

Robert Wolf, State Deputy

Knights Courier

March 2024 Vol. 52 Iss. 3



Inaugural State Pro Life Gala Dinner and Dance

On January 5th there were over 360 people in attendance at the first ever Knights of Columbus Pro Life Gala Dinner and Dance. The Gala was held at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, and those in attendance were entertained by some outstanding speakers.

Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen started the evening off with a powerful talk about the local efforts to save lives here in Nebraska. Governor Pillen concluded his talk with a presentation of a Proclamation for Life to State Deputy Bob Wolf.

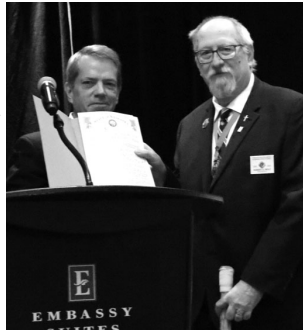
Next was Angelina Giles APRN and CEO of Sancta Familia Medical Apostolate. Angelina shared her personal story of being a young woman who experienced an unplanned pregnancy. She defied many obstacles to finish college and attended medical school. She married the baby's father and love of her life, gave birth to four more children and is now a leader in the Pro-Life movement. She administers the abortion pill reversal for women who change their minds after taking the abortion pill.

Our keynote speaker was none other than the President of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, Jeanne Mancini. Jeanne talked about how important it is to continue to stand together and march for life. She explained why the battle for the sanctity of life isn't over, and as defenders of life, we need to be more diligent and visible than ever before. Jeanne talked about the theme for the national march, **"With Every Woman, With Every Child,"** and how the Gala represented this theme so well.

The evening didn't stop there. There was a live band, Daddy Mack and the Flak, that performed as we danced the night away. All proceeds from the Gala will be distributed to many of the maternity and pro-life centers right here in Nebraska.

We wish to thank all the sponsors, attendees, volunteers, and those who prayed for the success of this event.

In closing, please meditate on the following words: **"We march with our feet, but thrive on our knees."** Brothers please continue to pray for the sanctity of life. Vivat Jesus, Michael and Mary Conrad, Culture of Life Directors



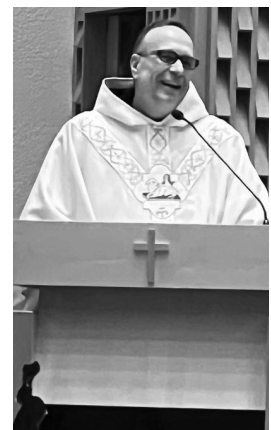
119th State Convention Overview

The 119th Annual Knights of Columbus State Convention promises to be full of fun programs and important information. Slated for April 26-28, 2024, at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney, work is underway to make it both an uplifting and beneficial experience for all. In addition to the meetings, there will be delicious food, fellowship and several entertaining programs.

FAMILY PROGRAM

Join us for a non-stop, energetic presentation from Fr. Jim Sichko, a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY. He has been an internationally known preacher, evangelist, and motivational speaker for over 25 years. In 2015, Pope Francis commissioned Fr. Jim as a Papal Missionary of Mercy in conjunction with the Extraordinary Jubilee Year, making him one of 100 in the United States and 1,000 in the world.

Best known for his presentations entitled "60 Seconds for Jesus," Fr. Jim's talks and parish missions are geared for every member of the household, from youth to adulthood, and for anyone regardless of religious affiliation. Known as "the best opening act ever" by Dolly Parton, Fr. Jim uses real life experiences, personal stories, and humor,



Continued on page 12.

Lent: A Blessed Gift

In the instruction for the First Degree, we are introduced to the Latin expression, "Memento mori," "Remember death." It is a sobering reminder that our lives on this earth are a gift that will have an expiration, and the future life depends on what we do with our lives here. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that we must persevere in faith and in the grace of Christ to the time of death to receive eternal life and the glory of heaven.

I have the privilege of teaching the course on the Catechism to the seminarians this year. It has brought some of the teachings to a new focus. Some that have had a particularly strong impact this year include that sin is an offense against God and is incompatible with our life in Christ. That absolute statement gives no allowance for some sins when we are doing other things that are good.

The Catechism also teaches that the gift of Baptism, which gives us God's life in us sanctifying grace, we still have the effects of Original Sin--of weakness of human nature and the inclination to sin, concupiscence, such our lives are a struggle of conversion directed toward holiness in which we must prove ourselves, though always having the help of the grace of Christ. (CCC # 1426) It is a struggle

we must engage in even though we may fall short and sin.

The holy season of Lent is a gift to us to help us identify the ways we may have given ourselves permission to be less faithful in living the way of our Lord, to repent of those with sorrow and rejection of sin, especially through a good Confession, and to embrace the work of a new conversion of the pattern of our lives through penance.

Our penance is first of all internal as we turn from sin, but we carry it out in external acts that can include our Lenten efforts such as deeper and more committed prayer, fasting and other self-denial, and almsgiving and extending ourselves and resources in charity and mercy.

This has prompted me to take my Lent more seriously this year because it is serious. I hope this Lent will be a blessing for you as well.

Vivat Jesus!

Father John Rooney
State Chaplain, Diocese of Lincoln



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



Fostering Patriotism and Communication



Dear Brothers,

Our State Convention is the weekend of April 26, 27 and 28 in Kearney. On Friday, April 26th, our 4th Degree meeting will be held from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. upstairs in the Younes Convention Center in Ruby 6, attire casual.

On Saturday, April 27th, we will provide an Honor Guard at our annual State Mass. All Sir Knights in uniform are encouraged to participate in this Honor Guard. All Sir Knights participating in the Honor Guard need to meet upstairs in the Younes Convention Center in Ruby 1, if possible, no later than 4:00 p.m. for instructions. The Friday and Saturday meeting rooms will be in the State Convention program book and displayed on the monitors throughout the Younes Convention Center. I look forward to seeing you.

As we have entered our Lenten journey, let us pray together:

We ask you, dear Lord, to guide us to the path that leads us to you. Fill our hearts with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as we strive to become the best version of ourselves. As we renew our resolve each day to become a better person, let us hear your voice in the deepest reaches of our hearts. Give us rest in you and bring us closer to you this Lent. In your name we pray, Amen.

Audrey and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the State Convention. We wish you and your family blessed Lenten and Easter seasons.

Mark Borytsky, PSD
Nebraska District Master
402.212.9612 cell
mborytsky@cox.net



Fraternity, A True Blessing

Brother Knights and Families,

It is hard to believe that we are over halfway through my first year as your State Deputy, and we are about two months away from our State Convention. Our Membership team has done a great job this year helping us give the gift of Fraternity to many families throughout Nebraska.

In January Nebraska Knights of Columbus hit over 100% of our monthly goal. What a great job by your State Membership Director, Rob Ostdiek, and his team of dedicated Regional Growth Directors. They, along with our State Program Director, Mitchell Lowery, and other members of your State team, have worked hard to present the regional meetings across the state. Your attendance has been greatly appreciated, and the participation in the CUF Degrees afterward has been terrific.

I recently had the pleasure of having breakfast with two retired priests, Father Stephen Deaver and Father Gerald Harr. I have known both for a long time, as they both have served at Parishes in the Panhandle. They have also been Council and Assembly Chaplains and great supporters of the Knights.

It was so much fun to sit and visit with these great men. We talked about a number of topics, both current and historical.

Every time I am able to do this, I come away both a little smarter and a lot more at peace with myself.

I encourage my Brother Knights to make sure that we take the time to visit with our retired bishops, priests and religious. They have so much wisdom and love to give, and God knows we need as much of those as we can get.

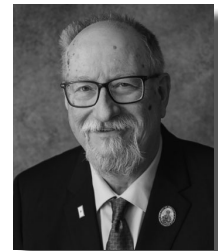
A quick reminder that our 119th State Convention is April 26 -28 at the Younes Convention center in Kearney. This is a great time to meet with old friends and make some new ones.

It is also where you have the opportunity to meet with the State Officers, Directors and Chairmen to ask questions or pitch ideas your Councils may have. Chris and I are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Seek First the Kingdom of God.

God Bless, Vivat Jesus!

Robert Wolf
State Deputy



Legislative Corner

Dear Brothers Knights,

As a Knight and member of St. Teresa's Council in Lincoln, I'm happy to join you in this fine publication by offering a brief "Legislative Corner" to help you stay up to date on public policy matters in Nebraska.

Allow me to introduce myself. I'm the Executive Director of the Nebraska Catholic Conference. The NCC represents the three Bishops of Nebraska on their mutual public policy interests. Our daily mission is to engage, educate, and empower public officials, the Catholic faithful, and the general public on our public policy priorities. While we work on both federal and state public policy issues, our main focus is on the Nebraska State Legislature. It's important and fulfilling work.

As Knights and Catholics, we are called to faithful citizenship. This is embodied in the Knights' fourth principle of patriotism. It is a call, rooted in our baptism, to be leaven in our state's and country's political life. As the NCC's vision statement states, we are called to "bear the light of Christ in the public square."

In this "Legislative Corner," my hope is to update you on

important pieces of state legislation where we need Knights to step up to the plate and be advocates. This might be on matters protecting unborn life, supporting mothers in need, advancing religious liberty, defending marriage and the family, assisting the poor, among so many other issues.

I also hope to update you on other critical matters. For example, there is currently a ballot initiative process underway by pro-abortion advocates to enshrine abortion rights up until birth into our state constitution. This effort is similar to those in Ohio and Michigan. It is a frightening proposal and needs to be defeated.

I urge you to stay more up to date with the NCC's work. You can do so by signing up for our Catholic Advocacy Network of Nebraska at www.NEcatholic.org. Click on the yellow "Join Our Network" banner, and we will e-mail you when important action items arise. It only takes a minute to sign up—God bless your efforts!

Long live Christ the King!

Tom Venzor
Executive Director
Nebraska Catholic Conference



Lottery Supports Your Seminarians

The State Convention is fast approaching. Be sure to fill out and mail back the State Lottery tickets sooner rather than later. **All tickets need to be received by me by Monday April 22, 2024**, to be eligible for the drawing. The drawing will be held at the State Convention Saturday evening banquet on April 27.

Money raised through the lottery is used to support and promote vocations in the state. We currently have 54 seminarians in Nebraska. Each one receives a cash gift from the Knights to thank them as they discern their vocation. We also support requests from the three dioceses, and parish and council projects fostering religious vocations.

The ads for the Convention Book need your quick attention. All ad forms, artwork, and money should be received by **Monday, March 11th**. This will provide the time necessary to incorporate your ad into the program book and have the book printed in time for the convention.

Mail ad forms and payments to: Knights of Columbus State Warden Brian Hamik at 824 Volkman Dr. Norfolk, NE 68701. Artwork should be sent to blhamik@gmail.com and copy nebrknightscourier@gmail.com

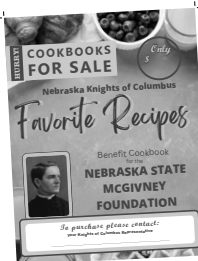
Brian Hamik, State Warden



McGivney Foundation Cooking Up Help for Nebraska Knights in Need

The Nebraska McGivney Foundation has a goal of reaching \$1,000,000 by 2026. The fund balance as of Dec. 31, 2023, was \$769,707 and remains with the Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska. You can donate in a variety of ways. Contact your foundation advisors with questions or for more details.

Our major fundraiser for 2024 is the publishing of a cookbook. We are asking you to submit 3-5 of your favorite recipes for consideration. We would like the



cookbook to be ready for sale this fall.

Submission is easy! Go online to: **typensave.com**. The user name is: elwells and the password is: banana722.

Each council will receive a \$1 rebate for every book sold and \$2 for each book sold above its designated amount. Cookbooks will be sold for \$20 each.

If you have any foundation questions, please call your foundation advisors:

Don Ferneding (402) 943-6320 / Dan Wells (402) 880-2586.



Eucharistic Revival and Marriage

Having recently been a part of the Good News Marriage Cruise certainly made us think of the parallel between Marriage and the Eucharist. In addition to daily Mass and confessions on the ship, there was an amazing community of couples and speakers including Father Mike Schmitz and Dr Ray Guarendi.

The Good News Cruise was crafted to facilitate an encounter with our spouse and with Christ. We felt at home on the Cruise especially with the 831 passengers who wore the special Good News Cruise lanyard, about 1/3 of the ship.

Our shared beliefs and mutual goals for a better marriage and a closer and deeper understanding of our Lord in the Eucharist created a natural bond. Marriage is, after all, for the married person an opportunity to spread and experience Christ's love on a daily basis. The chance to strengthen this commitment with others who share this goal made it more fun and attainable.

Other passengers who were not part of the Good News group were intrigued and wanted to know more about us. What an incredible opportunity as we explained the focus of our journey which often led to sharing plans of the upcoming

Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

Kathy and I began our relationship at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas 55 years ago and subsequently married after graduation in 1972. We look forward to returning there on June 25, 2024, for a Eucharistic Pilgrimage stop and Mass at the College. After an overnight stay, we plan to continue the pilgrimage into Missouri and ultimately Indianapolis, IN. Some of the ship's passengers are planning to join us at the Mass in Atchison.

Another nugget we found was through meeting a couple who are associated with Divine Mercy Radio in Hays, Kansas. It confirmed to us that Catholic Radio is an indisputable way to evangelize. This, after all, is the purpose of the Eucharistic Revival and an answer to Christ's commission to each of us to spread the Good News. We invite everyone to listen to Catholic Radio and to participate in the Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

Larry and Kathy Koerner
Faith Directors





Evangelization and Faith Formation through COR

When our Lord Jesus was a carpenter, he probably had a set of tools: hammer, chisel, wood knife, square, etc. You can imagine he took very good care of these tools because they helped him make a living and put food on the table. You can imagine St. Joseph taught him to care for these tools and why that was important. In your job, you use tools, physical or mental, that help you be successful. Lack of the right tools makes any job harder. The harder the job, the less likely you may be to continue.

Shouldn't you have a set of tools for your spiritual life? Shouldn't you keep those tools sharp and clean? Wouldn't it be good to acquire new tools once in a while to make it better? Hopefully your answer to each of these questions was yes.

COR is such a tool and a place to meet with fellow Catholic men who are on a journey to Heaven. It's a place to learn more about our Catholic faith and God's love for each of us. It's a place to find support when times are tough or when the tools may become dull or broken. It's a place to share your journey with others and to join hands and hearts

in moving toward a true relationship with our Lord.

Fr. McGivney knew that for the Catholic faith to remain strong, it needed to be based in the family; that by building the Domestic Church, the Universal Church would be stronger. He knew by building strong family leaders, the parish and community would be stronger. The COR process has been developed to provide opportunities for Catholic men to build fraternity, form their faith, and develop or expand their prayer life in support of their roles as leaders.

You can start, or expand your COR program by selecting your leaders. The resources on the Supreme (ko.fc.org/cor) and State (nebraskakofc.org/programs/evangelization-and-faith-formation) websites can help facilitate your sessions.

Grab the tools God has given you to serve others and guide them to Christ our Savior.

Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM
Evangelization and Faith
Formation Director



IMPORTANT DATES

FORM NO.

March

Mar 1 ICC Reports
To: Program Director
Mitchell Lowery

April

Apr 15 Necrology Report
To: Larry Reed, PSD
Apr 15 Convention Credentials
To: State Secretary
Apr 15 Nomination for National
Convention Delegates
To: State Secretary

May

May 1 Courier Articles Due
To: Courier Editor

June

Jun 25 State Directory Updates
To: Executive Secretary
Jun 30 Applications for Vocations
Support/RSVP Refund
To: Supreme Council
Jun 30 Food for Families Report/
Refund
To: Supreme Council
Jun 30 **Columbian Award App.
To: Supreme Council
CC: Exec Secretary

**May be filed electronically on Supreme Website.
Ray Guggenberger, Executive Secretary
(402) 681-6572
3101 Washington St, #7, Bellevue, NE 68005

*Check out the Lottery and
McGivney Fundraiser
info on page 11 in the
State Convention section.*



HORSESHOE TOURNAMENTS



SINCE THERE WAS NO RESPONSE, WE WILL NOT
HAVE ANY HORSESHOE TOURNAMENTS IN 2024. IF
INTERESTED IN HOSTING EITHER REGIONAL OR STATE
IN 2025, CONTACT JOE BOBER @ 402-290-7954.



Intellectual Disabilities Foundation Updates “Helping People with Special Needs”

The **2023 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities** was another successful year. The organizations across Nebraska received tremendous support from our councils, and we fulfilled many organization's requests for funds. We are excited to present the awards to the councils who excelled by increasing their total funds raised again this year. To all councils that participated and reported this year, thank you for your hard work.

As we finish processing the information for the 2023 campaign, we need to start looking at the 2024 campaign. This fall's drive will take place over the weekend of October 10-13. Now is the time to start thinking about ways to increase your fundraising whether through candy distribution, hosting a breakfast or some other method. Every council should run a fundraiser and report. We will be happy to help any council looking for ideas. We also want to encourage you to reach out to your local government (mayor, city council, etc.) and request a proclamation to further support your fall campaign and increase awareness for your drive.

If your council will be doing candy distribution this fall, you can begin thinking about your orders. Group orders are still the best method for candy orders with free shipping (obtained on orders of 33 cases or more). No orders under 18 cases will be accepted. Please also note that candy deliveries must be made to a business address.

This year's candy bars have a new, updated shape and wrapper, which require the **NEW ORDER FORM** to be used when ordering the candy. This new form will be available on the State Council website. A copy for each council will be available this summer. Orders placed on old forms may be delayed or unfulfilled, so please be sure to utilize the new form. The cost and quantities of each case will remain the same.



Project Lori was another huge success this year. With over \$13,000 raised, we were able to support wish-list items for five organizations across Nebraska. Mosaic in Central Nebraska (serving the areas of Grand Island, Hastings and Kearney), Mosaic in Southeast Nebraska (serving Lincoln and Beatrice), Villa Marie in Waverly, Madonna School and Community Based Services in Omaha, and Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy in Gering all received necessary supplies to help their programs run and enhance the lives of hundreds of individuals this Christmas season. Information for Project Lori 2024 will be coming out in the next few months. We hope to grow the program even more this holiday season.

The Knights of Columbus were also honored to serve as the title sponsor for the Villa Marie Fundraiser, “Shining Like His Stars” in February. This is our second year as title sponsor for this tremendous event. For the third consecutive year, members of the State Family also participated in the Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Nebraska. We appreciate all the support our councils have provided to Special Olympics both in local communities and at the State level. These great events are just a few of the ways Knights provide tangible support to the many organizations serving those with intellectual disabilities across Nebraska.

We appreciate all the hard work your councils do for those with special needs throughout the year. Our work is never finished, and we look forward to finishing the 2023-2024 fraternal year strong, and another successful fall for the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

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



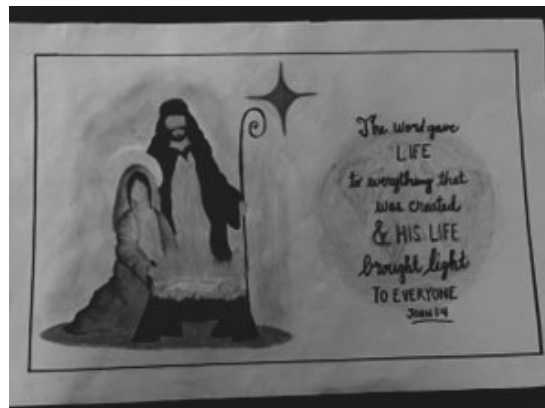
Keep Christ in Christmas Artwork Winners



Winner K-2: Parker Sikola, Council 10895



Winner 3-5: Lily Vo, Council 11312



Winner 6-8: Emma Gueret, Council 11312



Youth Sports Score Big

The Knights are pleased to announce that our 2023 Soccer Challenge has produced another International Award Winner.

Andrell Velasquez, Council 9264 in Columbus, is an international award winner in the 14 year-old boys category. Andrell totaled 335 points in the State Competition in Schuyler last October. Congratulations Andrell!

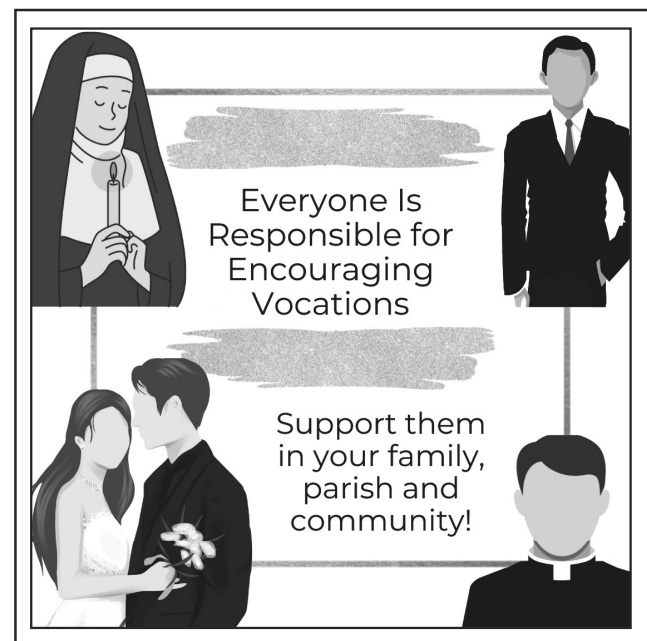


District free throw competitions are in full swing with regional competitions slated for March. Regional winners will advance to the State competition.

The State Free Throw Challenge is April 6, 2024, at Grand Island Central Catholic High School. It is located on 1200 N. Ruby Ave., in Grand Island. Registration is 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. with competition beginning at 10:00 a.m.

This is the Knights most attended youth event and requires many volunteers. Please think about joining us for this awesome event.

Tim Sealock
State Youth Chairman



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

Collaborative Regional Meetings

The Membership team and the membership of the Nebraska Jurisdiction continue positive trajectories. We enjoyed a productive weekend with the District Deputies at the December Mid-Year meeting.

Currently we are supporting each region with half-day presentations to council leadership. These regional meetings provide growth tools and faith programs updates. We discuss challenges, successes and opportunities within those areas. The joy of connecting with the people of these regions is immeasurable. We have also enjoyed immediate growth by conducting CUF degrees at the conclusion of these meetings.

We will continue these collaborative regional meetings through March. The presenting team consists of Program Director Lowery and me, along with supporting State Officers as they are available. Providing the opportunity to connect with councils heading to State and Supreme awards achievement success can be appreciated and utilized by all.

The conclusion of the regional meetings leads to one of

the Knights' best kept secrets – State Convention April 26-28. The convention offers something for everyone, and enjoyment is all but assured. Details of its events are within this Courier.

Time for fraternity and camaraderie with our brother Knights and their families is priceless. I encourage you to take time to attend all or part of the convention. Consider bringing candidates. They are welcome at all events except the business meeting. Demonstrate to the candidates the depth and vastness of our Order within Nebraska and throughout the world.

I look forward to connecting with brother Knights through these events, remembering to always “Seek First the Kingdom of God.”

God Bless and Vivat Jesus.

Rob Ostdiek
Nebraska Membership Director



Nebraska Knights of Columbus State Golf Tournament

The State Golf Tournament will be held on Sept. 29, 2024
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



Convention Awards: Impact is the Best Trophy

As Knights, many, if not all of us, did not join the Order for the recognition. We don't help with the Parish Fish Fry, the Free Throw Championship, or the Thanksgiving Food for Families Drive to gain personal recognition or to have our council receive an award at the State Convention.

We submit your activities throughout the year for several reasons. The simplest is it helps the State Council understand which councils are thriving and active.

More importantly, by submitting reports on your programs, you can be recognized at the annual State Convention for your program. While the physical award is not the goal, each awarded program is announced and a brief description of what it entailed and who it benefited is shared during the Friday Evening Awards Banquet.

When your council hosts a program that supports a small organization in your community, you are doing a great thing. At the State Convention, if that program is recognized during the Awards Banquet, it could spark interest in a council on

the other side of Nebraska to do something similar. Now the good that you are doing in your parish and community is spreading to others. The benefits of that program reach even further.

And what is the impact if your program is recognized by the Supreme Council at the Supreme Convention? That program's reach could touch the entire Order. This is exactly how the “Tootsie Roll Drive” to support Intellectual Disabilities started.

No, we don't need a plaque to recognize what we have done but sharing the good we do with our fellow Knights across the State and potentially across the Order and its potential impact are exhilarating. That's why we ask you to submit the programs you do.

Mitchell Lowery
State Program Director
mwlowerykc@gmail.com



119TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

APRIL 26-28, 2024

EVENT REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT 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 119th 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.

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 119TH STATE CONVENTION PLANNED

Mitchell Lowery, State Program Director | 402.540-1021 cell | mwlowskykc@gmail.com

The State Convention, held in Kearney on April 26-28, 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.m.

Fr. Jim Sichko, a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY. He is an internationally known preacher, evangelist, and motivational speaker for over 25 years.

Saturday Afternoon Ladies Program
1:30 -3:30 p.m.

The Orphan Train - Charlotte Endorf shares a dose of fun and history on the Orphan Trains, an interesting and little-known part of Nebraska history between 1854 and 1929.

Sunday Morning Ladies Brunch
9:00 -11:15 a.m.

Cabriolet Singers

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!

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Younes Convention Center
416 Talmadge Rd., Kearney, NE

Make your own
lodging reservations
for April 26-28, 2024

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.

Family of the Year

The Knights of Columbus are looking for Knights and their families who embody the teachings of Christ. The Knight, his wife, and their children should be active members of their home parish. They should lead by example and reflect the teachings of Christ.

If this sounds like a family in your parish or one you know in Nebraska, please consider nominating them for the 2024 Nebraska Family of the Year award.

The Knights of Columbus Family of the Year program is a way to promote and support the development of the domestic church, the family. Each council has established a committee to recognize a deserving Family of the Month and Family of the Year with potential for recognition on the international level.

More details are available through your local council.

AGENDA

Nebraska Knights of Columbus
119TH Annual State Convention
Younes Conference Center, Kearney
April 26, 27 and 28, 2024

Friday, April 26, 2024

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 27, 2024

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 28, 2024

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

Lottery Tickets

Be sure to sell your Lottery Tickets.

More Tickets = Better Odds of Winning!

MCGIVNEY FOUNDATION – YOUR FOUNDATION RAFFLE HELPING THOSE IN NEED

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

The McGivney Foundation will hold a silent auction and possible raffle during the State Convention. The proceeds benefit those in need through the McGivney Foundation's assistance to applicants. Silent auction goes to highest bidder and raffle tickets would be \$20 for a book of 26 tickets.

There will be many prize packages, items, and baskets, including:

- Golf package in Kearney
- Nebraska Cornhusker Football tickets
- Terry Redlin framed print
- Spa Basket

- Game Night Basket
- Smoke Basket, Liquor and more!

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 support those in need through your McGivney Foundation and try your luck on one or more of these great prize packages!

A picture says a thousand words. Spread the word and share your activities, events and gatherings at the State Convention. Any Council that wants to submit photos of activities they held during the past year should email them to Kevin Ostdiek at kevinostdiekkofc@gmail.com

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

Brian Hamik | 402-841-2605 | blhamik@gmail.com

Please continue to sell Lottery Tickets

Lottery sales of just under 14,000 tickets in 2023 allowed distribution of nearly \$117,986. 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 Brian Hamik by April 22. In-person sales continue through the evening of April 27. Remember, the ticket buyer need not be present to win.

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.

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



**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

Convention Overview Continued from page 1.

to motivate any audience to recognize the good within themselves and others, while challenging them to make the world a better place.

Celebrated for his "simple acts of kindness" from the streets of Lexington to the flood-torn cities of Eastern Kentucky, Fr. Jim's frequent collaboration with Delta Airlines, Amazon, Willett Bourbon Distillery, True Blue Customs, and the City of Lexington, along with numerous celebrities, politicians, and entrepreneurs, have made thousands of kind acts a reality.

He is the author of three books: *Encountering God: As a Traveling Papal Missionary of Mercy*; and *Among Friends: Stories from the Journey*. Fr. Jim is also the founder of Miss Marie's Spaghetti Sauce, named after his mother and created from her secret Italian recipe. Proceeds from the nationally acclaimed brand benefit the Southeast Texas Hospice and outreach work in the Diocese of Lexington.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Charlotte Endorf has travelled more than 15,000 miles seeking the last surviving riders and descendants of the Orphan Train to document the children who rode the Orphan Trains between 1854 and 1929. Dressed in period attire,

Charlotte Endorf

EXCESS BAGGAGE: RIDING THE ORPHAN TRAIN



Endorf entertains and educates audiences of all ages about this little known segment of Nebraska history. She is the author of nine books, and her History in Action presentation promises to delight all!

SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM

Come hear the Cabriolet, a female a cappella quartet singing barbershop style harmony. The group formed in 2000 and has entertained at various venues and towns throughout Nebraska, Iowa, and Colorado. Sherryl Wilke, True Value store owner, sings tenor. Bonnie Hahn, substitute teacher, sings lead. Sandra Hanson, substitute science teacher, sings baritone. Judy Drown, Registered Nurse, sings bass.



"We know the joy that music brings when we see the smiles and sometimes the tears in the eyes of our audiences when a song evokes a strong memory of times past or present (we trust it is not the singing). We are committed to keeping our voices singing as long as there is a song in our hearts and audiences to hear."

Get the Word Out about the Knights' Good Works

Please think of us when your council hosts an event or conducts a service project. Send us your event pictures and include a description and council number so we can credit you. While we can't promise every one received will be posted, we do whatever 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.

142ND SUPREME CONVENTION AND DELEGATE DETAILS

Mike "Schaefer" Schaeffer, State Secretary | 402.651-9840 cell | schaefer5252@gmail.com

As State Secretary, I look forward to seeing you in Kearney April 26-28, 2024. Here are two items your Council needs to do in order to fully participate in this year's Annual State Convention:

1. Pay Council Per Capita by April 15, 2024

If your Council has not paid their **Supreme and State Per Capita** assessments, your delegates will not be seated for the business sessions which denies your Council the right to vote on ANY State Council matter. Please ensure your Council is in good standing. If you are unsure of your Council's Per Capita status, contact me at 402.651.9840.

2. Submit Council Delegate Credentials by April 15, 2024

Your Council must submit their delegate credentials. Councils are encouraged to complete an on-line delegate credential via a link at www.nebraskakofc.org by April 15, 2024. If sending paper credentials, they must be sent to State Secretary Mike Schaeffer, 4306 Sheridan Rd, Bellevue NE 68123 and received by April 15, 2024. Meeting the April 15 deadline gives me time to process the forms. 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. **This is the last year paper credentials will be accepted** as we're moving to all on-line delegate credentials for the April 2025 State Convention.

Your Financial Secretary should have received the on-line delegate credential link and paper delegate credential forms in a packet from State Executive Secretary Ray Guggenberger in February. Make sure that when your delegates arrive, they sign in at the delegate check-in station, immediately inside the main entrance. This will ensure the business session role call process goes smoothly both days. The delegates need to be present for both business sessions

to receive their mileage and per diem check. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

142nd Supreme Convention August 5-8, 2024

Every 3rd Degree member of the Nebraska Knights of Columbus is eligible to represent the State Council as a delegate to the 142nd Supreme Convention in **Quebec City, Canada**, August 5-8, 2024. If you are interested in running for a Supreme delegate, contact your financial secretary. Nominations are due April 27th by the close of the business meeting.

Important Supreme Delegate Information

- **You must have a current passport that does not expire prior to January 5, 2025.**
- You will have to pay all your expenses, such as travel, hotels and meals. The State cannot help. You will receive a mileage and Per Diem check on the last day of the convention. Details will be sent to the delegate when approved.
- You must be a 3rd Degree Member, and you must have a credit card.
- You must stay in the convention hotel, and you must attend all business meetings.
- You must attend the Supreme Council Annual State's Dinner, and you will need a white dinner jacket. Most rent one. The cost of the delegate's dinner will be deducted from their mileage and Per Diem 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 your spouse's) meal(s). 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 _____

Nominations are due April 27th by the close of the business meeting.

Check out the great McGivney Foundation Raffle Prizes! Purchasing these tickets help support Nebraska Knights in need!

News from the **NEIL PFEIFER AGENCY****Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Northeast Nebraska and West Central Iowa*****Fantastic!***
Agents of the Month

November
Rob Waterhouse
Spirit Lake, IA



December
Donnie Kenkel
Council Bluffs



October
Noah Pfeifer
Norfolk

**Pfeifer Agency Earns Top Ten Agency Ranking 2023**

General Agent Neil Pfeifer, FICF, and the field agents of the Pfeifer Agency finished the 2023 year ranked #8 in North America for the Knights of Columbus. There are approximately 77 agencies representing the Knights of Columbus companywide. Congratulations to Neil and all the agents of the Pfeifer Agency.

**Pfeifer Agency 2023 Agent of the Year: Noah Pfeifer**

Noah Pfeifer, FIC of Norfolk, finished #1 among all the agents of the Pfeifer Agency. Noah finished #2 among all the agents in the State of Nebraska and #11 companywide. There are approximately 744 field agents in North America. Noah was 274% of quota and qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) and Supreme Knights Club (SKC). Congratulations Noah!!

**Other Top Honors for Craig Pfeifer and Tim Dager**

Craig Pfeifer, CFP, ChFC, CLU, FSCP of Madison finished #2 among all the agents of the Pfeifer Agency. Craig finished #8 among all the Assistant General agents companywide. There are approximately 86 Assistant General agents in North America. Craig was 266% of quota and qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) and Supreme Knights Club (SKC). Congratulations Craig!!



Tim Dager, FIC, CLTC of Sheldon, IA, finished #3 among all the agents of the Pfeifer Agency and #53 companywide. There are approximately 744 field agents in North America. Tim was 189% of quota, qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) and Supreme Knights Club (SKC). Congratulations Tim!!

Steve Smith is Pfeifer Agency Newest Agent

The Pfeifer Agency would like to introduce our newest field agent Steven C. Smith, II. After extensive training, he will be assisting the Knights 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.

Steve, his wife, Free, and their 2 children reside in Omaha. Steve will be serving members in the following councils in Omaha and surrounding area: #6268 Creighton University, #9918 St Joan of Arc, #10815 Our Lady of Guadalupe, #14077 St Charles Borromeo, #16680 St. John Paul II – UNO, and #999 Missouri Valley, IA.

Steve has great knowledge in customer service and satisfaction. Steve is looking forward to working with the Knights of Columbus members in his area. You can reach Steve at 402-215-6263 or email him at steven.smith@kofc.org.



Neil Pfeifer, General Agent for Northwest Nebraska and West Central Iowa
402.640.1239 ext. 1 | neil.pfeifer@kofc.org | www.neilpfeiferagencykofcins.com

News from the **TONY SWANSON AGENCY****Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Southeast, Central and Western Nebraska****2023 Record Year for Swanson Agency**

The Swanson Agency completed another successful year serving members and their families in Southeastern, Central, and Western Nebraska!

The Agency finished #5 in the Order in production with over \$133 million of life insurance coverage sold in 2023! It was truly a record.

All our agents wish to thank you for your continued trust and confidence in Knights of Columbus Insurance.

**Agent of the Year for 3rd Straight Year**

Congratulations to Brian Almond for his Agent of the Year performance in 2023! This marks his third consecutive Agent of the Year recognition! He protected Catholic families with over \$24.3M of life insurance coverage, as well as placing several long-term care policies and retirement annuities. Brian finished as the #5 field agent in the Order finishing at 399% of quota and attaining Supreme Knight's Club Elite status. He was also the first Nebraska Knights of Columbus agent to qualify for MDRT Court of the Table! What an AMAZING year, Brian!

Agent of the Year Runners-Up

Congratulations to Ian Johnstone! Ian protected Catholic families with over \$25 million of life coverage and finished at 163% of quota, placing him as the #78 field agent in the Order! He also qualified for MDRT and is one of the top investment advisor representatives for Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. Great job, Ian!

David St. Hilaire and Francisco Romero also had a great year. They finished as the #16 and #154 Field Agents in the Order, respectively, with both qualifying for MDRT. David set a new Agency Record in 2023, placing over \$26M in life insurance coverage. Super effort!



Johnstone



St. Hilaire



Romero

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 financial and intangible rewards.

If you are curious, 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!

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
Francisco Romero
Lincoln



December
Ian Johnstone
Lincoln



January
Aaron Schock
Grand Island

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Charity

Unity

Fraternity

Patriotism



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Good News Inside

Collaborative Regional Meetings.....	8
Culture of Life Foundation.....	1
Evangelization: The Cor of Faith.....	5
Eucharistic Revival.....	4
Family of the Year.....	10
Fourth Degree News.....	2
From the State Chaplain.....	2
From the State Deputy.....	3
Important Dates.....	5
Insurance News.....	14-15
Intellectual Disabilities Foundation.....	6
Legislative Corner NCC.....	3
McGivney Foundation Convention Raffle.....	9
McGivney Foundation Cookbook.....	4
Keep Christ in Christmas Winners.....	7
Vocations Lottery.....	4, 11
State Free Throw Championship.....	7
Supreme Delegates Rules and Form.....	13
Supreme Soccer Challenge Winner 2023.....	7
State Convention Agenda and Hotel.....	10
State Convention Awards: Impact.....	8
State Convention Overview.....	1
State Convention Registration Info.....	13