



Matthew Richardson, State Deputy

Knights Courier

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Connie
Richardson
thanks all for
Project Lori
"exceeding
expectations!"

Project Lori Doubles Reach in Second Year Nearly Twice as Much Raised

It all started with a jar of candy. That is the gift that my parents, Paul and Jan Hostert, gave to all the individuals at Region 4 Services in O'Neill where my sister Lori attended. Over the years, their gift giving grew and grew due to the generosity of people who cared.

When we started Project Lori last year in honor of my sister, my goal was to raise \$100 for each of the 21 students who resided at Villa Marie Home. With these funds I would fill a sack with basic need items and something special. We would also include a jar of candy. The first year of Project Lori raised \$6,000, far exceeding my expectations!!

For the second year of Project Lori, I knew that I wanted to help even more people. We wanted this project to touch lives across Nebraska. We chose Camp Scott in Scottsbluff, Mosaic in Lincoln and Beatrice, Villa Marie Home and School in Waverly, Madonna School along with their partners St. Robert Bellarmine and St. Pius/St. Leo grade schools all in Omaha, and the Life Skills Program at Lakeview Elementary School in Lincoln.

We were able to ask what each person and place wanted and needed. We were able to create a sack special to each person and of course included a jar of candy! Again, nothing big....blankets, books, gloves, hats, shirts, all simple requests, but the joy each one had when they opened their gifts touched our hearts.

We loved when donations started coming to us, but we loved the notes attached even more. People wanted to make a difference. Some people that donated to Project Lori had also donated to my parent's gift program many years ago. Knights, friends, family, and people that saw the value of these special programs and individuals gave from their hearts. The second year of Project Lori raised an incredible amount of just over \$13,000.

We cannot begin to thank everyone for making Project Lori such a success. Thank you for letting us share my sister with you all. Sharing memories of her has been so special. I hope you each feel like you know her just a little. She would have loved this project. Each of you truly made a difference this Christmas.

Giving Jesus All So Only He Remains



Father Justin Fulton
State Chaplain
Vicar General
Moderator of the Curia,
Diocese of Lincoln

Dear Knights of Columbus Members and Families:

Peace be with you.

I'll never forget the first person I watched pass away into the arms of our Eternal Loving Jesus. I was in my first year of theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, and on Thursdays I was assigned to visit patients at Holy Redeemer Hospital in Huntingdon Valley, PA. I remember just getting done with a good conversational lunch. I got in the elevator and went back to the floor where I was stationed. Upon exiting the elevator, a nurse with a thick Philly accent said, "*Fatha', Fatha', you gotta go in there. She's gettin' ready to meet Jesus.*"

I was a little perplexed, but I made sure the patient had already received the Anointing of the Sick and her last Sacraments. I went in the room not knowing what to expect. What I witnessed I will remember for the rest of my life.

I remember saying a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking for the grace to say what I needed to say to comfort the family. I had never seen anyone die before. The person who was dying was surrounded by her children. The person, "Aunt Peggy," had lived a long life and had Alzheimer's Disease. After praying a bit, I asked the family to pray an Our Father with me, and we did. About half-way through the Our Father, Aunt Peggy awakened and joined in the prayer, finished the prayer, reclined back into her pillow, and died. Her last words were the Our Father. It was beautiful.

The family said that was not supposed to happen...and I was confused. The family members stated that Aunt Peggy had not spoken for a long time---over a year---due to her Alzheimer's. So, for Aunt Peggy to speak, it was a miracle. And then for her to pass away after praying was even more beautiful. I was stunned. I thanked the family for the experience and gave them some Miraculous Medals I had in my pocket. It just so happened, I had one for each of Aunt Peggy's children, no more and no less. Another God moment.

That experience comes to me often in prayer. For me, this is what Lent is all about---giving up everything so that only Love (God) can remain. Aunt Peggy had lost all of her mental and physical faculties. She was so little and could not even speak. Yet in the end, it was the Holy Spirit and the indwelling Trinity speaking for her, praying that last prayer. Only Love remained. Everything she had was lost except for the fact that God was totally in control of her life.

This is what Lent is all about: Giving Jesus our best (not our excess), our prayers, our penances, our material goods, and our sacrifices so that only He can remain. May we enter into this Lent thinking about those who are less fortunate, and may we give Christ in the Poor and Christ Himself all that we have, so that He is the only one living greatly through us.

St. Joseph and Blessed Michael McGivney, Pray for Us.

Cheers,

Very Rev. Justin Fulton
Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia, Diocese of Lincoln
State Chaplain, Nebraska Knights of Columbus

Words from our State Deputy

Brother Knights,

The Lenten season is here. For many of us it is a very busy time of year. Basketball tournaments, fish fries, Stations of the Cross, etc. Remember, the parish fish fry came about as a way to make sure parents didn't have to worry about feeding the family prior to Stations of the Cross. It is my sincere wish for you that when you attend stations you spend some time reflecting on the gift that Christ gave each of us.

It is also a time to think about your "why." Why am I a Knight? Why do Knights do what they do? A few of the most common reasons shared are Coats for Kids, Lenten fish fries, supporting the local food bank and homeless shelter, and growing my faith. But why do we spend time deepening our faith together? Why do we offer membership to other eligible men in our parish?

I cannot answer these questions for everyone, but I can say I am a Knight because it makes me a better man, husband, and father. Membership has been a tremendous gift to me. I do what I do because I want to further Father McGivney's vision to care for the poor, widowed, and orphaned. I offer membership to other men because I want to share the gifts that I received with them. I want the Knights of Columbus to be here for my children and grandchildren.

Many of my favorite memories with Connie, Nathan, and Josh involve the Knights of Columbus. State Conventions, Summer Meetings, Project Lori, and Supreme Convention are just a few. Both boys have helped our council work fish fries, make pancakes, and do a painting project or two. Simply put, memories with the Knights are memories with family.

Currently, Nebraska has 308 new members. However, when deaths and suspensions are considered, that growth shrinks to a net of only 63 members. Remember, parishes and programs need Knights, and Knights need parishes and programs.

The Supreme Knight said: "When you get the man right, you get the family right." This is why Knights spend time in prayer, fellowship, and deepening their faith together. It is why over the next five years Supreme is rolling out a program called Evangelization and Faith Formation. It is meant for Knights to connect with other Catholic men (not just Knights) in the parish and grow together in their faith. It is time to get the men and families of our parish right. Offer the gift of membership to another Catholic man. Have a blessed Lent. Do not be afraid to be unapologetically Catholic.

Vivat Jesus,



Matt Richardson



Matthew R. Richardson
State Deputy

Worthy Grand Knights

Please think of us when your council hosts an event or conducts a service project. Please send us pictures from your events and include a description and council number so we can credit you. We can't promise to post each one we receive, but we would sure like to post what we can.

We have Facebook @NebraskaKofC, Instagram @kofc_nebraska, and Twitter @kofc_nebraska. If you haven't followed us yet, Do Not Be Afraid. The pictures can be sent to Josh at jprichardson248@gmail.com, and Nathan at nrichardson2139@gmail.com.

Super Successful State Golf Tournament and Save the Dates



Joseph Bober
Athletics Chairman
bojober@cox.net

I'm sorry to report that we will not host the I-80 Collar Series in 2023. Due to problems beyond our control, we could not play the game that would meet our standards.

We hope to have all of the issues resolved so we can play the series in 2024. We hope to hold the series in the Lincoln Diocese. We would like to play it on Sunday, June 9, 2024. This would be the Sunday before Father Day.

We are looking for a location with a ball field and surrounding area that could accommodate about 800 people. The ball field would not need to seat that many people because we could put lawn chairs and blankets around the field and in open areas. We would like this to be a social event, as well as a ballgame for our Clergy. If you know of a location in Lincoln that meets this criteria, please contact me so we can start the arrangements.

The State Bowling Tournament was held on February 18, 19 and 25 at the Westbrook Lanes in Columbus, NE. I would like to thank John Eckholt and his team for hosting this event. I will have a full report in the next Courier.

Don't forget about the State Golf Tournament on September 25, 2023, at Eagle Hills Golf Course in Papillion, NE. We will go again to Council 3019 for a steak fry dinner and raffles. Last year, we raised over \$3,600 for religious vocations and scholarships.

I would like to thank my Brother Knights and their families for making this chairmanship easy and fun. If you know of an event you think we should do, please contact me.

Vivat Jesus!

Regional Meeting

My Brothers,

Thank you to everyone who has attended the regional meeting where I was a presenter. You all made me feel welcome and a part of the Knights in Nebraska. I thank you for your questions and participation. Even the tough questions. My big message is Knights need Programs, but Programs need Knights. If Knights are not working, they get bored and wander away. We don't want this to happen. Always hold a variety of programs which will be interesting to a variety of men and their families. Some are interested in Faith, some Service. The Faith in Action book has a lot of ideas for you to put some spice into your council life.

Now without Knights, programs are simply a great idea which will go nowhere without someone to work them. We must ask men to join, or they will not. Men are waiting for the invitation, simply handing them a card or pamphlet is

not enough. "Recruitment must be intentional. It simply does not happen." A church drive is a great way to re-introduce your council to the parish. Remind them of the works you have done and what is coming up. Invite every man in the parish to join. Too many times we hear, "I always wanted to be a Knight, but no one ever asked me." ASK!

Remember to bundle the two together. At a program have a dedicated recruiter working the crowd looking for the guy who is waiting to be asked. At a recruiting event such as a church drive do a food drive or prayer program to kick off the weekend and involve your potential new member in a program right away.

Again, thank you all for the service, dedication, and example of faith you all show the world. May God Bless you.

Ray Lopez, Supreme Regional Growth Director



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at www.nebraskakofc.org

ICC Awards and State Convention

With the implementation of the new ICC awards application forms, we have seen an increase in the number of submissions. Thanks to all who have used the new forms and encourage all to check them out on the State website. A huge thank you goes out to Assistant Program Director, Mitchell Lowery, for all his time spent designing the applications.

There are still some details that can be changed, but overall, it has worked very well. If you have any suggestions, please get with Mitchell or me. With that being said, in the future when your Council completes an event or program, complete the application form immediately after the conclusion of the program while the information is fresh in your mind. This not only saves you from scrambling at the deadline to complete all the applications, but it also makes it easier for the Program Director to stay on top of all the submissions.

As a reminder to all, the State Convention will be held in Kearney at the Younes Center on April 28 – 30. At the banquet on Friday night, all the awards will be announced and handed out. The many activities and programs that you have held during the past year will be recognized. You can only receive an award if we know about your activity. Fill out the applications!

All Councils that have achieved the level of ICC Bronze, Silver and Gold levels will be announced, with the Gold applicants being voted on at the Business meeting on Saturday. The winning Council will be awarded the **ICC CHAMPIONSHIP BELT**. This “BELT” will be the possession of the winning Council for the next fraternal year. Congratulations to the current ICC Champion, Council 11001, Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln.

VIVAT JESUS!

Brian Hamik
State Program Director



Brian Hamik
Program Chairman
blhamik@gmail.com

Lottery for Vocations and Program Ads

Wow! 2023 seems to be flying by! I think it must be a sign of aging that the months and years seem to go by faster now. It wasn't that long ago that we were all afraid that the world (or at least our computers) would end when the year changed from 1999 to 2000.

The 2023 Nebraska Knights of Columbus State Convention is also fast approaching and with that, there are two projects I hope you can help with. The first is the State Lottery to Support Seminarians. By now you should have received three lottery tickets in the mail. Through the sale of these lottery tickets, the Nebraska Knights of Columbus have been able to give monetary gifts to seminarians from all three dioceses in Nebraska. All parts of Nebraska are feeling the shortage of available priests.

These lottery proceeds are just one small way of showing the seminarians how valuable they are to all Catholics. The last two years we have seen record returns from this lottery program. With this being my second year as State Warden, I hope we will again have record sales and be able to assist the Nebraska seminarians with even more financial support. Thanks for doing your part to make that support possible.

Secondly, we are again selling ads in the State Convention Booklet that is handed out to all attendees of the convention. I hope your council will consider purchasing an ad in the booklet. It is a great opportunity to promote your council events, advertise your parish events, or just say thank you to your local priests. Information about how to purchase an ad will be in the packet of convention information that you will receive in the mail.

God Bless,
Don Hypse
State Warden



Don Hypse
State Warden
hypse@conpoint.com

Kevin Pfeifer Inducted into Knights of Columbus Insurance Hall of Fame



Former Knights of Columbus General Agent, Kevin Pfeifer, was inducted into the Knights of Columbus Insurance Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Phoenix, Arizona in January. This is a rare recognition with Kevin being only the 13th individual to receive this honor.

Kevin joined the Knights of Columbus in 1975 and became 4th Degree in 1984. He is an honorary life member of St. Anthony's council #9562 in Grand Island.

He became a Field Agent with the Knights of Columbus in 1984 and was named Agent of the Year in the Peter Agency for 10 consecutive years. He was promoted to General Agent in 1994 and at one point served the entire state of Nebraska.

He built an agency that finished #1 in the Order for insurance sales four times and in the top 10 numerous times. Kevin also was awarded several individual awards in his career, including earning Supreme Knight's Club status 29 times and becoming a lifetime member. He retired in 2018.

Kevin and his wife Cindy have been married for 47 years. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

IMPORTANT DATES

FORM NO.

April

Apr 15 Necrology Request
Larry Reed, PSD

2863

Support/RSVP Refund
Supreme Council

Apr 15 Convention Credentials
State Secretary Wolf

10057

Jun 30 Food for Families Report/Refund
Supreme Council

Apr 29 Nomination for National
Convention Delegates by
Close of Business Meeting
State Secretary Wolf

SP-7

Jun 30 ****Columbian Award Application**
Supreme Council
Cc: Exec Secretary

****May be filed electronically on Supreme Web site.**

May

May 11 Courier Articles Due
Courier Editor/Beth Wells

Ray Guggenberger
Executive Secretary
(402) 681-6572

June

Jun 25 State Directory Updates
Executive Secretary

3101 Washington St, #7
Bellevue, NE 68005

Have you checked out the new ASAP program to further support choosing life?

For more information or to print the ASAP handbook visit:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/life/pregnancy-center-support/11371-aid-and-support-guide-book.pdf>

"Who Would Believe What We Have Heard?"

"Who would believe what we have heard?" This question is posed to the reader in the 53rd chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. It begins one of the most moving passages in all of the Old Testament.

In this famous passage, the person of Jesus is profoundly prefigured. His innocence is proclaimed while, at the same time, we see a vivid description of the atrocities levied against him. "Who would believe what we have heard?"

Isaiah then begins to describe how this man is not only innocent, but the suffering placed upon him was ours. He is also inherently a victim. "Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. [...] He was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed."

As the passage becomes more revealing of the "suffering servant," the tone begins to shift: "Because of his anguish he shall see the light; because of his knowledge he shall be content; my servant, the just one, shall justify the many, their iniquity he shall bear."

Despite the unfair and cruel treatment of this innocent victim, the Father has not forgotten him. He will be rewarded, and his suffering shall not be in vain. He will be glorified because of his obedience and love.

My brothers and sisters, this is our Lord. This is our Savior: innocent, undefiled, bruised and broken for our offenses, but glorious in his victory over sin and death. He bore it all for us simply to free us from the sins that crush us. Completely innocent, he took on the guilt of us all, the punishment that we deserved, that we might be spared the wrath of God and be with Him for all eternity. Our savior's love knows no bounds.

During Lent we are asked to make reparation for the ways in which we have offended the Lord. We are called to remove those distractions from our lives which keep us from fully loving him. It is a time of great grace in which we are able to refocus our spiritual lives and take seriously once more, the quest for holiness.

As we dive into the discipline of Lent, let us never forget what he went through. Let us never become complacent in our relationship with him. "Who would believe what we have heard?"

Please God, may we believe it! And may this Lenten season, truly transform us, and may we grow ever more deeply in love with him.



in Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James D. Conley".

Bishop James D. Conley



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at www.nebraskakofc.org

Save-the-Date
and Volunteer Call
2023
**State Free Throw
Contest**

Mark your calendars!
The date for the 2023 State Free Throw
Contest has been set for April 15, 2023.

This event will again be held at Grand Island
Central Catholic High School. Registration
will begin at 9 a.m., with competition starting
at 10 a.m.

Last year's event saw over 80 contestants
regional winners across the state. We would
love to have as many volunteer Knights there
that day as possible.



Pictured above are the district level winners from the Knights of
Columbus District 38 Free Throw Championship Competition
conducted 02/19/2023 at St. Joseph's Catholic School, York, NE
Below are the district level winners from the District 17 event at
Norfolk Catholic Activity Center also on 2/19/2023.



"Virtuous Students" Receive Rosaries and Medallions



GKE John Navarro poses with "Virtuous Student"
winners Aden Munoz (right) and Morgan Smith.

The Knights of Columbus Scottsbluff, Council #2681 awarded
Rosaries and a Medallion to the "Virtuous Student" winners for
the month of January from St Agnes Catholic School - Aden
Munoz and Morgan Smith.

The Grand Knight Elect, John Navarro, presented the rosaries to
both students.

A Virtuous Student is awarded every month at St. Agnes School.
Only two winners are selected each month. This award is hard
to achieve. The student must show tremendous kindness and
exhibit a good example to both fellow students and teachers.

All award recipients receive medallions and rosaries from the
Knights of Columbus.

The rosaries were made by the wives of Council #2681 Knights
of Columbus members.

Supreme Guest for Nebraska 118th State Convention

The Supreme Guest for the Nebraska 118th State Knights of Columbus Convention will be Supreme Director Anthony V. Minopoli.

Tony joined the Knights of Columbus in 2005 and is responsible for the day to day management of the Knight's General Account investment portfolio and mutual fund strategies. Tony is also responsible for overseeing the internal investment staff and the fixed income and preferred stock investment strategy. In his role as CIO, Tony provides oversight for the investment managers in the Knights' defined benefit pension plan, defined contribution plan and charitable assets, all of which are externally managed.

Prior to joining the Knights of Columbus, Tony spent 18 years at Evaluation Associates with the last 10 years in the role of Senior Consultant. Tony worked with a wide array of pension and foundation clients including Colgate-Palmolive, Bristol-Myers, Albertson's, Con Edison, M&T Bank, Teagle Foundation,







Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, and the National Football League.

Tony's community leadership includes board positions with the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a religious order, multiple Catholic schools, and other community foundations. Tony received both his B.S. in Finance and his MBA from the University of Bridgeport and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for collegiate schools of business.

McGivney Foundation Heads or Tails

Help those in need with a chance to take home one or all of the following prize packages:

-  \$500 Cash
-  Nebraska Football (4 tickets to NE v Northwestern game 10-21-2023 + over night stay at The Cornhusker Marriott in downtown Lincoln, NE)
-  Golf for 4 (Friday and Saturday night stay in Kearney with two 18-hole rounds golf.
-  Spa Package Certificate for \$500 toward a day of personal pampering for the lady in your life.



Come Prepared to Play!
One Round \$30 • Two Rounds \$60 • All Four Prize Rounds \$100

Nebraska Knights of Columbus State Golf Tournament

The State Golf Tournament will be held on Sept. 24, 2023
 at Eagle Hills Golf Course.

We will use the same format as last year.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Joe Bober at 402-290-7954 or bojober@cox.net



Fourth Degree Knight Invitation



Mark Borytsky
Nebraska District Master
Immediate PSD
13005 S. 29th Place
Omaha, NE 68123
402.212.9612 cell
mborytsky@cox.net



Brothers,

As we begin our new calendar year let's start with excitement of our Order moving forward with Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. We do have exciting news – Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard announced his retirement. He served the Order admirably after 13 years as Supreme Master. In recognition of Sir Knight Stoddard's distinguished record of accomplishments, the Board of Directors voted to award him the honorary title of Supreme Master Emeritus. All the best to him and his family.

I would also like to share with you Tennessee's Immediate Past State Deputy and Supreme Director Michael McCusker has been appointed as Supreme Master, effective March 1, 2023! Congratulations SK McCusker! He joined the Knights of Columbus in 1988, became a Fourth Degree Knight in 2004 and served as State Deputy of Tennessee from 2019 to 2021. He was elected to the Board of Directors in August 2022. SK McCusker is a decorated military veteran. All the best to him and his family as he assumes the Supreme Master position.

The most visible part of the Fourth Degree is the Honor and Color Guard Legacies of Knighthood. This elective division of the Fourth Degree, whose presence in parades, wreath-laying ceremonies, Flag retirements, wakes/funerals, serving Veterans, and Catholic functions, is a visible reminder of our service to the community. Our distinctive uniform and ceremonial sword symbolize Christian Knighthood and are worn to signify reverence to Church, Eucharist, country and freedom.

But there is more to being a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus than a uniform. They are the men who have chosen to embrace the Order's fourth principle of patriotism. These men lead efforts to reach out to veterans and active military, and they embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and be a faithful citizen.

If you are a Third Degree Knight in good standing, it is time for you to consider going even deeper with your faith and consider the Patriotic Fourth Degree. Contact your Grand Knight, assembly member or myself for more information.

Informational emails to our State Council, Assembly Faithful Navigator/Comptrollers and Grand Knights will be forthcoming so you will have updated and scheduled exemplification dates.

I invite you, my brother Knights, to join our ranks, be knighted with the sword of the Fourth Degree and become a Sir Knight!

God Bless,

Mark Borytsky, IPSD
Nebraska District Master

Worthy Grand Knights

Please think of us when your council hosts an event or conducts a service project. Please send us pictures from your events and include a description and council number so we can credit you. We can't promise to post each one we receive, but we would like to post what we can.

We have Facebook @NebraskaKofC, Instagram @kofc_nebraska, and Twitter @kofc_nebraska. If you haven't followed us yet, Do Not Be Afraid. The pictures can be sent to Josh at jprichardson248@gmail.com, and Nathan at nrichardson2139@gmail.com.



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Shining Like His Stars

Intellectual Disabilities Foundation



Sammi & Stephen Lowery
Intellectual Disabilities Directors
402.540.1670
sglowery82@gmail.com

As we close out the 2022 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, we are happy to report that once again we have seen an increase in the total money raised across the State of Nebraska to be distributed to the many amazing organizations who serve our citizens with special needs.

We are excited to present the awards to the councils who went above and beyond this year, increasing their total funds raised again this year. To all our councils who participated and reported this year, thank you for your hard work this year.

As we wrap up one campaign, its time to start looking forward to the 2023 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities. This fall's drive will take place the weekend of October 5-8.

Now is the time to start thinking about the Campaign and ways to increase the fundraising efforts. If that will be through candy distribution, start discussion how much to order and discuss with councils around you the best way to order these to save on shipping. If your fundraiser is something else, start planning now to make this the best Campaign yet.

We also want to encourage you to start reaching out to your local government (mayor, city council, etc.) to request a Proclamation of support for the Campaign this fall.

We also saw Project Lori have another successful year. This year's project was able to expand its reach into all three Diocese serving organizations such as Mosaic, Villa Marie, Camp Scott, and others. We have been privileged to hear from these organizations and the smiles it put on the faces of those that they serve and the happiness it brought to their Christmas season.

The Knights of Columbus were also honored to serve as the title sponsor for the Villa Maire Fundraiser, "Shining Like His Stars" in January. During the event, members of the state family in attendance as well as many other Knights in attendance were humbled to be honored with a

"Helping People with Special Needs"

"Shining Star" recognition by Villa Marie. State Deputy Matt Richardson accepted this on behalf of all the Knights in the state and the award featured beautiful artwork created by a student at the Villa Marie School. This is one of many recognitions we as the Knights of Columbus receive from the organizations we serve each year and reminds us to find ways to make deeper connections with the organizations in our area.

We appreciate all the hard work your councils have done for those with Special Needs throughout the year. Our work is never finished and we look forward to a strong finish to the 2022-2023 fraternal year as well as a strong Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities this fall.

The Knights of Columbus in Nebraska are truly "Helping People with Special Needs," and we look forward to seeing the ways you continue serving these individuals in the future. If you need help establishing a connection with a local organization, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We will be happy to assist.

We want to encourage you to start thinking about your 2023 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Work with your local businesses to see which are willing to let you hold the drive at their locations. Start discussing how much candy your Council may need to order so that you can submit the order early and not have delays in receiving the candy. Brainstorm new and different ideas with your members on how to get them and their families involved for an even greater impact.

God Bless each of you and the work you do. Many blessings for the New Year to each of your families as well.



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at www.nebraskakofc.org

News from the **NEIL PFEIFER AGENCY**

Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Northeast Nebraska and West Central Iowa

Awesome!
Agents of the MonthNovember
Jeremy Borchers
West PointDecember
Craig Pfeifer
MadisonJanuary
Craig Pfeifer
Madison**Agent of the Year for the Pfeifer Agency**

Noah Pfeifer, FIC of Norfolk finished #1 among all the agents of the Pfeifer Agency.

Noah also finished #1 among all the agents in the state of Nebraska and #45 companywide.

There are approximately 818 field agents in North America. Noah was 199% of quota, qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) and Supreme Knights Club (SKC). Congratulations Noah!!

Noah Pfeifer
Norfolk**Jason Schwiekert Is Newest Field Agent**Jason Schwiekert
Norfolk

The Pfeifer Agency would like to introduce our newest Field Agent, Jason Schwiekert! After extensive training, he will be assisting the Knight of Columbus members with all their fraternal benefits including life insurance, retirement, and estate planning needs. He will also offer long-term care and disability insurance plans.

Jason, his wife, Deb, and their daughter reside in Omaha. Jason will be serving members in the following councils in Omaha and surrounding area: #9518 St. Gerald, #652 St. Cecelia Cathedral, #14470 Immaculate Conception, #10305 Fort Calhoun, and #10412 Blair.

Jason has great knowledge in customer service and satisfaction. Jason is looking forward to working with the Knights of Columbus members in his area. You can reach Jason at: 402-713-6323 or email him at: jason.schweikert@kofc.org.



**Knights of
Columbus**
Asset Advisors®

Investment Solutions from the World's Largest Catholic Lay Organization

KoCAA is the intersection of Catholic and Capable. With an investment portfolio over \$28 billion strong and a commitment to the socially responsible investment guidelines set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), we offer clients a way to invest with integrity, assured that their funds are invested with companies committed to sound ethical, environmental, social and corporate governance practices. That's how we provide "value with values," by helping clients grow their future with faith-based investing.

News from the **TONY SWANSON AGENCY**

Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Southeast, Central and Western Nebraska

Swanson Agency Agent of the Year and Runner Up



Agent of the Year: Congratulations to Brian Almond for his Agent of the Year performance in 2022! He protected Catholic families over \$13M of life coverage as well as placing several Long Term Care policies and retirement annuities. Brian also finished #89 in the Order and qualified for MDRT!



Agent of the Year Runner-Up: Congratulations to David St. Hilaire! In his first full year as an agent, he protected Catholic families with over \$23 million of life coverage and finished at 128% of quota! He was also the #2 Long Term Care producer in the Order! Finally, he qualified for MDRT, which represents the top 3% of producers in the industry!

Knights of Columbus Insurance has one of the highest ratings in the industry. The Knights invest morally and responsibly in line with Catholic Doctrine.

Are You Looking for a Rewarding Career Furthering the Vision of a Future Saint?

Look no further! A career as a Field Agent with the Knights of Columbus may be the answer to your prayers. For the Catholic gentleman who has an entrepreneurial spirit, is hard-working, and desires helping his Brother Knights and their families secure their financial futures, a career with the Knights offers many rewards, both financial and intangible. If you are curious about a career with the Knights, please call 800-733-8980 Ext. 5 and leave a message. We would be happy to see if a career with the Knights might be a fit for you!

Knights of Columbus Insurance received Superior ratings AM Best & Standard & Poor's. The Knights invest morally & responsibly in line with Catholic Doctrine.

Tony Swanson, General Agent for Southeast, Central and Western Nebraska
402.463.2845 ext. 1 | anthony.swanson@kofc.org | www.swansonagencykofcins.com

Celebrate! Agents of the Month



November
Brian Almond
Hastings



December
Dr. Francisco Romero
Lincoln



January
Dr. Francisco Romero
Lincoln

Fish Fries Can Bring Us Closer to Christ

In the midst of this Lenten season many Councils are knee deep in fry oil, coleslaw, and fish. If there is one thing that the Knights of Columbus do well it is our annual fish fries. How many families sit down and enjoy a fish dinner, good conversation and no dishes? The traditional council fish fry is a wonderful example of service to the Parish and community.

But how many of you know the origin of the fish fry? Those who have attended one of our regional meeting this year don't get to answer.

The origin of the fish fry was to bring families to the Stations of the Cross. Families were having a hard time getting dinner, cleaning up, and still getting to Stations. By offering dinner for families and no clean-up it became easier for families to attend Stations.

What does this story have to do with membership? Well, it all goes back to Fr. McGivney and why he founded the Knights of Columbus. Fr. McGivney knew that Catholics needed a support system to strengthen their faith and to guide them in spiritual growth. That plan for the Knights is as vital and solid today as it was in 1882.

By providing opportunities for Catholic families to grow in their faith the Knights of Columbus becomes a spiritual pillar of support. Catholic men, especially young fathers, are looking for opportunities to help their families grow closer to Christ. They are also looking for a support system that will surround them with values that oppose secular societies' current trends of 'me first' and 'I want it now.'

Your Council can be a great pillar of hope and support for Catholic families, and you can use any opportunity such as fish fries, prayer services, video series like Into the Breach, etc., to invite new families to join our Order.

Make this Lent a true season of prayer by offering every Catholic family the opportunity to become a Knight of Columbus.

May this Lenten season bring God's grace into your homes and your families so that you may receive all the graces of our Risen Lord on Easter Sunday.



Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM
State Membership Director
rwlwerykc@gmail.com

Lottery Tickets

**Be sure to sell your Lottery Tickets.
More Tickets = Better Odds of Winning!**

The young men and women who have responded to God's call to a Religious Vocation are grateful for your prayers and financial support!



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at www.nebraskakofc.org

SEND DELEGATES TO THE STATE CONVENTION

Bob Wolf, State Secretary | 308.631.6170 cell | bbwolf1955@gmail.com

As State Secretary, I feel it is my responsibility to inform you of a few items your council needs to do in order to fully participate in our Annual State Convention.

Council Per Capita Must Be Paid

First, if you have not paid your Supreme and State Per Capita assessments, your delegates will not be seated, which in turn denies your council votes in ANY State Council matters.

It would be a shame not to be able to participate fully, so please make sure your council is in good standing. If you are unsure of your council’s status, please feel free to contact me.

Submit Council Credentials By April 15

Another must is your council’s credentials. I must receive this form by April 15 for processing. On this form, you will list your delegates and alternates, which allows them to be seated and grants them voting privileges on matters that come before the membership.

Your financial secretary should have received these credential forms in a packet from State Executive Secretary Ray Guggenberger in January. Make sure that when your delegates arrive, they sign in at the delegate check-in station, immediately inside the entrance.

This is very important to help the role call process go smoothly! Your delegates need to be present for both business sessions or you will not receive your mileage and per diem check. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Mail the Council Credential Forms to Bob Wolf, 814 Canal St., Scottsbluff, NE 69361.

Be A Supreme Delegate

Supreme Convention - Orlando, Florida, July 31-Aug. 3, 2023.

Every 3rd Degree member of the Nebraska Knights of Columbus is eligible to represent the State Council as a delegate to the 141st Supreme Convention in Orlando, Florida, July 31-Aug. 3, 2023. If you are interested in running for Supreme delegate, contact your financial secretary. Nominations are due April 29 by close of business meeting.

Mandatory for Supreme Delegate

You will have to pay all your expenses, such as travel, hotels and meals. The State cannot help you. You will receive a reimbursement check following the convention. Details will be sent to delegate when approved.

You must be a 3rd Degree Member.

- You must have a credit card.
- You will need a white dinner jacket. Most rent one.
- You must stay in the convention hotel.
- You must attend all business meetings.
- You must attend the Annual (Supreme Council) State’s Dinner. The cost of the delegate’s dinner will be deducted from your reimbursement check.
- You must pay for your spouse’s dinner when completing your registration.
- The State Council will host a dinner Wednesday evening. The State Council will pay for your (and spouse’s) meal. The Nebraska Bishops also attend.

Supreme Delegate Nomination Form

Full Name _____ Council # _____

Address _____

Preferred Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Date of Birth _____

Membership# _____ Insurance Member _____ Associate Member _____

Spouse Name _____ Name of Nominator _____

118TH ANNUAL
STATE CONVENTION
ARE YOU READY?

AGENDA

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Make your own
lodging reservations
for April 28-30, 2023
Younes Conference Center
416 Talmadge Rd., Kearney, NE
308.234.7300

HOTELS

Comfort Inn
Hotel Front Desk: 308.236.3400
118 3rd Ave., Kearney

LaQuinta Inn
Hotel Front Desk: 308.237.4400
108 3rd Ave., Kearney

IMPORTANT!
Please identify yourself
as a member of the
Knights of Columbus
to obtain the
discounted room rate.

When you register
at the Younes Conference Center,
an agenda and floor plan
will be available
with the locations
of meetings and programs.

Friday, April 28, 2023

7:30-8:30am	Opening Mass
9:00-3:00pm	State Officers Meeting
3:30-4:30pm	Registration
3:30-4:00pm	Directors Meeting
3:30-5:00pm	Fourth Degree Meeting
4:00-4:30pm	District Deputy Meeting
4:00-5:15pm	Chaplains Meeting & Program
5:00-6:30pm	Agency Social
6:30-9:30pm	Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 29, 2023

8:00-8:30am	Wardens' Meeting
8:00-9:00am	Resolutions Committee
8:00-8:30am	Mileage and Per Diem Meeting
8:00-9:30am	Past State Deputies / Former State
	Chaplains Breakfast
8:30-9:30am	Financial Secretaries Meeting
8:30-11:30am	Registration
9:00-10:00am	Holy Hour
10:00-11:30am	Family Program – Open to All!
12:00-1:00pm	Family Luncheon and Family of the Year Presentation
1:30-4:00pm	Business Meeting
1:30-4:00pm	Agency Meeting
1:30-3:30pm	Ladies Program
5:00-6:15pm	Mass
6:15-7:00pm	Social Hour
7:00-10:00pm	State Banquet

Sunday, April 30, 2023

7:30-8:15am	Mass
9:00-12:00pm	Business Meeting
9:00-11:15am	Ladies' Brunch



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook,
Instagram and Twitter and at www.nebraskakofc.org

118TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION ARE YOU READY?

EVENT REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT NOW ONLINE

Patrick Rupp Convention Coordinator Co-Chairman | 402.850.1642 | prupp8@gmail.com
Jesse Hines Convention Coordinator Co-Chairman | 615.587.4694 | jesse.hines86@gmail.com

The deadline to register for the 118th Annual State Convention is quickly approaching. Take advantage of the easy, on-line registration.

Members will buy event tickets, including meals, through the website Eventbrite. There will not be a printed meal order form. The Eventbrite link and instructions have been provided to your council officers and are available on the Nebraska State website homepage: [www/nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org).

Visit nebraskakofc.org to order meal and event tickets for yourself, your council members and guests. You may also pay online.
Consider sponsoring a priest for the weekend.

No Internet? Ask a family member, friend or Brother Knight for help. Convention Co-Chair Jesse Hines is also available at 615.587.4694 to help (leave a message if no answer).

If you miss the March 31 deadline, tickets may be available for payment by credit card or personal check, but these will include website fees and must contact

Jesse. Contact the Convention co-chairs with any questions or for assistance with the registration process.

Come to the State Convention prepared to purchase lottery tickets and help support our seminarians and religious!

EXCITING 118TH STATE CONVENTION PLANNED

Brian Hamik, State Program Director | 402.841.2605 cell | blhamik@gmail.com

The State Convention, held in Kearney on April 28-30, will be a great opportunity to meet your State Officers, State Program Directors/Chairmen and State Membership Team while catching up with Brother Knights from across Nebraska.

Co-chairs for the Convention are Patrick Rupp and Jesse Hines. See their information above if you have questions.

The Younes Conference Center is a great venue, and this year's programs will be one to remember.

The deadline for registering is March 31, but if you miss it and still want to attend, reach out to our Convention co-chairs. They will do their best to accommodate.

Friday Evening Annual Awards Banquet
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

During this banquet, we will recognize our outstanding Council Chaplains, Knights and Programs/Activities, as well as our Insurance Agents. Our activities are not dependent on accolades or awards but to support our priests parishes and communities. Attend and help us recognize the

best of the best.

Saturday Morning Family Program
9:00 - 11:00
A Son's Story of a Birth Mother's Gift

Mark Schultz, platinum-selling, award-winning artist whose career has spanned two decades with thirteen #1 hits, will share his story of adoption. While raised by loving parents, he also will share his appreciation for his birth mother who he views as a hero and for whom has written a song.

Saturday Afternoon Ladies Program
1:30 - 3:30

Join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship!

Finally, I want to thank all the Councils that submitted ICC Awards this year. Your outstanding council programs demonstrate that the legacy of Father McGivney lives on through the many charitable actions of our Knights of Columbus and their families. See you in April!

118TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION ARE YOU READY?

LOTTERY SALES PROCEEDS SUPPORT VOCATIONS VIA OUR VOCATIONS

Don Hypse, State Warden | 402.375.4574 or 402.369.0814 cell | hypse@conpoint.com

Spending \$10 Could Win \$500, \$750, \$1,000 or \$2,500

Please continue to sell Lottery Tickets

Lottery sales of over 14,000 tickets in 2022 allowed distribution of more than \$125,000. Recipients included seminarians, dioceses, bishops, and religious communities. It would be fantastic to exceed that this year.

Return tickets to me. Mail all tickets to be received by April 25. In-person sales continue through the evening of April 29. Remember, the ticket buyer need not be present to win.

The young men and women who have responded to God's call to a Religious Vocation are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

A Great Return on Your Investment!

Even if you've already purchased lottery tickets, tickets will be available Friday and Saturday during the Annual State Convention. The more you buy, the greater your odds of winning!

The young men and women called to the priesthood and religious life appreciate all the help the Knights are able to give them through ticket sales and your generosity fuels it.



**If you miss the March 31 deadline to register for meals,
we may still be able to accommodate you.**
Contact Jesse Hines | 615.587.4694 | jesse.hines86@gmail.com

MCGIVNEY FOUNDATION – YOUR FOUNDATION HEADS OR TAILS GAMES FOR HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Don Ferneding | 402-943-6320 don.ferneding@gmail.com
Daniel Wells | 402-880-2586 | danielwells5@gmail.com

This year's fundraiser for the McGivney Foundation is four rounds of the "Heads or Tails" Game.

Participants will pick Heads or Tails, until there is only one person left standing. That last person standing wins the corresponding prize package.

2023 Prize Packages:

1. \$500 Cash; 2. Nebraska Cornhuskers Football includes 4 tickets to the NE v Northwestern Game 10-21-2023 and overnight stay at The Cornhusker Marriott in downtown Lincoln, NE; 3. Golf for 4 includes Friday and Saturday night stay in Kearney and two 18-hole rounds of golf at area courses; 4. Spa Package Certificate for \$500 toward a day of personal pampering for the lady in your life.



Each round of "Heads or Tails" is designated by the purchase of a sticker - one round/sticker for \$30, two rounds/stickers for \$60 or four rounds/stickers for \$100. You can choose which of the Rounds you want based on the sticker or stickers you buy.

Nebraska Knights established the McGivney Foundation in 2001. The Knights use Foundation earnings to further the goals of our founder, Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney. Of his four pillars, Charity is the greatest, and through your help, the Foundation provides assistance to those in need.

Come ready to play all four rounds and help us build the Foundation and perhaps win one or more of these great prize packages!

118TH ANNUAL
STATE CONVENTION
ARE YOU READY?

SATURDAY MORNING FAMILY PROGRAM

A Son's Story of a Birth Mother's Gift

Platinum-Selling, Award-winning Artist and Speaker, Mark Schultz

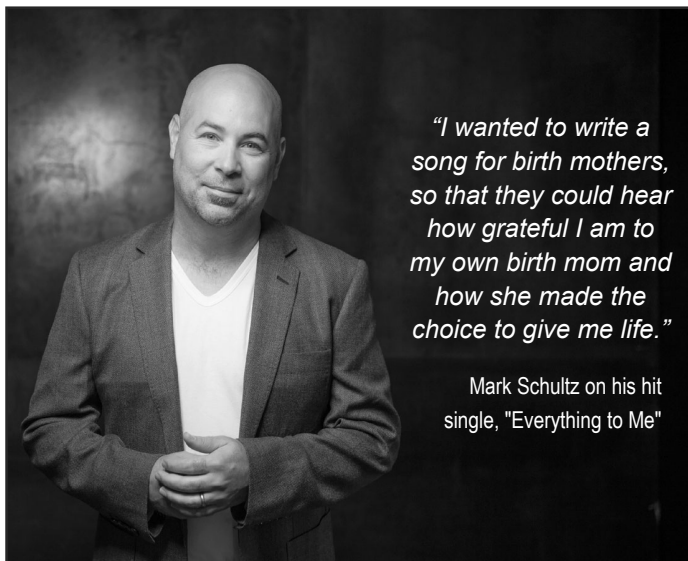
Saturday, April 29 2023

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Everyone Welcome

No Reservations Needed

Bring the Entire Family



"I wanted to write a song for birth mothers, so that they could hear how grateful I am to my own birth mom and how she made the choice to give me life."

Mark Schultz on his hit single, "Everything to Me"

Many know Mark Schultz as the platinum-selling, award-winning artist whose career has spanned two decades with thirteen #1 hits. He's garnered accolades like Artist of the Year, Songwriter of the Year, and Album of the Year and has appeared on ABC's 20/20, Extreme Home Makeover, and CNN's Morning Edition.

But Mark would say that all of that pales in comparison to the honor of getting to share his own story of adoption with an audience. Mark was adopted when he was two weeks old and raised by loving parents. And, though he's never met her, he's grateful to his birth mother for giving him life. "She'll always be a hero to me," he says with a smile and tears in his eyes.

In 2007 Mark partnered with Family Christian Stores and the James Fund to help raise awareness and support for orphans by riding his bicycle across the country from California to Maine, doing 14 concerts along the way and raising \$250,000. "It was the single greatest thing that I've done in my career," he says, "And it awoke a passion in me to share my story and be a champion for others." That summer tour

has led to Schultz doing more than 200 benefit concerts for crisis pregnancy centers and adoption agencies across the country.

Mark's hit single, "Everything to Me," a song about his life and gratitude to his birth mother, was the centerpiece for Bethany Christian Services ministry to expectant mothers. "I wanted to write a song for birth mothers, so that they could hear how grateful I am to my own birth mom and how she made the choice to give me life." And that's exactly how the song was used, to encourage expectant mothers across the country who were in crisis.

Mark has a passion for benefit concerts because it's a chance to tell his story and to give back to the very organizations that helped save his life. "My role is to put a spotlight on the organization," he says, "And to have everyone in the room support them both prayerfully and financially." Mark's sense of humor and the depth of his story lead one concertgoer to say, "I didn't expect to have this much fun, and I was deeply moved to action." Mark brings a contagious energy and excitement to fundraising banquets that leave the audience feeling inspired. "What these organizations are doing is saving lives," says Schultz. "And I'm one of those lives."

Recently, Mark and his wife Kate, who have two boys, Ryan and Gus, adopted their first daughter, Maia Mae. "It's amazing for me to be on this side of adoption," says Schultz. "This love that I have for my daughter is like nothing else I've ever experienced. She and I have a very special bond." Schultz and his daughter share the same initials, MMS. "And one day when she gets a little older I'll be able to share my adoption story with her, too."

Everyone is invited to attend this morning session to hear Mark Schultz speak about his adoption and his desire to encourage expectant mothers in crisis.

Charity

Unity

Fraternity

Patriotism



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**118TH ANNUAL
 STATE CONVENTION
 ARE YOU READY?**



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DO NOT BE AFRAID

I AM *with* YOU

DO NOT BE *anxious*;

I AM *your* GOD.

I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU,

I WILL HELP YOU

I WILL UPHOLD YOU

with MY

**VICTORIOUS
 RIGHT HAND.**

Isaiah 41:10