



# Kentucky State Council Newsletter

ISSUE NO.

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## VETERANS COOKOUT

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@kentuckyknights

# CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE OF WESTERN KENTUCKY

Worthy Grand Knight,

It was so exciting to see the annual Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky return in February 2025 for the first time since the Covid shutdown. The spirit of fellowship among the men of our diocese was truly inspiring, and we are so grateful for the strong support of the Men's Conference by the Knights of Columbus over the years—both in your attendance and in your encouragement of Catholic men to grow in faith and leadership.

However, the planning committee did incur some unexpected increases in expenses, particularly from inflation and higher facility costs (compared to the last conference before Covid).

As we look ahead to planning the 2026 Men's Conference, (Sat, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026) we are committed to keeping the event affordable and accessible to as many men as possible throughout the Diocese of Owensboro and beyond, but we also would like to build up our base of operating funds to keep the Men's Conference sustainable for the next several years.

To make this possible, we are asking local Knights of Columbus councils to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to help offset the costs of the conference. Your generosity ensures that men from all walks of life can participate in this day of faith formation, fraternity, and spiritual growth.

We deeply value the mission of the Knights of Columbus in building up Catholic families, parishes, and communities. Your investment in the Men's Conference aligns with the mission of the KCs to strengthen husbands, fathers, and sons in their vocation as disciples of Jesus Christ—work that benefits the entire Church.

If your council would like to support the conference, please send contributions to:

CMCWK  
600 Locust St  
Owensboro, KY 42301

Should you have any questions, feel free to visit our website [www.kycatholic.com](http://www.kycatholic.com) or Email: [cmcwk@kycatholic.com](mailto:cmcwk@kycatholic.com)

Thank you again for your witness and support. We look forward to again seeing many Knights at the next Men's Conference and continuing this great tradition together.

Fraternally in Christ,  
Men's Conference Board of Directors  
Mike Sullivan, President  
John Kurtz, Vice President  
Randy Clemens, Treasurer  
Jerry Kuntz, Secretary  
Fr. Jason McClure, Spiritual Mentor  
Kevin Schwartz  
Ray Purk  
Robert Edge  
Bill Weikel



## VETERANS COOKOUT

The Sir Knights of Assembly 2753 showcased their unwavering commitment to service by hosting a successful dinner for our local heroes at the Pennyroyal Veteran Center on Sunday, November 9th.

Facing genuinely challenging weather that included sleet and temperatures hovering in the upper 20's, the operation was executed with precision and dedication. The effort was led by Co-Chairmen SK Joe Mezzoni, with SK Chuck Spurr taking command of the grill. Together with ten dedicated Sir Knights, the team expertly prepared, cooked, and served dinner for over 45 Veterans. The Veterans were profoundly moved, expressing their deep appreciation for the Assembly's significant efforts and commitment. This impactful event stands as a powerful testament to Assembly 2753's dedication to supporting those who have served our nation.

### David Allard

Faithful Navigator



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# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CATHOLIC ACTION CENTER THANKSGIVING DINNER PROJECT

Thanksgiving at the Catholic Action Center (CAC) was made possible in large part by the Knights of Columbus Councils of Central Kentucky, which this year included Bluegrass Assembly #310, Cathedral of Christ the King #14130, Holy Spirit/Newman Ctr #15542, St Peters #18058, Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary #14372, Pax Christi #15613, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton #12774, and St Mark #12852 Richmond.

We provided 700lbs+ turkey, Green Beans, Potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing, Rolls, and Paper Goods. Ginny Ramsey, Director/Founder of CAC, said that they served 856 people at CAC and their shelters. This includes their newest shelter which houses Fayette County Public Schools students and families who had been living in their cars.

This year food prices were higher excluding turkey. The Meijers turkey contract price per pound actual fell a little from last year. Further we got favorable prices on the paper goods from Bauman Paper. The Knights Councils contributions were key to funding this project. This year we received a corporate contribution, of \$1,000, in large part due to the efforts of PGK Chris Ballard (Holy Spirit/Newman Ctr) from his employer Meijers. This generated a surplus which will be used to fund the CAC Christmas Dinner. The Knights ended up funding two dinners out of one project....Thanks Chris!

Over the years the landscape of this project has changed but the Councils of Central Kentucky have adapted and two started their own Thanksgiving Dinners in their towns, St Luke Nicholasville and St Marks Richmond.

I am grateful to the Councils who have given to this worthy cause. The District Deputies who have promoted the dinner to their Councils. Special recognition to Ed Quinn, as District Deputy, who has promoted this dinner since the very start. It makes me proud to be a Knight as well as being a small part of our Orders' Charitable Mission.

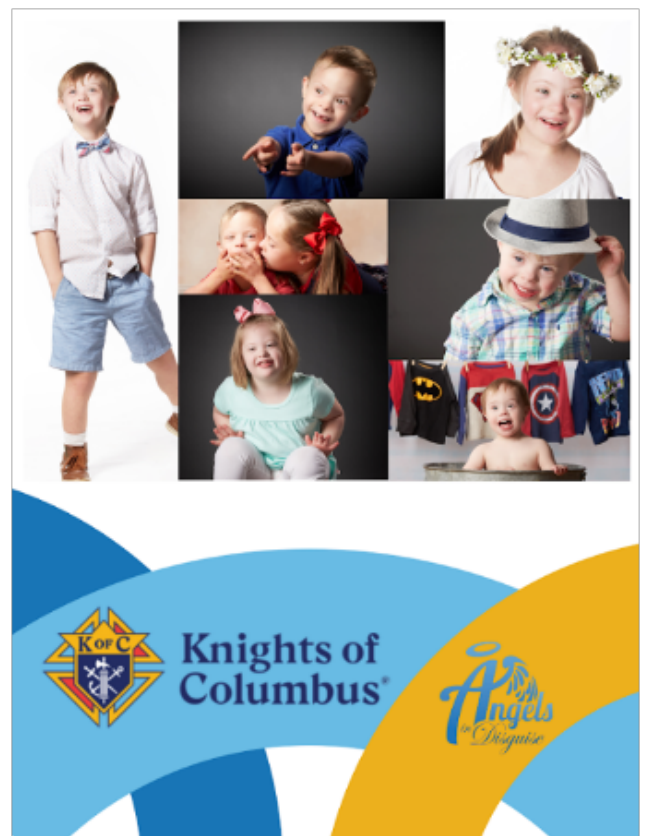
**Ed Brown**

District Deputy

# TOOTSIE ROLL FUNDRAISER BENEFITING ANGELS IN DISGUISE

Many thanks to our St Edward Church parishioners, and Council 15841 volunteers who donated to our special “Tootsie Roll” November 2025 fundraiser for Angels in Disguise. We especially thank our youth group “Light of the Walk” for their enthusiastic support, whose efforts made our project an overwhelming success. Angels in Disguise's mission is to celebrate individuals with Down syndrome and support families through adoption assistance, educational grants, and access to life-saving heart surgeries. The organization advocates Down Syndrome awareness and provides financial and other assistance to families to help their children thrive.

**Brian Gregory**  
Program Director



# FOOD BASKETS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The Sir Knights of Assembly 2753 demonstrated exceptional dedication to community support by volunteering their time and effort on two separate occasions early during the recent government shutdown. Recognizing the immediate needs of affected families, the Sir Knights were there to lend a vital helping hand at two major food distribution efforts on Fort Campbell and at the Oak Grove Gaming Convention Center: At each of these critical events, the Sir Knights helped distribute an impressive total of over 500 food baskets for families at each event. Their swift response ensured families received essential provisions during a challenging and uncertain time.

## David Allard

Faithful Navigator



## ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

Assembly 307 in Northern Kentucky held our Annual Memorial Mass on Sunday, November 9th, at All Saints Church in Walton. The following names were read by Father Damian Hills.

Norbert G Nie, Paul A Grimme, Roy J Flenniken, David L Cummings, Kenneth Ruder, Dennis Elix, Rev. John Riesenbergh, Robert S Kern, Rev. Thomas P Robbins, Richard F Mader and Robert C Merkle.

Eleven Sir Knights were in Uniform, many thanks to the following for honoring our deceased Sir Knights. Joe Baumgartner, David Berkemeier, Keith Cahill (PFN), Scott Dinius, Jim Kolenich, Walt Mace, Don McMurray, Fred Meade (CCC), Dustin Reed (FN), Larry Sendelbach, and Patrick Stoltman

### Keith Cahill

Faithful Comptroller, District Deputy



## SIR KNIGHTS SUPPORT TURKEY DISTRIBUTION

On November 21st, six Sir Knights from Assembly 2753 demonstrated their commitment to service by providing essential support to the Hopkinsville Military Affairs Committee (MAC). Despite a torrential downpour, our members brought their muscle to the Oak Grove gaming center to help distribute 750 turkeys to servicemembers and government employees impacted by the government shutdown. The dedication of the Sir Knights was evident as they worked side-by-side with key community figures, including the Mayors of Hopkinsville and Oak Grove, the Sheriff, Deputies, and other local leaders, ensuring the successful execution of this important community outreach event.

**David Allard**

Faithful Navigator



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to get your Council or individual Knights involved in Special Olympics. There are several opportunities coming up just after the new year. Many don't require any special skill or certification.

**Jan. 25-27** – State Winter Games; Perfect North Slopes; Lawrenceburg Ind. – Ski Partners, Timers, Course Officials

**Feb. 7-8** – Region 1 Basketball Tournament; Bowling Green Parks and Recreation; Bowling Green – Scorekeepers, Scoreboard Operators, PA Announcers, Referees

**Feb. 7-8** – Region 3 Basketball Tournament; Bluegrass SportsPlex; Elizabethtown – Scorekeepers, Scoreboard Operators, PA Announcers, Referees

**Feb. 21** – Region 2 Basketball Tournament; All About Sports; Florence – Scorekeepers, Scoreboard Operators, PA Announcers, Referees

**March 14-15** – State Basketball Tournament; MidAmerica Sports Complex – Scorekeepers, Scoreboard Operators, PA Announcers, Referees

### Lexington Knight Secures \$5,000 Donation for Special Olympics

Chris Ballard (center with check), who is the Past Worthy Grand Knight of Holy Spirit Parish Newman Center Council #15452, played a pivotal role in a \$5,000 donation that was made to Special Olympics Kentucky by the team at the Meijer store in Hamburg in Lexington. The money comes from a staff-driven giving program that Meijer operates through all of its



stores with each store's recipient determined through an employee vote. Chris, whose sister had competed in Special Olympics, promoted Special Olympics Kentucky for the donation among his fellow team members. Thank you, Chris, for your support of Special Olympics!



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONT.

### Holiday Gift Card Raffle Can Provide Holiday Boost!

Each year, Special Olympics Kentucky gives away a huge gift card package just in time for the Holidays. This year's package includes \$4,900 in gift cards to some of the Holiday Season's most popular restaurants, retailers and more. We draw the winner on Dec. 12, so you could have them all before Christmas! Tickets are just \$10 each and all the money raised supports Kentucky athletes. For more information or to buy tickets, visit [sokyraffle.com](http://sokyraffle.com)



### Don't Forget to Report Volunteer Hours

If you have volunteered at any Special Olympics event including fundraising events like Polar Plunges, Truck Pulls and golf outings, don't forget to report your hours to supreme. Every hour you report is figured into the check that Supreme sends to Kentucky to present in May. For more information, contact Mark Buerger at [mbuerger@soky.org](mailto:mbuerger@soky.org) or 859-338-6075.

### Schedule Set for 2026 Polar Plunges

The schedule is now set for the Coolest Fundraiser in Kentucky – the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Kentucky. Several Councils across Kentucky have participated in the Polar Plunge over the years. In 2023 Councils raised almost \$10,000 for Special Olympics

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## SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONT.

Kentucky in Plunges in Lexington, Louisville and Lake Cumberland. With five Polar Plunges across the state, there is one within a reasonable drive from your Council. For more information or to sign up, visit the site for the Plunge nearest you.

[January 31 – Cincinnati at The Banks \(There is an opportunity to raise money for Special Olympics Kentucky\)](#)

[February 8 – Lexington at Texas Roadhouse on Richmond Rd.](#)

[February 22 – Louisville at Main Event](#)

[March 1 – Western Kentucky at Kentucky Dam Village](#)



## VETERANS APPRECIATION MASS

On November 9th, Assembly 3929 in Lexington was honored to participate in the Veterans Appreciation Mass held at the Cathedral of Christ the King. Fr. John Moriarty has celebrated this annual Mass for several years now, and it is always a beautiful tribute to those who have served. At the conclusion of Mass, Fr. John invited all active-duty and retired military members to come to the center aisle. Each veteran then introduced themselves to the congregation. Afterward, a new American flag was passed reverently from veteran to veteran, from the front of the church to the back, before being escorted by the honor guard to the flagpole in front of the Cathedral. There, American Legion Post 8 retired the old flag while taps was played by their bugler, and then posted the new flag to the sound of reveille.

Following the ceremony, the parish hosted a gathering with light refreshments. During this time, the retired flag was presented to Sir Knight Rick Towner in recognition of his service and dedication to the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus.



# STATE DEPUTY LUKE WILLIAMS



Brother Knights,

The second Saturday in December will bring the Kentucky State Council Officers, a large contingent of Kentucky District Deputies, many State Council Service and Program Directors and Chairman, a good showing of Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and many others who are interested in how all this Knights of Columbus stuff comes together. The 2025 Midyear Meeting is being held at the Christ the King Parish Center in Madisonville, KY and I am hoping to see many of you soon!

The 2024 Fraternal Survey of Faith, Family, Community and Life Activities results will be reviewed with the Midyear meeting attendees. I am encouraged that almost 81% of our councils submitted a 2024 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities. The “Every Council Can Do Something” mindset was alive and well as shown by the results.

Other reports to be given include:

“The highlights of the 2025 State Deputy Midyear Meeting held in Denver last month will be shared and I will also be updating attendees on how Kentucky is faring with the goals of the FY2025-2026 Strategic Plan.

I am confident that all attendees will learn something new about how the Kentucky Jurisdiction is doing these first 6 months into the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year and the direction we should all be striving for in the next 6 months.

As the seasons change, I ask that all Kentucky Knights of Columbus come together and continue working on the 4 points of this Fraternal Year’s Strategic Plan.

# WILLIAMS CONT.

1. Make Succession Planning for our leadership a regular order of business for the State and Local Councils. **(Training)**
2. Achieve Membership Growth Goals set for State and Local Councils. **(Ask every Catholic man in Kentucky to join us)**
3. Ensure at least 25 Local Councils achieve Star Council Status before June 30, 2026. **(Be Active)**
4. Increase COR awareness in Parishes throughout Kentucky. **(Pray with your Brothers)**

## **FY 2025-2026 Upcoming Important Dates for your Council Calendar**

*December 8, 2025	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
*December 12-13, 2025	Midyear Meeting – Madisonville, KY C#11132 Hosting
*January, 2026	Order Parish Outreach Church Drive materials for March
*January, 2026	District Meetings with DD and other GK's in District
*February 15, 2026	Awards/State Per Capita/State Convention Stuff
*February 18, 2026	Ash Wednesday
*March, 2026	Councils have Parish Outreach Church Drive
*March 11, 2026	Kentucky March for Life – Frankfort-State Capital
*March 15, 2026	Candidate and Council Resolutions turn into State Advocate Deadline
*March 15, 2026	State/Faith Programs Award Submissions due to Program Director
*March 29, 2026	Palm Sunday/Founders Day
*April 5, 2026	Easter Sunday
*April 18, 2026	4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification – Bardstown
*April 10-12, 2026	123rd Annual Knights of Columbus - KY State Convention – Clarion Hotel/Bluegrass Convention Center – Lexington, KY
*June 6, 2026	4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification – Louisville

**Due to circumstances beyond our control....Please note** – The 123rd Annual Knights of Columbus - KY State Convention, will now be held at the Clarion Hotel/Bluegrass Convention Center – Lexington, KY on the second weekend of April, 2026. The Hotel in Frankfort notified us that the construction they are doing would not be complete at our original scheduled date so they could not accommodate us. Thanks to State Convention Chairman Steve O'Bryan for reaching out to other venues to consider. After working with The Clarion hotel in Lexington, we are now entering into agreement to have the 2026 State Convention on April 10-12, 2026. I am optimistic that all attendees will be pleased with the renovations and service improvements to the facility since our last State Convention at the Clarion in Lexington.



# WILLIAMS CONT.

**State Deputy Notes** – I recently saw this in a Council/Assembly Newsletter from a neighboring state that starts like this...

”Do you know someone who would make a great Knight?”  
Please share this with him.

Men join the Knights of Columbus  
to support the Catholic Church, their communities, and their families.

## Why Join?

Faith: Grow your faith with other Catholic Men  
Service: Volunteer and give back to your community  
Support: Support your parish and the Catholic Church  
Protection: Get access to affordable life insurance for your family  
Community: Work with like-minded men to make a difference  
Defense: Stand up for the Catholic faith, marriage, and family  
Charity: Participate in works of mercy to help the less fortunate.

## What does it mean to be a Knight?

Knights are men who lead, serve, protect, and defend  
Knights are part of a network of men in communities around the world  
Knights are dedicated to corporal works of mercy  
Knights are committed to upholding Catholic teaching  
The amount of time you can give to the Knights is up to you.  
Your contribution will be appreciated.

With the beginning of the new Liturgical year on November 30<sup>th</sup>, Advent is the season of reflective preparation for Christ's Nativity at Christmas. Let us prepare ourselves so that we understand what it really means to be a Brother in the Knights of Columbus.

I want to thank each one of you for everything that you do and for the opportunity that you have given me to serve all as the Kentucky State Deputy.

Advent wishes and Merry Christmas from The Williams!

**Vivat Jesus,**  
**Luke Williams**  
**KY State Deputy**

# STATE CHAPLAIN FR. JOHN LIST



Today you will know that the Lord will come,  
and he will save us,  
and in the morning you will see his glory.  
(Entrance antiphon for the Mass for Christmas vigil)

My dear old Dad was fond of imparting the following bit of worldly wisdom: “Better buy land if you get the chance. They aren’t making any more of it.” Looking back on what may have been his lived experience, have to wonder if there wasn’t a certain amount of the green-eyed monster behind that statement. He was raised on a farm, and both his brothers went into farming, while my father turned to construction work to provide for his family and was never able to afford more than the small acreage we grew up on. When, from time to time, the question arose as to why he did not go into farming, he would look around at his “tribe” of eleven and respond: “Cause y’all would have eaten me out of house and home!”

As I reflect on the shorter days at this time of year, and the incredible brevity of my own 68 years, I realize that time is another constant that “they aren’t making any more of.” Once again, the Patristic selections in the Office of Readings gives me pause, specifically a passage in the breviary from St. Cyprian: “Our obligation is to do God’s will, and not our own. We must remember this if the prayer that our Lord commands us to say daily is to have any meaning on our lips. How unreasonable it is to pray that God’s will be done, and then not promptly obey it when He calls us from this world! Instead we struggle and resist like self-willed slaves and are brought into the Lord’s presence with sorrow and lamentation, not freely consenting to our departure, but constrained by necessity. And yet we expect to be rewarded with heavenly honors by Him to whom we have come against our will! Why then do we pray for the kingdom of heaven to come if this earthly bondage pleases us? What is the point of praying so often for

# LIST CONT.

its early arrival if we would rather serve the devil here than reign with Christ?” Wouldn’t you just love to have Cyprian over for your Christmas festivities?

All kidding aside, though, I think he’s got a point. St. Paul says that Christ “made himself poor though he was rich, so that you might become rich through his poverty” (2Cor. 8:9). Of course, he is not referring to material wealth or indigence; he is speaking of Christ’s divinity. Our ultimate sharing in his divinity is eternal life with the Father in heaven. By the grace of his Incarnation, our mortality blossoms into immortality.

Every Christmas holds out the invitation to rebirth, the hope of the fullness of life in eternity. Even as we celebrate the birth of the Son of God into our humanity, may we honor his incarnation with a renewed sense of and commitment to “a community of belonging and solidarity worthy of our time” (Pope Francis.) I wish you the peace of the Christ-child.

**Vivat Jesus!**  
**Fr. John List**  
**State Chaplain**



# IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY TOM JOHNSON



## Mid-Year Meeting:

This year's December Mid-Year meeting will be held at Christ the King Catholic Church in Madisonville on Saturday Dec 13th. I hope to see many of our DDs and GKs in attendance. Just like the July Organizational Meeting, the Mid-Year meeting is for you...the leaders of our districts and councils throughout the State. This is your opportunity to not only meet your State Officers but to ask questions and to familiarize yourself with what is happening within the Order. It is also a great time to reflect on the past 6 months and to re-energize yourself and your councils as we enter the next 6 months of the fraternal year.

## Prepare Ye the Way!

Yes, it's that time of year again...Advent. A time of anticipation of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, or at least it should be. Instead, we find ourselves hustling & bustling about. Running here and there and wondering when things will slow down long enough so that we can focus on the "Reason for the Season". I thought for sure that being retired would finally provide me with the opportunity to slow down and really focus on the Advent & Christmas seasons. It hasn't but that doesn't mean I shouldn't try. So, my Advent wish for you is that you find just enough quiet time to reflect on the coming and birth of Jesus so that when you awake Christmas morning that you feel the Joy of Christmas!

# JOHNSON CONT.

## Reflections:

Do you believe that you are a disciple of Christ? Do you believe that God has touched your life? Do you believe that Jesus Christ wants you to serve His people?

If you don't believe that God has touched your life or that Jesus Christ hasn't called you to serve, then I ask...What do you believe?

Let us, as Men of Faith, reach out to our neighbors and offer a kind word. Let us pray to Mary, Queen of Heaven, and Earth, and ask for her intercession for peace within our land and throughout the world. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit and ask him to help us choose our words carefully to build up the Kingdom of God and not alienate those in need.

Let us thank God for all that He has given us and done for us and let us pray for all that He may do. Pray that He may continue to bless our families and watch over His people and pray that He may continue to bless the United States of America.

May you have a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Blessed Father McGivney...watch over us.

**Vivat Jesus,  
Tom Johnson  
Immediate Past State Deputy**



# STATE SECRETARY DICK BURNS



Brothers Knights,

## **Tempus Fugit!**

We just started a new Liturgical Year and the First week of Advent. Our late State Chaplain Fr. Mario Tizziani was always sure to tell us we shouldn't wish anyone a Mery Christmas until Christmas season, so I wish all your families a most blessed Advent season, an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Then, Keep Christ in Christmas!

## **Bluegrass on the Beshear**

Congratulations to the Knights who held Bluegrass on the Beshear this year. They raised enough money to donate \$15,000 checks to 4 different pregnancy support centers in Western Kentucky. State Treasurer Gary Dykhuis and I were fortunate enough to attend 3 of those presentations.

# BURNS CONT.

I've attended many fundraisers for Right to Life and for individual support centers, but I'd never actually visited a center. It was a real eye opener to see how much these centers help mothers during pregnancy and then mother and after they give birth. We were actually outside an ultrasound examination room when a mother saw her baby for the first time and screamed with joy.

I also learned more about how these centers try to help mothers who regret their decision to take the abortion pills and reverse the process if they get there in time.

The visits left me deeply moved. I encourage every Knight and council to support Pregnancy Support Centers financially and with service opportunities. Send them toddler size Coats for Kids, too.

## **Membership**

State Deputy Luke Williams and State Membership Director have helped get the State off to a great start in membership growth. We're on pace to reach Circle of Honor (the State equivalent of Star Council) again this year and possibly the Pinnacle Award (120% of Circle of Honor)!

There are 99 active Councils in the state. 18 councils have already met or exceeded their New Member Quota – outstanding! Sebree Council 7831 leads the way with an incredible 360% of Quota. Once you've met your quota, don't quit. Continue to give every Catholic man the opportunity he deserves to be a Knight of Columbus.

One of the reasons for this year's success is the Parish Outreach Drive (POD). Councils are having great success with it. My own council got Two Stars on our first POD!

Unfortunately, 39 Councils have not recruited a new member yet. Whether you use the Parish Outreach Drive or just ask someone you know or meet at church, that's all you need to do. Ask them, they will join (or at least some of them will). If you don't ask them, they



# BURNS CONT.

won't join and your council will inevitably become inactive. We have that problem right now with a council that's 140 years old. What a shame to lose that much history and not continue the good works of the hundreds of Knights who were proud members of that council....

We are Fishers of Men – set the hook and reel them in!

***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!***

## **Midyear Meeting**

Our Midyear meeting will be held December 12th in Madisonville, hosted by Fr. Gerald Glahn Council 11132 at Christ the King. At the meeting we'll review our progress toward our 2025-2026 strategic goals, share success stories and address needs. While focused on the DDs, GKs, FSs, and all GKs and FSs are welcome. I hope to see you there!

Vivat Jesus!

**Dick Burns**

**State Secretary**

**State New Council Director**

**State Round Table Director**

# STATE TREASURER GARY DYKHUIS



**Worthy Brothers,**

**Have a Blessed Advent and New Year!!**

This is the month that we celebrate Advent, the waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ. With Christmas a short time away. A time to be with family and friends, a time for little ones.

With the New year, we need to check our Goals, and see what we to accomplish. One goal is to be a Star Council, how is COR doing in your Parish.

It is time also remember that attack on the U.S. Navy base in Pearl Harbor, and Hawaii, 84 years ago, by the Japanese. With nearly 200 aircraft in a raid that just over an hour killed 3,000 Americans, on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

Another Great Month Recruiting Year so far, 245 new Brother Knights. A Great Accomplishment for this fraternal year. Keep going, the race is still going, is your council meeting your membership Goal?

Have welcomed that ne Family to your parish and your council? Is your council struggling and need help, please contact any state officer, or your District Deputy. We are all just a phone call away, but you need to make the call.

Remember that for all your hard work you did this month, please have someone in your council file a **Fraternal Programs Report form #10784.**

**State mid-Year Meeting!**

# DYKHUIS CONT.

A Big Thanks to Grand Knight James Donley and the members of the Father Gerald Glahn Council 11132. A Great Meeting is being held in Madisonville December 12-13, 2025. A lot of information for District Deputies, Grand Knights, and Financial Secretaries. Our State Deputy Luke Williams will have the New and Great Information from the Mid-Year Meeting with Supreme.

## **Recruit and Retain**

This is the sixth month of the Fraternal Year, let's keep up the momentum, keep asking that new parish member to join us. Have you held an Exemplification? Your council needs to hold one every month. Hand the prospective iPhone, and use "Join KofC" and Promo **Code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**. Have you asked that young man, who is a new High School Senior, or a College Student to consider becoming a Knight. Have your Parish to be a part of the in the Exemplification. These New Third-Degree member, with some Great New Ideas and can help with our projects the Council has. Please welcome former members to come back to the order. Ask any Affiliate Member to come back.

-

## **Council Officers**

Has your address changed? Please let the Executive Secretary Mike Rinehart ( [miketheresa@gmail.com](mailto:miketheresa@gmail.com)) know your changes, for the state Directory.

If your council is struggling and is in the need for help, please contact any of the state officers, your District Deputy. We are just a phone call away, but you need to ask.

Thanks for the District Deputies and District Wardens.

May you have a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Father McGivney, Pray for Us,

**Have a Blessed Day!**

**Vivat Jesus!**

**Gary Dykhuis**

**State Treasurer**



# STATE ADVOCATE MIKE KUCHENBROD



Worthy Brothers,

Happy Advent! And may you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New year as we complete the month of December. There is still time to recruit this year, do your part to make a fellow parishioner a Knight before Christmas. Remember the code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY to let them join online for free.

For those who have turned in their Form 365 (Service Program Personnel Report), Thank You. Please watch for the invitation from Praesidium Academy to meet the Safe Environment Training for those who need to complete this training. If you have completed this training in the last 2 years, the training is good for three years.

Reports as of today still show a lot of councils not submitting their 185 or 365 successfully. This can result from either not submitting at all, or not filling in one of the required positions. These could be Youth Protection required Directors or your Membership Director as that position also needs to be filled for the 365 to be complete. Please review your status and add those missing position assignments.

We need to achieve our “Safe Environment Training” goals. This means, Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director need to complete the training. If you have completed this training in the last three years, you are good to go. It is on line training and takes about an hour to complete. The Councils that sponsor youth events like Free Throw Competitions, Soccer Challenge, Keep Christ in Christmas Poster, et al. “Safe Environment Training” (SET) is a must. You must have at least two SET Knights at these events (one must have a background check). If you cannot meet this requirement, you should not conduct this event. The same requirement is for youth helping you in your events (Fish fries, pancake

# KUCHENBROD CONT.

breakfast, chicken cooks). At this time we have 34 councils compliant and 64 not compliant, we can do better.

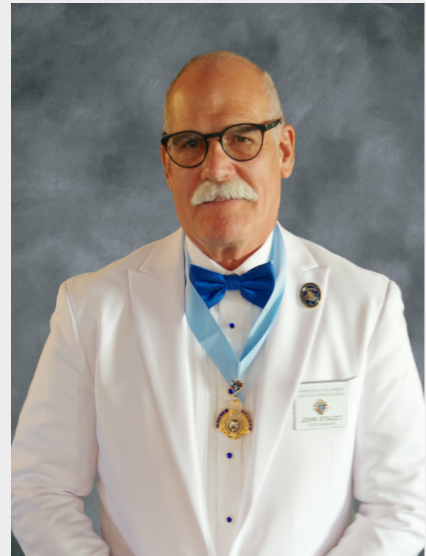
Gather that information for the Fraternal Survey, the 1728 will be due in January and your Financial Secretary will need that info to fill out the form with any accuracy. This form not only helps us capture the scope of efforts by our Knights but also helps us comply with requirements from the US Government to maintain our tax-exempt status so get that data in.

Resolutions for the State Convention will need to be submitted in the next few months so take some time to consider if your council will submit one and get started on writing it up. We review them at the State convention and there is some work to be done before that time so we typically finish them up mid-February and collect the required signatures at that point. The actual deadlines should be provided at the mid-year meeting.

**Vivat Jesus,  
Mike Kuchenbrod  
State Advocate**



# STATE WARDEN JOHN STAUDT



Worthy Brothers,

December is here and the beginning of Advent with Christmas and the New Year's holidays. During the holidays, visits from family and friends will be made and we may even take in a Christmas or New Years party. Advent is a time of preparation for yourselves and family. It also becomes the busiest, and at times the most frustrating and stressful time of year. Don't lose sight of what the season really is all about; faith, family, community, life and helping one another.

As a reminder, please be careful when it comes to drinking and driving and watch out for the other drivers. If need be, be the designated driver and offer others a ride home; maybe even call for a ride home.

In the November issue of the Columbia magazine, our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, in his monthly address talks about being thankful for the graces and blessings God has given to each of us and for us to show our gratitude by recognizing those events in our lives that may move us in a different direction in a good way. We may not recognize how a particular event might change us, but when we do, we tend to be happier knowing we have changed yourself or others for the better. Recognizing and giving thanks through prayer and good works helps us to be able to move forward and grow in our faith.

Our Supreme Chaplain challenges us to read up on a saint or two and their martyrdom and learn from them of their perseverance and hope. How can we as a Knight and Catholic Gentleman learn from them?

# STAUDT CONT.

Also in the November issue are the 2024-2025 Fraternal Year results for the Star Council Awards. Congratulations to the 30 Kentucky councils; 4 Triple Star, 5 Double Star and 21 One Star awards.

Our 2025 Football Frenzy Sweepstakes has concluded. The 8 weeks of winner lists have all been posted. Congratulations to those who won. The funds from the sales of the tickets go to the General Fund. This fund is for people in need through grant requests and takes care of the administrative costs associated with running the State Charity, such as mailings and supplies. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email me. If your council sold 25 or more tickets, your council earns 25 points towards the State Deputy Award. This year 73 of 98 councils participated in the sales for a total of 2409 tickets sold with 6 of those sold on-line. Distribution of \$6,470.18 at \$2.63 per ticket sold by the councils has been sent to your council. Thank you to all the councils who sold tickets to benefit the charity fund.

The end of the calendar year is fast approaching. Not only are we about to start the Basketball Slam Sweepstakes, but we are into the basketball season and councils need to start planning the Basketball Free Throw Contest. Council level competition is usually in January, District level in February and State Competition in March.

The Basketball Slam is right around the corner. The teams are all college teams. U of L and UK are featured as two of the listed of teams competing for the championship. The ticket packets will be distributed at the Mid-Year Meeting in Madisonville, KY on December 13, 2025. The sale of the tickets helps to fund the Kentucky Knights of Columbus Disaster Relief Program. The funding for this program assists resource and distribution centers, first responder support and staging, points of distribution, emergency volunteer personnel support for shelters and food distribution, and parish preparation support.

With any disaster, if you see or know someone or family who needs financial help as a result of severe weather or other natural disaster, the following link is for requesting funds: [State Charities Request](#)

Thank you and I appreciate all your councils do for the communities and people you serve. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. May the, "Peace of Christ", be with you all.

**Vivat Jesus,  
John Staudt  
State Warden**



# MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR TOM O'HAGAN



We can definitely “flip the mindset” of our councils that believe December is a tough month, and take a break. How, you ask? By embracing a culture of invitation. We are Knights; it should just be a natural thing for each one of us to invite new men and their families into our brotherhood. You know exactly what you are benefiting from your membership. Share whatever that is with others. It's that simple. December is actually a GREAT month to recruit. It's the holiday season, and the churches are packed with so many people to approach and talk to. Gift them the gift of FREE membership. They've got nothing to lose and so much to gain. Who doesn't want to become a better husband, a better father, or a better Catholic? Keep Growing!

## On-Demand Fraternal Training

Visit [kofo.org/training](https://kofo.org/training) to locate online training for state, council, district, and assembly officers, an archive of fraternal webinars, and important resources that will assist you in navigating your leadership role.

The mid-point of the fraternal year is a great time to brush up on council finances. The [Operations Training – Finances page on kofo.org](https://kofo.org/operations-training-finance) offers guidance on fundraising, creating a council budget, and learning the basics of using the Member Billing application on Officer Online. There is even a training that focuses on assisting new councils to get their finances on track.

Our helpful list of [Suggested Training by Officer Role](#) highlights the training sessions that are recommended for your officer position. Training is reviewed on a continuing basis, so you will always get the most up-to-date information. Best of all, these on-demand sessions are available to view at any time, on your own schedule, and the average length of each session is only 30 minutes!

# O'HAGAN CONT.

## Go For Two! It's ending soon

Recruiter incentive running until December 31. Chance to win for every 2 (two) men recruited • Drawing to receive a cash prize of \$1,500! • Ten second-place winners will receive a customized, KofC-branded football. The new membership enrollment card, together with church recruitment drives, will also be a key part of helping each member “Go For Two.”

## COUNCIL INCENTIVES

### Kentucky State Council

#### Fraternal Year 2025-26 Membership Growth Incentives

- Every Council that has achieved the McGivney Award, the Founders Award, SET compliance, and submitted Forms 185, 365 by the end of the day on 12/31, will receive \$50
  - o Councils that have qualified so far – Council 7847
- Every Council that has achieved the McGivney and Founders Award requirement, SET compliance, and submitted completed Forms 185, 365, and 1728 by the end of the day on 3/31, the council will receive \$50.
  - o Councils that have qualified so far – None
- Those councils that reach 200% Membership Growth of Quota/Goal and above by the end of the day on 3/31, the council will receive \$75 (Awards to be presented at the State Convention)
  - o Councils that have qualified so far – Councils 7831, 12965, 14128

Schedule a Parish Outreach Drive in January

#### Follow Up When Using Membership Enrollment Cards

Since their release this fall, Membership Enrollment cards have aided council recruiting efforts, especially Church Drives. It's important that when your council uses Membership Enrollment cards that you have a plan to follow up with each man who completes one.

- First, reread through the [Membership Outreach Steps](#) to review the process for membership drive success with the new Membership Enrollment Card!
- When entering the information from the Membership Enrollment Card into the online join application, be mindful of what time you do that as that's when a confirmation email will be sent to the prospect. For example, if you're entering the information late at night, the prospect might not see the email until the next day. If you can enter the information in the morning or early afternoon, that's usually best.



# O'HAGAN CONT.

- Within 48 hours of entering the information from the Membership Enrollment Card on [ko fc.org/join](http://ko fc.org/join), call the prospective member to ensure he's received and clicked on his Confirmation Code. Additionally, remind him of any upcoming council events and the date of the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.
- When you call to follow up with a prospect, you can also ask if he has any questions about membership in the Knights of Columbus or about life in your council. He may have second thoughts and that's why he hasn't confirmed his membership. Use this as an opportunity to reassure him in his decision to become a Knight!
- A member who joins with a Membership Enrollment Card is no different than any other member who has joined your council. Be sure to welcome him the same way you would any other member of your council.

As a reminder, Membership Enrollment Cards and Materials can be found on Supplies Online under Membership & Recruitment >> Membership Enrollment Cards.

Let's try to conduct a Charity, Unity, and Fraternity (CUF) Exemplification before December 31.

## Charity, Unit, and Fraternity Exemplification Options

1. An in-person Charity, Unity, and Fraternity (CUF) Exemplification is preferred
2. Another option that's available to councils is to convert their prospects using the On-Demand Exemplification option. The On-Demand ceremony, in English, Spanish, and French, can be accessed by candidates online 24 hours a day. [Fraternal Operations | Knights of Columbus](#)
3. When a council has trouble forming a CUF Exemplification team - Setting a CUF date to show the Exemplification on screen after a Mass. Requires – a laptop, Wi-Fi, or someone who knows how to use the "TV on a cart" and the CUF MP4 file on a USB. Eliminates the need for an Exemplification team. Allows for multiple prospects to convert to your council at the same time [Exemplification | Knights of Columbus](#)

	Actual v Quota MTD	Actual v Quota YTD
New Members	35 v 45 = 78%	292 v 513 =57%
Councils With No YTD Adds		41 v 100
Form 365 Not Submitted		31 v 100
Form 185 Not Submitted		7 v 100



## O'HAGAN CONT.

The Knights of Columbus offer every man the chance to live his faith and be an example for others to follow. We owe it to all Catholic men to provide them with this opportunity—the opportunity to be a better Catholic, a better man, a better husband, father, grandfather, brother or son, and friend.

“The Order grows one member at a time, and with a personal ask.”

**Vivat Jesus!**  
**Tom O'Hagan**  
**KY State Membership Director**



# PROGRAM DIRECTOR RSVP CHAIRMAN JOE CARTER



The State Council of the Kentucky Knights of Columbus currently has more than 80 active councils. Despite this large number, only 39 of these councils are actively supporting a seminarian. This highlights a need for increased involvement and support for seminarians across the state.

Kentucky, like many states, faces a decline in priests due to retirements, deaths, and illness, with too few seminarians to replace them—a case of underpopulation. To address this, bishops are delaying priest retirements, merging or closing parishes, and boosting vocations. These measures have had positive results; Kentucky currently has 46 seminarians enrolled.

The Knights of Columbus, Michigan Jurisdiction, actively supports Sacred Heart College and Seminary through its RSVP program. The Michigan RSVP Chairman happened to be at the seminary meeting with the students. When a Kentucky seminarian at the seminary noted he wasn't receiving support, Michigan provided him with a \$500 check and informed the author, whose Council 4665 then committed to assisting the seminarian. Kentucky had a similar situation last year with a seminarian attending a seminary in Washington, DC. Ultimately, we found a council to support that individual as well.

The four dioceses in Kentucky have 12 seminarians without support from a single council. I recognize that some councils in the State can't afford \$500 per year for a seminarian, but every council can contribute more than nothing. Can it be that a council conducts a parish

# CARTER CONT.

fundraiser for seminarians and collects zero dollars? Doubtful. I believe councils that do not provide any funds to support seminarians are not offering their parishes the opportunity to contribute to the cause.

We rely on priests for baptisms, marriages, confession, anointing, last rites, and funerals. Studies show that 30 to 50 percent leave seminary formation for various reasons, but a lack of financial support should not be one of them. With just 39 councils supporting seminarians, are we helping or hindering?

Councils should fundraise unless prohibited by their pastor if that is the case, notify the RSVP Chairman or State Deputy, and we will ask the State Council Chaplain to speak with the pastor. Meanwhile, collect donations at meetings. If annual collections are under \$500, the Grand Knight should seek guidance from the RSVP Chairman.

**Joe Carter, FDM**  
**Program Director**  
**RSVP Chairman**

# DISTRICT MASTER CAMERON PECK



Brother Knights,

As we enter this blessed season, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for all that you continue to do for our Order, our parishes, and our communities. Your quiet dedication—often unseen but always impactful—strengthens the Kentucky District in countless ways. I am truly grateful for your leadership and for the example you set as Fourth Degree Knights.

As Christmas approaches, I pray that you and your families enjoy a season filled with peace, joy, and the warmth of God's love. May this time of year remind us of the hope we are called to share with others, not only through our words but through our daily acts of charity and fraternity.

This month also marks the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. On December 7, 1941, our nation was thrust into a conflict that would demand immense sacrifice. Let us pause to honor the men and women who served during that difficult time—and all veterans who have worn the uniform in defense of our nation. Their courage and commitment remind us why the virtue of patriotism is central to the Fourth Degree.

Looking ahead, we have several opportunities to welcome new Sir Knights into our ranks. I encourage each assembly to begin gathering candidates for our upcoming exemplifications: **Ft. Mitchell on January 17, Bardstown on April 18, and Louisville on June 6.** A personal invitation from you can make all the difference. Let us continue to grow the Fourth Degree so that our mission of patriotism and service remains strong and vibrant across Kentucky.

Thank you again, Brother Knights. May God bless you and your families, and may you have a very Merry Christmas.

**Vivat Jesus!**  
**Cameron Peck, PSD**  
**District Master**

# GENERAL AGENT DANIEL SCHACHLE



## **K of C offers a precious gift for those that we love – December 2025**

Brothers, A blessed Advent to you all.

As we anticipate the coming of Christ at Christmas, it's undoubtedly a busy time of year for so many of us. There are meals to prepare, gatherings to attend and gifts to buy, but we know these are labors of love. We love our families and want this holy time of year to be special for them.

These moments we share with our families are precious, and they should cause us to reflect on what it is we cherish in our lives and strive to protect. What would life look like if the unexpected were to happen?

I invite you this season to consider protecting what matters most through the gift of life insurance. The right life insurance coverage can mean financial security for your family. It can mean the ability for them to have income to help minimize the impact of an untimely death on their level of financial comfort. It can shield against debt or remaining mortgage payments, so your family is protected if you or your spouse dies unexpectedly. Depending on your policy, it could also be the seeds of a growing financial legacy — a foundation to give your loved ones so they can continue to build upon what you've worked for.

# SCHACHLE CONT.

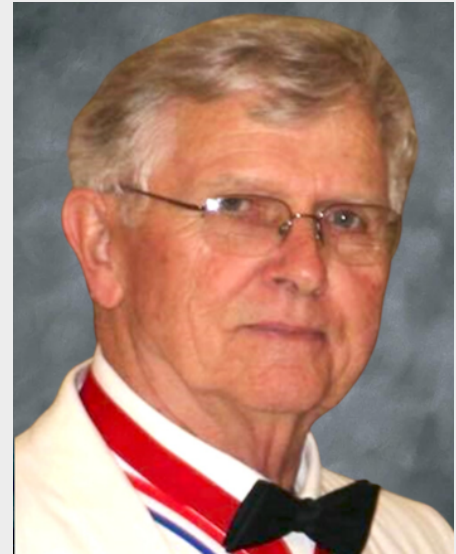
Simply put, life insurance is the gift of protection and stability for the most important people in our lives. Before the end of the year, plan to meet with your K of C Field Agent so he can explore affordable options that can help make a big difference for your peace of mind in 2026 and for years to come. Thank you!

**Vivat Jesus!**

**Dan Schachle, FICF, PGK**  
**Knights of Columbus, General Agent**  
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# STATE HISTORIAN BILLY HANCOCK



**Kentucky Councils and individual Knights have supported Special Olympics for years. But how many of you know the story and global reach of the program? The following article was copied from the Kentucky Special Olympics website. Take a few minutes to read it. I think you will find it interesting and informative.**

## **What is Special Olympics?**

Special Olympics is an international program of year-round sports training and athletic competition for more than one million children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

**The Special Olympics Oath is...** *“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”*

**Our Philosophy ...** Special Olympics is founded on the belief that people with intellectual disabilities can, with proper instruction and encouragement, learn, enjoy and benefit from participation in individual and team sports, adapted as necessary to meet the needs of those with special mental and physical limitations.

Special Olympics believes that consistent [training](#), with emphasis on physical conditioning, is essential to the development of sports skills, and that competition among those of equal abilities is the most appropriate means of testing these skills, measuring progress and providing incentives for personal growth.

# HANCOCK CONT.

Special Olympics believes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disabilities benefit physically, mentally, socially and spiritually; families are strengthened; and the community at large, both through participation and observation, is united with people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect and acceptance.

Special Olympics believes that every person with an intellectual disability who is at least eight years old should have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from sports training and competition.

**Our Leaders Are...** Timothy Shriver, son of founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver is the Chair of Special Olympics Inc. Mary Davis is the CEO. Chief of Global Program Marc Edenzon also serves as the top executive for Special Olympics North America.

Our state is headed by Special Olympics Kentucky President and CEO Trish Mazzoni.

**Our goal is ...** for all persons with intellectual disabilities to have the chance to become useful and productive citizens who are accepted and respected in their communities.

**The Benefits ...** of participation in Special Olympics for people with intellectual disabilities include improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence, a more positive self-image, friendships, and increased family support. Special Olympics athletes carry these benefits with them into their daily lives at home, in the classroom, on the job, and in the community. Families who participate become stronger as they learn a greater appreciation of their athlete's talents. Community volunteers find out what good friends the athletes can be. And everyone learns more about the capabilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics believes that competition among those of equal abilities is the best way to test its athletes' skills, measure their progress, and inspire them to grow. Special Olympics believes that its program of sports training and competition helps people with intellectual disabilities become physically fit and grow mentally, socially, and spiritually. Special Olympics believes that consistent training is required to develop sports skills.

# HANCOCK CONT.

**The Spirit of Special Olympics is ...** skill, courage, sharing, and joy-transcends boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, race, or religion.

Special Olympics Began ...in 1968 when Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the First International Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois, USA. The concept was born in the early 1960s when Mrs. Shriver started a day camp for people with intellectual disabilities. She saw that people with intellectual disabilities were far more capable in sports and physical activities than many experts thought. Since 1968, millions of children and adults with intellectual disabilities have participated in Special Olympics.

**Around the World ...**Special Olympics is a Global Movement with more than 4.5 million athletes in more than 170 countries around the world. There are more than 200 Special Olympics Programs participating in 35 Olympics-type sports. More than 30,000 competitions are held around the world each year with the help of more than 750,000 volunteers and 300,000 coaches.

**In the United States ...**Special Olympics Chapters are established in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa. About 25,000 communities in the United States have Special Olympics programs. Through the Unified Champion School programs, schools include Unified Special Olympics Sports, Youth Activation Committees and other activities to build more inclusive school communities. The Young Athletes Program serves children as young as two-years-old, helping them develop both social and motor skills and preparing them for Special Olympics competition when they reach eight years old.

**To be Eligible to Participate ...** in Special Olympics, you must be at least eight years old and identified by an agency or professional as having one of the following conditions: intellectual disabilities, cognitive delays as measured by formal assessment, or significant learning or vocational problems due to cognitive delay that require or have required specially-designed instruction. (See Athlete Eligibility)

**The Unified Sports® Program is ...** brings persons without intellectual disabilities together on the same team with persons with intellectual disabilities of comparable age and athletic

# HANCOCK CONT.

ability. Founded in 1987, Unified Sports® fosters the integration of persons with intellectual disabilities into school and community sports programs.

**Special Olympics Provides Year-Round Training ...** and competition in 35 official sports. Special Olympics has developed and tested training programs that are outlined in a Sports Skills Guide for each sport. More than 300,000 qualified coaches train Special Olympics athletes.

**By Assigning Athletes to Divisions ...** commensurate with their ability, Special Olympics gives every athlete a reasonable chance to win. Athletes from all divisions may advance to Chapter, National, and World Games.

**For Athletes With Severe Disabilities ...** Special Olympics Kentucky offers Developmental Events. This program has been developed for those athletes who, without these events may never be able to compete in Special Olympics. For example, in aquatics there is a 15M Flotation Race. In Track and Field there is a 10M Assisted Walk.

**Special Olympics Competitions ...** are patterned after the Olympic Games. More than 30,000 Games, meets, and tournaments in both summer and winter sports are held worldwide each year. World Games for selected representatives of all programs are held worldwide each year. World Games for selected representatives of all programs are held every two years, alternating between summer and winter.

**More than 1 Million Volunteers ...** organize and run local Special Olympics programs, serving as coaches, Games officials, drivers, and in many other capacities. Anyone can learn how to participate through the many training programs Special Olympics offers for coaches, officials, and volunteers.

**Headquartered in Washington DC ...** Special Olympics International guides local, area, state, and national programs around the world. A volunteer board of directors determines international policies and is comprised of business and sport leaders, professional athletes, educators, and experts in intellectual disabilities from around the world.

# HANCOCK CONT.

Giving Cooperation and Support ...to Special Olympics are the national governing bodies and/or international sports federations of each sport played in Special Olympics. Major sports organizations and a host of world leaders also support Special Olympics and its goals.

Special Olympics is the only organization authorized by the International Olympic Committee to use the word “Olympics” worldwide.

**Submitted for the December 2025 Newsletter by:**  
**Billy R. Hancock, PSD**  
**State Historian**

# CALENDAR

Issue No. 25-12

## December

Midyear Meeting	12-13
Christmas	25

## February

Ash Wednesday	18
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## March

St. Patrick's Day	17
Good Friday	29
Founder's Day	29

## April

Easter Sunday	5
Divine Mercy	12
State Convention	24-26

## KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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