

STAR COUNCIL NEWS



Virginia State Council - Knights of Columbus

Stephen P. Raschke, State Deputy

January 2016

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3 Month Outlook of Coming Events

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|--------|--|
| Jan 9 | Mid-year meeting (Newport News) |
| Jan 16 | 3rd Degree - Council 418 (Portsmouth) |
| Jan 30 | 3rd Degree - Council 6292 (Fairfax) |
| Feb 6 | Polar Plunge – Virginia Beach |
| Feb 6 | 3rd Degree – Council 15256 (Ashburn) |
| Feb 20 | 3rd Degree – Council 4632 (Virginia Beach) |
| Feb 27 | State Bowling Tournament – Midlothian |
| Feb 27 | Polar Plunge – Richmond, New River Valley, and Northern Virginia locations |
| Mar 12 | Quarterly Meeting (Charlottesville) |
| Mar 19 | State Free Throw Competition - St. Gertrude's High School (Richmond) |
| Mar 19 | 3rd Degree - Council 11639 (Radford) |

The Road to Star Council as of January 1, 2016

- 145 Councils have submitted Form 185
- 145 Councils have submitted Form 365
- 143 Councils have updated Form VSS-6
- 133 Councils have updated Form VSS-4
- 145 Councils have submitted Form 1295
- 140 Councils have paid 1st half state per capita
- 58 Councils have paid 2nd half state per capita
- 11 Councils have submitted Form 1728
- 10 Councils have submitted Form 4584 Partnership with Special Olympics

General Programs Staff 2015-2016

General Programs Director

Brian Ripple (Stacey) home 540-776-8285
generalprograms@vakofc.org cell 540-797-5823

Church Activities Chairman

Bob Dannemiller (Amy) home 703-685-3795
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Council Activities Chairman

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Culture of Life Chairman

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Food for Families Coordinator - Richmond

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Scouting Chairman

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Youth Scholastic Chairman

(vacant)

Youth Sporting Events Chairman

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General Programs Director Message

Worthy Brothers,

I hope you and your families had a very Merry Christmas and a blessed start to the New Year.

Now is the time to begin completing your nomination reports for the following awards that will be presented at this year's annual state meeting (convention):

- Outstanding Service Programs
- Family of the Year
- Knight of the Year
- Outstanding Young Man and Outstanding Young Woman of the Year

To earn the State Deputy's Award, these nomination forms must be submitted to generalprograms@vakofc.org no later than March 31, 2016. PDF versions of all forms except the Outstanding Service Programs can be found on the state website under Resources > Forms – Virginia. I will send Word versions of the forms to all grand knights the first part of January.

Here are brief descriptions of the awards:

Outstanding Service Programs (Form STSP): One report is required for each of the six service areas: Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family, and Youth. [The form is located on the Supreme website.](#)

Knight of the Year: Each council should nominate one of its Brother Knights for this honor. The brother knight must be a member in good standing.

Family of the Year: Each council should nominate the family of one of its Brother Knights for this honor. Unlike Family of the Month, the nominee must be a Brother Knight in good standing.

Outstanding Young Woman/Outstanding Young Man: Each council should nominate one male and one female in high school who represent the ideals of the Knights of Columbus.

Fraternally,



Brian Ripple
General Programs Director

Membership Director's Message

Many Councils have done a great job in recruiting and retention. Keep up the good work. But about 20 Councils have not recruited any new members this Fraternal year. Is that your Council? What will it take to get your Council to move forward? It takes you asking that stranger you see in the pew "I am a Knight of Columbus, are you a member?"

The Membership Team is here to assist and help you grow your Council. If you need any help, please contact me at membership@vakofc.org or 703 994-6469 for assistance. And did I mention...recruit!

Here are some membership thoughts from Brother George Kuhlow (11475), our State Recruitment Chairman.

With all the friends we all have, how many have you asked to join the Knights of Columbus? If they are not a Knight, why not? All it takes is just asking them. Tell them that the Knights of Columbus is a part of a Christian puzzle that fits ...perfectly. It is a life that not only brings you closer to your church and family but your community as a whole. It is an organization that you can give your knowledge and talents to young and old alike. It is a fraternity where your visions can become a reality because they are done in unity your brothers, but the first step is up to you. Just ask them.

How many of us think we know how a person thinks or desires? We all do it from time to time. "He's not a joiner." or "I don't think he'd make a good knight." That is narrow minded because not a one of us ever knows what they are thinking and you might have a diamond in the rough. When you have a friend saying yes, and you give him the information he requests, do not forget him, stay with him, polish him into the gem he could be. How many of us when we first joined, thought, "I'll be the Grand Knight or even a State Officer." That comes with time and knowledge but it starts with you asking them. Think about it brothers, all it takes is the question, "Have you ever considered joining the Knights of Columbus?"

A journey starts with the first step as a book does with the first word. Let someone else's journey start with your interest in him. Give him the chance you had when someone approached you. If nobody ever asked you to join, where would you be with yourself, family and your Church not to mention the security you have with the Knights of Columbus. How many friends would you have that are known around the world? Give them the chance you were given, just ASK THEM.



Bob Szerszynski
Membership Director

Membership Team 2015-2016

Membership Director

Bob Szerszynski (Eileen)
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Deputy Membership Director /Council Reactivation

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Recruitment Chairman

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Recruitment - Arlington

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Recruitment - Arlington

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POLAR PLUNGE[®]

FESTIVAL 2016



Four Ways To Plunge!

Changing the World is a Team Sport.

No matter where you live in Virginia, we have a Polar Plunge near you! We are supporting all four Polar Plunges in Virginia. It has never been easier to stand shoulder to shoulder with your brother Knights and our Special Olympians! Go to one of these four links below and join the Team! **Virginia Beach**: bit.ly/VAKOCplunge16 **Richmond**: bit.ly/VAKOCplunge16rva **Northern VA**: bit.ly/VAKOCplunge16nova **New River Valley**: bit.ly/VAKOCplunge16nrv

Copy and paste the link you have chosen in your browser, click on the blue 'Join The Team' button on the right side of the page to register. Plunging is not required to join the team. **Our team goal for the State is \$300,000.** We recommend a \$300 personal goal per team member. **Please use your Council number as your middle name when registering for tracking purposes.** The Virginia Beach Plunge is 6 February 2016. The other three are on 27 February 2016.

(more)

General Programs Staff 2015-2016

Special Olympics Coordinator

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Vocations Chairman (Richmond Diocese)

Deacon Vince Kapral (Anne) home 757-301-2116
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*Living a Fraternal
Journey*

—
*Live, Know, and
Share Our Faith*

State Bowling Tournament

As a reminder to all DD's and GK's, Bishop Ireton Council 6189 will host the Virginia State Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament on Saturday, February 27, 2016. The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Bishop Ireton Center where Council 6189 will serve breakfast to all bowling participants at 10:00am. The council home is located at 3300 Old Courthouse Road, North Chesterfield 23236 (across from Rockwood Park).

The bowling tournament will be at Bowl America West (at 11532 Hull Street Road aka Route 360 in Midlothian) where the arrival time is 11:45 a.m., practice begins at 12:00 noon, and tournament bowling begins at 12:15 p.m.

[Registration forms](#) (including averages, if applicable) and the \$100 team entry fee are due by February 1. The entry fee covers breakfast, three games of bowling, and shoes. Make checks payable to Council 6189 Knights of Columbus and put State Bowling Tournament in the Memo line.

We are planning two groups:

- Teams with members who have bowled in leagues and have or have had an average within the past four years (Category A)
- Teams with members who have not bowled in leagues within the past four years (Category B) will participate in the Good Ole Boys (and Ladies) Fun Tournament

In each category, prizes will be awarded to the:

- Bowler with the highest individual set
- Bowler with the highest individual score
- Team with the highest score after handicap

To make this a great event full of fun and fellowship, we need your council's participation. Please do your best to send one or more teams to the State Bowling Tournament.

Doug MacPherson
State Council Activities Director

A Major Milestone

In 2015, the Knights of Columbus life insurance in force reached \$100 billion.

[Find out what it means for you HERE](#)

Culture of Life - March for Life in D.C.

Worthy Brothers,

Have you decided to attend the 43rd March for Life on Friday, January 22, 2016 yet?

If so, your help is urgently needed!

Every year, Brother Knights from Virginia serve as Marshals. Unfortunately, only 26 of you have signed up for this very important duty, yet we need 100 Brothers to help! Marshals ensure a safe March, and help in many different ways: setting the pace of the March, helping Marchers in need, escorting VIPs to and from the stage, providing crowd control are just a few of the duties.

Please sign up ASAP, at <http://tinyurl.com/KofC2016MFL>

Thank you for your help, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Fraternally,

John R. Wilkes

Culture of Life Chairman
State Council of Virginia

Education

Public lending libraries can be a useful source of education. Shelves are stocked based on demand. Ask for books, etc., on the Catholic faith, saints, Fr. Capodanno, Fr. Kapaum, Fr. McGivney, etc. Requests, when recorded, form the basis for stocking the books. Check out the books to show usage and further demand. Let others, in your family, parish, and council know the books are available.

State Free Throw Competition

The State Free Throw Competition will be held at St. Gertrude High School on **Saturday, March 19**. The school is located at 3215 Stuart Avenue in Richmond Virginia. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Each child must be checked in or in the check-in line by 9:15 a.m., or he or she won't be able to compete. Be sure you share the following with your winners competing at the state level, each child must:

- Have a photo ID and a Parents Authorization on their scoring sheet
- Be accompanied at check-in by a parent, guardian or adult escort (21 or older)
- Have the original competition score sheet used at the council and district competitions (district deputies can provide)

Park only in designated spots – do not park in a fire zone, tow away zone or reserved spots.

Brother Knights and family members are needed to help with this event. If you or others can volunteer, notify Mark Zaccagnini at markzacc012@gmail.com. Volunteers should arrive by 7:30 a.m. The event should be over no later than 3:00 p.m.



Father Michael J. Bader 2016 Scholarship Program

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED STARTING JANUARY 1 THRU MARCH 31, 2016

The Father Bader Scholarship Program honors the legacy of its namesake, the Reverend Michael J. Bader as a Brother Knight and late arrival to the priesthood in Virginia. Father joined our Lord on April 5, 1992. The program awards monetary scholarships in two different categories as follows:

- 1. Brother Knight Financial Need Program:** Brother Knights in good standing and their wives, or the widows of brother Knights, who resided in Virginia at time of death and were in good standing, can apply for a scholarship to assist them in their educational goals. The amount of the scholarship will be based on the dire financial need of the applicant. Scholarships under this category can be made by an applicant at any time during the fraternal year and the number of awards each year is at the discretion of the Virginia State Deputy and is governed by the available balance of the scholarship program fund account (s).
- 2. High School Graduate Program:** Annual competition is among eligible graduating High School seniors who are going on to higher education in the fall. This program is open to all children of Knights who are in good standing in a council in Virginia, or were in good standing at the time of death. *Scholarship awards under this category will be based on the whole person and the financial status of the applicant.* The application period opens annually on January 1st of each year and closes on March 31. **Special Note: Beginning in 2016 members of Columbian Squires and Columbian Squire Roses in good standing in a Circle in Virginia are able to apply even though their father may not be a member of the Knights of Columbus.**

For more details and to download the required application (s) forms for a Father Bader scholarship please visit <http://www.vakofc.org/scholastic-programs.html> . All applications need to be sent via U.S. Mail to Michael J. Lukacs, Father Bader Scholarship Chairman, 13600 Bridgeland Lane, Clifton, VA 20124. No e-mail applications will be accepted. Questions regarding the Father Bader scholarship program can be directed to Mike Lukacs, at e-mail Lukacpsi@aol.com or cell phone number 703-851-5888.

revised 12/5/2015

Virginia Star Council Checklist



145 Councils

145

of councils completed
form 365 Due 1 August 15

11

of Councils completed form 1728
Due 31 Jan 16

13

of Councils qualified for
McGivney Award (Membership
Growth)

5

of Councils qualified for
Founders Award (Insurance
Growth)

0

of Councils qualified for
Columbian Award
Due 30 June 16

0

of councils in good Standing
with Supreme paid by 30 Jun 16

Youth Scholastic Programs

We encourage each and every council in Virginia to participate in the “Importance of Religious Freedom” essay contest, and the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness poster contest.

The Essay Contest (for grades 8-12): Council and district winners must be selected no later than March 1. State judging will occur in March.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness Poster Contest (ages 8-14): Order council kits by December. Council winners must be selected no later than the end of February. District and state level judging will occur at the quarterly state meeting in Charlottesville on March 12.

Certificates will be awarded to the state level winners of both contests at the annual meeting in May, and each winner will be entered in the Supreme competitions.

Taking interest in our parish and community youth is a great recruitment tool as parents see the Knights of Columbus’ commitment to children through the programs we sponsor. These programs can only result in positive recruitment.

Contact Youth Activities Chairman Tom Schirra @ youthactivities@vakofc.org with questions.

Pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine

No

The Virginia Knights of Columbus group is scheduled for a Pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine on Saturday, February 13, 2016. The Pilgrimage commences at 10:00 AM with entry into the exhibit, “A Gift of Love,” that is on a timed sequence that starts automatically every 15 minutes or so with a short introductory video.

Next is a veneration of the first class relic of Saint John Paul II, and then holy Mass. Following mass, boxed lunches are available. Please contact **Bob Dannemiller** to make your reservations, as the group size is limited to 150 pilgrims for this pilgrimage. The email address is robert.j.dannemiller.civ@mail.mil and please place JP2 in the subject.

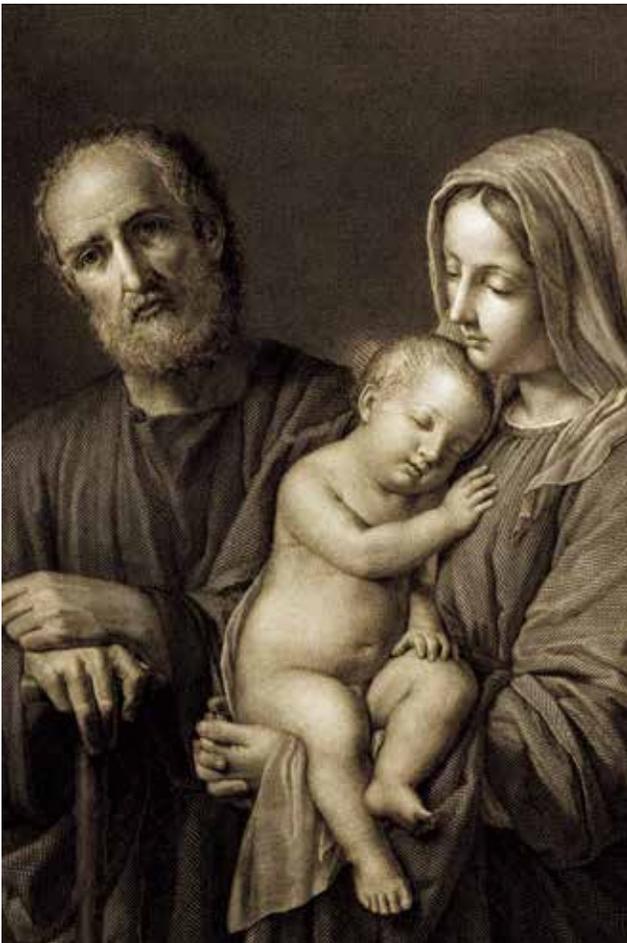
Attendance by some of your members meets the Catholic Education criteria for this year’s State Deputy’s Award.

Holy Family Pilgrim Prayer Program

A new Knights of Columbus Prayer Program was introduced at the Supreme Convention in August. The focus is on the Holy Family and features an image from the 18th Century.

Grand Knights and District Deputies should have received an email in mid-December explaining the prayer program. As a reminder or in case you missed it, here are a few basics.

1. Program consists of a large framed icon of the Holy Family, prayer booklets, and prayer cards.
2. Two sets of materials will be routed simultaneously around the state until June 30.
3. Each council hosting an event will need to coordinate with the council hosting prior to them and after them to ensure the materials move around to support the scheduled programs.
4. The State website contains more detailed information, an up-to-date schedule, event POCs, and a PDF of the prayer booklet at this link: <http://vakofc.org/holy-family-prayer-pgm.html>



Dates and districts for each program are as follows:

Program A

- Jan 1-Mar 11: Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 28, 30
- Mar 13-23: District 26
- Mar 28-Apr 28: Districts 23, 24, 25
- May 1-Jun 30: Districts 7, 8, 9, 10, 27

Program B

- Jan 1-Mar 11: Districts 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19
- Mar 13-Apr 12: Districts 21, 22
- Apr 13-28: District 11
- May 1-Jun 30: Districts 17, 18, 20, 29

Review the Prayer Booklet and coordinate with your Pastor and/or Chaplain. Check the Schedule for available dates. Review the Overview on the website for more details.

For questions or comments contact John Cochran, Family Activities Chairman, at jcochran10515@gmail.com or 757-705-9933.

John Cochran
Family Activities Chairman