

Highlights of December State Officer Meeting in Peoria, Illinois

On the weekend of December 5, 2009, the state officers met in Peoria, Illinois to address the business of the Illinois State Council and Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. The following are highlights of that meeting:

- State Advocate, Bill Doerfler, assembled a committee to review the Illinois State Council By Laws. The committee includes PSD Bill Spainhour and PSD and Supreme Ceremonial Director Gary Nolan.
- State Treasurer, Donald "Skip" Kinyon, provided an overview of our assets and accounts indicating all are secure and that our accounting balances. The Supreme Council has an established investment fund called the Christopher Fund; and, it allows jurisdictions to invest in the fund for better interest returns. Some of our charities funds pending distribution are already included in this fund; and, we continue to take advantage of this investment option.
- State Advocate, Bill Doerfler, also serves as Vice President of Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. and is responsible for coordinating the Group Homes actions under the MRLD program. He worked with a Brother Knight who is a CPA to develop a more streamlined checklist for organizations applying for the Group Home Loan to better assess their credit worthiness.
- The state office in Kankakee is rented from the building owned by the Kankakee council. The rented facility is undergoing a renovation that includes fresh painting and new carpeting. Also, the Executive Secretary was directed by the State Deputy to hire a part-time receptionist to handle incoming phone calls and other office tasks. The new hire plus the purchase of work stations are intended to provide better service to our members while allowing our bookkeeper, Ms. Donna Nesland, to better concentrate on the daunting accounting tasks of maintaining various accounts for both Illinois State Council and Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. Upgraded computer equipment and document storage are included in the office upgrade.
- Former Supreme Secretary and PSD Charles Foos reported that there are currently 3,970 members in Illinois who are also members of the Father McGivney Guild. The cause for canonization is very promising and all are being urged to become members of the Guild.
- The Archdiocese of Chicago is sponsoring a Catholic Mens' Conference in March 2010; and, FSS and PSD, Charles Foos and Membership and Program Consultant (MPC) Joe Pietruszynski, are representing the state council on that committee. The conference is being co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of Peter Claver. At the December officers' meeting \$7,500 was approved to support the conference after a request by Bishop Parry for assistance was received.
- Plans for our State Squires' Convention are being made to be held at the University of Illinois, Champaign Newman Center Campus. This is a new

center and Monsignor Ketchum who oversees the Newman Center is allowing our Squires to utilize their facilities at an affordable cost.

- The officers discussed the new and additional requirement for the upcoming Supreme Council Columbian award which now includes Pro Life as a category. The State Program Director is planning to provide an overview of the proper completion of the Columbian Award form and will address the new requirement in that communication.
- Membership Director, Steve Mann, reported that our recruitment efforts are doing well and we are positive in our journey toward our desired opportunity level of every council being actively engaged in recruiting. He continues to urge councils to form a first degree team and to host first degrees as part of the overall recruitment strategy.
- The State Deputy, Jim Bednar, led a discussion on plans for the upcoming district deputy meeting being held in Normal, Illinois in January 2010. There is considerable coordination required for facilities and preparation of presentations that align with the ongoing development of a strategic plan named *Roadmap to the 21st Century*.
- Supreme Director and PSD Logan Ludwig reported on the Order's Food for Families program. Supreme Council established a one-million dollar fund that, depending on how well a jurisdiction participates in the program, will be apportioned an amount to support their Food program. Many councils throughout the Illinois jurisdiction have a very active Food Pantry and there will efforts to collect information on these programs in the near future.
- Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. determines an apportionment of Newman funds using a formula agreed upon by the Ordinaries of each diocese. We will be making the diocesan distribution of apportioned funds to the Springfield, Rockford and Bellville dioceses; Peoria and Joliet have been distributed at events held already this fraternal year; and the Archdiocese of Chicago will be next.
- The Illinois Vocation Program sponsors a seminarian basketball tournament for seminaries throughout the country. The rectors and the seminarians from the various seminaries express deep appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity given to seminarians to meet other seminarians and share experiences while having fun too! In support of this event, \$6,000 was approved from the Vocation Fund.
- Special Olympics Illinois hosts their winter Olympics in Galena each year in February. On behalf of Illinois Knights \$100,000 is proudly donated from the MRLD fund to support that event.
- The Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. officers approved a matching donation up to \$600 from the Pro Life Fund to support the Waterleaf Womens' Center in Aurora, Illinois. This centers goal is to save 2, 010 babies in 2010.

The state deputy made assignments for representation at the following events:

Diocese/Council	Date of Degree	Assigned State Officer
Joliet-Kankakee	November 15, 2009	IPSD-Phil Barone
Springfield-Edwardsville	November 15, 2009	Prog. Director-Gary Schmidt
Peoria-Urbana	November 15, 2009	SD-Bednar & ST-Kinyon
Beleville-Cahokia	November 15, 2009	Supreme Director-Logan Ludwig
Rockford-Fourth Degree	November 21, 2009	SS-Spada
Chicago-Glenview	November 29, 2009	SS-Spada
Chicago-Chicago	December 06, 2009	CO-Paul Isherwood
Rockford-St. Charles	December 06, 2009	SW-Mendel or IPSD-Barone
Rockford-Genoa	January 10, 2010	CO-Ed McMann
Springfield-Bethalto	January 16, 2010	Prog. Director-Gary Schmidt
Chicago-Mundelein	January 16, 2010	SS Spada
Joliet-Naperville	January 17, 2010	SA-Bill Doerfler
Joliet-Frankfort	January 29, 2010	SA-Bill Doerfler or SD-Bednar
Springfield-Springfield	January 31, 2010	SD-Bednar or ST-Kinyon
Chicago-Arlington Heights	January 31, 2010	SS-Spada