

KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

April 2020



The month of April is dedicated to [The Holy Spirit](#). The first eleven days of the month fall during the season of [Lent](#) which is represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remainder of April falls during the [Easter](#) season which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored).



April boasts the most solemn and sublime event of human history: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – the Paschal mystery. Though the way to the Resurrection was the *Via Crucis*, the Sacrificial Lamb of God is now and forever Christ our Light, the Eternal high priest of the New Covenant. And his sorrowful mother, the *Stabat Mater* of Good Friday, is now the jubilant Mother of the *Regina Caeli*.

We the members of Christ's Mystical Body exalt in the mystery by which we were redeemed. If in Baptism we were buried with Christ, so also will we share in his resurrection. By his death we were reborn; "by his stripes we were healed." (Is 53:5) Easter, the epicenter of time, is the event that links time and eternity. It is indeed "the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it." (Ps 118:24)

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Passing of PSD Robert Hood

Robert passed from this world 4/26/2020 at 7:20 am with his wife and family near to him.

Robert retired from North American Phillips Lighting after 32 and a half years of service. He was a member of Blessed Mother Catholic Church, Past State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus, Past President of the Arc of Owensboro, Past President of Owensboro Right to Life, Past President of Saint Vincent De Paul, and the Past President of the Owensboro Civitan Club.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Justin and Mary Bernice Hardesty Hood; and a special uncle, Jimmy Hardesty.

Surviving is his wife of 61 years, Connie Simon Hood; two sons, Jimmy Hood and Darrell Hood; three daughters, Beverly (Richard) Nance, JoNell (Chuck) Reed, and Nikki (Jason) Adamson; 14 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Four brothers, Darrell (Lois) Hood, Doug (Dorothy) Hood, Charlie (Celeste) Hood, and Gerald Ray (Judy) Hood; six sisters, Jackie (Clemie) Cecil, Sheila (Jim) Head, Sandy Mayfield, Linda Hagan, Norma (Ed) Fulkerson, and Debbie (Larry) Murphy; and hundreds of friends.

A funeral mass for Robert will be live streamed noon Friday, May 1, 2020, where family and friends may visit <https://www.facebook.com/HaleyMcGinnisFuneral/> to participate in the celebration.

There will be a driving procession of support and remembrance from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm Thursday at Haley McGinnis Funeral Home & Crematory. The family requests that you please come by to show your love during this time of physical distancing. Your participation is important to us! Due to the safety directives in place, it is important you honor them and the Hood family by not exiting your car, but know you are allowed to roll down your window to share a loving word to the family in passing. This loving act will be much appreciated by all who are left to cherish Robert's memory.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to Hospice of Western Kentucky; 3419 Wathen's Crossing; Owensboro, Kentucky 42301.

Haley McGinnis Funeral Home & Crematory is both honored and privileged to be entrusted with the care of Mr. Hood. Share your messages of condolence with the family of Robert N. Hood and sign him virtual guest book by going to www.haleymcginnis.com.

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Deacon Bill Theis (l) and Deacon Brian Cox (far right) present a plaque to Paul Grimme in honor of his 75 years as a member of Bishop Mulloy Council 1301.

Submitted by:
Deacon Bill Theis



State Deputy

Cameron Peck



Brothers,

Our motto this year is “Unity in Christ”. We have many opportunities to show our unity in Christ even while we are not gathering with our brothers. We are not going to let this pandemic stop us from showing our unity.

The Basketball Slam fundraiser we have done over the last several years has funded our Disaster Relief Fund that we occasionally use to help others when disaster strikes. Luckily, we don’t have to use it very often, but when we do need to use it, it is nice to have it available.

This month the State Council donated \$2,500 to each of our four dioceses (\$10,000 total) to help them help others during this pandemic. I want you to know, as state deputy, I hold myself and all the state officers to a higher standard when it comes to being good stewards of your money. It was clear that we needed to make donations to the dioceses to help them, but the proper amount was in question. After much debate and prayer, we decided that \$2,500 for each of the dioceses would give them a good amount of help while also not overextending ourselves in case of any additional needs that may arise from a second wave of COVID-19 or another natural disaster.

Although the Basketball Slam program did not operate the same way as usual, it still went on and we raised over \$5,000 to use for disaster relief and the councils split over \$5,000 to use any way they decide. Thank you for your participation in this fundraiser each year. It was your ticket sales that allowed us to donate this money to the four dioceses. Thanks for your “Unity in Christ”.

On April 16th, the Supreme Council hosted the first online Charity, Unity, and Fraternity Degree. This was an opportunity for men to join the KofC without gathering in large groups and endangering their health or the health of others. This was also a chance for existing 1st and 2nd degree members to advance to 3rd degree. This opportunity was offered to all the jurisdictions in the USA and Canada. Over 10,000 men took advantage of this great opportunity. In Kentucky, 20 men became members of the Knights of Columbus and joined local councils, over 80 existing knights advanced to 3rd degree, and 7 online members joined local councils. Although we all did this in our own homes, it was a great display of our “Unity in Christ”.

The Supreme Board of Directors has mandated that all jurisdictions will hold their state conventions as a phone conference call this year. While this is not ideal, we will make the most of the situation we have been given and we will conduct our business. We will not be able to do many of the things that we normally do at the state convention, but we will do many of those things in July at the Organizational Meeting. Although we will be in over 200 different locations, for the call, we will be showing our “Unity in Christ”.

I am proud to serve you as we push through this difficult time. And I am even more proud that you all have stepped up and found ways to adapt and overcome this temporary change in how we do business as Knights of Columbus. Soon we will be able to get back to normal, but until then, please know that you have my admiration and respect as we push through.

Vivat Jesus,

Cameron Peck

State Deputy

State Secretary

Steve Zanone



My Brother Knights,

I hope that all of you are weathering this storm we are in as best you can. These are certainly trying times for us on many levels. First is the isolation and inability to go to Mass and receive the Sacraments. In addition, we can't gather with family and friends. Many of our brothers and sisters find themselves unemployed for the first time in their lives, and many people are going to food banks for their first time as well. I ask that you reach out to your neighbors and fellow parishioners to see what they need. Many people feel lonely and depressed right now, and we need to be there for them. The Knights of Columbus is the strong right arm of the Catholic Church. This is our time. Charity is our first principle. We are needed now more than ever. If not us, then who will answer the call?

Councils please keep holding your meetings. There are options for online meetings that work pretty well. I know these online options are not the same as an in person meeting, but we need to keep going. The State Convention will be a phone conference on Sunday, May 17 from 9-11 AM EDT. A revised delegate certification form has been emailed to District Deputies, Grand Knights, and Financial Secretaries. If you did not get it, we do not have your correct email address. Contact your DD and get the form from him. I have to have these forms back by May 5. My hands are tied this year. I will not be able to register you after the deadline. Nor will I be able to accept a check for NMB-2 or per-capita the day of the meeting. Please send your money for these bills in ASAP. If you did not receive a copy, we do not have your correct email address. Your DD has a copy, contact him, or contact me. As a reminder, you do not need to vote on these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Secretary these last two years. I hope to serve next year as your State Deputy, and I want to publicly thank Cameron for his hard work and leadership as our State Deputy.

VJ

Steve Zanone, State Secretary

State Treasurer

Tom Johnson



Happy Easter!

Wishing everyone a Happy & Blessed Easter! The arrival and celebration of Easter is a sure sign that warmer weather is here. Just as Christ died and rose from the dead, we see the renewal of life all around us. The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, the grass is greening, and the smell of spring is in the air. Make sure you take time to thank God for all that He has done for you and to thank Him for all that He may do for you?

Historical Times!

Who would have thought that a little over a month ago our fast paced busy lives would have come to a screeching halt! Councils were busy with their fish fries, holding council meetings, holding Regional Free Throw contests and holding degree exemplifications. Some council's even held their first ever open Charity, Unity & Fraternity Exemplification.

With great expectations and anticipation many of us were prepping for an exciting March Madness NCAA Basketball Tournament and the always exciting KY High School Boys & Girls Sweet Sixteen Tournament, not to mention the start of all of the spring sports.

The US economy was breaking new records and the Bull Market seemed unstoppable.

But that all changed in a little more than a passing heartbeat: Why? What happened? We know what the major news outlets say and we know what our State & Federal government officials say was the cause...COVID-19.

We have been introduced to a new terms "social distancing"& "self-quarantined". We can no longer gather in public places. We can no longer gather in our churches. We can no longer shake hands. Expectant fathers can no longer be in the deliver rooms with their expectant wives to witness the birth of their child. Families can no longer hold a funeral visitation for a deceased loved one. Nursing homes were locked down to the point that a son or daughter could not visit a parent. All but "essential" businesses are closed. Normal grocery shopping turned into panic buying to the point that store shelves were bare.

Our routine lives have been changed...for better or for worse. Is the cup half full or half empty? Is this the best of times or the worst of times? That is the question. The answer is dependent on you.

The Lenten Season is behind us and Easter has come and gone. I hope that each and every one of you found a way to reflect on the Passion, Death & Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

State Treasurer

Tom Johnson (cont.)



For Janet & I the cup is half full and while there have been some inconveniences, for the most part we are enjoying the slow down. I believe our adult children are too. Most are now working from home with an occasional trip into the office, on a very strict and limited basis. The grandkids are home doing NTI work or on-line classes. There are no sporting activities going on and they are learning to be a family once again. Janet & I were able to take advantage of this slowed pace by having two of our grandchildren, who we only see a couple of times a year, spend several weeks with us. What a blessing! Thank you Lord for allowing us the opportunity to spend time with our grandchildren and to be together as a family.

Upcoming Council Elections:

June still seems like a ways off but it will be here before you know. If your council only meets once a month, then you're looking at two future council meetings to nominate and hold your elections. I would suggest that you solicit nominations at your April meeting and hold your election at your May meeting. That way your council will be ready to hit the ground running as the new fraternal year begins in July.

Treasure's Notes:

March Financials are in the book.

At the end of March, 2020 the following monies were available for each program:

KY Heavenly Pennies Program

Covington	-	\$599.67
Lexington	-	\$627.48
Louisville	-	\$1,135.05
Owensboro	-	\$369.96

These monies will be distributed to the Bishop of each of the diocese in which the monies was raised for the support of our seminarians.

Culture of Life Fund

Covington	-	\$2,156.38
Lexington	-	\$250.00
Louisville	-	\$1,304.10
Owensboro	-	\$3,137.64

These monies will be distributed to each of the diocese in which the monies were raised for the support of Culture of Life needs.

State Treasurer

Tom Johnson (cont.)



Reflections:

I must say that for me one of the most apparent things that have come out of this COVID-19 pandemic is how easy it is for governments around the world to quickly restrict the movement and freedoms of its citizens. I never thought I would see the day that Catholic Churches would close their doors. Granted we have “virtual masses” and “spiritual communions” but we are not together in one place worshipping Our Lord and Savior and we’re not able to receive the consecrated Body & Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Nor did I ever think I would see the day that I would have to wait in line outside at Kroger to buy groceries or that my fellow Kentuckians would be walking around with face masks and latex gloves on. I pray this is not a glimpse of things to come. I’ve always heard that Freedom is not free and that all it takes to lose it is for good men to sit back and do nothing. As a member of the Knights of Columbus and a practicing Catholic I have a responsibility to “Step into the Breach”. I pray that God gives me the strength and courage to do my part in bringing about His hope and desire for mankind.

Vivat Jesus,

Tom Johnson

State Treasurer

State Advocate

Luke A. Williams



Brothers,

The 2019-2020 Fraternal Year has become an altered Lenten and everyday experience for all of us. We all have storylines that we still don't know how the outcome will end up in the coming months. Continue to trust in our God and offer all things up to him.

Vivat Jesus,

Luke A. Williams

State Advocate

State Warden

Dick Burns



Brothers,

He Is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lent and Easter without being in the Church Building, without receiving Holy Communion. The pandemic has caused us some changes, but I hope that you were and are able to use this time to strengthen your Domestic Church as we remember and celebrate our Lord's death and Resurrection.

Basketball Slam! Sweepstakes

The pandemic and cancellation of the NCAA Tournament changed how the results were calculated, but the results are the same - \$2600 in winnings were distributed to 12 lucky participants.

Thanks to the 66 Councils who supported the Kentucky State Charities Disaster Relief Fund by selling over 1700 *Basketball Slam! Sweepstakes* tickets! We netted almost \$11,000 that will be shared by the Fund and the participating Councils. Blessed Trinity #15181 in Princeton sold 115 tickets, over 1.8 tickets/member and they win the bottle of Woodford with the emblem of the order! Participating Councils will receive \$3.11/ticket sold. The Sweepstakes Winners are:

High Winners

1 st	\$700	Rick Fears	St. Gabriel Council #15699
2 nd	\$500	William Glenn	Our Lady of Lourdes Council #14290
3 rd	\$300	Kenneth Baker	Fr. Diemert Council #3379
4 th	\$200	Gary Kehne	All Saints Council \$14234
5 th	\$150	DD Paul Motz	Fr. Kehoe Council #1764
6 th	\$100	George Payne	Waverly Council #1361
7 th	\$ 90	Craig Miller	St. Edward #13196
8 th	\$ 80	Hardinsburg Council	Hardinsburg Council # 2499
9 th	\$ 70	Ricky Krossbar	St. Mark #12852

State Warden

Dick Burns (cont.)



Low Winners

1 st	\$250	Dave Carr	Bishop Mulloy #1301
2 nd	\$100	James Vollmer	St. Henry Council #11453
3 rd	\$ 60	Kenneth Baker	Fr. Diemert Council #3379

Congratulations to all the Winners!

Thanks again to all who participated for your support of the State Disaster Relief Fund and for all you do for your council, your parish, and the Order!

Recruit! and Retain!

It's going to be a while yet before we can do a Church Drive. In the meantime, good old fashioned one on one recruiting can still get the job done.

If each Knight asks 4 men a year to join the Order, and only one of them says yes, you'll still double the size of your council. If you don't ask, you don't grow.

State Convention

I wish I could see you at the 2020 State Convention, but the pandemic strikes again – we're going to have to do it online. Make sure your councils get their delegates properly registered and we will still go about the business of the order electing new officers and passing resolutions for the Supreme Convention. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet in person at the Planning Meeting in July, and we can celebrate our achievements from the past year and share in the fraternity of meeting with friends and Brothers and their families!

Vivat Jesus!

**Dick Burns,
State Warden**

For we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. Eph 2:10

General Program Director

Bill Schmidt PSD



Brother Knights –

As we are moving through this COVID-19 pandemic, it is easy for us to nearly give up as we have been told we need to practice Social Distancing and stay at home. Many of our Brother Knights are out of work as a result, and a few may even have the virus. Even though we are throttled back in our ability to help our fellow Brother Knights and neighbors, now is the time for us to stand up, dust ourselves off, and get back in the game. During this pandemic, many of our most needy brothers and sisters have nobody to reach out to and nobody to help them as a result of social distancing.

Have you reached out to your Brother Knights in your council to ensure that they are doing well? Do they need help from others but cannot get it? Are they isolated and feeling lonely as a result? If the answer is “yes” to any of these, we as Knights must respond. Whether it is a Brother Knight, his widow, his family, or someone in our community that needs help, we must step up while we can. We must answer the call.

The Supreme Knight has outlined a program “Leave No Neighbor Behind” that speaks to Knights’ involvement over 100 years ago as a result of the Spanish Flu which had results very similar to COVID-19 and we must act today in the same manner. We must help in our own communities. The Supreme Knight’s message can be found at the following link.

<http://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/articles/supreme-knight-message-coronavirus.html>

The main points of this program are as follows:

- 1) During this period, we urge every member and his family to pray the Supreme Council's novena based on the prayer of Pope Francis (printable or video prayer), as well as a prayer being promoted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- 2) Help keep yourself, your families and your communities safe by cancelling all “in person” Knights of Columbus meetings and activities at the local or state level until otherwise indicated. This disease spreads when groups of people gather, so it is important that we avoid activities that could spread this illness. Councils should pursue online and/or teleconferencing options for meetings, fundraising, etc. until the danger has passed. The Supreme Council will be providing additional information on such options shortly.
- 3) Leave no Knight – or neighbor – behind. If members of your council – or community – are elderly or have underlying medical conditions, please ensure that they have enough food. If you or others in your council have food to spare, offer to drop something off on their doorstep or to shop online for them.
- 4) Give blood. Many communities are facing blood shortages. Those not being recommended to isolate themselves due to illness, age or underlying conditions should consider giving blood. National blood drives were pioneered by the Knights of Columbus in the 1930s, and this lifesaving activity remains an important aspect of our charitable work today.

General Program Director

Bill Schmidt PSD (cont.)



Even though it is not recommended to hold in-person meetings, there are ways for us to get the word out by email, text message, phone call, on-line meeting apps, and social media to organize efforts and answer the call. With many of our Brother Knights off of work until the pandemic subsides, this is a great time for them to get involved, all while practicing social distancing.

I urge you to work with your Program Director and your members to act now to Leave No Neighbor Behind. Our communities are counting on us.

Thank you to everyone that has submitted their Program Director and State Deputy Award submissions to me. If you have not submitted your report to me, I have extended the deadline to **May 1st** as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several councils have now earned the Program Director or State Deputy Awards for Program Excellence. There is still room for more! If you have not yet contacted me, now is the time to do so.

The Columbian Award (SP-7) can be submitted to Supreme right now. This is another requirement for Star Council. With respect to the Star Council award, Council 6743 in Grayson County and Council 17234 in Harrodsburg have already met their membership and insurance quotas towards Star Council. Congratulations, and keep up the great work. The Star is within your grasp. Submit the Columbian Award Application right away!

Congratulations as well to the following councils that have met their membership quota but still need to meet their insurance quota: 390 Louisville, 2046 Whitesville, 12354 Mt. Washington, 15699 Louisville, 15979 Louisville, and 16179 Louisville. Please contact your Field Agent right away to put a strategy into motion on how to meet your Insurance requirement. There is still time to meet your quota, but it is ticking away very fast. There are many other councils that are on track to meet their membership quota as well. Keep going! The Star is within your reach as well.

Now is the time to make that final push in Membership, Insurance, and Programs to make this year the best one possible for your council. Contact your Grand Knight to find out how you can help. As always, remember to use every program as an opportunity to invite a fellow Catholic gentleman to join the Knights of Columbus. Invite a friend to join us and be part of the programs your council has to offer.

Fraternaly,
Bill Schmidt, PSD, DM
General Program Director
BillSchmidtPSD@comcast.net
270-242-0337

District Master

Bill Schmidt PSD



Sir Knights –

The Fourth Degree Exemplification scheduled for April 25th in Owensboro has been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am looking at rescheduling the Owensboro Exemplification in the Fall.

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification is planned for June 20th in Louisville. Naturally this is contingent on the COVID-19 social distancing rules being loosened by then. At this time, I am fully committed to holding this Exemplification in Louisville. I ask that all Fourth Degree Assemblies get to work now on recruiting Third Degree members into the Fourth Degree in preparation for the Louisville Exemplification. I am working on the packet and remaining details to be sent out to Faithful Navigators and Grand Knights. I can think of no better way to try returning to “normal” than to celebrate the Patriotic Degree with an exemplification, mass, and banquet. Also, I am pleased to announce that Archbishop Kurtz is planning to join us that evening. I look forward to seeing you there.

The Biennial Meeting of the Kentucky Fourth Degree District was held on March 14th in Clarkson. Sir Knights representing eight Assemblies met as per the Supreme Fourth Degree Bylaws. Faithful Navigators will be sent minutes of the meeting in the coming weeks for their records. The meeting agenda included the reading of two Resolutions and the nomination of three Worthy Sir Knights to fulfill the upcoming term as District Master of Kentucky. The names have been forwarded to the Supreme Master and Vice Supreme Master for consideration. During the meeting a review of the District’s recruiting efforts over the past two fraternal years was reviewed as well as report submissions and an update on the uniform and changes associated with Supreme recently bringing on a new supplier. An in depth discussion was held regarding Fourth Degree programs and how we need to expand our program efforts in order to keep our Assemblies active and make recruiting new Sir Knights a lot easier. As a result, I am working on a Kentucky District Fourth Degree Program Guide with some of the best ideas from our Kentucky Assemblies. If your Assembly has a program that you would like to share with the rest of the state, please email me the details. Just like our councils, membership and programs work hand-in-hand.

Remember that Assemblies can earn the Star Assembly Award by reaching their membership quota, earning the Civic Award (similar to the Columbian Award), entering the “To Be A Patriot” competition, publishing a monthly newsletter, and submitting the required Supreme reports. More information can be found at <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/service/council/10486-star-assembly-award.pdf>. All Assemblies are encouraged to shoot for the Star Assembly Award! If you have any questions, just ask me.

District Master

Bill Schmidt PSD (cont.)



In order to grow the Fourth Degree, we must first grow in the First, Second, and Third Degrees. Recruit new members into your council and advance them through the higher degrees so that they can become Sir Knights in the Fourth Degree. Our councils, parishes, and communities need us Sir Knights more than ever. Let's build up our Army of Knights to fight for what is right and just.

Fraternaly,
Bill Schmidt, PSD
Kentucky District Master
BillSchmidtPSD@comcast.net
270-242-0337