

# STATE UPDATE



## UTAH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

www.utahknights.org

January 2015

### State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

The prayer program we are initiating this year is: "Building the Domestic Church-The Family Fully Alive." The Knights of Columbus was started on this philosophy by the Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney to help the families in his parish stay together. Circumstances were hard on family life and being Catholic was something that outsiders distrusted and made finding good work difficult if not dangerous. These men were focused on supporting their families and keeping their faith intact.

Carl Anderson and the Supreme Council are asking for councils to focus on Building the Domestic Church and the life of the parish. A lot of councils have distractions from running their meeting halls and other programs. This focus is to have councils do checks that they are not running programs duplicating what the parishes are doing. We should be seeing what we can do to help our families and parish and not be in competition.

The order grew from these roots because of the support they got from each other and the church. The church helped them focus on what was important. We still have that challenge today. Both mothers and fathers are having to work to support the family. Youth programs including sports, dance, and clubs have parents running to make sure their kids stay involved and out of trouble. The Knights have sponsored many of these programs. What the Supreme Council has requested is that we take out those programs which conflict with parish programs and join them with the youth ministry to give these programs a faith base.

We are just finishing the Christmas season and have half a year to go. Think about the New Year and getting new members. These new members have fresh eyes and ideas which can help with the focus for last half of our fiscal year. You need someone who can help develop that focus which means new members to keep things going.

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### State Secretary's Corner

I have tight hamstrings. Now hang on just a minute, this has relevance, I promise. Being able to touch my toes ended long ago. When I visited a sports medicine doctor a few months ago, he noted how tight my hamstrings were and suggested I do some stretching to work on them. Doing so would help prevent injury, help my balance, and other things. Over the years I've tried to stretch but frankly never kept up with it for long, despite my goal of being able to touch my toes (without bending my knees).

About three months ago I started working on a stretching machine at the gym. It allows me to adjust the level of stretch. Better yet, it has a gauge so I can see how I'm doing.

When I go into the gym I stretch twice; once half way through my workout and once at the end. My goal for the first stretch is to go to the same level I ended with on my last visit. My goal for the second stretch is to go 2.5 past what I did on my first stretch. In three months I have gone from a 55 on the machine to 92.5. My goal is 100. It seemed impossible at 55 but now is right around the corner.

Why the success on the machine and not on my own? Goals should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound). Specific in my case was 100 on the machine. Measureable? Yes, because of the gauge on the machine. Achievable it is, not like my playing shortstop for the Mets. Realistic for me, sure, as opposed to putting my palms flat on the floor like my wife does. Time-bound because I wanted to achieve the results by my birthday, which I will.

I was not able to achieve the results on my own because just one component of SMART was missing; I had no way to measure my progress with any kind of accuracy. In the same way setting SMART goals for our councils helps us focus on something we want to achieve. Star Council is a great goal and meets all 5 criteria in "SMART."

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## State Deputy's Message (cont)

At the mid-year meeting in January, we want to help get a focus on the next six months. Programs are an integral part of that as are our families and parishes. We always need help and with the focus centered on the parish, we will need additional help. Our membership is not getting younger and we should be thinking of that. We need new men to help carry the load but we also need to develop the men to pick up the torch and keep carrying it.

In January we summarize our numbers which includes money to programs and churches, visits to sick and brothers in distress, and the hours we put in the programs and charity to family, church, and community. This is not to pat ourselves on the back but meet a legal obligation which comes from being a charitable organization. To keep our status with the government, we must provide these statistics to show we are doing what we say we are doing. This includes the number of new members and are we proving to these new members that we mean what we say when we say we do it for the charity. Think about this and the focus we need to finish our fiscal year



Jerry Hanten  
Utah State Deputy

## Master's Musings

The need for strong role models has never been greater. If the sanctity of life, family values, and true religious freedom are to survive, democratic nations need greater commitment from people of faith. That is what the Patriotic 4th Degree represents. We are the pinnacle of Knighthood. We live, serve, and protect the Truth. If you are a 3rd Degree Knight in good standing, it's time for you to consider reaching even further with your faith. It is time to consider the Patriotic Degree. 4th Degree Knights are dedicated to the personal development and continued honor of brother Knights. We are always there to offer leadership, guidance, and encouragement – whether it is through involvement with the Council or honoring those who are no longer with us. 4th Degree Knights are integral to the preservation of our Order.

The Color Corps is an elective division of the Patriotic Degree, whose distinctive presence in parades, wreath-laying ceremonies and Catholic functions – Confirmations, First Communions, and special Masses – is a visible reminder of our service to the community. *Continued next column*

## Master's Musings (cont.)

The tuxedo, chapeau, cape, and sword worn by the Color Corps were inspired by 19th Century naval uniforms, with different cape colors representing nine different program ranks. The ceremonial sword symbolizes Christian Knighthood, and is carried to signify reverence to Church, Eucharist, Country, and Freedom. Color Corps members volunteer to wear the colors with pride and honor, knowing they represent the very best of the Knights of Columbus.

On January 30, 2016, Padre Pio Assembly #2636 is hosting a dinner to support Special Olympics. It will be held at the Salt Lake Eagles Aerie #67, 1104 West 2100 South, Salt Lake City. Registration is on the website. Dinner choices are 12 ounce Rib Eye Steak, Roasted Chicken, or Vegetarian Italian Plate. Entertainment, raffle, and auction will be held. EVERYBODY is invited, Knight or not. This will be a great dinner with great friends for a great cause.

Please remember the Military Chaplains Fund. The State of Utah owes \$5,000 to the fund this year. We need the assistance of every Council and Assembly to reach this commitment. In the past four years the Knights of Columbus have donated over \$1 million to the fund. Currently there are 23 seminarians receiving funds through this program. Five priests were ordained in 2014 and another five in 2015. Today, only 225 priests remain as active-duty chaplains – that is one priest for every 1,300 Catholics in the military. While 25 percent of the US military is Catholic, Catholic priests make up only 8 percent of Chaplains!

In closing, imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course.

Each of us has such a bank – it's TIME. Every morning it credits us with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever we have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for us. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If we fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is ours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow".

Bill McCauley  
District Master - Utah

## New State Program

The Utah State Council has a wonderful new program for high school students in Utah. You know we have the poster contest for Drug and alcohol abuse awareness? This is along the same lines, but is a video contest.

Here are the basic rules:

A 30-second public service announcement produced by a Utah high school student who is Catholic or attends a Utah Catholic high school with the subject "Alcohol and/or Substance Abuse Awareness"

There will be an entry form and the students will submit their video online.

The entry will have NO trademarked material. So, if the student wants to show a bottle of booze on the ground, there can be no identifiable logo on the bottle. If the student wants a logo, they have to come up with one. If the student wants music on the video, they have to come up with it on their own or have no music.

There will be more information coming soon, but we want to get the news of the program out there so students can get to work right away. We think this will be a good way to get high school students involved with a worthwhile project, increase awareness of the Knights in high schools and with high-school aged students, and foster creativity. The winners will be announced at the state convention.

Poster and Essay Contest Chairman Tom Giron has graciously taken on the duties of chairman of this contest as well.

## Support Christians in the Middle East

Beautiful wooden crosses are available to councils who want to raise funds for those in the Middle East who are the victims of persecution.

At the 133<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Convention everyone who attended was given a Solidarity Cross and listened to the request of the Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and others requesting that we as Knights step up our efforts in support of those being persecuted in the Middle East. While the Knights have already donated millions of dollars to this cause, overall the general population has not had the opportunity to join in any concentrated effort to assist those that many feel is necessary. It was suggested that each State Deputy try to get all Knights within their jurisdiction to fully participate in this program by ordering these Solidarity Crosses and not only provide this opportunity to the local councils but to the general public as a possible fund raising mechanism to support this effort.

Crosses may be ordered through the Supreme Council by sending an email to [supply@kofc.org](mailto:supply@kofc.org).

Councils can purchase crosses for \$5 each (minimum order of 10 crosses with free shipping)

Offer the crosses in your parishes and communities for a suggested donation of \$10 and make a single payment of the net proceeds to:

Christian Refugee Relief Fund  
payable to Knights of Columbus Charities,  
P.O. Box 1966, New Haven,  
CT 06509-1966



This is a great way for you to get your fellow parishioners to work with us in improving the lives of those who need so much.

## State Secretary's Corner (Continued)

It can seem hard, but if you look at any challenge and break it into pieces it becomes more possible. Breaking my stretching into 2.5 increments made my goal of 100 possible. If I had looked at the machine for five and a half months then tried to go from 55 to 100 in a couple of weeks I would have been doomed (and limping). Having a membership goal of 4 members and counting on getting all of them in one drive in June will likely scuttle your plans for Star Council. But if you get started now, you will have 6 months. That is 1 member every 6 weeks. That's not that tough, particularly with many people in your council helping.

Why is this Star Council a worthwhile goal? First and foremost, it is a measure of your councils success. Your success in doing things for others and the parish through programs. Your success in fulfilling Fr. McGivney's goal of protecting Knights and their families. Your success in changing the lives of your new members and expanding the charity we provide through our programs. Worthwhile? Oh yeah.

As an added incentive, Supreme has a wonderful prize for councils awarded Star Council this fraternal year; a nice fat rebate of Supreme per capita for EVERY SINGLE KNIGHT in your council. That is hundreds of dollars YOU can put to work helping even MORE people.

As achieving my goal will help my balance and other aspects of my life, committing to achieve your goal of Star Council will help your council sustain itself, increase charity, and make better Catholics out of your Knights. Be committed to your goal. Own it. Telling others about it makes it real and further invigorates your efforts to meet it. Meet or beat your goal and the rewards will be a better council, better parish, and better community. What better prize can there be?.

Andy Airriess  
State Secretary .

### State Program Updates

**Science Fair** The Knights of Columbus Diocesan Science Fair is Saturday, February 6th at Judge Memorial High school. Signups are not yet possible and will be conducted online only. The signup web site will be coordinated by the science fair teachers. When we know what it is, we will let you know. Our estimable Chairman is Al Martinez who can be reached at [zenitharmy@gmail.com](mailto:zenitharmy@gmail.com).

**State Scholarship** This is the time to get the high school seniors you know to start the submission process for the state scholarship. This program provides \$1,000 to graduating seniors entering a post-secondary education institution. Information and the entry form can be found from Chairman Chuck Dover at [dovcha@hotmail.com](mailto:dovcha@hotmail.com) and on the state web site at: [http://utahknights.org/programs/#state\\_scholarship](http://utahknights.org/programs/#state_scholarship)

**State Free Throw** The State Free Throw Challenge is coming up in March, but THIS is the time to get your free throw kit from Supreme. Our State Chairman is Ron Mecham and he can be reached at 801-973-8337. For all the info you need just search for "Free Throw" on the Supreme web site or use this link: [http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/freethrow/support\\_materials.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/freethrow/support_materials.html)

**MS Walk** Coming up at the end of April. This is a great event and our fundraising for it has helped lead to wonderful things happening in developing treatment. You or your council can donate. Or, show your support by just enjoying a walk with some of your fellow Knights and their families. More details on this event will be coming soon from Community Director Nick Nielson.

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STATE DEPUTY Jerry Hanten  
[jerry.hanten72@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.hanten72@gmail.com)

EDITOR Andy Airriess. – State Secretary  
[aairriess@msn.com](mailto:aairriess@msn.com)