



# Kentucky State Council Newsletter

ISSUE NO.

26-7

JULY 2026



## FATHER'S DAY GOLF SCRAMBLE

St. Edward Council 15841 in Jeffersontown hosted its annual Father's Day Golf Scramble at Seneca Golf Course in Louisville, bringing together more than 100 golfers, sponsors, volunteers, family members, and friends for a day of fellowship, friendly competition, and charitable giving.

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## FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

On June 14, 2026, family and friends gathered as Knights of Columbus Council 12965 of Oak Grove and members of Assembly 2753 of Hopkinsville hosted a solemn and reverent Flag Retirement Ceremony. Held fittingly on Flag Day, the event brought together a wonderful turnout of parishioners and patriots dedicated to paying proper honor to our nation's symbol. More than just the disposal of worn fabric, the ceremony provided a deeply moving reminder of the allegiance, sacrifices, and history woven into the stars and stripes. The Knights led attendees in a respectful, dignified service, ensuring that each faded or frayed flag was returned to the elements with the absolute reverence it deserved. Thank you to everyone who attended, brought flags, and helped keep this meaningful patriotic tradition alive.

**Juan Palomino** Grand Knight

**David Allard** Faithful Navigator



# FATHER'S DAY GOLF SCRAMBLE

St. Edward Council 15841 in Jeffersontown hosted its annual Father's Day Golf Scramble at Seneca Golf Course in Louisville, bringing together more than 100 golfers, sponsors, volunteers, family members, and friends for a day of fellowship, friendly competition, and charitable giving.

Participants enjoyed a fun-filled day on the course followed by a meal, all while supporting the council's Life and Community programs and promoting the mission of the Knights of Columbus throughout the community.

Congratulations to Worthy Grand Knight Jim Hunnicutt and his team for earning the tournament's coveted "Most Honest Team Score Award," adding a touch of humor and camaraderie to an already memorable event.

The council extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who participated, volunteered, and sponsored the outing. Their generosity and support helped make the event another outstanding success while advancing the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus.

**Brian Gregory**  
Program Director



Beautifully crafted stained-glass trophies, by artisans Brother Chuck and Mary Knepfler, in foreground, were presented to the winning team.



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS

## Summer Sports Season Offers Many Volunteer Opportunities

The Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Sports Season is one of the smallest in terms of number of events, but still offers several volunteer opportunities for Knights across the state. The season consists of golf and softball events. Golf events have roles for scorers and even course officials for Knights familiar with the Rules of Golf.

Our Regional and State Softball Tournaments have opportunities for scorekeepers, announcers and umpires for any Knights who may be certified umpires. For more information visit [soky.org/volunteernow](http://soky.org/volunteernow).

### Summer Sports Competition Dates

**July 12** – Northern Kentucky Regional Golf Tournament; Kenton County Golf Course, Independence

**July 18** – Lexington Regional Golf Tournament; Lakeside Golf Tournament, Lexington

**July 25** – Western Kentucky Regional Golf Tournament; Miller Memorial Golf Course, Murray

**Aug. 1** – Region 1 Softball Tournament; Lone Oak Park, Paducah

**Aug. 7-8** – Region 2 Softball Tournament; Marshall Park, Georgetown

**Aug. 7-8** – Region 3 Softball Tournament; Lyndon Recreation Center, Louisville

**Aug. 22** – State Golf Tournament; Lakeside Golf Course, Lexington

**Sept. 11-13** – State Softball Tournament; Jack C. Fisher Park, Owensboro



*Knights from St. Michale the Archangel Council #18284 volunteered at last year's Northern Kentucky Regional Golf Tournament.*

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## SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONT.

### Show Your Council's Strength at a Truck Pull Near You

The Truck Pull for Special Olympics is a great way to show your Council's strength, have a great time and support Special Olympics Kentucky. The Truck Pull consists of teams of 15 seeing who can pull a loaded 18-wheeler 12 feet in the fastest time. Prizes are awarded for the fastest pull in men's women's and co-ed divisions, top fundraising team and individual, best team t-shirt and most team spirit. Teams can be made up of Knights, family members and friends. The Truck Pull also has a fun, festive atmosphere with events for the entire family throughout the day. Events will be held in Lexington, Paducah and Louisville. There is a minimum team fundraising total to compete.

#### 2026 Truck Pull Schedule

**Lexington** – Saturday, August 15; Texas Roadhouse, Beaumont Centre

**Paducah** – Saturday, September 19; Four Rivers Harley-Davidson

**Louisville** – Saturday, October 17; BrightSpring Health Services

You can sign up now for the Lexington Truck Pull at [lexingtontruckpull.com](http://lexingtontruckpull.com) and the Paducah Truck Pull at [paducahtruckpull.com](http://paducahtruckpull.com). For information about the other Louisville event contact Mallory Jent at [mjent@soky.org](mailto:mjent@soky.org) or 502-326-5002.



# STATE DEPUTY GARY DYKHUIS



**Worthy Brothers,**

**Happy Birthday America!!**

Happy Birthday America, 250 Years, and still going. Have a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

**Fraternal Year 2026-2027**

Welcome to a new fraternal year! Congratulations to all the newly elected council officers or if you were re-elected. Thank you to all those who have accepted nomination or were elected Council Officers or asked to be Directors, Chairmen or Committees for the 2026-2027 Fraternal Year. I also want to thank those Brother Knights who answered the call when I asked them to step up and serve as District Deputies.

The Kentucky Jurisdiction just finished an outstanding year with a 139% Pinnacle intake. A total intake of 669 new members. Kentucky always shows a strong start in July, August and September recruiting new members with strong programs. We will continue being successful in fulfilling our 4 principles of the Knights of Columbus.

As we gather July 11, 2026, at the Kentucky Organizational Meeting in Brandenburg, I will be asking all Kentucky Knights of Columbus leaders to become acquainted with our guides to be able to successfully be charitable, promote unity, practice fraternity, and be true patriotism.

Let's get this year off to a great start, Plan your Activities now, include a membership drive, charitable and social activities and actions our Pastors need to accomplish. As always, your

# DYKHUIS CONT.

District Deputy and State Officers are always available for any questions you may have, Just Ask.

As your new State Deputy, I am committed to do what ever takes to help us be better disciples in Christ. I also want us to successful this year and here are our Goals;

- Membership Intake 561
- Conduct 3 Holy Hours
- Have 25 Star Councils

We can do this, but we need focus and work hard, starting now.

The Star Council requirement is the “Key”.

We can get a jump on that item, many of the others will come together because of the success in a Star Council goals.

## **2026 Organizational Meeting – July 10-12, 2026 – Brandenburg**

At this meeting, we will be reviewing the State Goals and how can and will achieve them.

Our General Agent and the Field Agents are our key persons with helping us. District Deputies are what our training is geared for, it is for all who attend. We will be going over the Annual audit for Councils. Kentucky Association of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (KAPID) Committee will be giving an update. We will have the Kentucky Knights of Columbus Charities Committee for an update. The District Master of the Fourth will provide update. Slide presentations will be sent attendees, Grand Knights and other officers after the meeting.

Adoration will be at St John the Apostle Catholic Church, Brandenburg, Friday, July 10, at 6:30PM Eastern time. I will have the honor to install our new State Officers, District Deputies and District Wardens, after the 4:00 Mass at St Johns. We will have our Banquet in the St Johns Cafeteria afterwards.

## **Council Officers**

Has your address or phone number changed? Please let the Executive Secretary Rick Arnold, PSD, will be the Executive Secretary, [rickd.arnold@gmail.com](mailto:rickd.arnold@gmail.com), for changes.

# DYKHUIS CONT.

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

Have asked that man that you see in church if he is a Knight? Let's start recruiting today!

Father McGivney, Pray for Us,

**Have a Blessed Day!**

**Vivat Jesus!**  
**Gary Dykhuis**  
**State Deputy**

# STATE CHAPLAIN FR. PATRICK DOLAN



Worthy brother knights,

Being blessed this third time with the chance to serve you all as the state chaplain, I pledge to assist you with prayers and sacraments, counsel and theological instruction, in whatever way the state officers, and God, arrange for me to do. In particular, I will be of encouragement and prayerful help to your council chaplains and your assembly faithful friars. Please call on me whenever I might be of help, using my backgrounds in theology and priesthood, but also in military duty (and even in chemistry should that be helpful). Blessings be yours in abundance!

**Vivat Jesus!**

**Fr. Patrick Dolan**

**State Chaplain**

# IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY LUKE WILLIAMS



This past May marked my 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of joining the Knights of Columbus. It was ten years ago this month that I started our Knights of Columbus Kentucky State Officer journey as the Executive Secretary for our Past State Deputy Gabe Cabral. Five years earlier than that, I had been asked to become a District Deputy and during the ten previous years to that, I served my Council and Assembly by stepping up to serve as an officer in some capacity. Pam and I have met so many people in the last twenty-five years as we have progressed through the Council, Assembly and State Officer chairs. We have experienced many joys, sufferings and all the day to day personal happenings have been part of our experiences in this great Order of the Knights of Columbus journey.

I have been told many times that my current position as the new “Immediate Past State Deputy” is the “Best Job” in the Knights of Columbus. I say that we are truly been blessed and so thankful to have served the Kentucky State Council and make it to this point and pledge to continue with serving all to the best of our abilities to help our members and Councils achieve the 4 principles of the Order (Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism)

## **Fraternal Year 2026-2027**

Brother Knights – Welcome to a new fraternal year! Congratulations to our new State Deputy Gary Dykhuis, our new State Secretary Mike Kuchenbrod, new State Treasurer John Stuardt, new State Advocate Tommy Johnson and new State Warden Eric Guy. I am excited to be a part of this Kentucky Jurisdiction State Officer team and to help out as much as I can for all

# WILLIAMS CONT.

to have a successful year. I also would like to thank all who accepted their request to serve as a District Deputy, District Warden, Director, Chairmen or on Committees or Boards for the 2026-2027 Fraternal Year.

If you are a new or returning Council Officer or whatever your role, I would like to point out that Kentucky Jurisdiction History shows that when Councils start out in July, August and September strongly with a plan for **inviting** new members to join us, along with an active program schedule, we will be successful in fulfilling our 4 principles of the Knights of Columbus. To get the year off to a good start, you need to plan your activities now, including Parish Outreach drives to invite Catholic men and their families to join us, charitable and social activities and those actions our Pastors need us to accomplish for them. As always, your District Deputy or State Officers are available for any questions. Don't wait – Start Now!

I look forward to being present at the July 10-11, 2026, KY Organizational Meeting in Brandenburg to get on track with our new State Deputy Gary and the new State Officers.

Finally, if you know a Catholic man who is not a Knight, ask him to join...Let's start inviting this fraternal year sooner than later.

**Vivat Jesus,  
Luke Williams  
Immediate Past State Deputy**

# STATE SECRETARY MIKE KUCHENBROD



## **Worthy Brother Knights,**

Congratulations on completing another Fraternal year, and welcome to the new year.

This past Fraternal year Kentucky achieved Pinnacle status, a rare distinction based on our success in Activities and Recruiting. This is a great honor for all your works over the past year; your State Council appreciates all your hard work.

We had many councils succeed in achieving Star Council, while others earned the various awards that lead up to Star. Now is the time to schedule those planning meetings for this year if you have not already. Having a calendar for the years events ensures that your members can reserve time to participate in your events, set up your calendar early and have a successful year.

Congratulations to all our Newly elected Council Officers and the new District Deputies and those who are returning. We just completed a Great Fraternal Year, and now we have New Goals and Accomplishments to do. For those who have turned in their Form 185 (Officer Chosen for this year) and Form 365 (Service Program Personnel Report), Thank You. If you have not turned in the 185 you will lose access to Member Management (you may have already) and will need to email the form to get that resolved.

And thank you for your confidence in me and the rest of the State Council team. We will strive to make this another successful Fraternal year.

# KUCHENBROD CONT.

And Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 250 years of the United States of America.

Best Country on planet earth, and striving to be better every year.

## **State Organizational Meeting**

This year's Organizational Meeting will have new information for District Deputies, Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, and Program Directors. Everyone is welcome, you need to register for the Banquet and send in that check.

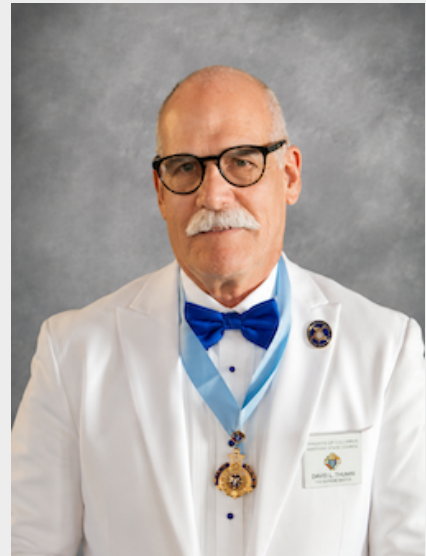
## **Recruit and Retain**

We are in a New Fraternal Year; we have Twelve months to recruit New Members and Families in our Kentucky Knights of Columbus order. The new Young Members and Families have some of the Best Ideas and know some of best practices.

Please remember, Supreme has the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on line or you can read the ceremony, the best way is to hold an Exemplification after a Sunday MASS. You can invite the congregation to be a part. This is a Great way to have a 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.

**Vivat Jesus,  
Mike Kuchenbrod  
State Secretary**

# STATE TREASURER JOHN STAUDT



Worthy Brothers,

I hope all of you had a great Father's Day celebration. I enjoyed time with our oldest daughter who lives in California. We had a nice dinner in Hermosa Beach, CA. My wife and I were in California for my 50 Year High School Reunion. It is amazing how people change and as a result we all had to reintroduce ourselves. It was fun and brought back many memories with those I graduated high school with.

The start of the new 2026-2027 Fraternal Year has begun. This is a great time to gather your new officers and directors together to plan your fraternal year. Make plans to not only earn the Star or Columbian Award, but also the State Deputy Award. You can find the State Deputy Award requirements at the following link: [KY State Program Guide](#), Page 33. Make sure to you have completed the Officers Elected, Form #185 and Council Directors, Form #365. As you complete your events be sure to you complete the Form #10784. Any member can complete this form and helps to determine what can be used to complete the Columbian Award (SP-7) in May and June.

My wife, Deanna, and I attended the Special Olympics opening ceremony on June 5<sup>th</sup> in Richmond, KY with our Immediate Past State Deputy, Luke Williams and his wife Pam. We accepted a recognition award for the Kentucky Knights of Columbus. The Master of Ceremonies was, our own Special Olympics Chairman, Mark Buerger. He energized the participants and teams for their week of competition. It is quite the scene with authentic cheerfulness of all involved; contestants, family, coaches and referees. If you ever have the opportunity to participate as a volunteer, it is always a happy and cheerful event and you come away with a new respect for the capability our young intellectual and physically challenged.

# STAUDT CONT.

The heat and humidity has been brutal lately. Be careful and be vigilant of your family and neighbors who may need assistance with outside activities. Drink plenty of water and take breaks often. With that said, enjoy and celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our nation on July 4<sup>th</sup>. I am sure barbeques and fireworks are being planned. Many of you may be traveling so be careful and be safe.

I look forward to seeing your council representation at our Organizational Meeting on July 11, 2026 in Brandenburg, KY.

Having been elected to State Treasurer, I am honored to serve the State Jurisdiction and look forward my new position for the 2026-2027 Fraternal Year.

Thank you and I appreciate all what your councils do for the communities and people you serve. May the, “Peace of Christ”, be with you all.

**Vivat Jesus,  
John Staudt  
State Treasurer**

# STATE ADVOCATE TOMMY JOHNSON



## “Start the Year Strong”

Brother Knights,

As we move into the month of July, we are reminded of the blessings of freedom, faith, and service. This year, as our nation celebrates 250 years of independence, let us give thanks for the sacrifices that have shaped the United States of America and recommit ourselves to serving our families, parishes, communities, and country with gratitude and purpose.

With the beginning of the new fraternal year, I encourage every council to focus on three critical items: **Form 185, Form 365, and Safe Environment compliance.**

**Form 185 (Report of Officers Chosen for the Term)** and **Form 365 (Service Program Personnel Report)** are foundational forms that ensure your council leadership and program directors are properly recorded with the Supreme Council. Both are due at the start of the fraternal year and should be submitted through Officers Online.

Equally important is **Safe Environment Training (SET) compliance.** The leaders identified on Form 365 often hold positions that require Safe Environment training and background screening. Timely form submission helps ensure members receive the necessary notifications and remain compliant.

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# JOHNSON CONT.

Councils that stay current on forms and compliance are better positioned for effective communication, successful programming, and Star Council consideration throughout the year.

Please take a few minutes to verify:

- Form 185 has been submitted.
- Form 365 has been submitted.
- Required members are SET compliant.
- Contact information in Officers Online is accurate.

A strong year begins with a strong foundation. Let's start the year organized, compliant, and ready to serve our parishes, communities, and the Order.

**Fraternally,  
Tommy Johnson III  
State Advocate**



# STATE WARDEN ERIC GUY



Worthy Brother Knights,

Thank you for your confidence in me and for the opportunity to serve this fraternal year as your State Warden. It is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated Catholic men who generously share their time, talent, and faith for the good of the Order. As we prepare for a new fraternal year, my focus is to support the State Deputy's vision, ensure our events are carried out with order and respect, and help create an environment where our leaders feel prepared, encouraged, and confident for the year ahead.

## **Fraternal & Family Roots**

I have been a member of the Knights of Columbus for over 37 years. I am a member of St. Joseph Council #12354 in Mt. Washington and a Past Grand Knight. I currently serve as District Deputy for District 12, and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Faithful Captain for Monsignor Bouchet Assembly #308. On a personal note, I have been married to my wife and best friend, Becky, for 29 years. We are blessed with three adult children - Abby, Katie, and Joshua, and we are excited to welcome our first granddaughter in November. Abby and her husband, Alvin Pace, eagerly await her arrival, and our family shares in their joy.

## **2026 College Football Frenzy Sweepstakes Tickets**

The 2026 College Football Frenzy sweepstakes tickets are in and will be distributed at the Organizational Meeting in Brandenburg, KY, on July 11th.

- Packet Pickup: Your District Deputy (DD) will have your council's packet.
- Individual Pickup: If your DD is not in attendance, council representatives may still pick up their packets individually.
- Mailed Packets: After the meeting, remaining packets will be mailed directly to the DDs.

# GUY CONT.

Please make every effort to buy, sell, or have your council purchase the unsold tickets in your envelopes. The College Football Frenzy Sweepstakes is the primary fundraiser for KofC Kentucky State Charities, and sales have declined in recent years. We have 4,000 tickets to sell. When your council sells 25 or more tickets, it receives 25 points toward the State Deputy Award. Additionally, councils receive a share of the profits based on the total number of tickets sold. Last year, councils received \$2.63 per ticket.

If your council needs additional tickets, please let me know and I will promptly send more. It would be a tremendous achievement to sell out. Tickets are \$10 each, but when registered online through Green Bee at [www.footballsweeps.com](http://www.footballsweeps.com), buyers can get a third ticket online free with the purchase and registration of two. All ticket stubs (both sold and unsold) are due back to me no later than September 11, 2026. Remember that the first principle of the Knights of Columbus is Charity. Please help make this an outstanding fundraiser for our State Charities.

## **"Let Us Begin"**

Thank you again for the trust you've placed in me. I'm honored to serve, and I am committed to helping to make this fraternal year successful and inspiring for our councils and our communities. As the new fraternal year begins, I'm reminded of the powerful words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: "Yesterday has gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." This year, let us begin united in purpose, strengthened in faith, and committed to serving Christ through our Order.

I look forward to meeting your council Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, and council representatives at the State Organizational Meeting. I also look forward to engaging with all of you this upcoming year as I serve as State Warden.

**Vivat Jesus!**  
**Eric Guy**  
**State Warden**

# MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR TOM O’HAGAN



The KY Jurisdiction is experiencing great success in inviting and recruiting men to join the Order, with a 140% increase last year.

We are lacking in converting these E-Members into your councils, with only about 65%  
We consistently have over 100 E-Members waiting for CUF Exemplification.

Replace:

Recruit With Invite

Quota With Goal

Stop Worrying About Your Number – Keep Growing!

Invite Your Field Agent to every POD/CUF/Member Meeting/Event – Create a Partnership with Your Field Agent

Schedule a Parish Outreach Drive (POD) quarterly. Membership growth is the lifeblood of a council and provides the fuel to expand your mission and increase your impact in your parish and community. [11872 Membership Drive Steps Council](#)

Schedule and conduct a CUF Exemplification meeting monthly and add the results to your Council. In-Person and/or On-Demand

I highly recommend that each council develop a membership committee because GK cannot do it all alone. With a membership team, we are all more successful.

[Organizing Your Membership Committees | Knights of Columbus](#)

# O'HAGAN CONT.

Create a Culture of Invitation at Every Parish/Council –

*One Knight, One Man, One Mass*

Locate One Man that is Not a Knight at Every Mass and Introduce Yourself. If Every Member Spoke with One Man at Every Mass, Think About How Much Your Council Will Grow!

Use the Candidate Tab for:

Affiliate Transfers back into your council

All Transfers – Archived, Pending, Out of State Members

Anyone having trouble using [kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join)

The Supreme website [KoC.org](http://KoC.org) provides numerous links and ideas for membership growth. They are easy to find and to institute within your councils - [Inviting Men to Join | Knights of Columbus](#)

Follow Up When Using Membership Enrollment Cards

Since their release, Membership Enrollment cards have helped council recruiting efforts, especially Church Drives. It's essential that when your council uses Membership Enrollment cards, you have a plan in place to follow up with each member who completes one. [Membership Outreach Steps](#)

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

The new [kofc.org](http://kofc.org) is now live! We encourage you to explore the site, especially the Officers' Resources section. To familiarize yourself with the new site, watch this [video](#) to get you started.

## **Exciting Announcement!** **2026-27 KY State Membership Incentives**

- Every Council that had zero new members added in 2025-26, add at least one new member via a CUF (submit Form 450 and 10784) by 9/30/2026 = \$50
- Every Council that has Form 185/365, SET, FEB Goal, and reached 100% of Membership Goal by 12/31/2026 = \$100 and membership in the Century Club (GK Coin).
- Every Council that Achieves 200% of Membership Goal by 3/31/27 = \$75

# O’HAGAN CONT.

- Every Council that earns the Star Council Award by 3/31/27 = \$50
- The Council with the most PODs (recorded via form 10784) by 3/31/2027 = \$75
- The Council with the highest point total for the State Deputy Award (Form 10784s) = \$75

	<b>Actual v Goal MTD</b>	<b>Actual v Goal YTD</b>
New Members	47 v 40 = 117.5%	669 v 478 = 140%
Councils With No YTD Adds		23 v 99
Form 365 Not Submitted		25 v 99
Form 185 Not Submitted		3 v 99
SP7 Not Submitted		64 v 99

This is an insanely high number. How can 64 councils not submit an SP7?

*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**  
**State Membership Director**

# DISTRICT MASTER CAMERON PECK



Brother Knights,

As the 2025-2026 fraternal year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished together and to express my sincere gratitude to every Sir Knight, assembly officer, and Faithful Navigator who gave their time and talent in service to the Order this year.

Please join me in congratulating every Kentucky Knight on earning the Pinnacle Award this year under the leadership of State Deputy Luke Williams. It is a well-deserved recognition of an outstanding year across our state councils.

Here in the Fourth Degree, this was a landmark year for the Kentucky District. Our district not only exceeded our membership goal, but we did so in a way that few districts ever accomplish. We held eight exemplifications this fraternal year, in Georgetown, Fort Mitchell, Brandenburg, Bardstown, Oak Grove, Bowling Green, and twice in Louisville. Eight exemplifications in a single year is an extraordinary achievement, and it would not have been possible without the dedication of every degree team member, every Faithful Navigator who recruited candidates, and every Sir Knight who showed up to support the ceremony. Thank you all.

We also have the privilege of reflecting on a truly historic moment for our country. This summer, our nation celebrated its Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. As Fourth Degree Knights, we are uniquely called to carry the spirit of that celebration beyond a single day. The values enshrined in that founding

# PECK CONT.

document, that all men are created equal and endowed with unalienable rights, are values we recommit ourselves to every time we put on our uniform and represent the Order in our communities. Let us carry that spirit with us throughout the year ahead.

It has been a great honor to serve as your District Master this year. I am proud of what we have built together, and I am excited for what lies ahead.

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

# KAPID CHAIRMAN TOM JOHNSON



**1776 July 2026**

**HAPPY New Fraternal Year & HAPPY 250<sup>th</sup> America!**



Welcome Brother Knights to the beginning of a new fraternal year and to the celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. What a wonderful time to be alive. I hope everyone enjoyed your families & friends during this special occasion.

I know, like a bad penny...he's back! Just when you thought I was gone and out of your hair, I'm right back in the thick of things. But...before I begin, I'd like to take a moment and reflect and remember our brother knight Tim Gahlinger. Tim passed away on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 of cancer. He left behind his wife, daughter, sister, family members and friends. Tim was a Past

# JOHNSON CONT.

Grand Knight, a Former District Deputy, a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification Team and Chairman of the KY Assoc of Persons with Disabilities...and that's why I'm back. Tim had hoped to be with us a little longer, but he knew he would not be able to remain Chairman for another year. At our June 13<sup>th</sup> KAPID Board meeting, I was nominated and elected to be the next KAPID Chairman.

I don't know how many of you will read this article before the July 11<sup>th</sup> Organizational Meeting, but I wanted to share with you some things that will be happening this Fraternal Year. Once again, KAPID will be conducting two programs designed to help and facilitate funding for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

This first program will be the CAMP program. The Camp program has been going on for many years and offers an opportunity for handicapped adults to spend a week surrounded by adults with similar disabilities, play sports, swim, enjoy time together & to pray. The Camp also provides their caretakers with an opportunity to rest.

The second program is the Tootsie Roll Program. While KAPID manages the program, it is run by the councils. This is one of the easiest programs for a council to do and the proceeds go to help local organizations within your community that support individuals with disabilities. Special Olympics is a prime example of an organization that can benefit from your efforts and generosity.

For various reasons, participation in both programs has remained stagnant for several years. To help increase involvement, any council or individual that completes a pledge card and actively participates in one or both programs will be entered into a drawing for each program. A \$500 prize for each program will be awarded at the 2027 State Convention next May.

If you're reading this and your Grand Knight doesn't bring it up at your next council meeting, don't hesitate to bring it up. We are Catholic men and we want to help others...that's who we are & what we do. If you're interested in participating in the Tootsie Roll program, you'll need to order your cases of Tootsie Rolls at the July Org meeting or by contacting PSD and now Executive Secretary Rick Arnold. All orders should be in by the end of July if not



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# JOHNSON CONT.

sooner. Additional information and program guidelines will be presented at the July Org meeting.

## In Closing:

Let us not forget the blessings bestowed upon us by our Father in Heaven. We can't outdo His Love nor His generosity towards us.

Pick up your Rosary & Pray. Don't be afraid to Step Into the Breach. It's our time to serve the Lord!

**Take Care & God Bless,  
Tom Johnson, PSD  
KAPID Chairman**



# GENERAL AGENT DANIEL SCHACHLE



## **Americans' freedom and your freedom in retirement**

Brothers, this month, Americans celebrate and give thanks to God for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States. The American story is one of 250 years of great sacrifices, freedoms and the responsibility to bear those freedoms well. This month I want to talk to you about a special kind of freedom - freedom in retirement.

What do you want your retirement to look like? Maybe you'd like to spend more time with family, travel, volunteer or pursue hobbies. If you're already retired, you likely know how important it is to prepare financially for this period of life.

Retired or not, have you considered just how long your retirement could be? It could, in fact, last multiple decades. Will you have enough money to cover the lifestyle you want for years to come?

Now, you might doubt that your retirement will span decades. But what about your family? Will their needs be taken care of when you're no longer here? What legacy do you want to leave your children and grandchildren?

Don't miss the opportunity to prepare for the freedom of long-term financial stability in retirement. While it's easy to get lost in the expenses in front of us right now planning ahead with insurance and fixed annuities can pay off enormously for you and your loved ones.

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# SCHACHLE CONT.

The hardest step may be making the initial decision to start. From there, it doesn't need to be intimidating.

Our Field Agents are here to partner with you in finding insurance solutions. Whether you want to review the retirement plan you already have in place or are just beginning your journey, we can work together to make sure you have what you need.

Plan to meet with your K of C Field Agent soon. Thank you for your time! Let's continue to thank God for our nation and for all his blessings.

**Vivat Jesus!**

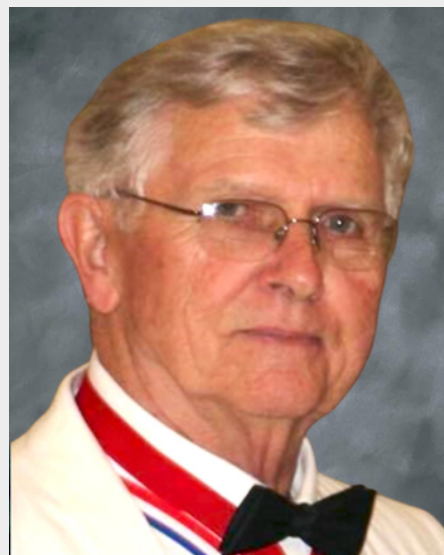
**Dan Schachle, FICF, PGK**

**Knights of Columbus, General Agent**

**(615) 589-8848**

**[daniel.Schachle@KofC.org](mailto:daniel.Schachle@KofC.org)**

# STATE HISTORIAN BILLY HANCOCK



## For Greater Glory

The Mexican martyrs of the Cristero War were primarily Catholic priests who were killed during the conflict between the Mexican government and those who opposed its anti-Catholic policies in the 1920s. Notably, 25 martyrs were canonized by Pope John Paul II on May 21, 2000, recognizing their sacrifice for their faith . These martyrs, including six specifically recognized, were executed for defying the oppressive government and continuing their ministry . Their legacy is commemorated for their courage and commitment to their beliefs during a time of severe persecution.



Relics of the six Mexican martyrs who were members of the Knights of Columbus are touring the country. Fr. Emil Kapaun Council 12965, Oak Grove hosted one of the programs. Very well done.

The six priests, canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000, are Luis Bátis Sáinz, José María Robles Hurtado, Mateo Correa Magallanes, Miguel de la Mora de la Mora, Rodrigo Aguilar Alemán, and Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Lucero.

# HANCOCK CONT.

The movie “For Greater Glory” was released on June 1 2012. It is well worth investing 150 minutes of your time to view. It depicts the true story of the Christero fight against the Mexican government to retain the right of the Mexican people to practice the Catholic religion. The DVD is available from Amazon or on eBay.

“Viva Cristo Rey y la Virgen de Guadalupe!” (“Long live Christ the King and the Virgin of Guadalupe!”)

**Submitted for the July 2026 Newsletter by:  
Billy R. Hancock, PSD, FDM  
State Historian**



# Local Events

## Do you want to *waive* your *per capita* this year?

Recruit your top men to become Knights of Columbus Financial Professionals! Just **one** successful candidate equals 100% reduction in assessment.



1

### Promote the Career to Your Members

Learn more about the career at [www.kofc.org/agentcareers](http://www.kofc.org/agentcareers) and visit Supplies online to find all promotional materials

2

### Have Your Candidate Apply

Scan the QR code below, and be sure the candidate uses the referral code: **2026Incentive**

3

### Your Candidate Becomes an Agent

After becoming an Agent, he will complete a training program

4

### Your Agent Completes Six Months

Your candidate must complete six months under contract as an Agent for your council to qualify

5

### All Per Capita Fees Waived

All per capita fees waived at the end of the applicable billing cycles



# Knights of Columbus®

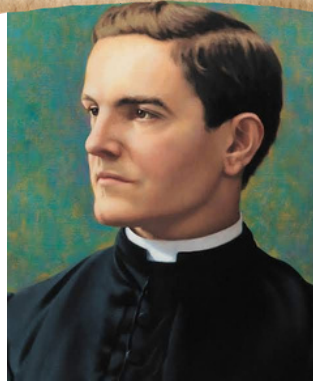
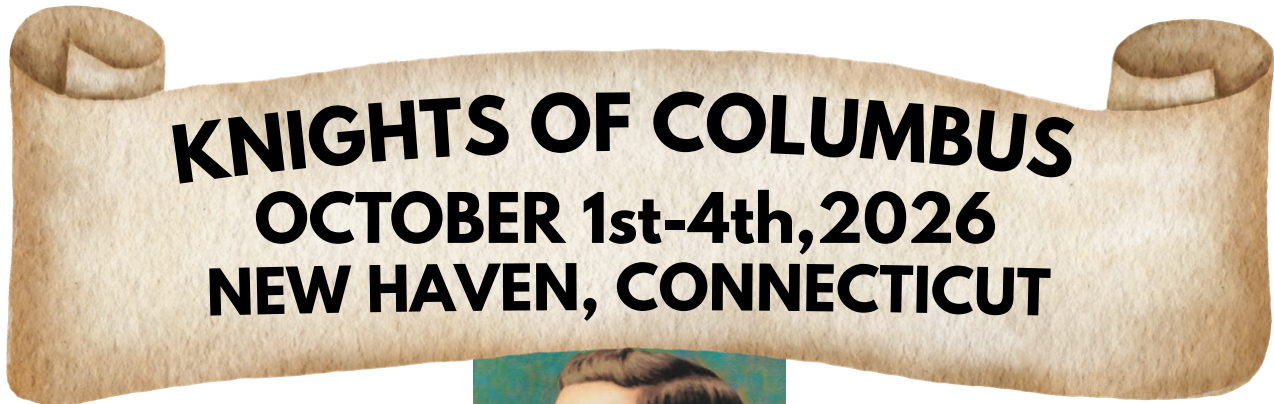
To apply, scan the QR Code, using the referral code: **2026Incentive**



Referral Incentive only applies to FA's with at least 6 months of tenure. Per Capita includes all Supreme Council Assessments for the 2026 Fraternal year.

20541 12/25

# Local Events



### Bishop Flaget Assembly 307

invites you to our trip to New Haven, CT

Friday is a free day, Saturday will include a private mass at old Saint Mary's and tour. A tour of Father McGivney Center will also take place that afternoon . We will have a group dinner at club 307 on Saturday evening.

Each guest will be responsible for the room.

**Leaving from Florence Mall October 1 at 8 AM returning to Florence Mall at 8 PM on October 4.**



**SCAN HERE!**

Reserve Your Stay Today

**New Haven hotel \$312, rooms can be shared**  
**Bus price \$450 a person, wives are welcome**  
**Buffet style breakfast each morning. Lunches & dinners are up to the guest.**

**Payment to Bishop Flaget Assembly 307**

**Address 3711 Avalon Dr., Burlington, KY 41005**

**You can contact me  
606-302-3621 Nate Sharpshair.**

# CALENDAR

Issue No. 26-7

## July

Fraternal year starts	1
Organizational Meeting	10-11

## KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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