



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL  
119<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION  
PROCEEDINGS  
Wyndham Springfield City Centre  
Springfield, Illinois  
April 21- April 23, 2017**

**Lead Me, Guide Me, Lord**

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

**State Deputy, William Doerfler**, called the **119th Annual State Convention** of the Illinois State Council Knights of Columbus to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked District I Master Frank Rossi and District II Master Marcellus Tebbe to post the colors. District II Master Marcellus Tebbe led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The District Masters retired the color guard.

**State Deputy, William Doerfler** thanked the color guard and District I Master Frank Rossi and District II Master Marcellus Tebbe

State Deputy Doerfler asked State Secretary Ted Stites to the podium to lead the **Opening Ode**. The Opening Ode was sung by all

### **State Deputy's William Doerfler opened the Convention**

I would like to welcome all of you to the 119th State Council Meetings. I hope you all enjoyed yourself last night and yesterday afternoon. I thought last night went really well. Thanks for all coming down and participating. And hopefully this weekend will be a lot of fun. We have a lot of work to do but hopefully you'll also have a lot of fun. It's great to see all the wives here this weekend and for the number that are here. We have about 30 rooms more than we had last year. so, thank you for every one of you for realizing the importance of the state convention.

I would now like to **introduce our Worthy State Chaplain**, a very good friend to the State Officers. When we call him for advice or just to talk, he is there for us. He is so much of our team this year. State Officers usually have a Christmas party and usually we just go to a hotel and have it in a hospitality suite. This year the Bishop opened up his home for us for Christmas. We had a fantastic time, Bishop, on behalf of all State officers I thank you. I know I probably told you that night but publicly I'd like to say thank you very much, it was a great time and he is a great host.

State Deputy, William Doerfler, asked **State Chaplain, The Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Siegel** to lead the assembled in an opening prayer.

### **STATE CONVENTION MASS OPENING PRAYER**

*Christ Jesus, the way, the truth and the life, teach us to live in the charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism required of us as Knights of Columbus. During our meetings, send the Holy Spirit to guide us in our discussions so that we may thoroughly understand the matters in hand, judge them with knowledge and wisdom and decide upon solutions that will best serve the Church, our Order and give glory to our Father in Heaven.*

*Give us the courage and generosity to act with perseverance. Bless our actions so that our influence is felt within our State and beyond.*

*Let the inspiration of our Founder, Venerable Michael J. McGivney prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for all in need - the unborn, the needy, the disabled and the outcast and thus build our Order which you led him to establish.*

*We ask this of you, who live and reign with the Father in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen. Our Lady, Queen of the Knights. Pray for Us*

*Vivat Jesus*

**State Deputy William Doerfler** Then called State Secretary Stites to the podium for the purpose of a motion.

**Motion by SS Stites that all reports in the packets as distributed to the delegates be accepted as printed. Second by delegates off the floor. PASSED.**

**State Deputy William Doerfler** Then made the following appointments MPC and PSD Pietruszynski as judge for elections, and appointed Former Supreme Secretary and PSD Charles Foos as Parliamentarian for the meeting. He then asked the following three men to be tellers Vice Supreme Master Paul Isherwood, John Dehm and Paul Balsitis. They have all accepted so tomorrow morning that will be our judge and tellers.

**State Deputy William Doerfler** thanked all for being prompt to the meeting and hoped all enjoyed the Friday night activities, and the morning coffee and donuts provided by the insurance agents.

**State Deputy Doerfler** called IPSP Donald Kinyon to the podium for the purpose of a motion.

**MOTION by IPSP Donald Kinyon to suspend the rules for this session and allow the doors to be opened to welcome families and guests for the Opening Remarks. Second by delegate off the floor, Motion PASSED.**

**State Deputy Doerfler** asked all to rise and welcome State Chaplain for The Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Siegel as he approached the podium for his opening comments

*Brother Knights, Ladies, Squires and Guests*

*It is a joy to be with you once again for our State Convention, especially as we continue to bask in the light and glory of this Easter week, celebrating the new life and hope that Jesus won for us by his death and resurrection. I pray that our Risen Lord will be with us, among us, these days as we look back on the accomplishments of this past Fraternal Year, plan for the year to come, as well as renew friendships and strengthen our brotherhood in our Order. As I did in my report, I also want to publicly recognize the tremendous work done of Bill Doerfler and all of our State Officers over these past 2 years. The more I spend time with our State Council, the more I am amazed, impressed and inspired by the time and energy they put into the work of the Knights. I think it is a rare weekend or weeknight that they are not attending some function, for the Knights, throughout our State of Illinois.*

*Also, in the name of all of the Illinois Bishops, cardinals, priests, and deacons, please accept my thanks for all that you do in your Councils as well as individuals to support and promote the work of the Church in the State of Illinois.*

*I also want to publicly thank your wives and families for the sacrifices they make to enable you to be active with the Knights of Columbus. Without their support, we could do very little. So, today while we pray for God's guidance and direction over our weekend I would like to thank you for all you do. May God bless us and to the intercession of our Lady and our founder, Venerable Michael J. McGivney.*

*May all our deliberations and discussions be indeed for God's glory and honor, the service of his people and the growth of our order*

*Vivat Jesus*

**The State Deputy Doerfler** thanked Worthy State Chaplain, Most Reverend Bishop Siegel for all he does for the State Council as our State Chaplain, and he thanked Fr., Chuck Tuttle for his service as Associate State Chaplain.

State Deputy Doerfler called to the podium **Former Deputy Supreme Knight, and current Supreme Director Dr. Logan Ludwig**, For his comments.

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** Next, I would like to call up a very good friend. To everybody in Illinois, and he is back in Illinois and man are we glad to have him home also I think his wife is glad to be home. So, it's always with great honor to introduce, I guess now he's our he is a former Deputy Supreme Knight but he's still on the Supreme Board as a Director. Logan. Should be Dr. Logan Ludwig please come up but to me it's still Logan. Come on up buddy.

**Former Deputy Supreme Knight and current Supreme Director Dr. Logan Ludwig:**

*Applause and cheers as he approached the podium*

*Thank you, please be seated,*

*Thank you, Brother Bill, State Deputy,*

*Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Chaplain, Most Rev. Bishop Siegel, Rev. Father, Chuck Tuttle, Worthy State Officers, Worthy former Supreme Secretary, Worthy Membership and Program Consultant Joe Pietruszynski, Worthy Past State Deputies, Worthy Masters, Worthy Insurance representatives, Grand Knights, my Brothers Knights, friends, ladies and all. I bring you greetings again from our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, the Supreme Officers and the Board of Directors. It is great to be back in Illinois and yes, Ina has plenty of honey to do jobs for me so I'm still quite busy. It's great to be here and I too lend my sincere thanks for all the work that the Brother Knights and their families in Illinois do year in and year out. I also offer a special thanks to you for the support that you gave me while I was serving as a Supreme Officer and as I continue on the Board of Directors. It is really comforting to know you have that support back home. It's a great honor and an extreme privilege to serve as your representative to the Knights of Columbus.*

*Normally at these meetings, I try to give a motivation speech, at this time. But since I have all the leaders here of the Councils of this great jurisdiction. I want to update you on a few things that are happening at Supreme. You heard the excellent report from our Supreme Knight on all of the things we are achieving and continuing to achieve. But I want to get a little deeper in the woods on that and what's happening at Supreme.*

*In order to continue this tremendous growth and offer the programs that we now run we have to continue to be in a mode of change. And we have to get a little more comfortable with the rapidity of change. There are a great many things that are happening at Supreme and throughout our Order. Since I've been here, some people have asked me about, if this is true or that was true. Some of its rumors and some of its not. So, let me clarify a few things for you so we can set the record straight.*

*The first one I would start with; all of this will be happening next year sometime. I believe. I won't cover everything but I am going to cover some of it so you can bring it back to your Councils and prepare your Councils for what's going to be happening. The first thing, that I think you'll like, is that the Star Council Award and our surge with service program will be changing slightly. As you know, right now there are six categories that you use for the Columbia Award and to achieve Star Council. That is going to be collapsing into 4 programs. And that will be Family Activities, which we have now. We will have, instead of Church Activities, it will be called Parish Activities. Sort of to reflect our emphasis on the domestic church. Council and community activities will be combined into one category called Fraternal Activities.*

Then of course, there will be the Culture of Life Program category. I do not know, at this time, and Supreme has not decided, how many activities you have to hold. Whether it will still be the same 24 in order to achieve the Columbian Award or whether we will reduce it maybe to 20 or something. That's to be decided as yet. You will get more information on that as we go forward next year.

Next there are also going to be a number of changes in our ceremonials program. It is our plan, at this time, to shorten the first 3 ceremonial degrees so they are only like a half an hour in length. Rather than the lengthy degrees that we have now. We are also trying to modernize some of them. There are somethings in the first 2 Degrees anyways that are a little offensive to younger people. They don't appreciate and we heard that and there is also a lot of repetition in there. So, we want to change that somewhat. And those ceremonials are currently being rewritten. Whether we implement them all next year or not, I'm not really sure at this point but we are working on that. The other thing this will do, or we hope it will do. It will allow your Councils to hold a couple degrees at the same time and maybe even have a mass afterwards. Or you could hold all three degrees on one event and you are still only committed to 1 ½ hour to 2 hours in length and that will make it much better and hopefully more receptive to your new candidates. Additionally, I'll talk more about this later in another business session. But our ceremonial teams are probably, on average, about ten years older than the average Knight. I've talked with you before about the aging population in the Order. So, our ceremonial teams are having some difficulties recruiting younger guys. I encourage them to do that. We don't want to do away with the ceremonial teams but in some States, it is becoming very difficult to get proper ceremonial teams put together and out to the individuals. So, by making them shorter we hope there will be less memorization for the teams and also, we will put all of the degrees on DVD. That is being used pretty effectively right now. Particularly in the very rural jurisdictions. You may not realize it but in Canada, some of the jurisdictions, the team has to travel for 5 ½ hours just to get to the next Council to do a major degree. So, we need to find better ways to make it easier to recruit new members and we think that's one of the things. By shortening the degrees and by changing some of the wording in it, it will become a little easier for Councils to do that. So, we are trying to help you out in that sense.

You've also probably heard there are going to be some changes to the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. And that will be announced in June. They will take care of it then. There will be some changes to the ceremonial outfits for some members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree for some but not everybody. There will still be the Color Guard that wears the capes and the chapeaux and the entire regalia outfit. But there will be another type of outfit that the general member will be able to use. And hopefully be able to wear it to more kinds of events than what we have right now. So those are taking place.

I also want to take this opportunity to promote the Safe Environment Program. It has been a bit of a struggle getting everyone to comply with the Safe Environment Program but it is extremely important that our Grand Knights and our Youth Activity Directors take the Safe Environment Program and participate in that. Many of our Diocese' also have Safe Environment Programs, some of those are even more restrictive than those that the Knights have. I know there is some discussion about whether we should have the same thing as the diocese but different diocese have different Safe Environment Programs. We have to have our program and need to know people are complying with it. So, do have your Grand Knights and your Youth Directors and Squire Directors take those programs and in fact, this year we noted there was quite a few Squire Programs where the counselor did not go through the Safe Environment Program. They need to go through that or the Squire Circle will not be renewed. That's it, no argument, it just has to be done. So, do that.

Another item I would mention, and I think this is a great thing, that we finally got off the ground floor. That is our Fraternal Training Program We instituted a learning management system this last year which gives us a lot of opportunity to do online training in our various categories of leadership. Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, District Deputies, State Officers etc. In 2016 we rolled out a DD Training program and over 2,000 District Deputies took that introductory program. This levels the playing field so we know, the State Deputies, and the teams know that So all District Deputies at least have a basic knowledge of what their responsibilities are and what some of the protocols etc. are. In the future, I believe it will be a requirement, in the future, that a District Deputy, if he wants to be a District Deputy will take that program. In fact, there has been a new course developed and it will be available June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are also working on quite a few programs and are working on some enhancements to our Grand Knight training and I foresee that somewhere down the road, I would expect, that Supreme would like to see or require or at least put some incentives in that all the Grand Knights take that training before they can become a Grand Knight. So that is going on and it's something we should be doing. I firmly believe, as an educator, that you need to have basics in everything to do your job. And without those, we have a lot of Councils, (15,000) of them and a lot of those Knights, and other leaders this is the first time they've ever done anything like that so they need basic training.

I would also talk about one other item, and that is sort of a follow-up on membership. You heard the Supreme Knight talk about membership and the importance of membership. I'll say more about that later but one thing I'd like to talk about is you probably heard, or may have heard, we will be rolling out before too long a program called E-Membership. This will allow individuals to go online and become a Knight of Columbus. They will not have full membership in Knights of Columbus, there will be certain restrictions to that. One of the things that we are very insistent about keeping and that is they attend and in fact, our constitution requires that you have to go through the initiation ceremonial in order to do that.

I forgot to mention one thing that in changing the initiation ceremony, which we are now testing in several states. We are contemplating and testing opening the ceremony up to spouses. So, they can attend and observe that. Some people like it and some people don't. We are going to try and make that an option so Councils can do either but that still in the works.

Back to E-Membership, E-Membership is a program that we know, there are many many young people who want to join the order but our process of getting them through the Order and recruiting them and the whole thing often takes too much time. We know, too, that we will have something at a Youth Rally and we will get prospect cards, we may get 1,000 prospect cards by the time we get them through the Degree process and by the time the State gets work on that we may get 10 out of the 1,000 that join the Order. These are people that are motivated and know something about the Knights of Columbus. They want to become members. And we have to do a better job of recruiting members that way. E membership is one way to do that. They go online and answer certain questions as to their practical Catholicity, their age and some other things and then they become an e-member which is going to be set up as a State Council wide e membership. E-membership will be administered by Supreme but the Grand Knight for those E-membership will be the State Deputy. We will set it up in such a way that also these members are there and those membership lists are shared with the State and the Councils in your area and we are hoping the Councils will recruit from these people. We are working on some incentives.

These are people who are already predisposed to join the Knights of Columbus and it should make it easier for you to get them into your Councils. That's our goal anyway, so we need your cooperation in that. We are working on that to help you out and to help grow the Order. So, with that, those are some of the major changes taking place. If you want to ask me some questions about it in more detail I will be around this weekend and you can pigeon hole me

*about it but I don't want to take any more of your time now or the time of this State Deputy who has a very crowded agenda.*

*With that again my thanks for all of your support and all that you do for the Order and the Church.*

*Vivat Jesus.*

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** thank you, Logan. Men you now know, that's why we are so lucky to have the Former Deputy Supreme Knights as part of our State Convention. We do receive a lot of information before anybody else does. We'd call Supreme every once and awhile, we'd talk and the information we get ahead of time is unbelievable. We lost our friend up there but he is going to find us another one up there I'm sure. Thank you again, Logan, good talk

Sate Deputy William Doerfler then called to the podium **General Program Director James D Marino**. Further stating that we are going to give out the awards for Family of the Year and Knight of the Year. We moved it up a little bit so the wives could attend the ladies luncheon. Jim...

## **FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD**

### **General Program Director James D Marino.**

The nomination and the selection for the Family of the Year. I'll try and read it and not mention the name until I get to the end. But I know that's going to be a little difficult. (why is it so dark up here Bill?) I was told a couple days ago I was old and rich. I said what do you mean Doc? He said well you have gout. Only old and rich people get that so I don't know.....

### **This is the Family of the Year: James Holuj Jr. Family**

This Brother Knight has been a Knight for 21 years. He's a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree member for most of those years. He's been married for 17 ½ years. He's a Lieutenant with his local Police Sheriff's Department. He feels very honored to be selected by his Police Department to be the patrolman who attends the various funerals of officers throughout the country. He's been to New York, Texas and Iowa to attend these funerals. The family is regularly involved in the current events of the Knights of Columbus of his council and his Catholic community of his Parish. The Lenten fish fry is his current activity. He is a former advocate Pro-life Chairman for the Council. He's become involved with the Squire Circle and tutored the Squires. His son Luke is the Chief Squire of their Circle. Luke has totally embraced the role as all in the family of Squires.

Jim and his wife and family are to say the least, immersed in the Catholic community of their parish. Jim and Mandy are active in the Marriage Prep Program. Twice a year they attend an all-day workshop encouraging couples and serving as table leaders and presenting talks of communication with the couples. They also work with the Junior High Ministry. They are involved with four other couples in the newly formed Vocations Ministry.

Mandy, his wife is involved in Respect Life Ministry, managing Respect Life Facebook Page, in addition to education and fund-raising activities. They pray the Rosary outside of abortion of the

local Abortion Clinic located in Downers Grove, most Saturday mornings. The family are involved in the March for Life in Washington DC. Mandy, his wife teaches 4<sup>th</sup> grade religion education class. At least once a month, on Sundays, the daughter Emma, and her co teacher Luke, the son, is involved in a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade education program. Emma sings in the teen choir and sings at the 7 o'clock mass and is periodically a lecturer for the mass. Luke also serves as an alter server, Eucharistic minister and lecturer. Two other children, Lucy and Andy, sing in the children's choir. Last but not least, Jim and Mandy participate in bible study groups hosted by another couple in their parish. I would like to introduce the our Family of the year. Jim, Mandy, Luke, Emma and Adam Holly. Don't know if they are all here but at least Jim and Mandy are here.

**They are from the Catholic Community at St. Jude Church and the Father Dick Allen Council #10926. We are blessed to have them with us.**

### **Jim Huluj Jr. (Family of the Year)**

*I apologize, I did not come prepared for a little talk. But I just want to say in a room with men and women like yourselves, I am very humbled to say the least. I know I'm not worthy but hopefully in a way we are representative of what all of you do. The Knights is all about family and it's because of my wife and children that we are up here today. I'm not some hero or somebody that does anything more than any of you and I'm sure there are plenty of you that do more than us but it's an honor to represent what the Knights stands for, Family and Faith. Without family or faith what is there, there's nothing so, I'm being rewarded for something that helps me day in and day out. Which is, family, faith, the Knights of Columbus. I couldn't be prouder to be a Knight. My Worthy Grand Knight, Jim Werner is here. A perfect example of a man I want to be. Thank you to the Councils, all you locals that are here, State, Your Excellency. I don't know what else to say except God Bless every one of you, God Bless the Knights of Columbus and thanks for honoring us. It's way beyond my ability to convey how honored we are so is just want to say thank you all.*

### **KNIGHT OF THE YEAR**

Our next presentation is for Knight of the Year, as I read through these nominations and presentations as you look through them and as you. At least I've had the opportunity to read through these, gosh we do an awful lot, don't we? It just amazes me the amount of work done by individuals and Councils throughout the entire State.

This gentleman is a Sir Knight. He joined the order in 1996. Became a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight in 1998. He didn't waste any time. He quickly became one of the Councils most active, and respected members. He's served in numerous council officer positions early on and after several years was elected to Council Grand Knight, earning a Star Council Award. During his early years he was PR Director, Chairman of Christmas Tree Lights, Chairman of the Council's Annual Christmas Tree Party, Founding Committee member of the Keep Christ in Christmas magnet program. Which distributed magnets in almost every state and numerous countries throughout the world. These car magnets were raising money for numerous worthy causes, where they are sold. It's been the Council's most successful fund raiser every year, since its inception in 2005. His son, Jeffrey, joined the order in 2004. During the current fraternal year, he has not only managed to do the previous things I've mentioned but he's managed to

increase his activity in the Council. His listing of current official roles in the Council, I don't know when he eats, He's the chairman of the Lenten Fish Fry, He's the Chairman of the Founders Day Festival Food Booth. This is when he eats. He's chairman of the Annual Pig Roast. He's Chairman of the Family Christmas Party. He's co-chair of the Nativity Yard Set Committee and helps make these yard sets. Very beautiful silhouettes of the Nativity scenes and he's co-chair of the Annual Knight's retreat weekend. If he's not running an event he is helping at the event. He's a volunteer worker throughout the Council and his Parish.

He's also a respected and active member of his Parish. During the current Columbian year, he headed up a team who painted numerous rooms in the Parish School, including the gymnasium. He's also one of the principal leaders in conducting a major renovation at his Parish. The project included major overhaul of bathrooms, new ceiling in a new event room, new sound system, complete renovation of the kitchen and all expenses were paid by the Council. Ken led this team of workers, specialist while acquiring building materials and various appliances. Most of the work was performed by volunteer members of the Council under his leadership. He also co-chaired the Parish Summer Fest Food Booth where all the profits were donated back to the parish. Finally, he was most recently the leader of the team who prepared and served all the food for a Shamrock Shave Charity Event. (You may have to explain that one to us.). The event raised over 32,000.00 for a 14-year-old cancer patient.

**I am very proud to ask to come forward Ken Prigge from the Algonquin Council #11091, St. Mary Margaret Parish in Algonquin.**

**Ken Prigge: KNIGHT OF THE YEAR:**

*Well, I'm not one for public speaking. I'd like to consider myself a behind the scenes type of guy, and sort of like to blend in but it's sort of hard to do when you are 6'7" at times.*

*I'm truly honored, thank you all. I'm a little embarrassed. Obviously, I don't strive for this type of recognition. Definitely feeling unworthy, I feel like I got to raise the ball a little bit now, to just step it up. Actually, I don't see this as much as a personal recognition for my efforts but really recognition for the strong vibrant Council of St. Margaret Mary 11091 in Algonquin. I'm quite proud of that Council. I've been a Knight for some 22-23 years. Council has been in existence, this will be our 24<sup>th</sup> year. I'm happy to say what our Council has achieved. If Star Council is any recognition of a vibrant Council we have achieved that 21 out of the 23 years so far. Also, the magnet program is a key mark of our Council. It's our design. We've marketed it and distributed it pretty much in the United States and Canada. We sent some over to Ireland too. We've reached over 2 million of those magnets and decals shipped around the world. Pretty proud of that. Any passion and drive or commitment I've shown is purely due to the Brotherhood and commitment to the Knights. Obviously worthy causes that the Council has shown me and guided me and led me to push myself to support those causes. It always amazes me whenever I need help or I step up to lead a program and ask for help, volunteers or support. It always comes back 2 or 3 times my expectation. We have a really active Council. I've only been a Knight with this Council so I'm not sure how other one's work but I can only pray to God that all of them are this successful and active as this one is. The Shamrock Shave is an event, we ask for volunteers to be shavees. We've been doing this for ten years and those are numbers like 32,000 this year. I do the cooking of corned beef and cabbage and we did 300*

*lbs. of corned beef. We all have busy lives and everyone has busy lives and for us to commit the time and talent, obviously there needs to be some personal gratification and for me, the greatest take away I achieve for my commitment is the sense of brotherhood that has developed over the years. I look at the core set of friends I have developed and they are now lifelong friends. That brotherhood is just so strong and that's what pushes me to give and give my time and commitment. I would be remiss in not mentioning behind the scenes support, my wife of 34 years, and my high school sweetheart. Without her I wouldn't be. She is definitely the sounding board for me. Gives me the female perspective when I'm chairing an event so I truly take her input and support for everything we do. And she just there just as much as I am at all these events so thank you very much. Thank God for all the blessings that are bestowed upon myself, my family, and the Knights of Columbus. Thank you all again. God Bless the Knights of Columbus.*

*Vivat Jesus*

**State Deputy William Doerfler**, calls to the podium our **State Chaplin Bishop Siegel for installation of our State Squire Officers**

Dear Brother Knights, ladies and guests. It is now my privilege to install the newly elect State Squire Circle Officers for the Fraternal year of 2017-2018. Before proceeding I want to congratulate the officers that have filled the respective stations during the past year and to thank them on the behalf of the Illinois State Council of the Knights of Columbus. I would like to call forward

**Immediate Past State Chief Squire Andrew Wilson.**

Andrew, your term of office as State Chief Squire is now ended. Your years of experience can be beneficial to the newly elected officers of the State Circle. Be a source of ideas and guidance when called upon. Be ready to give advice when asked and be there to serve when needed. But always allow the newly elected officers to take responsibility for the direction that they will now lead the State Circle. The reigns of leadership has now passed from you to another. You will be always welcomed as one who both has served and led the State Circle commendably. I invite your mother, Teresa to now come forward and invest you with your jewel. Congratulations.

To you, the new officers, who have been elected to direct the affairs of the Illinois State Circle during the coming year, welcome to the 2017, 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois State Knights of Columbus Convention.

We sincerely hope you will enjoy a fruitful and productive year. As officers of the Illinois State Circle, you have been chosen because of the special qualifications which each of you have exhibited with the duties which you are to perform. You have been elected through a thoughtful consideration of your brothers. And today you are being entrusted with the management and direction of the Illinois State Circle for the ensuing year. Being elected to a state office is a high honor. It also carries with it responsibilities. From this time forward, in performing the duties of your office, you must have in mind the best interest of the State Circle and its subordinate Circles. You represent no particular sector nor circle but rather all Circles. The progress and accomplishments of the Illinois State Circle during the ensuing year will depend upon the united

efforts and support of all Squires. It is your duty to fashion these activities. When your term of office shall have expired, it should be made known by all the Illinois State Circle has progressed. It is your duty as officers to work in unison. Abraham Lincoln said a house divided cannot stand. You will discover that the various duties will be performed more promptly, accurately and cheerfully when a spirit of cooperation prevails. As the installation proceeds, heed carefully the words and thoughts expressed.

**I now call forward State Sentry Squire Andrew Wilson.**

Andrew, your duty shall be to guard the sanctity of the State Circle, permitting no stranger to find a place therein who has not been properly selected, approved and qualified by the ceremony and pledge of our Order. Non-other shall sit among you and in vigilance of your membership of your circle. It is reposed all confidence that the vigilance shall not be found wanting. One again I invite your mother, Teresa, to come forward to invest you with your jewel. Congratulations.

**I shall now call forward State Marshall Squire, Seth Terry**

Seth, it is your duty to guard the symbols, paraphernalia and equipment of the State Circle. Let no stranger know them, let no thoughtless hand mar them. Make them your special charge that when they are presented, their appearance shall be your commendation. As one skilled in directing others, you will direct the movements of the candidates at State Held investigers and to make sure that the ceremonies are carried forth with honor and dignity. I invite your mother, Mary, to come forward to invest you with your jewel. Congratulations

**I will call forward State Bursar Squire, Aaron Cummins.**

Aaron, no organization can succeed which has not been built upon business principles. No less skill, care and ability is required in this office. The finances of the Illinois State Circle has been entrusted to you. Your records must at all times show that the duties of your office are being performed absolutely in accord with the letter and the spirit of the law. It is your duty to collect from the subordinate circles, the tax per capita and any other lawful levies. Make sure a true and accurate record of income and expenses is kept. Guard well your trust. Perform well your duties and therein shall be your reward. Your selection by your brother Squires, assures you of their confidence in your ability and your integrity. May that confidence go with you throughout your term of office. I invite your dad, Patrick to come forward to invest you with your jewel. Congratulations,

**I now call forward State Notary Squire, Grant Oskrobo**

Grant, the Columbian Squire is not an organization for the day. It is to continue, its proceedings are to be recorded for the centuries. The part it has played and the activities of the State Circle, the undertakings, the accomplishments and the purposes of the State Circle shall be carefully noted and recorded by you and shall constitute a permanent record of the Illinois State Circle. The completeness of such records depends on your energy, accuracy and fidelity to duty. I invite your father Jerry, to come forward to invest you with your jewel. Congratulations.

### **I will call forward State Deputy Chief Squire, Griffin O'Neil**

Griffin, the State Deputy Chief Squire is the second in the chain of power. The State Deputy Chief Squire must not be over anxious to assume the leadership of the State Circle. Help counsel and advise the State Chief Squire. He will look to you for help. Be prepared to stand with him and to help him. Your qualifications and your interest in the doings and achievements of the State Circle have commended you to your fellow Squires as qualified for such an office. The absence or inability of the Chief Squire, you will preside. Let your conduct even more than your words be the example so others will see one, who in devotion to God, Country and Church is the ideal Catholic youth. I invite your father, Larry to come forward to invest you with your jewel. Congratulations

### **Now I will call forward State Chief Squire, Zachary Hamann**

Zach, as State Chief Squire, you have been singly honored by your fellow squires. By their selection, they have said, we believe in you, we trust you and we will follow you. That confidence must not be betrayed, it should not be lost. To preserve you must continue to present your qualities of leadership. This requires, study, time, service and self-sacrifice. While others are at rest or play, you shall work, You will find your brother squires always willing to cooperate, but they will look to you for mature and perfected plans. Before you can lead others to success you must first by careful thought and study have satisfied in your own mind a clear course of action. And this connection, let this be your advice, consult with many. Listen patiently to the ideas of others. Be not too hasty in arriving at conclusions. Seek out the help and guidance of the State squire chairman John Wieter. State Squires Program Director Deacon Steve Poulter, State Squires Father Prior, Fr. Chuck Tuttle and the IPSCS Andrew Wilson. They stand ready to help and guide you. And when from these sources and your own best considerations a plan and program of action has been determined upon then perfect yourself in all its details. So as the leader of the Illinois State Circle you may be able, without hesitation, or doubt to point the way clearly to others. You will see no sector or group but all squires of Illinois as a whole. All efforts should be directed solely for the benefit of all. As a Chief executive officer of the Illinois State Circle it should be also your responsibility to know that the duties of every other officer are being performed, for failure of any part of the State Circle to properly function must to that extent in the failure of the whole. The office of Chief Squire should not be considered as a mere sense of honor. You are in a position of trust and responsibility. I invite your father, Brian to invest you with the jewel of office. Congratulations,

I now call upon our State Deputy Bill Doerfler to give the State Circle Officers the Oath of Office.

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** Please rise,

Illinois State Squire Officers, please rise your right hand and repeat after me.

I promise, on my honor  
To do my best to uphold  
The laws and rules of the Columbian Squires  
To work hard to further  
The good works of the Squires  
And to aid my brothers, in times needed

Please lower your hand

Around your necks are the medallions of your office. These are not status symbols. But signs of a great amount of work and good to be done. Wear them proudly, but remember, as you wear the jewel you also accept the duties and responsibilities of that office. By the authority of the Knights of Columbus and on behalf of the Illinois State Council, I declare that the Illinois State Squire Officers for the years 2017-2018 Fraternal year are duly installed into their office. And may commence with the business of the Illinois State Circle.

Congratulations to all of you.

I now call upon Associate State Chaplain and State Squires Father Prior, Fr. Chuck Tuttle for closing prayer and the presentation of their certificates, Fr. Chuck

**Associate State Chaplain Fr. Charles Tuttle:**

Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessings upon these State Squire Officers. We pray that God will bless the activities and the events that will be implemented by the State circle. We ask that all judgements be made to the benefit of all squires and knights of this state. Dear heavenly father, look down upon your assembled sons and brothers, Grant the wisdom of the ages to the state squire's officers as they head into their first decision making opportunities. Protect them as they travel the state, grant patient and understanding to the entire state squire team and the state Council officers. May God, in his infinite mercy, guide and protect our state circle officers as they perform their duties and may the blessings of all mighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever.

At this time, I would like to present you with your certificates designating you and your office and on this certificate, is an acronym cradle. The acronym stands for Commitment, Responsibility, Affective leadership, Dedication and Ownership. These are the five qualities that make up your office.

**Squires are called up one by one**

I now call upon **Brother Knight, John Wieter, our State Chairman of the Columbian Squires** for his comments and purpose of an introduction.

**State Chairman of the Columbian John Wieter**

Thank you Fr. Tuttle I would like to say thanks to two individuals here. For two years I worked as Doug's assistant. Also, I would like to thank this Former Grand Knight and Past District Deputy, our own State Prior, Fr. Chuck for all the help you have been.

I heard that the average age of a Knight in Illinois is 59. So, I was thinking I would like to pass something that the St. Louis has known for a long time and the Chicago Cubs have finally figured out. That a good farm system is vital to your success and it brings world championships. So, I would like to present you the farm system of the Knights of Columbus where we grow future Knights.

**It is now my privilege to introduce the Past State Chief Squire of Illinois circle, Andrew Wilson of the Bethalto 3383 to give an overview of the past year.**

**Andrew Wilson:** I would just like to say thank you to all of you who have helped us whether it was through funding or anyway you have helped us. Like John said, we are the farm system for you guys and 59 is kind of old. So, we need your help to lower the age, so just try and reach out to the young men in your councils and star circles within your Councils and we can lower the age.

**It is now my pleasure to present the 2017 Illinois State Knights of Columbus Convention from the Bethalto Circle, Columbian Squire Circle # 3383 the newly installed 2017-2018 Illinois State Chief Squire Zachary Hamman.**

**Zach Hamman:** You all look as wide awake as I am, I would like to begin by thanking everyone for all the support you provide to the Squires. I would like to personally thank our State Officers, especially Worthy State Deputy Bill Doerfler, and our Worthy State chaplain, Bishop Joseph Siegel for giving me the opportunity to speak to all of you. My theme for this year is With the Lord, we shall prosper. This theme describes my plan for the upcoming year. I plan on providing the Squires organization, helping it to grow stronger than ever before. I have to accomplish this by increasing communication between the State and Local Circles. As a result of this it is my vision that our participation at these events will increase tremendously. However, I'm not able to do this alone so I will be relying on help from our Lord and the upcoming state officers, our Squires Chairman John Wieter and our State Farther Prior Fr Charles Tuttle. Our State Squires Program Director, Deacon Steve Poulter, our youth activity director Joe Moore and our fellow state officers. Together we will make the squires prosper, on that note I would like to introduce my fellow state officers. Would you please stand when your name is called.

- ✚ **State Deputy Chief Squire, Griffin O'Neil**
- ✚ **State Notary Squire, Grant Oskrobo**
- ✚ **State Bursar Squire, Aaron Cummins**
- ✚ **State Marshall Squire, Seth Terry**
- ✚ **Last but certainly not least,**
- ✚ **Sentry Squire, Andrew Wilson**

As a Squire, I hope to one day join in the ranks of the Knights of Columbus, and with everyone's support we can strengthen the squires which will ultimately lead to the strengthening of the Knights of Columbus. Thank you, everyone for your time, it is an honor to serve as your State Chief Squire. I look forward to the upcoming year and all that it has to offer.

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** Thank you, and remember you are our future guys! Also please remember 59 is not so old guys, and 69 don't seem so old either, at least not anymore. Congratulations, to each of you, good luck and just as we state every year, if you need any help, we are here for you so don't be afraid to ask each state officer up here will be more than willing to give you time and advice, if you want it, now it's time for, to hear your State Officers.

You may be dismissed, thank you, Enjoy your meeting guys.

## **State Deputy's William Doerfler Opening Remarks**

*This last fraternal year has been a lot of work but I think we've accomplished a lot of things. We have brought back some old things that kind of went by the wayside. And people had asked that we bring them back and we did everything we could to do it. We started bowling again, with the bowling chairman, with a whole lot of work and a lot of work of the chapters, we got it off the ground again.*

*They had a great state tournament, I think they had every diocese represented for the state finals. So I want to thank Matt Piescinski, if he's in here, for a great job. That guy travelled the whole state and talked to every Chapter to get this program started again. So, you've asked and we've delivered. We also, coming up in June. We are going to have a State golf tournament again. There again, we've been asked to bring it back, and we're doing it. We want to get some more activities. Logan, we are looking for a fourth, there are 3 of us and we're looking for a 4<sup>th</sup> so in June don't plan anything, we are going to Charleston.*

*So, we've brought it back. Some of the programs we've kept, keep increasing, the state free throw contest this year, according to John Dehm, our Chairman, we've increased by over a hundred kids this year which is very good for a program that has been established for a long time. That's only because of our Grand Knights, are having the local competition. It's not because of the chairman, it's not because of us. It's because of the Grand Knights and the Councils and the chairman of the program pushing the program. Thank you.*

*Soccer continues to grow, every year we have more and more children participating in the soccer program. Again, thanks to Tom West for running an outstanding program and thanks to the Grand Knights and District Deputies for promoting that program. We need to keep these youth programs going and it's a proven fact. If you have a membership table there, you will probably get one or two of the parents to sign up as a member. A lot of parents don't know what we do and I'm going to get into that later. **That's just a little bit of the programming.***

*Now I want to go on to **GAF General Assistance Fund***

*This year, again, we had hurricanes, we had floods and we had tornados. The Illinois state Council, the minute we hear about it from Supreme, we sent \$5,000.00 to Hurricane Matthew. That was in Florida. We also sent \$5,000 to Louisiana for the floods they had down there last spring, wasn't it? Or, last fall. And then it wasn't too long ago everybody remembers what happened in Canton Illinois with the church, the gas explosion? I had the pleasure last night of talking to the Grand Knight down there and the pastor. We sent them \$ 5,000.00 to help with their church. In case you did not know, they had the gas explosion and the church hasn't been able to be used since, with your help they are hoping they can celebrate Christmas in the renovated Church.*

*Once again Illinois suffered damage due to tornados again. In Naplate and Ottawa, my first trip to these storm ravaged areas began when I wasn't quite the State Secretary until now. My recent trip into this type of damage was also my 4<sup>th</sup> trip. I was on the ground handing out gift cards. It's getting old. But, we were in Naplate and Ottawa within 72 hours. Actually, it was less than that, only about 36 hours when I was on the ground. Thank God for my son who was in charge of clean up as road commissioner. They have a committee that goes around to these*

*towns that have tornados and they actually get all the equipment. He had like 50 trucks lined up from all these different townships. Well, I called him and said can I get in there? Well it was the first day, and he said I could not get in until day two. Actually, that night, the tornadoes ended up about a quarter mile to a half a mile from my house.*

*So, I got on the computer with my fellow State Officers, and we had a motion that night to spend \$ 5,000.00 for tornado relief and that was within 3 hours of the tornado. So, the next day I called my son and he said Dad, you can't come in today but I'll get you in there tomorrow. So, within 36 hours, my wife and I were walking the actual streets of Naplate visiting with the people. We received compliments and the thank you's, it's unbelievable. That is probably one of the most emotional things you can do in your life. I remember doing it in Coal City, I remember doing in Diamond and now in Naplate. The people come up and we'll say we are from the Knights of Columbus and some of them will say thank you, my dad was a member, or I'm a member. Some will say, I'm not Catholic. You know what our reply is? We don't care.*

*Do you need help? Yes, I could use it. Well here it is. You are called angels, you get hugs. you get tears, it's just a very emotional day. But it's also very appreciated. We were also in Ottawa within 36 hours. I couldn't get in Ottawa security was pretty tight. So, we happened to have two members over there that I was in contact with that same night. Brother Knight Steve Scherer, better known as 'Pizza' and Kevin Hamilton. Kevin lived within a block of where the damage was. So, I had made arrangement to meet Kevin in Ottawa and I left him with \$2,500.00 worth of gift cards for damage in Ottawa. Kevin and a couple of others in Ottawa went around to pass these out. So, in three days, 36 hours, we had \$ 5,000.00 in gift cards passed out. But I also got in contact with Fr. Tony who was the pastor at Naplate and he also had a church in Ottawa. I had a few gift cards left, and I said Father, I gave them to him for his parishioners. For a lot of damage, there was nobody there we could give a gift card to so I talked with Fr. Tony, gave him some gift cards, Fr. If you need anything to help rebuild your church, let us know. I know a guy at Supreme that I could make a phone call to and he could probably work something out for us. Well, Fr. Tony told me, they don't know what they are going to do. And what I've heard now, they are not going to rebuild that church, it's probably going to be torn down. Some of you may have seen the pictures and it actually lifted the roof and took the beams and moved it off the footings inside the church. So, I don't think they are going to be able to rebuild that church and probably going to close that parish. So that's just a little bit of what your State Officers, State Team have done with your General Assistance Fund money that you send in. It's greatly appreciated guys, but please don't wait until the end of the year to send it in as you can see here we have disasters from the beginning of the year until the end. And we are very proactive in getting the help and the money there as soon as possible.*

*I want to talk just a few minutes about the budget. This past year we had a very tight budget guys, it is very tight. We do everything we can to stay within budget. I think I will come in within budget this year again, I was last year. We have cut as much as we can. We used to meet for weekends, the State Officers, the State Council and the Charity side. We'd meet Friday for a short time and we'd meet Saturday, from 8-4, have mass, stay overnight. Kind of have breakfast and go home Sunday. Well that all costs money. So, what we've done now is the State Elected Officers, most of us will go in on Friday night and we try to keep it as centrally located as possible. The membership Director, the Program Director, the Charities and maybe even one of the elected officers, if he lives close, will drive in on Saturday. We'll meet from*

8:30-4:00, and we all get in our cars and drive home. That's one way to save as much money as we possible. So, we have been As my wife says, you are really tight with their money, and I say yes, I am, it is not my money to spend. So, we are working every which way we can to save money and still provide all the programs that we possibly can. Because all these programs cost money. Like Free Throw Tournament, that's not free, there are a lot of awards to buy. So, we are doing our best, to stay within budget and you notice you get a whole lot fewer mailings than you used to.

One thing I want to ask while I have most of you in here, when we pass out checks. The new guys usually pick up their checks, the older guys say ahh, State's going to mail it to me. Please pick it up. The check that might be 20.00 or 25.00 will probably cost us a 1.50 to 2.00 to mail to you. That doesn't seem like much but multiply that by 100, So please take the few minutes to pick up that check tomorrow. We've got it down where you are out of here in five minutes. Pick up your checks, we are trying to use your money wisely.

There are a couple other things I want to talk about but I don't want to be up here too long.

One other thing I want to say before I get into the other part. You all got the program book and the convention booklet. Please take some time to read it. Everybody's report is in there. I can't go through everybody's report or we'd be here for another hour. Take the time, your State Officers, your State Chairman, your State.... Took the time to write these articles. That's where the nitty gritty is for the whole year. So, take the time to read it. Take it to your Council meetings. Maybe some of the other guys want to read it. Let them know what we are doing every year.

Now I want to talk just a little bit about membership. I know some of you get tired of hearing about it but it's has to be said. Right now, we have 13,000 members over the age of 70. We lose 125 members a month to deaths. Believe that? 125 a month. So, what do we have to do? We have to recruit. Now I want to go into a little more of that. The wife and I, as you know, because I've seen a lot of you, we do a lot of traveling. We enjoy it. We were in Rockford one day, District Deputies, maybe you've heard this, but I think our Grand Knights need to hear this and our Delegates. We got there on Friday, and we decided that we just wanted to go out alone. Very seldom do we go to a Knights of Columbus function and just the two of us go out on a Friday night or something and eat. So, we just kind of left the hotel and went looking for a restaurant. Well, we found one. We walked in and it was Friday and they had some fish special and I got talking to the girl and so we ordered and, ordered an appetizer. Well, in our family, we never eat before we say Grace. I don't care where it's at, hotel, restaurant, we say Grace. Well she was bringing our salads and we were saying Grace so she stopped, very good you know, she didn't bring them to us. So, when we got done she brought the salad to us and put them down and she left. And we had ordered some onion rings or something – I don't know, I can't remember. But when she brought our appetizer she said, are you guys from Rockford? We said no, and I said I'm here with the Knights of Columbus and she said well what's the Knights of Columbus? I said well it's a Catholic Fraternal Organization. She said well, I knew you were Catholic because you said prayers and made the sign of the cross. I said ok, she said, well I'm Catholic too. You know what she told me? She'd never heard about the Knights of Columbus. Think about it. Just think about that. Here's a Catholic person that doesn't know who the Knights of Columbus is? Whose fault is that? Is it her's? It's ours.

*We need to be in our churches. We need to let them know who we are. We need to talk from our hearts guys. When you go up to talk with somebody and say, you want to join the Knights of the Columbus and they say What do you guys do? What are you going to tell them? Well, we do pancake breakfasts, we do Fish fries, heck the Legion does that, the VFW does that. What do we do? Yes, we do a pancake breakfast but what do we do with that money? We give it to the Catholic school we give it to the Church. That's what they want to hear. They don't want to hear we have a breakfast. Heck they can go anywhere to have a breakfast or work on a breakfast.*

*When we talk to these people guys, we need to talk from the heart. We don't need to have a canned speech. Yeah, we have a ton of brochures but you know what your Council does. That's what selling is. It's your Council. We're the Knights of Columbus and we have some great programs but they are joining your Council first. So, sell your Council. And the only way you sell is from your heart. You can't just say yeah, we do this. But also, what I want you to start doing, your Council pick one Sunday a month, I don't care which one it is, first, last, middle. Make it Knights of Columbus Sunday.*

*Wear your Knights of Columbus shirt. If you guys don't have any, order them. I know a bunch of places where you can order them. But I want to ask you to do one other thing. When you buy these Knights of Columbus shirts, don't buy a white one or a light blue one. Buy a colorful one. Why do you think I chose orange for? You think that was my favorite color? It's become one of my favorite colors. But it wasn't my favorite color. I told the State Officers, what color is your shirt going to be, I said well, I'll tell you it's when we walk in they are going to know we are there. And they do, with this orange. We were in Bloomington and we all went to church. Fr. Chuck couldn't make it that weekend so we had to find a church. We walked out of church and there were 10 of us sitting there with orange shirts one. After church Father was standing in the back we came walking out and he said man, I thought I was being invaded by the orange guys. But we were noticed. Everybody knew the Knights of Columbus were there and that's what we have to get in every parish. That's the only way we are going to grow guys. We aren't going to grow in club houses. We are going to grow because we are involved in the parish. That's where our members are, they are not on the baseball fields anymore or the bowling alleys like it used to be. People don't play softball anymore. I played softball until I was 30 but the 30-year olds don't do that anymore. They are involved in the church and they are involved with their family. Times have changed and we need to change with it. What do you think Supreme has building a domestic church and strengthening our parish. Strengthening our parish is where it's at guys. So, move into those parishes, get with Fr., talk to these young kids and sell the Knights of Columbus with your heart.*

*Thank you very much*

*God Bless you all*

*I know you will be hearing more from me this weekend, again that you for all you do and God Bless you.*

**State Deputy William Doerfler** to Bishop: What time do you want to leave, OK, please rise one more time.

The Bishop will be leaving us to join the ladies and Ladies you are in for a thrill today because the Bishop is the main entertainment. He said he's going to sing and dance. My wife had talked with him and said I think the women would really enjoy hearing how the Bishop grew up from his home life, where he lived with mom/dad picking sweet corn to becoming a Bishop so that's going to be the entertainment for the ladies. I think they will enjoy it very much. Thank you,

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** Please be seated.

I have one **quick announcement** and we'll be doing this more. Don't forget to pick up your raffle books. Mr. Ron Ziembra doesn't want to take them back. I would also like to remind any Council that didn't order any please think about picking up a few. I have been to every seminary, we were in Mundelein, Chicago, and we even went up to Wisconsin to see seminarians. And every seminarian said thank you. For their birthday checks, their Christmas checks and everything else we do for them. And without these raffle tickets we can't support these seminarians like we do. So, if you haven't ordered any go talk to Ron or Bill Brown, look at that poster of the basketball tournament. That's how we do that. Actually, when I was at the basketball tournament this year a priest from Florida, seminary that come up to play came over and thanked me for what the Knights of Columbus in Illinois does, and he'd been talking to some of the other seminarians and heard about the birthday checks and I knew the State Deputy from Florida and I said Fr. Do me a favor, he said what's that. I said call State Deputy and tell him here's what you want. So, I don't know if he called the State Deputy or not but I will be seeing the State Deputy. Anyway, be sure to pick up the raffle tickets.

- ✚ State Deputy William Doerfler asked **State Secretary Ted Stites** to the podium for his reflections. State Secretary Stites gave his reflections.
- ✚ State Deputy William Doerfler asked **State Treasurer Frank Schwartz** to step to the podium for his reflections. State Treasurer Schwartz gave his reflections.
- ✚ State Deputy Doerfler asked our **State Advocate Steve Mann** to the podium for his reflections. State Advocate Mann gave his reflections.
- ✚ State Deputy Doerfler asked our **State Warden Mike Herbst** to the podium for his reflections. State Warden Daly gave his reflections.
- ✚ State Deputy Doerfler asked **IPSD Donald "Skip" Kinyon** to the podium for his reflections. IPSD Kinyon gave his reflections.

State Deputy Doerfler introduced **State Charitable Activities Director Rick Koerkenmeier** to update the State Council on the progress of our charitable activities.

✦ **General Assistance Fund Review**

✦ **Intellectual Disabilities Review**

✦ **Newman Apostolate Fund**

✦ **Pro-Life Fund**

✦ **Vocations Support Fund**

**State Deputy William Doerfler** thanked State Charitable Activities Director Rich Koerkenmeier for his report.

State Deputy Doerfler called to the podium **State General Programming Director Jim Marino** for the purpose of presenting the Rising Star Awards.

### [Rising Star Awards](#)

These brother Knights were recommended for the award by their District Deputy. They are individuals who have leadership positions in their councils, each council is positive in membership with a very high potential for the Star Council award at the end of our program year. They chair multiple programs in the council and are very active in their parish and community.

- ❖ Michael Brand,
- ❖ Tony Carlino
- ❖ Sean Conley
- ❖ Michael Enos
- ❖ Bill Gonzalez
- ❖ Ryan Janski,
- ❖ Miguel Lopes
- ❖ George Lamoureux
- ❖ Nick Nakis,
- ❖ Chris Ross
- ❖ Tony Reyes
- ❖ Mark Scheffert
- ❖ Carl Smith
- ❖ Steve Zales

**State Deputy William Doerfler** Thank you, Jim and **congratulations, to all the Rising Star Grand Knights.**

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** With some announcements

We're just a little ahead of schedule, which is good, it will give you a few more minutes for lunch. Again, if you haven't pick up your raffle books, please do so. And while I'm thinking about it, resolutions committee, we will be meeting tomorrow morning right over there after the memorial

service. We have a few resolutions that came in after our Resolution committee meeting, but still within the 35 or 45 days so we will meet tomorrow morning over in that corner.

Also, the hotel, is full on Sunday. There will be no late checkout. I talked to the hotel and tried to get late check out, but they have more people or as many people coming in Sunday as we're leaving Sunday. So, they cannot give anybody a late check out. I think check out is noon, I'm not positive, I never really looked. But you'll have to clear out your room, either you or your wife before noon, so just to let you know. Most of you can probably get it done before our meeting starts after prayer service or sometime.

This afternoon we will also talk about parking at the cathedral, I'm not going to say it now because if you're like me, you'll forget it by then. I'll let Steve explain the parking situation at the cathedral where you can't park so your car doesn't get towed. So, you guys, it's right at 11:30, have a great lunch, please be prompt coming back. It is a very busy schedule this afternoon. Before you leave, let's all stand and say Grace before meal.

*In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, amen. Bless us our Lord these gifts which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord AMEN, Father, son and Holy Spirit, Amen. Please be prompt in coming back this afternoon. Thank you,*

State Deputy Doerfler, recessed the meeting at 11:40 AM and informed the members that it will reconvene at 1:30PM.

#### **State Deputy Doerfler reconvened the State meeting at 1:30pm.**

State Deputy William Doerfler introduced **General Agent Jeff Niemeyer** to present the Insurance Awards

Worthy State Officers, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy Grand Knights, friends, family, all. It's a great honor for me to be able speak in front of you today. I constantly remind my agents to reflect back and appreciate what an honor it is to serve alongside you. We're truly blessed to be able to work with and for such tremendous fraternal leaders and for such a wonderful Catholic organization. 2016 was an outstanding year for the Knights in Illinois and an outstanding year for the Knights of Columbus Insurance Program as well.

This past year marked our 16th year of consecutive growth. Like Carl mentioned in the video. For 16 consecutive years, despite economic turmoil and uncertainty, the Knights have issued a record volume of insurance. Thank you for your partnership helping us achieve our goal.

Our 8.5 billion issued volume in 2016 pushed us to more than 105 billion in life insurance in force at year's end. Last year alone we issued more than 70,000 life insurance contracts for Brother Knights and their families and distributed 100s of millions of dollars in death benefits and dividends. All told the Knights of Columbus has more than 2 million total life contracts in force protecting the lives of members and their families. These are impressive achievements.

The Knights continues to be not only the premier Catholic life insurer but one of the biggest and best life insurers in America. It is a tremendous testament to Fr. McGivney's founding vision of financial protection for Catholic families. The genius of Fr. McGivney's vision, our Supreme Knight has said, forged through his own personal experience and suffering was that he was able to combine spiritual principles and practical insights. He was also confident that a fraternal society like Knights of Columbus could deepen its faith of its members while providing a strong sense of Catholic brotherhood. Yet the Knights of Columbus was also, in large part, his solution

to the problem of financial poverty as well. The Supreme Knight continued. It is critically important to him.

He had hands on involvement in the formulation of the original past the hat insurance program and he studied how other benefit societies worked. We know that he was himself the Order's first insurance member. We continue to carry on his mission by serving more and more Catholic families and more and more brother Knights. Our successes are also a tremendous testament to members of trust in the Knights of Columbus.

And why do they trust us? Three reasons, our size, our stability and our standards.

When it comes to size, you all know we are one of the largest Catholic organizations in the world. With more than 105 billion of life insurance in force, more than 24 billion in assets under management. The Knights are also tops in the industry and in the top 5% life insurance in America as well as a Fortune 1,000 Company.

When it comes to stability, the Knights has an impressive track record. For 41 consecutive years, the Knights of Columbus has earned the highest possible rating for financial strength, an A++ Superior. For May and best and there is no higher rated life insurer in North America.

And, when it comes to our standard, the Knights' is committed to putting ethics first. It's not just a wish, it's a duty. We owe it to our members and our Catholic heritage and identity. This March for the 4th year in a row the Knights was named one of the world's most ethical companies by Ethisphere Institute.

It is a great honor and one that we intend to we continue living up to.

So, as we gather here this weekend to celebrate your tremendous achievements in the past fraternal year. What does all this mean for you and your members? It means that as a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, you can rest assured knowing that your most valuable fraternal benefit, our insurance program, is here for you and your family when you need it most.

There will come a time in your life, if it hasn't come already, where you will be looking for life insurance to protect your family or retirement options to plan for your golden years maybe long-term care insurance to make sure you are taken care of or disability insurance to make sure you can secure your hard-earned paycheck. And when that day comes we'll be there.

I hope you will take the time to meet with us because we have great products that will help you reach your goals.

I hope you'll take the time to meet with us because we have the size, stability and a standard that you can rely on and believe in.

I hope you will take the time to meet with us because you'll want the added comfort of knowing that your premium dollars aren't going to support morally questionable endeavors but to an organization that helps to support the community and the Church.

But most of all, I hope you take the time, to meet with us, because you're a Brother Knight and protecting Brother Knights is what we do. It's what we live for. We're Knights, just like you.

The Supreme Knight said it best, when asked what he would say to a member who has not yet looked into the benefits of the Knight's Insurance program, he said this:

Now is the time, this is an extraordinary program spearheaded by extraordinary Brother Knights in the field who have made it their mission to carry on Fr. McGivney goal of providing financial protection to Catholic families. Why would you look elsewhere? With the Knights of Columbus, you are doing business with brothers. You are doing business with an authentically Catholic company and one whose ethical integrity and financial strengths are well documented and widely recognized. By becoming an insurance member, you are taking advantage of the greatest fraternal benefit that we offer and taking the critical step in protecting your family. It's a responsibility that we all have, especially as fathers and one that we can fulfill with the help of the Knights of Columbus.

This organization is your organization. This company is your company. Take advantage of it. See what we have to offer. And precisely for that reason, I want to take this opportunity to ask each of you. As leaders in your council and district, to be advocates and centers of influence of this great fraternal benefit. The members in your Councils respect and admire your abilities and your achievements. And they also respect and value the opinions and perspectives you have in our organization, including the insurance program. Support from District Deputies, Grand Knights and all the Council Officers go a long way in helping to open the door to our hardworking field agents. These men are Brother Knights who are trying, earnestly and honestly to carry out Fr. McGivney's mission and to protect Catholic families. So, I thank you in advance for encouraging your Council to let the agent in and listen to what he has to say.

Congratulations again on a spectacular fraternal year and we look forward to working with you in the days and weeks to come.  
Vivat Jesus.

**General Agent Jeff Niemeyer** introduced **General Agent Luke Niemeyer** for the Insurance Agent Awards presentations. GA Luke Niemeyer (serving Southwestern Illinois) introduced the rest of the General Agents in attendance:

My name's Luke Niemeyer I'm the General Agent that serves Southwestern Illinois. I would first like to start by introducing my fellow General Agents in the State of Illinois. Of course, we've already had Jeff introduced. It's my privilege to introduce for the first time one of the newest General Agents in the Order, Jim Lutz.

**Let's Please welcome General Agent Jim Lutz**, who is serving the Archdiocese of Chicago. Welcome Jim.

Recently Supreme has made some shifts in Illinois for us to be able to better serve the State of Illinois so they've actually added a seventh General Agent, he is here with us today. He has been serving the area of Champagne as a Field Agent for years.  
Please welcome Andy Ehrlich.

**Andy Ehrlich** serving West Central Illinois.  
**Larry Biever** serving the East Central Illinois part (could not attend)  
**Tim Sedivy** serving the Joliet Diocese  
**Paul Kehoe** serving Northern Illinois.

As we've done in years past. I'm going to introduce you to three of our newest field agents, just starting here in 2017. As I call your name please come forward and join us in front here. I would like to start with

### **First Year Agents**

**Pat Kramer from Sedivy Agency.**  
**Joseph Spada from the Kehoe Agency**  
**Eric Vandergriff from the Sedivy Agency**

As we bring up some of the next agents I ask you hold your applause until the end so I can keep with Mr. Doerfler time frame and honor the system in which we've all agreed to.

The next group is our Prime protectors, these are the field agents that serve the families, that put the protection force and in all reality, are the men who will go out and serve your wives and families in their time of need to deliver the checks that the Order has promised.

**PRIME PROTECTORS**

Bill Brown	\$1,120,000.00
Terry Clere	\$1,234,000.00
Steve Boyer	\$2,169,000.00
Chris Burnt	\$2,418,000.00
Larry Szmurlo	\$2,552,000.00
Deacon Gerald Bach	\$2,690,000.00
Eric Diecamper	\$2,732,000.00
Brian Rinders,	who served just the last few months of 2016 for us \$2,749,000.00
Brian Hamman	\$2,784,000.00
Clint Coulter	\$2,948,000.00
Greg Paul	\$2,964,000.00

These are the gentlemen who put into force a little over 2 million dollars of protection for the families they served in 2016. Please give them a round of applause.

Robert Parisi	\$3,152,000.00
Joel Dickson	\$3,371,000.00
Jeff Lister	\$3,572,000.00
David Mickiewicz	<b>\$4,100,000</b>
David Nelson	\$4,151,000.00
Chris Bivens	\$4,165,000.00
Mark Augustuniak	\$4,238,000.00
John Blazeovich	\$4,267,000.00
Jeff Chmiola	\$4,546,000.00
Dave Liptak	\$4,594,000.00
Chris Hamelly	\$4,655,000.00

Please give these gentlemen a round of applause.

**5 MILLION DOLLAR CLUB**

Michael Muto	\$5,166,000.00
Jason Sturges	\$5,205,000.00
Dan Maldazis	\$5,859,000.00
Xander Huelsmann	\$5,919,000.00
Jeff Shaecher	\$6,239,000.00
Don Massey	\$6,364,000.00
Matt Kling	\$6,485,000.00 (currently sitting as the number one agent for this part of 2017)
Jack Springmire	\$6,485,000.00
Tyler Sheehan	\$7,330,000.00

Todd Minard	\$7,175,000.00
Chris Irwin	\$7,676,000.00
Aaron Gebke	\$7,862,000.00
Doug Cline	\$8,162,000.00
James Keef	\$9,935,000.00

Please give the rest of these gentlemen a hand of applause, thank you.

The next group I will bring up we refer to as our 100% agents. There are a number of qualifiers the Supreme Office puts in front of us. This group has met essentially the first goal of requirements the Order sets out in front of us which is to be 100% agent.

### 100% AGENTS

Joe Aguilera	\$3,950,000.00
Joseph Yockey	\$8,716,000.00
Dan Sheehan	\$9,260,000.00 (could not attend)
Matt Albers	\$15,874,000.00 (could not attend)

The next group and one of our final groups we will bring forward we refer to as the **Circle of Honor**. This group has gone over and above and has exceeded every goal Supreme has laid before them. For their efforts they have also been awarded the privilege to meet and spend time with our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Archbishop William Lori.

### Circle of Honor recipient for 2016

Michael Sullivan	\$12,827,000.00
Jean-Pierre Zermatten	\$17,588,000.00
Ken Basel	\$11,122,000.00

**Jean-Pierre Zermatten** . Pierre was a Past Agent of the Year in the State of Illinois. **Pierre is our volume leader this year** with over 17,588,000 of protection put in force for his families. He is also, as is our Agent of The Year, **a Supreme Knights Club qualifier and a Member of the Million Dollar Round Table**. We have about 5 or 6 agents in the State of Illinois who are members of the Million Dollar Round Table. It is an organization that is an industry standard in the insurance world that represents the top 1% of professionals across the world. Thank you Pierre.

The next gentleman and the final gentleman is a friend of mine. **Ken Basel is our Agent of the Year** with 11,122,000 of protection. A top 1% of professionals in the world with a **Round Table recognition as well as a member of the prestigious Supreme Knights Club**. Ken has been an incredible agent over the years, he has been in the top 3 in the last 4 years if my memory serves. He's a good man who is active in recruiting and is personally vigilant to help get two new councils started in the last 18 months.

He always does such a wonderful job putting his families first and despite his wonderful charm he is a Cubs fan. I hear there is some mixed emotion about that, that is not how I feel on the inside. but just like his Cubbies, Ken Basel is a champion agent in 2016 please help me in giving Knights of Columbus congratulations to my friend Ken Basel.

**General Agent Luke Niemeyer invited FA Basel to the podium for a few words.**

## **AGENT OF THE YEAR**

**Ken Basel**

*I would like to first start off with saying Go Cubbies. Worthy State Assistant Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, it is a privilege to be here, Thank you.*

*I would like to start off with saying a couple thank you's, first to my wife. In 2013 she allowed me to do this position. Since then she has given me complete support behind me and I wouldn't be able to do this without her. She constantly reminds me when I want to go golfing or watch the Cubs or Black Hawks or anybody else by gentle reminders saying don't you have people to call and don't you have people to see or go around on appointments tonight?*

*Next would be Paul Kehoe, my General Agent. Start of the recruitment process in January 2013 and through his leadership, his guidance, his training, has led our agency to this position and without his support I wouldn't even be up here. Thank you.*

*Next to the fellow agents who are with me from our agency, Chris Hameley, Jason Sturges, Matt Kling, Joe Yockey and then the rookie Joe Spada, thank you guys for the support. We all come from different backgrounds and bring different strengths to this job. Without your support, weekly meetings and those late-night phone calls on the way home from late appointments - Great support thank you.*

*I have two District Deputies and a District Warden Greg Schuring and Steve Salis, that help me start and worked together to start the St. Patrick's Council last spring and in the first year behind Carl Smith guidance, Grand Knight, they have achieved they are on pace for Star Council this year so congratulations guys, thank you.*

*The next would be Chuck Subera , District Deputy who helped me start St. Mary's in Sycamore. August 2015, we started that council and the first year of 2015/2016 they achieved double star ward and this year again are on track for double stars. Without his help and support, I think Chuck's probably forgotten, I don't know is he in here? He's got to be here somewhere. there he is back there. Chuck's probably forgotten more about the Knights of Columbus than I will ever know. He's a great resource for me and a huge support so thank you very much Chuck.*

*And finally, I want to thank all the families that we worked with this last year and the last four years for me. And obviously without their support for the Knights of Columbus and trusting the Knights of Columbus and myself to help support their families, I wouldn't be up here and none of the agents would have jobs. Thank you very much families.*

*I have a short story of kind of prime example of why the Knights of Columbus exists and why I love being a field agent. And don't worry Paul I asked for permission so they told me I could use their names. I met Bona and Laura back in April of 2014 and I started calling and just like we all hear don't worry Ken we have all the insurance we need we don't need you to visit. I just kept pushing and pushing and finally they let me come in in May. We worked out a plan with them. They had life insurance. It wasn't the right type of life insurance for them. We started putting plans together and through underwriting, by July we had. Laura's term policy got approved with a little bit higher premium and originally, she said to me that don't worry about it Ken, I'll just wait a year and we'll get a better rating and I'll take it then. After talking with her about waiting and the importance of it I said let's just take the policy. You can afford it and in a year, we will go back through underwriting and see if we can get a better rating for you. She accepted that and signed it and put it in place. A couple months later I started working on the kid's policies and everything went fine with that.*

*Fast forward to Thanksgiving 2014. I get a phone call from Bona and the worst possible thing that could have happened, Laura passed away. Thanksgiving Day. Six months to the day that we put the policy in force. They had a plan to get a will in place, they put that off, a lot of different things that I had worked with Bona to help him get done so he could function with the family. Through the help of the Knights of Columbus, getting the policies in place. I'm happy to say three years later the family is doing perfectly fine. The oldest son is now talking about going to college. He is turning 16 so he's planning on where he wants to go to college. The two younger kids are also planning colleges they are just couple years younger than that.*

*Without the Knights, this is why we go out and do our jobs. So, families can keep moving forward. It's never easy. But at least Bona didn't have to worry about leaving work or having to go to work every day because he had the support he needed. And now for me, he is a really good friend of mine, I see him every couple months. We have great conversations.*

*And again, I think the line that comes to mind is we know not when or how but death comes to us all. You've got to have a plan. And that's all we care about as agents. Get your plan in place. If the Knights can help then that's even better. But you've got to have a plan for when the unexpected is going to be there because it does come to us all.*

*I'm reminded of Bona and Laura every day. Every day that I have a bad day or a bad time I think I have to go see families, I have to keep seeing families because that's what we do. That's what the Knights are about. So, thank you very much. Again, without everyone's support, I wouldn't be standing up here and again the agents wouldn't have jobs. Thank you very much. Viva Jesus.*

**General Agent Niemeyer: Then stated prior to the RAFFLE we have award for State Deputy Doerfler Father McGivney's Protector Award**

Before we get to what's on left and what helps get everybody back from lunch on time. We are raffling off the TV and Grill. I want to get a special appreciation to State Deputy Bill Doerfler. I would like to thank you Bill for all your support of the agents and over the years not just the two years of being a State Deputy. You rose the ranks as you spoke earlier this morning about the 10-11 years you've served on the board. I want to thank you for the continuous support that you continue to give the agents and the field force here in the State of Illinois.

During the two years of Bill's support as State Deputy in the jurisdiction of Illinois as the Supreme refers to us so we can be provinces or states. The jurisdiction of Illinois has leaped frogged the jurisdiction of New Jersey and we are now the 5th largest jurisdiction in the Order by volume of protection in force by the Knights of Columbus.

And in the two years while Bill served as the State Deputy, we would like to honor you certainly sir with the Father Givney's Protector's Award and thank you for helping to oversee over 700 million dollars of protection put in force in just the two years you've served as the State's Deputy. Thank you, Bill.

**State Deputy William Doerfler: gave his thanks for the Award.**

**General Agent Niemeyer: then asked the F.D.S.K Dr. Logan Ludwig pick the raffle numbers for the Grill and 55" Visio HDTV**

**State Deputy Doerfler invited SS Ted Stites to the podium.**

**State Sectary Ted States** do you want me to share the little thing you told me about the guys in Iowa? Luke invited me over to his office a few weeks ago just to chat about things how the insurance agents might be able to help us out a little bit more and he shared a thing that he had found out talking with some of the guys in Iowa and how they staff their program committees at the Councils. This is something that he had heard. I just had the Council Officer Training and we talked about how you need to establish your program directors and your committee members for all the different activities. Well what happens usually you can't find enough guys. So, what they established was a programming fantasy draft. Where the directors got together and put the roster up there and said alright I'll take him and I'll take him and I'll take him and low and behold you had very well-balanced committees with old and new members. And it made for a very effective program. So, think about that and take that back to your councils and that's the insurance guys that do a lot more than sell insurance. They could come back and help us with a lot of different ideas. Luke, thanks for the chance to meet with you. I'm looking forward to it real soon. Thank you, all you insurance guys, it is wonderful what you do for us.

**State Deputy Doerfler called State Membership Director Jeff Peters to the podium.**

We know why we come to State Convention now right? We get to win TVs and Grills.

State Convention is a time that we get to celebrate and have a little bit of fun and enjoy what happened in the past year, what our achievements are this year. We'll talk a little bit more about that to you gentlemen tomorrow, but today here, for a few minutes we want to celebrate just a couple things that happened last year and you know our State Convention and our Fraternal year ends on June 30th and there are some awards that happened after that time. We are lucky enough to be able to present those today and we're going to do that in a minute.

The first thing I'd like to do though is if you're here today representing your Council even if you're not the Grand Knight or weren't the Grand Knight last year but your Council achieved Star Council I'd like you to stand up and represent your Council. Come on I know there was about 70 of you guys. Congratulations.

So, gentlemen that's what we strive for in regards to growing the Order of Star Council that's your membership cup finals, that's your Stanley Cup that the Sox won't see this year but good luck to my Blues fans. Anyway, there were a couple of awards that Supreme gives out and this year we want to recognize and we are going to start with.

You know everybody has a quota in regard to membership and recruiting guys. You know if you're a large Council, it doesn't matter what size Council you are, you know getting those members and asking them to join in obtaining Star Council is great. That's what it's about. Then we have Councils, you know when you think your number is large, we have some large Councils. Thirty-five members in order to obtain that Star Council. I mean 35 that sounds like a lot. They have a large Council. They're working out there. But we had couple Councils last year I'd like to recognize. Effingham Star Council, we had a Special Council last year who really worked hard. Last year at State Convention, I don't know if any of you were here but the membership talk I did a little thing called race to the finish. I came running out with my racing helmet and my suit and whatever and had my wrenches and I was late getting here because I was fixing the Illinois jurisdiction's car. But we got out here and one of those Councils took that to heart and went out and recruited was a top Council for the Diocese, the top recruiter came from that Council. There are also receiving from Supreme, if I may,

In the **Contest for Champions from Supreme for 2015/2016** the Contest for Champions, with a net gain of 72. Council #1444 Father Perez, is there a representative that can come up and accept please.

Another one of these, we have another Council that won an award from Supreme and this is again a Contest of Champions. Mission. Highest percentage gain, this council is kind of neat, and down south we have a college council. Brothers from Southern Illinois Council #7682. They had a quota 4, and brought in 19 new young men into that Council for a net gain of 475%.

They also were one of only two Councils that when they attended the Supreme College Convention to win a Special award. I'll let the representative speak a little bit about that. But one of two in the country that won that from Supreme. I would like to ask for a representative from Council 7682 Carbondale Illinois Southern Illinois to come up and accept.

So, if you would please tell us a little about the award out at the College Conference?

Council #7682 Member reply: They started shooting for the Star Award and then they went for two Stars and then the three-Star award and we were starting to get worried that they had forgotten us. Then they came to the Four-Star award and there were two of us that received it. We were second in receiving which means we had a higher percentage than any other Council in the country. Finally, we missed 5 Star Council by one person.

So, Gentlemen as you can see it can be done and they're out there and the young men from the colleges are willing and ready to join us. So, they are there and we have to nurture them and bring them along because they will be our future leaders.

Alright, last award we have this afternoon, again, now we are going to jump into the present from last year and thank you again for everything you did last year.

This year we run quarterly incentives and such and the 3rd quarter incentive was for our District Deputies. They are our upcoming leaders, your mentors, the guys you go to for help.

One of the things that we have found, just a heads up, is paperwork. Everything we hate to do, that we don't join for but has to get done. It is important. The paperwork is important to get in there because we need that to keep a number of things viable for the Supreme, for us and for the State. Paperwork is important, it is not the most fun to do but we have to get it completed. And as a 4 Star Council there are a number of forms we need to make sure we get completed. Your 365, your audit and be in good standing and such. You know, it's kind of frustrating that at the end of the year, we have Councils, gentlemen, that have done all their work like met their membership, met their fraternal benefits and whatever but we didn't send in a 365. Something that should have taken us 15 minutes. So, gentlemen, it's important. We have asked the District Deputies, and we are still asking them to just please keep checking on the Councils and help you out so the paperwork is completed.

So, the 3rd quarter incentive that the State Deputy came up with was the Lead Me Guide Me. That is what we are asking the Deputy Directors to do with you Grand Knights to help you reach and obtain your goals as Star Council.

And what we asked is, we gave them a number of forms and we were going to make it challenging and it wasn't going to be easy. We wanted the forms that Supreme needs that you get per Star Council but also there were also a couple other forms we wanted to see in and one of the special ones is Form 4584 which is for Special Olympic reporting. Gentlemen, this is

important because as Knights of Columbus you hear it all the time. We support Special Olympics and it is one of the great joys we get.

The nice thing is, as we report to Supreme, based on the percentage of forms they get, we get money back to the Illinois Jurisdiction to give back to Special Olympics. So that's why that form is important. So next time, next year, when somebody asks you to fill out a five-minute form on Special Olympics, please fill it out. I'll be honest with you gentlemen out of 500 plus Councils we only had about 72 forms sent in. So, we didn't get the full amount of money back for Special Olympics that's on us.

#### **State Treasurer Frank Schwartz read narrative for the Community Activity of the Year award**

Several Brother Knights, they went off, and shopped and they had connections, after speaking directly with Store owners and managers, and got permission to establish **Give a Hand Donation Program**. Where shoppers would purchase a hand, and put in their store window to tell of all their contributions to this program.

When the results were reported back to the Council they soon discovered they had established contact with several large independent grocery chains. These donations accounted for nearly 30,000 dollars for new coats. One member also had a connection with the Chicago Christmas Party Organization and had a price for admission, for the party to begin, was to donate new coats. The total result of the collection and the new coats received, allowed the Council to distribute to other nearby suburban and urban locations. Various pads, locations, St. Vincent DePaul shops and all of the children at one Catholic school in Chicago. A really great job this year, but they have already set their goals for next year to collect 10,000 new coats for the needy children in December 2017. For their efforts,

#### **Pope John Paul Council, #5732 has been selected as a Community Activity of the Year.**

#### **State Advocated Mann was asked to read the narrative for Youth Activity of the year award**

Special Olympic assistants Youth Program of the Year. When Thornwood High School put out the word that help was needed at their Special Olympics Spring Games the members of this Council quickly volunteered to assist the Special Olympians personnel at the day long spring games held at Thornwood High School, South Holland, Illinois. In precursor to the Summer Games in June and usually attracted more than 800 Special Olympians.

These Olympians compete in a variety of sports, including wheelchair races, running races and other track and field events for intellectually disabled youths.

As each game concluded our Knights assisted at the Awards Ceremony for the participants. As game results were tallied, medal categories were determined, our members assisted in congratulations and recognition of the hard work and efforts of the winners and all participants.

Each year the Council devotes significant time supporting the youth of the community especially the intellectually disabled. For their support and help with these Special Olympians,

#### **The Saint Liboris Council #14562 was selected as the Youth Program of The Year for 2017.**

#### **State Secretary Ted Stites the read the Culture of Life award for Program of The Year**

**Culture of life, Prolife Program of the Year, Ultrasound Initiative.** This Council, in Western Illinois, coordinated several local Councils in an effort to provide for fund raising of at least half the cost of an ultrasound machine for the Women Prolife Pregnancy Center.

Upon receiving approval, the members of the councils, they proceeded and with a gift of \$3,000 from the home Council, after various types of paperwork and approvals were completed and approved by Supreme. They wrote to 27 councils to help with the project.

They gave presentation to various Councils and Church groups. The area 4th Degree Assemblies and Peoria Chapter.

Nine Councils agreed to help in the fund-raising efforts and provided needed support. Donations from Knight's Councils totaled approximately 13,000 dollars. After additional messages were placed in Council newsletters and Church Bulletins, 10,360 additional dollars were received.

Supreme Council added an additional amount to complete the total payment for the machine. With Council funds and all taxes, set up fees and training costs were covered.

For these heroic efforts

**Council #658 Allouez Council of Rock Island was selected as Culture of Life Program of the Year.**

Category	Council	Number	Event
COUNCIL	Lansing	3540	Fund raiser to assist council member with medical bills
COMMUNITY	Pope John	5732	#1 Coats for Kids distribution in the United States
FAMILY	Holy Family	15732	Spouse recognition dinner
PRO LIFE	Allouez	658	Ultra Sound machine purchase fund raising
CHURCH	Brothers of SIU	7682	Fund raising for a mission church in Nicaragua
YOUTH	St. Liborius	14562	Special Olympics Spring Games activities

**State Deputy William Doerfler announced and then presented the Fourth Year District Deputy Awards.**

The last set of awards is for these gentlemen that have spent 4 years as a District Deputy. I want to personally thank you for the 4 years. Hope you got a replacement or maybe we'll see you for a 5th. I just want to say being a District Deputy. I bet you talk to any guy sitting up here or down there, will say it is the best job in the Order. I'm not saying that to just say it. I still have, I was a District Deputy back in the 70's and I still have friends that I was part of their council. Some of you guys, even think about it. Think about becoming a District Deputy Grand Knights it's a great job. It's fun, everybody tells you how much work and how much paperwork, it's not. I'll trade them right now with no exception. Think about becoming a District Deputy, it is a great job. So, we will be calling them off, please come up and we will hand out awards and then take a final picture with all of you. Ted take it away.

State Deputy William Doerfler called SS Ted Stites to the podium to announce the District Deputies receiving the awards

#### **4-Year DISTRICT DEPUTIES**

DD #67 Albert L Manint  
DD #86 Fred J. Stems Jr.  
DD #7 Kurt G. Sedlacek  
DD #47 Steven S. Schutz  
DD #22 Robert E. Lane (Bob)  
DD #38 Steve Gawron  
DD #17 Michael Centracchio  
DD #41 Timothy J. Higgs  
DD #13 Terence L Cahill (Terry)  
DD #18 Paul Piraino  
DD #39 Barry R. Smith  
DD #93 Jeff T. Green  
DD #81 Jerome A. Kapp (Jerry)  
DD #4 David A. Drane  
DD #69 Andrew Krug  
DD #82 James Kanstiener  
DD #83 Todd A. Hildreth  
DD #10 Alexander E. Tenant (Alex)  
DD #43 Clarence J Gburek

Thanks to all you District Deputies that are retiring, or some of you are retiring some of you might stay business for a while. Congratulations for all the fine work.

#### **State Deputy William Doerfler made the following announcements, and RULES FOR THE CAUCUS.**

We have some announcements before we break for caucus. Raffle tickets. Listen up, I'm going to read off some council numbers and you need to pick up raffle tickets 282,967,1204,1702,6993,12863,14008,16369,16011 please pick up your raffle tickets at the Country Store. Please get that done it saves us a lot of money if we don't have to mail them.

Now we're getting ready to break for caucus. Just a few rules about the caucus. Last year when we walked through, some of you thought the Caucus was a Chapter meeting. The Caucus is not a Chapter meeting. The Caucus main reason is voting for a Delegate and an Alternate to the Supreme Convention. And to listen to State Officers or members that come around to solicit your support for tomorrow mornings election.

It is not a Chapter meeting, remember that. The only people that vote in a caucus is the members that will be voting tomorrow morning. That is the Grand Knight or the Delegate or the Alternate to the Grand Knight or Alternate to the Delegate. Each Council gets two votes. That's it.

Any questions? I know there were a few that thought it was run like a Chapter meeting and that's not what a caucus is. The State Secretary has some envelopes for you. Whoever is the Lay of the Chapter, just to get these envelopes to your caucus you need to see Ted Stites, he will deliver them to your caucus. There will be one envelope for Joliet, Peoria, Rockford and Springfield. You get one delegate and one alternate. Belleville Diocese, this year, gets two

delegates and two alternates and Chicago Archdiocese, being the largest, gets two delegates and two alternates.

That form needs to be filled out completely where we can read it, please. Because we have to vote on these members tomorrow. This needs to get back to the State Secretary preferably today or tomorrow morning after prayer service at the latest.

But he will also be giving you an envelope for your delegate, not for the alternate just for the delegate which will explain all the things he has to do for the Supreme Convention this year. How to get his room, banquet, dress code, a little bit of everything on that sheet of paper. That goes strictly to the delegate.

One other thing, we have had, at times, where they've actually put a delegate or alternate in where the guy didn't even know it. Make sure who you put in there has agreed to go. Especially the delegate, make sure he has agreed to go.

This year it is in St. Louis so it will be close. Also, while I'm thinking of it. If anybody else would like to go, we will be putting the information up on the website explaining how to get a room and all of that but you can't do it right now. The delegate can't go right now to get a room. There will be a form the State Secretary has to send to the Supreme Council with everybody's names and membership number before you can register even to get a room.

The State Secretary now has the paperwork for if the Chapter President would like to come get them then we know it gets to the right caucuses.

Also, the Chapter President doesn't necessarily have to run the caucus. A lot of Caucuses are run by the highest-ranking officer or a past State Deputy. It's up to you, I don't care but please run it as a caucus and not as a Chapter meeting.

General Meeting Ended at 2:47 p.m.

**STATE DEPUTY BANQUET**  
**Saturday Evening**

State Chaplain Bishop Siegel opened the banquet with a prayer.

After Dinner State Deputy William Doerfler introduced **State Chaplain the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Siegel** for his remarks.

**The Most Reverend Bishop Siegel**

*Dear brother Knights, ladies and guests, when we look at the trends in American society and culture, it is easy to become discouraged.*

*We face challenges to the value and dignity of human life, not only in attacks on the unborn, but now on the sick and elderly in calls for assisted suicide and even euthanasia.*

*We face the challenges to marriage and family life since the legalization of same-sex marriage by the supreme court.*

*We face the challenge of transgenderism, which although affects about .06% of our population, has become a celebrity cause, especially since the headlines of Bruce Jenner becoming Kaitlyn Jenner.*

*Over all, the whole idea of objective right and wrong is being eroded, with a spirit of subjectivism and extreme individualism - each of us deciding our own truths – ruling the day.*

*And anyone who dares to hold traditional understandings of sexuality, marriage and family, which were mainstream ideas just 20 years ago, are now labeled as bigots by the intelligentsia, some politicians and the media.*

*The past couple of decades have seen a breakdown in social and cultural norms, especially those that foster self-sacrifice, working for the common good, and practices that instill a sense of duty, discipline, respect, civility and obedience.*

*What is our response as Catholics?*

*One response might be try to fit in – to accommodate and try to get along with the prevailing culture.*

*Another response is to withdraw from society– to try to set up a counter-society out away from the cities.*

*A third way would be to build a distinctive Catholic culture – to evangelize – even in the midst of a hostile society around us.*

*Archbishop Charles Chanut, the outstanding Archbishop of Philadelphia, recently published a book on this subject, entitled, “Strangers in a Strange Land”.*

*In this work, he discusses how we are to live the Catholic faith in a post-Christian world.*

*He begins by looking at the cultural underpinnings of American culture, which were established with our nation was founded, and then traces how we went from “one nation, under God” with a belief in common ethics and morals, rooted in natural law infused in us by God to a society today, where if there is any sense of religion, it is often individualistic and therapeutic, rather than a source of discipline and moral norms.*

*But rather than giving into pessimism, he believes that Christians, by living the faith actively and conscientiously can contribute to the renewal of American society.*

*He writes that Catholics may well have to live as a conscious minority in a nation whose beliefs, culture and politics are no longer their own – that is – “As Strangers in a strange land.”*

*He believes that we can exist within hostile society and even, eventually transform it.*

*He uses that example of the early Christians who had to live within a hostile and pagan Roman empire.*

*Those Christians didn’t abandon the world, they took elements from the surrounding culture and “baptized” them with a new spirit and a new way of living.*

*Only by transforming what is corrupt in a culture can Christians engage an always fallen world.*

*We are meant to be in the world, not of the world.*

*We live in this earthly city, but are meant ultimately for the city of God.*

*As such, we must keep our eyes fixed on the person of Jesus, and less to our all too fragile political leaders.*

*We need to be men and women of truth.*

*We are called to serve our neighbor, especially the most vulnerable in our society.*

*It is all too easy to blame others for the state our country is in.*

*We are called to examine our own conscience in the light of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church and to do well and with great love the ordinary things of each day.*

*It is perhaps more difficult now to live in a way of integrity than it was a generation ago, when most people in our country, whether Catholic, protestant or Jews shared certain values.*

*We need to be engaged in political debates in the public square, but not to see that as the salvation of our problems.*

*We need to work to build the communities, starting in families, friendships and other places (Knights Councils), in which we can joyfully live out our faith.*

*What must drive us is not a naïve and emotion-based optimism that thinks that everything will get better in our life time, that the values and morals we hold dear will be restored in our society.*

*Rather, the driving force in terms of facing the future for Christians is always the virtue of hope.*

*Hope is energy built on conviction that the future is in God's hands and God wants us to be very much part of creating that future, for we are meant to be instruments of that better future.*

*Knights of Columbus have a vital role in creating that future for our society.*

*Our "Building the Domestic Church" program can help strengthen our families in the face of a society that devalues traditional marriage and family life.*

*Your Council meetings and activities can help strengthen the bonds of friendship and fraternity among Catholic men to provide support and encouragement, as well as catechesis to help brother Knights live faithful Catholic lives as husbands, fathers, single men, in their homes, neighborhoods and workplaces.*

*Our witness in society – through your many charitable activities, your work with youth, the visible presence of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree at parish celebrations as well as public parades – makes Catholic morals and ethics visible and active in a positive life.*

*I encourage you to reach Archbishop Chanut's book.*

*It is a good antidote to the discouragement we can feel when we look at the state of our society today.*

*While we should be engaged in political and civil life – working to uphold our Catholic values in the public square – we don't put our trust on princes (as the Scriptures warn us), but in the power of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.*

*He is the source of our hope, that one day, Gospel values will be restored in our world – and that the victory has already been won by His death and resurrection.*

*Inspired by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, may we be active in living our faith – in our families, Councils, neighborhoods and workplaces – that through us – through our prayers and action – the Lord might renew the face of the Earth. Vivat Jesus.*

State Deputy William Doerfler recognized **Gary and Barb Schmidt** for their efforts as chairpersons for this year's convention and presented them with a token of appreciation.

State Deputy William Doerfler introduced Former **Deputy Supreme Knight Dr. Logan Ludwig** for his remarks. Who spoke about the success that Knights of Columbus had over the past year and how good it was to be back in Illinois again.

State Deputy William Doerfler recognized outgoing **State Warden Mike Herbst** and his wife Pauline with a token of appreciation for their service this past year.

State Deputy William Doerfler introduced Brother Knight **Dave Breen, CEO of Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL). For his remarks**

Brother Dave Breen noted that the Knights of Columbus Partnership with Special Olympics of Illinois was one that most states in the U.S wish they had with the Knights and our partnership is one he hopes would continue for years also mentioning the upcoming year and the events planned for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Special Olympics.

Dave then introduced the Global Massager Daniel Olsen who also spoke on the Special Olympic

**State Deputy William Doerfler**, presented the **State Deputy Medallion** to the following:

Scott Hawkins (10858)

Wayne Decker (6710)

Michael J. Herbst (5573)

Matt Piescinski (4024)

Stephen P. Orzech (10025)

State Deputy asked State Chaplain The Most Reverend Joseph Siegel to close the banquet with a prayer. Then he reminded all attendees of the early pray service.

### **Sunday, April 23, 2017 Business Session**

State Deputy State Deputy William Doerfler: Thanked Father Charles Tuttle for the opening prayer and requested Vice Supreme Master Paul Isherwood to lead the assembly in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Deputy State Deputy Doerfler:** invited to the podium, Associate State Chaplain, Fr. Charles Tuttle for his remarks.

Associate State Chaplin Rev. Fr Charles Tuttle

Thank you, Worthy State Deputy Bill

Gentlemen, whether you realize it or not, it is an honor for you to be here. It is an honor because you are representing your respective council, your respective district, the State of Illinois, the wonderful jurisdiction that we are.

We are the Knights of Columbus in the State of Illinois. It is our very important purpose to recognize who we are and what we do makes a difference.

Last night we heard some very inspiring messages from our Church and State. Let us take them to heart, let us realize that we can make a difference.

When you leave here this weekend, you will take with you an enthusiasm and sense of an accomplishment, and a sense of purpose. Don't let that die. Let the flame continue to grow, let that flame continue to inspire your Councils so that as we end this Fraternal year, we end it on

an upbeat. So that as we begin the new fraternal year on July 1<sup>st</sup> we are on the upspring. It's important for us to do that, because there's only two ways we can go. Up or down, and we certainly don't want to go down so we want to be on the up high road. Achieving, Achieving, Achieving.

We might wonder why. It all comes down to our faith. We have the very purpose, we have the very mission, we have the task to evangelize and in our efforts, as Knights of Columbus, we have that ability.

We can bring others to the knowledge of the Gospel through our lives, through our Councils activities, through our charitable programs. We can bring Christ alive.

Remember what our State Chaplain told us, we live in a culture today that is very negative to our church. We need to confront our culture. We need to make that culture realize that they're going in the wrong direction and that we're going in the right direction.

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** Thank you Father, and I'd also like to thank you for all you do for the Illinois State Council. If you notice all the morning prayers, the mass, program last night, that's all done by Fr. Chuck. We don't even have to worry about it, he takes care of it. So, Father, on behalf of, especially myself, thank you very much for all you do for us.

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** announced that we are still waiting on paperwork for Chicago 1 & 2 Delegates to August Supreme Convention. "Again We Need Chicago 1 & 2 if you want to have delegates at Supreme Convention we need those forms asap."

**State Deputy Doerfler** opened the business of Charity Inc. Illinois Council Charity Inc. meeting at 8:00 a.m. We're still on recess from the State Council.

We're going to talk a little about charities. Illinois does, as you heard last night from Dr. Ludwig, Illinois does very well on charities. You guys are fantastic. We ask for something, you produce it. It's always great this year.

We couldn't figure out why we were down on money last year on the Form 1728, but on the man hours we were number 2 in the US. Only one state beat us and that was Texas. And you know why Texas beat us? We have 72,000 members and they have about 110,000 members. But all the other ones that are larger than us, we had more volunteer hours.

That's because of the Council, not because of us guys sitting up here. It's because the Councils believe in charities.

We have set a record of almost every year for the ID we are up to about 1.8 million dollars for the weekend. Which is fantastic.

Our Vocational Raffle, every year, just keeps growing and growing. Last year it was over \$260,000.00 dollars brought in for vocation which is fantastic.

We have a little problem this year with Newman this year. We're down, we need your help. We need your help badly. We're close but we're not there yet.

You know, I was talking yesterday about how many of our members die every month. One thing that we notice is a lot of our older members that are dying every month, they're our Century Donors and when we lose maybe 50 Century Donors per month that hurts. So, we need the

young ones to step forward on this. Everyone knows what a Century Donor with Newman is right?

Does everyone know what we do with that money? Everybody know? No? Okay, well what we do, is we have a gentleman, who knows exactly how many Catholics are in every university in Illinois or college, except for the Catholic College, they receive nothing. Because they already have a chapel and they have priests. But, as small as, I'll use my home parish, or Diocese, Joliet Jr. college. It's not that big of a college, there are no dorms, they receive some money.

Every university in the State of Illinois gets a portion of that Newman fund, it depends on how many Catholics they have at that school. University of Illinois, probably receives the most, they're bigger, and their Newman Center is unbelievable.

This has been our number one charity for years, since it's been started. A lot of people think ID is our number one charity, no guys, it's Newman.

Newman is the only charity we have that comes strictly from our membership. We don't go out, we don't solicit, and we don't stand on street corners for Newman. We send a mailing out, we send other things out but we need your help. We don't want to not have a Newman Center in a college someplace because we couldn't help them out. So how many of our young kids, if it wasn't for the Newman Center, probably wouldn't be a Catholic. And I can tell you another thing, the Newman Centers, are where a lot of seminarians come from, especially the University of Illinois. I think one year they had 13 seminarians from that Newman center.

We need your help guys, go home, talk about Newman. I'm sure I'm taking some highlights away from our Newman Activity Director but I'm asking you to please take it home with you, talk with your Councils, see if you can find a Century donor, but you don't have to be a Century donor, we'll take a dollar we'll take five. We'll take .50, whatever they can spare.

But please, let's take care of our young Catholics, we're talking about young Catholics joining the Order and this is how we'll get some of them so we need to take care of our young college students that are Catholic, so they have a place to attend Mass on Sunday.

The other charity is Pro-life. We are working on setting up some type of program we finally have received from all the diocese the 501 C3 that the diocese will let us donate to. This is not like an ID. This is a very particular situation and we have to be very careful how we do it.

Because we might think, they have an ultrasound machine and they believe in life. But then when you investigate and go down a little further, a little further and no, there are certain things that are not like our Catholic teachings. So we've reached out and Bishop Siegel has been a big help. We reached out to all the dioceses and I think last month we finally got a list of all the approved organizations in each diocese that the Pro-Life and the diocese approved. Now it's going to be up to the new boys to come up with some type of program. I know you've asked, because you've sent money in and what do we do with it? This is one thing that we are working on that you will be able to come back and say. We'd like some of this money to go to a certain organization and if it's on the approved list, the board will vote on it and they'll send it to them.

**State Deputy William Doerfler introduced: State Charitable Activities Director Rich Koerkenmeier** to update the State Council on the progress of our charitable activities.

Good morning Brother Knights and welcome everybody, you've been welcomed by many others, but I haven't gotten a chance to speak to you so, I'm glad to see you all here, in the halls and the elevator and everywhere we meet. Thank you for coming. Thank you for spending your weekend with us as our state family. It's fantastic. I hope all of you have had a chance to enjoy the weekend activities, the Friday night party perhaps. Yesterday, the mass and banquet, always very special and perhaps even visited the hospitality room hopefully. So, I'm glad you're here.

As you know, convention is a great time to review our past accomplishments and celebrate a little. Re-energize ourselves for the last two months. To continue our great works of charity, our programs and our progress toward the membership gains that will keep our Councils alive. So we have to keep all those things working together. Membership, charity and programming, because they all work together. They all feed each other. So, keep in mind though, as Fr. Chuck mentioned this morning, it is not the end of the fraternal year. We still have two more months.

As State Deputy Bill was talking about, we really need those Newman additional funds to keep that going, as well as others. Make sure you're still out there working. Hopefully you have events still planned and you'll carry through on those to keep the money rolling in. We really appreciate it. It's not only the money, but it's the good that the money can do. That's why you guys are very special in motivating your people.

First, I'd like to thank our State Charities Team members. I'm not sure how many of them are in here but just a quick review of our team members. Our GAF Chairman is Jim Coglianese, our Intellectual Disabilities Co Chairman, Ted Glaser and Ed Feeney. I know Ed's not able to be here but Ted is. Our Newman Apostolate Chairman, Eric Lockett. Pro-life Chair couple Larry and Marge Theriault. Finally, our Vocation co chairman, PSD Ron Zimba and PSD Bill Brown. They've been very busy with the raffle books. Hopefully everyone have those vocation raffle books in hand to take home.

Okay, so thanks again Brother Knights. You just remember guys, you are the leaders and the doers in your Councils and maybe not all of them, there may be others but you guys are very critical to our success as a State Team. You are the inspiration in your Councils to get things done. We depend on you. So, thank you for providing that time and that leadership that's necessary for your Councils which are all of our Councils to be successful in working toward, and achieving our state charities goals.

I also want to thank the ladies who stand behind you. I always try to remember that. And how important they are, we have to respect that they give us the opportunities, the time to do the things we do.

So, Brothers, what is the first principle of our Order? Charity, yes that's right Charity. Thank you, gentlemen.

With that, I'm going to get into a little review of the results of our State Charitable Activities so far. From the beginning of this fraternal year, July 1<sup>st</sup> through the beginning of April, basically. Most of the data that I will have to give you is from the April 1<sup>st</sup> Charity Report, however, there's a caveat there. There's a little calculation concern with Newman and the State Office is working on that. It's a computer program issue so that should be resolved fairly soon. Then the report should be up and dependable. Anyway, we'll go through that now and see what we can learn from this.

This review is based on the Charity Report, as I mentioned, from April 1<sup>st</sup> but I mention also the Newman data, part of it, is from the March 1<sup>st</sup> Charity Report, so it's kind of a combination. It's pretty close to up to date, but it's not quite, perfectly exact.

So far gentlemen, there are 30 Councils that have met the Charities qualifications for the Spirit of Illinois Award. As you know, or should know, your Council has to have participated in all five charities and met the goals in three of those charities.

As of this time, we have 30 Councils that are at that level. There are 8 Councils who have participated in all 5 charities and have met or exceeded their goal in each of them. So those are listed up there:

Congratulations to those Councils, who have worked really hard. But that doesn't mean that's all that are going to achieve that success this year. So, the rest of the Councils, that have that possibility keep working. You guys can do that if you keep at it.

### ***General Assistance Fund Review***

The General Assistance Fund goal is \$63,500.00. The donations to date are \$15,927.00. 89 Councils have participated. 58 met or surpassed their goal and 355 have not yet participated.

We're looking forward to receiving some of that, those deposits, if possible, as soon as possible, to keep our GAF activities going.

If you look in your Convention report book, there's a breakdown of where the money has gone in Charities and some of that money has gone to the Louisiana relief in August. That occurred in August of 2016 and then Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016. So, the State Council Board voted to approve GAF donations, two of them for each of those events that occurred, each of those disasters. So that was where some of your money has gone and that's not these guys doing it, it's made possible by your work with your Councils so thank you very much for that. We can help a lot of people.

Then there was an opportunity for local Councils, if you remember, to donate to those causes and receive partial credit for those donation, if you remember that. So, some of the money, then came from local Councils and went to the Supreme Council Hurricane and Louisiana flood relief that way.

Another GAF recipient this year was St. Mary's Parish in Canton. There was a gas explosion, which SD Bill spoke about yesterday and gave you some details on that so we helped to cover some of the expenses that are not going to be covered by insurance there. So, that's always a good thing. To be able to help our churches with their infrastructure needs that are not covered.

Other ones, Bill as well spoke about yesterday. Importance of the great feedback he got and the great feeling he got handing out the gift cards. He's doing that in your name, gentlemen. He has the privilege of having the feedback from the people but it's all made possible by the hard work you do. We appreciate that. Your State Officers know that. Thank you for that. Assistance was given as gift cards as Bill talked about that. That was in February of this year at Naplate and Ottawa.

We are nowhere near our goal with GAF so continue to think about what your Council can do because with two months remaining and next fraternal year coming. When will the next disaster occur? Because there's something coming somewhere, you know that. Then will we be able to respond adequately with GAF funds. So, we ask you to help us be prepared for those

emergencies when they come and pass the can or encourage your council members to do whatever they can to help us keep GAF strong.

### ***Intellectual Disabilities Review***

Then let's review briefly, our **Intellectual Disabilities** work. Most of our Councils, know or are very involved in ID work and it's very fulfilling, as we all know. Our support of our organization at the local level and as well as Special Olympics. That's great work that we do there. You saw last night another check, several checks actually presented. Here we are near our goal and that's as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Perhaps, I'm hoping we are there now but you can see how close we are there. \$1,801,000.00 with a goal of \$1,820,000.00.

We still need those additional funds to come in so, if your Councils haven't made those deposits, we need those. And also, just a reminder, there is some money that some Councils have going back from a few years ago, like 2015, that you need to, if your council has a credit in your account, you need to allocate those funds so that they go to the uses that you would like them to go to.

In ID, we have 349 Councils that have participated and 222 that have met or surpassed their goal and 95 have not yet participated. We have to keep our work going there.

Just a reminder here, our Report for Special Olympics, most of you are aware of it, but keep educating your new members especially, on what we do. Every new man that joins the Order has to be educated on what we do for Special Olympics. People don't know that so we need to spread the word.

Alright, just a reminder here, the ID Chairman Form. There's a copy out on the website, there's also a copy in your Charities packet that you received. We need a copy of that Chairman form, current, even if the Chairman is the same as last year. We would like one from every Council, that way we can contact Councils when we need to with updates. Also, there'll be an ID program mailing coming soon and we need to know that that gets to the proper Chairman. So that's the importance of that form. So, make sure you address that. It cannot be submitted digitally but you can download it and print it.

And then Ted Glaser does a great job, as you heard last night. There was a check from money raised at the White Sox Games. Here's another opportunity for the fellows in the north, unless someone wants to drive up to see the White Sox from way down south. But anyways, Wednesday. May 31<sup>st</sup>. Keep that in mind and see what you can do to get your Councils interested in that. That flyer is also online so spread that if you could.

### ***Newman Apostolate Fund***

As I said, the data may not be totally up to date but fairly close. State Deputy Bill just talked to us about the importance of continuing our support or actually ramping up our support for Newman so if you guys could take that back to your council. There again, every new member, needs to be educated as to what does Newman do? You just learned this morning, from Bill, a little more detail about it. There's a lot of information online, on our web site, on how to participate. How to make donations and so forth. So please see that your members learn this and you keep spreading the word about it, okay?

Here again, we had 407 Councils have participated, 85 met or surpassed and 37 have not yet participated.

Okay, here's a little example, this year there's contribution of \$200,000.00 have been distributed to the Newman Centers in Illinois. Which, Bill was explaining earlier. So that's the dollar amount that was allocated this year for that.

And your donations, once again, comes from you guys. It's your donations that make it possible to keep the faith strong in these young folks at the colleges and universities.

Because, we know, in the secular world we live in, there are many poles against the faith. Father Chuck mentioned, Bishop Siegel last night. Our cultural just pulls people out of it so, thankfully we are all strong faithful Catholics and we have to help keep that going. So thank you for your support there.

Just remember for Illinois Charity Inc., which includes the Newman Fund, ID, Pro Life and Vocations, it's a 501C 3 so all of those donations are tax deductible. You can spread that word to your members to so they learn that.

You can go to the web site and learn more about Century Donors, and keep that in mind, it's a good opportunity.

### **MAILINGS/ADDRESS UPDATES**

Mailings, it's really kind of critical that your Financial Secretary, keep the address changes updated to Supreme because our mailing for Newman comes from Supreme. So, whatever address Supreme has, that's how they know where to send the request. So, for that reason and others, it's important to keep the addresses current with Supreme Council. But your FS should be working on that, on a regular basis, hopefully.

Alright, so the fund appeal comes out in September, most of you guys know that.

### ***Pro-Life Fund***

Let's go on to our Pro-Life fund, and Bill mentioned some potential changes. I think that's going to be a great thing. I certainly hope and pray that that helps us to build the Fund in a greater way as time goes on here. It's kind of lagging right now but there are opportunities for your Council.

Pro-Life Fund goal is currently \$63,000.00 and really only \$8,000.00 contributed. But there has been, in the past, some large donors in some years. Hopefully we'll get some of those again.

But 50 Councils have participated, 35 have met or surpassed their goal and 409 Councils have not yet participated. So, we need to bump that up here as we can, move down the line.

Some of the money has been used for Pro Life March assistance to each of the 6 Dioceses. To keep the March going strong and keep our Illinois people headed that way.

Then I want to talk a little about the Puzzle Program. I think, hopefully most of you are aware of this. We've had, in our charities monthly guide to star council review. Not every month but many months I send information on that and there's a new package in your packet. Patriotic Puzzles that are coming up. And just in case you don't know, if you want to read these things here. It's also on the order form for the puzzles. Right now we're going into the Patriotic Holidays, you might say, with Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day coming up.

Keep in mind, your Council receives \$5.00 credit towards their Pro Life Goal for every puzzle that's ordered through this Program. So, it's a great way for you to have your council members have some enjoyment with puzzles. You can give them as gifts, whatever you want to do. Some people find that a relaxing way to work together with family and so forth. Hopefully you caught some out there out there on the way to the registration desk earlier.

Right here are the current puzzles we are offering, these four, and like I said that information is in your charity book that you received with your packet. See if we can bump that up.

### ***Vocations Support Fund***

Then we go on to Vocation Support and I think you understand, or hope you do. The great benefits of our Vocation Program and how important it is to continue and bring seminarians through the system to supply us with future priests throughout the state.

Once again, as a way to build our faith, and keep the Catholic faith strong, this is a way you gentlemen can have a big impact. It's not that we rely only on the priests and the Bishops, we can support our seminarians in a great way and we do that. So, thanks to our Vocation Support Program, we need to keep up that work.

Think about this, I know most of you realize this, but maybe some new Grand Knights don't. That \$9.00 from every Vocation Raffle Book you purchase, or your Council sells, can be retained by the Council. I mean, that's a fantastic opportunity. You remit \$6.00 and you can keep \$9.00. I don't know how much easier it can be. Unless you absolutely won't sell raffle tickets, but every council should do this. I just cannot understand why every council doesn't work at this. So, please consider that and try to raise that up in your Council.

Donations to date, \$112,902.00. With 275 Councils that having participated, 149 have met or surpassed the goal and 169 have not yet participated.

Another opportunity is the Fr. O'Malley Basketball Tournament that takes place in late January early February every year at Mundelein Seminary. I've not yet been able to attend but I really want to get there one of these years when I get some time. But for some of you guys that are close, some of you have probably been there. It's a fantastic opportunity.

With the Vocation Raffle Program, there is information online and also in your Charities Packet there that you have in front of you.

Just one thing I want to point out as far as growing the program. There is a bonus element to this Vocation Raffle Program. If your council sells 25% more than you sold in the prior year you get additional \$1 per book as a bonus. So, check that out. Keep that in mind. Let that be an incentive to you to really bump up the fund raising in Vocations, if you can. Try to push that to your members, how important that is to the work that we do throughout the state.

So, Brothers with that I'm going to close and I thank you again for all your charitable work and for coming this weekend. It is only because of your efforts and your Council members that we can do all the great things that we do, so thank you very much and I hope you guys keep on working and keep the faith with the Knights.

**Viva Jesus,**

**State Deputy Doerfler thanked State Charitable Activities Director Rich Koerkenmeier** for his report. I do want to say, about every place we go, tornado relief, Special Olympics, to the seminarians, everyone tells you, be sure you tell your membership thank you. Because we

always tell them, this is not from us but from our members and they always say tell our members. On behalf of myself, thank you for all that you do. Like I said, we couldn't do it without all 72,000 members in the State of Illinois. Thank you and keep Illinois Number One in charities, it is greatly, greatly appreciated. It's fantastic to go up to State or Supreme convention or when you go to New Haven, and Illinois is with charities because that is our number one principle so, thank you all very much for what you do on that part.

**State Deputy William Doerfler** Now I would like to have our Worthy IPSP come forward to make a motion. **IPSP Donald Kinyon** Thank you, Worthy President, I move that we close the Illinois Knight's Charity Inc. and reopen Illinois State Council Knights of Columbus.

State Deputy Doerfler received a motion to close the Illinois State Council Charity Inc. and reopen Illinois State Council Meeting. A second was received from the floor. Motion passed. 8.25 a.m.

**State Deputy William Doerfler** invited Worthy **State Membership Director, Jeff Peters to the podium**

Gentlemen, we don't have a lot of time and I have a lot to cover. Membership top Finals that's what we've been challenged with by Supreme for the final challenge for the last couple months so, pick your game. Pick your game and root for them during the season, during the post seasons. But, our team is the Knights of Columbus and our game is growing the Order remember that. That's our membership Cup finals we work on that and we will obtain the Membership cup. State Convention has always said, it is a time to step back, see what we've done well this year and where we are. Assess ourselves so we can go forward and finish out the year strong.

I'd like to start off with our motto from our State Deputy, Lead Me, Guide Me Lord, that's what he's given us the past two years. A little prayer you can say in the morning.

Star Council, wanted one admission per district, per month, from Supreme. That's how we grow the Order, we have to keep holding those admission degrees to bring those gentlemen in.

It's been kind of an unwritten membership is, I get to be a Knight today who will I ask to join me. So, where are we at.

In the beginning of the year, the Illinois jurisdiction was given goals of 2,500 Knights, 67 Star Councils, and 8 new Councils.

Currently, now, as of Friday, we are at 1,554 Brother Knights, we already have 11 Councils who have obtained Star Council and we had 5 new Councils this year. We are a little bit behind on pace for Brother Knights. That's why we are going to get out there, work our teams and grow the Order.

Star Councils, like I said, we have 11 Councils already that have obtained their Membership Fraternal Benefits.

Each quarter, the State Deputy put out a little challenge to the State. Whether it be Grand Knights Councils, District Deputies, and Dioceses. I'd like to recognize them and thank you for what you did.

All year long we recognize our star recruiters. So, every man that brings in one or two members, we've given out 749 pins so far. 90 Silver pins for those with 2-3 and 28 Gold pins for gentlemen who have recruited more than 5 members. So, we thank them for that.

In the first quarter of the fraternal year, State Deputy had a lot of fun doing this last year, and he said we are doing it again this year. We ran the Grill Master 2016. Didn't know what else to call it so, my kids, with a lot of computer stuff always seem to have these things called 2.0. So we called it Grill Master 2016 2.0.

I want to say congratulations to St. Joseph Council #15530, who ended up with a net for the quarter of 11 new members during quarter one. Thank you.

We had the opportunity, once again, State Deputy had a nice long 1 ½ - 2 hour drive to come up to cook some brats, pork-chops or potato salad, I had the grueling drive of 5 minutes from my work over to St. Bernadette. So, you know it wasn't quite fair. He got that long drive and I only got 5 mins. I don't get it. So anyway, we had a good time that night. State Deputy grilled pork-chops, brats, we had potato salad. I said I don't have a lot of time and a lot to cover. But we had a great time and got to meet with the Council, answer some of their questions. It was just a great time that night, so again thank you for hosting us. It was a good time.

We also ran in the first quarter the **Star Power Kick Start Incentive for Councils** whereby you recruited 3 or more members, say the net positive, Council earned a \$25.00 gift card. Congratulations, thank you.

So 2-2 incentive diocesan, where we were asking the Diocesan teams to work with their Councils and work with their District Deputies. We called it How Sweet It Is. Rockford Diocese came out on that and for the first time got to host a suite was given by the State Deputy this State convention. Hope they had a good time. Hope you all got a chance to visit them as well as all the other Suites. So Again, thank you to Rockford Diocese and Paul Balsitis.

As we talked about yesterday, our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter incentive was for our District Deputies. They're the leaders, the mentors and the guides for you Grand Knights to help you so you can be successful this year. The Lead Me, Guide Me incentive. And once again thank you and congratulations to Bob Tezloff for getting that done and achieving that. Congratulations and thank you.

### **NEW COUNCILS**

We want to say welcome to our new Councils, as we said, we have 5 new Councils this year, so far, towards our goal of 8. We also had one Council that came in after State Convention last year so we want to recognize them also.

Council #16446 St. Patrick's of McHenry  
Council #16518 St. Andrews, Bobla  
Council #16579 St. Peter of Chicago from Chicago Archdiocese  
Council #16641 Divine Infant Jesus, Chicago Archdiocese  
Council #16660 St. Catherine Drexel, of the Rockford Diocese  
Council #16703 San Nicholas, Chicago Archdiocese

Again, if anybody here from the Councils stand up otherwise the DD from there stand up and get a Star. And welcome to the Illinois Jurisdiction.

Alright, gentlemen, it time to shoot for Star council. Let's get them all out there. Who wants a Star? Who's going to I don't hear anything. Alright, gentlemen, it's game on. It's time to shoot for Star Council. How do we do that? By points, real quickly. I don't have a lot of time. Kind of look at your stars, get 5 points. There's 5 ways we can achieve Star Council. We have to set goals, plan, do the program, recruit, and retain.

This is all good for you District Deputies, Deputy Grand Knights or you gentlemen who are going to become Grand Knights next year. Remember that, know what your destination is, and meet with your team. Do the programs, you got to ask the man to join and keep him involved.

Always remember, Charity Program membership all work together, they aren't separate from each other but our Fraternal Benefits put the braces on the stool and keep it firm and solid so don't forget them and remember. Every charity activity, every program activity, every activity is an opportunity to get a man involved and get him to come with us and support what we do.

Use your Star Council checklist gentlemen it's the last 2 months of the fraternal year. Right now, you need to go home and you need to assess where your council is and where you want to be.

Where do you want to be as a Grand Knight when your term is over? Where do you want your Council to be? What do you want for your Council? It's not what do you want for you, it's what do you want for your Council and the men. What do you want for the Order and the Knights of Columbus?

### **Membership Awards and Incentives**

There's a few things out there left for the year to help. The one we still have, the Star Recruiter, we have all year long. So, again, as you recruit we'll ship out a pin to the District Deputy to present to you. Star Time State Deputy Award, each Council in each diocese, the top Council receives a Knights of Columbus watch. I know we went around Officers handed those out. State Deputy, I think the gentlemen that got them can tell they are pretty nice watches. So think about that. We also have the Super Star Reporter State Deputy Award. Who'll be number one? The top recruiter in the State. And the idea where did that Star Recruiter come from last year? 1444, Congratulations.

Here's the incentive every Financial Secretary better know about and he'll let you know about it.

Supreme is still working on the \$4.50 credit for billable members for Councils. As a Past State Deputy once said, when I was District Deputy, you take the money. I'm sure every Financial Secretary, would you tell him that, he's going to go out and help you recruit. That's going to take care of pretty much your capita of the year. So gentlemen, that's your biggest incentive, let's go.

Alright, gentlemen, I said I don't have much time, I've got about another 5 minutes. To get through here. The DDs pretty much know me, I'm a little eccentric, Do some weird things. It's something I did in the summer meeting, I've kind of used it throughout the rest of the year when

I go to Degrees and talk to men. It's kind of where I wanted to end the State Convention and my membership talk on. I wanted to have a little fun but at the same time and it's pretty serious to me. I call it the Best of Late Night Membership so we're going to see what happens.

Gentlemen, if you participate... I gotta get my socks up here (blues brothers music)  
Alright, hope everybody knows the Blues Brothers. Well, the Blues Brother said it was 162 miles to Chicago, a full tank of gas and a pack of cigarettes. It's dark and we're wearing sunglasses. Gentlemen, let's get those sunglasses on. Oh, you were supposed to be ready guys, ahh, you're killing me here, you're killing me. Alright, gentlemen, in a few minutes here you're going to get some sunglasses. Participate with us. What I want to say is, sometimes wearing sunglasses can be a good thing. Come on guys get 'em on. Sunglasses cut the glare, they keep us focused on the road so we don't have distractions. That's what the sunglasses can do for us. They can keep us focused on membership and why we do membership. The Blue's Brothers said they were on a mission from God, to save their boyhood home, right? Well we kind of changed that up a little bit. We said we are on a mission FOR God. That's how I view the Knights of Columbus. We are on a mission for God. We are on a mission for God, for our Church, our community, prolife, council, our family and you. Gentlemen, that's what membership is about. That's what you talk to guys about. You make it personal. It's great we do pancake breakfasts but make sure you follow up with why you do that breakfast. Because we're raising funds for Pro Life. We're raising funds for ID. Make sure when you do our seminarians and Vocations. That's what we doing here. That's what the men want to hear. That's what we need to convey. It's not that we need extra hands to do dishes. But we need extra hands to do the works that we are on the mission for God to do. We're on a mission for God and our Church.

You know, Pope Francis, our supreme Knight, has said that the laity needs to be more involved, and we are that. We are the men who need to be more involved. We need to start supporting more our priests, bishops and our church. RC RA help those gentlemen. Help that church. We are chosen to evangelize. We evangelize by talking about the church. We evangelize... Knights of Columbus to come in and support our church. We bring the good Catholic men in to us. We're here community when we work on the ID. Pro Life. As Knights of Columbus of we aren't afraid to stand up to say we believe in life and all it's forms. Whether it's the unborn or the aged. We not afraid to say genocide is happening in the Middle east. And you should not be afraid to say that either. So, Pro Life, that's the mission for God and mission for god's family and you. Probably the biggest thing for me.

Family is important to me. But we are here as Catholic men to be the role model to our spouses, to our family, to our children. That's what we are on the mission for God for. Every man, I believe, that's Catholic, xxx part of it. He should want to carry that card. Is it about numbers? It darn right is, it's the number on my card that I carry in my pocket on my membership card. So if they ask you about numbers that's the card and that's the number that is important. I believe in every man, he doesn't have to do everything and participate but just being Catholic. Just wanting to be on the mission for God for these principles should be good enough to be on the Council of the Knights of Columbus. We're on a mission for God to support our future, our squire circles and our Church youth groups and we've been given an excellent program here, the last couple of years. We are on a mission to build and support and build our domestic church. The domestic church and the programs tie everything together that we do, prolife, community,

So guys, I think I've kept it, I'm 2 minutes over, I'm sorry, but Gentlemen we're on a mission for God. Wear your sunglasses, take the glare out. Stay focused. And remember whose team you're on. The Knights of Columbus and what is our game? To grow the Order, but make sure every man has that opportunity to join. That's what it comes down to guys. It's again, not about the numbers and I know we have to talk about that. We can't grow the Order and we don't have the men to do what we say we're on a mission for unless we ask. That's all we ask you to do. Not everyone is going to say yes. But everyone desires the opportunity to be asked. That's what I believe, so that's all I'm asking you. Looking at the man in the pew next to you or your family member or someone you know is good. Just give them the opportunity to join us. But let him know the reason he's joining us is because we're on a mission for God in these areas. Church, community, Pro Life, youth and family.

Gentlemen have a great end of this fraternal year. Go home, get energized. Let's go team, Membership Cup Finals!

Viva Jesus,

State Deputy Doerfler thanked Worthy Membership Director and requested Membership and Program Director to present the State Deputy Awards and Programming Awards.

**State Deputy Achievement Awards**

STATE DEPUTY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2017			
Awarded to councils that were leaders in recruitment, completed required state forms, participated in multiple programs and have excellent prospect for ending the year as Star or multiple Star Councils			
Diocese	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Belleville	#7682 - Brothers of SIU	None	None
Chicago	#4977 - Holy Ghost	# 11981 Holy Family	#16369 - St. Francis of Assisi
Joliet	#15732 Shorewood	#10884 - St. Peter the Apostle	# 16011 - Naperville
Peoria	# 12286 - Galva	None	None
Rockford	# 11666 - St. Mary of Huntley	# 15530 - St. Joseph the Worker	# 16350 - St. Mary of Sycamore
Springfield	# 2321 - Virden	# 16126 - Fr. Augustine of Tolton	# 11582 - Our Lady of the Holy

PARISH/ PUBLIC IMAGE AWARDS

**PUBLIC RELATIONS  
COUNCIL SCRAPBOOK  
COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

HOLY TRINITY  
EFFINGHAM  
ST. RITA

Council #4400  
Council #665  
Council #762

**Council Newsletter Award**

1<sup>st</sup> Place,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place,

Effingham,  
St. Rita  
Glenview

Council # 665  
Council #7624,  
Council #3731

**Council Scrapbooks**

1<sup>st</sup> Place,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place,

Breese  
Effingham  
Warrenville,

Council #28869  
Council #665  
Council #6510

**Award for starting new Council**

District Deputy #11, Anthony N Mangiaracina for starting St. Peters Council #16579 Brothers we have one final award, you heard the membership director talk about the 6 Councils that were brought in. Well 5 this year and one last year. On top of the efforts of the Team to put these Councils together. Probably who spends more time and effort into seeing them off to a successful start is the District Deputy. And to recognize their efforts, the Supreme council gives them a replica of the Council Charter. We'd like to award one today for the start of St. Peters #16579 to District Deputy 11, Anthony N Mangiaracina. Tony's not here but next time you see him thank him for getting this council started.

State Deputy Doerfler, invited Jerry Bevignani, to the podium for the purpose of giving a report on registration and per diem.

**Report on registration and per diem.**

**Jerry Bevignani** greeted the delegates and presented his report. The credential committee has checked all the credentials received from the registration committee. And agree with the counts of their report. **Therefore, this committee finds the following eligible to vote:**

- 5 State Officers,
- 1 IPSD,
- 176 Grand Knights,
- 136 Delegates,
- Total eligible to vote of 318.

On behalf of the Credentials Committee I move for the acceptance of the Committee's Report.

State Deputy Doerfler received motion to accept the Committee's Report, received a second from the floor. Motion passed.

The committee has reviewed the report from the State Secretary and determining the mileage and Per Diem for the 119<sup>th</sup> State Meeting. The Per Diem is based on \$12.50 per day with a 2 day allowance, less a \$10.00 convention registration as determined and approved by the State Officers. Mileage will be paid at .30 per mile one way from the subordinate council site, however,

councils within a 20 mile radius of the convention, no mileage is allowed. District Deputies, Directors, Chairmen, and members of the State Deputies appointed committees will be afforded the same analysis as the aforementioned delegates. On behalf of the mileage and per diem committee I move the report of the committee be approved as presented.

State Deputy Doerfler received motion to accept the Mileage and Per Diem report, a second was received from the floor. Motion was passed.

State Deputy Doerfler briefly described the procedure for voting.

We are going to clear the hall. Listen up, so we can do this as quickly as possible. We will clear the hall. When you come back in there will be Council tags at all the tables. Find your Council tag and sit there.

The voting delegates: The Grand Knight and the delegate. So every Council should have no more than 2 people sitting at that table. If, you are a Director, or whoever, and you are a voting delegate please sit with your council so we know. Any voting delegate should be at a table not anywhere else. Any questions? Okay, this is going to take about 15 minutes for them to put them down so please when they get ready to open the doors be ready to come in.

State Deputy granted a Break 9:46 to 10:00 a.m.

**State Deputy William Doerfler:** called on the judge and tellers to be seated up front.

State Deputy Doerfler called upon the Parliamentarian, Charlie Foos, for instructions on voting, who can vote and all the rules.

These standing rules were put into the book at the Convention of 2013 to bring about order, consistency and transparency to the way we operate.

1. Alternate delegates wishing to replace registered delegates: Must be cleared by and properly credentialed by the Credentialing Committee prior to being seated as a delegate.
2. An Alternate Delegate may be reclassified from Alternate to Delegate at any time during the continuation of business.
3. Credentialed delegates will wear the Credentialed Badge as issued by the Credentials Committee at registration so that is clearly visible.
4. Without that badge you cannot be seated.
5. Only credentialed delegates are permitted to occupy the designated seating section. Denoted by the color number and name on the badge.
6. Only credentialed delegates are allowed to participate in debate and voting. Let me say that a second time, only credentialed delegates are allowed to participate in debate and voting.

Rules Regarding debate:

1. No delegate shall speak more than once on the same question and no longer than 1 minute.
2. No more than 3 delegates may speak in support of a question and no more than 3 delegates may speak in opposition to a question.
3. Debate rules are in effect at all times, unless granted permission of the convention by a 2/3 vote without debate.
4. And finally, with regard to nominations. Nomination speeches for each office to be filled are limited to 3 minutes in length.

5. One seconding speech, not to exceed 30 seconds and two seconding speeches cannot exceed 10 seconds each. And they are limited to that.

These are the rules that we live by.

State Deputy Doerfler stated for those wanting to be recognized for purpose of serving as alternate delegate, or to be seated for purpose of making a nomination or for seconding a nomination, to approach the microphone state their request.

The following asked to be seated for purpose of making a nomination or seconding a nomination:

Toni Scott,	Council 11977
Gary Zalesny,	Council 4333
Mike Blackburn,	Council 10884
Ted Glaser,	Council 4698
Andrew Stites,	Council 4239
Bryan Craig,	Council 4239
Scott Schwartz,	Council 5573
Sean Morgan,	Council 12497
Ron Ziemba,	Council 5573
Rich Koerkenmeier,	Council 2869
Pat Schumacher,	Council 2932
Ken Morning,	Council 2964
Ryan Schmidt,	Council 2964

The following asked to be seated as an alternate to the delegate:

David Jenkins, Council 11112, request to be seated as an Alternate Delegate.

State Deputy Doerfler called Worthy State Secretary, Ted Stites to the podium to conduct the roll call. Roll call was completed.

State Deputy Doerfler, thanked State Secretary for completion of roll call and called to the podium our Worthy State Advocate Steve Mann, for purpose of voting on resolutions.

Good morning gentlemen. There are a couple green sheets in front of you for resolution 28 and 29 and the reason is, there were some mistakes made on the booklets you were sent out. On the condolences to the Bishop, we have inserted that there will be a standing moment of silence as opposed to standing and cheering.

And also, the verbiage on the cardinal has been changed, if you notice, on the top, it is the way his name is listed. And that's the changes on these. When we have voted on these, these corrected resolutions are the ones that will go into the permanent record to replace the ones in error.

There are 5 actions to be taken, no action, reject, adopt, refer to State Officers, and refer to Supreme Council and to refer to Supreme Board.

These resolutions went before the Budget Resolutions Committee on March 18th with their recommendation at the bottom. If there is no discussion on it. We will adopt the recommendations of the Budget Resolutions Committee. You have 3 seconds if you wish to discuss these.

<b>RESOLUTION</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1	SUBJECT: 2016 – 2017 PER CAPITA TAX	ADOPT	ADOPTED
2	AUTHORIZATION FOR STATE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEE BONDING	ADOPT	ADOPTED
3	2016-2017 GENERAL FUND BUDGET APPROPRIATION	ADOPT	ADOPTED
4	NEWMAN CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY PROGRAM	ADOPT	ADOPTED
5	GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND PROGRAM	ADOPT	ADOPTED
6	VOCATION SUPPORT FUND	ADOPT	ADOPTED
7	CHRISTOPHER FUND RESOLUTION	ADOPT	ADOPTED
8	ANNUAL SOLICITATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE STATE-WIDE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM	ADOPT	ADOPTED
9	PRO LIFE FUND	ADOPT	ADOPTED
10	DIOCESAN HONOREES	ADOPT	ADOPTED
11	COUNCIL 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES	ADOPT	ADOPTED
12	COUNCIL 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES	ADOPT	ADOPTED
13	SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES	ADOPT	ADOPTED
14	DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY	ADOPT	ADOPTED
15	RESPECT FOR LIFE	ADOPT	ADOPTED
16	CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF VENERABLE FATHER MICHAEL J MCGIVNEY	ADOPT	ADOPTED
16B	CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF VENERABLE FATHER MICHAEL J MCGIVNEY-SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL 14057	ADOPT	ADOPTED
17	FATHER MCGIVNEY'S DREAM FOR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN	Refer to State Officers	NO ACTION
18	CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF THE SERVANT OF GOD FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON	ADOPT	ADOPTED
19	CONGRAULATING LANSING COUNCIL #3540 ON ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY	ADOPT	ADOPTED
20	SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF VETERANS	Adopt & Refer to Supreme	Adopted & Refer to Supreme
21	ALL CLERGY INCLUDING DEACONS BEING EXEMPT FROM DUES	NO ACTION	NO ACTION
22	CALL FOR MANDATORY REDISTRICTING	NO ACTION	NO ACTION
23	CALL FOR CREATION OF STATE YOUNG ADULT COMMITTEE	NO ACTION	NO ACTION
24	RECOGNIZE HOLY TRINITY 60TH ANNIVERSARY	ADOPT	ADOPTED
25	HONORING BISHOP R. DANIEL CONLON ON HIS 40TH	ADOPT	ADOPTED

25	HONORING BISHOP R. DANIEL CONLON ON HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY	ADOPT	ADOPTED
<b>TO BE REVIEWED AND ACTION RECOMMENDED BEFORE CONVENTION MEETING</b>			
26	HONOR JOHN WILLIAM HONIOTES ORDINATION		ADOPTED
27	CONDOLENCE FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THOMMAS G DORAN		ADOPTED
28	RECOGNITION OF HIS EMINANCE CARDINAL BLASÉ J CUPICH		ADOPTED

#### 2017 State Resolutions

State Deputy Doerfler thanked State Advocate for his preparation of the resolutions.

#### **Election of State Officers**

**State Deputy Doerfler** announced the rules of exiting the chambers during the election proceedings.

State Deputy Doerfler asked if there were any nominations for the Office of State Deputy.

**PSD Ron Ziemba, of Council #5573** approached the microphone seeking permission to approach the podium for purpose of nominating Theodore A. Stites, Jr. for the Office of State Deputy. The motion was presented and following it, three seconds to the nomination were made, in order, by Andrew Stites, Council 4239, Toni Scott Council 11977 and Brian Craig Council 4239. State Deputy Doerfler asked if there were any other nominations three times before Steve Mann, Council # , motioned to close nominations and to cast one unanimous ballot for the Office of State Deputy. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

**Theodore A. Stites, Jr. was elected to the office of State Deputy by unanimous vote** and gave an acceptance speech. State Deputy-elect thanked all the delegates for their trust in him to serve. And thanked his family for their support as well as Knights of Columbus mentors.

State Deputy Doerfler asked if there were any nominations for Office of Secretary.

**Phil Barone, PSD of Council #8002** approached the microphone seeking permission to approach the podium for purpose of nominating Frank Schwartz, Jr. for the Office of State Secretary. The motion was presented and following it, three seconds to the nomination were made, in order, by Scott Schwartz Council 5573, Sean Morgan Council 12497, and Mike Blackburn Council 10884. State Deputy Doerfler asked if there were any other nominations three times before Steven Scherer Council 634, motioned nominations be closed and one unanimous ballot be cast for our brother Frank Schwartz. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

**Frank J. Schwartz, Jr.** was elected to the office of State Secretary by unanimous vote and gave an acceptance speech. State Secretary-elect thanked members for their support and talked briefly about his dedication to the Knights of Columbus. Welcoming input as he serves as State Secretary.

State Deputy Doerfler asked for nominations for the position of Office of State Treasurer.

**PSD William Spainhour** approached the microphone seeking permission to approach the podium for purpose of nominating Steve Mann for the office of State Treasurer of the Illinois State Council Knights of Columbus. The motion was presented and following it, three seconds to the nomination were made, in order, Pete Schumacher, Council 2932, , Ron Ziembra, 5573 and PSD James C. Bednar Council 854 . State Deputy Doerfler asked 3 times for other nominations before Steve Scherer of Council 634 made a motion to close nominations and to cast one unanimous ballot for the Office of State Treasurer. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

**Steve Mann** was elected to the office of State Treasurer by unanimous vote and gave his acceptance speech thanking brother Knight, his father as well as a special thanks to his wife for her strong support. He also gave recognition and appreciation to other member Knights for the mentoring, support and advice.

State Deputy Doerfler asked if there were any nominations for the office of State Advocate.

PSD Richard Spada approached the microphone seeking permission to approach the podium for purpose of nominating Jerry Bevignani for the office of State Advocate. The motion was presented and following it, three seconds to the nomination were made, in order, Garry Daly, Council 15119. Gary? Council 4438. Steve Scherer, Council 634 .

State Deputy Doerfler asked if there were any other nominations for position of State Advocate and **PSD Ron Ziembra of Council 5573** approached the microphone seeking permission to approach the podium for purpose of nominating Jeff Peters for the office of State Advocate. The motion was presented and following it three seconds to the nomination were made, in order, Ted Glaser Council 4698, Rich Koerkenmeier, Council 2869, and Dan Campbell, Council 7624.

State Deputy Doerfler asked three times if there were any other nominations to the office of State Advocate. Steve Sharer made motion nomination be closed and we proceed with the balloting for State Advocate. Motion was seconded. Motion passed. State Deputy William Doerfler gave instructions on the balloting process.

**State Deputy William Doerfler** asked if all ballots had been collected and invited our IPSD Skip Kinyon for his remarks while the ballots are being counted.

**IPSD Donald Skip Kinyon remarks:**

Worthy State Deputy, thank you very much.

It just seems like yesterday I stood in front of the altar receiving my installation of new first year District Deputy. But it's been a long road. An enjoyable road. A very fun road, fulfilling.

And the thing about being a State Officer, I'm asked, all of us are asked, what is your best time as a State Officer? To be honest with you, it's every day. It's every day we get to interact with you, our membership. Our cities, our churches our clergy. Every day that we get to help them. That's a good day for State Officer.

Because you know, the Knights of Columbus, yes we hear about programs and charitable activities. But that's not the Knights of Columbus. You are, the membership that's the Knights of Columbus.

The programs and the charitable activities are tools for our members to use to support their Church, their communities and each other. That's what the Knights of Columbus is. And it's not just a title. It's the heart. Because you wouldn't be here today if you didn't have the heart and the love for it. I'm pretty sure it's not for the Per Diem check. It's for our church and our clergy. I'm so proud of you guys. It's been 19 years and what's the hardest time for State Officer? Right now. Having to say goodbye. Some of you I'll see, but not as much. Some of you I'll never see ever again. That's the hard part.

And you've heard a lot of thank you's, up here today. There's one, that, I couldn't have done it without her. It's my wife Diane. We've been through good times and some not so good times. The death of our son.

There were two people, that we had with us at all times. At the lowest point in a person's life. Our Lord God and our Knights of Columbus. You don't know how much that means to us.

So, on the behalf of my wife Diane, thank you for all you've done for us. Your acceptance and allowing us to be a part of your extended family. Because you are, we consider you family. So, like I said, on behalf of Diane and myself, May God Bless each of you, may God Bless our Knights of Columbus.

Viva Jesus,

**State Deputy William Doerfler** thanked Immediate Past State Deputy and announced a change in schedule. State Deputy William Doerfler invited Supreme Board Director, Former Deputy Supreme Board Knight Logan Ludwig to give his remarks.

#### **Former Deputy Supreme Knight and Board of Directors Dr. Logan Ludwig's remarks**

*Thank you, my Brother Knights. I know time is of the essence. Two recent speakers, have recently, said much of what I had intended to say. But I would talk with you about two things, before you leave today. And that is Stewardship and Membership. We have heard, over the weekend, much of the awards. We have congratulated many people. And that is evidence of all the good that the Knights of Columbus in this State does and around the world. I've had the privilege, traveling to almost every State in the Union and some 20 countries and I can tell you. I have seen, and without reservation, that the Knights of Columbus is a global force for good. It is because of all the hard work you do. We've also this weekend, shared stories. About those good works. The State Officers have shared with you their experiences. I've had them too and I could go through a number.*

*Seeing a young girl, and a mother cry when the young girl got a wheelchair because all she could do before was crawl around on the floor, in Mexico City. I've seen mothers cry when their children win an award and speak for the first time at Special Olympics. Or because they got glasses, they can see their parents clearly, because they could never do that before. Those are some of the great rewards we have. It is what we call, or I call, feeling good about doing good. It is a reward. Just like the fraternity that we experience and the 72,000 friends in Illinois that you have. Those are awards. The first*

*one is an award that you hang on the wall. The experiences that you have when seeing what happens when the good work you do is another award. You don't hang it in the hall, you hang it in here. And the memory, and the memories we shared at the Friday night party, are the memories that we keep here. Those are awards.*

*We have been given much as Knights of Columbus. We have accomplished much. But in return, remember, we have received much.*

*And I want to thank Father for clearly identifying and clarifying, what we mean when we say, the Charity that Evangelizes. It is as he said, bringing Christ alive. That's our job, and it's the tools that we use as Past State Deputy Kinyon said.*

*But with that, as it is with all of us, that have any kind of position in the Knights of Columbus should remember. It is about the stewardship that we have for the Knights of Columbus. It's not the old Pagan concept of power and authority. Off with their heads, if they don't achieve what you want them to achieve. It's really about leaving your office, any office that you hold, better than when you found it. If you're not doing that, then you're not helping your Brother Knights. You're not helping your fellow Catholics.*

*All of us, should do well to remember. What you heard, the other day, with the installation of the Squires. And that is, that the medals around your neck are not status symbols. They are symbols of responsibility and obligation.*

*Yes, we've done much in this jurisdiction, in this District, and throughout the Order. And you should be rightfully proud of that. But it is not enough. It will never be enough.*

*Why do I say that? Why? Because evil will also be with us. The poor will always be with us. Disaster and misery, suffering, will always be with us.*

*We, indeed, are a form and a force for good that the world needs so much today.*

*Adding new members and retaining existing members is the best way to behave as the Knights of Columbus. It is our responsibility. Because, what happens there? You give your fellow Knights, the opportunity to be a better Catholic. To improve their faith, to do good.*

*Which of you is not a better Catholic, a better Christian, because of your membership in the Knights of Columbus? Why do you not extend that to the members of your parish? That's our role. To invite them in and give them that experience.*

*And that's why, it is about numbers. I make no excuses for that. Yes, but it is the numbers that help us do things. It helps us achieve what we have achieved. It helps the lives of our Brother Knights and others. So, it is about numbers.*

*You, again, as I will say, receive much. You have great families. You have families in the Knights of Columbus. You have a great faith. And much more. But I ask you to remember this, for him to whom much is given, much is expected. As the Supreme Knight and as others have said, if I can paraphrase their words a little bit. What was the ceiling today? Right now, it is the floor for tomorrow. So, we have to keep moving forward.*

*Viva Jesus,*

State Deputy William Doerfler thanked Dr. Logan Ludwig for the outstanding talk and announced the ballot results for office of State Advocate.

The next State Advocate will be Jeff Peters. Motion presented that the ballots be destroyed and one unanimous ballot be cast for Jeff Peters for the position of State Advocate. Motion seconded. Motion Passed.

**Jeff Peters was elected to the office of State Advocate by the vote of the Delegates** and gave his acceptance speech thanking all for the confidence and a special recognition for all Jerry Bevignani continues to do. He also thanked his wife and family for all the encouragement and support, enabling him to be involved with the Knights of Columbus. Many thanks given to Brother Knights.

**State Deputy William Doerfler** asked if there were any nominations for office of State Warden.

**Pete Schumacher Council #4932** approached the microphone seeking permission to approach the podium for purpose of nominating Lloyd Reinkensmeier for the office of State Warden. The motion was presented and following it, three seconds to the nomination were made, in order, by Ryan Schmidt Council 2964, Kenneth Martinek, District Deputy 89 Council #2964, and Rich Koerkenmeier, Council 2869. State Deputy Doerfler asked if there were any other nominations three times Steve Scherer Council 634, motioned nominations be closed and one unanimous ballot be cast for our brother Lloyd Reinkensmeier. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Lloyd Reinkensmeier **was elected to the office of State Warden by unanimous vote**

*Lloyd: Greetings Brother Knights, I kind of lost what I was going to say so first I'd like to thank our Heavenly Father for guiding me and leading me on this journey. To the path where I'm at today. To be of service to you and to be of service to the Order. Also, I have several people to thank as mentors in my past. One is Paul Havrilka Jr., his wife was part of that, and she worked under me at a store that I managed. And so she told Paul, and before I knew it, he snatched me up. He always made sure I was taken care of and when I was at the Conventions he also made sure I was at the front center table with his family. So he even invited me to the Officers Luncheons afterwards. Also, another person, Charlie Daniels. He really supported me when I was District Deputy and was a big mentor to me and very helpful. And currently, Ted's always provided some advice and suggestions, so whether he agrees with that or not, I've always taken that to heart so thank you Ted. Also my current leadership with the chapter, I've got a lot of guys around and do provided a lot of support and advice so I sincerely do listen to them and take it to heart.*

*So that is my goal as a State Officer, to listen, to be of service which has been a big part of my life with the Boy Scouts. So, as an Eagle Scout, I've always had that bar that is really up there so I plan to use that in my role as State Warden of the Knights of Columbus. So, I thank you for your support and look forward to meeting and serving you in the future. Thank you.*

State Deputy Doerfler invited Worthy State Secretary to make a motion for the Delegates for the Supreme Convention.

State Secretary Ted Stites: Worthy State Deputy, I make a motion that the following Brother Knights will be named as Delegates to the Supreme Convention to be held in St. Louis, MO.

From Chicago: Jack W. McCarthy Council 4977  
From Chicago: Anthony Biliskov from Council 1691  
From Joliet: Frank W. Rossi, from Council 3738  
From Rockford: David A. Drane, Council 11874  
From Peoria Lee Williams, Council 427  
From Springfield, Harold E. Gene Mitchell, Council 14034  
From Belleville, Thomas Sable, Council 1279  
From Belleville, Kevin Shaneborn, Council 13197

I ask that these delegates be considered for the Supreme Convention.

State Deputy Doerfler asked if there any other nominations to Delegates to the Supreme convention three times and hearing none asked for a second to the Motion the selection of delegates read by State Secretary be considered for the Supreme convention. Second received. Motion passed.

State Secretary Ted Stites made motion that the following names be named as Alternate Delegates to the Supreme Convention should the other not be able to attend:

Chicago, Alexander. Tenna, Council 1687  
Chicago, Wayne Kabookavick, Council 3755  
Joliet, Patrick Sullivan, Council 15732  
Rockford, Gregory Shurring, Council 8596  
Peoria, Larry F. Edna , Council 790  
Springfield: Matthew F. Piescinski, Council 4024  
Belleville: Todd A. Hildreth, Council 13840  
Belleville: Bill Smith, Council 14851

State Deputy Doerfler asked for a second to the motion for the Alternate Delegates to the Supreme Convention. Second received. Motion passed.

State Deputy Doerfler announced the release of the judge and the 3 tellers before inviting State Treasurer Frank Schwarz to present on how to get the checks.

Before we explain how to do the checks, I'm going to just take one minute of your time guys. I just want to say thank you for your attention this weekend. It was unbelievable

State Treasurer Frank Schwartz, Jr. gave directions to the assembly on locations based on council number of where in the hall to go to receive checks. If they registered at the convention checks would need to be mailed to them. Any questions to go to the podium.

State Deputy Doerfler invited Worthy State Secretary to present additional information regarding the Supreme convention.

State Secretary Stites reminded assembly members the Supreme Convention is in St. Louis. I have limited copies for room reservations as well at the State Dinner

reservation. This will be available on website soon. Delegates have this information in their packet.

State Deputy Doerfler invited Father Chuck to say a closing prayer please, all rise.

Father Charles Tuttle gave closing prayer.

*In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen  
Venerable Fr. Mike McGivney, pray for us  
Mary, Queen of the Knights, pray for us  
May Almighty God keep you safe on your way home, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

State Deputy Doerfler asked all to sing the Closing Ode. The Closing Ode was sung by all.

The 119th Illinois State Convention proceedings were closed at 1:19 p.m. with the drop of the gavel by **State Deputy William L. Doerfler**.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL  
119<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS  
April 21- April 23, 2017 May 1, 2016**

**Certified by the State Deputy**



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William L. Doerfler  
State Deputy, Illinois State Council