



KNIGHTS COURIER



NE KofC Newsletter
Winter 2025-26
Vol. 54 Issue 1

State Deputy
Michael "Schaef" Schaeffer

Dinner Roast and Mid-Year Meeting Fun

The 2025 Mid-Year Meeting for District Deputies opened Friday evening, Dec. 5th, and continued through Sunday, Dec. 7th, with presentations focused on leadership alignment, membership growth, and fraternal mission.

After the opening prayer, State leaders set expectations for the weekend and the Supreme Representative, General Agent Neil Pfeifer, provided updates from Supreme.

The weekend was dedicated to District Deputy training and covered a myriad of topics. The training had a special emphasis on membership, covering topics such as the e-membership process, overcoming obstacles within councils, using church drives to grow councils, upcoming CUFs and spring regional meetings. Saturday morning began with a faith formation and evangelization presentation addressing the implementation of COR and EFF initiatives that centered on an Hour of Eucharistic Adoration. Other topics that were covered included the Fourth Degree, Fraternal Benefit Events, Safe Environment Compliance, and Star Council and ICC requirements and tracking.



Good Times Ahead 121st State Convention

The 121st Annual Knights of Columbus State Convention is scheduled for April 24-26, 2026, at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney.

The featured speaker for the Saturday Morning Family Program is Fr. Michael Voithofer, a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha. He is the founder and spiritual director of Ablaze House of Prayer – a ministry born from the fire of Jesus’ own words in Luke 12:49: “I came to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already blazing!”



At Ablaze, their mission is to awaken hearts to their new identity in Christ and to ignite believers to live lives of continual worship. They move from the belief that we are a priestly people, called to minister to God and carry His presence into the world. Their vision is to cultivate a culture of 24/7 worship, where the love of Jesus consumes hearts and releases heaven’s glory on earth.

Raised in the small town of Carmichaels, PA, his earliest experiences of God’s presence were formed in the simple and sincere faith of his parents, who prayed daily before a small altar in their bedroom. Their devotion left a deep impact in his soul, stirring within him a lifelong awareness of God’s nearness and goodness.

During a hospitalization for a knee injury in high school, he encountered the tender, motherly love of the Blessed Virgin Mary. “Her presence quieted my heart and opened me to the healing and intimate

How to Cultivate Invitation

Hello, happy new year! May the Lord continue to lead us in His grace and life as we begin 2026! It's been a blessing to walk with you all as State Chaplain over these months, and I look forward to seeing what God has in store.

State Deputy Mike Schaeffer emphasized at our mid-year meeting the need to cultivate a "culture of invitation" for our Knights councils, actively seeking the next generation and inviting them to consider joining the Knights. A common question I've heard from many different people is, "How do we bring in younger men to the Knights?" Considering this question as a "younger man," I'd like to offer some thoughts.

First, men in my generation are seeking authenticity and something beyond what this world can offer us. There has been a resurgence of speakers and authors appealing to young men with truth, faith, and principles for life, demonstrating the innate desire for God. When we lead with authentic spirituality and brotherhood, we address this desire. Our COR initiative is able to address this desire well with its many available resources.

Second, while younger men may seem self-reliant and self-sufficient, they are more certainly hungry for mentorship and friendship. If a young man finds a mentor, he will be eager to go wherever the mentor

points out. Are there men in our parishes who you see laboring to bring their young kids to Mass each week, or men you see come regularly into the chapel or church to pray? Maybe consider how to get to know them - food and drinks are always a good option! - by first listening to their own stories. Then, as you offer your own experience, the men will know that you are truly interested in them, and an invitation to the Knights can naturally follow.

Third, be ready to hand over your roles and responsibilities to the next generation. Are we willing to work ourselves "out of a job" by coaching the younger men in the positions we have? Then the number of men available to serve will increase, leading to growth in our charitable works. Keep in mind as well that with family life and its many activities today, it might be difficult for younger men to make a steady commitment. Let's be okay with receiving whatever assistance younger men can give now and coaching them along the way, knowing that our accompaniment will bring dividends in the years to come.

Vivat Jesus!

Fr. Bill Cremers
State Chaplain, Omaha Archdiocese
bjcremers@archomaha.org



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



Highest and Most Distinguished



Brothers,

As we begin our 126th year of the Fourth Degree, let us move forward with unity, purpose, and renewed dedication. Together, we can make this year one of the most meaningful and impactful in the history of our Order here in Nebraska.

The Fourth Degree represents the highest and most distinguished level of our Brotherhood. It is the place where members who wish to more deeply live out their patriotism step forward in service to both Church and country. Those who attain this degree earn the honored title of Sir Knight, a title that reflects commitment, integrity, and devotion to the principles we uphold.

Sir Knights have the privilege of participating in assemblies, civic programs, color/honor guards, and events bringing Catholic men and their families together in the Order and then the Fourth Degree.

Through these efforts, we promote Catholic citizenship and exemplify patriotism at its finest.

Brothers who are interested in learning more about joining the Fourth Degree are encouraged to contact their local council, which will help connect them with a Fourth Degree member.

May this year inspire us to serve, lead faithfully, and continue the proud legacy entrusted to us - ultimately serving our God, our families, and our country.

God Bless,

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



A Culture of Invitation

Dear Brother Knights and Families,

As Knights of Columbus, our strength has always flowed from fraternity grounded in faith, charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Today, I call on every Knight to intentionally foster a Culture of Invitation, one that actively welcomes Catholic men and their families into our Councils and into deeper discipleship with Jesus. Growth does not happen by accident. It happens when a brother personally invites another man to stand with us in service to Christ and His Church. When we open our doors and share the mission of the Knights with conviction and joy, we ensure that our Councils remain vibrant, relevant, and prepared to meet the needs of our priests, parishes and communities for generations to come.

A **Culture of Invitation** also expands our capacity to serve. As our membership grows, so does our ability to conduct meaningful charitable works, support families in need, and be a visible witness of Christ's love in action. During our October Coats for Kids Drive, through your generous donations combined with the State and the Culture of Life Foundation, we were able to distribute 1,512 coats to children and young adults across each of Nebraska's 3 dioceses. Just as importantly, our commitment to inviting men into fraternity must extend to inviting young men to listen for God's call. By strengthening our support for seminarians and encouraging vocations to both priesthood and religious life, we invest in the future of the Church itself. Let us be intentional in our invitations, bold in our faith, and

generous in our service—knowing that through our collective efforts, God will continue to do many great things through the Knights of Columbus.

As we look forward to the last half of our fraternal year and prepare for Lent, we need to approach the Easter season as both a spiritual renewal and a call to service through prayer, charity, and fraternity in preparation for the holiest days of the Catholic year. I ask Councils to deepen their Lenten commitments through acts of mercy by supporting parish programs and offering assistance to families in need, while also encouraging members to strengthen their own faith through confession, reflection, and participation in parish liturgies. This blend of personal devotion and community outreach truly reflects who we are as Knights. Our mission is to live out our Catholic faith in tangible ways, making Easter not just a celebration of Christ's resurrection but a moment to embody generosity for others.

Lastly, please join us for our 121st State Convention the weekend of 24-26 April in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center. Shelly and I wish you and your family a safe and blessed Easter Season. Remember to "Evangelize Your Family and Community." Vivat Jesus!

Mike "Schaefer" Schaeffer
State Deputy
schaefer5252@gmail.com



Legislative Corner - Get in the Game, Nebraskans!

Go back in time with me for a minute. It's 2024. The election is around the corner. Nebraska is facing dueling abortion-related ballot initiatives. One is radically pro-abortion. The other protects moms and babies. On the television pops up an incredible pro-life commercial featuring All-Americans Rebekah Allick of the Huskers volleyball team and Jordy (Bahl) Frahm of the Huskers softball team, alongside several other softball players. What did you feel when you heard and saw that message?

I remember being deeply moved by their message and courage. I still get goosebumps re-watching that game-changing commercial. And I can still hear echoes of my children shouting those powerful words spoken by Huskers all-stars: "Get in the game!"

Those words were a clear call to political action for all Nebraskans: defend the human dignity of the unborn, protect the health and safety of pregnant mothers.

They were a call to each one of us then, and they remain a clear call to us now.

Next month on Wednesday, March 4, the Nebraska

Catholic Conference will host its annual legislative advocacy day, Catholics at the Capitol. Catholics will descend upon Lincoln to learn about important legislative bills facing our state's Unicameral and how we can faithfully advocate for the causes of life, the poor, religious liberty, and other critical issues.

Will you get in the game and join us at Catholics at the Capitol? Legislation doesn't pass on its own. It requires people like you and me stepping up to the plate and doing our part.

We need faithful Catholic men to step up. As worthy Knights, we are called to live out patriotism, and advocacy is a natural way to live out this core principle.

Don't hesitate, get in the game, register now at www.NEcatholic.org or call our office at 402.477.7517. God bless!

Tom Venzor
Executive Director
Nebraska Catholic Conference



Pilgrim Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Continues to Move Across Nebraska

Below is the upcoming schedule for the Pilgrim Icon as it travels through our Central and Eastern routes. Please note that a third Icon is traveling separately through Western Nebraska, coordinated by PSD Bob Wolf.

The Pilgrim Icon program seeks to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the 1767 image painted by Pompeo Batoni. Currently, over 300 of these Icons are circulating worldwide; Nebraska is honored to host three of them through 2027.



Coordination and Logistics

To ensure a meaningful experience for all Brother Knights and parishioners, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- **Scheduling:** The dates listed (Monday–Sunday) are designed to ensure the Icon is present for Sunday Mass. However, councils have the discretion to coordinate the exact hand-off time, provided it does not adversely affect the neighboring council’s schedule.
- **Delivery:** Please proactively contact the council scheduled immediately before or after yours to arrange transportation and delivery.
- **Programming:** A Supreme Program Guide will travel with each Icon. While this provides a framework, councils are encouraged to exercise their own discretion in planning specific devotions or events.

We encourage every council to take this opportunity to promote and display this image, fostering a deeper devotion to the Sacred Heart within our communities. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me. Additional information on the Icon program can be found at:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/faith/pilgrim-icon.html>

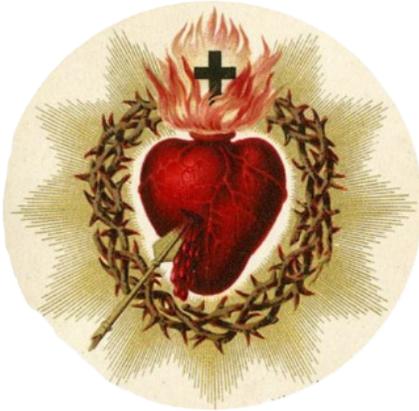
Dates	Location 1	Location 2	Dates	Location 1	Location 2
Feb 2- 8	Fullerton 7954 (20)	Auburn 7021 (7)	Apr 20-26	Kearney (Convention)	Omaha 10160 (4)
Feb 9-15	Central City 10386 (11)	Dawson 11674 (7)	Apr 27-May 3	Elm Creek 12687 (24)	Omaha 7740 (4)
Feb 16-22	Osceola 5383 (36)	Falls City 1336 (7)	May 4-10	Lexington 2040 (24)	Omaha 9518 (6)
Feb 23-Mar 1	York 1708 (12)	Steinauer 10000 (7)	May 11-17	Cozad 5315 (28)	Papillion 6429 (35)
Mar 2-8	Aurora 8010 (11)	Tecumseh 6750 (8)	May 18-24	North Platte 1211 (28)	Ralston 9518 (6)
Mar 9-15	Grand Island 11363 (22)	Syracuse 7614 (40)	May 25-31	North Platte 10506 (28)	MOQ 11700 (2)
Mar 16-22	Grand Island 9562 (22)	Ashland 12557 (40)	Jun 1-7	Ogallala 4979 (28)	Wenc 10909 (2)
Mar 23-29	Doniphan 11824 (39)	Springfield 10894 (4)	Jun 8-14	Grant 7778 (30)	St Roberts 10108 (2)
Mar 30-Apr 5	HOLY WEEK	HOLY WEEK	Jun 15-21	Imperial 7081 (30)	CTK 5045 (2)
Apr 6-12	Wood River 2351 (24)	Gretna 10047 (4)	Jun 22-28	Benkelman 10163 (30)	SMM 11800 (32)
Apr 13-19	Kearney 10923 (24)	Gretna 14077 (6)	Jun 29-Jul 5	McCook 1126 (30)	Cathedral 652 (32)



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



Evangelizing - Why It Is Important



When our Lord Jesus came to earth to walk among us, He did not do it with trumpets, e a r t h q u a k e s , lightning and thunder, but with quiet, peaceful resolve to do the will of His Father. For thirty years He was quietly

Not everyone is going to be a great speaker. Not everyone is going to be comfortable standing outside of Mass and asking Catholic families to join the Knights. Not everyone is going to be a Grand Knight or council officer. But everyone can live a life that exemplifies our faith. Living your life according to the Commandments and doing your best to walk in the footsteps of Christ is witness to God's presence in your life and evangelization.

This witness, this daily walk with God is what will bring men to our faith and to our Order. COR is an opportunity to share this walk with men in your parish and to provide them with an opportunity to build friendships and to find a safe place to grow their faith and share their concerns. None of us is designed to walk alone. We are built to walk together. We need others in our lives.

fulfilling the commandments of loving God with all His heart, all His mind, and all His soul. He was honoring/obeying His father and mother. He was learning what it meant to be a faithful Jewish man.

As He grew older, He knew that there was more that He must do. He needed to step outside His comfort zone. Three times, the Epiphany, His baptism, and the wedding feast at Cana, Christ presented Himself to the world. He knew that He must be the Light of the World, to bring the message of love, hope and peace to all mankind and to open the doors of paradise to all.

Each of us has a comfort zone, and for many, stepping outside of that comfort zone is daunting. Change is hard. Will I fail? What if I don't know the answer to a question? What if people say no or reject me? All of these are legitimate concerns. But each of us has a responsibility as a Catholic to be the Light of Christ.

We, as Knights of Columbus, have a unique opportunity to share our faith with others and to lead others to a relationship with Christ. Our Lord did not go after the learned and the dynamic. He sought those with genuine love in their hearts to spread His Light and to invite others to follow Him. Christ has called each of us in this same way. Answer Him by outwardly living your Catholic faith and by offering COR to your fellow Catholic/Christian men to allow them to build friendship and to follow Christ.

Vivat Jesus!

Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM
Evangelization and Faith Formation Director
rwlwerykc@gmail.com



Join the Father McGivney Guild

Born Aug. 12, 1852
Died Aug. 14, 1890
Feast Day Aug. 13th



The Guild promotes the cause for sainthood of Father McGivney who founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT. He was a man of the people. He was zealous of the people's welfare, and all the kindness of his priestly soul asserted itself more strongly in his unceasing efforts for the betterment of their condition ...Oh, Reverend Founder. . .that act alone which gave life to the Knights of Columbus has surely secured for thee everlasting joy and eternal peace.

The cause for his canonization was opened in December 1997. He was beautified on October 31, 2020, with the first miracle attributed to him. A second approved miracle is needed for him to be canonized as a saint of the Catholic Church.

Let us pray. Report favors to the Guild Director.

Please complete your contact information to become a member of the Fr Michael McGivney Guild.

Title _____ First Name _____ Last name _____
 Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____
 Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

To join the guild on-line go to: www.FatherMcGivney.org

K of C Address: Father McGivney Guild, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

Questions?

Ask Rod Hofschulte
402-510-7250 or
rhofschult@msn.com

Invitation May Need Gentle Persistence

I am writing this article as we begin our Regional Meeting Training circuit, which will conclude by February 22, 2026. Our mission is: Embrace the Culture of Invitation, championed by our Supreme Knight. I encourage every member of every council to be willing to invite men to a conversation about Jesus, about their faith and about the Knights of Columbus.

Two-thousand years ago, Jesus invited 12 men to join, and follow, him. Those 12 men invited multitudes more to follow Jesus. More

than 140 years ago, Blessed Michael McGivney invited 80 men to join him on a mission. This mission, along with the Church and Catholic faith, grows and thrives today because of the past and present willingness to invite men to join something greater than themselves.

I speculate the conversations and invitations by the apostles, Blessed McGivney and our past brothers were awkward and challenging. They persisted because their conviction was strong and their belief in the real



message of a loving God, who wants to be with us now and forever. His Son came as our example of how to live our lives. The Knights of Columbus can point men and their families to Jesus Christ.

We live in a busy society with opportunities and distractions for all. The level of involvement we choose likely came from a conversation, a question and ultimately an invitation. We, too, must be willing to 'get inline' with our invitation of a conversation about Jesus, our faith and the

Knights of Columbus. I invite you to step into that awkward and unfamiliar territory of a conversation with Catholic men and share the benefits and opportunities of the Knights of Columbus.

Rob Ostdiek
Membership Director
rob.ostdiek1989@gmail.com



Denver Location for Supreme Convention Great Opportunity for NE Knights

The 2026 Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention is August 4 - 6, 2026, in Denver, Colorado. That close proximity means it will be a great opportunity for Nebraska Knights to attend, and for most of us it will be a location we can drive to.

The Nebraska Jurisdiction is allotted ten total delegates to the Supreme Convention. Four of those will be State Officers. That means there is an opportunity for six more Nebraska Knights to be delegates.

Plus, any Knight can attend on his own.

I had the opportunity to attend the 125th Supreme Convention in Nashville in 2007 as a delegate.

The Supreme Convention is a very rewarding and memorable experience. I hope you all will consider applying to attend the Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in Denver this August.

Nomination forms will be out soon and need to be

turned in before the State Convention, April 24 - 26, 2026. If there are more than six Knights applying for Supreme Convention, elections will be held at the State Convention.

On another topic, State Per-Capita statements are sent out on July 1st and January 1st. By now, you know those are being sent out via email.

The January 1, 2026, payments are coming in very well, so that tells me that the email process is working.

If you are having trouble with the email process, please contact myself or Executive Secretary Mike Vaughn for assistance.

Vivat Jesus,
Don Hypse
State Secretary
402-369-0814
hypse2729@gmail.com



Safe Environment Training

**“Protecting our children is the sacred duty of every Knight”
Supreme Knight Patrick Kelley**

Because of our shared responsibility to the protection of children and vulnerable persons, Knights of Columbus has developed a Safe Environment Program. For the Knights, it means mandatory training for the Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director and the Community Director. These positions are so critical that Supreme tracks them. As a matter of fact, the Council cannot receive “Star Council” if its four members are not trained.

Review the Council Guide at this link: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/safe-environment-program/state-leader-compliance-guide.pdf>

This guide will show you how to submit the form 185 and 365 online. Remember to have the forms completed every year by June 30th. Additionally, the Family and Community Directors must submit a background check. You have 30 days to complete the training. If not completed, you will be removed from your position. If a position changes during the year, simply update the report and the new person will get the training information.

How does it start? The Office of Youth Protection will send the member an email with a link, instructions and a password. Review the email, click the link and follow the instructions. Process takes less than an hour.

How to make sure you get the email to begin training:

- Ensure your Knights of Columbus email is up to date and the one you want to receive the email instructions. (incorrect emails are the biggest problem).
- Do not use emails that are not personal to you (i.e. gkcouncilXYZ@gmail.com **(bad)** vs mikevaughnkofc@gmail.com **(good)**.
- Do not ignore the email as it should be expected.
- Check your junk mail. Emails from KofC often go there.
- If you have not heard from Supreme, be proactive and contact the helpdesk listed below.

Once complete, download your certificate. Keep in your records in case of questions.

If you just seem to have problems, contact Member Helpline: 203-800-4940 or YOUTHLEADER@KOF.C.ORG. They genuinely want to help.

Michael Vaughn
Executive Secretary
kofcmvaughn@gmail.com



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're on Facebook @NebraskaKofC, Instagram @kofc_nebraska, and X @kofc_nebraska. If you haven't followed us yet, Do Not Be Afraid. The pictures can be sent to Mark Botytsky, Jr.: nekofcsocialmedia@gmail.com.



McGivney Foundation Statewide Raffle



First, we want to wish all of you a happy 2026 and pray this year will be blessed in all you do.

Thank you to those who participated in our raffle fundraising effort in the latter half of 2025. We raised \$3,260 which netted \$1,533 for the foundation. Winners were drawn at the Mid-Year Meeting. The grand prize winner of \$1,000 was Council 2716 of Schuyler. The 2nd prize winner of \$500 was Mitch O'Neill, and 3rd prize winner \$200 was Andrew Ost diek. We are planning to have a similar raffle at the 121st State Convention.

I would encourage all Councils and Assemblies to consider donating to the McGivney Foundation this year. Thank you to the ten Councils that provided continued support in 2025. This support allows

the Foundation the opportunity to assist families or organizations in Nebraska who are in significant need. Two families were given \$2,500 each to help offset expenses incurred from hardships.

We are in the process of transitioning our investments to the Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors in New Haven, CT, from The Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska. We are excited about this new opportunity and the opportunity for the funds to grow.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention in April.

Don Ferneding 402-943-6920 | don.ferneding@gmail.com
Dan Wells 402-880-2586 | danielwells5@gmail.com

Spread God's Love through ICC Forms

I would like to use this space to talk about Love. As we know from scripture, "God is Love" 1-Jn 4:8. So, when God became man in the incarnation of Jesus Christ, God was made visible to humanity. And he continues to remain visible to us sacramentally through the Eucharist at every Mass.

Another way to make God and Love visible is through our charitable work. The Latin word for "love" is "caritas," which is also the root of our English word "charity." So, when we engage in charitable work, we are truly engaging in works of Love: loving our neighbors and making God visible to the poor, disabled, or disadvantaged in our world.

A key aspect of love is the desire to share this with anyone and everyone. We know that when the apostle Andrew got to know Jesus, he went to find his brother, Peter, and told him who he had met. After Pentecost, the apostles spread the message to everyone that they encountered, eventually spreading the love of Jesus to the entire world, just as Jesus had commanded them at his ascension.

Even in your life, most of us, if you remember when you met your wife, you couldn't wait to tell everyone that you knew about the amazing person that you

met, and how your life has been filled with God's love.

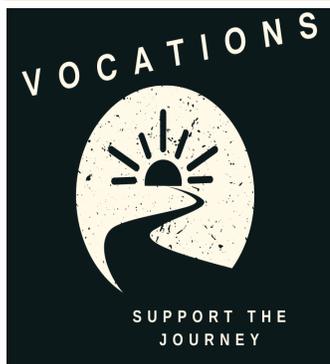
So, I would like to encourage every council to do what comes naturally when we engage in works of love. Tell everyone and anyone about the love that you are showing to your corner of the world – report the charitable works that you are accomplishing. Share the joy and love that you show when you conduct your programs by reporting them to Supreme on Form 10784 and to the State through the use of ICC Forms. Don't hide the love that you are showing to your families, parishes and communities; let it be known.

Supreme's Form 10784 can be used by any member of your council to report activities to Supreme. Then, the Brother Knight that submits that form will receive a PDF copy of that 10784 in an email to them. If they fill out the required section of a corresponding ICC form and attach that PDF of the 10784 to it, they will have shared your great works to every level of our order. What greater way to show the love that you have, than to share your works of love with the entire world?

Kevin Ostdeik
Program Director
kevinostdiekkofc@gmail.com



Simple Ways to Support Vocations Discernment



Ongoing vocations are vital to the Church's well-being. The State Officers have moved our work with the Newman Houses and Centers across Nebraska to the State Vocations program. We recognize the Newman Centers are a great resource to help young men and women discern a path to the Priesthood and Holy Life. As it has been in the past, the RSVP Program will be the Vocations featured program. If you are in an area that has a Newman Center, please let me know, and I will contact you about how to help them.

Another way you can support vocations is to host a Vocations event. This typically is when a council hosts a St. Andrew's dinner for those men or women considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. If your Council is interested in doing a Vocations event, please contact me.

God Bless, Bob Wolf, IPSD, Vocations Director, bbwolf1995@gmail.com



Culture of Life Foundation 2nd Pro Life Gala

Save the Date for the 2nd Pro Life Gala: Please mark your calendars for the 2nd Nebraska Knights of Columbus Gala, to be held on October 9th at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Omaha.

This year's gala promises to be another wonderful evening of fellowship, celebration, and support for the mission of the Knights of Columbus in Nebraska. More details regarding the program, guest speakers, and ticket information will be shared in the coming weeks.

We are seeking Knights and volunteers interested in serving on the Gala Planning Committee. It is a great

opportunity to help shape a meaningful event, support our charitable mission, and work alongside fellow Knights in service and fraternity. If you have experience – or simply a desire to help – we would love to hear from you.

If you are interested in helping or want more information about the gala, please contact Mike Conrad, 402-779-9913 or mconrad@abbnebraska.com.

We look forward to celebrating together this October and continuing our shared commitment to faith, charity, and fraternity.



2025 Coats for Kids Drive Wrap Up

On October 18th, we successfully hosted our three annual Coats for Kids distribution events across Nebraska in Fremont, Beatrice, and Scottsbluff. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our members, we distributed a total of 1,512 coats to children in need. Any remaining inventory was donated to local schools and community organizations to ensure every coat found a home.

A Special Thank You

This effort would not have been possible without the dedicated hospitality and coordination of our host councils and all of the volunteers who assisted. We extend our sincere gratitude to:

- Phil Sheridan Council 1497 (Fremont)
- Beatrice Council 1723 (Beatrice)
- Fr. Timothy P. Molony Council 2681 (Scottsbluff)

We also want to thank every council that contributed funds. Your financial support was the engine that allowed us to purchase these coats and fulfill our mission.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to next year, we are committed to reaching even more families. If you are aware of an area of need or a potential future distribution location, please reach out to me directly.

Thank you for helping us keep our communities warm.

Michael Howick
Community Director
michael.howick@gmail.com
402-714-3180.



Dinner Roast and Mid-Year Meeting Fun Continued from page 1.

The weekend balanced training and formation opportunities with building fraternity with the State Officers, Directors and District Deputies. Social opportunities included a Ladies Program, shared meals and hospitality, and a Saturday evening Testimonial Dinner that honored Immediate Past State Deputy and First Lady, Bob and Chris Wolf.



Deputy Wolf and his wife Chris. The Testimonial Dinner was a great way to recognize them and honor all their achievements.



During the Testimonial Dinner, members across Nebraska had the opportunity to thank Bob and Chris for their service, not only during the last two years as State Deputy, but for their dedication throughout their years in the Knights of Columbus. Stories were shared, laughs were had, and tears were shed. It was a great experience for everyone in attendance. We are truly blessed to have had the leadership of IP State



144TH SUPREME CONVENTION AND DELEGATE DETAILS

Don Hypse, State Secretary | 402-369-0814 cell | hypse2729@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you in Kearney for our 121st State Convention April 24-26, 2026.

Here are two items your Council needs to do to fully participate in our Annual State Convention:

First, Pay Council Per Capita by April 21, 2026 (Both Supreme and State Per Capita Due March 1, 2026)

If your Council has not paid your 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 all State Council matters. Please ensure your Council is in good standing. If you are unsure of your Council's Per Capita status, please contact me at 402-369-0814.

Next Electronically Submit Council Delegate Credentials by April 21, 2026

Your Council must submit their delegate credentials on-line via a link at www.nebraskakofc.org by April 21, 2026. Meeting the April 21st deadline gives me time to process the forms. On this form, you will list your delegates and their alternates, which allows them to be seated and grants them voting privileges on all matters that come before the membership.

Your Financial Secretary will receive the on-line delegate credential link from State Executive Secretary Mike Vaughn in mid-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 on 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.

144th Supreme Convention August 4-6, 2026

Every 3rd Degree member of the Nebraska Knights of Columbus is eligible to represent the State Council as a delegate to the 144th Supreme Convention in Denver, CO, August 4-6, 2026. If you are interested in running for a Supreme delegate, contact your financial secretary. Nominations are closed April 25th at the conclusion of the Saturday business meeting.

Important Supreme Delegate Information

- 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 in good standing, 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 on Wednesday evening. The State Council will pay for your (and your spouse's) meal. All Nebraska Bishops at the Supreme Convention also attend this dinner.

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 _____

Have You Attended a Supreme Yes _____ No _____ If Yes, what year? _____

Nominations must be submitted electronically by April 21st or hand delivered April 25th by the close of the business meeting.



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

121ST ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

APRIL 24-26, 2026

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 121st 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 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 one of the chairs, 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 you 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 121ST STATE CONVENTION PLANNED

Kevin Ostdiek, State Program Director | 402.613-1381 cell | kevinostdiekkofc@gmail.com

The 121st Annual State Convention will soon be upon us. This year, we will be meeting in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center from April 24 - 26, 2026. We are planning a great weekend for our Brother Knights and their families.

As in previous years, we will hold our Annual State Awards Banquet Friday evening, recognizing all the outstanding work accomplished across Nebraska by our Councils, Assemblies, Brother Knights, and Chaplains. We will also recognize all the Councils achieving the ICC Award.

On Saturday, we will spend time with our Lord in a Holy Hour followed by the Family Program, which will be open to all attendees and their families. Following the family program, we will take time to recognize the outstanding work of families across the state with the Family of the Year Luncheon.

The Business Meeting will begin on Saturday, following the luncheon and will conclude on Sunday morning. To ensure the Business Meeting's ontime start, make sure your Council registers your delegates.

Saturday evening will conclude with the State

Banquet, including the Grand March, Lottery Drawing, and notes from our guest from the Supreme Council.

The Annual State Convention is a wonderful time for Brother Knights and their families to connect, or reconnect with other Nebraska Knights and their families. Each council should begin selecting their two delegates for the Business Meeting, as well as alternate delegates. Any Third Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus is eligible to serve as a delegate.

This meeting is also open to any other Brother Knight, and their families, interested in attending. You do not have to be serving as a delegate to be part of the meetings and fun. There will be plenty of activities throughout the weekend for everyone to enjoy.

If you have any questions about the Annual State Convention, please feel free to contact any State Officer, the State Program Director, the State Membership Director or the State COR Director. Additional details and updates about the Annual State Convention will be posted on the State website.

We look forward to seeing you at the 121st Annual State Convention in Kearney!

LOTTERY FOR VOCATIONS

Spending \$10 Could Win \$100, \$250, \$500, \$750, \$1,000 or \$2,500

Mitchell Lowery | 402-540-1021 | mwlowserykc@gmail.com

With the State Convention fast approaching, State Lottery tickets are in the mail to all the Knights in Nebraska. As in the past, tickets for the State Lottery will be \$10 each, and every Knight in the State will receive three (3) tickets.

All tickets need to be received back to me by Monday April 13, 2026, to be eligible for the drawing. Better to get the tickets in the mail sooner rather than later. The drawing will be held at the Saturday evening banquet at the State Convention on April 25, 2026.

The money raised through the lottery supports and promotes vocations in Nebraska. We currently have 58 seminarians in Nebraska; each one receives a combination Christmas and Easter cash gift from the Knights to help financially and to say "thank you" for discerning the vocation. We also support requests from the three dioceses, as well as our parishes and councils,

on projects which foster vocations to religious life.

To ensure that tickets are received and accounted for properly, it is important to mail the tickets **to me**. Do not send tickets to the other State Officers or Past State Deputies. The more hands that they pass through, the more likely it is for the tickets to get lost.

Mail all your ticket stubs and funds (or any unused tickets) to: Nebraska State Warden, Mitchell Lowery, 5010 S 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68516.

If you have any questions regarding the State Lottery, or if you need more tickets, please reach out to me by phone or email.



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 raffle during the State Convention. The proceeds benefit those in need through the McGivney Foundation's assistance to applicants.

The silent auction goes to highest bidder. Raffle tickets will be \$20 per book of 26 tickets.

Councils are asked to support through basket or item donations with notice before April 1st.

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

Convention Overview Continued from page 1.

nearness of the Holy Spirit. In that moment, I knew with certainty: God is real, and He is near," he shares in his website bio.

Fr. Michael says he attended Penn State University to study Architectural Engineering. But while there, the Holy Spirit was rebuilding his heart and intensifying a call to the priesthood. He traveled to Rome where he studied theology for two years as a seminarian for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He later joined the Archdiocese of Omaha, where he completed his seminary formation and was ordained a priest on June 5, 2010.

Since then, he has lived with a deep passion to see the Church awakened to her radiant identity in Christ. Through Ablaze House of Prayer, he continues to pursue the vision of unceasing worship, unity in the

Body of Christ, and the release of God's Kingdom through surrendered lives. He believes every believer is called to be a resting place for God's presence and a living altar of worship.

He will be sharing how Ablaze Ministry seeks to see sons and daughters rise into their priestly calling – to love Jesus extravagantly, minister to Him faithfully, and to bring the fire Jesus came to cast on the earth to blaze ever more brightly through us. Fr. Michael's ministry dovetails perfectly with State Deputy Schaeffer's motto to "Evangelize Our Family and Community." Come listen to this dynamic speaker and you'll leave with your heart "Ablaze."

SATURDAY AFTERNOON LADIES PROGRAM

Following the Family of the Year Luncheon, the Ladies Program will feature Amy Dickas, Retreat
Continued on page 15.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Younes Convention Center
416 Talmadge Rd., Kearney, NE

Make your own
lodging reservations
for April 24-26, 2026

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 2026 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
121st Annual State Convention
Younes Conference Center, Kearney
April 24, 25 and 26, 2026

Friday, April 24, 2026

7:30-8:15am	Mass
9:00am-3:00pm	State Officers Meeting
3:15-3:30pm	Directors Meeting
3:30-4:45pm	Registration
3:30-4:30pm	Fourth Degree Meeting
4:00-5:00pm	Chaplains Meeting
4:30-5:00pm	District Deputy Meeting
5:00-6:30pm	Agency/State Social
6:30-9:30pm	Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:00-8:30am	Wardens' Meeting
8:00-8:30am	Mileage and Per Diem Meeting
8:00-9:00am	Resolutions Committee Meeting
8:00-9:30am	Financial Secretaries Meeting
8:00-9:30am	Past State Deputies / Former State Chaplains Breakfast
8:30-11:30am	Registration
8:45-9:45am	Adoration Holy Hour
10:00-11:30am	Family Program – Open to All!
12:00-1:00pm	Family Luncheon and Family of the Year Presentation
1:30-3:00pm	Ladies Program
1:30-4:00pm	Business Meeting
1:30-4:00pm	Agency Meeting
5:00-6:15pm	Mass
6:15-7:00pm	Social Hour
7:00-10:00pm	State Banquet
10:00-11:30pm	Hospitality Room

Sunday, April 26, 2026

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

Lottery Tickets

Be sure to sell your Lottery Tickets.

More Tickets = Better Odds of Winning!

Culture of Life Foundation

Dear Brothers of the Nebraska Knights of Columbus,
Thank you for your prayers for Mary and for me. We are deeply grateful for your spiritual support and for the brotherhood you show through prayer, faith, and charity.

Knowing that we were being lifted up in prayer by the Knights brought us great comfort, strength, and peace during this time. Your willingness to place our intentions before God is a powerful reminder of what it means to live out our faith as a community.

Please know that your kindness and prayers will not be forgotten. We are truly blessed by your support, and we keep all of you and your families in our prayers as well.

May God bless each of you for your generosity of heart and faithfulness to His call.

Save the Date for the 2nd Pro Life Gala: Please mark your calendars for the 2nd Nebraska Knights of Columbus Gala, to be held on October 9th at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Omaha.

We are currently seeking Knights and volunteers who are interested in serving on the Gala Planning Committee. This is a great opportunity to help shape a meaningful statewide event, support our charitable mission, and work alongside fellow Knights in service and fraternity. Contact us for more information.

Standing for Life: A Call to Faithful Witness in Nebraska: The Knights of Columbus have always stood at the crossroads of faith and action. From our founding, we have pledged ourselves to the defense of the vulnerable, the promotion of family life, and the unwavering dignity of every human person. Today, no cause calls us more urgently to that mission than the defense of human life, especially the lives of the unborn.

The Catholic Church teaches clearly and consistently that all human life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death. This belief is not rooted in politics, but in truth: every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. As Knights, we are called not only to believe this truth, but to live it courageously and compassionately in our communities across Nebraska.

In recent years, the pro-life cause has faced both new challenges and new opportunities. Legal decisions and cultural pressures may shift, but our moral responsibility remains unchanged. The right to life is the most fundamental of all human rights. Without it, no other rights can stand. When the unborn are denied protection, our society risks losing its moral foundation.

Yet the pro-life movement is not—and must never be—about condemnation or judgment. At its heart, it is about love. It is about walking with mothers and

fathers facing unplanned or difficult pregnancies. It is about supporting families who struggle, children who need protection, and women who deserve compassion, not coercion. The Knights of Columbus have long understood this, which is why our pro-life work extends far beyond words.

Across Nebraska, Knights are putting faith into action: supporting pregnancy resource centers, organizing baby-item drives, praying outside abortion facilities, and participating in marches and vigils that witness to the value of life. Programs like ultrasound initiatives, Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP), and partnerships with local Catholic Charities demonstrate that we are committed to both mother and child—before and after birth.

Equally important is our commitment to prayer. The pro-life cause is a spiritual battle as much as a cultural one. Through Eucharistic adoration, Rosaries for Life, and Mass intentions for the unborn, Knights place this mission where it belongs—at the feet of Christ. Prayer softens hearts, heals wounds, and reminds us that God is the author of life.

As Catholic men, husbands, and fathers, we also have a special responsibility to lead. In a culture that often encourages silence or indifference, Knights are called to speak with clarity and charity. We must be willing to defend life in conversations with our families, in our parishes, and in the public square—always with respect, humility, and love.

The pro-life mission is not a single event or campaign; it is a way of life. It challenges us to examine how we treat the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and the forgotten. When we defend the unborn, we affirm the value of every person, regardless of age, ability, or circumstance.

Now is the time for the Knights of Columbus in Nebraska to renew our commitment to this essential cause. Let us continue to be known as men who protect life, support families, and serve with compassion. Let us be witnesses to hope in a world that often forgets the value of the smallest and weakest among us.

May we never grow weary in this work. With faith as our foundation and charity as our guide, we can help build a culture of life—one heart, one family, and one community at a time. God bless,

Mike and Mary Conrad
COL Foundation Directors
mgconrad64@gmail.com



2026 ProLife Gala Speaker

"Have you had enough?" It was just four words, but it was a turning point question in Kelly Lester's life.



For 15 years, Kelly had been running from the Lord, desperate to fill the hurting places in her heart with men, drugs, and every other kind of coping mechanism. But after nearly losing her life in a violent domestic fight, Kelly came to a place of surrender to the question God was asking of her.

But God, do you know the things I've done?

"Yes, Kelly, but if you follow me, I will make beauty from ashes."

Kelly's story is one that covers so many difficult and painful topics in our world today. Child molestation, raped as a teen, several abortions, drug dealing, eating disorders, homosexuality, pornography, prostitution, and even working in the clinic where she had her first abortion. But beauty triumphs from the ashes, and Kelly is a testament to how God can clean all the dirty parts of a painful life story and make it brand new.

Now a wife and mother of six children, Kelly loves to share her story to give hope to the most desperate situations proving that God can save anybody. Her story has been featured on the 700 Club for CBN. She is a regular contributor to OAN, Newsmax and Fox News. She currently works in Outreach and Government Engagement for And Then There Were None and Pro-Love Ministries, and is the Director of Outreach for Maps Global.

Kelly will share her story at the 2nd Nebraska ProLife Gala, Oct. 9, 2026, at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Omaha.

For more information see page 8 and 14, or contact Mike Conrad at 402-779-9913 or mgconrad64@gmail.com.

2026 State Free Throw Contest



Councils holding local contests have likely scheduled their competitions in the months of January-February 2026. Regional Competition (If necessary) should be scheduled for March with the State Competition currently scheduled for Saturday April 11th.

State Competition will be held at Grand Island Central Catholic schools in Grand Island.



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Councils participating the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest have submitted their entries, which were due by

December 31, 2025, to District Deputies.

District Deputies have completed their judging and submitted their winning entries to their Regional Growth Director, which were due to be in their possession by January 15, 2026.

Finally, entries were to be submitted to the State Youth Program Chairman by January 31, 2026.

Winning entries will be submitted to Supreme by February 28th and will be seen in a future Courier article.

Gary Groteluschen
State Youth Chairman
garykofc12086@gmail.com



Convention Overview Continued from page 12.

Operations Manager, and Kara Wesely, Director of Development, from The Cloisters on the Platte.

At The Cloisters on the Platte, the mission is to provide a spiritual space of silence and prayer where one can strengthen their relationship with God, deepen discernment, and gain perspective through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

But, what does that look like? How is it changing lives? Join Amy and Kara to learn how one weekend of Ignatian Spirituality is making an enormous impact on the lives of people throughout the United

States. No reservation needed.

SUNDAY LADIES BREAKFAST

Any lady attending the State Convention is invited to the Sunday Breakfast that begins at 9 a.m. This delicious breakfast also holds the promise of reconnecting with old friends from across Nebraska and making new friends. This is the perfect backdrop for catching up, enjoying shared interests and sharing laughter. Reservations are necessary and can be made on the Convention registration form.

Intellectual Disabilities Foundation Wrap Up "Helping People with Special Needs"

2025 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities

With 2026 starting off strong for our Councils across the state, it is time to take a minute to say a huge "THANK YOU" to all the Knights and Councils in our great state. Due to your tremendous generosity and hard work for the 2025 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, nearly \$200,000 was raised and will be distributed to over 25 different organizations in the local communities across our great state.

This is a significant number, and these dollars do a tremendous amount of great work for the organizations who receive them. If your council has yet to report on your Campaign funds from the 2025 drive, please submit those at your earliest convenience so we can recognize the great work of all our councils.

Project Lori

Your generosity did not stop at the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities once again this year. This year \$9,000 was collected for Project Lori. All wish list items for our partner organizations were able to be fulfilled.

Gifts were delivered to Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy in Gering, Mosaic in Central Nebraska, Mosaic in Southeast Nebraska, Madonna Ability Alliance in Omaha and Villa Marie School in Lincoln.

The smiles and joy that these gifts brought to the individuals served as well as the gratitude of the staff of these facilities is another tremendous

testament to how our Knights continue "Helping People with Special Needs."

Special Olympics of Nebraska

The Intellectual Disabilities Foundation and State Family were also privileged to once again support Special Olympics of Nebraska through the annual Polar Plunge. This year the team took the Plunge in Omaha on February 14th where State Officers helped raise over \$3,000 for Special Olympics for the privilege of taking a dip in a frozen lake.

A Look Ahead at 2026

Please mark your calendars now for the 2026 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities. This year's Campaign week will be October 11-17. As always, if this week does not work for your Council, please feel free to find dates that fit your schedule.

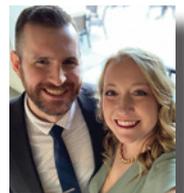
The hard work of our Councils has been felt by many great organizations and amazing individuals across our State through your contributions and support of the Intellectual Disabilities Foundation.

Please continue to look for ways to serve these individuals and organizations in your communities and know that your support is appreciated more than can be communicated.

The Knights of Columbus in Nebraska are truly "Helping People with Special Needs" and this cannot be done without your help.

God Bless you and all your efforts!

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



St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

State Athletics Report

The State Golf Tournament was held on September 28, 2025, at the Eagle Hills golf course in Papillion. The weather was perfect and the course was in great shape. We had 87 golfers who enjoyed a day of camaraderie.

The tournament ran about 4 hours before all headed over to Council 3019's hall for a 12oz ribeye steak dinner with all the trimmings. A raffle with over 200 prizes took place after dinner before the tournament winners were announced.

We paid out over \$4,000, which could be used for vocations or Catholic education, to 2 winners in each of 2 flights. The last place team also received a prize. Here are the winners of each flight.

First Flight First Place: Stewart Havanek, Matt Harm, Craig Pfeifer, Noah Pfeifer.

First Flight Second Place: Terry Veylupek, Sam Oaks, Dick Deitering, Mike Dulik.

Second Flight First Place: Doug Winkelman, Greg Winkelman, Phil Winkelman, Mike Winkelman.

Second Flight Second Place: John Buscher, Conde Groski, Shane Buscher, Jeff Pospichell.

Just a side note on the golf tournament, Stewart Havranek, FIC, had a hole in one on a par-four, 293-yard hole. The winning teams were all members of the Neil Pfeifer Agency.

Please mark your calendar for next year's Golf Tournament, Sept. 27, 2026, at Eagle Hills Golf Course, with the similar format as last year.

The State Bowling Tournament will be held in Columbus at Westbrook Lanes, March 7-8 and March 14, 2026. There will be a steak-fry both weekends.

For more information, contact John Eckholt at 402-563-3000. The entry form will be sent to the Grand Knights and D.D.'s when finalized.

Thank you for all your support last year and in advance for it this year.

Vivat Jesus,

Joe Bober
State Special Events Chairman
bojober@cox.net



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

A Family Affair for Three Generations

Larry Diessner joined the Knights of Columbus on a cold January 25, 2026.

The CUF marked the last of Lee and Tammy Diessner's five sons to commit to the Knights and their service to their church, community and country.

Lee and Tammy encouraged and supported their sons as they discerned becoming Knights.

Many years ago, Paul Diessner, Sr., encouraged and supported Lee along a similar path. Paul Sr. became a Knight in 1993.

The result is a multi-generational bond of service and shared faith - literally a family affair!

Many of the Diessner family are included in the photo at right: back row from left - Zach, Paul Jr., and Daniel; front row from left - Lee, Larry, Tammy, Grandpa Paul Sr.



News from the **NEIL PFEIFER AGENCY**

Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Northeast Nebraska and West Central Iowa

Fantastic!

Agents of the Month



August

Roy Metter, Gretna



September

Craig Pfeifer, Madison



October

Jason Schweikert, Omaha



November

Noah Pfeifer, Norfolk



December

Craig Pfeifer, Madison

Pfeifer Agency Ranking and Agent of the Year



General Agent Neil Pfeifer, FICF, and the field agents of the Pfeifer Agency finished the year 2025 ranked 16th in North America for the Knights of Columbus. There are approximately 72 agencies representing Knights of Columbus companywide. Congratulations to Neil and all the agents of the Pfeifer Agency.

Agent of the Year for the Pfeifer Agency Noah Pfeifer, FIC of Norfolk finished #1 among all the agents of the Pfeifer Agency. Noah finished #62 companywide. There are approximately 742 field agents in North America. Noah was 168% of quota, qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) and Supreme Knights Club (SKC). Congratulations, Noah and Michaela!



Virgil Gutierrez Joins Pfeifer Agency



The Pfeifer Agency would like to introduce our newest Field Agent, Virgil Gutierrez. Virgil has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since February 2019, a Fourth Degree, and a past Grand Knight for Council #13956. Virgil is bilingual, fluent in both English and Spanish. 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.

Born in Detroit, MI, Virgil lived in Cleveland, New York City, and Los Angeles, before moving to Omaha to be closer to family. He graduated from John Carroll University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. When asked about why he decided to become a field agent, he responded, "After so many years in a profession that had no connection to my faith, I was deeply drawn to a career path that would permit me to grow closer to Jesus Christ, to more fully embrace my Catholic faith, and to serve my brothers in the Order. I was especially excited by the prospect of guiding more Latinos into the Knights of Columbus and providing them with the opportunities presented by our insurance products." Before becoming a field agent, Virgil worked for many years in investment banking and asset management firms in a communications support capacity.

Virgil will be serving brother Knights and their families in Omaha and Western Iowa. His councils are: #5045 Christ the King, #9918 St Joan of Arc, #10815 Our Lady of Guadalupe, #10184 St Thomas More, #14431 San Jose and #999 Missouri Valley, IA. Virgil has great knowledge of customer service and satisfaction. Virgil is looking forward to working with the Knights of Columbus members in his area. You can reach Virgil at: 402-980-8995 or email him at: virgil.gutierrez@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

Swanson Agency Performance and Agents of the Year

The Swanson Agency completed another successful year serving members and their families in southeastern, central, and western Nebraska!

Swanson Agency Performance: The Swanson Agency finished as the #8 Agency in the Order in 2025. Congratulations to all the agents for their outstanding performance!



Agent of the Year: Congratulations to Mike Scholz for his Agent of the Year performance in 2025! Mike protected Catholic families over \$22.5 million of life coverage as well as placing Long Term Care & Disability policies as well as retirement annuities. Mike also finished as the #1 Field Agent in Nebraska and the #28 Field Agent in the Order at 195% of quota. He also qualified for the Supreme Knight's Sales Club & MDRT! Fantastic year, Mike & Sara!



Agent of the Year Runner-Up: Congratulations to Aaron Schock! Aaron protected Catholic families with over \$14.3 million of life coverage and as the #35 Field Agent in the Order at 184% of quota! He also qualified for the Supreme Knight's Sales Club & MDRT! Great job, Aaron and Sierra!

David St. Hilaire (below left) and Francisco Romero (below right) also had great years finishing at 148% & 104% of quota respectively! Nice job!



Superior Ratings and Responsible Investing

Knights of Columbus Insurance received Superior ratings AM Best and Standard & Poor's.

The Knights invest morally and 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

Great Job! Agents of the Month



September
Aaron Schock
Grand Island



October
David St. Hilaire
Lincoln



November
Francisco Romero
Lincoln



December
Ian Ollis
Lincoln



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

2026 Knights of Columbus 9 Pin No Tap Handicap Bowling Tournament

Nebraska State Knights of Columbus Men & Women's
9 PIN NO TAP HANDICAP BOWLING TOURNAMENT
Westbrook Lanes

West Highway 81 Columbus, Ne 68601
March 7-8 & March 14th

Do not Write In This Space

No.	
Pd	
Due	

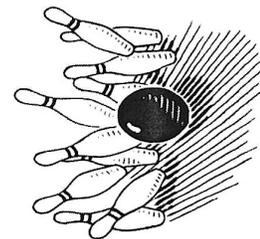
KC STEAK
FRY

Saturday Nights
Westbrook
Lanes

March 7th
and
March 14th
5:30 to 8:00 pm

Steak Fry
Open to
Public

Columbus
Mass Times
Will Be
Posted
At The
Tournament



Team Name _____
Please Print or Type

Of The City Of _____
Council No. _____

All Events _____
Circle _____
Bowler No. _____
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
Avg _____

Doubles and Singles Events

1. _____
2. _____
1. _____
2. _____
1. _____
2. _____

I hereby certify all bowler are members or wives, widows or daughters of members of the Knights of Columbus in good standing.

Signed _____ Financial Secretary

I hereby certify the above averages are current averages in league play.

Signed _____ League Secretary

Handicap: 90% of the difference between the bowler's average and 200
\$21.00 per Person per Event

Event	Prize	Bowling	Expense	Total
Team	\$28.00	\$42.00	\$14.00	\$84.00
Doubles	\$14.00	\$21.00	\$7.00	\$42.00
Singles	\$7.00	\$10.50	\$3.50	\$21.00

All Events (Handicap) Optional.....\$3.00

Time Schedule

Saturdays: Doubles & Singles 11:00am/1:30pm/4:00pm
Teams 1:30pm/4:00pm
Sunday (March 8th Only) Doubles & Singles 11:00am/2:00pm

1st Choice Preferred Date & Time	2nd Choice Preferred Date & Time	NO Entries Scheduled Without Remittance
Team _____	Team _____	
Doubles _____	Doubles _____	
Singles _____	Singles _____	

Name _____ City _____ Zip _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Email address _____

All remittances must be made payable to the order of the Knights of Columbus Tournament and mailed to: John Eckholt, PO Box 1301, Columbus, Ne 68601 402-563-3000

Positively no entries accepted without payment in full.
Entries will be scheduled, as to preferred date and time, in the order in which they are received. Make reservations now! Send completed blank later!

Sponsored by all 3 Columbus Nebraska councils (938-9264-12086)

All Knights of Columbus Members and Families Welcome To Enter!!!

Charity

Unity

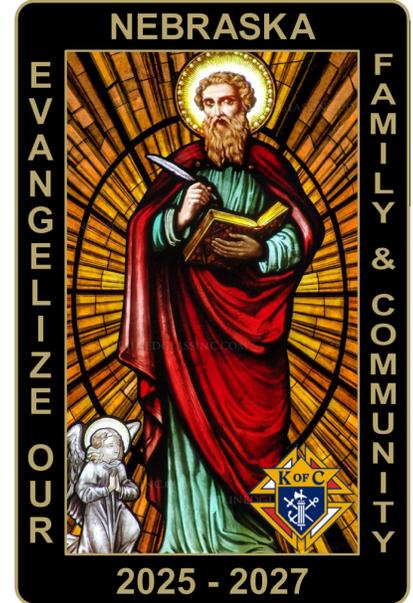
Fraternity

Patriotism



KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
NEBRASKA
STATE COUNCIL
PO Box 98
Elkhorn, NE 68022

26,000+ MEMBERS STRONG!



KEY DATES

Council/Assembly Dates

- | | |
|--|---|
| March 1: State Semi-Annual Per Capita
Due to State Secretary | April 14: Convention Credentials Due to State Secretary |
| March 1: Supreme Semi-Annual Assessments
Due to Supreme Council | April 14: Necrology information to PSD Larry Reed |
| March 1: All Award Nominations and Packages
Due to Program Director | April 14: Nomination for Supreme Convention
Due to State Secretary |
| March 1: Resolutions for Annual Convention
Due to State Advocate | April 24-26: State Convention |
| March 1: ICC reports using State Website
to Program Director | June 15: 2026-2027 Directory Input Due to Executive Secretary |
| | June 30: Form 185/186 Report of Officers for 2026*# |
| | June 30: Form 365 Report of Service Personnel for 2026*# |
| | August 3-6: Supreme Convention |
| | August 15: Annual Audit# |

Last Date for Program Forms

- June 30: Form SP-7 Columbian Award Application Due to Supreme
- June 30: ASAP, RSVP, Food for Families Refund/Report due to Supreme (if required)

State Officers and Directors

- August 10: Inputs for the Fall Courier Newsletter

* Submit electronically using Member Management under Council Administration.

A copy of this mandatory report shall be emailed (preferred) to:

kofcmvaughn@gmail.com or mailed to: Mike Vaughn,
Executive Secretary, 1609 Hedgeapple Rd., Plattsmouth, NE 68048.