



# THE VIRGINIA KNIGHT

OCTOBER 2009

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## State Deputy's Message

My Fellow Brother Knights,

As you may or may not recall but in my initial newsletter article, as your State Deputy, I established a 100 day Action Plan. I implemented this plan because of the many, ongoing, fantastic initiatives that were all designed and destined to enhance our programs, our membership numbers and our order's proud name. So by establishing this action plan it was an attempt to focus and jump start most of our Council's plans and actions toward one of our four key areas, which are: **Year of the Priest, Year of the Volunteer, Membership and General Programs**. I believe you will agree with me that all four of these areas are vitally important and thankfully easily intermingled so it should have been relatively easy to design and execute events which focused on all four of these areas.

Now, depending on when you are actually reading this newsletter article it should be right around that 100 day mark, which is the designed and proper time for you to conduct evaluations on your Council's plans, initiatives, programs and events for this fraternal year. It is at this time when you should be ensuring you are meeting or exceeding all of your Council's expectations, goals and objectives in these four areas. Basically now is the time, before it is too late, to determine if your Council should continue with their plans as designed and are being executed, perhaps incorporate a needed minor tweak or two or just completely abort or scrap some plans and go in another direction and thus ensure your Council's successful accomplishments within these four areas.

Speaking of successful plans, the following Councils had excellent membership plans and executed them to perfection, for they have already reached and believe it or not most have exceeded their Council's membership goals within these first 100 days. They are Council 14755, Council 14263 and Council 13467. So perhaps after completing your review of your membership plan and you think it may be in need of some tweaking perhaps a quick conversation with one of these Council's Worthy Grand Knights might get your plan back on track.

Just so you know a similar top down review/evaluation has transpired on our State wide expectations, goals, plans, programs and objectives. Fortunately most seem to be tracking and delivering the results that were anticipated. Unfortunately some of our initiatives have and continue to slip to the right so obviously these will either have to be tweaked and or scrapped. An unfortunate byproduct of this slippage is a delay in our ability to introduce more new, additional and exciting programs. So obviously the tweaking and or scrapping decision is imminent.

I would be most remised if I didn't take time to thank our Church Program Chairman, Brother Dave Harris, along with our General Program Director, Brother George Piette, for their careful planning and execution of Supreme's Silver Rose program. It was through their hard work along with the effort of fellow Virginia Knights that we successfully maneuvered the Rose through a portion of the State, held many prayer and adoration services and most importantly didn't lose it.

In closing, please continue **"Living Fr. McGivney's Dream, Every Day and Every Knight"**. For that, my Brother Knights, is the secret to the success of your Council, our State Council and the Knights of Columbus.

Fraternally,  
Pat O'Donnell



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## PRAYER FOR PRIEST(S)

*This is proposed for use at a Sunday Liturgy on World Priest Day October 25, 2009. It is suggested that following the Prayer after Communion, a member of the parish pastoral council or any parish member(s) leads the community in offering the following prayer for the priest (s) of the Parish (if copies are provided for the people present) or offers the prayer aloud while the community joins in silence.*

### Introduction

On the last week-end of October we celebrate World Priest Day. Priests daily use the gifts of teaching, counseling, preaching and celebrating the Eucharist and the other sacraments for the benefit of Catholics everywhere. Let us join today in praying for our own parish Priest(s), Father (s) \_\_\_\_\_, and ask God to continue to bless him (them) in his (their) ministry.

### Prayer

All honor and glory to you, Lord our God, Maker of all and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In your faithfulness and love, you sent your only Son to live with us and to save us by giving his life for us.

Today we offer you thanks and praise for choosing Father(s) \_\_\_\_\_, to be filled with the Spirit of Jesus as he (they) lead(s) us with zeal and wisdom. We ask you to give him (them) your fullest blessing in his (their) priestly ministry. Help him (them) to serve others as generously as Jesus did, in times of sorrow and in times of joy.

Loving God, bless Father(s) \_\_\_\_\_, so that he (they) may instruct us by his (their) teaching, inspire us by his (their) preaching, and encourage us by word and deed to work with him (them) for the good of the parish.

Loving God be close to your servant(s) Father(s) \_\_\_\_\_, as he (they) follow(s) your Son, Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest. Guide him (them) in paths that are level and smooth. May your powerful grace make him (them) strong in faith, joyful in hope, and fervent in love, this day and every day to come. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Thank you Father(s)\_\_\_\_\_.

**(Applause)**

(See the General Program Director's Report, page 7)



## State Secretary's Report

In July I mentioned that "The job's never over until the paperwork's complete." Well at the end of the first quarter of the fraternal year I want to congratulate you on doing a terrific job completing it despite a number of obstacles. It's always tough at this time of the year but you did your level best to make it happen.

There are only a few Councils who have not completed their 185/365 forms and your District Deputies are working with you to make sure that happens quickly. Most of the 1<sup>st</sup> half audits have been submitted and a large number of Councils have paid their 1<sup>st</sup> half per capita assessment as well. Some have even paid the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and we thank you for that.

Remember, if you are not certain where to send something --- send it to me. I'll get it where it needs to go.

I still need a hard copy of the VSS-4 from every Council. As I've mentioned, having filed it electronically does not eliminate the requirement of Article II, Section II of the By-laws which says each delegate must have a set of credentials identifying him as the duly elected representative of his Council signed by the Grand Knight and affixed with the seal of the Council. Copies of the By-laws are on the state website.

The State Advocate has indicated that a signed copy of the VSS-4 is still required. To facilitate matters, the State Deputy has requested that every Council bring their seal to the regional meetings where we have prepared copies of each Council's VSS-4 as it is currently reflected in the system. We are asking each Grand Knight to review the copies during the meeting, make the necessary corrections then sign and affix the seal to the document.

I continue to anticipate that each of you will, at a minimum, strive to achieve the State Deputy's Award and shall do everything I possibly can to assist you in reaching that goal. If you don't know an answer to a question or who to speak with on a particular subject don't hesitate to get in touch with me. I'll do my best to get you to the right individual.

I am available to each of you between the hours of 0900 and 2100 seven days a week. I prefer doing business by e-mail, ([statesecretary@vakofc.org](mailto:statesecretary@vakofc.org)) and you should normally receive an acknowledgement, (not always a final response), from me within 24 hours of sending it. However, don't ever hesitate to call me at 540-786-6203.

Thank you for all you are doing

Respectfully,

Bill McCarthy  
State Secretary



## State Treasurer's Report

Brothers,

Time has quickly passed. We are now in the Second Quarter of the Fraternal Year and there is a great deal of work ahead for all of us. I strongly encourage everyone with any reporting responsibilities in your Council to complete and submit their paperwork now. As the holidays approach it is harder to focus and complete the reports. I request your assistance with providing readable names and addresses on any checks from your Council. This is especially helpful with Sweepstakes winners and those from outside the Council. This will help me to the award processed in time for the Holidays.

Lastly, remember the feeling in your heart and the pride you felt when your child walked across the stage at their high school or college graduation, or they were the Valedictorian, or made Eagle Scout or made game winning hit, or going off to the prom. Well that is the same level of pride when the Supreme Knight announces to the approx 3000 delegates from around the world that the Jurisdiction of Virginia has the highest Membership gain in the Order, or the highest Insurance gain or highest per capita of charitable hours, or the highest donation per member, or they have been awarded the Supreme plaque for one of the five Activity awards. This the pride you feel when you Virginia's State Deputy accept for ALL of us the award, hand shake and rousing applause from the assembled delegates. Brothers you have the opportunity to "make this happen" at the Supreme Convention in Washington D.C. on August 2010 and to be there in person to feel it. Let's DO IT and make Living Fr McGivney's dream everyday and every KNIGHT a reality for our Virginia Knights.

Ron Gorman  
State Treasurer

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Save the Date:  
***Bowling Tournament***  
In Charlottesville, VA  
10 & 11 April 2010



## State Advocate's Report

Brothers,

### State Directory

I want to thank you for your continuous efforts to keep your State Directory up to date. The directory will be updated at the end of the month of September and will be available for downloading on the secure side of the website.

### District Nominators

Virginia State By-Laws Article VIII states that the District Deputies will conduct meetings to select a District Nominator and an Alternate Nominator and report those Knights names to the State Deputy no later than 1 November. That report can be made on the state website. The District Deputy should take note of Section 1.4 (d) "A Nominator, Primary or Alternate, shall not seek office or accept a Nomination from the Committee while he is serving in the capacity of a Nominator or Alternate Nominator." Each Nominator and Alternate should understand that they will be required to attend the nominators meetings at the January and March quarterly meeting.

### Tax Form 990

The tax laws changed in 2008 and all Councils must now file a Tax Form 990 each year. Which form you file will change with your Councils financial situation. Councils who bill their dues on a fraternal year will have their taxes due no later than 15 November 2009.

### Resolutions

Virginia State By-Laws, Article IV, Section 2 require all Resolutions be submitted in writing to the State Advocate at least 60 days prior to the first day of the State Annual Meeting. Therefore please submit all resolutions to the State Advocate no later than 15 March 2010.

Tom Harger  
State Advocate



## State Warden's Report

As we begin the second quarter of this Fraternal year, Pauline & I would like to express our heartfelt THANKS and GRATITUDE for the gracious VIRGINIA hospitality afforded to us by those Councils and Assemblies we have visited. You truly made us feel right at home!!

During this quarter, across the jurisdiction, Councils will be to organize their annual Holiday events that range from Columbus Day and Oktoberfest celebrations to PGK Dinners and Council Memorials Masses. We will

host adult and children Holiday Parties, create holiday baskets for those less fortunate than we are to remembering our Veterans. During this time of the year, we gather together with and celebrate the Holidays with our Families, Friends and Communities. Please remember, as this has been designated the **YEAR of the PRIEST**, too be sure to extend an invitation to your Pastor, Priests, Deacons and to those in Religious Life.

Membership growth in our order is paramount! During the next three months, these Council celebrations will offer many recruiting opportunities. These very visible programs become outstanding recruiting tools. Please make sure that you take advantage of these seasonal celebrations and recruit a new Knight and his Family.

As Council start to plan their events, some of you may be extending an invitation to the State Deputy to attend your functions. As the State Deputy's calendar fills up very quickly, please send the invitation as early as possible. Remember to include

- The Event type, (Council Anniversary, social gathering, PGK Dinners, Installation of Officers, etc).
- The Date, Time and Location.
- What is the Dress code (Formal, Business attire or casual)?
- Are the Ladies invited?
- Include the RSVP date.
- Meal selection (if applicable).
- Cost (if any)
- The State Deputy should be given the opportunity to offer some remarks.
- Remember when preparing your program, that the State Deputy or his designee is the last guest speaker at any event.

To help you with Protocol do's and don'ts, the Supreme Council has published a Protocol Booklet (#1612) that will help guide you and answer some questions that you may have. Most, if not all of your questions may be answered within the booklet. However, as the booklet states should a difficult or unique situation arise, "the Grand Knight must use his good judgment and apply simple common courtesy". If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me with any question that you may have.

Pauline and I wish all of you the Healthiest, the Happiest and the Most Blessed of Holiday Seasons ever!!

Vivat Jesus

Fraternally,  
Tony Fortunato



## Membership Director's Report

*Today it's about people, and people taking care of people*

Just like it was at the beginning of the Knights of Columbus, today our families, parishes and communities need our support, encouragement and the charitable acts that make us known throughout the world.

Unemployment, job insecurity, and the associated problems that result from these conditions are evident across the state and in your Councils. Recent news coverage suggests the problems are deeper and will likely take a long time to improve. People falling victim to these type problems are exactly the people and families we need to reach out to and help. To do this we need an Army of Knights that includes those Catholic men we are helping.

During the fall and spring of each year the Knights of Columbus hold a worldwide membership "blitz". This year we are encouraging our Virginia Council's to make an extra effort to build their charitable capabilities like never before and we are also asking them to reach out to their Pastors – to see what can be done to help those in need, to be true to our founders dreams.

During a recent homily the Priest suggested to us that we should all pray at least 3 minutes a day. While reflecting on this, I thought it would be easier for me if I just prayed 5 or 10 minutes every couple of days, or how about several minutes before church once a week... Then I thought – that's like our membership blitz's. So, on further reflection I suggest the following:

Make the periodic effort (membership blitz's) much better: As you know, after Masses, we blitz, the Parishioners duck and weave when leaving church. We blitz again, they duck and weave again. So, a good plan for improving the upcoming membership blitz's must include having lots of materials to pass out (one for each man over 18 years old coming out the door) and lots of people to interact with parishioners – to contact the duckers and weavers.

Don't wait for the blitz – ask when you see them: Just as important as we proceed through the year is for us to walk up to the men in our churches that we see out in town or at a function of one type or another and talk to them. Don't wait for the blitz. Say hi when you see them, ask how they are doing, *ask* if

they have a few minutes a week to spend charitably helping others.

We need these people – lots of them, to be charitable with their time and take care of people.

Fraternally,

Steve Burnley  
Membership Director



## Ladies of Virginia President's Report

Since the Ladies of Virginia are not having a formal meeting in October (due to the regional meeting schedule, we are having casual get togethers at each meeting in order to listen to members' questions or concerns, collect dues and, of course, have a chance to visit with our LOV sisters from around the state.

Our next Ladies of Virginia business meeting will be January 9, 2010 in Virginia Beach. I look forward to seeing you then, if not at the meetings in October.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining LOV, please don't hesitate to contact any of our officers, trustees or members.

God Bless!  
Janet Winston  
President  
[slick1969@cjwinston.com](mailto:slick1969@cjwinston.com)

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**Save the Date:**  
***Next Quarterly Meeting***  
**In Virginia Beach VA**  
**9 January 2010**

*The Virginia Knight is published by the Knights of Columbus. Opinions expressed herein are the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Virginia State Council, the Editor, or the Knights of Columbus. Questions or comments should be directed to the Editor or the State Deputy.*



## Fourth Degree District Master's Report

Brothers:

This is indeed a busy time of year for the Fourth Degree. We have several major events on the calendar that I will quickly highlight here.

- On Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, we will participate in the annual Columbus Day ceremony at Union Station in DC starting at 10:45 AM. Anyone who can make it in full regalia should be there no later than 9:15 AM.
- On Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Exemplification at the Holiday Inn Koger Center in Richmond.
- The weekend of November 7-8, we will participate in the Fall Championships for Special Olympics in Virginia Beach.
- We will continue our ongoing support of activities to support our veterans. This is truly a year round activity, but is especially important as we rapidly approach the holiday season. Remember, this is an activity where everyone in the family can help.

These are just the major events that have been identified as of now. This certainly does not include all of the events conducted by individual Assemblies throughout Virginia. Your Navigator has details on all of these events.

One thing is obvious, we do many things and we can always use more people to do them. It is also obvious that we need to recruit more members into the Fourth Degree to help us.

Hopefully, you are already a member of the Fourth Degree. If so, we congratulate you. We appreciate your membership and we appreciate what you do to exemplify Patriotism through your Fourth Degree activities. To help us grow, we ask that you sponsor a Third Degree Brother Knight to take his Fourth Degree.

If you are not already a member, then I encourage you to join us. Another Fourth Degree Exemplification will be scheduled for the Spring of 2010. Candidates need to be in the Order at least six months from the date of their First Degree and need to have taken their Third Degree. Ask your Grand Knight to put you in touch with the Navigator of your affiliated Assembly. He can then give you all of the information you need to join our ranks.

Our State Deputy has for his theme this year – "Living Fr. McGivney's Dream Every Day and Every Knight". The Fourth Degree stands behind this motto and pledges to conduct all of our activities in accord with that dream.

Fraternally,  
Richie Head, PSD  
District Master

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**It's not too early to start thinking about the 2010 Virginia State Annual Meeting.**

**Mark your calendars now for May 14-16 and plan on being in Richmond. Please note the dates in the state directory are incorrect so check your calendars and hold May 14 – 16 . The plans are coming along nicely, we will be playing golf at one of Golf Digest's top 10 courses in Virginia and the entertainment for Friday night will be something to remember.**

**Full details will be released by the January meeting, but mark your calendars now before it's too late.**

**I hope to see you there,**

**Chris Winston  
State Convention Chairman**



## General Program Director's Report

# "YEAR OF THE PRIEST - YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER"

Pope Leo XIII started the practice of devoting October to the Rosary devotion. In a letter of September 1, 1883, mindful of the Rosary's power to strengthen faith and foster a life of virtue, he outlined the triumphs of the Rosary in past times and admonished the faithful to dedicate the month of October to the Blessed Virgin through the daily recitation of her Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, in order to obtain, through her intercession, the grace that God would console and defend His Church in her sufferings. If your Council, or Assembly, is not taking part in such a beautiful devotion, why not start now. Why not do this as a Church event and invite the Congregation to participate – Need help? How about an International Rosary!! Your State Church Director, David Harris, has the information on conducting one, give him a call – A great opportunity to show the community who we are and how important the Blessed Virgin Mary is to the Knights of Columbus.

The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this Fraternal Year has now past. Family of the Month reports were slow in coming in but increased in September, keep up the good works. Are you aware the State Deputy has decided to select 3 more Family of the Month per month in addition to Supreme's 100 selections. The rules are the same as Supremes, in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

In August, I attended the 127<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention in Phoenix and was proud to hear two of our Activity and Family of the Year write-ups mentioned as a winner and 4<sup>th</sup> runner-up. Council 12791 was selected as the Supreme Council Activity, "MCGIVNEY VISIONARY PROGRAM", and our State Council Family of the Year winner, Roy and Diane Blakeburn of Council 12117, were selected as Supreme's Family of the Year 4<sup>th</sup> runner-up. Your Councils do tremendous works in support of Father Michael McGivney's causes and WE hear them but the write-ups don't portrait them. Please review the State Action Program Handbook for the format and requirements. Please contact these two Council's for their advice on what and how their write-ups were submitted. Let's beat them with 3 winners or named runner-ups.

Today, life is being attacked from every angle and Respect Life Sunday begins on 4 October. What a great opportunity to sponsor a "Right to Life" program for the community. You should have received your informational packet from Supreme, if not, let me know and I will ensure we get you the information.

*"The Year of the Priest"* - What an honor to our Priests. There is one way we can acknowledge their service to all. Why not make it a Community blessing. On page two is a sample blessing should you wish to use.

*"Living Fr. McGivney's Dream – Every Day & Every Knight"*

George Piette

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Save the Date:  
***March for Life***  
 In Washington, D. C.  
 22 January 2010



## Information Technology Report

This Information Technology (IT) report addresses three topics: Email Courtesy, Member Management and Support. As noted by our Worthy State Deputy, the use of technology often leaves behind the personal side of our communications. He has requested IT make note of the ways we can improve our use of email among each other. Please consider the following points when using your email:

1. **Reply Promptly when receiving an email so the sender knows you received it.**
2. **Respect other people's privacy – use bcc.**
3. **Do not shout – AVOID using ALL CAPS.**
4. **Change the subject line when the topic changes.**
5. **Cut off trailing previous messages.**
6. **Resist chain letters.**
7. **Don't spam.**
8. **Do not “flame,” over-react, or erase too quickly.**
9. **Be patient when expecting a reply; but query if you don't receive one.**
10. **Recognize that not everyone wants to receive everything that you find funny.**

Supreme's Member Management presents an opportunity to reduce the submission of council reports twice. Updating the Council Officers information will automatically trigger the successful submission of the Form 185 at Supreme. In addition updating Program Personnel will update the Supreme council database and trigger the successful transmission of the Form 365. Ultimately we anticipate changes made via Member Management will significantly reduce data entry requirements for State forms.

Accomplishment of IT goals requires a team of IT volunteers of various skills. The response to the July newsletter and subsequent requests have identified Brother Knights who can assume various support roles such as: Website updates; Reports Development; Email management; IT Geek squad; and IT User Manual. If you have skills in any of the aforementioned, please contact IT, we can still use your skill.

Fraternally,  
James, DIT

**Living Fr. McGivney's Dream**



## KOVAR President's Report

Although collections were down significantly last year, as with many other charitable organizations, the KOVAR Board reminds all Virginia Knights that the need for our charity remains great and many opportunities exist for us to aid persons with Intellectual Disabilities, “God's Special People.” The KOVAR Board is energized to provide assistance to every council in the State with ideas to make this year's effort successful.

Can you give just a few hours this year to improving the lives of those of our families and friends who are intellectually disabled? Can you help us fund the purchase of needed equipment and vehicles, provide for needed services that are not otherwise available or support the establishment and operation of group homes for persons with Intellectual Disabilities?

NOW is the time to put into action a plan for KOVAR collections for this fraternal year. Councils should identify and confirm site arrangements for the Annual Campaign as soon as possible. KOVAR is not a once-a-year endeavor. Many councils run activities for the benefit of KOVAR throughout the year, either specifically dedicated to KOVAR or in conjunction with other council events.

Please remember that KOVAR, along with VKCCI, is a principal Charity of the Virginia Knights of Columbus. KOVAR is Charity in Action. KOVAR Directors are available to assist councils upon request. For more information, view the KOVAR website at [www.kovarva.com](http://www.kovarva.com) or contact any member of the KOVAR Board.

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**Save The Date:**

**Annual Meeting**  
In Richmond, VA  
14-16 May, 2010

**Supreme Convention**  
In Washington, DC  
3-5 August, 2010

**Every Day and Every Knight**