

# STATE UPDATE



## UTAH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

www.utahknights.org

February 2015

### State Deputy's Message

We discussed a lot at the Mid-Year meeting and we have a lot of things going on in the near future. Youth programs are high on our hit parade with Free-Throw Challenges (Council, District, and State), essay contest, and Diocesan Science Fair on 2/21. For advanced degrees we a 2nd Degrees, had a 3rd Degree, and a 4th Degree. Fr. Blaine passed on the State Chaplain jewel to Fr. Erik Richtsteig who accepted the position (both these men deserve a vote of thanks from the knights of Utah). Supreme is looking for reports which include our Annual Survey and Special Olympics Partnership Profile. We have a new Council at Hill Air Force base and we have a lot of these members who plan on also joining the 4th Degree right away.

I have heard more than once that "We are not in it for the awards". That is true but the paperwork is needed to continue our charity at the level we have maintained. The forms are what we use to show the extent of the charity we provide. We must constantly justify our existence with outside organizations be it government or other organizations which we work with or ask for assistance. Last year we showed what we could do by raising the money for an ultra sound machine. We should still have that as a focus and target more machines which directly save lives. We are presently working to raise money for a shipment of wheelchairs for the VA and our parishes. We have a chair which can be loaned to councils or assemblies to show the quality of the chairs we are buying.

Every council should be striving to make the theme One New Member per Council per Month a workable goal. It may be winter but we shouldn't be slowing down and this goes for recruitment as well. If we aren't growing we might as well say we have closed the door to new members. "We have a moral obligation to ask every Catholic man to join the Knights of Columbus" are the resounding words of Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. The gift of membership helps every man grow and become better not just because of the charity but the fellowship shared by our members. In March we celebrate our founding and the Order wants all councils to have a Church Drive in memory of our founder Father Michael J. McGivney.

*Continued next column*

### State Chaplain's Message

During the past mid-year meeting the State Chaplain Jewel was passed on from me to Fr. Richtsteig as I officially stepped down as State Chaplain. It was a decision that I made on my own. After almost 18 years as Associate State Chaplain and State Chaplain, I felt that it was time to go. It has been a great experience. I have witnessed great growth of the Knights in the State and many great activities that touched the lives of a lot of people and gave witness to the Gospel. I have also been part of the recognition by Supreme of the important role of the State Chaplain through meetings at the Supreme Conventions and mid-year meetings. I hope that this will continue.

I will continue to be active in the Knights. I will support my local council, #8606 and hopefully attend some of the major meetings throughout the year. I am very proud to be a member of the Knights of Columbus.

*Father James Blaine*

We support our families, communities, and parishes. Our Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) is there for every council to help our seminarians (future priests). We have the opportunity to financially, socially, and morally to help these young men develop into priests we can be proud of. Every council should be participating in this program and if anyone wants to know how, they can contact me for details.

We are now over half way through the year. How are you sitting on the goals you started out with this year? The success of your council and the knights is built on the charity we provide. There is a lot of work that we do but there is always more we can do. We need new ideas which is shown by what happened when the new idea that we could fund an ultra sound machine was started and we did it. Think about those new members or potential members who just need the help to focus their energy. Communicate with your members and let's make our year a success.

Jerry Hanten, Utah State Deputy

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## State Secretary's Corner

When you have a breather at the end of your next council project, take a moment and thank every single person you can find who worked on the project. Thank them. Shake their hand. Talk to them, I mean REALLY talk to them. Ask them how things are going. Ask about their family. Get their opinion on the project the council just finished.

The right members in the right places are our most valuable council members. But do we give them the gift of our time, fully present, even for just a minute? Your Knights, particularly your new Knights, look up to you, and a couple of minutes of one-on-one time will demonstrate that THEY are important to your council and to all the Knights of the state. Yes, still help to clean up, restock, but the quality time you spend with your Knights after a project is one of the most important things you can do for the long-term sustainability of your council.

Recognize outstanding Knights at the event itself, at the next council meeting, and with Knight and Family of the Month awards. These recognitions sustain high achievers and inspire others to do more.

Andy Airriess, Utah State Secretary

## State Program Updates

**Knights of Columbus Diocesan Science Fair** - The call for volunteers is out and we need a lot more. February 21st at St. John The Baptist School. Breakfast and judges orientation at 8AM, judging at 9, Lunch at noon, and optionally the awards presentation at 1PM. Sign up for judging by contacting Science Fair Chairman Al Martinez, 801-968-6174 or [zenitharmy@comcast.net](mailto:zenitharmy@comcast.net). You can also sign up at <http://goo.gl/IHDMgA>

**State Free Throw Championship** - As always, this is a great event. The state challenge with contestants from up and down the Wasatch front is Saturday, March 28th at Blessed Sacrament School. To sign up, contact State Free throw chairman Ron Mecham at 801-973-8337.

**MS Walk** - This annual event is an annual tradition, where we get together to walk and help those who suffer from MS in Utah. You can help by walking, or by selling raffle tickets to the basket of beauty products (not for you, for your wife). More information will be coming soon. The walk is Saturday, April 21 at the Gateway Mall, SLC

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