless you for the work you do!

Vivat Jesus!

- *SD Mike Benson*

#### *Teach your children well*

Raising children is probably the hardest job you'll ever take. It requires you to wear more hats than you ever thought possible. Cook, chauffeur, nurse, counselor and many more... and that's often in one morning. One of the most important roles you accept as a parent is that of a teacher. Before they even get to school, you'll teach your children so much, and before they get out into the world, you'll instill values that they will carry with them.

Sometimes the values you want to impart (respect, compassion, accountability, financial responsibility, etc.) often run counter to what our instant-gratification driven society values. So, we strive to teach by example.

This is one good reason to carry enough life insurance to protect your

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family. This one simple act can show what you value. You'll show them that you love them and are concerned about their welfare. You'll show that you take your responsibility to provide for your family seriously, and that you want to make sure they're provided for even if you're not around. You'll show them that investing money in your life insurance protection is more important than the new set of golf clubs you might want, the newest and best home theater system you've had your eye on, or whatever else you might be sacrificing to pay the premiums.

It will teach them about priorities. Sure, it may not sink in at the time, especially if any of the sacrifices made prevent them from filling what they see as their immediate "needs" (really things they want, not need, like the newest DVD, video game or article of clothing). In the long run, they will learn from what you do and what you don't do. Only you can choose the lessons you will teach.

Let's meet to review your existing coverage. My needs analysis, provided

free, will help teach you where your coverage may be lacking. We can plan today to secure your family's future and set in motion lessons that will last a lifetime.

- *Mike Lehman*

## *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*

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

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

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The RI Right to Life State House Rally will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup> in the State House Rotunda from 3-4 PM.

The 2018 Pro-Life Dinner will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 will once again be provided by the great chefs of Kennedy Council.

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

Woonsocket Council will be collecting items for the Mother of Life Center throughout January. They will also be accepting donations of sheets (twin bed size) for one of the local women's shelters.

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.....



Woonsocket Council's Christmas Celebration with collection for Operation ROVAC

.....while doing good works.

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Other activities help unite us to others in service to our community, such as our partnering with Big Blue Bug Solutions for Operation ROVAC.

2018. See the state website for details.

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

### *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.**

It is time to prepare your applications for the Annual State Service Program Awards. Awards are given for each of the six program service categories. Entries must be submitted by March 30,

### *Community Activities*

Just four years ago, East Providence Council #1528 joined the annual ROVAC effort begun by Big Blue Bug Solutions 14 years previously. For the past three years, an increasing number of Councils state wide have joined East Providence Council.

This year's ROVAC weekend was Saturday and Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Council 1528 had a great number of their Brother Knights volunteering throughout the weekend. Running an event such as ROVAC cannot be a one or two-person job. It requires a team of Brother Knights as we have in East Providence. Saturday was the collection day and Sunday was the delivery of our donations to the Big Blue Bug warehouse in Providence. Our

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Council chef (John Thomson) put out a great hot meal for all of our Brothers and volunteers on a cold December day.

Brigadier General (ret.) Rick Baccus, Administrator at the Veteran's Home, and Pam Dow were thrilled with the fact that every Veteran would receive 3 Christmas cards along with their gift bags

Joining E. Prov. Council #1528 were 20 Councils around the state (from as far away as Hope Valley, R.I.), an increase of 25% from 2016.

One of my favorite sights on Saturday was that every time another Council pulled up to the front of our Council, any and all Knights from visiting Councils jumped into action with our volunteers to unload cars, sort donations, etc. Over the last four years, East Providence Council has raised, organized, and distributed over \$100,000 worth of donations.

This year's effort was the largest collection ever as we filled 81 large boxes of brand new clothing, toiletries, and necessities and 10 large bags of brand new winter coats. Our donation was up almost 50% from 2016, proving that this charity is gaining momentum with Brother Knights throughout R.I.

Every box was packed with the same type of clothing or toiletries, was sealed and labelled, making the sorting, composition, and distribution of gift bags at the Veterans Home much easier for their staff.

We also had over 600 Christmas cards (200-plus cards each from East Providence Council, and two other Councils) including the students at St. Luke's School in Barrington, R.I.



clothing items collected for ROVAC

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On 12/19, I was at the Veteran's Home when the final truckload of donations arrived for unloading. I stood next to Gen. (ret.) Rick Baccus, and Ms. Dow. They were absolutely amazed with the volume, the quality, and the organization of our donations.

This annual effort is spearheaded by East Providence Council #1528 in general and Steve Perry in particular. Job well done!

### *Church Activities*

Our next project (as an off shoot from ROVAC) is to organize a quarterly visitation schedule at the Veteran's Home to share time with these men and women.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Hispanic Community at All Saints Church in Woonsocket celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Woonsocket Council #113 helped financially and were joined by the Moylan Assembly Color Corps. Also showing their support were State Deputy Michael Benson and State Chaplain Fr. Joseph Paquette, who concelebrated.

- Steve Perry

- State Community Activities Director



Final total collected: 81 boxes, 4 bags = many grateful Veterans

The Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul was the location as we recently helped Bishop Tobin celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Anniversary with Regalia and other

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Knights present on December 17<sup>th</sup>.  
The Bishop was grateful for the support we showed then and at all times for our clergy.



Helping Bishop Tobin celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Episcopacy



The Guadalupe Icon presented by The Knights of Columbus to the All Saints Hispanic Community.

### *Youth Activities*

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

Scholarship Awards time is here. Application Deadline is March 31, 2018. There are awards in 3 age groups; Elementary Catholic School, Secondary Catholic School, and College/University

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(Book Award). You can download the application from the State Website. Don't miss out.

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

Information is available on the State Website.

### *Culture of Life Activities*

January is a busy time for Culture of Life Activities. But not the only time. Below are photos of recent events promoting the Culture of Life. This is really a year-round effort (or should be).



The empty Manger



St Pius XII Council with donations for the Mother of Life Center

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### *Training*



Caroling outside Planned Parenthood

There are many training opportunities throughout the year (see the Supreme Website – [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)). While they often seem to indicate a particular leaning (e.g. Fraternal Officers), they are open to any Brother Knight who may be interested. Additionally, the State Council has a Training Officer available to assist with any topic. PSD FM Steve Ciolfi is here to help.

### *Council Activities*

#### *The State Convention*

The major event of the Fraternal Year. See the lead article for important information, but remember that the Convention belongs to the local Councils. It is our best opportunity to exchange information and socialize with each other on a grand scale.

### *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](mailto: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.)

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### *State Meeting*

#### *State Website*

Check out the State Website at [www.kofcri.org](http://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. This can be an invaluable resource, but you must use it for it to help you.

#### *State Newsletter*

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](mailto:ijklmc.tracy@att.net)

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.

### *Prayers Requested*



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This month's prayer list is drawn from an email sent out on December 24<sup>th</sup> by SD Mike Benson. (the editor is grateful).

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Janet Lentini fell on the ice yesterday morning fracturing her foot in three places, and breaking her shoulder.

Rebecca Schulte also fell during the ice storm yesterday while traveling in upstate New York. Nothing broken, but black and blue.

District Deputy Bud Garceau is in a Rehabilitation Hospital in Pittsfield, MA as he continues his courageous battle against the ravages of ALS.

Executive Secretary Michael Krzywonos was taken to Miriam Hospital on Thursday evening after paramedics were called during the State Officer meeting. Michael underwent a battery of tests. They

did not find anything specific yet but are waiting for test results. He is home now and seems to be doing well.

State Membership Director Eric Batista is dealing with bacterial pneumonia.

Dave And Ann Bebyn's mothers are dealing with issues related to age and have required extra special care.

The Ciolfi family are mourning the loss of the husband of a niece with whom they were very close. This follows the loss of the niece's daughter not that long ago.

State Council Programs Director Jack Tracy continues to recover from health issues that had him hospitalized last month.

District Deputy Ray Riel is recovering from a surgery that took place weeks ago.

District Deputy Bob Moniz continues his rehabilitation from

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open heart surgery that took place early July. The doctor said he can never shovel snow again. Bob is happy about that. Sue may not be.

District Deputy Mark Paul continues recovery from shoulder surgery that occurred this past Fall.

General Agent Michael Lehman's wife, MaryEllen, lost her sister a few days ago after a battle with cancer.

State Warden Joe Carrigan, District Deputy Ted & Christine Benz, State Programs Director Jeff Gaulin, State Family Programs Director Al & Jean Hervieux, State Charity Ball Chairwoman Pam De Paolo, State Church Programs Director Michael De Angelis, as well as State Chaplain Fr. Joe are celebrating their first Christmas without the company of close family members that passed away this year.

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 at this very special time of year. We pray that this occasion of the Birth of Jesus will bring joy to those that need it most.

Vivat Jesus!  
Michael Benson

(to have someone mentioned, contact me @ [ijklmc.tracy@att.net](mailto:ijklmc.tracy@att.net))

## *Contact Information*

### Officers

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State Warden Joe Carrignan  
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Youth Director Mike Guerra  
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District 6 Ted Benz – [ted@benztesters.com](mailto:ted@benztesters.com)

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Contact information of subcommittee chairmen and other State Staff can be found on the State website [www.kofcri.org](http://www.kofcri.org)

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.

*Vivat Jesus!*

### *Closing Note*

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](mailto: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 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*



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