



# Nebraska Knights

Evangelize Our Family & Community





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

District Deputy Meeting Friday 11 July 2025



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Nebraska  
State Council**



# Opening Prayer & Pledge

Mary, Queen of the Knights, bless all the activities of our Order. Keep us true to our pledge, to extend the kingship of thy divine son on earth. Through Thine intercession, win for us the grace, ever to exemplify in our public and private lives, the virtues that should characterize those especially dedicated to the service of the heavenly court. Make us always aware that as your Knights, we are constantly observed, our faith judged, and our Order appreciated. Accept, O Mary, this renewed pledge of fealty and devotion, of Thy Servants, the Knights of Columbus.





# State Deputy Opening Comments

- Welcome and Introductions
- Introduce Supreme Guest Sterling Roatch
- Thanks for saying YES





# Agenda

- State Deputy
- Immediate Past State Deputy
- Membership
- Programs





# State Deputy Goals

- Strengthen our faith and vocations for religious life
- Expand our charitable works
- Build brotherhood by growing our Order

Safe Environment Compliant

Cor combined w/strong Council Programs will grow membership





# Fast Start

- Hold our fall regional meetings in August and September (I'd like to lock in all of the regional meeting dates during the Summer Leadership Training Seminar)
- Introduce Cor in at least 50% of our Councils
- Work with our General Agents to ensure Field Agent support for every church drive, Charity Unity & Fraternity degree exemplification & regional meetings
- Offer exciting Council programs where men and their families can grow their faith and create interest and awareness of the Knights in their communities





# Fast Start

- Revive the Creighton University Council and grow every Newman Center/Newman House
- Offer membership to those High School seniors that are 17 and a half and to those men that just came into the church via Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
- Move e-Members into a Council because new members bring new ideas
- Fill all 42 District Deputy positions - we're down to just two vacancies (District 15 & District 30)







# Fast Start

- Get the Cristo Rey Council in Lincoln up and running and then look for our next new Hispanic Council
- Hold two Charity, Unity, & Fraternity exemplification's followed by a 4th Degree Exemplification by the end of September
- Reduce our inactive Councils (those that didn't recruit at least one new member last year) by 5%
- Reach out to those potential new members on the "Pending Application List"





# Updates

- New Star progress report (replace monthly star tracker)
- Founders Award change (at least 2 FBE events and 10 or 14 attendees)
  - If you attain all members on 1st event, you can substitute a 2nd event with the GK and DGK having a personal review with their Field Agent





# Updates

- New resources that outline the process for starting a new council. Plus, valuable information to guide councils through the 1st year
- New Faith in Action programs (Bright Futures and Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage) - Six other programs to come





# Video

HE'S MY KNIGHT





# Duties, Responsibilities & Communication

- Guide your Councils & attend their meetings when able
- Ensure your Councils have submitted their 185, 365, Semi Annual Audit, State & Supreme Per Capita
- You cannot overcommunicate, forward 3-mos look ahead





# IPSD Bob Wolf

- Reports & Forms
- Lessons Learned





# Membership Team

Rob Ostdiek – State Membership Director & State e-Membership Chairman  
Home Council 1723, Beatrice

## Hispanic Council Growth Coordinators

David Diaz

Home Council 15407, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Lincoln

Ignacio (Iggy) Cervantes

Home Council 10815, Our Lady of Gaudalupe, Omaha





# Membership Team

Region 1 (Southeast) – John Franssen

Districts: 7, 8, 9, 10, 33, 37, 40

Region 2 (North Central) – Greg Jochum

Districts: 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 36

Region 3 (Northeast) – Ken Prokop

Districts: 14, 15, 16, 17, 26, 41

Region 4 (South Central) – Mitch O'Neill

Districts: 11, 12, 22, 23, 24, 38, 39







# Membership Team

Region 5 (Southwest)- Kent Lorens

Districts: 28, 29, 30

Region 6 (Northwest) – Justin Hartman

Districts: 27, 31, 42

Region 7 (Northern Omaha & Surrounding Area) – James Vath

Districts: 2, 3, 6, 13, 34

Region 8 (Southern Omaha & Surrounding Area) – Bob Hasiak

Districts: 1, 4, 5, 32, 35





# Nebraska Membership Goal

1021 New Members 2025 – 2026

Invite to Faith Programs

Invite to Service Programs

Invite for Fraternity opportunities

Invite for Fraternal Benefits in collaboration with Field Agents





# Regional Meeting Planning

## **Region 2 & 4 – 16 & 17 August**

16 August - Region 4 – Location TBD (Hastings potentially)

17 August - Region 2 – Spalding, NE

## **Region 7 & 8 – 6 September**

6 September – St. Vincent DePaul Parish Hall, Omaha NE

## **Region 5 & 6 - 18 & 19 October**

18 October Valentine

19 October North Platte or McCook (TBD)

## **Region 1 – TBD**

Lincoln All City – Likely a weeknight

Southeast Nebraska ‘outside of Lincoln’ - TBD

## **Region 3 -TBD**





# Membership Opportunity in Nebraska

2020 United States Census Demographic

166, 855 Nebraska Catholic Men 18+ years old

-26,813 (1 July 2025) Nebraska Knights of Columbus

= 140,042 Eligible Knights in Nebraska

How can we connect with them?

Invite them back to Church

Invite them to Church

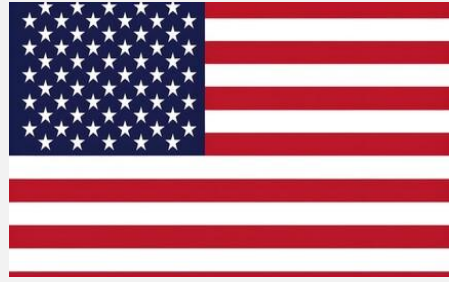
Invite them to....





Questions???





# 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Patriotism



## Charity, Unity, Fraternity Exemplification & 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification

The State team desires to 'come to you'

Host one event each month: August – November (4 total)

Districts coordinate location, promotion, and candidate selection

Identify Host councils and dates by 31 July and communicate to State



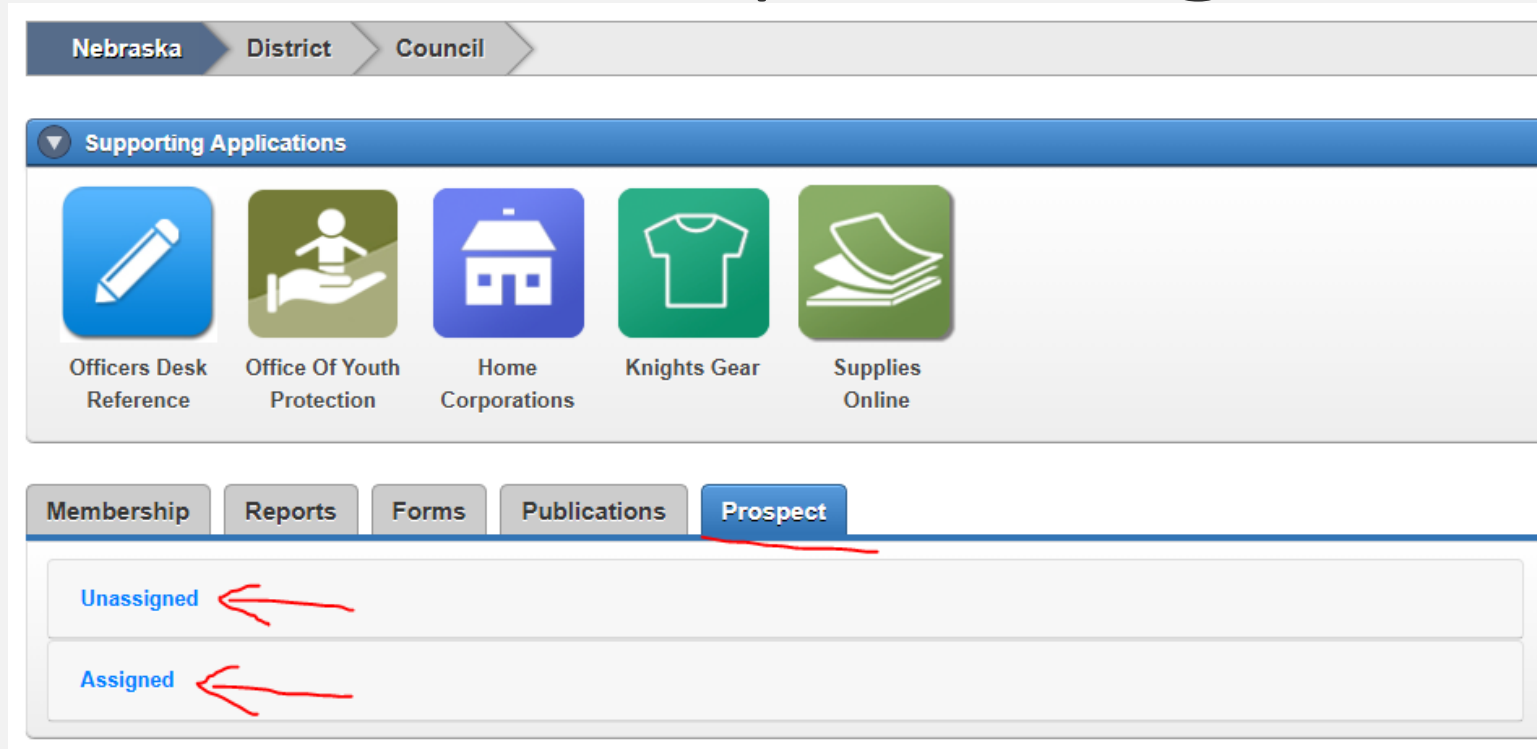


Questions???





# E-Membership Management



All Regional Growth Directors can:

View all E-Members in the State of Nebraska

Assign/move E-Members to 'preferred' councils







Questions???





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

PROGRAMS



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# Supreme Featured Programs - New

**Bright Futures** – Support students and schools in their community by providing funding and resources by:

- *Fundraise for tuition or items*
- *Run a book drive for a youth library*
- *Participate in beautification projects for school*



**Pilgrim Icon Program** – This year's icon is the Sacred Heart. Hold a Holy Hour featuring the icon which can include: *Readings from Sacred Scripture, reflections from Pope Francis, Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart, silent prayer and / or Adoration*





# Supreme Featured Programs

## FAITH

Refund Support Vocations  
Program (RSVP)

Holy Hour

Into the Breach

Spiritual Reflection

## FAMILY

Food For Families

Family of the Month / Year

Family Fully Alive

Family Prayer Night





# Supreme Featured Programs

## COMMUNITY

Coats For Kids

Global Wheelchair Mission

Habitat For Humanity

## LIFE

March for Life

Special Olympics

Pregnancy Cener Support  
/ ASAP

Ultrasound





# State Keystone Projects

**Faith** – Council Holy Hour

**Family** – Family of the Month

- Must submit 5 to Supreme

**Community** – Coats for Kids

- Can support the State Coats for Kids or your own council or community event

**Youth** – Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest

- Must promote a contest in your parish / school / community





# State Keystone Projects

**Life** – ASAP – Aid and Support After Pregnancy

**Vocations** – RSVP – Refund Support Vocations Program

- Any level of support will qualify

**Publicity / Social Media** – Council Promotion at State Level

- Submit for 'Around the State' on website or on Social Media

**Intellectual Disabilities** – Campaign for People with Intell. Disab.

- 100% of funds raised must be reported and received by the State Intellectual Disabilities Foundation





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING



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# It all starts with Form #365 Service Program Personnel Report



## Service Program Personnel Report

July 1, 20\_\_ through June 30, 20\_\_

Council # \_\_\_\_\_ Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Due By: July 1

The *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) must be received by the Supreme Council by **July 1** for the council to be eligible to earn the Star Council Award. Please complete and submit the report with the council's appointed personnel.

- Strongly consider submitting this report through Member Management for expedited processing. This is the preferred method.
- If filling out this report on paper, be sure to include the accurate membership number for each role.
- **Required roles to be appointed have been designated – Program Director, Family Director, Community Director, Membership Director, Retention Chairman.**
- Changes during the fraternal year should be made using Member Management to update the roles accordingly. If your council uses the paper form, only complete and submit that information which has changed.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
FAITH DIRECTOR	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
FAMILY DIRECTOR REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
COMMUNITY DIRECTOR REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
LIFE DIRECTOR	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
RETENTION CHAIRMAN REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
INSURANCE PROMOTION	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
VOCATIONS CHAIRMAN	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
HEALTH SERVICES	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
PUBLIC RELATIONS	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		

SEND ORIGINAL TO: Department of Fraternal Mission (email: [fraternaimission@kofc.org](mailto:fraternaimission@kofc.org))

SEND COPIES TO: State Deputy, District Deputy, Council File

Grand Knight

Date





# Safe Environment Training

- Each of the Local Councils has 4 required positions that **MUST** take the Safe Environment Training
  - *Grand Knight*
  - *Program Director*
  - *Family Director\**
  - *Community Director\**

\* - Family & Community Directors will also need to complete a Background Check





# Safe Environment Training

From: **Armatus Administrator**

Subject: Welcome to the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Online Training

This email will contain a username and password for first time users to access the training site. You will need to change your password before beginning your training courses.





Council Family & Community Directors will also receive an email for their background check.

From: **[backgroundcheck@praesidiuminc.com](mailto:backgroundcheck@praesidiuminc.com)**

Subject: Knights of Columbus Request for Background Check Consent

Grand Knights are not required to have a background check unless they are also the Family Director or Community Director.

A Grand Knight is the only person who can hold multiple roles in the Council. Program Directors cannot also be the Family or Community Director.





# Safe Environment Training

Safe Environment Training is required for members in certain roles every 3 years.

Once you have completed your training, a certificate of completion will be emailed to you and recorded with the Supreme Office.

If applicable, you will be able to begin your background check after the training has been completed.

You can find your transcript at any time on the Praesidium Dashboard to see what trainings you have completed and if there are any new trainings required for your position.





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

DISTRICT / REGIONAL MEETINGS



**Knights of  
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# District and Regional Meetings

Use District and Regional Meetings to get your councils together and excite them about the new Fraternal Year

Invite State Officers and Directors to help you plan and execute a District Meeting

Encourage your council to attend the closest Regional Meeting - one member of every council should attend at least one of these meetings (*Grand Knight, Deputy GK, or another Officer or Member*)







# District and Regional Meetings

- **Region 1** – TBD
  - Lincoln All City – Likely a weeknight
  - Southeast Nebraska ‘outside of Lincoln’ - TBD
- **Region 3** -TBD
- **Region 2 & 4** – 16 & 17 August
  - 16 August – **Region 4** – Location TBD (Hastings potentially)
  - 17 August – **Region 2** – Spalding
- **Region 5 & 6** - 18 & 19 October
  - 18 October – **Region 5** – Valentine
  - 19 October – **Region 6** – North Platte or McCook (TBD)
- **Region 7 & 8** – 6 September
  - 6 September – St. Vincent DePaul Parish Hall, Omaha







# Supreme Training Resources

- Four Fraternal Trainers
  - Jon Olson, Ken White, Shawn Veters & Wayne Fink
- Online Training Schedule
  - Most training will now be on demand
  - There will still be live monthly featured webinars





# For Members Training

- Officer Online Training
- Growth and Retention Training
- Programs and Engagement Training
- Training Audience and Request





# DD Expense Form

- Supreme will only pay mileage for in district travel
  - 30 cents per mile round trip
- The State will pay mileage for out of district
  - 50 cents per mile one way
- Send your completed expense form to Executive Secretary Mike Vaughn once a quarter





# Council Visits

- My stretch goal is to visit all 165 active Councils
- Send invites to me and the State Officers/Team will do our best to attend your Council events
- Working as one team we can accomplish great things





# Fraternal Year Quarterly Goals

Goals are a good way to measure progress

1st Quarter (Jul-Sep) 205 = 20% of goal

2nd Quarter (Oct-Dec) 306 (511) = 50% of goal

3rd Quarter (Jan-Mar) 275 (786) = 77% of goal

4th Quarter (Apr-Jun) 235 (1,021) = 100% of goal





# Closing Prayer

God our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present. Through Christ our Lord. Amen





# Saturday July 12, 2025

- Opening Remarks
- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance





# Welcoming Remarks

- State Deputy – Mike Schaeffer
- State Chaplain – Fr. Bill Cremers







# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Introduction of Directors & Chairmen



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State Council**



# Nebraska State Deputy

Mike (Schaef) Schaeffer (Shelly)

Home Council 11879 Bellevue

(402) 651-9840

schaef5252@gmail.com

## Responsibilities

- Leads the Knights of Columbus in Nebraska
- Creates the direction for all state programs and growth efforts





# State Chaplain

Rev. William (Bill) Cremers  
Home Council 1497 Fremont  
(402) 606-8649  
[bjcremers@archomaha.org](mailto:bjcremers@archomaha.org)

## Responsibilities

- Supports and leads the State Family's spirituality
- Can support Council Chaplains





# State Secretary

Don Hypse (Terri)

Home Council 8579 Wayne

(402) 369-0814

[hypse2729@gmail.com](mailto:hypse2729@gmail.com)

## Responsibilities

- Right-hand man to the State Deputy
- Handles State Per Capita billing and payments





# State Treasurer

Brian Hamik (Mary Jo)

Home Council 1793 Norfolk

(402) 841-2605

Hamik2931@gmail.com

## Responsibilities

- Responsible for handling State Council accounting: payments, per diem and mileage





# State Advocate

James Korth (Kami)

Home Council 4979 Ogallala

H: (308) 530-5196

C: (308) 284-4001

[jrk@rkslawoffice.com](mailto:jrk@rkslawoffice.com)



## Responsibilities

- Supports the State Family and councils with legal advice and support
- Advises the state and councils on the creation of resolutions to be voted on at the State Convention
- Can help with IRS Form 990 questions







# State Warden

Mitchell Lowery

Home Council 11001 Lincoln

(402) 540-1021

[mwlowerykc@gmail.com](mailto:mwlowerykc@gmail.com)

## Responsibilities

- Handles setup and materials for all state meetings
- Responsible for running the State Lottery





# Immediate Past State Deputy Disaster Response Chairman Vocations Director

Robert Wolf, PSD (Chris)  
Home Council 2681 Scottsbluff  
(308) 631-6170  
bbwolf1995@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Coordinates relief and support for disasters within the state
- Oversees the state's Vocations support
- Can help councils find seminarians that need help from council's RSVP efforts







# District Master

Mark Borytsky (Audrey)  
Home Council 6192 Bellevue  
(402) 212-9612  
mborytsky@cox.net



## Responsibilities

- Oversees the 4th Degree for Nebraska
- Coordinates the scheduling of 4th Degree Exemplifications





# Program Director

Kevin Ostdiek (Jenny)

Home Council 11001 Lincoln

(402) 613-1381

kevinostdiekkofc@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Oversees all state programs
- Monitors ICC progress and awards for all councils
- Advises councils on program reporting to Supreme and State
- Monitors SP-7 submissions to help councils earn Columbian and Star Council Awards from Supreme





# Faith Directors

Mark and Julie Main  
Home Council 11001 Lincoln  
(402) 416-6458  
markmain65@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Oversee all Faith programs and report submissions
- Organize and support the State Chaplain for all masses and holy hours at state events
- Supports council's efforts for the Keep Christ in Christmas card sales





# Family Directors

Mike and Beth Esselstein  
Home Council 2618 Scottsbluff  
(308) 631-9711  
mbesselsteinkofc@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Oversee all Family programs and report submissions
- Selects the State Family of the Year and advises councils on submitting this report
- Encourages councils to report Family of the Month to Supreme





# Community Director

Michael Howick (Katie)

Home Council 9771 Omaha

(402) 714-3180

michael.howick@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

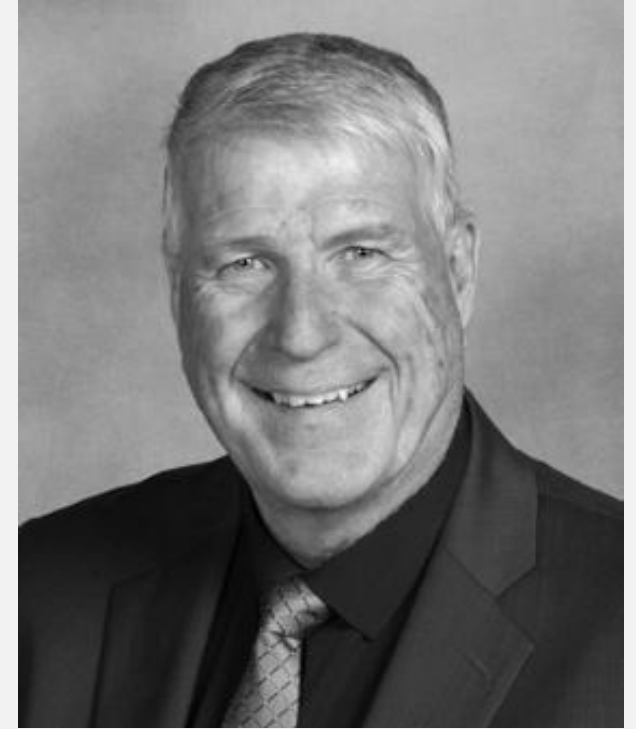
- Oversee all Community programs and report submissions
- Schedules the Silver Rose route through the state
- Schedules the Supreme Pilgrim Icon routes through the state
- Organizes the State Coats for Kids events





# Youth Chairman

Gary Groteluschen (Joann)  
Home Council 12086 Columbus  
(402) 750-8747  
garykoc12086@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Oversee all Youth programs for the state
- Runs the State Soccer Challenge, receives all participant score sheets from Regional events
- Runs the Free Throw Contest, receives all participant score sheets from Regional events
- Runs the State Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest and receives all participant submissions from District Deputies







# Courier Editor

Beth Wells (Dan)

H: (402) 390-9873

C: (402) 880-0510

nebrknightscourier@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Publishes and distributes the Courier for the state
- Photographer for state events





# Publicity Chairman

Craig Vavak (Lu)

Home Council 14077 Gretna

(402) 690-0639

pr@kofcne.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports and encourages publicity efforts for state and council events
- Oversees selection of Publicity Awards







# Life Directors

Michael & Mary Conrad, PSD, FSD  
Home Council 10305 Fort Calhoun  
H: (402) 468-5847  
C: (402) 779-9913  
mgconrad64@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

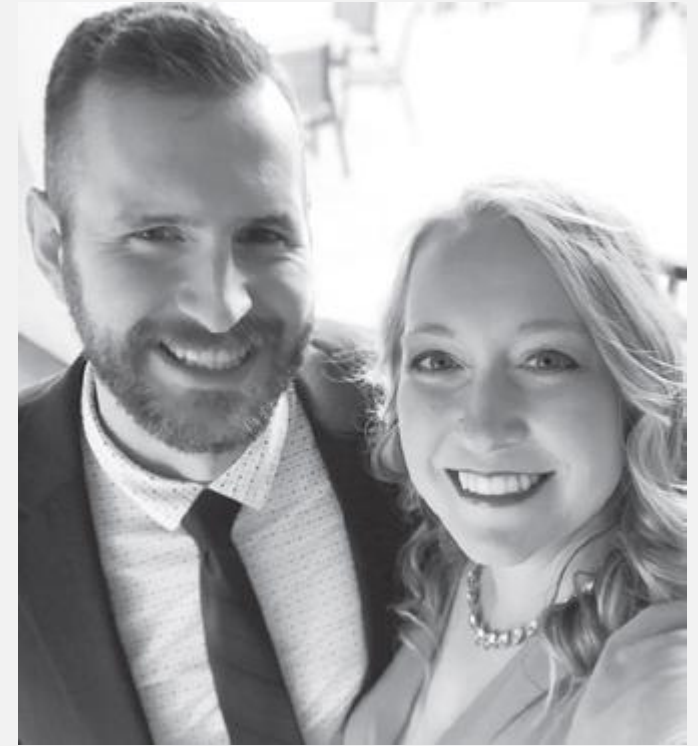
- Oversee all Life programs and report submissions
- Supports council and state efforts for Ultrasound Initiative & ASAP programs. Can help identify qualifying organizations for councils
- Chairman of the state Pro Life Gala
- Members of the State Culture of Life Foundation Board, handling donations to and disbursements from the foundation to qualifying organizations & needs





# Intellectual Disabilities Directors

Stephen & Sammi Lowery  
Home Council 11001 Lincoln  
(402) 540-1670  
sglowery82@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Oversee the Intellectual Disabilities (formerly Tootsie Roll) Drive and report submissions
- Members of the State Intellectual Disabilities Foundation Board, handling donations to and disbursements from the foundation to qualifying organizations & needs





# Event Coordinator Co-Chairman

Jesse Hines (Jessica)  
Home Council 8010 Aurora  
(615) 587-4694  
jesse.hines86@gmail.com



Patrick Rupp (Cindy)  
Home Council 14077 Omaha  
(402) 850-1642  
prupp8@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Coordinate registration and payments for state events and meals
- Help registrants with EventBrite problems and questions





# Financial Secretaries Coordinator Chairman

Joseph Kaup (Tami)

Home Council 1793 Norfolk

(402) 340-9875

kaupjoseph@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Support and train council Financial Secretaries





# Athletics Chairman/Special Event Chairman

Joseph Bober (Cindy)

Home Council 3019 South Omaha

H: (402) 734-4374

C: (402) 290-7954



## Responsibilities

- Organize state golf, bowling tournaments & other special events
- Cannot answer any questions about Soccer Challenge or Free Throw Contest – Contact Gary Groteluschen for help with those events





# Production Specialists

Frank Pribyl (Staci)

Home Council 1723 Beatrice

(316) 313-4414

frank@pribyls.com



Andrew Ostdiek (Rene')

Home Council 8010 Aurora

(402) 604-5576

andrew.ostdiek@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Provide IT Support for state meetings
- Record meetings and training sessions to be used on state website







# Social Media/IT Support

Mark Borytsky, Jr (Celeste)

Home Council 6192 Bellevue

402-968-7061

nekofcsocialmedia@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Promote State events and programs on social media platforms
- Support Production Specialists and webmasters to enhance the State's digital presence





# McGivney Foundation Advisors

Don Ferneding, PSD, FDM (Elizabeth)  
Home Council 1723 Beatrice  
don.ferneding@gmail.com  
(402) 943-6320



Dan Wells (Beth)  
Home Council 10909 Omaha  
danielwells5@gmail.com  
(402) 880-2586



## Responsibilities

- Encourage and promote support of the state's McGivney Foundation
- Members of the State McGivney Foundation Board, handling donations to and disbursements from the foundation to qualifying organizations & needs







# Membership Director & E-Membership Chairman

Rob Ostdiek (Kris)

Home Council 1723 Beatrice

(402) 806-8552

rob.ostdiek1989@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Oversees all state growth efforts
- Monitors membership growth and awards for all councils
- Advises councils on recruitment and growth efforts to help them earn ICC and Star Council recognition
- Supervises the E-Membership for the state and helps councils convert E-Members to full council members





# Regional Growth Director 1

John Franssen

Home Council 9704 Lincoln

(402) 389-0087

jfranssen123@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports all Growth efforts in Districts: 7, 8, 9, 10, 33, 37, 40
- Helps Organize Regional Meetings, Regional Soccer, and Free Throw contests
- Advises District Deputies and all supported councils (especially in districts without DDs)





# Regional Growth Director 2

Gregory Jochum (Janice)

Home Council 12086 Columbus

(402) 270-2653

gjochum18@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports all Growth efforts in Districts: 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 36
- Helps Organize Regional Meetings, Regional Soccer, and Free Throw contests
- Advises District Deputies and all supported councils (especially in districts without DDs)





# Regional Growth Director 3

Kenneth Prokop (Shirley)

Home Council 8579 Wayne

(402) 369-0471

sprokop@live.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports all Growth efforts in Districts: 14, 15, 16, 17, 26, 41
- Helps Organize Regional Meetings, Regional Soccer, and Free Throw contests
- Advises District Deputies and all supported councils (especially in districts without DDs)





# Regional Growth Director 4

Mitchell O'Neill

Home Council 10923 Kearney

(308) 440-3330

[mitch.oneill@nebraska.edu](mailto:mitch.oneill@nebraska.edu)



## Responsibilities

- Supports all Growth efforts in Districts: 11, 12, 22, 23, 24, 38, 39
- Helps Organize Regional Meetings, Regional Soccer, and Free Throw contests
- Advises District Deputies and all supported councils (especially in districts without DDs)





# Regional Growth Director 5

Kent Lorens (Marilyn)

Home Council 10163 Benkelman/Stratton

H: (308) 276-2335

C: (308) 737-0085

klmlstrane@hotmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports all Growth efforts in Districts: 28, 29, 30
- Helps Organize Regional Meetings, Regional Soccer, and Free Throw contests
- Advises District Deputies and all supported councils (especially in districts without DDs)







# Regional Growth Director 6

Justin Hartman

Home Council 4633 Valentine

(402) 332-0291

justinhartman1201@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports all Growth efforts in Districts: 27, 31, 42
- Helps Organize Regional Meetings, Regional Soccer, and Free Throw contests
- Advises District Deputies and all supported councils (especially in districts without DDs)





# Regional Growth Director 7

James Vath (Brandy)

Home Council 10795 Omaha

(402) 680-8157

pwrmn55k@yahoo.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports all Growth efforts in Districts: 2, 3, 6, 13, 34
- Helps Organize Regional Meetings, Regional Soccer, and Free Throw contests
- Advises District Deputies and all supported councils (especially in districts without DDs)

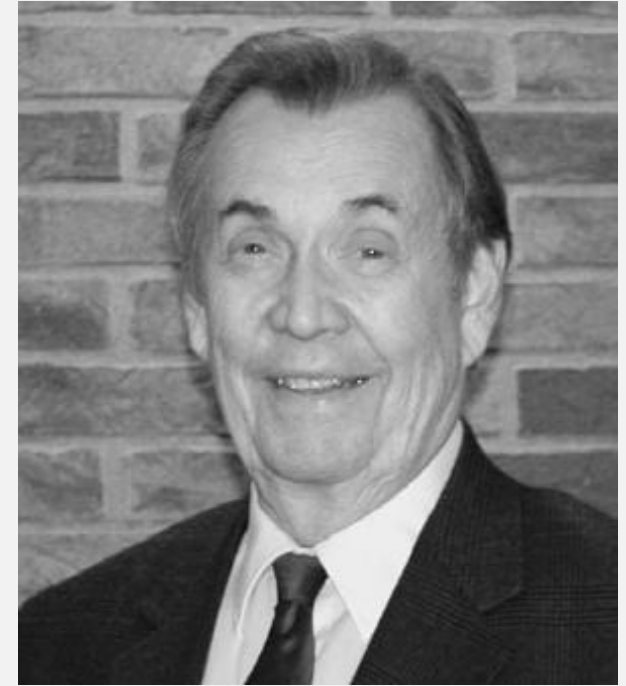






# Regional Growth Director 8

Bob Hasiak, PhD (Suzanne)  
Home Council 11879 Bellevue  
(402) 689-1721  
rshasiak@cox.net



## Responsibilities

- Supports all Growth efforts in Districts: 1, 4, 5, 32, 35
- Helps Organize Regional Meetings, Regional Soccer, and Free Throw contests
- Advises District Deputies and all supported councils (especially in districts without DDs)





# Hispanic Council Growth Coordinators

Ignacio (Iggy) Cervantes (Adela)  
Home Council 10815 Omaha  
(402) 871-6919  
iggykofc@gmail.com



David Diaz (JoAnn)  
Home Council 15407 Lincoln  
(402) 954-0455  
d.diaz\_03@hotmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports creation and growth of Hispanic Councils across the state
- Advises councils in growth and program ideas in parishes and councils with high Hispanic populations





# Retention Chairman

James Haiar, PSD, FDM (Linda)  
Home Council 10909 Omaha  
(402) 203-6073  
haiar@cox.net



## Responsibilities

- Helps councils find and retain members who they have lost contact with





# Evangelization & Faith Formation Director / COR

Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM (Gail)

Home Council 11001 Lincoln

(402) 432-6748

rwlowerykc@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Coordinates the state family COR gatherings
- Strengthens the evangelization efforts of the state family
- Supports and advises councils on creation and running of COR gatherings





# Associate Evangelization & Faith Formation Director

Rev Justin Fulton

Home Council 4434 Fairbury

(402) 729-2058

fr.justin-fulton@lincolndiocese.org



## Responsibilities

- Supports the EFF / COR Director in all evangelization efforts
- Provides spiritual content and advice for state COR gatherings





# Executive Secretary

Michael Vaughn (Patricia)

Home Council 1966 Plattsmouth

(402) 297-5434

mikevaughnkofc@gmail.com



## Responsibilities

- Supports the administrative functions of the State
- Tracks council status and council form submissions as reported from Supreme
- Should be copied on Supreme form submissions instead of State Deputy







# Prayer Chain Coordinator

Ray Guggenberger

Home Council 6192 Bellevue

(402) 681-6572

rguggenberger@cox.net



## Responsibilities

- Organizes and disseminates the daily prayer chain emails





# General Agents

Tony Swanson, FICF, CLTC (Cathy)  
Home Council 11823 Hastings  
anthony.swanson@kofc.org  
O: (402) 463-2845  
C: (402) 469-8668



Neil Pfeifer, FICF (Becky)  
Home Council 1793 Norfolk  
neil.pfeifer@kofc.org  
(402) 640-1239



## Responsibilities

- Run the Knights of Columbus Insurance agencies that support your council members
- Help Field Agents organize Fraternal Benefit Nights and track participation in these events for Supreme Star Council award







# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Supreme Guest – Sterling Roatch



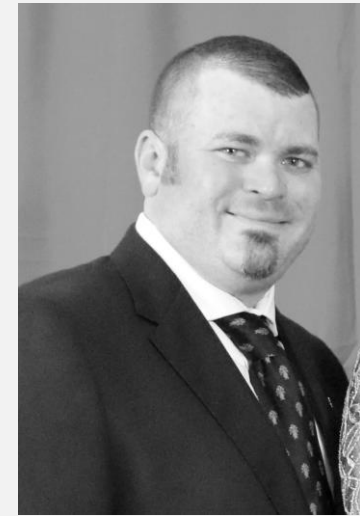
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Columbus®**  
**Nebraska  
State Council**



# State Event Coordinator Co-Chairmen



**Pat Rupp  
&  
Jesse Hines**



**[prupp8@gmail.com](mailto:prupp8@gmail.com)**

**[jesse.hines86@gmail.com](mailto:jesse.hines86@gmail.com)**





# Meeting Dates

- Grand Knight Seminar – July 11-13, 2025
  - Kearney, Nebraska – Holiday Inn
- Mid-Year Meeting – December 5-7, 2025
  - Kearney, Nebraska – Younes Conference Center South
- State Convention – April 24-26, 2026
  - Kearney, Nebraska – Younes Conference Center South
- Grand Knight Seminar – July 10-12, 2026
  - Kearney, Nebraska – Holiday Inn
- Hotel Reservations will end **ONE** month prior to event date





# Contact Information

Pat Rupp

[prupp8@gmail.com](mailto:prupp8@gmail.com)

402-850-1642

Jesse Hines

[jesse.hines86@gmail.com](mailto:jesse.hines86@gmail.com)

615-587-4694





# Eventbrite

Promo Code

Enter code ✓ Remove

Access applied. New tickets unlocked below.

**Registration - I plan to attend** − 0 +

**Free** 299 Remaining

🔒 Unlocked

Sales end on Jul 5, 2025

**Registration - I am unable to attend** − 0 +

**Free** 300 Remaining

🔒 Unlocked

Sales end on Jul 5, 2025

Check out

Beware  
of the  
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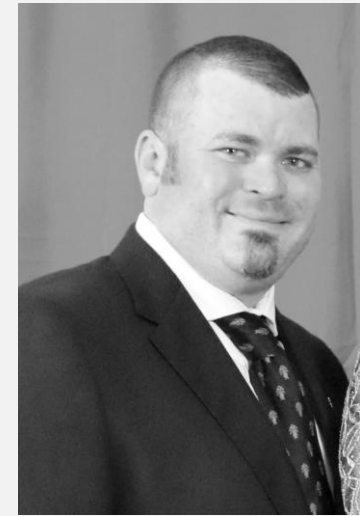




# State Event Coordinator Co-Chairmen



**Pat Rupp  
&  
Jesse Hines**



**[prupp8@gmail.com](mailto:prupp8@gmail.com)**

**[jesse.hines86@gmail.com](mailto:jesse.hines86@gmail.com)**





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Changes to Supreme Featured Programs



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**Nebraska  
State Council**



# Supreme Featured Programs

Supreme designates select programs as Featured Programs in the 4 Pillars. These programs change from year to year, but exemplify the core principles of our order in some way

A council that satisfies Supreme's requirements for a Featured Program and reports it on the Columbian Award Application (# SP-7), will receive credit for 2 programs in that Pillar.

Additional information about the Featured Programs may be found at: [kofc.org/fiaresources](https://kofc.org/fiaresources)

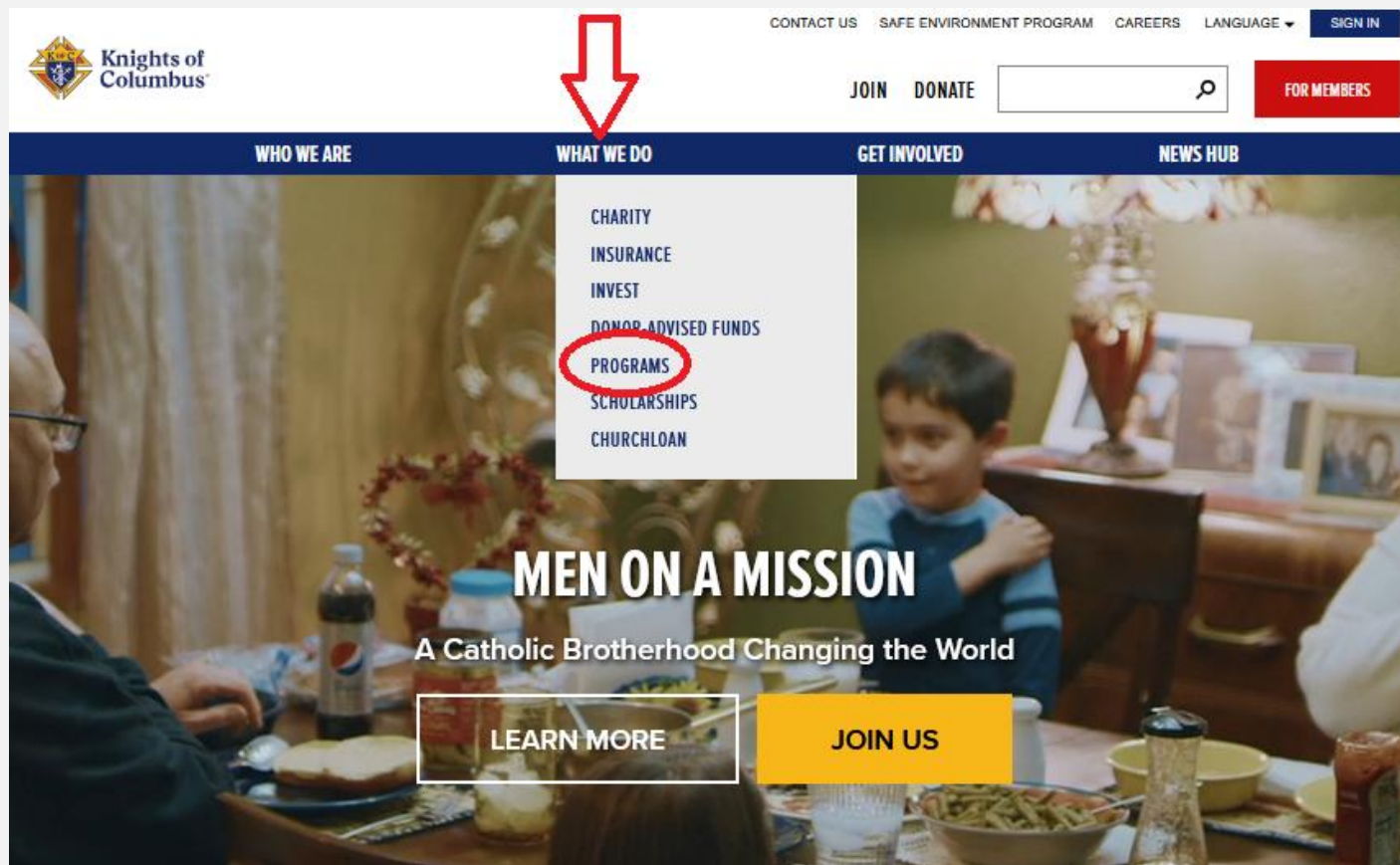
All program forms may be found at: [kofc.org/fiaforms](https://kofc.org/fiaforms)







# Supreme Featured Programs



To find information about Featured Programs on the Supreme website [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org), click on “What We Do” and then select “Programs”.

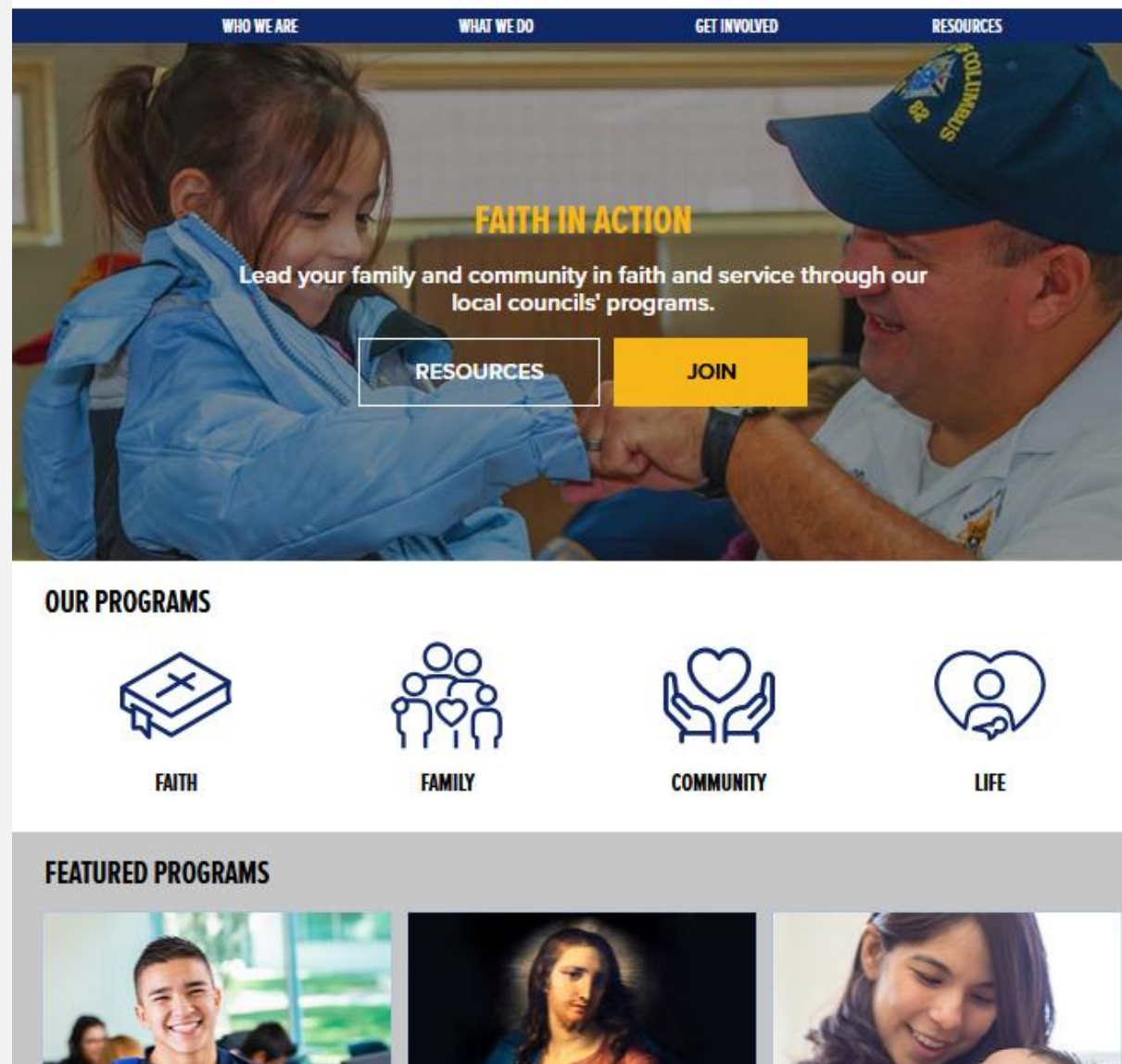




# Supreme Featured Programs

From the Faith in Action page, scroll down to find information on new Featured Programs

Or click on each Pillar (*Faith, Family, Community & Life*) to find information on programs in each pillar





# Supreme Featured Programs - New

**Bright Futures** – Invites councils to support the students and schools in their communities by providing funding and resources to those most in need

The following projects are popular ways to provide support:

- *Fundraise for tuition or items*
- *Run a book drive for a youth library*
- *Participate in beautification projects for schools in the area*

Suggested Program Dates:

- *Back-to-School Week*
- *Black Friday*
- *Boxing Day*
- *3 King's Day (Jan. 6)*
- *Catholic Schools Week (last week of Jan.)*







# Supreme Featured Programs - New

Pilgrim Icon Program – First introduced in 1979, more than 191,000 prayer services with 23 million participants have been held - This year's icon is the Sacred Heart

Hold a Holy Hour featuring an icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus which can include:

*Readings from Sacred Scripture, reflections from Pope Francis, Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart, silent prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

State Community Director Michael Howick is determining the routes for Nebraska





# Supreme Featured Programs - Faith

**Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)** – Donate at least \$500 to a seminarian or aspirant. Supreme matches \$100 up to \$400 per person supported. Report on *RSVP Refund Application (#2863)*

**Holy Hour** – Hold 4 Holy Hours (quarterly) or 2 Holy Hours and one Eucharistic Procession. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*

**Into the Breach** – Hold 8 sessions on the *Into the Breach* videos or 5 sessions on the *Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family* series. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*

**Spiritual Reflection** – Host or attend a day long Spiritual Reflection for the men of your council or parish that is attended by at least 10 men or 10% of the council (whichever is fewer). Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*





# Supreme Featured Programs - Family

**Food For Families** – Collect \$500 or 1,000 lbs of food for a food pantry AND contribute 100 man-hours preparing / distributing / serving meals. Report on *Food for Families Refund and Plaque Application (#10057)*

**Family of the Month / Year** – Recognize 12 families (one each month) and submit a Family of the Year for state competition. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784) & Family of the Year Entry Form (#10680)*

**Family Fully Alive** – Distribute and promote use of the *Family Fully Alive Booklets*. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*

**Family Prayer Night** – Organize and hold 4 Family Prayer Nights, one each quarter. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*





# Supreme Featured Programs - Community

Coats For Kids – Distribute 6 cases of coats. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*

Global Wheelchair Mission – Donate equivalent of 10 wheelchairs at \$150 / chair to the *American Wheelchair Mission*. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*

Habitat For Humanity – Donate \$1,000 or 200 service hours to a Habitat for Humanity project. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*







# Supreme Featured Programs - Life

**March for Life** – Organize 25 or more marchers for a local, state or national March for Life. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*

**Special Olympics** – Raise \$2,000 or contribute 200 man-hours supporting state or local Special Olympics activities. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)*

**Pregnancy Center Support / ASAP** – Support a local center by fundraising, volunteering or prayer. ASAP matches every \$500 donated (up to \$2,000) with \$100 from Supreme. Report on *Program Report Form (#10784)* and [kofc.org/asap](http://kofc.org/asap) to apply online.

**Ultrasound** – If a council raises 50% of the cost of a machine for an approved center, Supreme matches the other 50%.

Qualification based on *Diocesan Evaluation (#10715)* and applied for on *Ultrasound Application (#10716)*





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Membership Fast Start



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**Nebraska  
State Council**



# Membership Fast Start

Develop a Strategy or Growth Event(s) Calendar

Collaborate with District Deputy

Collaborate with Priest/Pastor

Church Drive support and eligible men

Review Fishers of Men materials and guidebook

Hispanic (Ethnic) Opportunities

Utilize E-Membership to 'load up' for future Charity Unity & Fraternity Degrees

Be Present, Visible, an Active at parish & community summer events





# Regional Meeting Planning

## **Region 2 & 4 – 16 & 17 August**

16 August - Region 4 – Location TBD (Hastings potentially)

17 August - Region 2 – Spalding, NE

## **Region 7 & 8 – 6 September**

6 September – St. Vincent DePaul Parish Hall, Omaha NE

## **Region 5 & 6 - 18 & 19 October**

18 October Valentine

19 October North Platte or McCook (TBD)

## **Region 1 – TBD**

Lincoln All City – Likely a weeknight

Southeast Nebraska ‘outside of Lincoln’ - TBD

## **Region 3 -TBD**





Questions???





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ICC Awards Program / Star Council Requirements

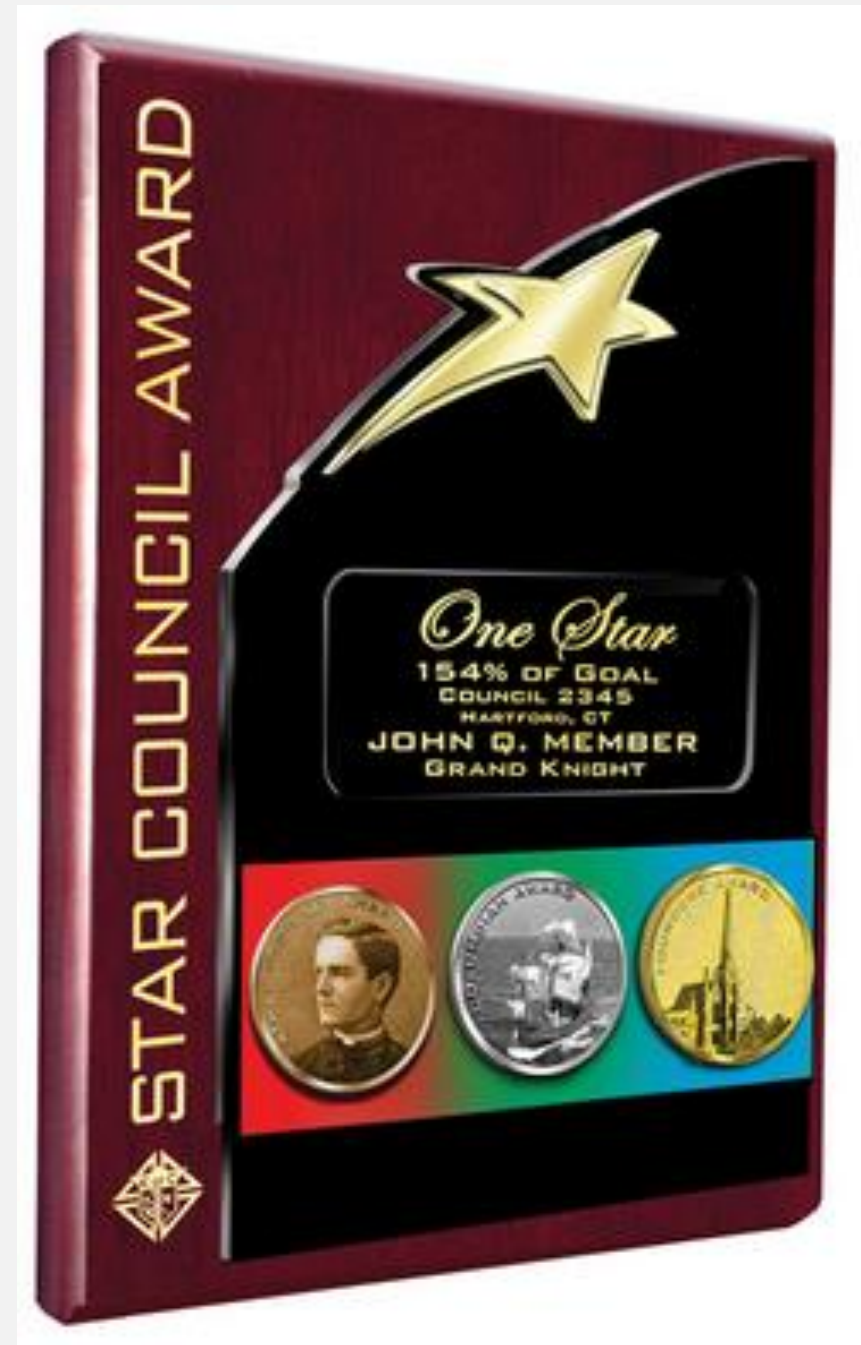


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**Nebraska  
State Council**



# Star Council Award

- Star Council Award is the culmination of all the work that a council does:
  - *Programs*
  - *Growth*
  - *Insurance Promotion*
  - *Reporting*
- Page 11 of the Growth Book







# Star Council Award

To achieve the Star Council Award, a council must:

- Earn the Father McGivney Award
- Earn the Founders Award
- Earn the Columbian Award

Be Compliant with Safe Environment Training & Background Checks.

Submit *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728)

- Due 31 January

Submit *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365)

- Due 1 July





# Star Council Award – McGivney Award

Given to councils that have achieved their Membership Quota for the Fraternal Year

- 6% increase in the council's membership as of July 1 (intake only)
- Minimum of 5
- Maximum of 15

Winners are determined automatically by the Supreme Council, based on your council's intake.

- No form or report submission necessary





# Star Council Award – Founders Award

Given to councils that have filled the requirement for Promotion of Insurance and Fraternal Benefits

Council has hosted or cohosted 2 Fraternal Benefit Events

Total attendance of members, or member eligible men, at these events must equal or exceed:

- 10 for councils with 99 or fewer members
- 14 for councils with 100 or more members
- *Coordinate with local Field Agent - Councils can combine with other councils*

Submit the online form #11077 within 7 days of event





# Star Council Award – Columbian Award

Given to councils that report excellence in council programming and charitable outreach

- Reported on the *Columbian Award Application* (Form SP-7), due June 30th.
- 16 Program Credits required, with 4 coming from each of the 4 Pillars:
  - *Faith, Family, Community, & Life*
- A Council that meets the requirements of a “Featured Supreme Program” can count that program as meeting 2 of the 4 requirements for that Pillar





# Star Council Award – Safe Environment

Councils must be compliant with Safe Environment Training and Background Checks

- Council positions requiring Safe Environment Training are:
  - *Grand Knight and Program Director.*
- Council positions requiring Safe Environment Training and Background Check are:
  - *Family Director and Community Director.*
- Members that are not compliant within 30 days of Safe Environment Training notification can be removed from position(s)
- If members are removed for not being compliant, another Form 365 must be submitted containing all positions within the council



# Inter-Council Competition (ICC)



## Reigning Champions

Council #11001 – Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln

Grand Knight: Matt Richardson, PSD



# ICC Program Goals

- Reward every council in Nebraska for the great work that they do in their parishes & communities
- Recognize the councils that are excelling in all phases of council activities
- Determine the ICC Champion by vote of the delegates at the Nebraska State Convention – April 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026







# ICC Requirements

- Page 21 of the Program Book
- Also downloadable from the website
- Spells out which forms must be submitted, their deadlines and how many new Knights you need to recruit to meet each Award Level



2025-2026 ICC AWARDS PROGRAM CHECKLIST						
There are 11 items required for ICC Bronze						
There are 16 items required for ICC Silver						
There are 18 items required for ICC Gold						
	Gold Requirements Receive by Date		Silver Requirements Receive by Date		Bronze Requirements Receive by Date	
Form 185 Report of Officers	JUN 30		MAR 1		MAR 1	
Form 365 Service Personnel	JUN 30		MAR 1		MAR 1	
Form 1295-2 Semi-Annual Audit	AUG 15		MAR 1		MAR 1	
ICC Council Activity Planner	SEP 1					
State Per Capita	SEP 1		SEP 1		MAR 1	
Supreme Per Capita	SEP 1		SEP 1		MAR 1	
Form 1728 Fraternal Activity Annual Survey	JAN 31		MAR 1		MAR 1	
Form 1295-1 Semi-Annual Audit	FEB 15		MAR 1		MAR 1	
State Per Capita	MAR 1		MAR 1		MAR 1	
Supreme Per Capita	MAR 1		MAR 1		MAR 1	
ICC Columbian Qualifier Application	MAR 1		MAR 1		MAR 1	
ICC Knight of the Year Or ICC Rookie Knight of the Year	MAR 1		Turn in one of these applications by MAR 1			
ICC Family of the Year	MAR 1					
ICC Faith Award Application	MAR 1		MAR 1			
ICC Family Award Application	MAR 1		MAR 1			
ICC Community Award Application	MAR 1		MAR 1			
ICC Life Award Application	MAR 1		MAR 1			
Membership (April 1)	75% of Quota*		50% of Quota*		25% of Quota*	

\*Completion of two (2) of the Keystone Projects laid out in the State Program Book will result in a reduction of 10% of your ICC Membership Quota for the Year. Completion of all eight (8) Keystone Projects can reduce your ICC Membership Quota by a total of 40%. A minimum of +1 new member is required for Membership for ICC Awards.

This will not change your Membership Quota for Star Council.

2024-2025 Star Councils may use a "Wild Card" to take the place of one of the ICC Program Requirements.

The "Wild Card" cannot be used on

Membership, State Per Capita, Supreme Per Capita, or any of the Supreme Reports (forms listed in bold text).



# ICC Requirements— Wild Card

- If your council was Star Council in 2024-25, you earned a 'Wild Card' which can fill in for a missed requirement
- Wild Cards cannot replace the following:
  - *Membership requirement*
  - *State & Supreme Per Capita payments*
  - *Required Supreme reports:*
    - Form 185 – Report of Officers
    - Form 365 – Service Personnel
    - Form 1295-1&2 – Semi-Annual Audits
    - Form 1728 – Fraternal Activity Annual Survey





# ICC Requirements— Keystone Projects

- Councils can conduct up to 8 "Keystone Projects" to reduce their **ICC Membership Quota**
  - *This will not reduce your Membership Quota for Star Council.*
- The Keystone Projects are picked by State Directors as projects they want to emphasize over the course of the year.
- For every 2 Keystone Projects a council conducts and reports your ICC Membership Quota is reduced by 10%
  - *Completing all 8 Keystone Projects will reduce your ICC Membership Quota 40%.*

Example: A council completes 7 Keystone Projects would need:


- *45% of their Membership Quota for ICC Gold*
- *20% of their Membership Quota for ICC Silver*
- *1 new member for ICC Bronze - the minimum ICC Membership quota is +1 new member*





# ICC Reporting







On the State Website, click on “Programs” and then “ICC” to get to the ICC Program Page

[Programs](#) [Membership](#) [EFF/COR](#) [Around the State](#) [Resources](#) [Directory](#) [Nebraska Fourth Degree](#)

[Overview](#)

[ICC](#)


[Faith](#)

[Family](#)

[Community](#)

[Life](#)

### Faith In Action Programs

 <b>Faith</b>	 <b>Family</b>	 <b>Community</b>	 <b>Life</b>
--	--	---	--





# ICC Reporting

- Halfway down there is a button to take you to the ICC reports
- There is also a list of the reports and their due dates at the bottom of the page



[Download or Complete ICC Forms Here](#)

Due: September 1

Council Activity Planner

Due: March 1

Faith Major Activity

Family Major Activity

Community Major Activity

Life Major Activity

Columbian Award

Family of the Year

Knight of the Year

Rookie Knight of the Year

Leonard Feehan Memorial Community Service

On-Going Project

Special Project

Support of Catholic Education

Support of Vocations

Chaplain of the Year



# ICC Reporting



[Programs](#)   [Membership](#)   [EFF/COR](#)   [Around the State](#)   [Resources](#)   [Directory](#)   [Nebraska Fourth Degree](#)

## Inter-Council Competition (ICC) Forms







# Community Projects & Keystone

Michael Howick



RGD Ken Prokop





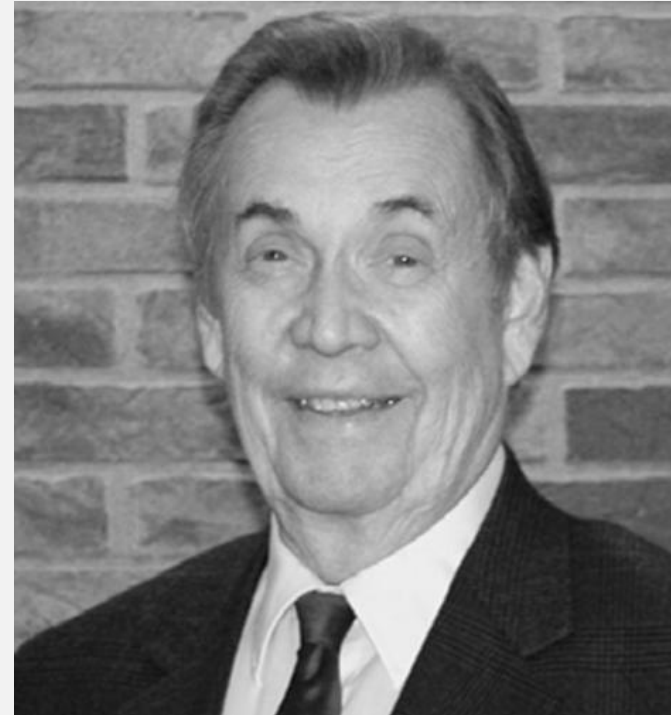


# Family Projects & Keystone

Beth & Michael Esselstein



RGD Bob Hasiak



# State Family Directors

MIKE & BETH ESSELSTEIN

[mbesselsteinkofc@gmail.com](mailto:mbesselsteinkofc@gmail.com)

(308) 631-9711





# DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE?





# OR DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE?



# What is family?

## ► Family – noun

1. A group of one or more parents and their children living together as a unit.
2. All descendants of a common ancestor.
3. A group of related things.

We are a family of Knights of Columbus, and we are all descendants of GOD!

# Returning to Our Roots!

The Knights of Columbus, founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, was established, to take care of families. The family stands at the core of the Knights of Columbus's beliefs and ideals as a Catholic, family, fraternal service organization. The importance of family is vital to our society, as a family is essential to how we learn and live. As Knights of Columbus families, we hold as our example the Holy Family, where they model Love, Faith, Respect, and Obedience. On a local, state, and national level, the Knights of Columbus promotes many activities to encourage family interaction, volunteerism, support for the Church, and sense of community.

# Family Activities

The Knights of Columbus offers ideas on how to promote and encourage families within your council. These are only a few ideas of ways in which to help your council get started. These activities should be fun, enjoyable, and meaningful and should be open to both members and non-members. These may also be compatible with other works within the council or parish.



# Supreme Council



## Featured Family Program:

### Food for Families:

- ❖ A sum of \$500.00 or 1,000 pounds of food.
- ❖ Complete the Food For Families Reimbursement Program Application (#10057) and submit to Supreme.

# Supreme Recommended Family Programs

- ❖ Family of the Month
- ❖ Family of the Year
- ❖ Keep Christ in Christmas
- ❖ Family Fully Alive
- ❖ Family Week
- ❖ Consecration to the Holy Family
- ❖ Family Prayer Night
- ❖ Good Friday Family Promotion

There are many other Family Programs that your Council can do!

# Family of the Month

- ❖ Each Council should submit a Family of the Month each Month.
- ❖ Use Form 10784, by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month.

# Family of the Year

- ❖ Choose a family from your council whom you believe truly reflect the traditions and relationships and fabric of the Holy Family.
- ❖ Nominations are due no later than March 1, 2026.
- ❖ Mike Esselstein
  - ❖ 130417 County Road D
  - ❖ Mitchell, NE 69357

# Family of the Month



Keystone Project:

- ❖ Regional Growth Director
- ❖ Bob Hasiak



Break





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Nebraska  
State Council**





# Safe Environment Training

- Why do we do it?
- *Do it to protect the order*
- *Do it to protect your council*
- *Do it to protect yourself*

But the main reason...

**DO IT TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN**





# It all starts with Form #365 Service Program Personnel Report



## Service Program Personnel Report

July 1, 20\_\_ through June 30, 20\_\_

Council # \_\_\_\_\_ Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Due By: July 1

The *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) must be received by the Supreme Council by **July 1** for the council to be eligible to earn the Star Council Award. Please complete and submit the report with the council's appointed personnel.

- Strongly consider submitting this report through Member Management for expedited processing. This is the preferred method.
- If filling out this report on paper, be sure to include the accurate membership number for each role.
- **Required roles to be appointed have been designated – Program Director, Family Director, Community Director, Membership Director, Retention Chairman.**
- Changes during the fraternal year should be made using Member Management to update the roles accordingly. If your council uses the paper form, only complete and submit that information which has changed.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
FAITH DIRECTOR	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
FAMILY DIRECTOR REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
COMMUNITY DIRECTOR REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
LIFE DIRECTOR	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
RETENTION CHAIRMAN REQUIRED	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
INSURANCE PROMOTION	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
VOCATIONS CHAIRMAN	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
HEALTH SERVICES	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		
PUBLIC RELATIONS	MEMBERSHIP NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
		EMAIL		

SEND ORIGINAL TO: Department of Fraternal Mission (email: [fraternaimission@kofc.org](mailto:fraternaimission@kofc.org))

SEND COPIES TO: State Deputy, District Deputy, Council File

Grand Knight

Date





# Safe Environment Training

- Each of the Local Councils has 4 required positions that **MUST** take the Safe Environment Training
  - *Grand Knight*
  - *Program Director*
  - *Family Director*
  - *Community Director*





# Safe Environment Training

From: **Armatus Administrator**

Subject: Welcome to the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Online Training

This email will contain a username and password for first time users to access the training site. You will need to change your password before beginning your training courses.





Council Family & Community Directors will also receive an email for their background check.

From: **[backgroundcheck@praesidiuminc.com](mailto:backgroundcheck@praesidiuminc.com)**

Subject: Knights of Columbus Request for Background Check Consent

Grand Knights are not required to have a background check unless they are also the Family Director or Community Director.

A Grand Knight is the only person who can hold multiple roles in the Council. Program Directors cannot also be the Family or Community Director.





# Safe Environment Training

Safe Environment Training is required for members in certain roles every 3 years.

Once you have completed your training, a certificate of completion will be emailed to you and recorded with the Supreme Office.

If applicable, you will be able to begin your background check after the training has been completed.

You can find your transcript at any time on the Praesidium Dashboard to see what trainings you have completed and if there are any new trainings required for your position.





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Supreme Incentives & State “Thank You’s”



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Nebraska  
State Council**





# Thank You's for Growing the Order

Published in Growth Book pages 9 & 10

## YEAR LONG

Each Month - \$25 for three members invited; \$10 each additional

## REGIONAL

\$150 Drawing from councils that participated in Regional Meetings

State Convention Meal package drawing from councils of Gold Membership Status





# Thank You's for Growing the Order

## 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER – START FAST

\$5/member brought into council July, August and September

\$100 drawing of councils by region: 100% Safe Environment Compliant by 30 September

## 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER—GROWTHEORDERANDGROWOURFAITH

October: Drawing for one \$100 and four \$50 winner from all proposers

November: Drawing for one \$50 and one \$25 winner from all proposers in each region

December: 'A Knight Before Christmas': \$500 shared by councils that grow during advent.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER – See page 9 of Growth Book for details





# Supreme Thank You's

Details on page 10 of Growth Book & Supreme Website

Father McGivney Award – 6% growth of membership; 5 Minimum, 15 Maximum

Special Awards are offered / announced throughout the year

Fishers of Men: Extend the Invitation (1 July – 31 October)

*100%+ of Growth Goal may win upto \$2000*

*From Fraternal Leader Advisory Volume 127*

Others will be communicated on website and other communications e.g.  
Fraternal Leader Advisory





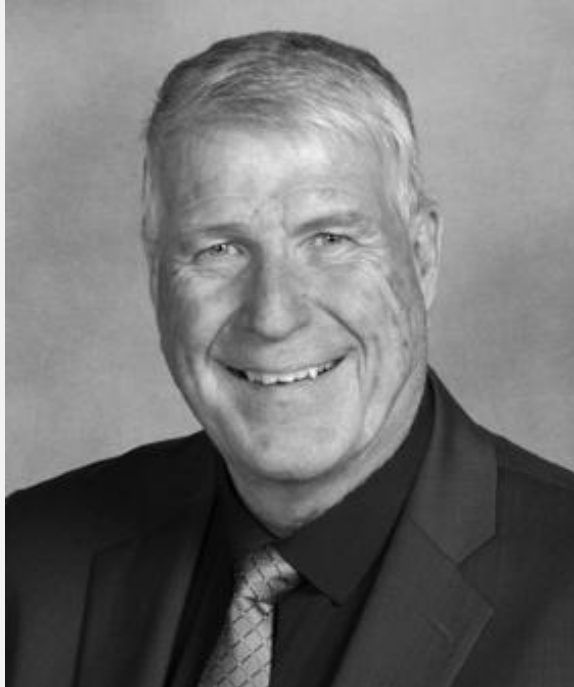
Questions???





# Youth Projects

Gary Groteluschen



RGD John Franssen





# *State Youth Chairman*

The Youth program for the Knights of Columbus is comprised of three major programs:

1. Soccer Kick Challenge
2. Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest (2025-2026 Keystone Project)
3. Free Throw Contest





# *Soccer Kick Challenge*

The Youth Soccer Kick Challenge is held in the fall with local contests generally held in August – Mid September, Regional Competition (If necessary) in Late September – 1<sup>st</sup> half of October, and State Competition currently scheduled for Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>.

1. Order Soccer Kit (By August 1) from Supreme

Order the Soccer Challenge Kit (#SC-KIT) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online .

2. Follow Guidelines on the Supreme website using the following the following link:

<https://www.kofc.org/un/en/forms/programs/10618%206-18%20Soccer%20Challenge%20SS.pdf>

If any council would like to hold their own competition and I will be happy to help get it started, including providing State Soccer Balls and if I'm available, come and help you set up your competition.







# *Keep Christ in Christmas (Poster Contest) (2025-2026 Keystone Project)*

The Keep Christ in Christmas (Poster Contest) is held in December.

Local Councils should order their kits in September or October and present to the participants in November no later than November 15. Posters should be completed by December 1 and Councils should judge entry's for their council by December 31.

Additional Judging deadlines are as follows:

District – January 15

Regional – January 31

Jurisdictional (State) – February 15

Winning Entries should be submitted to the Supreme Council

**Order the Keep Christ in Christmas Guidebook** [https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?ogbl#advanced-search/attach\\_or\\_drive=true&query=kevinostdiekkofc%40gmail.com&isrefinement=true/QgrcJHsHsJMhsbZDrcTDWqIDbsRKWtFQVnl?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?ogbl#advanced-search/attach_or_drive=true&query=kevinostdiekkofc%40gmail.com&isrefinement=true/QgrcJHsHsJMhsbZDrcTDWqIDbsRKWtFQVnl?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1)

**And 5025 Keep Christ in Christmas Entry Form**





# *Free Throw Contest*

The Youth Free Throw contest is held after the first of the year with local contests generally held in January-February, Regional Competition (If necessary) in March with the State Competition currently scheduled for Saturday April 11.

1. Order Free Throw Kit (By January 1) from Supreme

**Order the Free Throw Kit (#FT-KIT) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online .**

2. Follow Guidelines on the Supreme website using the following the following link:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/community/free-throw-championship/10615-free-throw-guidesheet.pdf>





# Publicity Information & Keystone

Craig Vavak



RGD Kent Lorens





# Life Projects & Keystone

Mary & Mike Conrad

RGD Justin Hartman





# Culture of Life Foundation

Mike & Mary Conrad

- Married for 36 yrs
- 4 adult children, Katelynnne, Alyssa, Christa, Seth and 4 grandchildren-Lennon Harrison, Holden and Lainie
- Mike- PSD/FSD, Senior Claims Investigator for the Metropolitan Utilities District
- Mary- RN for Children's Nebraska
- Member of Council 10305 and St John the Baptist Catholic Church
- Resides in Fort Calhoun





# Supreme Featured Programs

## Special Olympics

- Invite Special Olympics director to your meeting
- Publicize the events that you participate in
- Host a fundraiser for S.O.
- Attend and volunteer at the games
- Complete and submit the Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics (#4584)
- Donate a minimum of \$2,000 and record 200 manhours
- Qualifies for the Columbian Award for two of the four Life requirements for the Columbian Award





# Supreme Featured Programs

## Ultrasound Program

- Featured Program in COL Activities
- Need to raise 50% of the costs of a machine
- Identify a prolife center
- Obtain written permission from your Diocese
- Ensure the center is properly licensed under state and local laws
- Ensure Center has a licensed medical director
- Complete the Ultrasound Initiative Application (#4886)
- Qualifies for the Columbian Award for two of the four Life requirements for the Columbian Award







# Supreme Featured Programs

## March for Life

- Attend the national or state March for Life
- Organize your own community March for Life
- Promote your Council's participation
- Display K of C Emblem at the March
- Need minimum of 100 marchers
- Complete and submit the Columbian Award (SP#-7)
- Qualifies for the Columbian Award for two of the four Life requirements for the Columbian Award





# Nebraska Culture of Life Activities

## One Rose One Life Campaign

- **State run program- all funds collected must be submitted to the State Culture of Life Foundation**
- All funds collected are used to support the prolife organizations and activities in Nebraska
- Helps fund placement of ultrasound machines- current have placed 19 machines here in Nebraska- looking for number 20
- Many organizations benefit from this campaign such as Nebraska Catholic Conference, local Right-to-Life and Birthright Chapters to pregnancy centers





# Nebraska Culture of Life Activities

Continued:

- Nebraska Pro-Life Conference's Essay contest
- Culture of Life Art Contest- Annual Pro-Life Card
- Pro-Life Billboards (matching funds up to \$500/side)





# One Rose One Life Campaign

Making a Difference

- Choose a weekend for your campaign, usually around the anniversary of Roe vs Wade, January 22, 1973
- Select a motivated chairman for this event
- Do pulpit announcements, place flyers in your bulletins, distribute K of C prayer cards, collect funds, get permission for a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection
- Publicize a thank you note in your parish and community
- **All** funds collected **MUST** be sent to the Nebraska Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation by **MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>**, ***this campaign is not to used as a council fundraising activity***





# One Rose One Life Campaign

## Call for Life

1. Set a goal of how much you want to raise in support of life(i.e. \$2,000, \$1,500, \$500)
2. Have your chairman find 10-20 members of your council, smaller councils 5-10 members, to “call” family, parishioners, neighbors and friends
3. Divide the call volume equally amongst the council, i.e. if your goal is \$1,000 you can have 10 brother Knights make calls to raise only \$100 each, if they raise more then they are extending Gods work





# One Rose One Life Campaign

Call for Life Continued:

4. During the call secure the donation, gather the contact information so that collecting the donated funds can be simplified

5. Mail to the donors a current K of C Pro-Life Prayer card, donation form and self-addressed envelope so the donations can be sent back to the council. Once all funds are collected, forward said funds to the Nebraska Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation

\* Suggested donations forms and call scripts can be available upon request





# Culture of Life Art Contest

## Rules

- Art contest is open to ALL Nebraska students K-6<sup>th</sup> grade for original artwork that may be depicted on the upcoming One Rose One Life Prayer card
- Design must be on a 8 ½” x 11” (letter size) sheet of paper
- Design/image may be smaller than the sheet of paper
- Entry must have a Culture of Life theme or message
- Pencil, crayons, markers, paint, etc. can be used. \* ***No computer-generated images will be accepted***
- Entries must be received by no, later than **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. Winners will be announced at the State Convention
- **All entries become the property of the Nebraska COL Foundation and will not be returned**







# Culture of Life Art Contest

Each entry must contain the following information

- Name of artist
- Age and grade of artist
- Address and phone number of artist
- Submitting Council name and number
- Grade School or Religious Education Program name (if home schooled include name of parent)
- Parish the artist attends





# Culture of Life Art Contest

Top three (3) entries per Council needs to be mailed to:

**Nebraska Culture of Life Foundation**

**4770 Jean Marie Lane**

**Fort Calhoun, NE 68023**

## Prizes

- 1<sup>st</sup> place, school or religious education program receives \$500, the artist receives \$200
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place, school or religious education program receives \$250, the artist receives \$100
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place, school or religious education program receives \$150, the artist receives \$50





# Pro-Life Essay Contest

*This is a Nebraska Catholic Conference program with the prize money coming from the COL Foundation*

- Contest is open to student's 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade
- Each grade will have its own winner at the state level for a total of five winners. Each winning essay will receive \$150, with the sponsoring school receiving \$150
- Essay them- ***will be announced by the Nebraska Catholic Conference***
- Essay submissions are due in late March. **Contact your diocesan Pro-Life office** for exact dates and address where entries are to be mailed. ***Do not mail the essay entries to the COL Foundation***
- Winner will be announced at the Bishop's Pro-Life Conference





# Buck-A-Month

## Buck-A-Month Program

- Councils are encouraged to participate in the annual BAM program
- Members and nonmembers can pledge a dollar a month (or more) to be used for state and local support of pro-life activities. 50 % of funds will be to be used for pro-life centers/organizations of the council's choice
- All funds collected needs to be sent to the Nebraska COL Foundation by July 1<sup>st</sup>

## New Changes to the BAM Program

- When submitting BAM funds, councils will need to choose a pro-life center/organization that they wish to have the 50% donation check made to. All donations must go to a 501 c 3 organization(s). Multiple organizations can be selected. A list of qualifying centers/organizations will be provided to all council, ***other consideration of distribution of these funds may be considered upon review of documentation provided and approval of the COL Foundation board***
- Donation checks will then be mailed to the supporting council to make a presentation to the pro-life center/organization





# Supreme and State Service Awards

Culture of Life awards are given at the State Convention for outstanding Culture of Life activities that a council conducts during the fraternal year.

The awards will be judged on the following criteria:

- Detailed description of the project/activity
- Man-hours and number of participants
- Type of fundraiser(s) to support the entry
- Total amount of funds raised for the entry
- The benefit to the organization/recipient of the activity as well as the benefits to fostering a Culture of Life





# Culture of Life Activities

- Ultrasound Initiative
- March for Life
- Pro-Life Billboards
- Baby Bottle/Diaper Drives
- Tea Party for Life- ***get your wives involved***
- Memorials to the Unborn
- Volunteers at a Pro-Life Center
- Host an event at an Assisted Living or Long-Term Care Facility
- Participate in the “Day of the Unborn”
- Support homes/shelters for unwed mothers





# Culture of Life Activities

Continued:

- Distribute the Church's teaching on the sanctity of life as outlined in the Study Guide to Evangelium Vitae (#2914)
- Support Christian Relief efforts in the Middle East and other parts of the world

***Remember we want to live in and raise our children and grandchildren in a Culture of Life not a Culture of Death... Life is defined as “from conception to natural death, and everything in between”***







# Pro-Life Gala 2026

- We are currently working on securing a location for the 2026 Pro-Life Gala
- We will need volunteers to help organize, set up and work the Gala
- Councils can help with donations of auction items or monetary gifts
- Gala will benefit the PHO's here in Nebraska
- More details will be coming as they become available





# Important Dates

- October 15<sup>th</sup>- DD's need to provide the exact number of pro-life cards (number of English and Spanish) and number of envelopes that each council in his District will need for the January OROL drives
- March 1<sup>st</sup>- all OROL funds, Service Award submissions, Pro –Life Art contest entries are all due, ***late donations and entries will not be considered for State Convention awards***
- July 1<sup>st</sup>- Buck-A-Month funds and designated donation form(s) are due





# Closing and Thank You

- Mary and I want to encourage each of you and your councils to do all that you can do to defend, preserve and evangelize to our families, communities, parishes and to ourselves about the Sanctity of Life
- Remember, as Knights, the most powerful weapon that we have against the evil one is the rosary...please pray the rosary daily or as often as you can

Thank you and God Bless





# Mass & Installation of Officers

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Location: Loper South

*\*Bring medal for installation*





# Sunday July 13, 2025

- Opening Remarks
- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

State Financial Secretary Coordinator



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Nebraska  
State Council**



# Faith Projects & Keystone

Mark and Julie Main

RGD Mitch O'Neill







# Faith Programs

- ✚ Spiritual Reflection
- ✚ Holy Hour
- ✚ Into the Breach
- ✚ Refund Support Vocations
- ✚ Pilgrim Icon Program
- ✚ Building the Domestic Church Kiosk
- ✚ Rosary Program
- ✚ Sacramental Gifts





# ✝ Spiritual Reflection

Create annual opportunities for prayer and reflection together as a fraternity

# ✝ Holy Hour

Encourage a profound personal encounter with God

# ✝ Into the Breach

Form men in spirituality and the Catholic vision of marriage and family life through highly acclaimed series and discussion





# ✚ Refund Support Vocations

Assists our seminarians and postulants with financial and moral assistance. As the strong right arm, the Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial and spiritual support to future priests and religious at all stages of their formation

# ✚ Pilgrim Icon

Unite your community in a special act of prayers and devotion to the saints by hosting the pilgrim icon

# ✚ Building the Domestic Church Kiosk

Help strengthen families as the domestic church by providing exceptional religious education materials to all Catholics





# ✚ Rosary Program

Build faithful families and communities by praying the rosary

# ✚ Sacramental Gifts

Support families during the important events in the life of the domestic Church (the sacraments)





# Keep Christ in Christmas

1. To keep Christ in Christmas
2. Raise funds for a worthy cause
3. Create some fun and comradery for your council
4. Promote the Knights to the public and parish
5. See forms in the packet
6. ORDER BY SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

† Assorted case of 35 boxes

† Cost per box  $\$8.75 \times 35 = \$306.25$  per case

† Selling price per box  $\$14.00 \times 35 = \$490.00$  per case





# Vocations Projects & Keystone

Bob Wolf



Ignacio (Iggy) Cervantes





# Vocations

- “There can be no Eucharist without the priesthood, just as there can be no priesthood without the Eucharist” (St. John Paul II – letter to Priests on Holy Thursday, 2004)
- Vocations is vital to the Church
- Every Catholic MUST support vocation
  - Prayer
  - Donations







# Vocations

- Introduce vocations early
  - Vocation fairs
  - Day of recollection with talks by seminarians, postulants, priests, sisters, brothers, etc.
  - Visits to seminaries, mother houses, etc.
- Support Lay Vocations that support Priests
  - Seven Sisters
  - Serra Club
  - Families





# EFF / COR

Richard Lowery PSD, FDM





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Special Events – State Golf Tournament



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Nebraska  
State Council**



# Intellectual Disabilities Project

Sammi & Stephen Lowery



RGD Greg Jochum





# Break





# NEBRASKA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

E-Membership & Church Drives



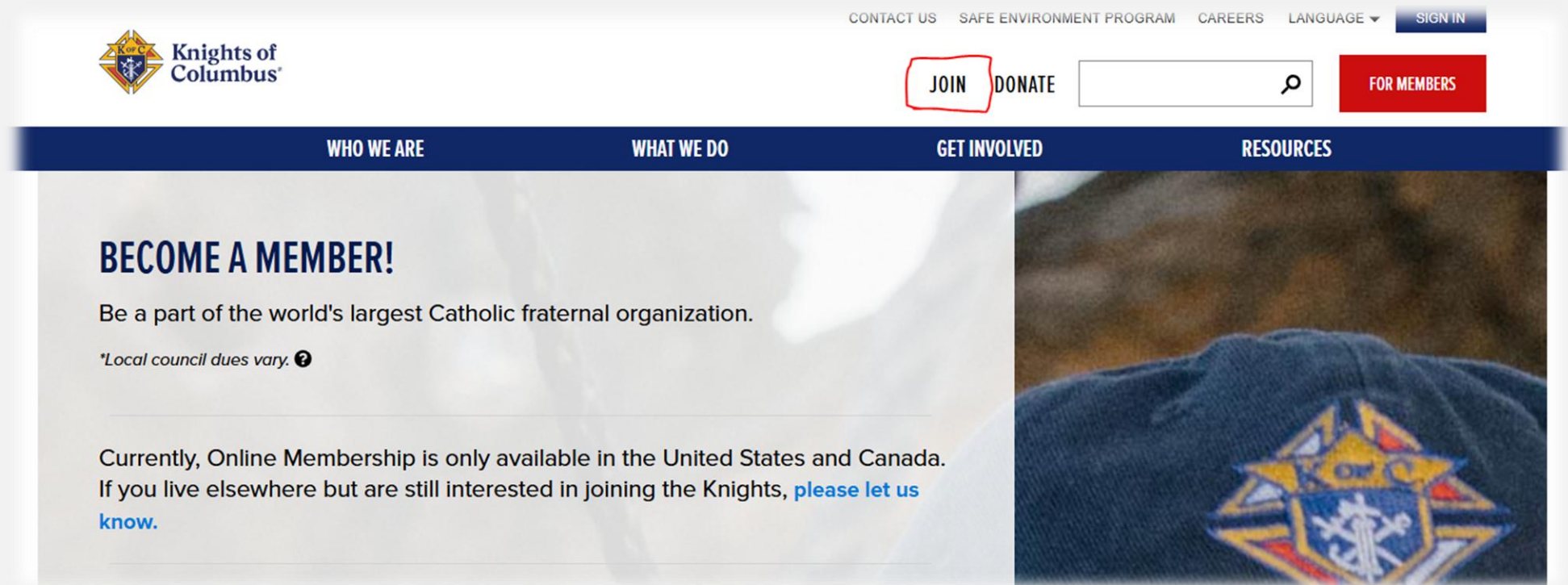
**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Nebraska  
State Council**



# E-Membership

Detailed on pages 19 – 26 of Growth Book

Become Familiar with website: <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>







# E-Membership

Utilize Agent Referral Code or [BLESSEDMCGIVNEY](#) Promo Code to remove \$30 joining fee

New Member Answers:

- ☐ I am a baptized Catholic male
- ☐ I am a practical Catholic
- ☐ I agree to abide by the Laws and Rules of the Knights of Columbus...

JOIN

CONFIRM e-mail within 72 hours of joining to complete Membership

Participate in a Charity, Unity & Fraternity Exemplification to move to a council roster





# E-Membership

Questions???





# Church Drives

Detailed in Growth Book pages 38 - 41

Introduce / Reintroduce your council to the parish community

- Visitors

- New Members to parish community

- Graduating Seniors

- New to the faith

Within Pulpit announcement share:

- Last 3 activities completed

- Next 3 activities coming up

- Signature activity





# Church Drives

Detailed in Growth Book pages 38 - 41

Pastor Approval & Collaboration

Choose a weekend

Consider a theme: e.g. Laborers, Veterans, Knight Before Christmas, Father's Day, etc...

Form a team

Entrance / Exit greeters

Data entry / prospect recorder

Speaker (for the Pulpit Announcement) – Ideally a well-spoken individual

Potential Speakers: Priest, Spouse, 'Rookie' Knight, 'Seasoned' Knight

Follow up with candidates / prospects

Schedule a Charity, Unity, & Fraternity degree exemplification following the drive





# Church Drives

Questions???





# Computer Class 101

- Where to go on the Supreme Website
- Where to find, fill out, and file Supreme Reports
  - Where to go on the State Website
    - Email Process





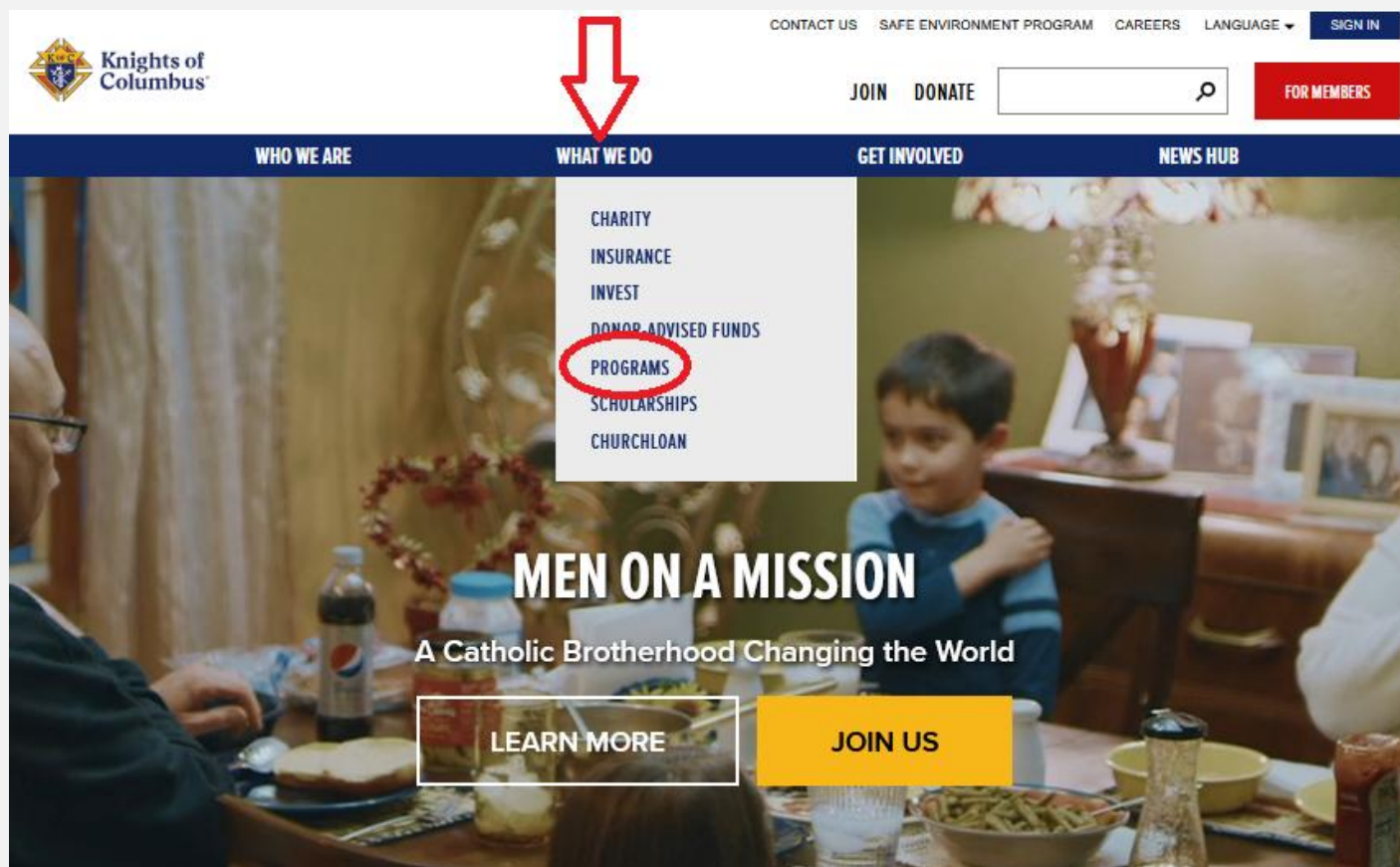
# How To: Find Information about Supreme Projects







# How To: Find Information & Resources on Supreme Projects



Information about Supreme projects and resources can be found on the Supreme website [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). Start by clicking on “What We Do” and then select “Programs”.





# How To: Find Information & Resources on Supreme Projects



Click on the pillar to find program information. Click on the “Resources” button to find downloadable forms and information. Scroll down for more information about Supreme’s “Featured” Programs.





# How To: Find Information & Resources on Supreme Projects

## FAITH IN ACTION - RESOURCES

FAITH IN ACTION OVERVIEW

FAITH

FAMILY

COMMUNITY

LIFE

FAITH IN ACTION FORMS

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### OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

**Faith in Action Resources**

- [#10907 Faith in Action Guidebook](#)
- [#10746 Faith in Action Minimum Requirements](#)
- [#10581 Faith in Action FAQs](#)
- [#11172 Faith in Action Program Forms Reference Guide](#) NEW
- [#11139 Faith in Action Remote Programming Supplement](#)

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**Bright Futures Program**

The [Bright Futures program](#) invites councils to support the students and schools in their communities. Too often, youth face significant barriers to their educational success. Councils can help by providing funding and resources to those most in need. Popular ways to provide support include establishing parish libraries relevant

Click on the pillar to find specific programs for that area. Scroll down to find the resources for the program that you are looking for.





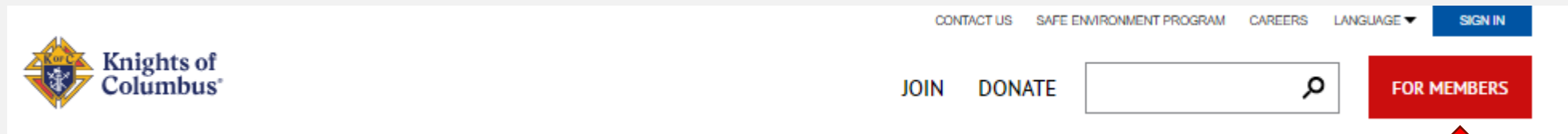
# How To: Find, Fill Out, File, and Submit Supreme Forms





# How To: Find, Fill Out, File, and Submit Supreme Forms

Supreme forms can be found on the Supreme website **www.kofc.org**  
Start by clicking on the red **FOR MEMBERS** button.







# How To: Find, Fill Out, File, and Submit Supreme Forms

click on the **FORMS** tab



## SERVING TEEN MOTHERS

For over a decade, Council 13300 in Wildwood, Fla., has been assisting Hands of Mercy Everywhere (HOME) in caring for teen mothers. Contact a pregnancy resource center or maternity home near you to join the cause for life.

FORMS

SUPPLIES/MERCHANDISE

FRATERNAL OPERATIONS

TRAINING & WEBINARS

PROGRAMS

INVITING MEN TO JOIN

ENGAGE YOUR MEMBERS

CEREMONIALS





# How To: Find, Fill Out, File, and Submit Supreme Forms

Council Forms will come up.

**MAKE SURE TO STAY ON COUNCIL FORMS OR FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAM FORMS ONLY.**

Choose the desired form.

We will use #365, Service Program Personnel Report, as an example.

Form Number	Council Form Name	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	Due Date
#365	Service Program Personnel Report	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	7/1
#1295	Semiannual Council Audit	PDF	N/A	2/15
#1295	Semiannual Council Audit	PDF	N/A	8/15
#1728	Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	1/31







# How To: Find, Fill Out, File, and Submit Supreme Forms

Online is the preferred method!

Click on the “Online (Preferred Method)”

Form Number	Council Form Name	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	Due Date
#365	Service Program Personnel Report	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	7/1
#1295	Semiannual Council Audit	PDF	N/A	2/15
#1295	Semiannual Council Audit	PDF	N/A	8/15
#1728	Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	1/31

You must have access to Officers Online to use the Online submission process





# How To: Find, Fill Out, File, and Submit Supreme Forms

- If you choose the PDF version, you will have a couple of options:
  - *You can print out the document to be filled out by hand*
  - Please make sure that you print clearly
  - Scan the document once it is completed and email it to the appropriate people
  - There will be an email at the bottom of the form to send to the Supreme Office





# How To: Find, Fill Out, File, and Submit Supreme Forms

- If you choose the PDF version, you will have a couple of options:
  - *You can fill out the PDF using the fillable PDF option*
  - Before filling out the document, save the form using a new file name, to your computer
  - Example: Form365\_CouncilXXXXX.pdf
  - If you do not save the form first, anything you fill out will not be saved in the document later
  - Email the completed form to the appropriate people
  - There will be an email at the bottom of the form to send to the Supreme Office





# How To: Find, Fill Out, File, and Submit Supreme Forms

If you have questions about filling out or filing forms, call or email:

Kevin Ostdiek, State Program Director

402-613-1381

[kevinostdiekkofc@gmail.com](mailto:kevinostdiekkofc@gmail.com)

Mike Vaughn, Executive Secretary

402-297-5434

[michael.vaughn@windstream.net](mailto:michael.vaughn@windstream.net)

Joseph Kaup, State Financial Secretary Coordinator

402-340-9875

[kaupjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:kaupjoseph@gmail.com)





# How To: Navigate and use the State Website

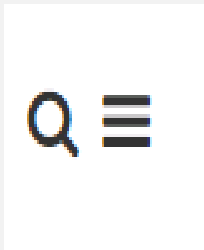




# Navigating the State Website – nebraskakofc.org



Click on State Deputy Mike Schaeffer's pin at the top of every page to return to the home page



Click on the magnifying glass to do a search, or the three bars and it brings up all that is listed under the headings **Programs, Membership, Resources, Directory and Nebraska Fourth Degree**



Click on the "f" to follow on us on Facebook

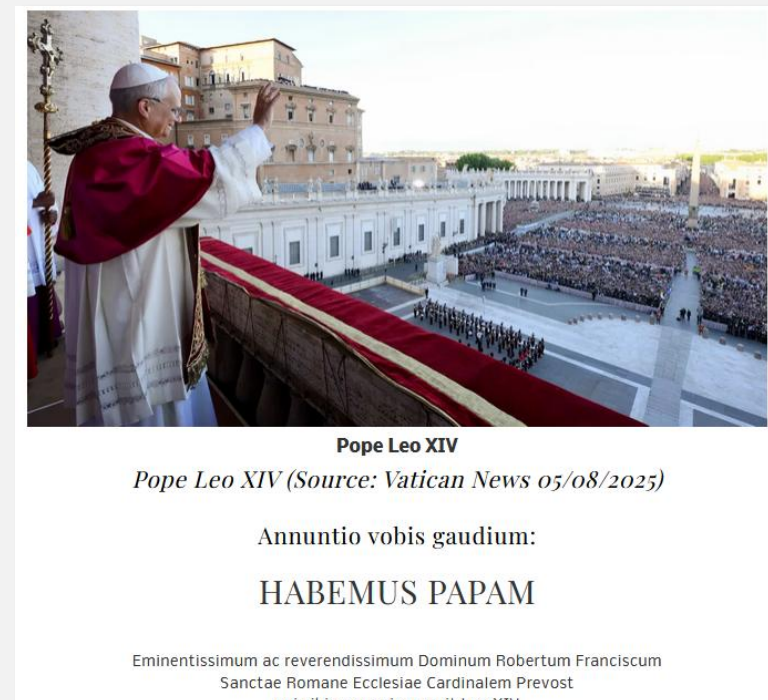
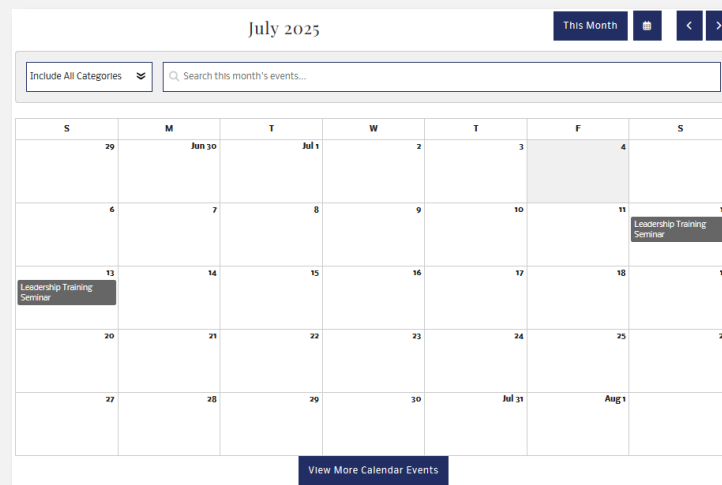


Click on the bird to follow us on Twitter





# Navigating the State Website – nebraskakofc.org



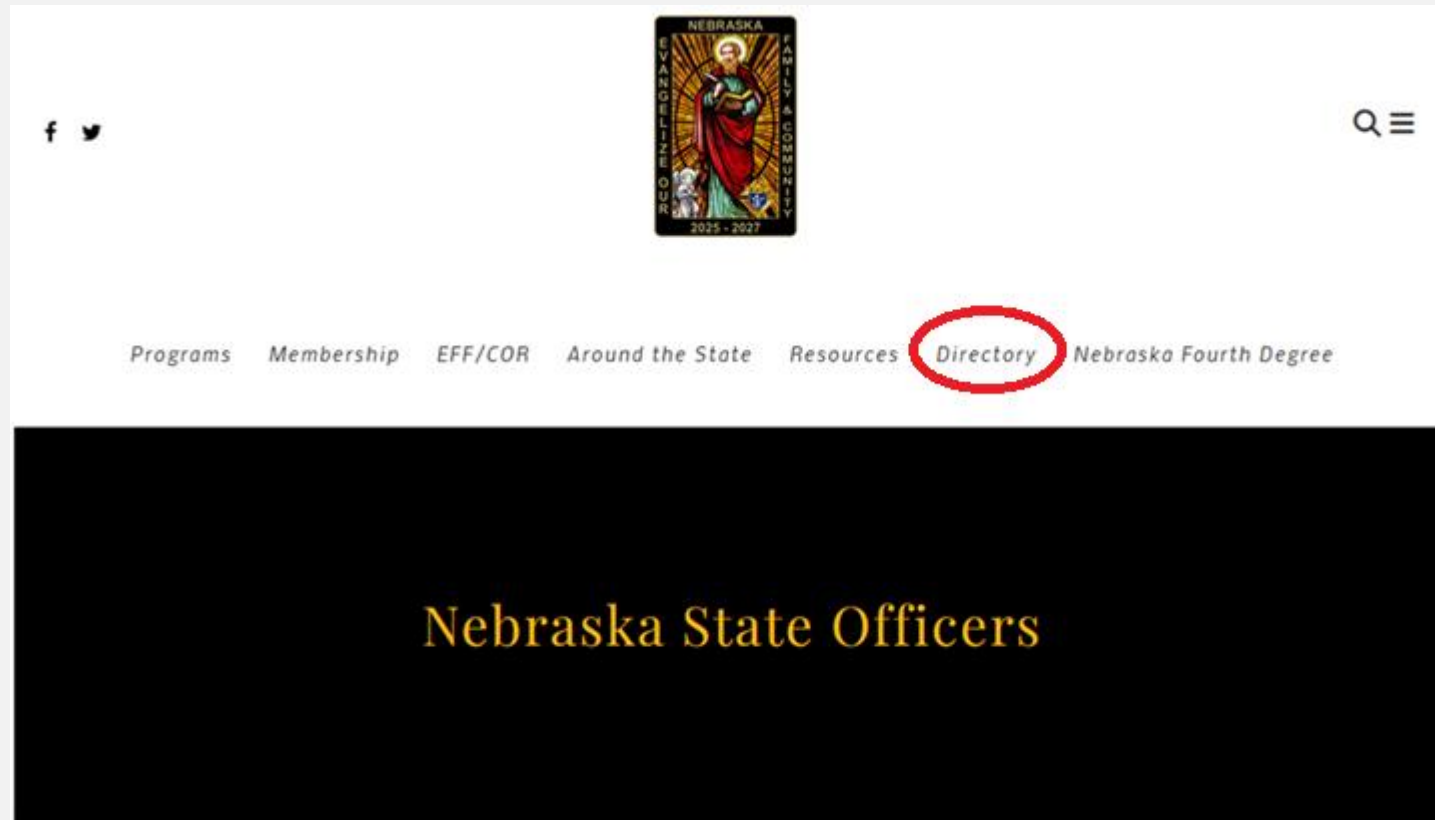
The Home page will contain important news and quick links to stories and events that are coming up. The calendar will list all State Meetings and Events.







# Navigating the State Website – nebraskakofc.org



Scroll down to see the Current State Officers  
On the left are other choices (Program, DD's, Membership...)





# Navigating the State Website – nebraskakofc.org

## Contacting Officers and Directors:

There are no email addresses listed on the State Website to prevent spamming, phishing and other fraudulent efforts to impersonate our officers and directors.

If you need to contact one of the Officers, Program or Membership Staff, or another Council officer **by email**, you will need to find their email address in the **printed** State Directory. Each Council is provided with two **(2)** copies of the State Directory at the beginning of the Fraternal year.

Phone numbers are listed on the State Website at this time and can be found on the Directory Pages of the website.





# Navigating the State Website – nebraskakofc.org



Click on “Programs” to find out more about Supreme and State Programs

[Programs](#) [Membership](#) [EFF/COR](#) [Around the State](#) [Resources](#) [Directory](#) [Nebraska Fourth Degree](#)

[Overview](#)

Faith In Action Programs

[ICC](#)

[Faith](#)

[Family](#)

[Community](#)

[Life](#)



**Faith**



**Family**



**Community**



**Life**





# Navigating the State Website – nebraskakofc.org



## Inter-Council Competition (ICC)

The Nebraska State Council ICC Awards Program is designed to encourage service to the Order, the Church, Communities, Families, Youth and Prolife organizations through the presentation of awards. Recognition itself is secondary to the service or services provided and intended to encourage more service.

Find the ICC Champion Belt at the bottom of the Program Page (or click the link on the left navigation bar) to find all of the ICC Forms, the ICC Tracker, and Due Dates for ICC Forms

Full information was provided yesterday on the ICC requirements and forms for the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year

[Download or Complete ICC Forms Here](#)

[ICC Tracker - Updated 16MAR23](#)

Due: September 1

Council Activity Planner

Due: March 1

Faith Major Activity

Family Major Activity

Community Major Activity

Life Major Activity

Columbian Award

Family of the Year

Knight of the Year

Rookie Knight of the Year

Leonard Feehan Memorial Community Service

On-Going Project

Special Project

Support of Catholic Education

Support of Vocations

Chaplain of the Year





# Navigating the State Website – nebraskakofc.org

Below is a list of the ICC Keystone Projects for 2025-2026

- Faith - Council Holy Hour
- Family - Family of the Month
- Community - Coats for Kids
- Life - ASAP
- Youth - Keo Christ in Christmas Poster Contest
- Intellectual Disabilities - Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- Vocations - RSVP
- Publicity / Social Media - "Around the State" and Social Media

If you have any questions regarding the Keystone Projects, please reach out to the State Program Director for more information.

---

2024-2025 ICC Tracker - Updated 04MAR25

Please Note for the ICC Tracker:

In the middle of the ICC page, you can find the Keystone Projects for this year, and the ICC tracker – to monitor your council's progress.



# McGivney Foundation Advisors

Don Ferneding



Dan Wells





# Insurance & Fraternal Benefit Events

Neil Pfeifer  
FICF



Tony Swanson  
FICF, CLTC





# Strengthening the Mission: Why it Matters

Over the past **10 years**, the Knights of Columbus has donated **\$1.8 billion to charity** while contributing over **700 million volunteer hours**

That is the equivalent of **\$8.4 billion** in charitable service at just \$12/hour.

That kind of impact is only possible because of our insurance program, **the financial engine that powers our mission.**



# The Value of your K of C Field Agent



Knights of  
Columbus®

## Member Benefits

Aside from the numerous personal rewards that come from being a Knight, here is a list of the many substantial rewards for you and your family.

**Columbia Magazine** — Free subscription to the Order's award-winning magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families

**Knights of Columbus rosary** — Blessed by the supreme chaplain, presented during the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity to each new member

**Mass of Remembrance Each Weekday** — Celebrated for deceased members and their wives at St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of the Order

**Insurance** — Access to a portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and annuity products exclusive for members, their spouses and their dependent children

**Family Fraternal Benefit\*** — Benefits for children of insured members that include guaranteed-issue insurability under age 18 and automatic death benefits for children dying before age 61 days

**Orphan Fraternal Benefit\*** — Provides monthly benefits and college scholarships to each eligible orphan of insured members

**Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit** — Accidental death benefit for member in good standing and spouse at no additional cost

**Widow Benefits** — a) continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) the surviving spouse of a Knights of Columbus insured may purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance or annuities after insured member's death; c) receives a free lifetime subscription to *Columbia*; d) eligible with her children for scholarships

**Scholarships** — Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children

**Leadership Development** — Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organizational skills, etc.

**Fourth Degree** — Eligibility to join the Patriotic Degree

**Honorary Life Membership** — At age 70 with 25 years of membership

**Membership Card** — Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in member's council and also in over 15,000 councils throughout the world

**Activities** — Participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by your council

\*Subject to eligibility requirements, conditions and restrictions.

2773 9/24



Your Field Agent is here to serve the families in your council, invite them to attend meetings and events, and give them time to speak.



Scan the QR code to learn more about your Member Benefits with the Knights.



# The Value of your K of C Field Agent



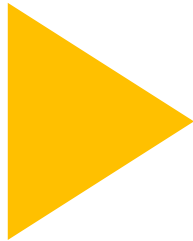
**Partner with your Field Agent to see if they will be able to attend the Council Meeting each month. If they are unable to attend, share the insurance monthly memo on their behalf.**



**Councils that support their agents will naturally receive more attention, guidance, and priority.**



# Membership Recruitment – Partnering with your field agent



Field agents are professional recruiters. They should be part of your recruiting team and council recruiting strategy.

Partner with your agent to help your council reach 100% of membership quota by Oct. 31 and win the "Fishers of Men: Extend the Invitation" competition.





## Fishers of Men: Extend the Invitation

A Membership Growth Competition for Councils July 1 – October 31, 2025  
(Insurance Jurisdictions Only)

By Total Gains (min. 100% of Quota)	By Percentage of Quota (min. 100% of Quota)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1<sup>st</sup> Place (1 per territory) – \$2,000 + a film crew at event (see details below)</li><li>2<sup>nd</sup> Place (1 per territory) – \$1,000</li><li>3<sup>rd</sup> Place (1 per territory) – \$750</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1<sup>st</sup> Place (1 per territory) – \$2,000</li><li>2<sup>nd</sup> Place (1 per territory) – \$1,000</li><li>3<sup>rd</sup> Place (1 per territory) – \$750</li><li>4<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Place (22 per territory) – \$250</li></ul>

**Rules and Criteria**  
The United States and Canada are split into five territories as shown below. The **top three recruiting councils by total membership gains** and the **top 25 recruiting councils by percentage of quota** in each territory will receive money from the Supreme Council Home Office to use toward holding a council/parish event during the 2025-2026 fraternal year.

**Councils must meet a minimum of 100% of their 2025-2026 fraternal year membership quota between July 1 – October 31, 2025, to earn the award.** Refer to the breakdown of payouts above and the criteria for hosting your event below.

*A council can potentially earn the award in both categories, thereby receiving more money for their event.*

**Jurisdictions by Territorial Growth Director**

- Ken Latham** – Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Prince Edward Island, Rhode Island
- Steve Cohen** – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
- Alain Cayer** – Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Ontario, Quebec, Vermont, Wisconsin
- Jim Caffrey** – Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas
- Bob Kish** – Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Saskatchewan, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

**Winners Criteria**  
Each council that receives money for their event from the Supreme Council Home Office is **required to use the money to host a council/parish event during the 2025-2026 fraternal year.** The event should ultimately help drive additional growth for your council and attract men in your parish and community. For example, you might host a family friendly event, a charitable event, or parish men's retreat. *Councils are encouraged to take pictures of their event, share them on Facebook and/or Instagram, and tag @kofc\_official so the Supreme Council can reshare your post with brother Knights around the world.*

**The five councils from each territory that earn first place for total membership gains** will be **required** to work with their state council and regional growth director on planning their council event. The Supreme Council Home Office will send a film crew to the event if it meets proper criteria (more details to follow). The video will be shared Orderwide and on social media, including YouTube, to highlight the council event and encourage other men to join the Order.



# Founders Award



Councils must host / promote at least two\* Fraternal Benefit Events during the fraternal year. The required sum total attendance of members, or member eligible men, at these events must equal or exceed:

- 10 for councils with 99 or fewer members
- 14 for councils with 100 or more members

**\*If the GK and DGK meet individually with their agent for a personal financial review, these two meetings will count for one of the two required FBEs, College & Military Councils excepted**

College and Military Councils only need to host/promote one FBE.




# Fraternal Benefit Events

- Grow your council and increase engagement
- Meet Star Council requirements

## Fraternal Benefit Event Planning Workbook

An 8 to 10-week process toward maximum success

A Fraternal Benefit Event is not only a great way to remind members of the fraternal benefits available to them, it's also a great way to introduce prospective members to the Knights of Columbus. Use this planning workbook to help your council organize successful events.



**Phase 1 / Event Planning: 8 - 10 weeks in advance**

Begin planning your event a full 8 to 10 weeks in advance. Employ a collaborative approach between your council, your agent, and a small group of engaged volunteers.

**Key Tasks**

1. Grand Knight contacts local agent to discuss support of the idea, determine feasibility and options on timing. ☐
2. Grand Knight appoints an event coordinator to act as the official liaison with your local agent.
  - If you're not sure who your local agent is, visit our [Find an Agent](#) page ([kofc.org/taa](#)) and enter your council's zip code (or postal code).
  - If your council does not currently have an assigned field agent, please contact your general agent to coordinate a fraternal benefit event.☐
3. Event coordinator books a first planning meeting with agent and any engaged volunteers. Be sure to book it at least 6 to 8 weeks prior to general event date/timing. ☐
4. Propose a working agenda for your first meeting. Agenda to include:

**EVENT DETAILS:**

  - In person, virtual or hybrid\*
  - Date and time options
  - Venue options
  - Set up needs (AV support, podium, tables, etc.)
  - Determine your RSVP process\*

**PRESENTATION:**

  - ☐ Your agent will have several approved presentations he can deliver based on the audience and interests of your council.
  - ☐ Discuss your role in the presentation with your local Agent – and be sure to focus on the life and work of your council.


☐

**\* Considerations:**


1. If a hybrid event is absolutely required (i.e.: the agent has asked to deliver his presentation from home, office or other offsite location), it is still advantageous to secure a common facility where participants and fraternal leaders can watch the presentation.
2. Speak to your local agent about the merits of using an RSVP system to track participants, which will allow for you and your agent to plan for the appropriate number of tables, chairs, supplies, and handouts.
3. If and when children are present, be sure to have at least one Knight who has received training and certification from our Safe Environment Program to supervise the children's room/activities.

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Knights of Columbus



Fraternal Benefit Event Checklist

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## Fraternal Benefit Events Guidebook



### Conclusion

The need is high. Agents are ready. Let your council and community know what we have to offer.

Thank you for practicing your faith, living your mission, leading your family, and helping to continue the legacy of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney.

Contact your local agent today to book your next Fraternal Benefit Event.

If you're not sure who your local agent is, visit our [Find an Agent](#) page ([kofc.org/taa](#)) and enter your council's zip code (or postal code).

If your council does not currently have an assigned field agent, please contact your general agent to coordinate a Fraternal Benefit Event.





Catholic families that entrust the Knights and our partners with their insurance, retirement annuities and charitable giving choices can enjoy the peace and satisfaction that comes from knowing they are protecting their financial future and pursuing their family's financial security with an organization that shares their Catholic values.

For successfully planning fraternal Benefit Events and community.



Knights of Columbus

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# Knights of Columbus Insurance

- Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Order to intentionally take care of widows and orphans. Providing life insurance to our members goes back to our very beginnings and is at the core of who we are.
- Every dollar a member puts into a Knights product supports the values he believes in. As a charitable membership organization, Knights of Columbus uses a portion of the surplus from business activities to make a global charitable impact.
- You can trust that your money will never be used to support organizations that promote abortion, radical gender ideology, or anything that corrupts the culture.
- With the Knights, your finances work for your family, and for your faith.
- Refer to the Fraternal Excellence Guide for why Insurance Matters





# Our Insurance Solutions

Our suite of life insurance products covers a wide spectrum of needs.



## **Term Life Insurance**

Term life insurance can provide affordable protection to your loved ones for temporary needs. It's simple and straightforward.



## **Permanent Life Insurance**

Permanent life insurance is a great way to provide security for your family. It's guaranteed. It's dynamic.



## **Annuities**

An annuity is a retirement savings product. You make contributions, and, after a specified amount of time, the annuity pays you a regular income stream.



## **Long-term care insurance**

Long-term care insurance can help your family prepare for an extended care event, should you need valuable care management services in the future. It's preventative protection.



## **Disability Income Insurance**

Disability income insurance provides you the opportunity to protect your greatest asset – your ability to earn an income. It's protection for your paycheck.





**Knights of  
Columbus®**

**Questions?**

**Thank you!**



# Closing Remarks & Closing Prayer

