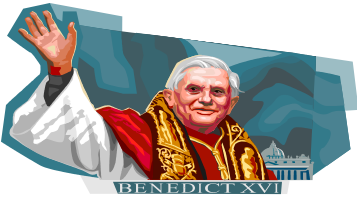


No New Councils this month but watch this space next month



# Tennessee Knights of Columbus

REPORT FROM STATE DEPUTY ROBERT H. ROUNSEFELL February 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 than State will be in the Circle of Honor. That's the winner circle – Tennessee belongs there!**

## **Our Third Ultrasound Machine to be Placed**

Tennessee Knights have another accomplishment to be proud of! The paperwork for a third ultrasound machine has been submitted and is awaiting clearance. Hermitage Council 9282 has amassed the funds for the state's third ultrasound machine! Well done! The previous machines were placed in Columbia and Paris. The cost of each machine is from \$28,000 to \$30,000 and while that does seem like a lot of money – and it is – all a council has to do is raise half of it and Supreme will contribute the other half.

Bill O'Brien, the coordinator for the Ultrasound Project, pointed out that New York State has placed two machines. It may not seem like much for us to have three, but if you look at it in the context of a per capita basis, New York has 95,000 members compared to our 11,225. That's a ratio of eight point five to one and that makes us look pretty good!!

Think of the lives that these machines are saving – think about putting another one or two in Tennessee. We feel justifiably proud of these three councils knowing full well the hard work that went into making the dream a reality. Let's hope more councils take up the challenge. We must do everything in our power to protect the unborn for they certainly cannot protect themselves. There's the challenge. Are you up to it?

## **A Word From the MR President – John King, PGK, FDD, FSM**

It is an honor to have been elected president of the MR Foundation of Tennessee. Our board members are a fantastic group of brother Knights, devoted to the good works of this cause and those of their home councils. I couldn't ask for better support during this exciting time of growth and change.

MR Foundation board members throughout the state are eager to begin work on new agenda items over the coming months and years. As these dedicated Knights become increasingly more visible and active at the council level, you can be sure that they will be more than willing to assist you in any way they can.

## **State Deputy's Corner**

During World War II, there was a popular song depicting the plight of a four engine bomber crew, B-17 or B-24, attempting to get back to their field after a successful attack deep into enemy territory. Their predicament lay in the fact that they kept losing an engine. The title of that song was; "*Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer.*" It leapt to the top of the charts during the early and dark days of the war and it provided what the public needed – inspiration, hope and confidence in the ultimate outcome of the war.

I liken that to our situation now in terms of membership. Our position is akin to that of the bomber crew in the song in that we are doing very well. We are number 6 amongst all of the other jurisdictions and stand at a little over 58% year to date on quota. Now here is where the analogy to that old song comes in.

At this point in time we are like that bomber crew, in that although we are doing well, we have two engines out. We have taken in 346 and we have suspended 132. In other words, we have suspended 38% of what we have gained. Of the eighty four active councils in the state, twenty one (21) of them (25%) have yet to submit a single new member. (See the list at the end of the newsletter). In reviewing previous year's records, I note a few of our councils have not submitted a new member in the past three and four years! And a few are showing a negative number, which means they have suspended members and haven't recruited replacements. Let me tell you something folks... You are not going to expand the Order, let alone your council, that way. If those councils met their membership quotas we would have an additional 144 members and would be at nearly 80% of quota! It is difficult for me to believe that a council can go year after year and not recruit one single new member.

So, what's lacking? Like the dead engine, no fuel flow and no spark. Fuel flow in our situation would be to get out there and ask people to join – hold membership drives – blitzes – ask your pastor to help. And the spark? That's motivation. If you are not motivated, then the prop blades won't turn and the engine will never start.

Our second dead engine is named "Roundtables" and we need to get the blades turning on that one also! We now have fourteen against a quota of thirty-three with a total of seven councils contributing. Again, a roundtable is a presence at a parish or mission church, which may never become a council, but they need help and that is our sworn duty

- to support our Bishops and Priests. So, let's do it. Excuses are just that, excuses and not reasons.

I have always believed that the reason a person or a group does not succeed is because they don't want to badly enough. You can accomplish anything if you want to badly enough. We just watched the Super Bowl won by the Packers. Vince Lombardi put Green Bay on the map because he knew it could be done and refused to accept anything less than success!

Let's put Tennessee on the Knights of Columbus map by achieving Circle of Honor for the seventh year in a row. We are doing well but we need to do a little better.

## **What Other Councils Are Doing**

One of our more successful councils in the state is Chattanooga Council 6099 who, among other things, has been one of the top contributors to the Wheelchair Foundation. Grand Knight Victor Williams points out one of his ideas that seem to work for them. In addition to a constant stream of email reminders they use a 1-2-3 formula, which is a plan for success.

1. *One new member every month.* They have many great charitable projects and they need men to make them work. The more good men – the more charitable projects they can undertake. Not just a new member but rather Good Catholic Men, men involved with their families, their church and community. These are the men they want, the men all of us should want and seek. We need to take the blinders off when we are at church and see who our neighbors are and ask those Good Catholic Men to join our ranks!
2. *Two Brothers at every function.* Two men are better than one (To paraphrase Ecclesiastes 4:9). What task is not easier when two men tackle it? When was the last time you brought a brother knight to a business meeting, a social meeting or an event? Pick a brother and get them to join us. Your business meeting attendance will grow. I refer back to #1; we, as proposers, need to be talking to our candidates and bring them with us to functions – we can do better!
3. *Three hours of service every month.* We need all Brothers involved to make project burdens light and fulfill our call to service. Imagine what an impact we would have on our community if every single Brother gave 3 hours a month to the Good Works of the Order. Consider this: 1 hour business meeting + 1 hour social + 1 hour at a faith night = 3 hours. 1 hour business meeting + 6 rosaries = 3 hours.

## **State Secretary Scribbles**

My wife is visiting her mother this weekend and I am playing catch-up. I am catching up on pizza consumption. I am catching up on watching basketball. I am catching up on napping and I am catching up on Knights of Columbus paperwork.

My good fortune is that the State Secretary only gets a fraction of the paperwork that the State Treasurer gets. It has also been my good fortune this weekend to have an opportunity to review, between naps, the Annual Surveys of Fraternal Activity that have been submitted to date. It is truly gratifying to see all those forms with all those statistics.

As a state, we should be proud of the thousands of dollars given to charity and thousands of hours of charitable time donated by our brothers.

What the statistics do not show are the lives that are touched by our donated dollars and hours. Those lives surely number in the hundreds and for that I thank you.

Of course, we hope we are in the happy position of being able to do more in the new year. One way to be able to accomplish that is to have more Brother Knights helping. We can do this by energizing current members and recruiting new members to do God's work. Good luck during the New Year. If you plan your council's programs and membership drives, and execute on those plans, next year's State Secretary will be similarly impressed doing the Annual Surveys of Fraternal Activity. As for me, I feel a nap coming on.

Vivat Jesus.

## **From the State Warden**

When is the next degree?

Brothers, at the kickoff meetings this year one common theme that was voiced repeatedly was: Is there a way to put First and Second Degrees on the state calendar so that we can see what degrees are happening nearby? Well, we listened to you and the answer is YES!!

The state website is sporting (in addition to very appealing visual, courtesy of our webmaster) a new "First & Second Degree Calendar" application under the "Schedules & Meetings" menu. This new application allows you, as Fraternal Leaders, to directly enter your degrees on the calendar. Anyone who goes to the web site can then see when and where upcoming degrees are being held.

For those viewing the calendar, the contents can be filtered showing just First or Second Degrees, although the default is to show all of the degrees. The Degrees may also be displayed by region (East, Middle or West) or by district. You may even limit the list to degrees occurring after a given date. Once you have found a suitable degree, the contact information for the council representative is listed. Remember, it is imperative that you always call and let the host know that you have candidates and check that the information on the calendar is correct and current.

Fraternal leaders have been given login information for the system and may use that to add, change or delete degrees from the calendar. Grand Knights may post First Degrees; District Deputies may post First & Second within their district. Ceremonials Consultants and State Officers may post degrees state wide. Once a degree is entered, the real features of the system come to life. Immediately upon entry of the degree other fraternal leaders are notified. The State Deputy, Ceremonials Consultants (both state and region), the Insurance Agent, the District Deputy and all Grand Knights in the District are notified regarding the First Degrees. For the Second Degree, the State Deputy, the Ceremonials Consultants (both state and region), the Insurance Agent, the Host District Deputy, District Deputies in neighboring districts and all Grand Knights in the host district are notified. As the degree approaches, reminders are sent fifteen days, seven days, three days and one day prior to the degree to the same persons who received the initial notification. In the near future, new features will be added to the system including the listing of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

degrees with the additional reminders sent 90, 60 & 30 days prior to the scheduled degree.

The most critical part of this tool is **YOU**. As with any tool, we need to keep it clean and sharp. When a degree is changed or cancelled, please make the appropriate changes to the posted information. Remove it from the list as soon as possible. But, most importantly, for those who use the system, always call the contact if you have candidates for the degree and then the day prior to the degree call them to insure that the degree has not been cancelled. Finally, go to the candidate's home and drive him to the degree!

For more information on the entry of degrees, please see the article on the discussion forum under the Tech-Tips column. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to [statewarden@kofc.org](mailto:statewarden@kofc.org).

## **Veterans News**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is making available a new medallion to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a veteran. If requested, the medallion will be furnished in lieu of a traditional headstone or marker for veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

The medallion is currently available in three sizes, 5 inch, 3 inch and one and a half inch, and each will be inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the branch of service at the bottom. Appropriate affixing adhesive, instructions and hardware will be provided with the medallion.

**Important:** This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances eligible veterans are entitled to either a traditional government furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both. Instructions on how to apply are available on a web site at [www.cem.va.gov/hm.hm/asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/hm.hm/asp).

## **Tennessee's Family of the Month**

Families of the month for December selected by Supreme Council include Mike and Pam Wiedemer from Council 3431 in Winchester. Mike is one of our District Deputies who is just about to get a second degree team certified. Our second family is from Cookeville council 6645, Clark & Marty Jameson. And, look here, this month we have three families! The third family is Dwane & Jan Hunter from Council 9132 in Hendersonville. Sincere congratulations to these most deserving folks. Selected by their peers- they set the standards for all of us.

We had twenty councils participate in December with all reports on time. That's an improvement but we still can do better.

## 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 brothers 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.

All reports marked for the State Deputy go to the State Secretary. Only exception is District Deputy semiannual reports and degree reports.

**Councils not submitting a new member this year:** 616, 645, 2246, 3175, 4572, 4947, 5062, 7838, 8241, 8273, 8396, 9282, 9705, 10327, 10622, 10743, 11074, 11542, 12012, 13167 & 14651. Let's see if we can reduce this number - let's all share the load.

**The following councils have not submitted their Fraternal Survey to Supreme**

544, 4572, 5207, 6992, 7447, 7838, 8396, 9168, 9282, 9705, 11742, 11925, 12012, 13167, 13276 & 14931

Gentlemen, these reports were due January 31. Failure to file these reports could put our tax exempt status in jeopardy. Please take care of this ASAP.

## **Quick Contact List**

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State Advocate – Steven B. Comm 615-310-1018 – StateAdvocate@kofc-tn.org	State Warden – Tracy D. Staller 865-573-2876 –StateWarden@kofc-tn.org
IPSD – Michael J. Porter, Sr. 615-847-4295 IPSD@kofc-tn.org	District Master – William L. Wicke 865-690-9404 –billwicke@comcast.net
State Program Consultant – James A. Simpson 731-986-2333 –GeneralProgram@kofc-tn.org	State Membership Consultant – Denis M. Preston 865-458-9004 –membership@kofc-tn.org
State Retention Consultant – Patrick A. Casey 901-388-5526 –Retention@kofc-tn.org	M.R. Board Chairman – John A. King 901-605-0379 – <a href="mailto:Council@kofc-tn.org">Council@kofc-tn.org</a>
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