

Nebraska Jurisdiction Emergency Calling Tree
Fraternal Year 2011-2012

State Deputy, Jim Haiar

- Executive Secretary, Ray Guggenberger (402-291-5925 or 402-681-6572)
- State Secretary, R. “Butch” Kreikemeier (402-372-6417)
- State Treasurer, Rich Lowery (402-488-4667 or 402-432-6748)
- State Chaplain, Fr. Scott A. Hastings (402-454-3529)
- State Advocate, Kenneth LeRoy (402-614-8095 or 402-250-0627)
- Supreme Membership/Program Consultant, Jose Jimenez
(405-521-1221 or 203-804-9767)

Executive Secretary, Ray Guggenberger

- State Warden, Tony Hergott (402-564-9924 or 402-910-1894)
- Past State Deputy, Mike Conrad (402-468-5847 or 402- 779-9913)
- State Program Director, Chuck Kozisek (402-896-4554 or 402-651-5205)
- State Membership Director, Bob Brown (402-895-3133 or 402-651-2225)

State Secretary, R. Butch Kreikemeier

- District Master, Don Ferneding (402-223-6660 or 402-943-6320)
- Ceremonial Co-Chairmen, Larry Reed (402-292-2799 or 402-802-2923);
and Jim Noonan (402-345-0184)
- Website Chairman, Aaron Goodrich (402-592-0823)
- Public Relations, Chairman, Ron Goodrich (402-592-0823 or 402-968-6209)

State Treasurer, Rich Lowery

- Pro-Life Couple, Bob and Anita Finger (402-953-5806 or 402-953-7181)
- Health Services Co-Directors, Matt & Connie Richardson
(402-372-4980 or 402-380-3513)
- Convention Chairmen, Jack Revelle (308-436-4275 or 308-631-8026)

State Warden, Tony Hergott

- Production Specialists, Stephen Lowery (402-488-4667 or 402-540-1670);
and Mitchell Lowery (402-488-4667 or 402-540-1021)
- State FS Co-Chairmen, Mitchell O’Neill (308- 440-3330);
and James Donnelly (402-734-6137 or 402-214-3973)
- State Foundation/Investment Director, Norm Vogel
(402-763-9280 or 402-312-4648)

State Advocate, Kenneth LeRoy

- Squires Co-Chairmen, Tim Smith (402-334-8141 or 402-699-1730);
and David Marx (402-758-0023)
- State Father Prior, Rev. Troy Schweiger (402-466-2752 or 402-705-3024)

Past State Deputy, Mike Conrad

- State Youth Director, Jack Nienaber (402-463-6082)

- State Community Director, Lou Gasper (402-476-0764 or 402-440-3028)
- State Council Director, Mark Borytsky (402-212-9612)

State Ceremonial Co-Chairman, Larry Reed

- State Third Degree Team Captains

State Ceremonial Co-Chairman, Jim Noonan

- State Second Degree Team Captains

State Program Director, Chuck Kozisek

- Vocations Chairman, Ed Mills (402-873-6247)
- Athletics Chairman, Don Loecker (308-345-4764 or 308-345-4303)
- Church Director, Terry C. Fletcher (402-593-8558 or 402-830-0502)
- Family Directors, Donald & Terri Hypse (402-375-4574 or 402-369-0814)

State Membership Director, Bob Brown

- Regional Membership Directors

Regional Membership Directors

- Normal District Deputy Assignments

State District Deputies

- Normal Grand Knight Assignments

State Grand Knights

- Normal Council Communications through e-mail and/or council calling tree

HELPFUL HINTS/COMMENTS from the Executive Secretary

REPORT OF OFFICERS: You must have a Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Treasurer, Warden, Chancellor, and the 3 Trustees.

** REPORT OF SERVICE PERSONNEL: Provide as much information as you are able – the report does not need a name in every position. The key positions are your Program Director, Membership Director, Church, Community, Youth, Family, and Council Directors.

** Completion of the form noted above will place your officers and directors on Supreme's mailing list to receive the "Knightline" and other informational items.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF AUDIT: This report will insure that your council's Financial Secretary keeps the bond provided by the Supreme Council at no cost to your council. Remember, the "as of date" is not the day you are preparing this report. Pay special attention to the line where you record the number of delinquent members. The

State and Supreme Council use this information in the processing of any suspension requests from your council.

We added to the “Courier” the “Memento Mori” column. Financial Secretaries are responsible for sending the deceased info to the Goodrich’s via email, subject: "Memento Mori", with member's name, council #, month of death.

To All Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights:

There are many reports due to the Supreme and State Councils in addition to the Supreme and Nebraska Per Capita and the Catholic Advertising payments. On the next page you will find a list of the important reports and payment dates, which will help you keep aware of the many dates. I am available anytime to assist you. My contact information is on the previous page.

THREE CRUCIAL REPORTS

Three reports on the checklist are printed in boldface. These reports to our Supreme Council are necessary to qualify your council for the coveted Star Council Award. These reports are also used by Supreme to document our non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service and are crucial to maintaining our tax-exempt status.

Submit Many Reports Electronically To Supreme

Many reports can be submitted electronically to the Supreme Council. Visit the Web site, **www.kofc.org**, go to officers and then to forms, and choose the form you wish to complete. You must have Acrobat Reader Version 5 or higher on your computer to use this service. By using the print icon on the Acrobat Reader Program, you can print copies of your report. You can download the Acrobat Reader program from Supreme at no cost. Some of the reports that may be submitted electronically are in bold print on the checklist on page 14.

There are a number of optional forms that may be submitted electronically. Download any remaining reports for manual completion. If you file any of these reports electronically, you must send an email to rguggenberger@cox.net for credit for completion.

Copies of reports for the State Deputy should be submitted directly to me. I will review and provide the State Deputy a summary of your report. This year, we are including a set of mailing labels for mailing these reports to their proper places. Remember, the report needs to be submitted to all places to be complete.

Another source of information is our State Website. Log onto **www.nebraskakofc.org**. Here you will find the latest information on activities in the state and on upcoming important dates, Log Book online forms, and other forms in PDF format. We post a record of the reports that have been received by the State Council. You will also find the latest information pertaining to any significant event or wake/funeral arrangements as needed.

There was an old adage in the military: “The job isn’t completed until the paperwork is done.” Thank you for accepting both a demanding and rewarding position within your council.

Fraternally,

Ray Guggenberger, Executive Secretary

Supreme Reports

Form No.		Description	Due Date	Date (E)mailed
185	**	Report of Officers	1-Jul	
365	**	Service Program Personnel Report	1-Aug	
1295		Semi-Annual Council Audit Report	15-Aug	
2629	**	Report of K of C Round Table	1-Sep	
FT-KIT	**	Free Throw Contest Order Form	1-Nov	
1728	**	Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity	31-Jan	
4585		Partnership Profile Reports with Special Olympics	31-Jan	
1295		Semi-Annual Council Audit Report	15-Feb	
STSP		State Council Service Program Award	1-Mar	
ABC/XXX		Application for Vocations		
		Support/Refund	30-Jun	
SP-7	**	Columbian Award Application	30-Jun	

** May be submitted on-line at www.kofc.org/officers/forms
Reports in bold are required for "Star Council"

State Reports

Form No.		Description	Due Date	Date (E)mailed
		Knights Courier Articles Due to Editor	15-Aug	
		July State Per Capita Assessment	1-Sep	
		July Supreme Per Capita	1-Sep	
		First Log Book Submission (Yellow)	1-Sep	
		Knights Courier Articles Due to Editor	15-Nov	
		January Supreme Per Capita Assessment	1-Mar	
		January State Per Capita Assessment	1-Mar	
		Final State Log Book Reports (Yellow)	1-Mar	
		Knights Courier Articles Due to Editor	4-Mar	
		Knights Courier Articles Due to Editor	15-May	
		State Directory Updates	20-Jun	

Publicity Awards

Division 1	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 2	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 3	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 4	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 5	1st Place	2nd Place

Vocations Awards

Commitment to Vocations	1 Award
Support of Seminarians	1 Award

Pro-Life Awards

Support of Life — Equal Awards

One Rose – One Life

Division 1	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 2	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 3	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 4	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 5	1st Place	2nd Place

Pro Life Art Contest	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Pro Life Essay Contest	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place

Church Awards

Supreme Service Award	1 Award
State Service Award	1 Award
Support of Catholic Education — Equal Awards	

Council Awards

Supreme Service Award	1 Award
State Service Award	1 Award
Knight of the Year	1st Place

Youth Awards

Supreme Service Award	1 Award
State Service Award	1 Award

Community Awards

Supreme Service Award	1 Award
State Service Award	1 Award
Leonard Feehan Community Service —	1 Award

Family Awards

Supreme Service Award	1 Award	
State Service Award	1 Award	
Family of the Year	1st Place	Runner Up

Membership Awards

Division 1	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 2	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 3	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 4	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 5	1st Place	2nd Place

State Council

On-going Projects*	Equal Awards
Special Projects**	Equal Awards

Ceremonials

George Nusrullah Award	1 Award
Insurance Net Gain	1 Award
Insurance Percent Gain	1 Award

Fraternalist of the Year 1 Award

Insurance Agent of the Year 1 Award

Council of the Year

Division 1	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 2	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 3	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 4	1st Place	2nd Place
Division 5	1st Place	2nd Place

District Deputy of the Year 1st Place

* On-going Project Criteria: Minimum 5 years in length and not awarded for the same project in the last 5 years. Other suggested factors: number of Knights involved, number of people benefited. Must apply by filling out the application in the Log Book.

** Special Project Criteria (If applicants qualify): For projects that don't fall in one specific category. Apply by filling out the application in the Log Book.

NOTE: Awards other than those listed may be presented if an individual or council submits a form detailing an activity that does not fall into these categories, but is worthy of State recognition.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public relations is an important component of the Knights of Columbus. Public relations in its broadest sense is the art of making the public aware of what an

organization is doing, why it is doing it, the people it serves, and how it contributes to the welfare of the community as a whole.

Through communication, we can inform people about the activities of the Knights and when these activities will be taking place. By doing this, we can motivate our members to get involved in the council through participation in the activities and through individual action. We can give our members a sense of responsibility and pride. We can also make recruitment easier since more people will be familiar with what our organization is and what we are doing.

When you check out the points available to be earned, please note that there have been additions and changes over the past two years. In order for your council to earn any of these points, the specific items must be brought to the attention of the PR Chairman. Do not expect him to hunt through newspapers, bulletins, etc. to find your council's name/article.

Also, simply having your council's name on a calendar of events or space reservation within a parish does not qualify for points.

CREATE A PLAN

To the extent possible, a specific plan should be devised for the council to use. It is best to do this on a large year round calendar. List the major events of previous years. Confirm dates of regular and special meetings. Add major community events that might conflict or those which might provide an opportunity for additional publicity. List special events that have been used by other groups. Develop a parallel calendar of deadlines for mailings, photos, and news releases. Work in close cooperation with your Council General Program Chairman so that material and information will be available on time for all committee chairmen. The old adage, "Plan the work and work the plan" will bring success.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Effective communication with the members of each council plays an important role in an overall public relations program. Perhaps the most important and most basic tool available to a council is the council's bulletin or newsletter. Primarily intended to serve as a calendar of events, the council newsletter has assumed an important status. The monthly council newsletter, properly prepared, accomplishes a great deal for the council in gaining membership support of activities and in stimulating interest in the Knights of Columbus.

An editor should be appointed for the council newsletter. He should have a sense of organization, administration, and flair for news. His duties are to get items of interest, solicit advertisements and oversee the layout of the publication. A single copied sheet is the simplest format. More elaborate council newsletters may be used. The choice of format usually depends on the budget and the volume of available news. Many councils finance their entire publication through the acceptance of carefully chosen advertisements. Experience indicates the ads taken for the complete council term, from a specific number of advertisers for a definite flat fee, are preferable to those ads which are used monthly. The editor can usually know in advance how much money he has to operate with and can plan his issues accordingly.

TEMPLATE FOR A COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

If you need help setting up a simple newsletter for your council, a template will soon be provided on the State Website at www.nebraskakofc.org, under the “Resources” menu.

LOCAL PUBLICITY

When planning various projects for the council, the local news media is a good source of publicity. This is where the concentration of the information should go for a project. When writing news releases for the press or providing the newspaper staff with information, always remember to give them background information. This information includes the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the local program or project. Always be sure to include the name of a contact person and a phone number and address so if more information is needed, it can be easily obtained.

If the project is one that occurs annually, include any information that may be of interest to the community. For example, on Tootsie Roll Drive stories, remember to mention that a portion of the money raised stays within the community. Also, if the information is available include how much money has been given to the various programs resulting from the past drives. Quotes from the committee chairman or the Grand Knight can also give strength to a story.

Events such as the kickoff of the Tootsie Roll Drive, an annual fish fry, recognition of council award winners, or a celebrity performing in the community might offer special visual appeal, and therefore, special efforts should be made to get a photo of these activities. Notice of such events should be given to the news media three to five days in advance; a polite reminder call might be made a few hours prior to the event.

At the event, a council member should check with reporters/photographers to ensure that they receive the maximum “photo opportunity” and interview access to key participants.

As an organization, key members in the communication of council activities should acquaint themselves with the appropriate people at the local newspapers, radio, and television stations.

OTHER PUBLIC RELATIONS TOOLS

- Other useful public relation tools for a council can include personal presentations sponsored by the group or made by members of the council.
- Council Telephone Committee/Chain has the purpose of informing members of coming activities and functions, especially for wakes of deceased members.
- Roadside signs installed and refurbished by the Knights of Columbus councils list the hours of meetings or of local masses.
- A Council Scrapbook can contain all the publicity and news clippings, photos, promotional materials, posters, and programs of activities held by the council.
- A Council Directory might contain a listing of council officers, chairmen, Past Grand Knights, as well as the name, address, and phone number of each council member.
- Council Banners . . . At council functions, fairs, food booths, etc. – wherever Knights are – inform the public about your council. Display your Council banner.

FREE SERVER SPACE FOR A COUNCIL WEBSITE

The State offers each council FREE server space to set up their council's Website. To take advantage of this, contact Ron Goodrich or Aaron Goodrich at (402) 592-0823, nekcweb@cox.net.

PUBLICITY POINTS FOR AWARDS

- Article/Picture in Columbia Magazine (printed or online) 12 points
 - Article/Picture in "Around the State" on either State Web Site or in Courier 10 points
 - Article/Picture in Diocesan Paper 10 points
 - Article/Picture in Local Paper 10 points
 - Small Articles in any of the above (Community Calendars, etc.) 3 points
 - Extra Pictures included with any of the above articles 3 points
 - National TV/Radio Interview/Feature Story 12 points
 - Local TV/Radio Interview/Feature Story 10 points
 - Family of the Month (from Supreme) 3 points
 - Each Council Newsletter (sent to Public Relations Chairman) 3 points
 - Each Item in Parish Bulletin (not just the word Knights or those on Parish Calendar of Events or Ministry Schedule). 1 point
 - Email Reminders/Announcements to council members (sent to PR Chair) 1 point
- NOT FORWARDS OF NOTICES SENT BY ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL (e.g. PRAYER REQUESTS FROM RAY GUGGENBERGER)
- Each item listed on Final Log Book 5 points each, 50 points max

YOU must send clippings or samples of any of the items listed above with an organized list to Ron Goodrich to be eligible for points. The list must also include any online or email submittals. All emails MUST be directed to ron149@cox.net to be considered. Those sent to the Webmaster or Knights Courier will not be automatically counted for points.

These points are not considered when determining Council of the Year.
Due September 1, December 1, and March 1.

Website and Knights Courier

1. Please continue sending Around the State to knightscourier@cox.net.
2. DO NOT send items for PR points to either the Webmaster or Knights Courier address. Be sure to include any items submitted and used by either of these on your PR list to the PR Chair (above).
3. If your council or a council member is involved in any community-wide project or award ceremony, please let us know in advance and we'll try to cover the story and get photos.
4. Remember that your council can have FREE server space on the state site. We can also help you with free software (from Supreme) to design your site, and a free FTP program (allows you to upload to the server). Only the designated people in your council will have access to edit your site with secure log-in that you will create.

STATE WEBSITE: NEBRASKAKOFC.ORG

The Log Book:

- * Online forms can be filled out and sent to the appropriate people
- * Log Book forms can also be obtained in PDF format to be printed off

The Program Book:

- * The Program Book can also be obtained in PDF format to be printed off

Resources:

* Miscellaneous forms, such as “Notice of Change of Address”, “Golf Tournament Registration Form”, and others will also be readily available. Printed material such as the two books listed above, Knights Courier, helpful brochures and booklets, and links to printed items on the Supreme site can also be found here.

Calendars:

* There will be a “Calendar” menu for dates such as: “Reports Due” (both State and Supreme); “Important Dates” (programs, activities, and events); and “Exemplification Schedule”, to name a few.

Be sure to log on to <http://www.nebraskakofc.org> on a regular basis to check out updates and important information.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Our State Deputy has chosen “Fraternity for Faith & Family” as our theme for the 2011-2012 term. As each council works toward meeting those opportunities for service created within their own communities, we are responding for our faith and families. Whether large or small, each of our local communities presents opportunities to show our neighbors what faithful Knights can be. By choosing group projects that benefit those outside of your council, you will also be exemplifying the principals of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity that our Order was founded under.

Projects which were utilized by many Councils in the past will continue to be a focus for the next 12 months as well. They are as follows:

Habitat for Humanity

This organization is looking for manpower (and of course money) for homes being constructed for qualifying families in almost every area of Nebraska. Families receiving benefit of these homes provide a number of work hours themselves, and Knights can certainly assist in the manpower area, too. Opportunities also exist to help with meals for workers, etc. Call me for the names and numbers of leaders in your communities, or research the internet at www.habitat.org.

Wear a K of C shirt or hat when working in your community!

Brush Up Nebraska Paint –a-Thon

BRUSH UP NEBRASKA Paint-A-Thon is a community based volunteer program that paints the homes of low-income elderly and low-income disabled homeowners so that they may maintain their property. Officially, the BRUSH UP NEBRASKA project serves the Omaha Metropolitan community area including: Omaha, Bellevue, Gretna, Elkhorn, LaVista, Ralston, Papillion, and Council Bluffs, IA. However, the concept could easily be adapted to provide assistance to a deserving member of smaller local communities as well. Information is available at www.brushupnebraska.org. You can also call me if you have questions on retro fitting a similar project for your council if you are outside of the official project area.

Nebraska Adopt-a-Highway Program

Many councils find this a great way to provide community service, and even create an ongoing year to year project. The “adoption” process includes an additional reward via a road sign with the council name on it for the public to see. This is a Nebraska Department of Roads sponsored project. You may call 402-479-4843 or go to www.nebraskatransportation.org.

COMMUNITY Awards

- 1 point for each man hour reported during a community project.
- 100 Bonus Points for each reported and documented public recognition for the project i.e. newspaper articles, TV recordings, or radio recordings.
- 100 Bonus Points for being involved with another organization.
- The activity with the highest point total will receive the Community Supreme Service Award.
- The activity with the second highest point total will receive the Community State Service Award

Note: Awards will be based on points earned divided by the membership totals as of July 1, 2011.

Membership used for computations will be per Supreme Council Records.

Other Council Projects

The opportunities for service are endless in our communities. Simple clean up and beautification, youth activities and elderly assistance projects all provide excellent community service opportunities. Each council should continue to do those things which have become familiar and were successful in the past; as well as hopefully taking on one or more new ideas for this year. I would like to see every council work toward a Community Service Award! Call or e-mail me with comments, suggestions, or questions.

Leonard Feehan Memorial Community Service Award

In memory of PSD Leonard Feehan, The Nebraska State Council instituted a new award in April of 2007, to be giving annually. This award was dedicated to the

outstanding service that Leonard provided to his community as well as to the Knights of Columbus. Leonard never felt that good deeds stopped with the Knights. He was always looking for ways to better his community and help those who lived there.

In this spirit, the award will be given to the Council that has gone out of its way to work with other community groups to improve a specific aspect of the community or to improve the living conditions of members of the community. Applications for this award are included in the convention packet sent to the Financial Secretaries after the first of the year.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

PRECIOUS THREADS

We recently saw the following phrase displayed as part of a collection of family photographs: "Family ties are precious threads that pull our hearts Home."

Imagine these precious threads as what Pope John Paul II referred to as the domestic church---your family, our family, your neighbor's family. Then imagine how immeasurably strong each family thread can be as it models itself on the Holy Family. The weaving together of each of these many and diverse threads gives us the fabric of our Catholic faith community. Committed to faith, family, and fraternity, we challenge all Knights to find simple and sincere ways to help develop strong families within your council, parish, and community. May the example of the Holy Family pull us all home to our Mother Church.

STRONG FABRIC

To weave the threads of individual families into a strong fabric of parish and community consider some of the following activities:

- Family corporate communion
- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month
- Adopt a family in need of support from others
- Movie nights
- Wii tournaments or Guitar Hero contests
- Help at a shelter or a community agency
- Shower a pregnancy counseling center with baby items
- Make cards for veterans in hospitals and for nursing homes
- Picnics and potlucks
- Living rosaries
- Holiday parties
- Recognize a Family of the Month and a Family of the Year

FAMILY AWARDS

SUPREME AND STATE FAMILY SERVICE AWARDS

Write a description of a family event sponsored by your council. Be sure to include the following:

- What made it successful? Who was involved? How many hours were involved?
- How does the event include every member of the family?
- How did the event reinforce our Catholic faith?

FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARDS

(1st Place and Runner-up)

Choose a family from your council whom you believe truly reflect the traditions and relationships and fabric of the Holy Family. Be specific and detailed in your explanation so that your nomination:

- Demonstrates how the family members are interdependent and share with one another and their parish family.
- Focuses on the entire family, parents and children alike, and how the family lives out and shares their Catholic faith.
- Shows the way the family lives their lives reinforcing the message of the Church.
- Shows how the family makes other people's lives better.
- Includes a photograph of the family as part of the nomination.
- Submit the nomination and a photograph of the family to Don and Terri Hypse at hypse@conpoint.com or 1019 Sherman Street, Wayne, NE 68787.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO THE FAMILY DIRECTORS NO LATER THAN MARCH 1.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS — CARDS

Many Councils throughout the state have participated in the annual Keep Christ In Christmas Card program. This program is a great way to raise funds for your Circle, Council, or Assembly. More importantly, it is a great way to make sure that the true meaning of Christmas is the birth of our Lord.

Go online to <http://www.nebraskakofc.org> for complete information and order forms. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Fletcher, State Church Director, Ph (402) 593-8558 or ntfletcher@cox.net

The basic principle of our Order is charity. As Knights of Columbus, members need to set the example by serving their parishes, and providing Brother Knights and their parish community with the opportunity to grow in the Catholic Faith. Stewardship not only involves financial support; it must also include the giving of time and talent.

Church awards will be judged on the following:

Church Supreme Service Award and Church State Service Award

- Church projects.
- Detailed description of the project.
- Man hours and number of Knights involved.
- Types of fundraisers to support the project.

- Amount to finance the project.
- Benefit to the parish.

Additional Points

- 5pts. Council members involved in Lay Ministries
- 5pts. Annual Corporate Communion
- 5pts. Annual Mass for deceased members
- 5pts. Members involved in Eucharistic Adoration
- 5pts. Annual council retreat or attend State Annual Day of Recollection
- 5pts. Financial support for Mass for Shut-ins
- 5pts. Transportation to Mass for those who need a ride
- 5pts. “Keep Christ in Christmas” campaign/Sale of Christmas cards
- 15pts. “Keep Christ in Christmas” public advertising, TV, radio, newspaper, and/or billboard

As Knights, we should not forget our obligation to our parish to assist in the spiritual formation of our church community.

VOCATIONS

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN LIVING

What is your personal involvement in vocations? What is your council’s involvement in vocations? We all realize the need for support of vocations, but there will not be much progress made if we leave it to others to get the job done. It requires our personal commitment through prayer, financial support, and personal contact.

The RSVP Program is a good place to start. To make this program as successful as it can be, ALL parts of the program need to be carried out. It is very easy to approve the sending of the money by your council, but it is more of a challenge to send the letters and cards and develop a relationship with the seminarian or postulant that you are helping to sponsor.

Every Council and Circle in the state should try to participate in this program. Even if you do not have a seminarian or postulant from your area, please select one from a list that will be provided to you after September and adopt that person and support him or her in their sacrifice and vocation.

REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS PROGRAM (RSVP)

The RSVP program is sponsored by Supreme. Councils, Assemblies, and Circles may participate in the program.

RSVP GUIDELINES

- Local K of C councils or assemblies agree to make an annual contribution of \$500 or more to an individual seminarian to help with his expenses.
- Councils and assemblies can sponsor more than one seminarian if their resources permit. In each case, the minimum annual contribution is \$500.

- For every \$500 donated, the council or assembly is eligible for a refund of \$100 from the Supreme Council.
- The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported.
- For Columbian Squire Circles, the annual contribution per seminarian is a minimum of \$100, with each circle eligible to receive a \$20 refund for each \$100 contributed.

THE FOLLOWING ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE RSVP FUNDS

- Seminarians who have been accepted by a diocese and are currently in their “spirituality” year (a year of spiritual formation).
- Seminarians attending major seminaries (usually four years) in preparation for priestly ordination.
- Seminarians in their “pastoral” year (most often they are transitory deacons).
- Seminarians attending college seminaries (sometimes called minor seminaries).
- Seminarians who belong to a religious institute (religious orders or societies) and are studying for the priesthood.
- Men and women who are novices or postulants in religious orders or religious communities.

Those eligible for assistance do include foreign seminarians studying in the United States or Canada; U.S. or Canadian seminarians studying overseas; seminarians from your home diocese currently attending seminaries in another diocese, state, or country; and seminarians from other states or dioceses attending a seminary located in your jurisdiction.

PERSONS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RSVP FUNDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Priests or religious seeking assistance for continuing education.
- Religious brothers not currently studying for the priesthood.
- Candidates in formation for the permanent diaconate.
- Consecrated persons who are not religious brothers or sisters.

TO QUALIFY FOR A RSVP REFUND THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS MUST BE MET:

- Money given to each individual must be vocation-related, donated between July 1 and June 30 within the fraternal year applied for, and must amount to at least \$500 per individual.
- The money must have been donated to an individual and NOT to an institution or fund.
- Money must be given to a seminarian, postulant, or novice only.
- The money must be paid with a check drawn on the council account.
- Copies of canceled check(s), both front and back, or other documentation, must be attached to the application.

RSVP MORAL SUPPORT INFORMATION

Substantial moral support is required, including some or all of the following:

- Correspondence between the council and seminarian, novice, or postulant.

- Personal visits to the seminary or religious residence.
- Invitation of seminarian/postulant to council events.
- Other signs of council concern and interest.

WHO ARE OUR SEMINARIANS, NOVICES, AND POSTULANTS?

We will try to provide the names and addresses of seminarians and postulants who are in training from each diocese after September. This information will come to your Grand Knight through your District Deputy. Even though you may not be able to participate in the RSVP program, we urge you to take a very active role in the support of vocations in whatever ways you can. Smaller amounts could still be donated to the seminarian/postulant of your choice even without the refund. Any support, financial and moral, that is given, is still greatly appreciated.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMITMENT TO VOCATIONS

Organize and seriously participate in special prayer activities especially geared to the support of vocations. After our support of Catholic schools, vocations may be one of the most important areas to dedicate our resources, in prayer as well as financial resources. The dedication it requires to devote one's life to the priesthood or religious life is one that requires a great amount of support from all of us. WE, not our friends or neighbors, are the ones who must also dedicate our lives to the support of vocations.

Help and support vocation programs that are already in place and active in your area. Don't always wait to be asked. Make your offer to help before you are asked. As the year progresses we will be in contact with the vocations offices and seminaries of the dioceses to see in what ways we may be of assistance to them and coordinate our efforts to promote vocations.

POINTS AND AWARDS

State vocations Awards:

Commitment to Vocations • Support of Seminarians

Vocation awards will be judged on the following:

- Detailed description of the project.
- Man hours and number of Knights participating.
- Types of fundraisers to support the project.
- Amount contributed to vocations.
- Benefit to the recipients and the benefit to The Church and The Body of Christ (YOU).

Points:

- 5 pts. for each RSVP contribution.
- 5 pts. for each local vocations activity (one time only for those that occur more than once a year).
- 5 pts. for each activity that supports vocations in conjunction with another council or other entity.
- 5 pts. for each prayer activity (one time only if recurring).

- 5 pts. for each activity whose main purpose is moral support for a seminarian or postulant.

COUNCIL PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

Programs and activities that fall under the Council Director can be as numerous as each Council Director wants to make them. This is where the idea of Fraternity that Father McGivney stressed when he formed the Knights fits. The goal of council activities is to inform, to educate, and to instill an enjoyable and beneficial atmosphere within your council. Here are some ideas that may work in your council, but don't hesitate to try something new on your own. If it works, let us know, it may be something that more councils might want to implement.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Every council should have some kind of monthly bulletin or newsletter that helps to inform the members of what is going on in the council. It can be something as simple as a letter from the Grand Knight or Council Program Director, or as elaborate as a trifold newsletter. The important thing is to get it out to the members, and remember to send a copy to your Insurance Field Agent and to the State Council Director. Also another good way to get the message of the Knights out is through your local media. Supreme office has a real good reference book "Getting Your Message Across – Knights of Columbus Public Relations and Publicity Guide" (#2235). This handbook is distributed to the councils in your Surge With Service kit or is available from Supreme Council Supply Department. It has everything in it that you will need to get the message of your council out. You might also look into having a council webpage; there is a template on the Supreme Website that you can follow to set one up. If your council does this, make sure that you keep it updated. People won't go to a Website if they see the same thing on it all the time.

FRATERNALISM: Maintaining a strong, friendly, and fraternal atmosphere within your council is key to having a vibrant and active group of Knights. Make sure that new members are aware of upcoming programs and that they are invited to participate in them. Have a "Recognition or Awards Night" once a year. Supreme has a number of very nice preprinted award certificates that can be ordered from the Supreme Council Supply Department. Make sure that you invite prospective members to these as they are powerful recruiting tools. Have your council select a Knight of the Month and Knight of the Year. Present the Knight of the Month his certificate at the monthly meeting. (Certificate #1476 for the month and #1545 for the year.) One council posts the Knight of the Month certificate in the gathering area of the church so that the parishioners can see it. (Make sure to ok it with your pastor first.)

SOCIAL: It is important to include the wives and families in what we do as Knights as much as is possible. Some councils have a "Family Night" at which they serve a meal, have speakers come and talk, play games, or just socialize. If your council has a Squires circle make sure to include them and their families, they are the Knights of the future, and as soon as you get them comfortable being around other Knights the easier they make the

transition. Also council dances are a great way to get to know more members and their families. It doesn't have to be real formal, unless you want, and can be organized around various holidays like Valentine's Day or Mother's Day.

BLOOD DONORS: The "Gift of Life" Blood Drives are a wonderful way to help your community while promoting the Knights. Your local hospital or Red Cross are usually willing to help out. Recognize the donors by presenting them with the Knights of Columbus Blood Donors Certificate (#1444 cost is 0.25 cents each).

COUNCIL AWARDS

Each year the State Council gives out three awards at the State Convention. These three awards are:

- Knight Of The Year: 1st place. Submissions to be sent to State with your award submissions.
- Council Supreme Service Award and Council State Service Award: Awarded for the best Council Activity from the previous year. The Supreme Service Award is given to the top activity. The State Service Award is given to the second place activity.

Remember to get your submissions to State by the due date of March 1st. The due dates can also be found on the State website, www.nebraskakofc.org. Click on the "Calendar" menu at the top of the Home Page and select "Reports Due".

There are many other programs and events that your council can use to foster fraternalism. Don't be afraid to try something new or different, and if it works let us know, maybe it will help another council to attract new members or keep current Knights active.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES INFORMATION

The financial secretary's duties are numerous and very important to the council. Below are summaries of the most important tasks, to use as tools and reminders.

Submit Reports On Time

Be sure to submit required reports on time. Refer to the Executive Secretary section of the Program Book, the Council Report Forms Booklet, the State Council website (www.nebraskakofc.org) or Supreme Council website (www.kofc.org). Supreme reports and forms due will also be listed on the bottom of your Council Statement received from Supreme each month. Perhaps the most important items due from the F. S. are the Semi-annual Audit Report due February 15 and August 15, the Survey of Fraternal Activity due January 31, and the payment of Supreme and State assessments.

Financial Secretaries Handbook

The basic duties of a Financial Secretary are explained in the "Financial Secretaries' Handbook". This should be your first point of reference in resolving a problem. If your handbook is missing or out of date, replacements can be ordered through

the supply catalog (item number 1410). If you can't find the answer, call another neighboring F. S., your District Deputy, the F. S. Chairmen, or one of the resources listed in this section. For specific information about a particular Knight's record, it may be necessary to contact the Supreme Office.

FSPC Computer Program

The FSPC Computer Program is now available free of charge from Supreme (Item Number PCS-W). Order the program and related forms, supplies, and other items through the Supply Catalog. Personal Computer requirements are listed in the Supply Catalog.

The FSPC Website at the Supreme Council is www.fspc.org. It contains many valuable tips, solutions to many problems, and previously reported problems. The site is very valuable to FSPC users. It is updated very often and should be checked frequently. PC requirements are listed on the web site. There is also a form to order the software and the download of Council information. Information about supplies that can be ordered on Form 1 is also available.

“Moving Notice” and Other Forms

The “Moving Notice” is a form that, when used, can help reduce the number of members that have moved out of your council and no longer pay dues. By completing this notice and sending to councils where the member has moved, you can help promote the transfer process. If the member has moved out of state, you can send the form to the State Deputy and he will forward it to the appropriate State Deputy in the member's new state. The form can also be found on the State Website (www.nebraskakofc.org) under the “Resources” menu.

Most of the forms used by the F. S. are available in the Forms Booklet, on the State Website, on the Supreme Website, or through the supply catalog. One exception is the “Moving Notice”. This is only available on the State Website or from the F. S. Chairmen.

NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Information will be available in the Knights Courier and at the Nebraska State web site nebraskakoc.org

STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Information will be available in the Knights Courier and at the nebraskakoc.org.

STATE HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

When available, information will be in Knights Courier or nebraskakofc.org.

HEALTH SERVICES

The 2012 Annual Tootsie Roll Drive for our citizens with intellectual disabilities will be conducted as follows on April 13, 14 and 15, 2012.

The Annual Tootsie Roll Drive is changing to a fraternal year for awards beginning in 2012. There will be an additional drive on October 5, 6, and 7, 2012. Awards will then be presented at the State Convention in 2013. After 2012, the tootsie roll drive will always be conducted in October during the weekend of Columbus Day.

Please Note: The April Tootsie Roll Drive is for the 2012 fraternal year and the October Tootsie Roll Drive is for the 2013 fraternal year.

Financial Secretaries will receive the packets for the councils via mail sometime in January 2012. Please order your council's tootsie rolls by February 1, 2012.

If any council or district wishes to hold their drive at any time other than the dates listed, please advise the Health Services Directors.

The top council in each division will receive an award for most money collected. Awards for highest percentage gain over last year will be presented to the top three councils in each division. To be eligible for an award in the highest percentage gain category, your council must have participated in the previous year's drive and sent the proceeds to the Health Services Directors.

All report forms and checks must be mailed to the State Health Services Directors no later than June 1, 2012 to be eligible for an award.

Your council must report and turn in all net proceeds from the Tootsie Roll Drive no matter how insignificant the amount.

All correspondence from the State Health Services Directors will be directed to the council's Financial Secretary. Checks for the council's share of the drive will be made payable to the charity you request. It will be the Financial Secretary's responsibility to make sure the checks are given to the specified organization or charity. (Note that checks cannot be made out to public schools, ESU units, councils, or individuals)

If your council does not have a specific request at the time of the report, simply write "will request funds at a later date" on the form. If this is not done, the State Council will distribute both halves of the proceeds.

Packets for the October 2012 Tootsie Roll Drive will be distributed at the Grand Knights Seminar in July 2012 to the Financial Secretaries.

YOUTH SERVICES

Helping the youth of today become the leaders of tomorrow through support and activities.

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge

The Knights of Columbus have a proud history of supporting young people at the Council, District, State, Regional, and Supreme levels. We have tried and true traditions like the Free Throw Contest and the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. These contests present youth with personal growth opportunities through athletic competition and spiritual reflection. The number of programs sponsored by our councils on behalf of children and young adults is extensive and is something to hang our hats on as an organization. However, children's minds are always looking for something new and interesting to do.

A new and interesting event being offered through Supreme is the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. Soccer is the fastest growing sport in America. State Soccer Challenge is tentatively set for October 30, 2011. All it takes is one regulation size soccer net (24' wide by 8' tall), 2 sizes of soccer balls, a handful of Brother Knights, and some kids looking to have some organized fun.

Soccer challenge kits can be ordered through Supreme by going to the following website address: <http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/officers/forms/council.html>. These kits are an invaluable tool to your Soccer Challenge chairperson. Everything your chairperson needs to be successful is in this kit. He can get helpful advice from anybody that has run a successful Free Throw Contest. The organization, preparation, advertising, and event day duties for the contests should be similar. The State Council hopes to see every council participating in this event as soon as possible.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Start your preparations early for the Free Throw Contest this year. Send away for your Free Throw kit early enough to take advantage of the fliers and advice contained in the kit. Advertise to the community inside and outside your parish. Use local newspapers, religious education newsletters, school newsletters, or anything possible to make your council's Free Throw Contest the biggest and best event it can possibly be. One of the focuses for the upcoming year is to spread the Knights of Columbus into the community outside the church and council. Let's help our Order be known for its willingness to reach out to the community.

Suggested Dates for Free Throw contests: Council – January; District – February; Region – Early March. The State Competition is tentatively scheduled for March 2012.

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest

Substance abuse is a problem in all portions of our society. The Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest helps educate youth about the pitfalls and consequences associated with both alcohol and drug abuse. Let's take this message to our parishes, Catholic schools, and extended community by publicizing the contest to as many kids as possible.

Send away to Supreme today for your poster contest kit. Make sure to pay special attention to these rules so the youth who participate from your council get the recognition they deserve. The rules are included in this kit. The sooner your poster contest chairperson has the materials, the sooner they can start building interest at religious education programs, Catholic schools, and public schools.

Columbian Squires

It's never too late to start a Columbian Squires Circle in your council, and it is never too early to interest a kid in becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus. Squires are the Knights of tomorrow. Feel free to talk with anybody associated with a Columbian Squires Circle about the best way to get your council's own circle going.

How to get information about any of the above programs

State Youth Director:	Jack Nienaber
State Squires Co-Chairmen:	Tim Smith or David Marx
State Website:	www.nebraskakofc.org
Supreme website:	www.kofc.org
Supreme's soccer link:	http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/officers/forms/council.html
Supreme Address:	Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services 1 Columbus Plaza , New Haven, CT 06510-3326
Supreme Phone Number:	(203) 752-4270

2011-2012 State Knights of Columbus Youth Activity Awards Criteria

The following system for judging the award winners for youth activities will be used. Please consider these when writing your awards documents during the 2011-2012 fraternal year. Reports are due to the State Program Director, Tony Hergott, no later than March 1, 2012. The criteria are in no particular order of importance. The more completely these criteria are addressed in the write-up, the easier it will be to judge each event on its particular merits.

1. Number of people positively affected by this event.
 - Number of Youth who participated in or worked the activity. (1 point per youth divided by the number of members in your council*).
 - Number of Knights man-hours worked to make this event a success. (1 point per man-hour divided by the number of members in your council).
 - Number of Knights who worked the activity. (1 point per Knight divided by the number of members in your council).
2. The lessons learned by the youth as a result of being a part of this activity.
 - What physical skills if any did the children learn? (1 point/skill divided by the number of members in your council).

3. The lessons learned by the youth as a result of being a part of this activity.
 - What emotional skills if any did the children learn? (1 point/skill divided by the number of members in your council).
 - What spiritual lessons were learned if any as a result of this activity? (1 point/lesson divided by the number of members in your council).
 - What teamwork or self-dependency skills were developed during this activity? (1 point/skill divided by the number of members in your council).
4. Tiebreakers – Intangibles.
 - How well did the write-up convey the successful accomplishment of criteria 1 and 2 above? (scale of 0.1 to 1 point).
 - Number of non-Knights who attended the event as a spectator. (1 point per non-Knight divided by the number of members in your council).
 - Number of non-Knights who worked the activity. (1 point per non-Knight divided by the number of members in your council).
- Ties will be broken according to the criteria in category 3.
- Whoever has the highest point value wins the Youth Supreme Service Award.
- The second highest point value wins the Youth State Service Award.

Note:

- Membership used for computations will be as of July 1, 2011 per Supreme Council Records.

“A Circle in Every Council”

A summary of how to start a circle

- A Squires circle may be sponsored by a council or by an assembly. Since each Knights of Columbus unit must assume full administrative responsibility for any circle it sponsors, co-sponsored or “district” circles are not allowed.
- There are three types of circles, council based, parish based, and in-school based. Order a Squires inquiry kit by using the “Columbian Squires Inquiry Kit Order Form” (2935) or by contacting the Squires office at Supreme or a State Squires Co-Chairman.
- Once you have the approval of the council or assembly, complete form 457 “Notice of Intent to Establish a Columbian Squires Circle”. Have it signed by your Grand Knight or Faithful Navigator and send it to the State Deputy.
- You will need to designate a potential meeting place and recruit a counselor team. The team must consist of one Knight to serve as the chief counselor, a priest to serve as Father Prior and spiritual counselor, and two or three Knights to serve as committee counselors. All counselors must be Knights.
- In your initial recruitment drive a minimum of 10 Catholic young men, 10 to 18 years old, are required to institute or reinstitute a Squires circle.
- If you have any questions or need any assistance please contact a State Squires Co-Chairman.

COLUMBIAN SQUIRES

To better acquaint you with the Columbian Squires, read through the following:

1. WHAT IS THE COLUMBIAN SQUIRES?

The official junior organization of the Knights of Columbus.

2. WHO ARE THE COLUMBIAN SQUIRES?

Catholic young men between the ages of 10 and 18 (in Nebraska) who are members of a unit called a "Circle".

3. HOW DOES A YOUNG MAN JOIN THE ORGANIZATION?

By invitation from a Squire or Knight.

4. HOW DOES A CIRCLE ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS?

By a well-planned membership campaign.

5. HOW DO YOU CONTACT YOUNG MEN FOR MEMBERSHIP IN A CIRCLE?

Through other Squires, recruiting in Catholic and public schools, open house programs, school assemblies, and publicity.

6. WHAT IS THE BEST AGE GROUP FOR YOUR FIRST CLASS?

We recommend the 10 to 16 age group for the first group.

7. IS A MINIMUM NUMBER OF CANDIDATES REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST CLASS?

A charter cannot be issued for a Circle with less than ten (10) charter members.

8. CAN A SQUIRE REMAIN ACTIVE AFTER HIS 18TH BIRTHDAY?

Yes, if he was eligible age at the start of the program year.

9. WHAT DOES IT COST TO JOIN AND MAINTAIN MEMBERSHIP IN THE SQUIRES?

The initiation fee is \$ 1.00 which goes into the Circle's treasury. Dues are determined by the Circle.

10. SHOULD A CIRCLE HAVE A BANKING ACCOUNT?

Yes, all checks of the Circle should be signed by the Chief Squire, Bursar, and Chief Counselor.

11. SHOULD COUNCIL PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SQUIRES?

No, to develop leadership, the program must be self-supporting.

12. WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIRCLE?

The sponsoring Council must provide (1) an adequate staff of adult leaders who are called Counselors, and (2) meeting facilities for the Squires.

13. WHAT IS THE ACTUAL COST OF THE COUNCIL IN SPONSORING A CIRCLE?

None. The organizational kit and Circle charter are furnished at no charge by the Supreme Council office.

14. WHO IS ON THE ADVISORY BOARD?

The Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, and Chaplain.

15. DOES THE ADVISORY BOARD HAVE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE CIRCLE?

No. This is the responsibility of the Counselors. The Advisory Board should serve as liaison between the Squires and the Knights.

16. WHERE DO YOU FIND COUNSELORS?

They are recruited by the Youth Activities Director in the Council, fathers of prospective members, or young new members in the Council. A principle responsibility of the Advisory Board is to select a Chief Counselor, Father Prior, and additional counselors as needed.

17. WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF THE COUNSELORS?

To counsel. Leadership training is developed through a program in which the young men plan and carry out activities themselves, with advice, suggestions, and encouragement from the adult leaders. A good counselor works closely with the Squires, but will not do their work for them.

18. HOW MANY COUNSELORS ARE NEEDED?

A minimum of two, the Chief Counselor and the Father Prior.

19. WHAT IS THE CHIEF COUNSELOR'S MAIN FUNCTION?

He is responsible for the overall operation of the Circle.

20. HOW CAN THE COUNCIL-CIRCLE RELATIONSHIP BE DEVELOPED?

Through regular reports by the Chief Counselor at Council meetings, through Council bulletins, and through occasional Knights-Squires programs.

The Columbian Squires have activities in the areas of Spiritual, Service, Circle, and Membership. Each Circle plans and has four activities in these areas each year. The State Circle sponsors an annual retreat, two Vocation Days somewhere in the state, various seminars, and finally the annual State Convention. The State Circle is made up of five elected officers, the Chief Squire, Deputy Chief Squire, Notary Squire, Bursar Squire, and Marshall. There are adults appointed to the State Circle. The State Father Prior is appointed by the State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus, with approval from the Bishop and the State Squires Chairmen. In addition there are several members of the State Squires Committee, including the State Knights of Columbus Chaplain, State Officers, and other appointed members.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

Organize a Columbian Squire Circle. The success of any youth program is locating those enthusiastic and energetic Knights who want to assist in helping make a Circle a success. To accomplish this, the Council has several responsibilities:

- Take a vote at regular business meetings or officers meeting to sponsor a Circle.
- The Council provides a staff of adult leaders (18 years or older) called counselors.
- A suitable meeting place for the Squires must be provided, usually Knights of Columbus hall or chambers.
- Obtain from the Supreme Council an organizational kit. This kit will provide all the necessary supplies you will need to get a Circle started.
- Maintain an advisory board which is made up of the Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Chaplain, Chief Counselor, and Fr. Prior. It is the duty of this board to act as a liaison between the Knights and the Squires. The Father Prior and Chaplain can be the same person.
- Conduct an active membership campaign at the local grade schools, CCD classes, Catholic High Schools, altar servers, etc. or parishes.
- The first initiation of the members will have to be conducted by another State Circle. All other initiations can be conducted by the circle itself. Contact your State Squires Chairman for help in obtaining a ceremonial team.
- The fee for the first initiation is \$50.00 and will help defray expenses of the ceremonial team. The Knights of Columbus council usually pays this fee.
- An election of Circle officers will be held at the first meeting, and as soon thereafter as possible, these officers should be installed. Parents may attend.

Your State Squires Co-Chairmen have a video on the Columbian Squires Program which will give your council membership an insight into the working of a Circle.

A Columbian Squires Circle is operated in much the same way as a Knights of Columbus Council. The Squires elect their own officers and establish committees for the different areas of activities. The Circle meets at least once a month. The council must accept the responsibility for providing the adult leadership, who are called counselors, and also provide meeting facilities for the Squires.

The sponsorship of a Columbian Squire Circle is an investment in tomorrow's leader and in the future of the Knights of Columbus.

MORAL SUPPORT

The Columbian Squires is an integral part of the Knights of Columbus program. The vote to sponsor a Circle should never indicate merely passive support. Members of the Council must demonstrate active support in several ways.

- Attend Squires activities. Drop in on a Squires meeting or initiation ceremony.
- Commend Squires and Counselors. In casual contacts, ask Squires about their program. Show an interest in them. Always greet them on the street.
- Mention the Circle in your council bulletin. Let them know you are proud of them.
- Don't convey a negative attitude. Some Knights give the impression that they are anxiously waiting for the Squires to break a pool cue or leave soda bottles in the

council chamber. It is said of Brother Barnabas, the architect of the Squires program, "He looked for good in boys and seldom was he disappointed."

- Set a good example. The Squires will be no better than the example they receive. If profanity is the norm in the council home, the young men will accept it. If the Knights do not wear the emblem, the Squires will have little incentive to wear theirs.

WE SALUTE THE SQUIRES

Today there are seven Squires Circles in Nebraska. Is your Council one of those that used to have a circle and no longer has one? Could your Council reactivate a Squires Circle? Every young Catholic boy should have the opportunity to belong to the Squires. The State Circle stands ready to help in any way they can, give them a call.

PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

BUCK-A-MONTH program

An excellent avenue to raise pro-life funds

The Buck-A-Month program is open to anybody, not just Knights. Ask your friends, relatives, etc., or set up a table after masses and enroll your parishioners. This activity could easily be your council's largest and most profitable Pro-Life fundraiser.

People will join, they just need to be asked!

Many councils conduct projects and activities in order to generate funds to support their local Pro-Life organizations and educational projects. The Buck-A-Month program is a terrific and easy way to raise some of these funds.

- Councils are entitled to receive back 50% of the total amount submitted, and it will be returned at the Grand Knights Seminar in July.
- This past year, participating councils received back anywhere from a few dollars to hundreds of dollars, depending on their level of participation, to use for their local projects.
- The first place to look for potential Buck-A-Month members is from your council membership roster. Councils which include the membership form or a similar form, in with their yearly dues statements, have found that up to 70% of their members will join.
- It is recommended that your council conduct its Buck-A-Month drive from January 1 to April 1, 2012.
- Please have members fill out the membership form completely, including the Council Number. Forward the money to us by April 1, 2012, or as close as possible.
- The suggested dollar amount for an individual membership is \$12 (Buck-A-Month), however, any amount is very much appreciated. This past year, many Buck-A-Month members chose to give \$20, \$30, \$50, or even more.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact Bob and Anita Finger.

ONE ROSE, ONE LIFE weekend is January 21 and 22, 2012

Prayer is the greatest action we can take in combating the culture of death. Only through prayer will we be able to change the hearts and minds of the many people who support abortion on demand.

The One Rose, One Life campaign provides the MAJOR source of income for the pro-life activities of the Knights of Columbus and our Church. Beneficiaries of these funds are the State office of the Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, state and local Right To Life and Birthright chapters, crisis pregnancy-help centers, the State Pro-Life Essay and Art contests, and other pro-life activities.

As always our goal is 100% council participation. Thank you to those councils who have diligently participated in the One Rose, One Life campaign in the past and invite those who have not, to do so. Every dollar raised can help make a difference!

Here's what you need to do to help make that difference:

- Appoint a chairman. This usually is your council's Pro-Life Chairman. Make sure that he will enthusiastically rally the council to become involved.
 - Let your District Deputy know how many prayer cards you will need prior to November 1, 2011, so the cards can be printed and delivered to the DD's at the Midwinter Membership Meeting. This year, we have available to councils who request them, prayer cards written in Spanish. If your council would like some of these cards, please let your DD know.
- **The date slated for this year's One Rose, One Life Campaign is the weekend of January 21 and 22, 2012.**

Contact all your priests early to get their approval. If this weekend conflicts with other parish or council activities, by all means, choose a date which will provide the most exposure. Ask your priest to support the fund drive in the parish bulletin and especially from the pulpit. A few words of encouragement from your priest is perhaps the single most important thing that will determine the success of your campaign. Try and have the prayer from the prayer card recited either before, during, or after Mass.

- Make sure your chairman has an ample number of Knights to assist at each mass to pass out prayer cards and collect money. Usually two Knights per door is sufficient at each Mass.
- Make sure you follow your campaign by placing a thank-you note in the paper or parish bulletin.
- All monies collected need to be sent to us by March 1, 2012 in order for us to prepare Convention reports and arrange for awards. Make your check out to NE KC Pro-Life Foundation and send to Bob and Anita Finger.
- The One Rose, One Life campaign is not to be used as a council fundraising activity. Our three bishops, along with other statewide pro-life organizations, rely heavily on the money that is collected during this campaign. An excellent avenue to raise pro-life funds for local councils is the Buck-A-Month program.

PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST:

This contest is open to students from 7th to 11th grades. Each grade will have their own winner at the state level for a total of five winners. Each winner will receive

\$150, with the sponsoring school also receiving \$150. All the winners will be announced at the Bishops' Pro-Life Conference held in Lincoln during October.

Pro-Life Essay Contest Theme To Be Announced

For information on rules and awards in your diocese, contact one of the following:

1. Archdiocese of Omaha Respect Life Apostolate Fr. Damien Cook
c/o St. Peter's Catholic Church, 709 S 28th St., Omaha, NE 68105.
402-341-4560 ext. 104
2. Diocese of Lincoln Pro-Life Office Fr. Jeff Eickhoff
800 Fletcher Rd., Seward, NE 68434. 402-643-4052
3. Diocese of Grand Island Pro-Life Office Fr. David Rykwald
P.O. Box 250, Bridgeport, NE 69336-0250. 308-262-1332

PRO-LIFE ART CONTEST: Deadline March 1, 2012

In an effort to involve your younger pro-lifers, this year there will be a statewide contest to determine the design on the prayer card which will be given out during the One Rose, One Life campaign in January.

Rules

- The contest is open to ALL Nebraska students from kindergarten through the eighth grade.
- Design must be on a paper 8 1/2" by 11" or smaller (standard size). Design/image may be smaller.
- Picture/drawing must have a PRO-LIFE message or theme; pencils, crayons, markers, paints, etc. can be used.
- Entries must be received prior to March 1, 2012. Winners will be announced at the State Convention.
- All entries must include the following information: Name, Age, Grade, Address, Phone Number, Council Name, Council Number, and School Name. We also need the Name, Address, and Contact Person of the School or Religious Education Program.

Prizes

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1st Place | The school or religious education program from which the winning entry is received will receive a \$500 cash prize. The winning artist will receive a \$200 savings bond. |
| 2nd Place | The school or religious education program from which the winning entry is received will receive a \$250 cash prize. The winning artist will receive a \$100 savings bond. |

3rd Place The school or religious education program from which the winning entry is received will receive a \$150 cash prize. The winning artist will receive a \$50 savings bond.

AN IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER

Orders for “One Rose, One Life” cards must be turned in to your District Deputy by November 1, 2011