



THE VIRGINIA KNIGHT

JANUARY 2010

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State Deputy's Message

My Fellow Brother Knights,

Greetings, I trust all of you had a blessed and a truly great holiday season and are now gearing up for an equally hectic and hopefully as successful second half of our fraternal year. Although the first half of our year went by rather quickly, we accomplished a great deal, and as always, it was only through all the dedication and significant efforts of you and yours. I can't possibly begin to thank you enough.

When we commenced this year's journey, way back in July, I established a 100-Day Action Plan, which basically created a roadmap of sorts for the successful execution of our four key initiatives. Just as a reminder those four initiatives were; celebrating the **Year of the Priest**, celebrating the **Year of the Volunteer**, designing **membership** programs to achieve our membership and growth goal and then to sustain that gain. Design **general programs** which both support these celebrations as well as our membership and growth goal.

We have done well thus far in celebrating the **Year of the Priest**. At the State Council Level and working with our Worthy State Chaplain we were able to produce a prayer as well as Year of the Priests certificates for all the Priests in Virginia. We are also planning another component of this yearlong celebration. At the Council level quite impressive celebrations and recognition for our Priests have also transpired. Please keep up the celebrations...they are worth it.

We will be introducing and launching, at the State level, a plan for celebrating the **Year of the Volunteer** at our January 2010 meeting. It will involve minimal input from the Worthy Grand Knights and District Deputies with the bulk of the execution falling on the State Staff. Councils are also conducting Volunteer recognition and award programs. In fact one Parish actually took a Sunday and celebrated a Knight of Columbus Appreciation day as they gave the Council an award for all the volunteer work they do for and around the Parish.

Unfortunately, we are not doing nearly as well in our attempts to achieve our growth and **membership** goals. I am amazed that at the time of submitting this article for publication we still had 23 Councils not membership active. How can a Council comprised of Catholic gentlemen not recruit even one member in a six-month period? Not to mention there are 5 Districts out of 29, which have achieved at least 50% or greater of their District's membership goal. Gentlemen, we are way behind in this initiative and it requires our immediate attention.

Our **general programs** at both the State and Council levels continue to be well planned, executed and receive great reviews. The State of Virginia general programs are renowned throughout the order and we should be most proud of these accomplishments and strive to keep our programs infamous.

In closing, please understand it is your talent, your creativity and your dedication, which enables us to meet and normally exceed all our goals and objectives. As I have told you previously, I continue to count on the support of each and every one of you to continue moving the State of Virginia forward, by "**Living Fr. McGivney's Dream, Every Day and Every Knight**".

Fraternally,
Pat O'Donnell



State Secretary's Report

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is a privilege and an honor. The requirements to join are simple. Why is it then that we seem to struggle to reach the goals that have been given to us to achieve Supreme's highest award --- Star Council?

We've been convincing men to join our Order for decades because of the principles we espouse and the work we do. But many of our Councils find it hard to reach their membership and insurance goals. Why?

These questions are the ones that we must grapple with this weekend as we meet in Virginia Beach. We will be exposed to a great deal of information that can aid and assist us in marketing ourselves to the Catholic men of our parishes and communities.

I submit that one answer to the questions is that each of us take it upon himself to be the harbinger of the good news of membership to his friends and neighbors whom he believes qualify for membership.

Why not?

If we truly believe in Knighthood and the fraternal benefits of Columbianism then we need to dig deep within ourselves and find a means to convince others that they too can derive great good by accompanying us in doing God's work through acts of Charity.

Our State Deputy is relying upon us to achieve the goals Virginia has been given. We are obligated to do all in our power to make certain it happens. I strongly encourage each of you from the many ways by which you can accomplish the membership mission to grow the Order, to select one that interests you the most and then work at it. The harder you work, the easier it will become and the more successful you will be.

I would like to commend the many Districts and Councils who have worked so hard toward qualifying for the State Deputy's Award during the first half of this year. Please continue to do so as we enter the final six months. We now need to shift into high gear!

I am available to each of you between the hours of 0900 and 2100 seven days a week. I prefer doing business by e-mail, (statesecretary@vakofc.org) and you should normally receive an acknowledgement, (not always a final response), from me within 24 hours of sending it. However, don't ever hesitate to call me at 540-786-6203.

Thank you for all you are doing for Virginia and the Knights of Columbus!

Respectfully,

Bill McCarthy
State Secretary



State Treasurer's Report

Brothers,

Brothers,

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas with your Family and that your New Year will be one of health and joy. The New Year is a time when we reflect on the past and resolve to make things better in the New Year. If you haven't made any resolutions yet or can add a few here are some ideas to consider.

Be it Resolved :

I will continue to keep the Virginia Jurisdiction in the Order Circle of Honor.

I will keep every member of my Council in good standing.

I will renew, reinstate, or transfer a Brother Knight to keep him in our Order.

I will support my pastor in his ministry as we honor the Year of the Priest.

I will continue to be an example of charity in this Year of the Volunteer.

I will recognize the dedication of our volunteers by reporting their efforts.

I will take advantage of the per Capita discount.

I will support the Pantry Food program announced by Supreme in November.

Therefore be it resolved; that I will practice my faith in these most challenging times, continue to care for my family, my Brother Knights , and to

Live Father McGivneys Dream every day and every Knight.

Vivat Jesus,
Ron Gorman
State Treasurer

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 **State Advocate's Report**

“Tis the season” for resolutions:

General Resolutions are due 60 days prior to the first day of the Annual Meeting this year's deadline for General Resolutions is 15 March 2010. All resolutions must be received by the State Advocate by that date. Councils are reminded that any resolution which involves expenditure of State Council funds will contain within the resolution a method to raise the necessary funds. Resolutions which involve expenditure of state funds or which involve the increase in the State Council Per Capita must be received 60 days prior to the State Annual Meeting.

Resolutions and resume's for Knights seeking State Office or as a delegate to the Supreme Convention are due to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee by 15 January 2010. The Nominating Committee Chairman will not consider any resolution/resume postmarked or E-mail dated after the 15th of January 2010.

If possible all posted resolution should be provided over the signature of the Grand Knight with the Council Seal (if available) affixed. E-mail resolutions should be submitted by the Grand Knight.

Council Liability Insurance:

The State Insurance Policy will be up for renewing in March 2010. I will work with the current insurance company to negotiate a reasonable premium. I will reach out to all Councils during late Jan and February to determine their intentions to renew, remove or to be added as a new sign up for the State Council policy. All Councils who carry their own insurance should provide the State Advocate with “proof of insurance” by providing the coverage page of your policy.

The “Tax Man Cometh”:

Finally I would like to remind each Council that **ALL COUNCILS** must file the IRS tax report form 990, **REGARDLESS OF INCOME.**

Finally Patti and I would like to wish the very best to every Virginia Knight and his lady and their family throughout 2010. GOD bless you all and keep you safe and healthy thru the entire year.

Fraternally,
Tom Harger
Virginia State Advocate

 **State Warden's Report**

My Fellow Brother Knights

Pauline & I would like to wish extend our best wishes to you and your families for a Blessed, Happy and Healthy New Year.

As 2009 ended and 2010 rolled in, many of us made the annual New Years resolutions. Did anyone's resolutions include the recruiting of a new Knight? It is not too late to add one! Each of us has a reason why we joined the Knights of Columbus. For whatever the reason, we all share one simple common fact, WE were asked to join by someone who you now call Brother Knight. Now it is our turn. Why not share your reason and experiences and then simply ASK him to JOIN US and become a Brother Knight! Lets all resolve to offer the opportunity of Knighthood to our friends, neighbors and family members who are eligible.

Councils throughout the jurisdiction host many Council, Church or Community events throughout the Columbian Year. Please remember to exercise good protocol habits. By doing so, you will avoid undue embarrassment to yourself and to your council. Please refer to the Knight of Columbus Protocol Booklet #1612 if you need guidance.

Vivat Jesus.

Tony Fortunato
State Warden



Save The Date:

Annual Meeting
In Richmond, VA
14-16 May, 2010

Supreme Convention
In Washington, DC
3-5 August, 2010



Membership Report

The beginning of each New Year brings a time of reflection on things past, and renewed passion for things we all hope will be. Resolutions abound - I will do better at this, or that; I can be more charitable; I can make a difference. Most, if not all of us, start each year with these fresh and promising thoughts.

As a Virginia Knight and State Membership Director I would encourage each of you to reflect on your family, church and communities and the valuable contributions you and your Brother Knights bring to these important parts of your life. Through unity and fraternity you are able to achieve greater acts of charity at a time when they are clearly needed.

The question is - How did you do? Did you have enough men to meet the growing need for charity? Does your Pastor need more of you or the council? How do you know? Are you comfortable that all your Brother Knights are employed and/or that their families are not in need?

As you know the Columbian year begins on July 1 and ends June 30. Each new Columbian year brings a new team of Officers and renewed pledges to improve the vitality and value of their council. We are now half way through. How have you done? In talking with various Brothers across the state over the past six months I have heard we are accomplishing many things, but can we *Git -R-Done?*

I encourage each of your councils to set aside some time at your very next meeting to measure your progress, reflect on the past 6 months, your families, the faith community you are part of and support. In this economy I would not be surprised if your sense is that you should be doing more. You likely also have the sense that there are not enough regular workers (Knights) to make it so.

How then do you motivate your fellow parishioners and Brother Knights into action with the same passion and spirit that brought you to the Knights? One suggestion - find the salesmen in your councils, then dust off the Membership Action Plans, plan to act, then act the plan!

The Membership Team has been and will continue to be here to help. Experience abounds – two top notch successful Recruiters, four Retention leads that have heard it all, and a core staff prepared to help with Round Tables, New Councils, Colleges and new this year a Hispanic Development Chairman.

Our resolution is to see that this Columbian year ends on an up tick and that each of our councils are positioned well for the coming years.

Fraternally,

Steve Burnley
Membership Director

Parish Round Table

A unique way for Knights to serve is by helping out in local parishes, especially in those churches that do not have a Knights of Columbus presence. Councils and their members should try to extend services to such parishes. One way to do this is by asking a parish priest to identify services he needs. A Parish Round Table and Coordinator can be established to coordinate Knights to work as members of the Parish Round Table to fulfill the priest's wishes.

The parish name may be used in conjunction with the Parish Round Table (for example: St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Parish Round Table).

What does this mean to your councils? It gives each council the opportunity to potentially serve another parish and parish priest during this Year of the Priest. Take the time to see if your council can serve another parish by initiating a Round Table. The Knights of Columbus Parish Round Table booklet (Form #2632) was included in the "Surge with Service" programming packet that you received at the start of the Fraternal Year. A copy of the pamphlet can also be found on the Supreme website.

Al Obuchowski
Round table Chairman

Retention

Every council should have an active Retention Committee. It is recommended that Past Grand Knights be assigned to this committee, as they should have worked with the member during an earlier phase of the membership, and they may act as they have learned from experience they did not have when they were Grand Knight. By having more than one member on the committee, you have a choice as to who should contact any individual who may be in arrears. The committee can also make recommendations to the Grand Knight on activities of the council to encourage more active participation to avoid the attitude of worthlessness that may lead to withdrawal and drops. Trustees can, and possibly should, recommend waiving of dues in "hardship cases" that are likely on the rise in today's economy. Remember we should be Living Fr. McGivney's Dream, Every Day and Every Knight.

David J. Todd
Retention Chairman
Northern Virginia



Fourth Degree District Master's Report.

Brothers:

Welcome to 2010. Judy and I hope that each of you, and your families, had a Blessed Christmas and we want to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our Fourth Degree Assemblies were very busy in 2009 and I expect that 2010 will prove to be no different.

We are always there in the forefront of promoting patriotism. We are there to support the fight to keep the words "Under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance and to fight for the Culture of Life. We are there to support our Bishops and Priests, our parishes, our Councils and our communities. And we are there to support our military and our veterans. Each of these need and deserve our support. Without them, we have no past and we have no future.

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 and do even more, we ask that you sponsor a Third Degree Brother Knight to take his Fourth Degree.

If you are not already a member, then I encourage you to join us. 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. Ask your Grand Knight to put you in touch with the Navigator of your affiliated Assembly. He can then give you all of the information you need to join our ranks.

As I write this article we are in the process of finalizing our two Exemplifications for 2010. We are hoping to finalize one for May in the Fredericksburg area and one in October in Richmond. I hope to be making these official announcements at the January 9th meeting and getting handouts to the Navigators as soon as possible thereafter.

As always, there will be many activities to fill our calendars. However, we are undertaking one new major initiative this year.

The Virginia District is proud to announce their participation in the **"2010 Ride 2 Recovery Cyclefest"** which is a program that is **"Making a Difference in the Lives of Wounded Warriors"**. The actual "Ride" takes place May 31 - June 5, 2010. However, the planning starts now.

As this is the first time we will be undertaking this activity, we will be working closely with the American Legion Auxiliary to support the Ride from Washington, DC to Virginia Beach. This will include activities such as Community Outreach Initiatives, Fundraising Dinners, and actual Volunteers to assist during the Ride Week.

Associate Marshal Guillermo Giandoni has volunteered to lead this project. He has put together an initial Team that includes Dave Lewis and Phil Kennedy. They will be soliciting the support of all of the Assemblies and I will also be in contact with State Deputy Pat O'Donnell to solicit the support of the Councils throughout Virginia.

I am hoping that Councils and Assemblies will be willing to host a Fundraising Dinner or make a donation to help this worthy cause. But even if you do that, remember that we will also need manpower come later on.

Now is the time for all of us to Make A Difference. Will You Step Forward?

Please pray that our founder, 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.

Finally, let us not forget our State Deputy's theme for this year – "Living Fr. McGivney's Dream Every Day and Every Knight". The Fourth Degree stands behind this motto and pledges to conduct all of our activities in accord with that dream.

Fraternally,
Richie Head, PSD



General Program Director's Report

Happy 2010 to you and your Families. Amazing how fast the past 6-months have flown by – It's all downhill now but a lot of paperwork still remains to be done before we reach the end. Each Council can be a STAR Council Winner, even a Double Star Winner, the requirements are; (1) be a COLUMBIAN Awardee by conducting and reporting 4 major involvement programs in each of the 6 Service Programs; (2) be a Father McGivney Awardee by achieving your membership quota over the deductions by 7% or more and (3) be a Founder's Awardee by achieving your insurance quota based on your total active membership as of July 1. Councils with 30 -100 members need an increase of 3 insurance members over deductions. Councils with 101 or more require a 2.5% increase. To ensure recognition, follow the directions in the Service Program Booklet on how to write and submit your service programs. The State Officers and I will review each Service Program submission to select the State Deputy winners. The selected winners (1 in each category) are then submitted to Supreme for their consideration. State and Supreme winners are judged on the effectiveness of the Service Program. I would recommend reviewing the *Surge for Service Booklet*, page 3, to ensure your program is recognized in the proper category. Be concise and to the point – too much or too little information could make the judging difficult. Typewritten submissions are preferred. Pictures and articles are acceptable (NO CD's). When preparing your submissions, have them proof-read - read them out loud or to someone – listen to what you hear – is it what you wanted to write? Ask yourself, "Does my write-up truly and proudly represent my Council's programs for the State Deputy to judge in its current written format"? Now is the time to prepare.

The following reports are due at the March Quarterly Meeting:

Knight of the Year - Family of the Year - Young Man of the Year - Young Woman of the Year - Service Program Reports (1 in each category) – College Activity and College Knight of the Year (College requirements only). Remember Supreme has added a 6th category, "Pro-Life". Although it will not be a requirement to meet the State Deputy Award this year, it is a requirement for Supreme.

The following will be due at the Annual Meeting: ***Newsletter Competition (3 only) – Scrapbook Competition – Council website Competition.***

Remember, I and your State Officers are standing by should you require assistance.

Living Father McGivney's Dream Every Day and Every Knight

George Piette

VKCCI

The grant committee of VKCCI has considered 41 grants during the first half of this fraternal year. Of those 7 grants were denied by the committee. A total of \$59,803.19 in grants has been awarded this 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 \$1,758.92. This brings the total grant awards to \$816,491 since we began providing for the needs of Virginians as recommended by the Councils of Virginia in 1994.

Last year we expended \$18,015 more than revenue received. This occurred even after reducing expenditures for fund raising and management expenses by \$3,045. 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. 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.

Recently, return address labels were mailed to individual members of the subordinate Councils in Virginia. Labels were mailed only to those council members residing in the Commonwealth to prevent tax problems in foreign states. Council donations from last year only amounted to \$21,609.85. 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 current Label Program drive. Your support is essential in meeting the request for grants submitted by the Councils in Virginia.

Finally, 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. (cont.)

VKCCI (Cont.)

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.



Ladies of Virginia (LOV)

The officers and members of LOV hope that you and your families have had a blessed and merry Christmas and New Year.

As we kick off 2010, there are some activities and events we all should be preparing for.

First and most importantly, the “March for Life” in Washington, DC, held on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade (January 22). Please try to attend and let your voice be heard – **life is from conception to natural death!** Many councils and parishes are providing bus transportation to and from the March. If you are not able to find a ride and are interested in being part of the March, please contact any of the State Officers or myself for information on transportation.

Secondly, the annual Ladies of Virginia basket raffle will be moving into high gear. The regional chairs will start collecting items for the baskets at the January meeting. If you don’t know what your region is doing, please contact one of the co-chairs – Colleen Messier (Walter Pollard Council #5480) or Donna Raschke.

We would also like to encourage new members and auxiliaries to join LOV. Do you know someone who doesn’t attend the quarterly meetings because she thinks there isn’t anything for her to do? The Ladies of Virginia welcome all and we enjoy coming to the meetings and hearing what other ladies and our sister auxiliaries are doing, as well as making new friends from around the state. For an individual member, the dues are \$5 per year. For an Auxiliary to join, the dues are \$2 per Auxiliary member (maximum of \$26 per Auxiliary). If your auxiliary is holding an event, we are happy to promote it on our website (www.kofcladiesofvirginia.org).

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact any of the LOV officers, and we look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

God Bless,

Janet Winston
President
slick1969@cjwinston.com



Training Director’s Report

Self-Assessment

As we accomplish our first six-months of this Fraternal Year, we need to ask ourselves this one question “Are we on track to complete what we plan? If your answer is yes “congratulations!” If not, what do we need to do to meet our agenda?

The Fraternal Year is coming to a close in six months. Here are a couple things that have a lot to accomplish for your council to receive its deserved recognition:

1. Service Programs- have we accomplished ½ or more of our service programs to meet the Columbian Award requirements? For the State Deputy’s Award, one entry in each of the five categories. Don’t just write a one-liner; we all know that there have been outstanding events your council has sponsored.
2. Finalist Recognitions- There has been one Brother Knight, one family and one young man and lady that have stood out in your parish and council community. It’s never too early to start doing your write ups. Please remember to be eligible for the State Deputy’s Award-submission must be in my April 1, 2010.
3. Are we on track for Star Council? If you haven’t noticed, Supreme has increased membership quotas by 7%. Have we asked every available Catholic Gentleman and his family to join our Order?
4. Have we stayed in contact with our Brother Knights and their families this Fraternal Year? Loss of contact can result in loss of membership. In today’s economical struggle, we have to look at each Brother Knight’s financial capability before making that final and fatal decision.
5. Have we trained our future council leaders? Council elections are slated for May timeframe? Is there an interest for Brother Knights to move up?

There is a great group of Brother Knights in both the Membership and Program staffs dedicated to assist you. All it takes is to ask?

Finally, our next Supreme Convention is in our backyard- Washington DC in August 2010. I encourage you attend the various meetings, Masses and especially the States Dinner. Let’s show Supreme how Virginia can party!!!

Lenny Pulizzi, PSD
Training Director

IPSD Message



General Agent's Report

My Brother Knights,

Have you ever reflected on why you joined the Knights of Columbus? What your service meant to your parish, your community or to a fellow Knight? What has being an active member done for you personally? Have you become a better Catholic, a better husband, a better father? Have you seen that through your service in the Knights, you have changed many lives for the better?

We have a wonderful opportunity, the perfect venue, to take men and their families, and change their lives forever. So, can you even imagine why any man, that has been given those same opportunities that you have, to serve his church, his community and his fellow man would ever think about leaving the order? Our goal is to ensure that every eligible Catholic man **wants** to be a Knight of Columbus. And that includes every man that is already a Brother Knight.

There is nothing more heartbreaking than to lose a Brother Knight. Why does a Brother Knight become inactive? Or, the bigger question: was he ever active in the first place? Eighty percent of the Knights that leave the Order - leave because no one asked them to do anything. He never had the same opportunity to become like you, a person of higher moral, religious and patriotic conviction, a person that believes in the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage and family values. He did not have the same opportunity to become the Knight that you became.

I ask that you work with your fellow officers and membership team to develop a plan for your Council to ensure that every Knight wants to be an active Knight. Pay special attention to new Knights to ensure they become active right away. For those older members that have not been around for awhile, call and tell them they have been missed and you need them - involved more than ever.

Ad Gloriam Dei

Kelly Mortensen, IPSD

Tempus fugit. Time flies. The older we get, the more that statement seems to ring true. Especially as we prepare to ring in another new year. I hope that 2009 was a healthy, prosperous year for you and your family.

If you're like most people, you've made some resolutions for the New Year. If I may, I'd like to add to your list of resolutions by two. First, write them down. A resolution is really a goal for the year and, until you commit a goal to writing, it's nothing more than a wish. So write your resolutions down. Whether they be to lose weight, contribute more time and money to charity, read more or watch less television, you're more likely to stick to them if you write them down.

Second, schedule some time to visit with your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent. The "insurance check-up" that they will provide (free of charge, by the way!) will quickly identify any gaps in your family's life insurance program. And you'll want to fill those gaps now, not later. Because unlike many other products, you need more than money, to obtain life insurance. You also need good health, and no one will ring a bell warning you when your health is about to change. **Trust me, I am 39 years old, and cannot purchase life or long term care insurance, from ANY company!**

Knights of Columbus life insurance offers something precious few other financial products can - guarantees. As long as you pay your premiums, the policy proceeds will be there for your beneficiaries should something happen to you. We call that peace of mind, and that's - as they say in the credit card commercial - priceless.

Fraternally,

Harry Canter, MBA, FICF
General Agent

**Save the Date:
March for Life
In Washington, D. C.
22 January 2010**

Living Fr. McGivney's Dream

Every Day and Every Knight