



# THE VIRGINIA KNIGHT

**JULY 2010**

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## State Deputy's Message

We live in a time when many of the values we were taught and in turn now teach our children are questioned and sometimes rejected by society as a whole. With Charity at the heart of everything we do, the issues of Life, Marriage, and the Family need to be a major focus for all Knights.

During the coming year, we shall continue to emphasize our objective of growing our Order and implementing its principles as we underscore our total commitment to these issues. It is critical that we do that for the problems that beset us place us all in great danger if we don't act.

Prayer is the most obvious answer and as Knights we have a special prayer that in my view, outside of the Sacrifice of the Mass, is the most powerful prayer in the Church – the Holy Rosary.

To reinforce that belief we have inaugurated a program this year to urge Knights, their families, parishes and other groups in their communities to pledge one million Rosaries for Life, Marriage, and the Family. We are reminding Councils to say the Rosary each time they meet – what a tremendous impression that gives our Blessed Mother. If 12% of the members of each Council in Virginia pray the Rosary each day, we will exceed our goal by year's end.

As individuals, we are on a lifetime quest for holiness so that we can be with God for all eternity. It is why he made each of us. Doesn't it just make sense to enlist the aid of His Mother to whom He can refuse nothing?

We are acutely aware that prayer without good works is not enough. For the most part, we are Knights because we want to help the Church. Many of us have learned that by being involved in parish activities and by helping other Knights and their families we are able to derive an inner sense of satisfaction that we are living our faith.

We need to share this special feeling with as many Catholic men as possible. Actually, we have an obligation to do that, to make certain that by our actions and example Catholic men not yet in our ranks want to be Knights of Columbus. Through this evangelization, we grow the Order, share our faith, and strengthen our Church.

Hopefully, our families – particularly our children – will see this and acquire a lifetime lesson by which they likewise will turn into action.

As we enter our new fraternal year, I look forward to visiting as many of you as possible and learn first-hand of the wonderful works you do as I travel throughout the Commonwealth. I wish you all a highly successful Columbian year.

God bless each of you and your families!

Bill McCarthy  
State Deputy

***Pray the Rosary!***



## State Secretary's Report

Brothers,

I hope your 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday was full of joy with friends and family. I hope that during the day you took a moment of time to remember those in harm's way and those who gave the ultimate for the freedoms we enjoy this day and everyday. Our new fraternal year is underway and the Organizational Meeting is the traditional kickoff. We have new challenges to meet and our State Deputy has presented all of us with a goal of one million rosaries to Mary, Queen of the Knights. Our other challenges are increasing our support for our bishops and priests and working closely within our communities to help those in need. These efforts take Unity and Fraternity in the true sense of the words. Therefore, it is most important to increase the membership in your Council adding new voices and helping hands to achieve success. Let us take the rosary we pledge to carry out of our pocket each day and pray to our Queen of Knights that she will guide us and help us to a successful fraternal year.

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Gorman, State Secretary



## State Treasurer's Report

First and foremost I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my brother Knights for their support ... trust me when I say I would not have been able to perform my duties over the past two years without your strong arms and keen minds to support some of my decisions and work.

Patti and I have visited with you during installations, past grand knight dinners and awards celebrations and your hospitality has been superb.

The budget for the next fraternal year has been passed and I am prepared to take on the responsibilities that you have given me with your vote at this just past annual meeting.

To the Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and Trustees of each Council I will say that this is a busy time with reports to the IRS (form 990), bi-annual financial audits of the Council and the final reports of programs to Supreme (SP-7). Now is not the time to slacken your zeal which has made your Council the cream of the crop, now is the time to finish with a bright flash and make your mark in this jurisdiction of Virginia.

REMEMBER all reports, checks and receipts need to be sent to the State Secretary. If you receive a check from the State Council PLEASE cash it promptly so I can keep the books of the State up-to-date and in good order.

Work together to lessen the burden, recruit new members to the order, and PRAY the ROSARY for Life, Family and the Church.

Tom Harger, State Treasurer



## State Advocate's Report

I would like to congratulate the newly elected Council Officers. Please remember that you have the support of your District Deputy, State Staff and State Officers.

As State Advocate, I have three basic duties:

- Maintain a current State Directory
- Administer the State's liability policy
- Be a legal advisor to the Councils to help resolve issues that arise

During the Organizational meeting, the State Directory was distributed. I would be very surprised if I didn't leave something out or not make a typographical error or two. Please send me any corrections necessary and I will update the State's online version of the Directory with the changes. Those Council Officers with access to the State's secure site will be able to see the updates as they are posted.

Over the past few years, my predecessors have begun to collect a copy of each Council's By-Laws. I will be looking at those that have been collected to date. I will be reaching out to the Council's who have not yet submitted a copy of their By-Laws. Additionally, I will be working with the Councils who have not yet ascertained the very important Employer Identification Number (EIN) for IRS Tax filing purposes. Lastly, I will work with each Council with regard to the State's Liability Insurance Policy. Should your Council be self-insured, I will be asking for a copy of the page that indicates the limits of coverage you are carrying, the policy number and insurance company's name.

Should an issue arise at the Council level that needs to be addressed, please send me an email or call me with the details. I will do whatever is required to ensure a timely resolution.



## State Advocate's Report (Continued)

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as State Advocate. I am looking forward to working with you. Pauline & I look forward to visiting with as many of you as we can throughout this fraternal year.

**Working together we will have a very successful year!!**

Vivat Jesus  
Tony Fortunato, State Advocate



## State Warden's Report

Each new Fraternal Year advances or brings many new Brothers into leadership positions within our Virginia Knights community. For many this is a new job, more responsibilities, and higher expectations from those you have chosen to lead. To each of the new leaders I offer my sincere congratulations and a continued offer of support so that you may succeed.

Council, District and State meetings are important parts of creating your successful year. The Warden's job includes advising and consulting as to the conduct of such meetings. To that end I would advise that each of you can play a significant part in the success of our Knights meetings by doing a few simple things:

- Arrive early and make sure you have a valid membership card for entrance into the meeting.
- Wear your Name Tag. This simple action improves communication between brother Knights, helps the Grand Knight, District Deputy or State Deputy in recognizing people who wish to speak and makes the Recorder's job a lot easier as well.
- Officers should always wear their jewels of office when appropriate to include State, District and Council Meetings.
- Officers should wear the State Pin. This is a visible reminder of the united mission all Virginia Knights share this year.
- Participate in the meetings – learn, exchange ideas, grow your skills and confidence to succeed in the many unique challenges you will face as a leader in the Knights.
- Attendance at State meetings is an important part of leaders preparing for and dealing with their Council and District responsibilities.

In the coming months I look forward to meeting many

of you and visiting with as many Councils as my time and invitations allow.

Vivat Jesus  
Steve Burnley, State Warden



## Immediate Past State Deputy's Report

My Fellow Brother Knights,

Greetings. So the calendar on the wall says it is July, which means a new Fraternal Year has commenced with lots of "new faces in different but most important places." Fortunately for all of us one of our goals and that of the Supreme Council remains the same of asking every Catholic gentleman to join the Knights of Columbus. Please note asking every Catholic gentleman and yes that does include those gentlemen who immediately answered no thank you previously because after all they are a year or two older and hopefully a little wiser. I am positive we all have heard a Brother Knight lament "I am sorry I waited so long to join the Knights of Columbus."

I would be most remiss if I didn't take a minute to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work and efforts during this past fraternal year. All in all we had a fairly good year and please note "we" and certainly not "I". In addition, I would like to thank you and yours for all that great, warm, southern hospitality bestowed on my wife and I as we visited the numerous Councils and Assemblies throughout the state. As you may recall, most of my brief talks concluded with a simple saying thanking you for; the good in our day, our feeling of being truly blessed or the present you bestowed on us and my friends please know they all came from the bottom of my heart.

A new fraternal year also means a new meaningful slogan for the fraternal year and this year it is "**Mary Queen of the Knights, pray for us**" to which I respectfully include as we continue living Father McGivney's dream every Day and every Knight.

Fraternally,

Pat

***"Mary Queen of the Knights, pray for us"***

## Membership Director's Report

There are a lot of qualified Catholic men just wanting to be asked to join. Now is the time to take your first steps toward offering these men membership in the Knights of Columbus. I would hope that you will commit this year to personally approaching every eligible catholic man in your parish and ask him to be a Knight of Columbus.

### **Recruitment & Retention...Recruitment & Retention...Recruitment & Retention**

**Recruitment** is answering the questions who, what, when and why. Who is the Knights of Columbus? What difference will I make by being a member of the Knights of Columbus? When is the best time to join? Why should I join the Knights of Columbus? There are a lot of questions every eligible catholic man would be asking in considering to be a Knight. Are you prepared to be that Knight recruiter that provides him the answers to these questions? Over the next year as you recruit for your council, you will get a lot of answers on why he does not want or can't be a Knight. You need to be prepared with the right answers to the why's, what's, when's and how's.

To be a recruiter in our Army of service to "Mary Queen of Knights" is a easy task providing you are armed with all the necessary tools and resources to provide the right answers so that future brother will make the right choice to follow you into our brotherhood. Setting the example, being all you can be and providing him the incentive to make that first step into our honored order is our and hopefully your commitment and honored duty. You need to train your entire council's membership to be recruiters. I pledge along with my staff to be available to help train your council's membership to be just that, a recruiter to the Knights of Columbus.

**Retention** is simple. You retain the members in your council by following one simple thought "The Knights of Columbus takes care of Knights and their families". Taking care of Knights and their families is providing the activities, the sense of values the promotion of our faith, the encouragement to work towards a better community and the brotherhood that each of us have discovered in our order. Every brother in your council at one point wanted to be a Knight and by taking care of your councils Knights and their Families they will want to continue wanting to be a Knight. This also requires an active interest in your brother's welfare and the continued personal contact that he is important to

your council and you have a place for his active participation.

### **Helpful Guidelines**

On the Supreme web site you will find guides to having a successful recruitment and retention program in your council. The suggestions in those links on the web are proven winners. You should decide which ones offer the best opportunities for success in your council. These strategies are easy to organize and implement. If you follow all the steps described, you'll be successful. You may or may not have to reinvent your program, just follow the proposed steps and develop a plan and a strategy that will work in your council. Review these programs, get organized, implement your program and follow through on it. Will your Council be a Star Council this year? Make it a goal, and develop a plan to achieve it.

The following helpful guidelines can be found on the Supreme web site:

- Recruitment Strategies
- Organize Your Membership Committee
- Build a Prospect List
- Conduct an Effective Membership Blitz
- One-on-One Recruiting
- Recruit Using 2-on-1 Team Concept
- Hold a Church Drive
- Conduct an Open House
- Organize an In-House Open House
- Conduct a Membership Invitation Program
- The 24 Hour Knight
- Recruit Former Members
- Describe the Benefits of membership
- Promote the Insurance Program
- Use an Admission Committee
- Schedule and Conduct First Degrees
- Recognize Council Recruiters

I want to emphasis that your State Membership Team, your District Deputy, State Officers and Supreme are committed to helping you be successful. We can visit your council talk to your council membership or officers, visit with you to your parishes. We are here to help and all it will take will be a phone call or e-mail and someone above will be able to provide the necessary help to you.

I look forward to helping you towards a successful fraternal year.

Fraternally,  
Stephen Raschke Sr, Membership Director



## General Program Director's Report

As we begin this new fraternal year, it is important to remember that Programs and Membership truly go hand in hand. Effective Council programs will not only attract qualified candidates for membership in the Knights of Columbus, but will also help keep members interested and active in Council activities. It is helpful to reflect on the reasons that each of us joined the Knights and to think about the promises that we make to prospective members in recruiting. While there may be many reasons that men join the Knights of Columbus, they will not remain active, productive members unless there is a purpose that motivates them. The Knights of Columbus offers men such a purpose with many opportunities to contribute to their Church, Community and Nation through the programs of the Councils. We keep the promises that we make to new members through active and effective programs.

Most Councils have programs that have been successful over a period of years. These programs actively involve Council members and the community in the work of the Order. The Supreme Council asks that all Councils focus on the areas of Church, Family, Youth, Community, Council and Pro-Life activities. Councils should focus their activities in these important areas. While there is no requirement that Councils incorporate new programs into their plans, new programs and ideas can in some circumstances be useful in creating a sense of freshness that will maintain the interest of members. The Supreme and State Councils will also occasionally offer additional opportunities in the form of new and timely programs.

The State Program Staff is available, willing and anxious to support any Council that wants or needs assistance, whether with existing programs or in the development of new and innovative efforts. This year I am honored to be joined on the State Program Staff by Deputy Program Director George Clark, Church Activities Chairman Dave Harris, Family Activities Chairman Doug MacPherson, Community Activities Chairman George Piette, Youth Activities Chairman Jason Seiler, Council Activities Chairman Dennis Godfrey, Pro-Life Activities Chairman Mike Gasper, Richmond Diocese Health Services Chairman Jerry Brown, Special Olympics Coordinator Jay Hoffmeier, Scouting Coordinator George Costigan, Squires and Squire Roses Coordinator Ruppert Beirne, and VOAD Coordinator Jim Dunn. Please take advantage of the talents and experience of these men whenever necessary.

Chuck Curran, General Program Director



## Church Activities Report

For this fraternal year, the State Deputy has made spirituality one of the major themes for the year. The Silver Rose is one of the main Church Program opportunities for those on the route, but the Church Programs are really a three tier effort. There are the projects you do as a Council or in support of other parish organizations. There are the activities undertaken by the individual Knights and their families supporting parish ministries, such as lector, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, choir member, usher, CCD, and RCIA. Finally and most important, attending Mass with your family, frequent reception of Holy Communion and frequent Sacrament of Reconciliation reception. Attend Holy Hours, First Saturday or Perpetual Adoration, if available.

The Rosary is the most powerful prayer you can participate in without involvement of a bishop, priest, or deacon. Pray it daily and pray it with your families. Finally, remember you are the one charged by Jesus to teach the faith to your children and help your family get to heaven. We are in a War for our souls and the soul of our country. Church programs are key to the effort to stand up for life, family, and marriage.

Vivat Jesus!

Dave Harris, Church Activities Chairman



## Vocations Chairman Report

My Brother Knights,

On behalf of all the Seminarians you have supported and our Bishops, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Through the RSVP program, Virginia Councils last year supported Seminarians in the amount of \$55,000.00. That is absolutely awesome. Through the PKD program you gave the Bishops of Arlington, Richmond and Military Archdiocese \$40,000.00 to be used to support their respective Vocations programs.

Through our Consider Your Call program, we know of at least three men that went on to join the Seminary. Of course, your prayers and support to these men and our priests has been and will always be instrumental in their vocation

This year, with your ever growing support we will strive to enhance our support for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. May God Bless You All for All That You Do.

Kelly Mortensen, PSD, Vocations Chairman



### Communications Director Report

The State Council will effectively communicate with the family that is the Virginia Knights of Columbus and with the public we serve. Effective communications are critical to our ability to continue to grow and remain viable in a world where many distractions compete for the time and talent of our members. The Communication activity has been newly organized in five areas: public relations, bulletins, information editor, photo journalism, and council information. Each of these is briefly discussed below.

**Public Relations** will publicly advance Knights of Columbus principles, building community awareness and support for our programs and activities. The State Council will create positive, widespread awareness of our programs and mission. A critical part of public relations is publicity via news or feature articles in newspapers, magazines, radio, television stations and the Internet in the local community.

**Bulletins** will focus on “Action Items” which are activities, specific recommendations, or plans for future council actions and programs. Open action items will normally be required actions that have not yet been completed, such as reports to be submitted.

**Information Editor** tasks will address the management of all published information, such as manuals, newsletter, and website content. This will provide consistency across all media.

**Photojournalism** will collect photos in order to tell our story primarily through photographs with supplementary written copy.

**Council Information** provides, via the State Council Officer Information System (OIS) website, all date for use in managing the council’s information. There is also a collection of files and documents useful to council officers.

Fraternally,

Jim Green, Communications Director



### Training Director’s Report

**Training for the present - Building for the future.**

The Training Directorate for Virginia State Council is committed to (1) helping every district and council succeed this year; and (2) providing a basis for future growth of leaders at every level. We want to inform and prepare our council and district leaders about those

items and activities they will encounter throughout the year – the Pre-Org meeting and material was our initial step, but the State Deputy has directed that training be a sustained process throughout the year. We also want to be a facilitator for sharing experiences and ideas between councils and districts.

We have tapped a group of experienced and dedicated Knights to help provide quality training at State meetings, and to provide timely and topical training media for reference as needed. We will also bring training to various areas of the State as needed, and tailor programs to district or council requests.

The Training Team includes current and former Financial Secretaries, Grand Knights District Deputies, State and Supreme Officers and representatives from throughout Virginia. They have a sincere desire to help make or maintain our councils among the best in the Order. Equally important is your involvement and commitment. You are “ex-officio” members of the training team! We encourage your input and feedback about training needs and training products – and also information about your successes and lessons learned. Our training will evolve and improve as a result of your interaction.

Continue to include your membership in your local planning and training, so that you are developing those new Knights, committee chairs and junior council officers to lead your councils and districts in the years to come. Do not wait until establishing a nominating committee in the spring to think about who those future leaders may be. While our initial focus is on FS, GK and DD training, we are available to help with training other officers and committee chairs (with the help of the other State Directorates – Ceremonials, Communications, Membership, General Programs, Strategic Planning; and State Programs like KOVAR, VKCCI, KCIC, etc.).

The Training Team is your partner in facilitating your success this year and building a strong future for your council and our State. Help us to help you through open communication. We look forward to a productive year working with you. We can be contacted at [StateStaff@VAKofC.org](mailto:StateStaff@VAKofC.org) or [StateTraining@VAKofC.org](mailto:StateTraining@VAKofC.org). Vivat Jesus!

Mike Poumade, Training Director



## Ladies of Virginia President's Report

Here we are at the start of a new fraternal year! I'd first like to congratulate our new State Deputy, Bill McCarthy and look forward to the Ladies of Virginia working with and supporting the Knights of Columbus Virginia State Council.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the Ladies of Virginia (L.O.V.), here is a quick introduction:

The Ladies of Virginia (LOV) have the following objectives and purposes:

- To enhance spiritual growth and sociability among the members
- To engage in charitable and civic endeavors
- To assist in promoting the spiritual and social welfare of the Virginia State Council Knights of Columbus
- To promote communication and assistance among members

Our business meetings are at each of the quarterly state meetings and at the Annual Meeting.

Here are just a few highlights of some of what the Ladies of Virginia do:

- The proceeds from our annual basket raffle and other fundraising efforts support KOVAR, VKCCI, and women's charities in the state of Virginia.
- We support vocations through the PKDL program— a Penny per Knight per Day per Lady.
- We assist in the formation and support of local ladies' auxiliaries.

Please feel free to contact any of our officers or members if you have any questions – we're here to help! Our website is <http://www.kofcladiesofvirginia.org>.

God Bless,

Janet Winston  
President  
[slick1969@cjwinston.com](mailto:slick1969@cjwinston.com)



## Fourth Degree Master's Report

Brothers:

Welcome to the new Fraternal Year. Our Assemblies were very busy the last twelve months conducting many excellent patriotic programs as indicated by all of the activity reports that they filed.

In order to continue moving forward with a great list of accomplishments, we need to grow by bringing in new members every year.

In that regard, we will have two Exemplifications during the fraternal year, the first on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Richmond, with a second to be scheduled for the Spring of 2011.

Hopefully, you are already a member of the Fourth Degree. If so, we congratulate you. We appreciate your membership and we appreciate what you do to exemplify Patriotism through your Fourth Degree activities. To help us grow, we ask that you sponsor a Third Degree Brother Knight to take his Fourth Degree this year.

If you are not already a member, then I encourage you to join us this year. You need to be in the Order at least six months from the date of your First Degree and you need to have taken your Third Degree. Get in touch with the Navigator of your affiliated Assembly. He can give you all of the information you need to join our ranks.

There are many patriotic programs that all of us can be a part of. This is especially true in assisting our veterans. We continue our efforts to assist our veterans through the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) program. While this program is being spearheaded by the Fourth Degree, it is a Knights of Columbus program, not just a Fourth Degree program.

Whether you are already a Fourth Degree member, or are thinking of becoming one, I ask that you be in the forefront of promoting patriotism. Let us fight to keep the words "Under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance. Let us continue to support our Bishops and Priests, our parishes, our Councils and our communities. And let us not forget our veterans. They need and deserve our support. Without them, we would not have the freedom that we have today and will continue to have in the future.



## Fourth Degree Master's Report (Cont.)

As I write my final newsletter article as Master of the Virginia District, I thank you for the dedication that all of you have shown to our Order and to the Fourth Degree. Most importantly, I thank you for your support over the past four years as I served you as Master of this great District. Without your hard work, our accomplishments would not have been achieved.

Our new Master will be announced in August and will take office on September 1. I know that you will give him the same support that you have given me and that Virginia will remain a premier District in the Order.

Please pray that our founder, the Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney, and Fr. Vincent Capodanno be raised to the honors of the Altar, and pray that God Bless our troops and our Order and that God Bless America.

Have a great year.

Fraternally,  
Richie Head, PSD  
District Master



## VKCCI President's Report

The grant committee of VKCCI considered 72 grants during the 2009-2010 fraternal year. Of those 8 grants were denied by the committee. One grant is still pending as of the end of the fraternal year. A total of \$108,473.15 in grants was awarded during the fraternal year. This compares to a total grant allocation of \$106,237 during the last fraternal year. The average grant awarded this year stands at \$1,721.80.

The funds necessary to fulfill the dreams of Fr. McGivney in providing for the families in real need come primarily from our members in the form of Council donations, the Label Program, and the Neary Award Program and memorial gifts. In addition the State Council had designated part of the interest income from Christopher Fund to VKCCI. The Ladies of Virginia have also been financially supportive of our efforts to respond to the request for financial assistance.

Labels are mailed only to those council members residing in the Commonwealth to prevent tax problems in foreign states. This points out the need for each individual member's participation in the VKCCI Label Program. We ask that you seriously consider making a

donation in response to the annual Label Program drive. Your support is essential in meeting the request for grants submitted by the Councils in Virginia.

We have a continuing problem in Councils failing to file the necessary paperwork after receiving a grant award. Grand Knights are responsible to file the paperwork within 60 days of receiving the grant funds. The paperwork is necessary for us to be able to support the distribution of our funds for IRS and State Tax regulations if we are to keep our current tax status as a charitable organization. Please file the reports promptly after getting a grant award.

Finally, on a personal note, I wish to thank all of the Knights, Councils and friends who contributed to VKCCI in memory of my wife, Glada. I attempted to send thank you notes to all who contributed but I understand some donations were made and I was not aware of the donor.

Fraternally,

Michael J. Lazzuri, PSD  
President VKCCI



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