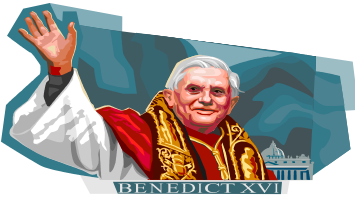


No new councils this month but we're working on it.  
We need new members.  
We need roundtables  
Please do your best to expand the Order!



# Tennessee Knights of Columbus

REPORT FROM STATE DEPUTY ROBERT H. ROUNSEFELL April 2011

[www.kofc-tn.org](http://www.kofc-tn.org)

*Responsibility – If it is to be – it is up to me*

**Our state goal is Circle of Honor. Each council's goal should be Star Council. If councils achieve Star then State will be in the Circle of Honor. That's the winner circle – Tennessee belongs there!**

## **Membership**

**These councils have not added any new members this year:**

645 Knoxville	2246 Lawrenceburg	3175 Oak Ridge
4572 Cleveland	7838 Dyersburg	8241 Dickson
8273 Harriman	8396 Athens	10622 Clinton
10743 Elizabethton	11074 Lewisburg	13167 Centerville
14651 Parsons.		

## **Service Program Report**

**These councils have not yet submitted the service program report (form 385):**

544 Nashville	4972 Donelson	9787 Lebanon	14651 Parsons
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## **Audit Reports**

### **These councils have not submitted the required audit reports yet:**

544 Nashville	645 Knoxville	15020 Vanderbilt	9586 Nashville
10010 Gallatin	10327 Memphis	11424 Dayton	12012 St Henry, Nashville
15178 Franklin	4947 Loretto	14931 Nashville (2 reports)	

## **Survey of Fraternal Activity**

### **These councils have not yet submitted the annual survey of Fraternal Activity:**

544 Nashville	4572 Cleveland	7838 Dyersburg
8396 Athens	12012 St. Henry, Nashville	

## **SP-7 Award**

There are eighty (80) councils that have not submitted the SP-7 award form yet. Granted, it is not due until June 30, but based on the above, apparently some need as much time as possible and even then it is ignored.

Remember, while some say “we don’t do things for rewards”, there is nothing wrong with being rewarded for doing things.

## **Ultra-Sound Program Helps Our Pro-Life Cause**

As Catholics and as Knights of Columbus, we are pro-life. We publically declare our opposition to anything which does not support the teachings of our faith. Life, all life, is a gift from God, our Father, and is precious from conception to natural death. We cannot accept anything different. As members of the Knights of Columbus, we show our support for life in many ways. We march, we pray, we physically and financially support pregnancy center, and hopefully, each of us voices our objection to these unnatural laws at every opportunity. It has never been more apparent to me than it is today, that we must do more! As it has been said many times, we must work to change the hearts and minds of those who believe that abortion is their only option.

The Knights of Columbus Ultrasound program gives us the opportunity to do just that. It has been proven time and time again that when an expectant mother has the opportunity to see the life growing within her, the decision to give birth to that child becomes easier. It’s working! Jurisdictions that are participating in this program are reporting that lives are being saved. Not just a few--but rather **thousands**. Hearts and minds are being changed!

There are currently approximately thirty seven jurisdictions involved in the program with more joining. One hundred and one machines have been placed with another eleven pending approval. That’s almost an average of three machines per jurisdiction! Tennessee is definitely setting the pace. Especially, when you consider that many of those jurisdictions are much larger than ours- giving us the edge on a per capita basis.

Our ultrasound program is a partnership between local & state councils and the Culture of Life Fund. Each contributes one half of the cost of a machine to a qualified pregnancy center. The ultimate goal of the program is for every qualified center in need of an ultrasound machine to have one.

It is time for Tennessee Knights of Columbus to participate to a greater degree than we have been in this program. As word of this program is spreading, councils across the state are being contacted by pregnancy centers requesting help. The need is apparent. Let there be no misunderstanding- the cost of these machines is high, the challenge is great, but the opportunity is now! The reward is too precious for us not to make this happen!

Because of the strict qualifications rules, the cost involved, and the wish to provide all councils – large and small – the ability to participate in this program, we will implement and administer the program at the state level. Please keep in mind that every member of every council is a member of the Tennessee State Council. We will succeed if we pull together. A state chairman is being appointed and details of this program will be sent to each council very soon. Consider this a call to action! I'm asking each council to appoint a chairman to administer the program within their local council now and begin raising funds. It may be that in some areas a district wide coordinated program is more appropriate, but, to paraphrase an old saying, it is time to put our efforts where our mouth is. We believe in the right to life, now let's prove it. Send me the names and contact information of your council's chairman.

### **State Convention Promises to be Biggest in State History**

Immediate past State Deputy Mike Porter tells us that we have broken all previous records in every aspect of the upcoming state convention. The convention, held at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, TN , promises to be amazing. We will miss the few councils that have elected not to join us at this year's convention. Thankfully, there are only a very few. Sadly they do not know what they will be missing! Thank you to everyone that planned ahead and made their reservations early.

Our guest from Supreme this year will be Thomas Smith, Jr., Senior Vice President and Director of Agencies, as well as a member of the Board of Directors. I remember when Tom first came to Supreme Headquarters to work in the mail room. Over the years he has made significant contributions to the field force and to the overall insurance program. He has always been aware of the needs of the field force and constantly seeks ways to help them improve themselves and thus the Orders programs. On top of that, he is an excellent after dinner speaker and you will find him entertaining and interesting while he delivers a message meaningful to all of us.

The entertainment for the convention is outstanding. We will enjoy toe tapping tunes that will surely draw you to the dance floor! The featured band will prove entertaining with their big band style music! Also, Dan Schachle and his team have a tremendous golf tournament lined up for those addicted to the game! So those of you so inclined...be sure to bring your clubs.

Looking forward to seeing everybody in a little over two weeks. Drive carefully!

## **State Secretary Scribbles – Mike Wills**

At the end of this month, we will meet in Franklin, Tennessee at the Cool Springs Marriott to do the business of the State Council. We will reward those councils that have had an extraordinary year and have performed extraordinary projects! And, we will elect officers for the next fraternal year while renewing friendships.

The preliminary numbers indicate that we will have an astonishing turnout for the state convention – perhaps it will be the largest convention ever. Too often we view the convention as being the end of the fraternal year while in fact we will have two more months to continue the work of the Order. Let's continue to recruit new brothers, grow the faith and to quote Mike Porter. "Just have fun".

While at the state convention, one of my jobs will be keeping track of the voting delegates to ensure the integrity of our decision-making process. In previous conventions I have considered the delegate count to be the most boring part of the convention. I guarantee it will be no more interesting this year. I also guarantee it will be no less important.

See you in Franklin.

## **Membership – Dennis Preston**

We have some real stars on membership coming along this year as indicated by their percentage of membership goals achieved so far. They include; 7764, 817%; 15178, 400%; 15196, 157%; 14521, 125% and 7086, 9754 and 14902 all at 100%. Our congratulations to these hard working councils. I smell star council here. We did a great job last month bringing in 103 members. Way to go, guys.

Transversely, we have others who are not doing very well and we hope they can pull out of the nose dive they are in. All are in the minus column. They are; 13,276 @ -250%; 8396 @ -171%; 4572 @ -155%; 12,012 @ -122%; 4563 @ -95%; 4312 @ -50 &; 9586 @ -43%; 3763 @ -20% and 2246 @ -17%.

There are nine councils in the minus column as opposed to seven in the plus. When the fourteen that have not brought in a single member this year are added to the mix...you can see we have a problem. Basically, twenty five percent of our councils are not pulling their weight. We need to pull together in order for the Tennessee State Council, as well as the Knights of Columbus as a whole, to be successful to the largest degree possible in our commitment to being our Brother's Keeper. If we are not willing to do that then why did we join the Order?

You have to work hard to be a winner. Every one of those in the minus has had drops this year. One council has dropped members three times. You have to remember that when you suspend members the greater majority of the time the fault lies not with the member, but rather the councils in general, and the proposer or sponsor in particular. Especially when it is noted that members have not paid dues for four or five years. There is no excuse for that – somebody is not doing their job.

On the other side of the coin, we have a council that was ready to drop twenty eight members but tightened their belt and got their retention gear in order and have salvaged several. They decided to hold off on any remaining suspensions until after July 1, as they had already paid the per capita on these members and it didn't make a lot of sense to suspend them now and create problems for the state council. Our thanks to Council 10010 in Gallatin for being a team player.

### **Family of the Month Winners for January**

The families of the month include Doug and Amy Martinek from Council 3837 in Union City and Gene and Dawn Fortson of Council 8152 in Crossville. Sadly, Gene, a retired air force service member, passed away just after being selected by the council for this coveted award. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dawn and the family. Gene was a fine man, a great Knight and an outstanding family man. He will be sorely missed, not only by his loved ones but by those who knew him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.

### **Family of the Month Winners for February**

There are three February awardees for family of the month. Congratulations to Mark & Carol Hunter family of Council 6321 in Millington, the Tom & Mary McClure family of Council 8354 in Antioch and the family of Edwin & Marie Jemison of council 14521 at Signal Mountain. Thanks for your commitment.

### **Top Foul Shooters Compete in Knights Contest at St. John Neumann**

#### **ET Catholic news: Vol. 20, No. 15: Apr. 10, 2011**



St. John Neumann School (Farragut, TN) hosted the Knights of Columbus East Tennessee Regional Free Throw Competition on March 20. Twenty youth from across the Diocese of Knoxville took part in the regional competition.

Two of the age-group winners at the regional, Emma Davis of Afton and Peter Berce of Chattanooga, went on to capture state championships on March 27 at Father Ryan High School in Nashville. Emma, representing Knights Council 6784 in Greeneville, competed in the 10-year-old girls division. Peter, representing Council 8576 at St. Jude in Chattanooga, won in the 11-year-old boys group. Peter sank 23 of 25 shots to win the state contest.

Pictured above are those that won “Most Accurate From the Line”. From left, front: Emma Davis, Josh Allen, Peter Berce, Emily Harkleroad, Keri Ricker, and Andrew Lewis and (back) Asialyn Manuel, Adam Aucker, Austin Stiles, and Julia McMahan

Other regional winners, listed with their age group and sponsoring council, were Josh Allen, 10-year-old boys, Council 645 in Knoxville; Emily Harkleroad, 11-year-old girls, Council 14079 in Soddy-Daisy; Keri Ricker, 12-year-old girls, Council 6784; Andrew Lewis, 12-year-old boys, Council 8576; Asialyn Man-uel, 13-year-old girls, Council 6784; Adam Aucker, 13-year-old boys, Council 8781 in Farragut; Julia McMahan, 14-year-old girls, Council 8576; Austin Stiles, 14-year-old boys, Council 645.

Photo by Paula Allen

## **The New Third Degree Has Arrived**

It has arrived. While touted as the “new” third degree (and much of it is) - it brings with it a powerful message which everyone will find stirring! I encourage all members of the order to observe it at your earliest opportunity . In an effort to afford everyone the opportunity to be introduced to the degree, the degree will be conducted in conjunction with the three kick off meetings. The first presentation will be in Cordova on June 25 immediately following the kickoff meeting there. Then it will be presented at the end of each of the remaining two in Nashville and Alcoa. The new degree lasts only about ninety minutes and will mesh nicely with the kickoff meetings. It should provide a great springboard to enter the new fraternal year.

Vivat Jesus.

## **Time To Tell It Like It Is**

I don't think that I am all that different from the other sixty some state deputies that have worn the jewel that I proudly wear. I am certainly not any different from the nineteen that I have personally worked with in the past thirty five years that I have been associated with the Tennessee State Council. Well maybe in one area... I find it amazing that they were able to control their frustration at the seemingly endless battle to keep from losing members. We never seem to learn. They are running out the back door as fast as we bring them in the front.

Councils do not seem to realize that when you decide to drop twenty six members, as a council in East Tennessee did earlier, or institute five drops in the past seven months as a council in Central Tennessee has done (*125% of their membership quota while bringing in only one new member*), that you are announcing to the world that you are a failure!

When I hear that timeless bleating about how they have members that have not paid dues for three or four years (such as I was blasted by a financial secretary from that Central Tennessee council I referred to above), I think to myself, “Do you realize what you are saying? That you are telling the whole world that you sat on your hands for that three or four years and let them become, and remain, delinquent? And, then you have the audacity to think that is everybody’s fault but your own?”

Remember the single word that I said at the kickoff meetings last summer would be our watch word – our motto – our inspiration for this fraternal year? *Responsibility*. If a member goes one quarter without paying his dues that is the time you start retention activity, not three years later!

When will councils learn that the two most critical factors in the retention process are the sponsor, who it seems rarely accompany their candidates to degrees anymore, and getting the new member involved from the get go. Look around you at the successful councils in the state. They do it, and as a result they rarely suspend any members, or, at the most, a very few.

Then there is the other excuse... “Previous administrations have not allowed us to drop members”. While that is a bit shaky, one reason might have been that they were trying to get you to do your job properly. And, yes, they didn’t want to have losses. If that occurred, it certainly hasn’t in the past five years and I do not believe any grand knight out there has been in office for five years or more. If so, then there is another problem to contend with.

When we assume the mantle of command, we accept the burden of responsibility. Failure to accept that responsibility and failing to function within its boundaries is inexcusable and makes one wonder why they joined the Order in the first place.

Then we have the other side, the hard workers that are dedicated to growing the Order, limiting the losses such as the council in West Tennessee who recently rescinded its decision to drop twenty eight members – to work harder – to at least pare down the number to something more manageable – recognizing that they had already paid per capita on them and would not save money by dropping them at this point and would only hurt the state as a whole.

We call them team players.

When all is said and done, consider this. Nobody said it was easy. If it was easy anybody could do it. And yes, I know all about it being a volunteer job – been there, done that.

The only easy thing is quitting and we all know about quitters. Remember what George Patton said about quitters and losers.

Let’s come together on a common purpose – Let’s stop this hemorrhaging called suspension. Let’s do as our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson asks us to do.

Let’s grow the Order.

### **A Vocations Prayer**

**God of all nations, we are grateful for Catholic missionaries who bring the treasure of faith to many lands. May the gospel, which shaped their lives, continue to shape our lives today. Bless every diocese with others to follow in their footsteps. Amen**

# *I am my brother's keeper*

Robert H. Rounsefell  
State Deputy, Tennessee State Council

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**NOTE:** Financial Secretary's; all membership information, form 100's and the ten dollar (\$10) new member fees go to the State Treasurer. This includes semiannual audits  
All reports marked for the State Deputy go to the State Secretary. Only exception is District Deputy semiannual reports and degree reports.

## Quick Contact List

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State Advocate – Steve B. Comm 615-310-1018 – stateadvocate@kofc-tn.org	State Warden – Tracy D. Staller 865-573-2876 – StateWarden@kofc-tn.org
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