



# The Explorer

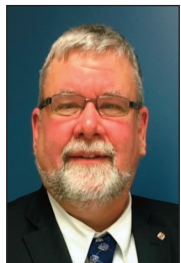
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We are already one month into the 2016 – 2017 fraternal year. The State Officers, Directors and Chairmen have developed an Action Plan for membership and programs to insure the success of the Order in Kansas. The District Deputies have been installed and have had their weekend of training. The Council Officers should have been installed by their District Deputy. The Grand Knights and important Council Officers, Directors and Chairmen have attended the Regional District Meetings.



Directories, Program and Membership Guides, forms, matrix's, pamphlets and information have been distributed and at least looked at and discussed. Now, it is time to put this to work to achieve the coveted Star Council Award or even better the Sunflower Award for Excellence.

The measure of success for any team is to end the season as a champion. The Knights of Columbus is no different. Each Council should strive for the coveted Star Council Award or reach higher for the Sunflower Award for Excellence. The Star Council is a measure of a champion that our Supreme Council has identified as the line between average.... or completely successful.

Becoming a champion in any endeavor does not happen by accident. Rather, it requires dedication, training, educating, preparing and executing the action plan. It requires dedication and teamwork. The most important ingredient has not been mentioned yet, and it is a four letter word: WORK!!!!

We must work at all aspects within the Knight of Columbus. The greatest plans will fail if no one is willing to step up and do the work. You must do the work to get the job accomplished!

Every council should have monthly Admission Degree dates firmly placed into your Fraternal Leader Success Planners. You should be planning your October Church Drive now! Order your materials through Knights Gear, talk with your Pastor, set a weekend or two weekends to conduct your drives and set your Admission Degree one week following your Church Drive. We must have frequent Admission Degrees, and this starts with the local councils. You are the Leaders in Kansas, our success depends on you. Our Membership Theme this year is "Fishers of Men", I ask you to cast out your nets and ask every eligible Catholic man and their family to join our honored Order. Recruiting new members is essential to the continued growth and well-being of your council and the Order. Offering a man and his family membership in the Knights of

Columbus gives them the opportunity to improve their life and the community in which they live. Membership allows him to experience the fraternal bond that Brother Knights share while growing closer to his family and his faith.

For your council's recruiting efforts to succeed, you need to devise an Action Plan and follow it through. The "Action Steps" and "Support Materials" links are located on the Supreme and the State's websites ([kofc.org/recruit1](http://kofc.org/recruit1) or [kofc.org/star](http://kofc.org/star) and [Kansas-kofc.org](http://Kansas-kofc.org)) will lead you to strategies that your council can implement to execute a successful recruitment campaign and give you a view of the variety of materials available to you. Use these ideas and materials: to help recruitment efforts, to keep our Order growing, and to give every eligible Catholic man and their family to join us in Building the Domestic Church.

A prospective member wants to know why he should join the Knights of Columbus? You have the opportunity to inform him what the Knights of Columbus do for the Church, Community, Culture of Life, Youth, Family and what your local Council does as leaders in the Parish.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said, "We seek to make God known to others both in the work we do and in the educational and evangelizing initiatives we support, bringing the Good News of the Gospel to as many people as possible."

We must recruit to grow. We must have Admission Degrees in each council monthly. We must tell our story to invite eligible men and their families to join us in Building the Domestic Church!

Star Council = Star District = Circle of Honor

Vivat Jesus,  
Vincent P. Melvin III  
State Deputy

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Brother Knights: Alan Fiest from council # 8976 Downs District 37 has been chosen as the State Knight of the Month for June.

Council forms are available on the Supreme Council's Website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). They can be accessed by selecting the "For Officers" option on the homepage, then selecting the "Officer's Materials" tab. Scroll down the page to the "All You Need to Succeed" section. They can also be accessed by going to the State Council's website and choosing "Forms", then "Supreme" from the menu on the left.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **AUGUST:**

- 1 Deadline for receipt of Form #365 at Supreme (**REQUIRED FOR STAR COUNCIL AWARD**)
- 1-3 134th Supreme Council Meeting Toronto, Ontario Canada
- 4 Columbian Squires 91st Anniversary
- 7-14 Knights of Columbus Family Week Celebration
- 7 Major Degree Admission, Formation and Knight-hood: 2133 – Ellis
- 12 Venerable Michael J. McGivney's 164th Birthday
- 14 126th Anniversary of the death of Fr. Michael J. McGivney
- 13 Deadline for receipt of Form #1295 (Semi-Annual Audit) at Supreme
- 15 Deadline to submit articles for the Knight's Lite
- 15-21 Order wide First Degree Week
- 21 Major Degree Admission, Formation, and Knight-hood: 6665 – St. Francis
- 23 Order Church Drive Kits for October
- 27 Patriotic Degree Exemplification in WaKeeney
- 28 Major Degree Admission, Formation, and Knight-hood: 6673 – Lenexa Holy Trinity
- 31 Order Coats for Kids materials  
Deadline to order Tootsie Rolls  
Deadline to return the Seminarian Support Pledge Card

### **SEPTEMBER:**

- 1 Form # 468 Columbian Squires Officers & Counselors Report due at Supreme
- 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 11 Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace
- 14 Exultation of the Cross
- 25 Major Degree Admission, Formation, and Knight-hood: 15134 – Wichita – Blessed Sacrament
- 30 Deadline for Religious Education Fund Requests to Father Dan Gardner

### **OCTOBER:**

- 1-9 Charitable Service Outreach Week

## STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Brother Knights,

We are off to a good start to the fraternal year! We cast our nets and are quickly becoming FISHERS OF MEN! Councils are recruiting and holding Admission Degree ceremonies on a regular basis. Don't be left out of the party. Grow your Council!

Our incentives for the year are growing as well. For every member a Council brings in during July, August and September, the Council will receive a \$10 credit on their State per-capita that will be due in May. Double your recruiting efforts just as the State Council doubled the per-capita credit program.

Your first form due for the Sunflower Award for Excellence was due 8/1. If you have not submitted Form 365, The Program Service Personnel Report form yet, get it in NOW! Our Worthy State Deputy has extended the deadline a few days for this form since this award is new to everyone, but that grace period is short and we don't want you to miss out over just one form.

All of the District Deputies were asked for a Membership Pledge at their Installation meeting in July. Hopefully, he shared with you what he promised you would deliver. We want to see you become a Star Council and Be SAFE! It all starts with one simple question: "Are you a Knight of Columbus?" Go ask your fellow parishioners this weekend. Be FISHERS OF MEN!

Vivat Jesus,  
John W. Schulz, State Membership Director

## AUG/2016 EXPLORER INSURANCE REPORT

The Knights of Columbus agency department is proud to congratulate the following men for achieving the honor of Field Agent of the Month for their respective agencies:

Eastern Kansas Agency: Matthew Locke wrote \$2,210,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in June.

Central Kansas Agency: John Schibi wrote \$614,644 in life insurance protection on members and their families in June.

Western Kansas Agency: Tyler Meyer wrote \$861,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in June.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$47,404,244 in life insurance during the month of June.

Please join us in congratulating the following men for their outstanding performance. These men lead the state or the Knights of Columbus insurance program in June of 2016.

J. J. Deges, Darin Reed, David Soukup, John Schibi, Jon Reboulet, Shaun McGovern, Luke Henry, Adam Bruna, Kirby Schmelzle, Zachory Caro, Wade Greif, Adam Cebula, Mark McKnett

If you or someone you know would like to join our winning team of Field Agents please call 1-866-391-8781 for more information.

## STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The 2016-2017 Fraternal Year is already going strong! The "Building the Domestic Church While Strengthen our Parishes" initiative should have been shared in your council? Council's should be recruiting new members, planning, and implementing their current programs and finding new programs that help build our faith, our community, and our families.

The District Deputies were educated on all the State Programs in Park City on July 9 & 10, and they shared their excitement with the councils at the Regional District Meetings held across the state later in July. Grand Knights, Officers, and Council Program Personnel will take the message back to their councils for implementation. Our goal for this year is to be #1 in programming, but this can only be accomplished by having 100% participation from all councils.

After filing your form #365 at Supreme by August 1, your next goal is to file the semi-annual audit by August 15. Make this your next priority. All forms may be obtained via the State Website at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org). Choose Forms, then Supreme from the menu on the left.

## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

### ***Adopt a Seminarian***

Gary Wondra, Church Activities Director, will be sending an updated list of seminarians to all grand knights in September. All councils should consider adopting two or more seminarians and return the pledge card to Gary, or complete the Adopt a Seminarian Form on the [kansas-kofc.org](http://kansas-kofc.org) website, before August 31, 2016. If your council has specific seminarians that you would like to adopt, include the seminarian names on the pledge card. If your council doesn't have a specific seminarian, one or more will be assigned to your council. Equal amounts of financial support to all seminarians can be achieved by allowing Gary to assign seminarians to your council.

The Bishops of Kansas express their appreciation for all of the support the seminarians receive from the Knights of Columbus. With your councils help, we can continue to "Build the Domestic Church While Strengthen Our Parishes".

## **Religious Education**

The Religious Education Raffle tickets and request forms have been distributed. Please verify that the request form is given to the appropriate parish pastor and that the form is returned to our State Chaplain, Reverend Dan Gardner, by September 30. The Raffle Tickets fund this program, and it is never too early to start selling the tickets. With **\$68,000** in prize money available, this raffle is sure to be a big hit! Get your councils on board today! Please contact Religious Ed Fund Chairman Steve Abels if you need more tickets!

## **Father McGivney Guild**

Canonization of our founder, Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney, is closer to becoming a reality with each passing day. However, your continued prayers are needed to keep the process moving. John Kasper, PSD & State McGivney Guild Chairman, encourages all members to join the Fr. McGivney Guild, which has been set up by Supreme to further this cause. Applications may be obtained from the Columbia Magazine, the Supreme and Kansas K of C websites, or by contacting John Kasper at 785-658-2276.

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

### **Youth Activity**

Youth Activities Director Bob Duffin wants to remind all councils that are going to participate in the Soccer Challenge to get their contest kit ordered before the end of the month. Also they need to get their Free Throw kits ordered and get the Gyms reserved now to make sure they are available for the contests. Both forms can be ordered off the Supreme website at [www.Kansas-KofC.org](http://www.Kansas-KofC.org).

### **Columbian Squires**

Chairman Bob Duffin is ready to assist your council or assembly that has a Squires Circle, with any questions or needs that accrue. The Squires is a great way to get the young men involved, and is open to any Catholic men between the ages of 10 and 18. For more information, please contact Bob Duffin at 620-396-8354 or email to [squires@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:squires@kansas-kofc.org).

## **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

### **Family Life**

With the start of a new fraternal year, Family Life Director Scott Nichols reminds all Councils to keep the Knights of Columbus families growing and strong. One way to acknowledge those families who contribute to your council, community, and church is to select a family each month as your council's **Family of the Month**.

Arrange a time to **present them** with a certificate # 1843 at church or at one of your council meetings. You can also send the name of your nominee to Supreme before the 15th of the following month, utilizing form # 1993. If they are selected as one of the 100 winning families drawn by Supreme each month, they will receive a letter from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and a Holy Family Plaque. This is a very worthwhile program as it is our responsibility to help grow the domestic church each and every month.

K of C **Family Week is August 7-14** please plan your family event and **take photos** as a way to document your history and participate in the annual scrapbook program. Please send a photo of your activity/s to your DD and family life director.

Finally, the **Marion Prayer Icon travel schedule** is completing the first of two years. The 2016-2017 schedule may be viewed @ [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) website. Should you wish to view the 2015-16 schedule, please contact Scott Nichols by email [family@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:family@kansas-kofc.org).

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

### **Commitment to Humanities**

Chairman Barney Wolters reminds all councils of the August 31 deadline for ordering Tootsie Rolls. The minimum order to receive free shipping is 33 cases so be sure to team up with other councils, if necessary, to get the free shipping. Place your order early to assure that you have your Tootsie Rolls for the Tootsie Roll Drive dates of October 7, 8 and 9. We need every council to order and distribute at least one additional case of Tootsie Rolls in order to meet our goal and raise \$400,000 in Kansas to support our dear friends with intellectual disabilities.

### **Pennies from Heaven**

It is never too early to start planning your donations for Pennies from Heaven. You can use fundraisers at your council meetings, plan special events to raise money, or submit donations for the Country Store at the State Convention in May. Your donations go to support the EDAP program which provides support to people that have been impacted by disasters such as fires, floods, or tornados, most recently the Eureka tornado. Contact Pennies From Heaven chairman Bruce Luehring with questions or with the information on what items you are going to contribute to the Country Store or for the live auction at the State Convention in May.

### **Culture of Life Update**

Protection for the unborn and the elderly is a primary goal for the Knights of Columbus. If we are to be successful in our Culture of Life endeavors, EVERY council must participate in Culture of Life activities. Now is the time to start planning some of the activities for your council's involvement in the program. For example, you must start this month with a Rosary before or after each Mass in your parish(s) to qualify for the Evangelium Vitae Award. Has your council donated towards the ultrasound machines? If not, it is a great time to plan and host a fundraiser to help save the lives of the unborn. The Silver Rose Run is also rapidly approaching with the route beginning in Goodland on August 14th and ending in Coffeyville on September 9th. Please call your Culture of Life Chairman, Lino Munoz at 785-249-2075 if you have questions or need ideas on how to support the Culture of Life program.

## **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### **Athletic Events**

Chairman Tom Halblieb advises that August is an excellent month for councils and parishes to participate in one of the Health Service Programs. Blood Donor Program, Blood Pressure Clinic, CPR Training, and Organ Donor Program. Remember, we as Knights of Columbus should reach out to help those in need. This is an excellent opportunity to promote within our home communities.

### **Fraternal**

Go to [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) to sign up to receive fraternal notices and other information from the State Council.

Every council should select a Knight of the Month. We would like to see more councils selecting a deserving brother as Knight of the Month, and for the council to submit this information by the 15th of each month to Fraternal Activities Chairman Mike Barnard. Forms are available on the State website. This will ensure that your deserving brother is eligible for the State Knight of the Month drawing. A Knights of Columbus Crucifix is awarded every month.

### **Publicity**

It's time for all councils to select a Public Relations Chairman in order to help "get the word out" about the many excellent programs that are conducted around the



state in our parishes, and communities. Make sure you add his name to the Service Program Personnel report form 365 when you submit it to Supreme. Help spread the news; it will get more men interested in joining our great order.

#### ***Website Update***

Have you visited the state website at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org)? Contact information is available and up-to-date for State Officers, Directors and Chairmen, Insurance Personnel, Past State Deputies, District Deputies, and council Grand Knights.

All District Deputies and Grand Knights are encouraged to review the council information and forward any changes to Doug Wietharn. Please make sure there is a valid street address for the meeting location. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact Doug Wietharn at [webmaster@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:webmaster@kansas-kofc.org).

#### ***Knights-Lite***

Tom Schmeidler, Editor, reminds everyone that **August 15** is the deadline to submit articles for publication. Please be prompt so the issue won't be delayed.

#### ***History and Centennial Book***

Historian and Centennial Book Chairman, Jim Pritchard, is asking all Grand Knights to make sure every member of your council has the opportunity to purchase a copy of the history book, "Fraternalism and Leadership - The Second Fifty Years of the Knights of Columbus in Kansas". The book has history from 1950 to 2000, council histories, historical leaders, Kansas impact at Supreme

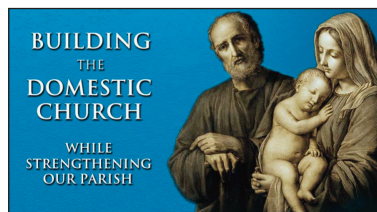
Council and more than 180 historic photographs. An order form may be found on page 88 of the "Official State Directory" or you may contact Jim by phone 913-294-3303 or by e-mail at [historian@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:historian@kansas-kofc.org).

Is your council's history current? The 2015-2016 report was due on April 1, 2016, this can be turned in any time but don't limit your council history to one report, send articles that have been published in your Diocesan papers about your council or church 25, 50, 75 etc. celebrations. We must continue to preserve our history for future generations. Please be sure to appoint a Council Historian and make sure your council's history is filed with State Historian Jim Pritchard at the above website which will make it easier to read by anyone.

Tom Schmeidler  
State Program Director

**Dale A. Weber**  
**State Secretary**  
**514 E. 33rd St. South**  
**Wellington, KS 67152**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



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