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Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes



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Faith

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Editor: Daniel E. Hull

January, 2009

State Chaplain

It is an honor and great privilege for me to extend to all of you a wish for a very blessed and productive New Year 2009. The Knights of Columbus continue to be a source of hope and inspiration for the least of sisters and brothers in our midst; and a beacon of faith and light for all Catholics and people of good will. May this New Year give us still more opportunities to work together for the betterment of our Church, Country, and fraternity. The challenges are daunting but united together we will succeed.

Fr. Pat Umberger (Diocesan Chaplain for La Crosse) serving St. Patrick Church in Onalaska remains in our prayers as he progresses with his stem-cell transplant. We all pray for a full recovery and good health according to God's will for Fr. Pat. And I very much appreciated Fr. Dennis Mullen's Column for Advent and Christmas in last month's State Chaplain Column. Fr. Dennis is Diocesan Chaplain for Superior. Hearing from these chaplains creates variety and gives a broader voice to the many priests who support and serve with the Knights of Columbus on the diocesan and local parish levels. They do great work that needs to be acknowledged and respected. I salute all of them and pray that they will persevere through 2009.

January features the celebration of Epiphany and that feast can evoke many images and stories. St. Bonaventure has a beautiful meditation on the Adoration of the Magi and I would like to share just one paragraph of it. "You also, native powers of the soul, whom I have called kings, must go in search of the

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State Chaplain continued...

Child Jesus as did the three Magi, to worship him and offer him your gifts. Worship him with reverence, for he is the Creator, the Redeemer and the Rewarder of all. Worship him as the Creator, for he fashioned our very being; as the Redeemer, for he restored life to our spirit; as the Rewarder, for he grants us eternal life. Adore him with reverence, you kings, for he is the most powerful king; adore him with veneration, for he is the most wise teacher; adore him with gladness, for he is the most generous prince. Do not be content to adore him, offer him gifts as well. Offer him the gold of ardent love, the frankincense of devout contemplation, the myrrh of bitter sorrow. Offer him the gold of love for the graces he has bestowed on you, the frankincense of devotion, for the joys he has prepared for you and the myrrh of sorrow for the sins you have committed. Offer gold in honor of Christ's eternal godhead, frankincense in honor of the holiness of his soul and myrrh in honor of his bodily sufferings. Devout soul, in this way seek the Child Jesus, adore him and offer him your gifts."

In 2009 may we all increase our faith, work together and united, and advance Jesus Christ whom wise people still seek. I can think of no better conclusion than the one the Church lifts up in the first reading for January 1st Mary, the Mother of God. "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" And a Happy New Year.

*Fr. David Cooper
State Chaplain*

State Deputy

Judy and I wish you all a very Happy New Year and may Christ bring you the strength to not only maintain your family security but to continue to grow in faith.

By the time you receive this message we will have just over five months remaining in the fraternal year. Have we accomplished our goals? As of December 31, 2008 we had recruited 27% of our membership quota. We have 136 councils who have not brought in a new member, 29 non-performing districts, 606 members needed and -211 changes in membership. At the District Deputies meeting in June, 2008 the target goal was plus one of our quota of 835 and with your help we can still easily accomplish that. It is merely a matter of scheduling First Degrees, following up with the membership blitz and retention efforts. Imagine you're trying to fill a bucket with water. Every drop you put in should increase its contents, but if there's a leak then you may end up losing more water than you gain. Think of the membership in your council in the same way – every new Knight you add won't help your membership increase and grow if you lose existing members. The growth of the Knights of Columbus depends not only on recruiting new members, but also on retaining current ones.

Knights are committed to making the world a better place for everyone to live. This call to action is seen as the duty and responsibility of every Knight to share what we can do to serve our fellow man in an effort to better the world and in turn make our Order better through what we provide to others.

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Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

State Deputy continued from page 1...

With the help of new members and their families, there is no telling what we could accomplish in future years. Our growth is paramount to maintaining the high standard of good works our Order conducts in the local communities and parishes where we exist.

Our main objectives remain to let prospects and their families know that we as Knights are committed to our Church and service to fellow man and to share that with as many families as possible. However to continue, we must extend the offer of membership to every eligible Catholic man and his family and let them know that they too can assist in the mission of the Knights of Columbus.

Officers Challenge; during the remainder of this fraternal year an ‘**Officers Challenge**’ has been issued to all councils. Every officer in each council is challenged to recruit at least one new member. Who better to set the example that recruitment is everyone’s job than all council officers?

Our Founder, Father McGivney, challenged the men of his parish to a greater role and greater commitment to charity and unity of purpose. That same challenge is with us today as we strive to strengthen our parishes and families. I invite each of you to pray as often as you can to enrich our lives and those whom we serve.

Congratulations to Former District Deputy Pat Laws and all those who helped with the successful institution of St. Philomena the Wonder Worker Council #14677, in Green Bay. As I am sure you know, new councils are the cornerstone of the Orders future growth. This is a momentous day for Green Bay, and for our Order.

Hat’s off to John Booth, John Young, the Officers, Committee Chairman and families on the successful organization of the Greg Otte Squires Circle in Weyauwega, WI. Fifteen Young Catholic Men began a new journey on December 14, 2008.

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“Life is not measured buy the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away”.

Faithfully

Roland Ransom II
State Deputy

State Secretary

Happy New Year. Hopefully everyone made the transition from 2008 to 2009 without too many problems.

We are half way through the fraternal year, where is your council in regard to the goals you established at the beginning of the year? Is recruitment where you thought it would be? According to Tony Schreiner only a small handful of Councils can say we are. We have 136 Councils without a new member to date this year and 29 Districts without one new member. The state is down 215 members from July 1, 2008. My brother Knights we can do better than this, we need to check all the resources we have available to us and turn this negative into a positive.

The State Council is asking each Council to run a food drive in your community in the month of February. The food you collect should be distributed to your local food banks. The directors of food banks tell us this time of the year is very critical.

A reminder to all Financial Secretaries and Grand Knights when a Past State Deputy, Former State Officer, their Wife or Former District Deputy passes away it is your responsibility to notify the State Secretary. It is his responsibility to inform the Former State Chaplains, Past State Deputies, Former State Officers and Former Administrative Managers of all the information in regard to the Wake and Funeral Mass. Many of these people became good friends during the time they served in the respected positions, so lets get them all the information we are able to as soon as it becomes available.

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You should have received your Council’s Convention Packet in the mail within the past week. An urgent matter is hotel reservations. We have a limited amount of rooms at the Paper Valley Hotel so get your reservation in early. Ads for the Convention Book, the money generated by these ads defrays the cost of printing the convention book. Think of putting a Council ad in, ask local businesses in your community, ask brother Knights who have a business if they would consider placing an ad.

When sending in the registration forms remember there are two forms that need to be mailed. One is your Delegate Form and the other is the Pre-Registration form. You must return both of these forms even if you don’t plan on attending any events. In the event you are not attending any of the events at the Convention you need to indicate it on the form when you send it in. One of the biggest problems that arises is the ability to read the names on these forms. Please type or print legibly so when we print a name badge the spelling is correct. There are Memorial Cards included in the packet if you need more call the State Office to get them. Bring the stamped addressed envelopes to the Convention with you; a basket will be at the registration table. A form indicating members who have passed away this past year must be completed and sent to the State Office so the names can be included in the Convention Book.

Daniel E. Hull
State Secretary

2008-2009 Directory Corrections

Council Meeting Change Page 27

St. Charles Council 6926
Meetings changed to the Second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 AM at Holy Cross Catholic Community Cafeteria.

New E-Mail Address Page 6

Dennis Ashbeck
smash@pctcnet.net

New Telephone Number Page 1

Robert Abb, IPSD 608-754-7383

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

STATE CHARITY RAFFLE

By now every Council member should be selling raffle tickets for the 2009 State Charity Raffle. The Grand Knight should challenge each member to sell at least one ticket per month from January through April and then he should buy one himself. It may also be a good idea to try and get an article in your local newspaper promoting the raffle. The following may be helpful:

Members of the Knights of Columbus are selling raffle tickets for the Wisconsin State Council's annual Charity Raffle. The prize list consists of \$135,000 paid to 50 winners, with a first prize of \$50,000, and the second prize is a 2009 Toyota Prius or \$25,000. The third prize is a 2009 FLHX Harley Street Glide or \$15,000 and the fourth prize is \$10,000. The fifth prize is a 2009 Vento Scooter or \$2,500. The drawing will take place at the organization's State Convention on April 26th in Appleton. Tickets can be obtained from any Knight of Columbus at a cost of \$5.00. This is the largest raffle in the State of Wisconsin for a \$5.00 price. (Now personalize the article by inserting a name and telephone number of a Council member).

Last year, the Knights made charitable donations of more than \$305,000 from their local councils to needy persons in their communities. In addition, the State Council issued grants to 173 families throughout Wisconsin in an amount of \$216,000.

I would also like to remind you that the first turn-in of ticket stubs and money to your Diocesan co-coordinator is January 31, 2009.

Remember—Charity is not fun and games. Charity is serious business.

Dennis T Rakowski
State Charity Chairman

STATE CHARITY GRANTS

The State Officers recently approved the following grants from the State Charity Fund:

\$2,500 to a 30 years old mother, with two teenage children from Townsend who recently was diagnosed with bone cancer which is now spreading to various organs.

\$1,500 to help the parents pay the medical bills for their 18 year old daughter from Hartford who was in an auto accident and comatose for 7 weeks.

\$2,000 to a 23 year old single man from Manitowoc who had a cancerous tumor lodged against his spine and needs \$15,000 to pay for deductibles and co-pays.

\$2,000 to a 50 year old woman, married, with 4 children from Almena recently diagnosed with acute lympholytic leukemia.

\$1,500 to a 28 year old single father with a 2 year old child from Blanchardville who had a machinery accident and suffered a fracture of his right leg and an open ankle fracture of his left leg.

\$2,000 to a 16 year old boy from Holcombe who was recently diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma and will need a bone marrow transplant.

\$1,500 to a 34 year old mother of two daughters from Muskego, who was diagnosed with Stage 4 GBM brain cancer.

**Remember—We make a living by what we do,
But, we make a life by what we give.**

Dennis T Rakowski
State Charity Chairman

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

Fourth Degrees Date	Eastern/Western Location	District	Phone
April 18, 2009 1:00 p.m. Eastern	Appleton	Carl Duch	262-567-7345

<p>Diocesan Families of the Month December, 2008</p> <p>Green Bay Diocese Kenneth Kelling (Nancy deceased) Council 2556/11 Kiel, Wisconsin</p> <p>La Crosse Diocese Jack and Charlotte Harrison Council 1558/27 Wisconsin Rapids, WI</p> <p>Madison Diocese Rick and Maria Short Council 10905/52 Barneveld, WI</p> <p>Milwaukee Archdiocese Terrence and Barbara Baudhvin Council 4240/63 Menomonie Falls, WI</p> <p>Superior Diocese Michael and Cammy Westerdahl Council 1762/81 River Falls, WI</p> <p>Grand Knights, the time is getting short for your council to complete your Family of the Year nomination.</p> <p>Completed nominations need to be sent to me no later than February 15, 2009. They should try to get them to me by Feb 1.</p> <p>Remind your committee that we are looking for Families that work and pray together.</p> <p>Things to include and to remember in preparing your nomination .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include information on all family members • Photos of all family members participating in Church, Council, Community and Parish activities. • Remember – do not include photos that the family will want back. Use copies. If they are chosen as the State Family of the Year, the nomination book or 	<p>binder will be sent to Supreme for the International competition and will not be returned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters of recommendation from Pastor, Community leaders and others who can attest to the families worthiness. • Remember to have family members help provide information. They are the best source. • The Family of the Year Nomination must be for a Knight of Columbus Family. <p>We have so many worthy families in our communities and it is fitting that we honor them for all they do.</p> <p>Lets try to have a nomination from every Council this year</p> <p>Remind your council to also send in the Family of the Month Nomination each month. This should be submitted to Supreme and also to me to be entered into the State competition. Remember we need information on the family in order to judge the entry.</p> <p>Joe Oberweis State Family Coordinator</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">History Book</p> <p>Grand Knights—Please be reminded that the History Book is due to your District Deputy by February 1. The 2009 Calendar Year History Book pages should be available on the State website. There is additional information on how points are awarded and suggestions. Over the past several years the top councils in the state have done an excellent job of assembling great collections of information on their councils activities. This is invaluable information for future council officers, membership recruitment and plain old good memories.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued...</i></p>	<p><i>Continued...</i></p> <p>Do your council a favor and make a serious effort in 2009 to collect every scrap of information on your council's activities. Make sure you take pictures of everything that happens in your council and submit pictures of important activities to local publications. If you name Families and Knights of the Month/Year– take their pictures; having a party– take a picture; giving an award–take a picture; recruiting or holding a first degree– TAKE A PICTURE.</p> <p>I hope more councils are submitting History Books this year. See you at the Convention!</p> <p>Charles Silver History Book Coordinator</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Relevant Radio Bridging the Gap Between <i>Faith</i> and Everyday Life <i>"We Can Do it Attitude"</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Amount Raised \$1600 (14 Councils @ \$114) Goal \$5000</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Please send your contributions directly to the State Office. Indicate your Council Number on the check Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus 4297 West Beltline Hwy Madison, WI 53711</p>
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**In Search of the Golden Fox in the Valley of Ajeleht
A Monthly Serial of Membership Recruitment**

By Schreiner, The Salivating Sasquatch

Chapter Six – Lost in the Haze

[The tale so far.... Up to now all five expeditionary teams, Genthe's Growling Gazelles (Superior), Guski's Galloping Gophers (La Crosse), Faust's Fastidious Ferrets (Madison), Ransom's Rabid Rabbits (Milwaukee), and Hull's Howling Heifers (Superior) are demonstrating extreme caution as they approach the Land of Null, home of the Non-Recruiters. They all have reached the precipice leading into this valley with the exception of the bedraggled Rabid Rabbits, who are experiencing an extreme Recruitment supply shortage.

Is this the moment when one brave team will finally take the first steps into this shadowy, murky, and mysterious land of the nefarious Non-Recruiters? Even our network of Drooling Yetis, otherwise known as the S.A.P.S. (Sasquatch Associated Press Service) have indicated their apprehension in stepping forward in spite of their supposed "protected status" as field reporters. Let's check in on the (in?)activity....]

The Howling Heifers and Fastidious Ferrets are moving forward, but their pace can be described as meticulously measured at best. The remaining three teams are either holding back at the precipice or have yet to arrive at this "point of non-return"!

Just what is the problem? Why the trepidation? This Salivating Sasquatch has pointedly directed these very questions to the Roving Yetis attached to the five Recruitment/Expedition teams. Here are some of the responses passed along the S.A.P.S. news wire.

The Drooling Yetis traveling with the Howling Heifers and Fastidious Ferrets (two of the more successful expedition teams to date) indicate there is an "uneasy feeling" upon entering this uncharted territory. It seems both teams, although reasonably well-supported with newly recruited Members, do not feel they have all the personnel needed to successfully traverse the Land of Null. They also have a fear of being overwhelmed by the "Non-Recruiters" who will further deplete their already Spartan ranks. This queasiness is even being experienced by Hull's Howling Heifers, who up to now have secured a significant lead over its closest competitor, Faust's Fastidious Ferrets.

The remaining three teams in search of the Golden Fox are reportedly even more fearful of the unknown, with one exception. That is Genthe's Growling Gazelles! The Roving Yeti traveling with this band of explorers relates a sudden influx of new Recruits. Pat "The Wonderworker" Laws has brought in a fresh squadron to help the sorely depleted group. Buoyed by this infusion of fresh troops, the Growling Gazelles along with Dave "The Red Neck" Hallada, Ed "Too Tall" Cross, and Geary "Spyke" Spykerman are surging forward down into the Valley of Null. They still have to overcome the Galloping Gophers, Ferrets, and Heifers; but with the bravado they are currently displaying this appears to be a mere triviality.

At the present time only Ransom's Rabid Rabbits are hanging back. And the reason is primarily due to an Expeditionary/Recruitment Team lacking in manpower. Reports from the Roving Yeti attached to this assembly are not good. Some wonder whether they have the will and desire to forge ahead.

Four of the five expeditionary groups are now venturing forward into the Land of Null. Only the Rabbits are holding back. As they move onward, the Roving Yetis, along with the organized Membership Teams, are preparing for what they think will be the first encounter with the Non-Recruiters. Just who and what are these inhabitants of Null? And, what hazards do they pose as the Heifers, Ferrets, Gophers, Gazelles, and the lagging Rabbits encroach upon their territory??

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

FORM 4584 DUE JAN 31

PARTNERSHIP PROFILE WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Thank You to Councils participating in the Recycle for Special Olympics program. This last year 51 of the 103 Councils signed up and shipped anything in. Over 8600 cell phones, ink and toner cartridges were recycled with a value of about \$1500.00. The value received has gone down considerably this year. There are many factors, (damaged, obsolete, etc.) which contribute to this, please pack tightly.

Monitor your boxes, Place notices in bulletins, newsletters, and newspapers. Some of the most successful sites have been at parish churches and KC meeting halls.

Every Council should file Form 4584. Grand Knight's please complete **Form 4584** and file by **Jan 31, 2009**. Last year some council's that had recycled did not file and/or did not report what was earned. The State Officers and myself agree that at least \$1.00 per member could be added to any other funds reported. There are many ways members donate (polar plunge, truck convoy, raffles, etc.), that are unknown but should be included. Also members give time and talent, which easily adds up to 15 to 30 minutes per member. Grand Knight's please send me a copy of Form 4584.

This last year I presented a check from Supreme for \$6750.00 to Special Olympics. This was based on what was reported in monetary and time donated. I am happy to report that Wisconsin Knights of Columbus ranked 7th in the United States. With your help we can do better.

If you no longer wish to take part in this program, please let me know.

If there has been a contact change, please let me know who is in charge, name, address, and phone.

Fraternally;

John P. Benisch, 4645 Hwy 80, Pittsville, WI. 54466

715-884-3197

johnb45@tds.net

Teen Athlete Youngest to Compete at Special Olympics World Games

His travels NOT possible without volunteers like the Knights

As the youngest athlete of six representing Wisconsin at the 2009 Special Olympics World Games, 16-year-old Adam Benner of Tomahawk is getting the experience of a lifetime, even though some would argue that a child with autism couldn't accomplish this feat. He will prove the opposite by competing in cross country skiing in Idaho where the games will take place.

Special Olympics athletes have the opportunity to compete locally, possibly making it to regionals or district competition, then hopefully to the state tournament. Even more exciting is the national and international Games. Just like the traditional Olympics, the Special Olympics World Games is held every two years as athletes from around the world gather to showcase their athletic talents and celebrate life. From February 6 – 13, 2009, nearly 3,000 athletes from 85 countries will compete in seven Olympic-type sports in Boise, ID.

THE ATHLETES COULD NOT HAVE THESE EXPERIENCES WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEER SUPPORT. We are thankful for the Knights of Columbus volunteer hours that are put in locally to give athletes the chance to travel a few miles to a local practice or competition, hundreds of miles to the state tournament, or possibly thousands of miles to the World Games.

Benner has been training in cross country skiing for five years. To prepare for the games, he has been practicing everyday, working to keep his muscles strong, and eating healthy. In addition to cross country skiing, he competes in bowling and track and field and last year, Benner joined his high school track team, a position that has helped instill in him a sense of work ethic. He understands the importance of practice and his dedication to the sport has earned him the respect of his high school class.

Like any other 16-year-old, Benner enjoys riding his bike, playing PlayStation, swimming, and riding his snowmobile in the winter. When not in school or practicing cross-country skiing, Benner works at his family's restaurant bussing tables, washing dishes, and cooking bacon.

"Special Olympics makes me happy because I compete in events, and when I do well, I am very proud of myself," Benner says. And his happiness certainly couldn't exist without our volunteers!

Joining Benner on Team USA-Wisconsin is:

Melanie Olivo, age 30 of Ashland

Mike Tyler, age 21 of Granton

Mark Vroman, age 39 of Madison

Rebecca Henline, age 37 of Union Grove

Edward Smith, age 24 of Neillsville

For more information on Special Olympics or the Team USA heading to World Games, visit SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org or SpecialOlympicsTeamUSA.org

John Benish, Special Olympics Coordinator

Columbian Squires Update

The 2008-2009 fraternal year is proving to be a productive and exciting time for the State Columbian Squires Program. Interest in the program is very high and I have received from Supreme information on a number of councils that have completed the request form online to receive a Columbian Inquiry Kit. I try to personally contact each council for whom I have received a notice of interest, but with the significant increase in the number of councils requesting information, I am finding it challenging, at the moment, to contact each and every council as timely as I would like to.

At the beginning of the fraternal year, just as each council receives from Supreme the state's membership goals for the Knights of Columbus, I also received the State's goals for new Squires Circles. Supreme has given Wisconsin a goal of six new or reactivated circles for the state during the current fraternal year.

I am pleased to report that as of December 31, we have reactivated one circle in Marshfield and on December 14, our State Deputy Roland Ransom as well as State Advocate Tim Guski, State Programs Director Bob Haska and I were honored to attend the investiture ceremony for our brand new Squires Circle in Weyauwega. 2009 will start with a bang, as we will be conducting an investiture ceremony on Jan 17 for another new circle in Superior, sponsored by Holy Assumption Council 7106.

Any council that is considering exploring starting a squires program is asked to complete the Columbian Inquiry Kit request form located online at www.kofc.org or to complete the request form located on the back page of your forms booklet and mail it in to Supreme. The Columbian Inquiry Kit provides step by step instructions on what to do to start a Squires Circle in your council. I am also available to assist in any way including visiting your council or attending a Q&A session with parents. My e-mail address, as well as my home and cell phone numbers are located in the state directory.

John Booth, State Columbian Squires Coordinator

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE ECONOMY

All we are hearing about recently is the bad economy and unemployment. Is it that bad for most of us? But, as the times get tough, the need for charitable giving gets greater.

In Wisconsin, out of 2,000,000 citizens, 18 years and older, we have 250,000 that are unemployed. That means we have 1,750,000 people left with jobs plus we have seniors receiving a 5.8% increase in their Social Security payments. This means that we have an opportunity to sell about 1,750,000 tickets if we sold them only to people who are employed. It also means that we have an opportunity to sell one raffle ticket to one out of 13 people that we meet. If you tell them that this ticket is the largest prize list for a \$5.00 ticket cost, they will buy a ticket from you.

The Knights of Columbus State Charity Fund is funded with the proceeds from the raffle. We have helped at least 1,750 people over the past 10 years at the State Level plus the \$3,000,000 that the Councils received as rebates and bonuses

The purpose of this rambling is to make sure you try to sell raffle tickets to citizens of Wisconsin. Just **ask them, and explain the prize list**, they will buy a raffle ticket from you. Last year the total number of raffle tickets sold for the 2008 raffle was about 135,000. We hope to increase this number to 150,000 so we can be sure to help those who are in a crisis.

*Dennis Rakowski
State Charity Chairman*

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

Membership Musings

The first six months of Fraternal Year 2008/2009 are now history. Our Annual goals are 1,475 New Members and a net increase in Membership (after Withdrawals and Suspensions) of 835. Over the next six months those numbers are 1,069 and 606, respectively. Can we do it? While pondering these updated goals here are a couple of related membership messages:

- **The Senior Round Up: Are You Getting Ready? (Vol.2)**
- **80% & 1 April 2009.**
- **Notes from the B.O.R.E.D.**

The Senior Round Up: Are You Getting Ready? (Vol. 2) – Okay, you now have a list of the graduating High School Senior Men for 2009 and you have sent each of them a brief introductory packet outlining the goals of this organization and the activities of your local Council. (For more details please check the December 2008 edition of “*Membership Musings*” in the *Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes* newsletter.) Here then are Steps three and four, the final steps towards exemplifying some truly “fresh blood” into the greatest Catholic fraternal organization in the world!

With the help of a K of C Field Agent and the Council’s Chaplain (if he wishes to attend and to participate), your Council should host an Open House. Another possible venue is to conduct the Open House during appropriate class time, if the graduating Seniors attend a Catholic High School. Make sure to include specific information about the Insurance arm of the K of C (i.e. the Field Agent). At the same time include an opportunity for the potential candidate to express his ideas about certain areas of this organization in which the graduating Senior wishes to participate. If the potential member indicates he plans to attend college, you might want to offer the Council’s intention to cover his annual dues during this time. In general make the Open House or School visit informative yet informal. Certainly bring an ample supply of Form #100’s!!

Be prepared to discuss the fourth step while carrying out the Open House (i.e. third step). In other words have a date (or a window of dates, as there may be potential conflicts) pre-determined for a First Degree. This Exemplification should be no more than seven to ten days following the schedule Open House. Remember, Member Candidates, be they graduating Seniors or anyone else, should not have to wait more than one or two weeks before attending a First Degree Exemplification.

These are four potential steps to systematically recruit Graduating Seniors. By no means are these steps hard and fast. For that matter there may be a more efficient and effective plan in your Council. Whatever the technique, I encourage you to spend some time focusing on this age group.

80% & 1 April 2009. – Hard to believe, but 1 April 2009 is a mere two-and-one-half months away! Just over 75 days before the “80% Diocesan Incentive” is over and the five Wisconsin (Arch)Dioceses will find out whether their respective (Arch)Bishops are eligible for a \$1,000 check. This is a check that each Bishop may use at his own personal discretion. Below is a table detailing the progress toward this “80% Goal” as of 1 January 2009.

(Arch)Diocese	GRB	LSE	MSN	MKE	SUP
“80% Goal”	259.6	141.6	200.6	519.2	59.0
Current Status	92.0	79.0	113.0	85.0	52.0
Per Cent of Goal	23.9%	55.8%	56.3%	16.4%	88.1%

Here are a few words of explanation about the table. “80% Goal” represents the total number of New Members that each respective (Arch)Diocese must recruit by 1 April 2009 in order to be on track for both the Annual (Arch) Diocesan Goals (Listed in the Membership Summary table located elsewhere in this newsletter) and the “80% Diocesan Incentive”. “Per Cent of Goal” indicates the relative progress for each (Arch)Diocese towards the “80% Goal” as of 1 January 2009.

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Membership Musings continued from page 8...

Three brief comments: First, The Superior Diocese appears to have a lock on this incentive! Second, although slipping a little, Madison and La Crosse Dioceses can still achieve this goal by recruiting 30 and 21 New Members per month between now and the cut off date! By the way both Dioceses have frequently attained this level in the past. Third, even Green Bay and Milwaukee are not blown out of the game yet. If these two (Arch)Dioceses initiate two or three new Councils between now and 1 April 2009, their prospects look very good. Stay tuned for another update next month!

Notes from the B.O.R.E.D. – As the Membership Summary table (located elsewhere in this Newsletter) indicates, Membership and Membership Recruitment continue to lag behind our proposed goals. One positive note is that the Green Bay Diocese moved ahead significantly during the month of December. The reason is that the newly chartered Council, St Philomena, the Wonder Worker (#14677), was officially recorded. Congratulations to the hard workers in the Green Bay Diocese, who made this Council a reality. And, congratulations to Brother Pat Laws, the newly installed Grand Knight, for all his constructive and successful efforts, as well

Finally, please remember, if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns relating to Membership and Membership Recruitment or any other topic, do not hesitate to contact me. You can do so via the electronic route (tonyschreiner@tds.net), U.S.P.S. (P.O. Box 117, Black Earth, WI 53515-0117) or the “Graham Bell” technique (608-767-2691). As always, **YOUR GOALS ARE MY GOALS!**

State Membership Director
Tony Schreiner

Workshops held in the Green Bay and Milwaukee Diocese; challenges, ideas and solutions shared;

Several State Directors were very instrumental conducting workshops right after the State Convention. State personnel, District Deputies, Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights and council members were encouraged to attend one of the scheduled meetings in their areas.

Since June of 2008, Dave Catalano, the Green Bay Diocesan Coordinator, has put together three workshops of instruction for the benefit of the Grand Knights and Deputy Grand Knights. Additionally, in the Milwaukee Archdiocese there have been two workshops given by Dick Taddy and Mark Wagner. The approximately two hour meetings emphasized Grand Knight training which was well received. The long term benefit from these workshops cannot be over stated. Based on the early returns from our successes in Green Bay, and Milwaukee, Dave Catalano is now buoyed to expand the training in late 2009, to include a session for Financial Secretaries and Trustees.

Dave Catalano has agreed to set up a program to “Train the Trainers” that is scheduled at St. Mary Magdalene in Waupaca on February 7, 2009. The tentative agenda is to meet at 11:00 AM for a lunch that State Program Director Robert Halaska and Lady Betsy will provide. The workshop will run from 12:00 to 3:00 PM with refreshments available throughout the workshop. Our hope is to have a minimum of two trainers from each diocese attend and of course everyone is welcome, only please let Program Director Robert Halaska know you are coming so that there will be adequate preparations.

By June of 2009 the goal is to have Diocesan Teams scheduling training sessions in each of the 5 Dioceses to instruct both seasoned and new Grand Knights and Deputy Grand Knights. When the mystery is taken out of the job the job becomes easier and the results greater.

For more information or reservations please contact either David Catalano @ smily2@sbcglobal.net 920-465-8131 or Robert Halaska @ rhalaska@wikofc.com 715-258-9573

Faithfully

State Officers

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes



The Top 10 Membership Progress, Wisconsin

Council 12644	Fennimore	120%
Council 7827	Woodruff	117%
Council 1257	Eau Claire	115%
Council 14478	Horicon	100%
Council 7030	Hammond	100%
Council 9360	Janesville	100%
Council 10774	Augusta	100%
Council 8817	Mayville	100%
Council 4586	Madison	86%
Council 7894	Owen	80%
Council 6690	Lake Mills	80%
Council 13773	Big Bend	80%
Council 6228	Wautoma	80%
Council 9230	Janesville	80%
Council 7732	Hilbert	80%

Top Gun District, District 49, District Deputy Robert Schleis 72.7%

State of Wisconsin: Membership Summary by Diocese

Diocese	Goals	Goal to Date	NEM	% GtD	LOM	NAWS	NCNM	N. I. Mem.	L. I. Mem.
Green Bay	324.5	162	92	56.7	50	42	33	28	34
La Crosse	177.0	89	79	89.3	25	54	23	42	32
Madison	250.8	125	113	90.1	35	78	28	66	19
Milwaukee	649.0	324	85	26.2	58	27	26	33	36
Superior	73.8	37	52	141.0	24	28	24	23	17
Totals	1,475	738	421	57.1	192	229	134	192	138

Circle of Honor	Current Status (i.e. Needed)
835	606

Change in Membership
-211

Deceased Members
440

Membership at Beginning of FY	Current Membership
38,469	38,258

NEM - New Members
 %GtD - Per Cent Goal to Date
 LOM - Lost Members
 NAWS - Net After Withdrawals & Suspensions
 NCNM - Number of Councils without a New Member since the beginning of the fraternal year
 N.I. Mem. - New Insurance Member
 L.I. Mem. - Lost Insurance Member
 Change in Membership - Difference between State Membership at beginning of FY and Current Month
 Deceased Members - Number of Members that have passed away since the beginning of the fraternal year



Food from the Heart will run during Valentines Day weekend. Councils should work with their local parishes and sponsor a food drive. The food collected would go to local food pantries, St. Vincent De Paul, etc. February is a month when food pantries are in need of replenishment. Councils who participate in these programs can submit them on the Columbian Award Report. The key for these programs lies in each of us. If we speak up, pray and promote these programs then the job is half done. The rest is the generosity we give in every way we can.

Vivat Jesus
State Team

Bishops Call to Action



What you see above was copied directly from Supreme's website. The entire flyer from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops can be downloaded from:

http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/resources/utility/foca_flyer.pdf

We urge you to download the flyer and provide it, with Fathers permission, as a bulletin insert for your local parish. Elsewhere in the same bulletin please offer the following to draw attention to the flyer.

Knights of Columbus

In Service to One, In Service to All

Your Knights of Columbus Council urges you to read the flyer included with today's bulletin and make the call today. The future of the entire Catholic Health Care system may well hang in the balance. To join us contact (name) at (phone) or (email)

Brother Knights, we beat this "Culture of Death" act in 1993. (see the 1993 entry at: <http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/about/activities/culture/milestones.html>) **IF YOU ACT**, we will beat it again.

Deo Fidelis,

Your State Officers

PS More information including the flyer in grayscale for those who need it is at: [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site on FOCA](http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/about/activities/culture/milestones.html)

Calendar of Events

11/1/08 to 4/25/09	Charity Raffle Ticket Sales
12/1/08 to 1/18/09	Free Throw Contest Council Level
1/04/09 to 2/15/09	Math and Spelling Knowledge Contest Council Level
1/9/11/09	State Officer Meeting Appleton
1-10-09	ID Committee Distribution Meeting Appleton
1/19-09 to 2/15/09	Free Throw Competition, District Level
1/31/09	Deadline for #1728A, Survey of Fraternal Activities
2/01/09	History Books for Judging to District Deputies
2/01/09	Deadline for Resolutions to State Advocate
2/07/09	Budget Review Committee Meeting, Investment Review Committee Meeting
2/14/09	Valentines Day
2/15/09	Deadline for Form #1295 Semi-Annual Audit to Supreme
2/15/09	Deadline for Family of Year Nominations
2/15/09	Deadline for Medallion Award Nominations
2/14/09 to 4/14/09	State Bowling Tournament, La Crosse
2/15/09 to 3/15/09	Free Throw competition, Diocesan Level
2/21/09 to 3/15/09	Math and Spelling Knowledge Contest, Diocesan Level
2/16/09	Presidents Day
3/16/09	Convention: Delegates Certification, Memoriam, Advertising and Pre-Registration Deadline

Wisconsin State Council
 Knights of Columbus
 4297 West Beltline Hwy
 Madison, WI 53711

State Officers 2008-2009

State Chaplain	State Deputy	State Secretary	State Treasurer	State Advocate	State Warden	Immediate PSD
Rev. David E. Cooper St. Matthias Church 9306 W. Beloit Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53227 414-321-0893 dcooper@wikofc.com	Roland C. Ransom II 1131 Rainbow Ct. Mukwonago, WI 53149 262-363-4099 nransom@wikofc.com	Daniel Hull 206 E. Rusch St. Thorp, WI 54771 715-669-3805 dhull@wikofc.com	Timothy Genthe 803 South School St. Cuba City, WI 53807 608-744-3515 tgenthe@wikofc.com	Timothy Guski E5618 County Rd V Ridgeland, WI 54763 715-821-5295 tguski@wikofc.com	Ronald Faust 2129 Caesar St Cross Plains, WI 53528 608-225-7281 rfaust@wikofc.com	Robert J. Abb P.O. Box 756 Janesville, WI 53547 608-754-7383 rabb@wikofc.com

WI State Council Office: Phone: 608-274-5750, Fax: 608-274-8522, Eileen Ripp-Emerson, Admin. Mgr., eripp@wikofc.com

A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR MEMBER

Today's young family man has many commitments. His two largest obligations are his family and his work. How many times in our recruitment efforts of these young men do we hear "I do not have much time to give the Knights and so I would rather not join"?

We have come up with an idea that may help in your efforts to persuade these young men. Ask if maybe he can give just 24 hours a year to being a member of the Knights of Columbus. Using this sample schedule, you can show a prospective member that the time commitment does not need to be large. The Knights of Columbus has something to offer him and his family and they will all benefit by his being a member.

This schedule includes him getting to know us (by reading about us) and us getting to know him (by his attending projects and functions). He is involved in charity and fraternity ; his family is involved in church and social functions. Perhaps this is the best response we can give to the statement "I just don't have enough time".

1. 12 hours a year reading the periodic local bulletin, the monthly State Council *State Deputy Notes* and the monthly Supreme Council Magazine *Columbia*.
2. 2 hours a year volunteering on the council's annual "Tootsie Roll" drive weekend
3. 2 hours a year attending council corporate communions at his parish
4. 2 hours a year on a council sponsored church, community, council, family or youth project
5. 2 hours a year attending one council meeting
6. 4 hours a year attending a council social function (dinner, dance, picnic, etc.)

There are 8760 hours in a year. Just by giving the Knights of Columbus 24 of those 8760 hours (less than point 3 percent), every man can be a better Catholic, a better father, a better husband and a better man. Just think of the difference we can make with these young men as part of our order. We only have to let them know that they are wanted and needed. Who knows...maybe one day, our best friend will be a brother Knight of Columbus.