

STATE DEPUTY'S REPORT
Michael R. Townsend
110th Annual Meeting, Lewiston, Idaho
April 21-23, 2017

Your Excellency Bishop Christensen, Worthy State Chaplain Father Ben, Supreme Representative and Director Brian Simer, Past State Deputies, Worthy State Officers, District Deputies, State Chairmen and Directors, Delegates, Honored Guests and Ladies;

The year has flown by and I stand before you today, humbled and in awe of the tremendous support that I have received during this past fraternal year. It has been a great experience and journey to serve as the State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus of Idaho. I have visited many councils throughout our great state and have loved every minute of my experiences. It was and remains my sincere desire to visit every council in our great state during my time as your State Deputy and hope to be visiting the remainder soon.

It is the responsibility and the honor of the State Deputy to report annually on the condition of the Idaho Knights of Columbus. I can say that overall, the future of the Idaho Knights is very bright and during this past year, our councils have demonstrated a great effort and the results of those efforts are very promising. I would like to begin my report by expressing my gratitude to some very special people.

Our thoughts and prayers are always for Pope Francis, who is a tremendous supporter of the Knights of Columbus, worldwide. We thank him for his leadership of the one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

I am also thankful for the leadership and spiritual guidance of Bishop Peter Christensen. We are thankful for his support of the Knights in Idaho and for his leadership within the Diocese of Boise. It has been my pleasure to work with Bishop Peter and his staff on "Marriage for Life" and other projects. We ask that God will continue to guide him and grant him wisdom as he leads our Diocese into the future.

Additionally, I am grateful for the continuing commitment and spiritual leadership of our State Chaplain Father Ben Uhlenkott. Father Ben sacrifices his time to serve as spiritual advisor at our state meetings as well as here at the convention. Thank you Father Ben and may God bless you for your service.

I thank Lewiston Council #1024 Grand Knight Richard Baerlocher, Convention Chairman Craig Estes and his various committees, District Deputy Jeff Finken and all the members of the Lewiston Council for their efforts in hosting this year's convention. I would be remiss if I did not thank the wives and families of the Lewiston Knights for all

the sacrifices they have made during the preparation for this convention. THANK YOU!!!

I would like to spotlight the call for vocations that is a center piece of many Knights activities. The Knights of Idaho always stand, “In Solidarity with our Bishop and Priests.” We renew our pledge to be their strong right arm as the lay leaders that our Church so badly needs. I believe that this was one of the primary principles that our founder, Parish Priest and Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney envisioned when he conceived the Knights of Columbus in 1882. We owe the existence of the Knights of Columbus to him. May he be raised to the honors of sainthood according to the will of God. We owe our growth to countless Parish Priests from around the world who have invited us into their Parishes and allowed us to do our work. We owe our continued existence to those same Parish Priests who encourage our membership programs and allow our membership drives. **Thank you!!**

Even as we strive for vocations, we would be without services in many parishes were it not for the Priests among us who continue to serve in retirement. We have been twice blessed by them, first by their lives and examples and second by their continuing service to us all. We should continue to pray for them and especially, Monsignor Morgan and Father Muha who are currently recovering from illness. Please join me in thanking all of our Priests and especially those who are “retired”. (PAUSE)

I express my sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the State Officers, District Deputies, Directors and Chairmen who contribute to the goals of the State Council. All the successes that we have enjoyed this past year are a direct result of their dedication and perseverance. My duties have been lightened considerably by their strong support. In addition, we cannot, on the State level, accomplish anything without the support and dedication of local council officers and members. Our work is for you and our successes are from you. Thank you all and may God bless each of you for all that you do.

I thank my wife Judy for her continued help and support of my Knights activity. I also thank all the wives and families of my brother Knights for their continual support of us and our Order. It is only through their encouragement that we can dedicate the time and energy to serve others. Without them, much of what we do would not matter as much. Again, thank you all so very much.

DELEGATES

Worthy delegates, you have been chosen by your councils to represent your council membership at this convention. Please take this responsibility seriously. Your vote during the elections, resolutions process and other business decisions obligates your council to abide by the decisions made here at the convention.

I recommend that you take notes during the proceedings of this convention so that you can accurately report what occurred here to your councils at your next meeting. I especially want those delegates who are not Grand Knights to ensure that their council officers are aware of items that affect the implementation of their duties. Also, some officers will be newly elected before the end of this fraternal year; they will need to be aware of what happened here to ensure the continuity of the chosen office.

MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION

We are continually asking you to invite another Catholic man to join in our charitable efforts. Why is it important that we GROW THE ORDER? We have to recruit every day of the fraternal year, because it IS IMPORTANT. If we are not growing, then we are dying like so many other organizations. Idaho has been very lucky, member deaths, resignations, or indifference has not caused councils to fall into inactivity or suspension. It is through council growth that we recharge our councils with more hands to share the load, to foster new ideas that help our parishes and communities, and to strengthen our ability to live and practice the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy. We must be Knights in more than just name alone; we must act as the true and loyal Knights that we pledged to be when we learned the lessons of Charity, Unity Fraternity and Patriotism.

On every council roster, there are Knights who have decided not to participate in our charitable works. We can all do a better job of keeping them involved in our activities, mentoring them and keeping in touch with them. As part of the ongoing activities in your Council, you must talk to these men to maintain their inclusion in your council. Make a TRUE effort to retain members. All too often, councils spend more time trying to suspend those who have fallen away, than working to including them

I invite everyone present who has personally recruited a new member this fraternal year to stand, that includes the wives. (PAUSE) We grow one member Knight at a time, reaching out to a friend, a family member, an associate or even a perfect stranger. Thank you for your recruiting efforts! (APPLAUSE) Please be seated. We all see men that we do not know at church. Numerous men have just joined the Church at Easter and we have new members joining our local Parishes constantly, these are all candidates to join with us in our charitable activity. Recruiting is not difficult; it is as easy asking the question, "Have you ever been invited to join"?

When Pope Francis proclaimed The Year of Mercy, he called upon Catholics everywhere to practice the Corporal Works of Mercy. To feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless to care for the sick, to visit the imprisoned and to bury the dead. The Year of Mercy has ended, but this is what we as Knights do, all the time. How much easier it is to practice these principles when there

are additional helping hands. Invite another Catholic man to deepen his spirituality and faith by joining with us in our charitable efforts.

As of April 18th our state membership stands at 4,879 members. So far this year, we have recruited 171 new members. We have reached 68% of our state membership goal. However, we are 85% of the way through our fraternal year. In order to achieve our statewide goal by June 30, we need to get serious about inviting other Catholic men to join with us.

I could go on citing numbers, but I would like to share some exciting facts with you; Idaho Falls #1663, Nampa #2014, Buhl #2685, Boise-Santa Maria #4013, Boise-St. Mark's #12172, Fruitland #12516 and Post Falls #12560 have all reached over 100% of their membership goal.

Twin Falls #1416, Emmett #3085, Mountain Home #3703, Kellogg #3762, Grangeville #4058, Boise-St. Mary's #12531, Boise-Risen Christ #12854, Burley #12881, St. Anthony #12953 and Spirit Lake #15304 are less than 4 new members away from reaching their membership goal.

Most of our councils are one good recruiting weekend away from achieving their council new member goal. It is time for every council to make a serious effort to recruit the men who will help our state reach our goal and move forward into the future. This is the challenge that lies ahead of us for the next two months.

It is time for those of us in this room to step up to the plate as the leaders that we are and do what has been asked of us to lead our councils and help them to achieve the goals that have been given to them. We must actively offer our Order and the good works we do, to every eligible Catholic man and his family. Help them become better men, Catholics, fathers and husbands, by joining their efforts with ours.

NEW COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT and REACTIVATION

In looking at the Diocesan Parish listing, several locations could be candidates for new councils. Most of our focus has been in the southwest part of the state because of the continued strong growth in this area. Due to the demographic shifts in our Idaho population, our small rural towns are losing population to larger cities. The growth that Idaho is experiencing is due to the growth of the Treasure Valley, Magic Valley, Pocatello, Idaho Falls and the Kootenai county area. I urge the District Deputies and local leaders to evaluate these areas to see if new council development is a viable option.

We are currently in the process of establishing an Hispanic council in Nampa. There has been a huge interest in this new council and the Parish Priest, Father Caleb Vogel

is in full support. We expect that this new council will be active within the next month. One of the best benefits available to these new Knights will be the ability to participate in our insurance program. Fraternal benefits in the form of insurance play an important role in the recruitment process.

We should all be focusing on areas where new council growth is a possibility. New councils don't hurt existing councils; new councils factually and historically build not only the new council but reenergize the existing council and bring inactive and even suspended members back into active participation in the Order.

We are continuing the process of attempting the reactivation the Aberdeen Council that went dormant in 2002. There have been visits to American Falls and Aberdeen which have sparked some interest among former and potentially new members to get this council active again, next year; I hope they will have delegates seated with us.

COLLEGE COUNCILS

We currently have no councils on the college campuses here in Idaho. Having a Knights of Columbus council on the college campuses would allow young Catholic men to have a "home away from home." These councils would serve as a place where these young men can have fellowship with other believers and increase their spiritually. We have been working to establish councils at the various college campuses throughout the state. However, it is difficult to find a local council which is willing to step up to the challenge of assisting with the start of a council on a campus near them.

There are Parishes located on or near several of the college campuses and I challenge those councils near to the colleges to increase their involvement with the students and explore the formation of a college council. Supreme has specially trained recruiters who are available to assist with starting these councils. The formation of a College Round Table is a way to jump start our involvement in the colleges and universities of the state. We need these young men to be active Knights on their campuses; they will be the next generation of leaders in our Church.

Many of our Catholic high schools require their students to participate in service projects to graduate. The Catholic youth of today are exploring ways to help others and increase their spirituality. There is no better way to teach them the importance of charity and to acclimatize them to the service that we do, than to partner with them in our service projects. We have an obligation to provide a Catholic public service outlet for our Catholic youth. We must continue to encourage the idea of public service planted by the parents of these young people and by the schools. Two of the most obvious methods that we have available to us are the utilization of the high school service projects and College Councils.

ROUND TABLES

I remind all District Deputies and Grand Knights that each roundtable ceases to exist on July 1st and so a new Form must be submitted for a roundtable to continue. Having a roundtable fulfills Fr. McGivney's dream of having a Knights of Columbus **presence** in every parish. A round table contains the spirit and the energy of the Knights in a visible, active and focused forum and even if it never grows into a full council, it is one more step in the realization of Fr. McGivney's dream.

STATE COUNCIL ACCOUNT BALANCES

At regular intervals through the year and whenever requested, the State Treasurer and Secretary have provided updated reports of all accounts. I can attest that all accounts remain strong and are solvent. I am confident that the Audit Committee will so report tomorrow. State Secretary Shane Gehring and State Treasurer Roy Bartholomay are to be commended for their diligence to good accounting principles during this fiscal year. During this past year we have used QuickBooks online to increase accounting efficiency and lower our cost for annual auditing of our accounts. We utilize an independent outside auditor to review our books, to protect both the state membership and the state officers.

INSURANCE PROGRAM

Past Grand Knight Kevin Tuuri has served as Idaho's General Agent for just over a year. When he arrived, there were many open Field Agent positions that he needed to fill. Kevin has hired 3 new Field Agents to help carry the load. However, Dermott McCaughan was promoted to General Agent of Montana and moved out of Idaho. This created another opening in the agency. Our current Field Agents are Paul Ford, Jeff Woolsey, Charley Appel and Jason Taylor. Kevin has been conducting interviews in the Boise, Pocatello and Idaho Falls area in search of new men to add to his staff to fulfill the financial needs of our members.

Members of his agency, and even Kevin himself has serviced the councils in the state who do not have an assigned agent. They have been very responsive to any questions or requests made of them. Kevin is committed to the success of his agents and to help the councils and members with their insurance needs.

Idaho has been fortunate in the dedication and perseverance of our Field Agent force and I believe that we can look forward to many years of Insurance growth and membership promotion through the efforts of the entire agency.

Please take every opportunity to invite, welcome and utilize these valuable assets. As always, these dedicated professionals don't just sell insurance, they sell the Knights of

Columbus. Their goal is to give as many Catholic families as possible a chance to fully participate and enjoy all of the benefits that come with membership in our Order. Do your part to provide these benefits of membership to all of the members of your councils by actively promoting and using the Agency Staff here in Idaho.

FOURTH DEGREE

Our Vice Supreme Master Karl Hadley Past State Deputy of Washington and Former Master of the Fourth Degree has been active and supportive of the Fourth Degree here in Idaho. His term as Vice Supreme Master is ending this year and we are excited that our Executive Secretary Chuck Davlin Past State Deputy and Former Master of the Fourth Degree is being considered for the position.

We are blessed by the service of our District Master, Past State Deputy of Idaho, Sir Knight John Pettinger. John has been a vital part of the Idaho Knights of Columbus for many years and we are looking forward to his doing a great job as the District Master.

CEREMONIALS

Executive Secretary Chuck Davlin Past State Deputy and Former Master of the Fourth Degree, serves as the State Ceremonials Chairman. In this position, he is responsible for the various Degrees throughout the state.

The Admissions Degree is the responsibility of the local councils. Supreme has provided a video of this Degree in an effort to allow new members to enter the Order at their own council. Robed teams and teams wearing Ceremonial baldrics are still utilized to bring new members into our Order.

The Formation Degree is the responsibility of each District. Several new teams have emerged this year and more Formation Degrees are being held than ever before. The majority of them are held at the local district level.

Over the past few years, Chuck has been responsible for the development of several teams who conduct the Knighthood Degree. These teams encourage a more regionalized attendance to this Degree.

The Patriotic Degree falls under the direction of the current District Master. There are several Degrees scheduled each year throughout Idaho and our adjoining states. Degree teams are now operating in every part of the State, so there is no reason why new members cannot progress to the 4th Degree in less than a year.

VOCATIONS

This last year was another successful one in the support of vocations by the Knights of Columbus. Thanks to the efforts of the individual councils and assemblies, led by State Vocations Chairman Kevin Stadther, our seminarians and postulants have received over \$16,500 in gifts. This is an increase of over 65% from last year. Do not forget that support is not just money. Seminarians should receive cards, letters, invitations for council events and visits from members. If your Council is not supporting a Seminarian, I urge you to do so and help with the development and growth of Vocations.

DIOCESE OF BOISE

After my election as the State Deputy I had the privilege of meeting with Bishop Peter. I offered the services of the Knights of Columbus to him in any capacity that he needed. He quickly shared the concept of his “Marriage for Life” campaign. At that time I committed the Knights to assist him in any way that he needed.

In October 2016 Knights throughout the state assisted their local Pastors in the distribution of the Marriage for Life decals and prayer cards. Knights presented “Prayer to the Holy Family” cards to those entering the churches and then passed out the Marriage for Life packets as they left. The program was warmly received by Catholics from all parts Idaho.

The Marriage for Life information has been translated to Spanish and will be distributed to all parishes who conduct Mass in Spanish. This process will begin next week, April 29th or whenever there is a Spanish Mass held in a local Parish. Once again, the Idaho Knights have been called upon to assist their local Pastor.

CULTURE OF LIFE

I want to commend and congratulate our State Pro-Life Chair couple Bill and Karron Pahl for their efforts on behalf of life at all stages. This past year, Knights have been involved in rallies, fund raisers, runs, fairs and other activities which are designed to promote life at every moment, from conception to natural death.

We actively support a soon to be built pregnancy care center which will be located next door to an abortion mega clinic in Meridian, and we have participated in billboard and bus stop bench campaigns for pro-life messaging. For our part we must continue to be vigilant and to pray that we can continue both on the local and national levels to stop the war on the unborn, the marginalized and the elderly. All of this could not have happened without your support and the support of your councils.

REPORTS

To preserve our tax exempt status as an international organization, your council has to report charitable hours through the Fraternal Activity report. The government would love to get their hands on our charitable funds; it is up to each of you to help protect our status as a non-profit organization by reporting your service activities. I am pleased to announce that we had 100% participation in completing this report this year.

The Columbian Award Report is the vehicle to report activities to Supreme and be recognized for service in our Parishes and communities. It is important that we recognize our members who do so much charitable work. A little bit of praise and recognition will go a long way with your members, when you can display this award at your meeting room or Parish.

The state council maintains a website at idahokofc.org. Colin Groves is the webmaster and he is constantly in search of content regarding your local council activities.

The monthly State Newsletter is developed and edited by Dave Molitor. He is also interested in what your council is doing. It is important that this newsletter be shared with all the Knights in Idaho. I encourage everyone who receives it to pass it along to other Knights, your Pastor and friends. It can be an amazing recruitment tool.

I encourage you to send me or District Master John Pettinger your pictures, event calendars, council web addresses, Facebook links and any other piece of information that will enable us to share your successes with one another. Remember that we are not a secret society, we are on social media!

I have received and reviewed the results of the council audits for the second half of 2016 and they are impressive to say the least. Charitable giving and volunteer hours have increased to the highest levels in history. You are to be congratulated on such an impressive display of generosity. Remember, that is who we are and what we do.

I believe that councils should be fiscally responsible. That being said, I observed numerous councils and assemblies who had huge amounts of money in savings accounts, money market accounts and certificates of deposit. I encourage each council to examine their accounts and determine if the money on deposit with financial institutions couldn't be better used by giving it to those in need or charitable causes. Money parked in financial institutions is only doing the financial institution any good.

There are several state accounts which have low balances. Vocations, Pennies from Heaven, Wheelchairs, Pro-life and the Ultrasound machine accounts all are below the level that I would like to have them. I ask councils to consider contributing to any one of these accounts.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

The Pennies from Heaven Fund continues to help those in need. This year, through the generous support of our councils and members the fund has distributed \$7,500.00 to recipients for medical assistance and human needs. We ask you to support this fund so that we may be able to help for many, many years to come. In order to maintain this account, I ask councils to donate one penny per day per member.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Our Special Olympics Chairman Jim Barclay has diligently informed Councils of events planned in their areas so that they could participate and help Special Olympics. By your submission of Special Olympic participation form to Supreme, we are able to give a monetary gift back to the Special Olympics of Idaho. This year, the amount was \$2,400 which is a 20% increase over the amount we were able to give last year.

Once again, the State Council is partnering with Special Olympics of Idaho in the sale of raffle tickets for a chance to win a Toyota RAV 4. A portion of every ticket sold by a council will be given back to that council. You can contact Jim Barclay to get raffle tickets or additional information about this project.

WRAP UP

I have been honored and blessed to have been elected as your State Deputy for this past year. I have had the opportunity to travel throughout Idaho and to work with many of you. I have been especially impressed with all the activities and dedication of the councils that I have visited.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to take just a moment to thank a few of the folks that I have been blessed to work with this past year: Our State Chaplain Father Ben for his assistance and spiritual guidance throughout this past year; Immediate Past State Deputy Kerry Hennessy who has served as a sounding board and a guide for the past several years; Special thanks to all of the State Officers who have provided input and stability for me this past year, we are truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of men leading our state, State Secretary Shane Gehring, State Treasurer Roy Bartholomay, State Advocate Jim Griffith and State Warden George Mesina who joined the team a few months ago; Supreme Director Brian Simer who has given fresh ideas and perspective whenever asked for; State Executive Secretary Chuck Davlin the walking encyclopedia of knowledge who is ready and willing to do anything that is asked of him; and, my wife who keeps me grounded when I start to get lost in the maze and is a tireless proponent of the Knights of Columbus and an active recruiter.

Our fraternal year is not over yet. I ask each one of you for your commitment to help

your council achieve their new member goal for this year. Success for the state of Idaho is on the horizon, all we need to do is reach out and grab it. Take ownership of the roles you have accepted, the role that your council elected you to. Make the most of it by achieving the goals set before you. We still have 10 weeks to make a difference in Idaho.

Thank you members and delegates for your prayers and support, I have tried to help and lead you, but ultimately, it is YOUR actions that guide our jurisdiction.

Remember that alone we cannot affect as many lives as we can when we join our efforts. Use your membership in the Knights to grow personally and spiritually. Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid, I am with you always." Reach out to another Catholic man, invite him to join with the Idaho Knights of Columbus to **CHANGE LIVES AND TO SAVE LIVES!!!**

Vivat Jesus
Mike Townsend
State Deputy of Idaho