

Three new councils this year plus one reactivation of a council that had been inactive for over 15 years. Not a bad job, Gentlemen, We thank you. Now there is a new year Please continue to do your best to expand the Order



# Tennessee Knights of Columbus

REPORT FROM STATE DEPUTY ROBERT H. ROUNSEFELL June 2011

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

Unless you try to achieve something beyond what you have already mastered,  
you will never grow!

**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 – That's where Tennessee belongs!**

## **You Did It! Tennessee Achieves Circle of Honor 7<sup>th</sup> Year in a Row!**

In the early morning hours of June 29, the Supreme web site showed Tennessee number nine in the Order and a little over 100% of quota. Thanks to the hard work of a dedicated few, we achieved the coveted award for the seventh straight year. A lot of last minute first degrees put together by members determined that Tennessee would achieve the position that she deserves. The state, and particularly your humble state deputy, deeply appreciate the support of these true Knights who gave selflessly of their time and talents. This while some others sat and watched. I do not have the space to acknowledge each of them – indeed I do not know the names of all of them – but I do know that they are my kind of people and I thank God for them and for the fact that they are part of the Tennessee State Council of the Knights of Columbus. I wish we had more of them.

This is a great organization we belong to and its expansion is the dream of our Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, and should be ours as well. If it is not, then you are in the wrong area at this time.

## **Councils at 100% or better of Membership Quota**

645 Knoxville; 3537 Clarksville; 4264 Johnson city; 5233 No Memphis; 6321 Millington; 6645 Cookeville; 6695 Bristol; 7086 Paris; 7749 Germantown; 7764 Franklin; 8083 Savannah; 9132 Hendersonville; 9282 Hermitage; 9317 Cordova; 9754 Camden; 9787 Lebanon; 12838 Jefferson City; 14041 Bartlett; 14341 Knoxville; 14482 Somerville; 14521 Signal Mountain; 14902 Sparta; 14931 Nashville; 15178 Franklin; 15196 Memphis and 15234 Brentwood.

Congratulations to these 'Pathfinders' who are leading the way and setting the example for the rest of the state. All told, twenty six councils out of 84 active ones. That's 31%. Up from where we were last month with only twelve...but still a long way to go. Many of these councils had to make a last ditch effort to make the grade, but they did it, and we are all proud of them for that.

Now, to be fair about this, we could deduct the eight councils who did not recruit this year: 2246 Lawrenceburg; 4572 Cleveland; 7838 Dyersburg; 8396 Athens; 10743 Elizabethton; 13167 Centerville, and 14651 Parsons. When you factor them in it reduces the total councils actually doing something to expand the Order to seventy six and that raises the percentage to 34%.

But wait! There's more! Let's consider the four councils who between them managed to suspend *one hundred thirteen members*. That constitutes 45% of the total number of drops (253) the state incurred. One council managed to drop nearly four hundred percent of its quota.

We realize that there comes a time when drops must be endured. Nobody is denying that or the right of a council to make those drops. But at least make an effort to replace those losses. The council that dropped four hundred percent of its quota only brought in one new member to replace them. If you follow proper procedure and do not wait two or three years before taking action then life will be simpler and the Order will grow in a positive manner.

Finally, if a council can go an entire year with no effort to bring in new members then I cannot help but wonder where their heart lies. We are not an organization that lends itself to card carrying membership. We all promise to participate, to do Gods work and to be our brothers keeper.

If after joining, you find this is too difficult ... you need to reconsider your action. Better yet, do it before you join.

## **From Our State Chaplain – Father Stephen K. Kenny**

### **Life's Transitions**

As we enter the summer season, we do so with just having celebrated liturgically the Easter Season for 50 days culminating with Pentecost Sunday, generally understood as the

“birthday” of the Church with the descent of the Holy Spirit. Our Catholic Church has long celebrated liturgical seasons to shape and form our lives to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. One of the important events we celebrate 40 days after Easter Sunday is the Ascension of the Lord. The Ascension story is found in the gospels of Mark and Luke, where Jesus the Christ returns to his Father, our Father.

As Jesus returns to his Father, it could be said that was the first leadership transition of the new fledgling Christian community. What I mean by this is the leader, Jesus, had gone to great lengths to teach and form these apostles so they could continue the very work he had begun. Leadership transition always has its own challenges. Throughout the State of Tennessee, there is leadership transition taking place with the election of new state officers as well with all the councils. In this time of leadership transition, we praise God for those who have given of themselves and thank them for their dedication and commitment to the Knights of Columbus. Just as Jesus Ascends back to the Father, he had confidence that his apostles would carry on the mission. Jesus knew his apostle leaders well, their strengths and weakness, yet he still entrusted them with the mission of the Kingdom of God.

I would like to personally thank State Deputy Bob Rounsefell for his 60 years of dedication to the Knight of Columbus and say Bob knows the mission of the Knights like no other. His leadership as the State Deputy was outstanding. And now we transition to new leadership with the same mission zeal, to further the great work of the Knights of Columbus, namely that of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. May our time of leadership transition throughout the state of Tennessee begin with zeal and inspiration of our founder Servant of God Fr. Michael J. McGivney.

Fr. Stephen K Kenny  
State Chaplain

### **Welcome our newest state officer – State Warden Michael McCusker**

Mike is a good man to have on your side. Coming out of office as the Grand Knight of the largest council in the state and leaving the state position of State Church Consultant and having done an outstanding job chairing the Silver Rose project, Mike is obviously a hard working guy, very dedicated to his family, his country, the Order and his God. He served his country in Afghanistan and retired as a major from the USAR. He currently is an assistant district attorney for Shelby County where his wife, Theresa, also serves as a prosecutor. They have three children and live in Germantown. Keep an eye on this guy. I predict he will make his mark within the Order.

In the western portion of our country in the nineteenth century the highest praise that one could pay to another man was “He’ll do to ride the river with.” River crossings, especially with a cattle herd, were dangerous ventures and brought out the best in a man. High praise indeed.

Michael is that kind of man.

### **Family of the Month for May 2011**

We only had ten councils participate in the May program – that’s the lowest number all year. It’s getting worse instead of better. Anyway, we offer our congratulations to the family of Frank & Joanne Speer of Council 9168 in Smyrna and Stephen & Vickie DeRight of Council 14079 in Soddy Daisy. It is gratifying to see those councils, few as they are who think enough of the their members’ families to see that they get a chance to be recognized by the Supreme Council. Maybe things will improve next year. Hey! Participation is free. What more could you ask for?

### **New State Treasurer Convolescing after surgery**

Steve Comm, Tennessee’s new State Treasurer (you have the sympathy of all those who have previously held that position) is at home recovering from a knee replacement operation that was conducted a couple of weeks ago. He has threatened to attend the Nashville kickoff meeting as it is not known what type of conveyance he will be using to arrive or once he is there it s suggested a careful eye be kept peeled for him.

Welcome back, Steve. It’ll be good to see you up and around again.

### **First Exemplification of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree a Success!**

The first exemplification of the new third degree was hosted by our largest council in the state, T.J. Coyle, in conjunction with the west TN kickoff meeting June 25<sup>th</sup> in Cordova at St. Francis of Assisi church. There were forty two candidates and nearly sixty observers (\*virtually a record). The CO in training, State Ceremonials Chair Byron Nestler, officiated assisted by Bob Moore in the role of PFC (formerly the ADD). The degree went well and everybody was favorably impressed. The next one will be in Nashville on July 9, right after the kickoff meeting there and then on July 23 in Alcoa following that kickoff meeting.

Your state deputy performed his last knighting ceremony in that capacity and upon its conclusion surrendered the state sword to the incoming state deputy, Michael Wills. The sword, which originally belonged to the first state deputy, Ferdinand Kuhn, has been passed down to each state deputy for over one hundred years. Each state deputy is responsible for its care during his tenure and passes it on to his successor in turn.

### **Kickoff meetings are a must attend**

Otherwise, how are you going to find out what is expected of you and what you are supposed to do? I have been associated with the Tennessee state council in one capacity or another for thirty six years. There are not that many who have. The one thing that is consistent is council officers do not attend state meetings and then wonder why they do not know what is going on. The whole purpose of it is to get everybody on track and functioning as a team. Our new worthy state deputy’s theme this year is “be the quarterback.” I think that is an outstanding theme and couldn’t be more to the point. We are a team and

we must function as such. Had we done that universally this past year we could have been even more successful than we were.

So come to the kickoff meetings and the midyear meetings – grand knights bring your deputy, your membership director, your financial secretary and any other that wishes to participate.

Try it – You’ll like it!

**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*

*ASPIRE TO INSPIRE BEFORE YOU EXPIRE*

Robert H. Rounsefell  
 Immediate Past State Deputy  
 Tennessee State Council

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