

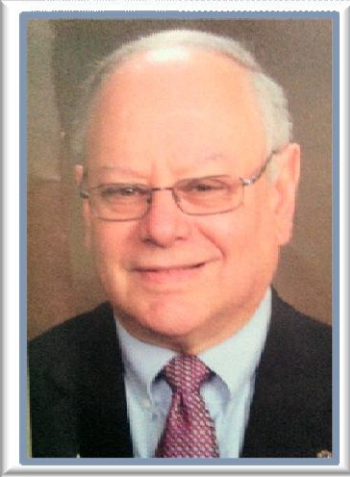


NEWSLETTER NJ STATE COUNCIL



Official Publication of the New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus

State Deputy's Message



Andrew E. Lipenta
State Deputy



My Brother Knights

With the Christmas Season in the rear mirror, we turn the page on another month of this Columbian Year. Freezing rain is falling as I prepare this letter and it seems that spring is far off. The reality, however, is that there are just five months remaining for us to achieve the goals that we set last July 1st.

Keeping with the membership slogan from Supreme Council, *One Member per Council per Month*, we continue to stress, that membership growth occurs **365** days a year, not just during the fall and spring membership drives. Remember "One Member per Council per Month" and "One first degree per council or district per month."

New membership, as you know, is the lifeblood of the council and will provide the manpower for your second half programs and also provide talented future leaders of your councils. Your council's future leaders depend on membership growth, so important to provide vibrant support for our parish churches and communities.

Please take advantage of this opportunity and help us grow the order so we will have a louder, larger collective voice to "**Proclaim and Defend our Faith**".

On a separate note, Supreme Council has introduced a new program, affording safety of all of the children, served by programs of our councils, which I introduce to you below...

Safe Environment Initiative

Now, as always, Knights of Columbus continues to promote and defend Christian family life in all its initiatives and programs, including those serving children and youth. Recognizing that children are a precious gift, Knights of Columbus have made their safety and well-being as the highest priority in the Order's programs and activities.

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State Deputy's Message *(continued)*

In partnership with *Praesidium*, an organization that has worked to provide knowledge and tools that safeguard against sexual predators for more than 20 years, the Knights of Columbus as an Order continues its strong tradition of maintaining the highest standards regarding the protection of young people.

Through this partnership, the Order provides youth leaders with access to the most up-to-date resources to keep children safe, including [Praesidium's Armatus®](#) online training, background screenings and an exclusive hotline to report child safety concerns (1-844-KOFC-SAFE (844-563-2723)). All materials are available in English, Spanish and French to make the content accessible to all members who will be asked to fulfill organizational requirements.

Supreme Council, Board of Directors has directed that members in youth serving roles and certain officer positions be required to take online youth protection and safe environment training.

Specifically, State Deputies, State Squires Chairmen, State Youth Directors, Grand Knights, Youth Directors, Columbian Squires Chairmen, Chief Counselors, Committee Counselors, and Faithful Navigators (if their assembly sponsors a Circle) are required to complete *Praesidium's Armatus®* online training.

Beginning January 5, 2015, *Praesidium* sent out email invitations to those members designated in youth serving roles and certain officer positions. The email will contain unique log in information to *Praesidium's* website, enabling them to take the mandatory *Praesidium's Armatus®* online safe environment training. When applicable, *Praesidium* will send a second email to request authorization to conduct a background check.

Those members required by the Board to take the mandatory training must complete *Praesidium's Armatus®* online training and background check authorization within 30 days of receipt of each email. Failure to comply may render those members ineligible to hold official positions in the Knights of Columbus.

Co-operation and participation in these essential components of the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program ensure that all of us are continuing to uphold our responsibility, as Knights and Catholic gentlemen, of keeping young people safe in Knights of Columbus programs and activities.

If you suspect abuse, please call 844-KOFC-SAFE (844-563-2723)

Vivat Jesus

Andrew E. Lipenta
State Deputy

Program Corner

February is a time for appraisal of what you have accomplished, to make preparations to achieve all of your goals, and to reward those around you that have and will make it all happen.

How well rounded is your council's calendar of service programs? Lent is the season where we can easily get more involved with our youth and families. Programs can be as simple as distributing Easter coloring books, dying Easter eggs or collecting canned food together. If you have the where with all, you can take on a parish/community Easter Egg Hunt, Easter dinner for families, a soup and scripture reading or fish fry each Friday. Be smart about your Lenten activities and use your programs to attract and invite men that otherwise would not have joined the council.

We also need to appreciate that our accomplishments were not exclusively ours alone. We must recognize and acknowledge those who have helped us along the way with their sacrifices, dedication, and hard work. For without their contribution and example, where would we be? Who would we rely on? Who would we look to? Who would we count on? Consider well who these people are and submit their names for a NJ State Council recognition award.

Forms due at Supreme in February ...

- 02/15 Form 1295-2 (Semiannual Council Audit) keeps your council solvent and your FS bonded

February program considerations should be:

- CCD Teacher of the Year; Council application due 02/01 to your District Deputy
- Parochial Teacher of the Year; Council application due 02/01 to your District Deputy
- Emergency Care Service Award; Council application due 02/01 to your District Deputy
- Senior Citizen of the Year Award; Council application due 02/01 to your District Deputy
- Shield Award; Council application due 02/01 to your District Deputy
- Habitat for Humanity; Council application due 02/01 to your District Deputy
- Homeless Shelter Support; Council application due 02/01 to your District Deputy
- Food for the Hungry; February is the hardest month for food banks and the needy
- 40 Cans for Lent Program – start with Fat Tuesday 02/17 or Ash Wednesday 02-18
- State Bowling Tournament; application due 02/20 to Chairman Barry Kakos

March programs to be considered and acted upon in February ...

- Keep "Christ Before Us" coloring book order due 03/01 to the chairman
- Keep "Christ Before Us" First Holy Communion sets – order minimum of two weeks prior
- Bishop Dougherty Scholarship Application; due 03/01 to Grand Knight; due to State Chairman 04/01
- Fr John Murray Scholarship Application; due 03/01 to Grand Knight; due to State Chairman 04/01
- John Attardo Memorial Scholarship Application: due 03/01 to Grand Knight; due to Chairman 03/31
- State Bowling Tournament; Howell Bowling Lanes, 03/07, 03/08, 03/14, and 03/15, 1pm start times
- Founders Day Weekend, consider a healing Mass offered up for Fr McGivney's Intervention 03/29 & 03/30
- State Photography Contest; Entries due to State Chairman 03/31

Let us, together, do our best to develop a calendar of programs with the tools supplied by our State Council and Supreme. Remember, have fun in doing and promoting God's work while bringing other like-minded Catholic men into our Order as we ***Proclaim and Defend our Faith!*** Vivat Jesus!

Happy Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, and President's Day! - Ray Sands FDD

General Agents Corner

Did you know?

Facts about social security.....



In order to qualify for the highest social security payout of \$2663 per month when you retire, you will need to be earning more than \$118,500 in 2015. Oh, and you had to earn over \$117,000 in 2014. That is some sticker shock!!! The amount you have needed to earn to qualify for the highest payout from social security has gone up significantly in recent years. Between 1937 and 1950 to qualify for the maximum benefit you had to earn \$3,000. After 1950 it started to go up a little each year or two. Here are a couple of examples from 1966 to 67 when the Packers were winning the first two Super Bowls it was \$6,600. In 1978 when the Yankees won the World Series it was \$17,700. In the year the Giants won the Super Bowl, 1986 it was \$42,000. It went up to \$76,200 in 2000, almost double what it was in 1984 and triple the 1980 number.

All those increases aside, the decade or so with the most growth in the maximum taxable income to qualify for the highest benefit is the last ten years, when it went up by almost \$30,000 to its current level. We pay 7.5% of our income into this benefit plan that the government in their words describes as, "not intended to be the sole source of income for seniors". (SSA.gov website in your benefits view online). Also remember to qualify for the maximum benefit your 35 best years of earnings must meet or exceed the number for each of those years.....that's why you need to check your statement on line every year at SSA.gov .

Too many of us are relying too much on a government that is cash strapped and deeply in debt to care for us in our old age. We have to take care of our own families and make the sacrifices necessary, to be disciplined in our approach to financial planning and less concerned with the here and now, because later is coming sooner than we expect.

Earlier I gave you the number on the highest social security benefit that is paid out. The average is \$1329. CAN YOU LIVE ON \$1329 A MONTH??? Remember also, that one spouse passes the surviving spouse only gets to keep one social security payment, they loose the lower payment.

To go over your benefits and to see how the Order can help you plan for a safe and secure financial future give your agent or general agent a call. Let's get together and have a conversation, you'll be glad you did, because we're here to help. It's who we are and what we do.....Protecting Catholic Families since 1882.

Charles Miraglia, FICF, CSA

Culture of Life Corner

We had a very productive meeting with the Grand Knights on January 10, as we talked about how we are going to surge forward in this second half of the year, especially in the area of Culture of Life. Lots of exciting programs are coming up, and I wanted to talk about how your council can make the most of them in the coming months. I would urge you to discuss these with your council's pro-life chairman and plan to participate in at least one of them!

Polar Bear Plunge. This very important and worthwhile fundraiser is almost upon us, and we still need your help to reach our fundraising goal of \$30,000. With a participation goal of 50 "plungers," we can easily reach this if each team member can raise at least \$600. Unfortunately, although we have over 30 "plungers" signed up, we are nowhere near our fundraising goal. Please go to this [LINK](#) to join the team or make a donation by sponsoring a participant. If one of your council's members is on the team, please support him with a donation.

Turn Off the TV Day. Hopefully, your council is well under way towards participation in this program and have already had members send out letters to the networks. Then all we have to do is start off the Lenten season by turning off our TVs on Ash Wednesday, February 18. If you haven't sent out the letters yet, please do so as soon as possible. A sample letter, addresses for the networks, and other resources are available from the web site at this [LINK](#).

ACE Wings for Life. Last year, we adopted a program started by the Texas State Council to recognize our Order's pro-life warriors, who support life without Apology, Compromise, or Exception, by participating in at least 5 pro-life programs in the course of the year. At last year's convention, we awarded 21 Wings, and I would like to award more this year. If you have an exemplary Pro-Life Warrior in your council, nominate him for this award using the form at this [LINK](#). Do not be discouraged if you do not hear back, as the presentations are a surprise in May.

Promoting a Culture of Life. Has your council run a Rose Sale or Baby Bottle Drive recently? Looking for ways to donate it for maximum effect? Then allow me to make a few suggestions! The best way we can promote the Sanctity of Life in our society is by showing that we care about mother and child both before and **after** the choice for life is made. Make a donation through the Homes for Moms program and the Supporting Pregnant Women in Crisis program. Purchase and donate diapers, wipes, formula and baby clothes to a local pregnancy care center. Promote Quality of Life by donating at least \$200 to Deborah Hospital, at least \$250 to the Alzheimer's Drive, and at least \$600 to the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. Let's get it done this spring!

Vivat Jesus!

Steven J. Richardson, FM
Culture of Life Programs Director



SCHEDULED DEGREES

[LINK](#) individual councils below for

DEGREE: LINK , LOCATION & DATE:

CAMDEN:

First [Council 1443](#) Mon. Feb. 2
 First [Council 7464](#) Mon. Feb. 16
 First [Council 3784](#) Mon. Feb. 16
 Second [Council 7463](#) Mon, Feb. 9
 Second [Council 10392](#) Wed. Feb. 11
 Second [Council 7463](#) Fri. Feb. 27
 Third [Council 7463](#) Fri. Feb. 13

METUCHEN:

First [Council 13264](#) Mon. Feb. 23

NEWARK:

First [Council 2188](#) Tue. Feb. 10
 Third [Council 1345](#) Fri. Feb. 27

PATERSON:

Third [Council 6354](#) Sun. Feb. 15

TRENTON:

First [Council 1082](#) Thurs. Feb. 19
 Second [Council 11529](#) Tue. Feb. 10

[All Website Schedules](#)



| <u>COUNCIL</u> | <u>CHARTERED</u> | <u>YRS</u> |
|---|------------------|------------|
| 405 Atlantic City Atlantic City | 2-12-1899 | 116 |
| 1672 Freehold Freehold | 2-13-1913 | 102 |
| 1778 Millville Millville | 2-28-1915 | 100 |
| 15907 Monmouth University W. Long Branch | 2-26-2014 | 1 |

Our State Deputy Andrew “Andy” Lipenta along with the entire NJ State Council and the Newsletter Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish **ALL** councils best wishes on their **Charter Anniversary**.

May your council continue to grow and do good deeds for many more years to come! Let's continue to grow our ranks, expand our programs and, in doing so, “**Proclaim and Defend our Faith!**”

Happy Anniversary

[NOTE: Due to the large number of anniversaries each month we have lionmouthmited the publishing list to the names of councils celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th Anniversary during the current month.]

Membership Corner

Let me begin by congratulating the councils below who have already achieved 100% or more of the annual membership goal. These councils were each awarded with a \$100 check to spend on a Super Bowl party or however they wish to celebrate this milestone.

| Council | District | Net Pct Gained |
|--|----------|----------------|
| 15907 - Monmouth University, W. Long Branch | 022 | 450% |
| 15964 - Bishop John C Reiss, Marlboro | 027 | 360% |
| 475 - Paulus Hook, Jersey City | 004 | 164% |
| 8603 - St. Barnabas, Bayville | 029 | 153% |
| 15808 - St John Paul II Shrine Council, Linden | 006 | 125% |
| 3550 - Archbishop Walsh, Ridgefield | 012 | 114% |
| 1607 - East Orange, E. Orange | 019 | 100% |
| 2607 - Father Cannon, Penns Grove | 052 | 100% |
| 5730 - Father John S. Nelligan | 006 | 100% |
| 6513 - Msgr. James A. Bulfin, Malaga | 059 | 100% |
| 6530 - Father John P Wessel, Marlton | 033 | 100% |

As was announced at the District Deputy meeting in December and the Grand Knight mid-term meeting there are many former and inactive members who live in your councils' areas who were once members of a different council. Some might have lived in another part of New Jersey and perhaps retired "down the shore" or moved from South Jersey to North Jersey. Some might have lived in another state and now live in your area. If you send me the ZIP codes that your council is associated with to johnerwin@yahoo.com, I will send you the names and addresses of the former and inactive members that are in those ZIP codes so that you can contact them and ask them to rejoin our Order.

The number of these members could be 2 or 3 times the number of former and inactive members who are former members of your specific council. Reactivating these men could help you attain 20% or more of your council's membership goal. Keep in mind that reactivating inactive insurance members help you meet both your membership goal as well as your insurance goal. Men who reactivate their membership do not need to retake any of the degrees that they have already taken and because their back dues were "written off" years ago, they do not have to pay past dues.

More information about welcoming back these former Brother Knights can be found here on the Supreme website: http://www.kofc.org/un/en/membership/drive/former_inactive.html

Keep working on growing our Order, Brothers, so that we can continue to "Proclaim and Defend Our Faith".

John Erwin, FDD
Membership Program Director

New Jersey Columbian Charities Fraternal Assistance Program

Purpose

The New Jersey Columbian Charities Fraternal Assistance Program provides support to New Jersey Knights of Columbus who are suffering financial hardship due to unemployment, sickness, family medical and hospital bills, overdue rent or mortgage payments, property tax, food, clothing, and losses due to fire, flood or storm. It is based on the principle of charity, the first principle of our Order, and fulfills Father McGivney's mandate of Brother helping Brother.

Eligibility

Any member of a New Jersey Council with at least twelve months good standing who is in need of temporary assistance and the widows and orphans of such members are eligible.

Procedures for Applying for Financial Assistance

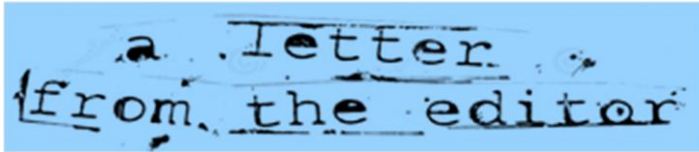
1. If you are or you know someone in need of assistance, please notify the Council's Grand Knight. If possible, the Grand Knight should consider providing assistance through a council based program if one exists. If there is unmet need, the Grand Knight should contact the Fraternal Assistance Program Administrator at NJCCFraternalAssistance@njkofo.org to obtain a copy of the application form. Only the Grand Knight can obtain the form. Prior to requesting the application, the Grand Knight must confirm that the member is in good standing.
2. Upon receiving the application, the Grand Knight will assign a Trustee of the Council to serve as the Investigator. The Investigator calls on the Brother requiring assistance, investigates his problem, fills out the application, and obtains the applicant's signature.
3. The Investigator then drafts a report explaining in detail the distressed financial condition of the Brother and family, attaches it to the application, and forwards the application and other pertinent information to the Grand Knight of the Council.
4. The Grand Knight and Financial Secretary of the Council must determine that the application is meritorious and affix their signatures to the form before sending the application to the Program Administrator at NJCCFraternalAssistance@njkofo.org or 28 Great Oak Road, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690.
5. All applications will be reviewed by the Program Screening Committee. The Committee reserves the right to reject, approve, set limits, and set conditions on any and all applications.

Financial Assistance

All financial assistance is provided in the form of a grant. There is no requirement that the grant be repaid.

Confidentiality

All information received by the Grand Knight is strictly confidential and is not to be shared with other members of the Council.



The holiday season is over and most of our councils are busy making plans and preparations for the balance of this Columbian Year. Most councils are picking up steam, working on wives appreciation parties for Valentine's Day and heralding the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Dances and celebrations. These are all great social and fraternal events and every council should be participating in these joyous occasions.

However, those are not just the only activities we should be gearing up for. Before you know it, the biggest fund raiser, we, as Knights, in New Jersey take part in, will be here. Our yearly drive to raise funds for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities! Assign a chairman to form a committee to make arrangements to solicit in front of local business establishments. Ask each council member to help and donate one to two hours of their time to raise funds.

This year, the drive will take place from Thursday, April 23, thru Sunday, April 26. Remember, 10 percent of all funds collected goes to the State Council, which enables them to donate larger amounts to needy groups. The balance of the funds collected, by the council, goes to the designated groups of each individual council.

Each year we strive to reach our goal of one million dollars to help these special groups. If every council participates, this year, we can reach that goal and do much good in helping them to adjust to life.

Carmen A. Blandino
Newsletter Editor



SELECT ARCHIVED ARTICLES:

The following *"Editor's Choice"* specially selected past articles of interest are available on our State Website under the ["Media"](#) section:

[September 2013](#) – *"I Hate Selling"*

[October 2013](#) – *"Consider using Brochures"*

[November 2013](#) – *"Your Role as a K of C Leader"*

[December 2013](#) – *"Keep **CHRIST** in **CHRIST**mas"*

Page 8 – *"Saint Nicholas ~ Santa Claus"*
Are they one and the same?

[January 2014](#) – *"We Can, We Must, We Will"*

[February 2014](#) – *"Communications"*

"Extra, Extra" – *Saint Valentine*

[March 2014](#) – *"Attention Webmasters"*

Page 7 – *"Saint Patrick"*

[April 2014](#) – *"Welcoming Younger Members"*

[May 2014](#) – *"Member Retention"*

[June 2014](#) – *"Teamwork"*

[July 2014](#) – *"The Importance of Planning"*

[August 2014](#) – *"What does the K of C do for me?"*

[September 2014](#) – *"Have we forgotten them?"*

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[Special Papal Issues:](#)

- [Part 1](#) – *"Pope Benedict XVI Resigns"*
- [Part 2](#) – *"The Process to Elect a New Pope Begins"*
- [Part 3](#) – *"Habemus Papam" – "We Have a New Pope!!!"*

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[Special May 2014 Convention Issue:](#)

"Publicity"

∞

Upcoming Events:

* PLEASE NOTE - **ALL MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE** AT THE STATE COUNCIL OFFICE **ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.**

Be sure to make a note of the activities that are scheduled for the next several months. Click the specific activity [\[hyperlink\]](#)  to obtain more information, details and forms. Log-in required.

2015

February 1 - Emergency Care Service Award - [LINK](#)

February 1 - Senior Citizen of the Year - [LINK](#)

February 1 - Shield Award – Firefighter - [LINK](#)

February 1 - Shield Award – Police - [LINK](#)

February 1 - Habitat for Humanity - [LINK](#)

February 20 - Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

March 1 – Bishop Dougherty Scholarship-Application, [Records](#)

March 1 - Fr. John Murray Scholarship - [Application](#)

March 1 - John Attardo Memorial Scholarship - [Application](#)

March 20 - Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

March 31 - Check Website for Various Activities - [Form/LINK](#)

April 15 - Wings for Life Award Nomination [Form](#)

April 20 - Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

April 30 - Intellectual Disabilities Drive [Report](#)

Please forward this
Newsletter to all your council members.

WHEREVER YOU SEE PRINT [“LINK”] THE COLOR OF THIS BOX –
OR  – YOU CAN HYPERLINK DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE

CHECK for “Summary of Forms & Deadlines” 



Quarterly Calendar



| FEBRUARY 2015 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
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| APRIL 2015 | | | | | | |
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