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The Sikorian

A Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus

March 2020 Volume 38 Issue 9

Grand Knight's Report

Brothers,

Welcome to Lent. I commend to you Bishop Barron's WORD ON FIRE website, where you can find his daily reflections with great Lenten thought provoking encouragement. Also go to the FORMED website, where you can find daily Lenten video reflections. Another interesting activity is to google Caravaggio's "Calling of Matthew" to pull up an image of his famous painting. I watched a commentary on the painting here <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/early-europe-and-colonial-americas/reformation-counter-reformation/v/caravaggio-s-calling-of-st-matthew-c-1599-1600> and found it to be a fascinating discussion. I encourage you to watch it and reflect on how Christ is calling YOU to follow him this lent.

I've discussed the SHINING ARMOR award a lot this year. I'm pleased to announce our first awardee: Br. Tony Then. Great job Br. Tony! You have set a superb example for how a new Knight can join our council and make an immediate and significant positive impact.

We are currently 16 new Knights against our goal of 35. We are well within striking distance of meeting our membership goal for this year, and I ask everyone in the Council to recruit just one new Knight. If we can do that, we'll hit our goal in no time.

We have an open house on March 3rd (7:30, Nativity cafeteria, spouses welcome) in conjunction with our first business meeting. I ask all brothers to find one man and invite him to this event. Also on March 3rd, Deacon Kelly will come speak to us about the Diaconate. I encourage all brothers to come listen to his message.

Our council excelled in February, with outstanding execution of all scheduled events: in lieu of our first February meeting, we stuffed over 6500 envelopes in under 3 hours for our annual Car Raffle. Kudos to PGK Sam Morthland for organizing another precision effort. We exceeded our blood drive goals for our 22 Feb blood drive. Great job Br. Mark Altobelli, and thank you to all the brothers who helped. PGK Tom Savage and his kitchen team provided the best breakfast in town for all donors. Br. Dave Zivich ran the Council Free throw Contest, which produced champions who advanced to the District contest—which in turn produced district champions who will compete at the state level contest—good action! Finally – a leap year weekend extravaganza that was our annual Art Auction. Great job PGK Tom Savage and all who helped make this another smashing success. We broke our own parish record for the St. Lucy food drive—over 20k pounds—Brothers Jim Barrineau, Claes Lewenhaupt, and Jason Hines

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Check out our Web Site: <https://nativityburke.org/knightscouncil7992/>



once again were the engine that drove this success. Br. Tom Siepmann and Br. George Getek shepherded our Parish participation in the 2nd Annual Virginia March for life. Great turnout, with Brother Knights and Nativity parishioners making a difference!

March is action packed: First Lenten Fish Fry, membership drive, St. Patrick’s Day dinner dance, our first Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, family pilgrimage to the St. Paul II shrine in DC, Parish Lenten mission. Fr. Bob has also asked us to help coordinate parking for the 14 March Diocesan Peace and Justice Conference, which will be at Nativity, starting with Bishop Burbidge celebrating 5pm mass.

Please read the article in this newsletter about the 40 days for life campaign (started on Ash Wednesday). I challenge you to participate in a pro-life activity during this time. If you have never prayed in front of an abortion clinic, let this be your first time—it is a powerful experience that will make a lasting impression on you.

Father Michael McGivney is certainly looking down on us from Heaven and smiling as he sees the good we do.

Brother Knights, thank you for all you do. Christ is Alive! Let your Light Shine! Live the Dream!

Vivat Jesus!

John Ostrowski, Grand Knight

Announcements

March Council Meetings

March’s council meeting will be on the first and third Tuesdays, the 3rd and 18th. Please join us at 7:15pm to pray the Rosary; meeting begins at 7:30. There will be an Open House held in the cafeteria the same time as our meeting on the 3rd.

Upcoming Degree Opportunities

The following degree advancement opportunities are scheduled for the Knights of Columbus. Please contact DGK Barry Basselgia at bbdgk7992@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

- Tuesday, 24 March, 7:30pm, Nativity
- Tuesday, 21 April, 8pm, St Mary’s
- Thursday, 7 May , 7:30pm, Nativity
- Monday, 11 May, 8pm, St Raymonds
- Tuesday, 16 June, 8pm, St Mary’s

Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity:

- Tuesday, 3 March, 8pm, St Mary’s

4th Degree (Exemplification):

- Saturday, 18 April, Virginia Beach

Spring Membership Drive — 14-15 March

We will have a spring membership drive on the weekend of 14-15 March. Please help us after all masses to recruit men of our parish into our council. For new brothers pursuing the Shining Armor award, this is a perfect chance to recruit someone and satisfy that portion of the award criteria. We all know someone in our parish that we think would make a good Knight—

perhaps someone we see at mass each weekend. Our membership drive weekend is the perfect time to ask that man to join and explain the many positive benefits of being part of a 2 million-plus member fraternal brotherhood that Pope John Paul II called “the strong right arm of the church.” We’ll have a pulpit announcement at the end of each mass and a sign-up table in the Narthex, so please join us after the mass you attend and help bring new members into our Council!

Name Tag Assistance

If you have not received a name tag, please send an email to the Worthy Warden, Dave Zivich, at davezivich@gmail.com. He will order one for you.ace the order.

Show your pride and wear your council name tag



Food for Fellowship

Our Worthy Warden does an excellent job providing food for our after-meeting fellowship. In past years, other brothers have shown their culinary prowess by

providing food for a meeting If you would like to treat the council to one of your favorite creations and whip up a few treats for us, we welcome that. Sign up at <https://signup.com/Activities#/2884282/jobs/edit> to lock in your meeting date! Thanks!

Recent Council Awards



Above Left: WGK John Ostrowski recognizes Michael Bender as November's Knight of the Month.



Above Right: Br Tony Then is recognized as our Council's first Shining Armor Award winner.

Below: Council 7992 Officers





Happy Birthday, Brother Knights!

Please help us wishing "happy birthday" to our brother knights who are celebrating their birthdays in March: Todd Harmer, Richard Stone, Michael Mangano, Zaven Boghossian, Michael Pasek, Rev Wilson Korpi, John Jackson, Freddy Zamorano, Russel Smith, John Bartus, Donald Camden, Michael Haley, Matthew Pecoraro, Joseph Miletta, John Niehoff, James Visich, Thomas Snee PDD, Daniel Price, Col Michael Toner, Eric Pavlick, William O'Connor, John Weis Sr,



Daniel Galik, Michael Murphy, Juan Rodarte, Michael Mesngon, Michael Buckley, Robert Sands, John Spahn, Christopher Yuasko, William Gordon, Ramiro Bellido, Louis Albert, and Dr Timothy Grayson.

Recruiting New Brothers

Do you know of someone who wants to join our council? Forward him the link below, A Faster Way to Join - One of the most common objections to joining the Knights of Columbus is "I don't have time."

Through Online Membership, a joining process that could take as long as two months now takes five minutes. Ensure he inputs our council number 7992. Please contact DGK Br Barry Basselgia with any questions or if you need a form 100.

<https://www.kofc.org/apps/newjoin/en/registration/index.html>

Policy for Accepting Council Checks

Checks should be made checks payable to "Knights of Columbus Council 7992" or "Fr. Vincent S. Sikora Council #7992" for all events and member dues except Appalachia, KOVAR, and the Car Raffle. Appalachia checks should be made payable to the "Church of the Nativity" or "Nativity Catholic Church;"

on the check memo line include "Appalachia Home Build." KOVAR checks can be made payable to "KOVAR" for member tax deduction purposes or "Knights of Columbus Council 7992" with no member tax deduction allowed. Car Raffle checks should be made payable to "All Saints Catholic Church," on the check memo line include "Car Raffle."

Honorary Membership — Silver

A member who has attained the age of 65 years of age and who has been a member of the Order 25

consecutive years shall be designated an Honorary member in his council. Member dues are reduced to \$10.00 per fraternal year.

Honorary Life Membership — Gold

A member who has attained the age of 70 years of age and who has been a member of the Order for 25 consecutive years or who has been a member of the Order for 50 consecutive years regardless of age, shall be designated as Honorary Life in his council. Priests

and religious brothers are permitted access to all KOC functions with only the Honorary Life membership card. Parish Priests and religious brothers are automatic Honorary Life Members and are treated as such. There are no member dues charged for Honorary Life members.



Community

Meal Support

Consider supporting Br Bob Doheny with meals. Charity is the first principle of our Order. We have been fortunate to have a core group of volunteers, but they need your help. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c44acac2ea7fe3-meals>

Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

We will once again award six Knights of Columbus, Clarence "Frenchy" Cyr Memorial Scholarships in memory of our Council's Charter Grand Knight.

These six scholarships of \$1000 each, for Catholic secondary school education tuition will be awarded to the son or daughter of registered parish members or the son, daughter or grandchild of Council 7992 members who best exemplify the traits of perseverance, effort, and contribution to his or her community. See the attached application for more information.

Please mail completed applications to: Knights of Columbus, Council No. 7992, Attention: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 10907, Burke Virginia 22009. All applications must be received with a postmark no later than midnight, Friday, April 24, 2020. Additional applications may be obtained at the parish office of the Church of the Nativity, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke Virginia, from the Knights of Columbus web site: <http://fathersikoracouncil.org> or contact Dave Zivich at (703) 440-8437 or davezivich@gmail.com.

Fraternal Committee – Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance!

The Fraternal Committee was established with a goal of brothers helping brothers and their families in need of assistance or in distress. This includes a brother who is deployed or about to be deployed or the spouse of a recently deceased brother, who may need a helping hand.

Our **Outreach** brothers telephone or visit our brothers who are hospitalized or homebound and are no longer able to get out. The focus of this program is to help these brothers maintain a connection with the council and assure them that their brother Knights are thinking about them, praying for them and ready to help.

Our **Resources** brothers assist our brothers and their families facing daily life challenges by connecting them with a broad spectrum of county and community based safety net services and resources that range from providing supplies, financial aid, and

professional counseling to budgeting, resume writing, and job counseling. This referral assistance takes the hassle out of trying to figure out on your own where to turn for help when you need it the most.

Our **Yard Cleanup** brothers perform a spring time yard cleanup for brothers who can't do it on the own for health reasons and don't have the resources to hire someone. It's nice way of reminding a brother who may be hospitalized, recently hospitalized or in declining health that his home is still his castle.

If you know of a homebound or hospitalized brother who would like a visit **or** a brother who is facing some life challenges who could use a referral to a network of help **or** a brother about to be deployed or has been deployed who could use some assistance back home, please contact the Fraternal Committee at koc7992fraternal@gmail.com.

If you are a brother interested in helping your fellow brothers in any of these ways, likewise please contact the Fraternal Committee at koc7992fraternal@gmail.com.



Lenten Fish Fry — 6 March

We will be hosting the first fish fry this Lent on 6 March. We need lots of help. Family members can help too. We have broken jobs into short shifts, but you are free (and encouraged) to select multiple shifts. All jobs are easy and you will be instructed on

what is needed to be done when you arrive. If you have questions please contact PGK Mark Sawyer at 703-250-3984 or sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net. Please go to the Sign-up Genius and sign up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AAAB28A75-6march>

St Patrick's Day Dinner Dance — 21 March

Our traditional celebration of the Patron Saint of Ireland will be held on Saturday, 21 March, at 6:30pm in the Fr. Martin Center. We invite all Knights and their ladies to be part of this fun-filled evening at a cost of \$30 per ticket. The Dinner Dance has always been a great social for the entire Nativity Parish. If you have not attended before, this would be a great year to start. We will have Irish Dancers and a DJ to provide music for listening and dancing. Many volunteers are always required to put on this special event (cooks, kitchen help, bartenders, bread cutters,

setup and cleanup). On Friday, 20 March, we will cook the corned beef (9am), pare the vegetables (1:30pm--with great help from the Ladies of Knock), and set up the center (6:00pm). Saturday, 21 March, we will trim the corned beef (9am), cut the bread (1:30pm), and finish cooking the meal. Kitchen help is needed to serve the dinner and of course last, but not least, do dishes and clean up the kitchen. Let's all be a part of a fun-filled evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Br Gene McGrath (703-250-1281) will be soliciting volunteers through SignUpGenius and at the first meeting in March.

Fraternal Committee — Help Needed

The Fraternal Committee is seeking brothers to help with its outreach activities. Help includes making occasional phone calls to segments of our membership about upcoming presentations of interest; phoning homebound brothers to assess their needs and well-being and to keep them informed of council activities; and visiting

homebound and/or hospitalized brothers as an outward reflection of compassionate support for them and their families. Does not require a heavy time commitment. A good way for busy brothers to become involved. If interested or willing to help, please contact Fraternal Committee Chair, Br Rich Miserendino, PGK, at KOC7992Fraternal@gmail.com or 703-440-0991.

Adopt-A-Highway — 18 April

The next pick-up date is Saturday, 18 April, weather permitting. Volunteers will gather at 10am in the Church of the Nativity lower parking lot (Old Keene Mill Road level) and have a brief organizational meeting where vests and bags will be distributed before departing to pick up trash along Old Keene Mill Road between Fairfax County Parkway and Lee Chapel Road. It is anticipated that the clean-up activity will be completed before 11:30am if enough volunteers are available. If you are able to

participate, use sign-up genius or email Brother George Getek at ggetek@aol.com where the first **"AWARD-WINNING ELITE EIGHT" VOLUNTEERS will be given priority.**

Early sign-ups for veteran "ROAD WARRIORS" (and others) are now open at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945aaab28a64-adoptahighway16>



Giant Food — Surplus Food Pick Up and Delivery to Food For Others Tues/Thurs

Fellow Knights,

We have an active ministry that recovers surplus food at two Giant locations in our area and delivers food to Food for Others in Fairfax. Last year we picked up over 20,000 lbs of food for distribution in our community.

On Tuesdays we pick up food from the Giant location on Burke Center Parkway, and on Thursdays we pick up from the Giant location at the University Plaza. You need to have a truck or van that can hold a large number of boxes as the volume and weight varies from week to week. Some weeks there is very little,

others there is a large volume of bread/bakery items and other weeks we get 600 lbs of frozen meat. It is rare that it requires more than one trip to make the delivery, but the boxes themselves can be heavy.

Pick ups are scheduled for 11am and if the load is substantial it can take until 1pm to be finished with the task.

If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Brother Bob Colella at robert.colella.86@gmail.com and he will coordinate a ride along to provide you with further training and will then add you to the Sign-Up Genius so you can schedule yourself into the ministry.

*Vivat Jesus,
Bob Colella*

Handy Knights Ministry

Fellow Knights — are you handy? Do you aspire to be handy? Do you have a few hours a month to volunteer to help parishioners who need a little bit of help in their homes? Sometimes it is just changing a lightbulb, sometimes it is helping to sort out a remote control for a TV, and mostly it is about spending time

with folks who are our parishioners who maybe are getting along in years and don't get to have much company.

I am looking to fill a roster with volunteers. If you are interested, please email me and tell me what your talents are and I will keep you on file when a job that fits your talents comes up.

Brother Bob Colella robert.colella.86@gmail.com

Shining Armor Award

The Shining Armor Award is for everyone who became a knight in the past year. You get a lot of stuff when you first join and it can be a bit over whelming. I just wanted to make you aware of a program designed for members of our council to engage in and maintain an active level of participation in council programs and activities. You have to complete 5 activities within a Fraternal year to qualify for this award, many of which you have probably already completed:

- Be involved in at least 3 council service programs
- Attend at least 3 council business meetings
- Receive their Formation and Knighthood degrees
- Meet with your council's insurance representative
- Recruit at least one new member

Completing these are easier that you may think. If you've helped at any of our events, you're already on your way to achieving the Shining Armor Award. Information on this program was included in you new membership packet, which included a qualification Card to help you track the above activities. If you're interested in this program and need more information, please let me know. I'd love to be able to recognize you for becoming an active member in our council.



- DGK Barry Basselgia, email bbdqk7992@gmail.com



Family

Save the Date: Spring Family Event, 28 March

Please plan to join us for our next family event. On Saturday, 28 March, we will visit the Saint John Paul II National Shrine.



Faith

Join Nativity's Usher Ministry

Several weekend Masses at Nativity need additional ushers. The greatest need is at the 9am, 12:45pm, and 5:30pm Masses on Sundays. Nativity offers an

usher training program sponsored jointly by the Diocese and Nativity. If you are interested in joining the Usher Ministry, please contact Br Tom Wilder at tomwilder@earthlink.net.

Prison Ministry

Fr Vaccaro is asking brother knights help in writing letters to those incarcerated. He has a list of names

whose lives might be impacted for the better with your correspondence. Please contact him if interested.

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

“WE, THE PEOPLE OF NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH, BY OUR BAPTISM, ARE JOYFUL DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST. WE STRIVE TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, AND FORM NEW DISCIPLES. WE CELEBRATE JESUS CHRIST IN WORD, SACRAMENT AND SERVICE.”



Kairos Prison Ministry International

Kairos Prison Ministry brings the light, love, and friendship of Jesus Christ into the lives of prisoners. “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” (Ephesians 4:1)

Bringing Light into the Darkness of Prison

Through the work of over 30,000 volunteers, Kairos Prison Ministry brings the light, love, and friendship of Jesus Christ into the lives of prisoners and their families.

They learn they are forgiven, and they learn they are loved. It is truly a life changing, and often live saving experience.



When a former negative gang leader accepts Christ, it can influence the very atmosphere of a prison for the better. As the Kairos Christian community inside a prison grows and begins to gain influence, the incident of violence often decreases.

After a Kairos Inside Weekend, Kairos Comes Back

After the Kairos Inside Weekend, “Prayer and Share” accountability groups are held weekly and Continuing Ministry with Kairos volunteers monthly.

The ultimate goal of Kairos Inside is to build a Christian community to pray and fellowship together on a weekly basis by nurturing each other in their faith walk and providing accountability. This is the heart of Kairos!

The fact that we return again and again to each prison for Kairos Continuing Ministry is what distinguishes Kairos from other prison ministries. It can be very challenging to maintain a Christian lifestyle in prison, and **without follow up support, the efforts of the 3 and a half day retreat would quickly be lost to the prison environment.**



**Kairos Prison Ministry
International**

For many participants, the Kairos Weekend creates the desire to become a Christian, and for others the desire to continue his/her spiritual growth.

Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers step into this darkness to hold a 3 and a half day weekend, with the majority of participants make up primarily of negative leaders within the prison. Through talks, discussion, and Chapel meditations, **prisoners learn that they are worthy of God’s love, light, and grace. That no matter who they are or what they have done, God forgives them.**



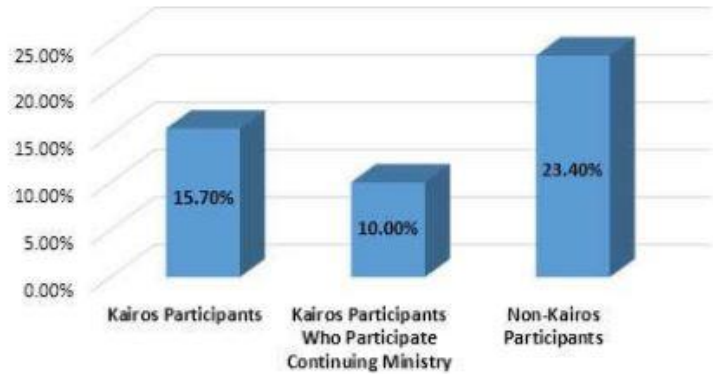
Kairos Reduces Recidivism Rates

Kairos programs have gained the respect of the correctional system.

In a study of 505 inmates released from Florida prisons, the recidivism rate was 15.7% among those who had participated in one Kairos session, and 10% among those who had participated in two or more Kairos continuing ministry sessions.

The non-Kairos control group in the study had a recidivism rate of 23.4%. Reduction in recidivism rates result in reducing the cost to society of further imprisonment (approximately \$30,000 per year per prisoner).

Recidivism Rate of Kairos Graduates



Sources: Florida Department of Corrections, Federal Register: Prisons Bureau

Kairos Helps Create Better Communities

The next generation experiences a change in their released family member, who begins to model a lifestyle without crime. New, positive behavior is reinforced.

The local communities become safer, as parolees and former prisoners make positive life choices from the foundation of ongoing Christian "Prayer and Share" weekly meetings.



Families are reunited with more hope for the future.

Fr Martin visited and prayed with prisoners.

"In every community, there is work to be done.
In every nation, there are wounds to heal.
In every heart, there is the power to do it."

- Marianne Williamson

Knights All, please consider joining our Council's Prison Ministry, otherwise known as Kairos, which is an international organization, that really does make a difference in many lives of people who are forgotten. If you are interested, please contact PGK Mike Litzelman at mlitzelm1@hotmail.com or call 703-250-7750.



Culture of Life

Lenten 40 Days for Life Campaign

40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. 40 Days for Life is active in 950 cities in 63 countries.

The 40 Days For Life Spring Campaign began on Ash Wednesday, 26 February, and runs until 5 April. The Falls Church group meets at the Falls Church Health Center, 900 S Washington Street (Lee Hwy), for quiet

prayer and demonstrating throughout the 40 Days for Life campaign. Scheduled times for Nativity are 9am on Mondays and Thursdays. Come for an hour, pray the Rosary and witness for our Faith and the Sanctity of Human Life.

See website and Facebook page for more details:

<http://40daysforlife.com/falls-church>

<https://www.facebook.com/40DaysforLifeFallsChurch/>

US Senate Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act Fails to Pass

Along with the rollback of decades of legislative gains made in the Commonwealth of Virginia on pro-life issues, similar defeats are being delivered at the US Senate level, including the defeat of the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, sponsored by Senator Graham (R-SC), which garnered only 53 votes “for” and 44 votes “against” the 20-week abortion ban, as well as 56 votes “for” and 41 votes “against” for the anti-infanticide measure. Both measures required 60 votes to pass in view of the current filibuster rules controlling the Senate. Though the Senate clearly had a majority support for both bills, GOP-backed Senate filibuster rules require that standalone bills must first receive at least 60 votes to end the filibuster before the bill can proceed.

This Act would have prohibited most abortions starting at 20 weeks (or five months) into pregnancy

and is based on scientific research indicating that preborn babies are capable of feeling pain at this stage in development. The Act further would have required doctors who perform an abortion to transfer infants who survive the procedure to a hospital to save their life. Life Site News reports that: “Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) challenged anyone who denies the science of fetal pain to visit a neonatal intensive care unit and listen to nurses explain ‘how they can hold that small infant, sometimes even in the palm of their hands. And they can see it grimace at a poke or a prod, maybe even slap away a tube or a needle as they approach.’”

More on this topic can be found here:

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/senate-majority-votes-for-key-pro-life-bills-but-rules-block-passage>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/barbarous-pro-life-leaders-react-to-failure-of-senate-bills-to-ban-infanticide-late-term-abortion>

ACTION NEEDED NOW IN VIRGINIA!

From Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, and MarchforLife.org comes this wake-up call to Virginians:

Right now, we need your voice more than ever to discourage the passing of pro-abortion legislation in the state of Virginia. Committees will set up Senate Bill 733 and House Bill 980 for floor votes very soon, sending them to a

pro-abortion governor to sign into law. We need your help to stop these bills.

If passed, these bills will remove Virginia's requirement that only a doctor may perform an abortion, lift the 24-hour wait period before an abortion, and repeal the law that the mother be provided the following information prior to the termination:

See next page



- A full and comprehensive medical explanation of the procedure, including the nature, potential risks, as well as alternatives and protocols to be followed;
- A reminder that the mother may change her mind or withdraw her consent at any moment prior to the abortion procedure;
- An offer for the mother to speak with the physician if she has any questions about the procedure;
- An ultrasound to help determine gestational age of the fetus.

If it becomes law, this bill will result in more abortions with lower health standards in Virginia, as well as drastically reduce the information provided for a woman to be able to make an informed consent.

By acting on this petition, you will send an email to your elected officials urging them to vote against this bill. Please forward this email to friends and family and encourage them to do the same.

Sign the petition, take action now!

<https://p2a.co/OTRrD3>

2nd Annual Virginia March For Life

About 17,000 babies were aborted in Virginia in 2019. Virginia legislators want to beat that number in 2020 by passing an onslaught of pro-abortion legislation this term. Thousands of pro-life demonstrators rallied around the state capital building to hear talks from Victoria Cobb (president of the Family Foundation), Jeanne Mancini (president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund), Bishop Michael

Burbidge, Senator Gavin Newman, and Olivia Gans Turner (Virginia Society for Human Life).

Protestors were there to rail against devastating new legislation being enacted in Virginia by this term's legislative body, including bills that remove the 24 hour waiting period before an abortion, enable non-doctors to perform abortions, and withhold critical information including ultrasound and full abortion procedure explanations from the expectant mothers who seek an abortion.





A Founding Vision, A Visionary Founder

“Resolved by this assembly: That Michael J. McGivney, Matthew C. O’Connor, Cornelius J. Driscoll, James J. Mullen, John J. Kerrigan, Daniel Colwell, and William M. Geary, and all other persons now associated with them under the name of the Knights of Columbus, together with all other such person as may hereafter become associated with them, and their successors, are constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of the Knights of Columbus.

“The purpose for which said corporation is formed are the following: (a) of rendering pecuniary aid to its members, their families and beneficiaries of members and their families; (b) of rendering mutual aid and assistance to its sick, disabled and needy members and their families; (c) of promoting social and intellectual intercourse among its members and their families, and (d) of promoting and conducting educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and welfare, and public relief work.”

~ Excerpted from the Charter of the Knights of Columbus, Granted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, Approved March 29, 1882.

As the Connecticut winter drew to a close in March of 1882, few could have imagined that the new Catholic organization just approved by the General Assembly would amount to much.

Secret societies and fraternal organizations were abundant. And besides, Catholics weren’t well-liked or highly thought-of. There was even some Catholic resistance to the idea of the Knights of Columbus. Local priests took issue with the concept. A similar Catholic group even refused to allow Fr McGivney to establish a branch of their organization in Connecticut.

It was seemingly inconceivable that an organization, begun in such unwelcoming circumstances, would go on to become one of the world’s largest Catholic fraternal organizations.

It was baffling to think that a group of destitute Irish immigrants, fighting against unemployment, discrimination, and diseases in New Haven, Connecticut would cause a spark that would light up

the world with more than 1.9 million members, in more than a dozen countries.

It was so improbable that a group of men dedicated to serving the needs of their Catholic community would go on to donate nearly \$1.5 billion dollars to charitable causes, and spend 673 million hours volunteering in just the last decade.

And it seemed so unlikely that a Catholic priest, who spent nearly every waking minute attending to the spiritual and material needs of his parishioners, would be the founder of one of North America’s largest life insurance companies.

Inconceivable? Baffling? Improbable? Unlikely? Perhaps – but not to Fr McGivney. And, not to the 75 men who dared to answer his call to found the Knights of Columbus. It is his vision – and theirs – that we celebrate each March as “Founder’s Day.”

And what, exactly, did they found? Fr McGivney, we know, did not just found a charitable society, but a society of mutual aid through which members would insure their own well-being, and that of their families, with the help of their brother knights.

Fr McGivney, we’re told in *Parish Priest*, began the founding of the Order and its insurance program with “an entrepreneurial zeal.” Determined to provide financial protection for his parishioners and their families, McGivney, “had to delve into the subject of insurance and read all of the fine print, of which there was plenty.”

Before deciding that a new group was in order, Fr McGivney researched the finer points of the insurance programs of other fraternal benefit organizations, ultimately concluding that their coverage was insufficient.

And when it came to time crunch the numbers and establish the newly-founded Knights’ insurance program, it was Fr McGivney himself who set down the terms and reported them to the members, and to other parishes in the diocese.

“In the way that Fr McGivney had organized the insurance,” *Parish Priest* says, “nearly anyone could afford coverage.”

continued on next page



A Founding Vision, A Visionary Founder, con't

Father McGivney was devoted to his mission, working tirelessly until his premature death at age 38.

How proud must Father McGivney and his brother knights be to know that program he founded continues to provide affordable, quality insurance to knights and their families?

How proud must they be to know that the Knights of Columbus continues to provide insurance by brother knights, for brother knights, protecting Catholic families for generations?

How proud must they be to know that the Knights of Columbus, with over \$113 Billion in force and more than 2 million active contracts, is protecting more Knights than ever before?

Not nearly as proud as we are to call Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney our beloved founder.

This March, let's make Father McGivney's priority our own. Let's continue his mission of protecting Catholic families from destitution and financial ruin

New Office to Serve You Better

Effective immediately, the new office for your Knights of Columbus field agent, Thom Harrington, is at 9720 Capital Ct, Suite 301, Manassas, VA 20110. This is in the four-story office building sporting the Prince

by making sure that our families are protected with insurance for brother knights, by brother knights. After all, it's part of what being a Knight is all about.

Happy Founder's Day!

See and share more on this and other topics by "Liking" my Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/Thomas-Harrington-Knights-of-Columbus-Insurance-1185581764801211/>

Thom Harrington
703-810-3200



Thomas.Harrington@kofc.org

www.ThomHarrington.com

William Chamber of Commerce name across the top. You can quickly find the office through the website www.ThomHarrington.com or using your driver assist mapping device. Hours are by appointment only for the moment.





Appalachia Home Building

Brothers, we set all records for collections this year and are over \$76,000 in our effort to raise \$65,000 to build our 22nd home. On collection weekend in January, we raised over \$40,000, without counting electronic donations, which was over past years.

THANKS TO ALL THE BROTHERS WHO HELPED DURING COLLECTION WEEKEND AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE BROTHERS WHO GAVE SO GENEROUSLY!

Good Shepherd Mission has selected the Marler family to receive our 22nd home. The Marler family consists of a family of five (father, mom, and three kids). The family is currently living in a trailer that is in very poor condition. It can't be adequately heated, floors are rotten, and there is a significant mildew problem. The family has an income of \$16,000/year. We will be building the family a three-bedroom, two-bath home, approximately 1150SF, complete with all appliances. Our plan is to also purchase new beds for the entire family.

Concerning the crew for the May/June deployment, we are again bringing a very large crew. We have 20

brothers who will be on the building and finishing crews. Projected Crew will consist of the following individuals: BJ Dysart (20th home), Bill Gordon (15th home), Dave Perales (15th home), Pat Colton (19th home), Eric Colton (10th home), Jim Baldrighi (8th home), Jerry Leonard (16th home), Pat Bradshaw (15th home), Think Nguyen (16th home), Mark Biber (8th home), Paul Piraino (7th home), Bob Colella (6th home), Steve Mullen (6th home), Mark Pizzo (4th home), Alexie Rivera (3rd home), Barry Basselgia (3rd home), and Bob Corsi (22nd home). We also have three brothers who will be joining us for the first time: Will McCool, Bob Gousy, and Jim Koscis. A special thanks to Jerry Leonard who again has volunteered to stay longer to lead the Finishing Crew. A big thanks to all the Crew for giving up their time away from family and friends for this important outreach effort. Father Vaccaro is also planning to join us for the house blessing and may come down early to help us.

Dave and Ann Benson continue their efforts to collect items for the family so please help them if you can.

Brother Corsi

St Lucy Food Drive

I would great appreciate it if you would pass along the very strong thanks of the St. Lucy Team (Jim Barrineau, Claes Lewenhaupt, and me) to the Knights of the Council for their help with the collections this past weekend. The Parish donated an amazing ten tons of food, and getting that food loaded onto the trucks was an all-hands effort. We literally could not have done this without the support of our fellow Knights, and their support was tremendous.

I heard back from Patty Kuntz; Nativity has broken its own record. We cracked the 20,000 lbs level; plus the Parish donated approximately \$4700 in cash/checks and \$300 in gift cards. Nativity is absolutely amazing!

Brother Jason Hines





Pro-Life Ace Wings — Earn Yours!

Some days it seems like the country has gone crazy, particularly when it comes to Life issues and our faith. Virginia is a fair sized part of our country. Virginia also has a large Catholic population and likewise we have a large group of Knights, now more than 28,600 men.

As most of you may also know by now, our State Deputy Bob Szerszynski is a strong pro-life advocate and his sense is that we collectively want and need to do something this year to end this craziness - starting right here within our own local communities.

The ACE Wings program was initiated to recognize Pro Life warriors in our midst and hopefully encourage others to become equally energized to do good. Ace stands for Pro-Life without **A**pology, without **C**ompromise and without **E**xception. The "Precious Feet" on the ACE Wings pin are the size and shape of an unborn baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception.

The ACE Wings program is not an end of year award but rather provides recognition when a sufficient amount of actions have been taken by an individual.

Take our faith and love to the point of action publicly - pray at Abortion Centers, provide assistance at pregnancy resource centers and homes for the aged, participate and or help with marches for life and life chains. The Virginia State Knights of Columbus has three Regional Life Representatives that can provide many more ideas for activities within your area of the state. Ideas for projects that are the right fit for your parish and faith community are only limited by your Councils imagination.

The requirements to earn your ACE Wings are below. More importantly our hopes are that your individual focused actions will result in large scale positive results for Virginia for years to come. Thousands of Wings recipients making a positive difference.

Pro-Life ACE Wings

The "Precious Feet" on the ACE Wings are the size and shape of an unborn baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception.

Requirements for Receiving the Virginia State Council Pro-Life ACE Wings

A minimum of 5 Public Pro-Life events are required to qualify for the Virginia State Council Pro-Life ACE Wings. Our Holy Father has called us to be Pro-Life, from conception to natural death, therefore we must remember to include those who are forgotten and left to die.

Since it is legal to kill a baby in the womb we must keep this in the forefront, this is why in order to obtain the ACE Wings one must complete 4 items that deal with our most vulnerable, the unborn. The following items are common events, you may enter events other than these, however they will be reviewed to ensure they meet requirements.

Pro-Life Mass

Volunteer at Preg. Resource Center* Participate in the Silver

Rose Rosaries Outside Abortion Clinics.

(* Indicates the event can be repeated) (**This event will qualify for 2 events) (***)This event will qualify for 3 events)

Private Pro-Life events (such as saying the Rosary privately or at a Council meeting, or offering up a private intention at Mass), while always encouraged, **do not count as ACE Wings items.**

The 5th item can be either a Pro Life item as described above, or it can be an item such as:

- Special Olympics Volunteer
- Prayers during Inmate Executions
- Providing entertainment, working/volunteering at a hospice, nursing home, or Veterans Hospital
- Being part of any of the American Wheelchair Mission events.

Please Note:

1. A member may request a set of wings for his spouse/child (ren) (Children must be age 12 or older to receive the ACE Wings), the member will be required to pay \$7 (includes shipping) for each set of wings. Payment for these wings must be received in advance. The member will not have to pay for his original set of wings.
2. A Council may present the ACE Wings once a year to a non-Knight in their local community that has demonstrated a strong Pro Life stance. The Council will be billed for the wings. The Council will submit an ACE Wings recipient form to the Pro Life Chairman for tracking purposes.
3. Councils may elect their Parish Priest(s) and Deacon(s) to receive the ACE Wings. For a Priest or Deacon the Councils does not need to list 5 events/items that they have done.
4. The ACE Wings will be presented to the recipient by the District Deputy, Grand Knight or by mail.





Stephen Ministry — Consider Volunteering

Brothers, Fr Bob has enlisted the parish council to assess the possibility of establishing a Stephen Ministry in Nativity. This will be a parish program, and they are looking for volunteers from across the parish to join in this ministry. As Knights, our reputation for service precedes us, so Jim has asked that we canvass the council to see who can support as individual volunteers to serve as leaders and/or ministers. Contact parishioner Jim Crawford at jwcrawfordiii@gmail.com for more info or to volunteer.

Amplifying Information:

We live in a fast-paced and fragmented world. People suffer crises and tragedies, face difficult transitions, or other difficulties every day. In certain circumstances these people require professional services, but many times what they need is someone who can provide encouragement. In these times of stress a caring relationship with someone who will faithfully listen, empathize, pray with and for them, and encourage them with Christ's love and care can be a tremendous benefit.

Caring for people in need is at the heart of what we as Christians are called to do. Pastors, priests and parish staff can exhaust themselves trying to meet the needs of a parish the size of Nativity Catholic Church. As hard as they try every, single day, our priests and staff do not have sufficient reach to offer continuing care for all the people who are in need. However, while it is true that there are always more people who are hurting within a parish than we know, it is also true that there is an abundance of talented caring people within a parish capable of lending a hand - all you have to do is ask.

Given the kind of men in our Council, the Parish Council, on behalf of Father Cilinski, is asking our Council to consider volunteering in this ministry.

At the direction of Fr Bob, the Parish Council has been reviewing the potential of starting a Stephen Ministry in Nativity to assist our incredible priests, and staff to meet the needs within the parish. I have spoken to a few of the Knights about this potential ministry. After months of informal canvassing across the parish and a formal Open House held last November, it appears there is substantial interest in establishing a Stephen Ministry at Nativity.

Stephen Ministry is a proven system for training and organizing laypeople in a parish to provide quality Christian care to those experiencing life difficulties. In parishes everywhere, there are many people who are hurting. Pastors want to make sure these people receive the ongoing care they need, and Stephen Ministry offers an effective and biblical way to provide care that moves those people from brokenness to wholeness via the Cross of Christ, enabling them to move forward on their own healed and stronger in faith. With a team of trained lay caregivers, parishes can enhance the reach of the parish clergy and offer high-quality care to many more people in need.

The end result of a Stephen Ministry is that hurting people receive distinctively Christian care when they need it most. Laypeople use their gifts in ministry and see God work through them. The pastor and clergy can do more and touch more people in the parish.

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian education organization founded in 1975.

- Stephen Ministry is a structured system designed for Christian congregations to employ formally trained teams to deliver one-to-one lay care and support to those who are hurting and in need - for whatever reason.
- Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers - called Stephen Ministers - to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.



Why the name "Stephen?"

In the book of Acts, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need.

Stephen Series System

- The overall ministry system-including training, resources, structure, and ongoing support- used by congregations to equip and empower a team of laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around the congregation.
- Stephen Ministry is the caring ministry that happens when a congregation implements the Stephen Series system.

Points of Interest

- More than 13,000 congregations have Stephen Ministry.
- Over 170 denominations.
- All 50 states, all 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries have Stephen Ministry. Many of these congregations have had Stephen Ministry going for more than 30 years.
- More than 1.5 million people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them, providing one-to-one Christian care during tough times.

Reasons for Considering Stephen Ministry

- There are always many more people in need of care, both in the congregation and community, than a pastor alone can care for.
- There are always gifted laypeople capable of providing high-quality Christian care- if trained and organized to do so.

How Stephen Ministry Works

The best way to understand how Stephen Ministry works is to learn about three groups of people involved: Stephen Leaders, Stephen Ministers, and care receivers.

Stephen Leaders

- Establish and direct the overall ministry in the congregation:
 - build awareness of Stephen Ministry within the congregation and community
 - recruit and train Stephen Ministers
 - meet with potential care receivers to assess their needs
 - match care receivers with Stephen Ministers
 - provide Stephen Ministers with ongoing supervision and continuing education.
- People learn to serve as Stephen Leaders by attending a Leader's Training Course-a one-week conference that introduces the resources used to lead Stephen Ministry.
- Most congregations begin with two to four Stephen Leaders, typically including a pastor, possibly another church staff person, and one or more lay leaders - size of congregation and scope of ministry dependent.



Stephen Ministers (More than 600,000 have done so since 1975)

- Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times.
- A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour.
- Twice a month, Stephen Ministers gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education

Care Receivers

- Care receivers are people-congregation members and others in the community-who receive care from a Stephen Minister. These are people struggling through a difficult time in life-experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis.
- Important guidelines for this caring relationship protect both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister:
 - the relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential
 - men are matched with men; women with women
 - when a care receiver's needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, the Stephen Ministry team makes a referral to an appropriate mental health professional or other community resource.

Way forward for Nativity

- Nativity is a parish of over 16,000 families.
- The parish council has partnered with Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Arlington as a Stephen Ministry mentor parish. Based on discussions with the Stephen Leaders in that parish it appears to the Nativity Parish Council the church would need four Stephen Leaders and 20 Stephen Ministers to have a viable start up program. It is anticipated the ministry would grow from this seed group as the ministry takes root in the parish.
- This means that 4 Stephen Leaders have to be identified and sent to training by the parish to start. Additionally, 20 Stephen Ministers have to be identified prior to sending of the leaders to ensure the Church was ready to commence training upon the return of the fully trained Stephen Ministers.
- The Church needs a balance of women and men to make this work, because Stephen Ministers are paired with Care Receivers by gender. This has proven to be the most effective way to assist those in need.

Stephen Leader Training Courses 2020 Schedule

It is the hope of the parish council to have sufficient numbers for a Nativity Stephen Ministry start up program to send 4 parish members to Stephen Leaders training for the June session in Orlando.

St Louis, MO April 19-25

Orlando, FL June 7-13

Dallas, TX July 12-18

Pittsburgh, PA August 16-22



5 Car Raffle Envelop Stuffing — 4 February

Well the highly experience KofC envelope stuffing crew and their helpers completed assembly of 6,555 envelopes in under 3 hours on Tuesday night, 4 February. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed some gourmet pizza, snacks, and soft drinks while busily putting the packets together. WPGK George Getek, aka the Postmaster, only had a few "REJECTS" during the evening. Special thanks goes out to the 70 volunteers we had come out to make our 11th Car Raffle Stuffing a rousing success. Don't forget to buy and mail your tickets by 13 April (Easter Monday) for your chance to win. Hopefully someone in our Parish will win a car again this year! and it could be YOU.

- PGK Sam Morthland







Free Throw Contest

Fr. Sikora Council's annual Free Throw Championship was held on 8 February in the Fr. Martin Center. An enthusiastic crowd cheered on youth participants, ages 9 — 14, in a competitive, but friendly atmosphere. This year's Council Free Throw Champions are Gabriella Henok (Age 9 Girls); Charlie Dzieciolowski (Age 9 Boys); Ambi Razafimbahoaka (Age 10 Boys); Harena Razafimbahoaka (Age 11 Girls); Noel Mazzola (Age 11 Boys), Leah Rajnik (Age 12 Girls); Sean McMahon (Age 12 Boys); Noah Mazzola (Age 13 Boys); and Christina Vaughan (Age 14 Girls).

Special thanks to Brothers and family members Rich Traenor, Dennis Scott, Matt Bubak and family, Joe De La Concepcion, and Dave and Rose Anne Zivich who helped make this contest once again a success.

Our Council Champions competed against St. Mary of Sorrows, St. Raymond Penafort and Holy Spirit Champions in the District 14 Free Throw Championship at Holy Spirit on 16 February. The District 14 Free Throw Championship Congratulations to our District 14 Free Throw Champions Ambi Razafimbahoaka, Sean McMahon, and Christina Vaughan who are eligible to compete in the State Championship in mid-March.

Blood Drive — 22 February





Welcome!

Welcome to our council's newest member. Br. Arnulfo "Marty" Martinez completed the Exemplification of Charity Unity and Fraternity on February 10th at St Raymond's with Council 12846.

Welcome Br. Marty!



Art Auction Success! — 29 February

Our leap year art auction was a big success, with over 200 attendees, and art sales that exceeded the past few years. Rick the auctioneer was in his typical engaging form and entertained all while keeping the evening clipping along to keep things interesting. Another superb performance from Lynn and BJ

Dysart, who provided a spread of food and desserts that was to die for—complemented by PGK Tom Savage's wine selections. Speaking of Br. Tom Savage, he once again provided another enjoyable evening for all involved and we thank him for his outstanding efforts! Finally, thank you to all brothers, and in many cases your spouses, who helped to make this evening a night to remember! Well done!



If you would like to contact us, please send a note to gk7992@vakofc.org.

Knights of Columbus Council Officers 2019—2020	
Officer Positions	Name
Grand Knight	John Ostrowski
Financial Secretary	Paul Gorham
Deputy Grand Knight	Barry Basselgia
Chaplain	Father Bob Cilinski
Chancellor	Adrian Santillan-Lecaside
Lecturer	George Getek
Recorder	Vincent Augelli
Treasurer	Tom Goodwin
Advocate	Barry Rueter
Warden	David Zivich
Inside Guard	Victor Alderete
Outside Guards	Tom Siepmann Mike Adames
One Year Trustee	Michael Litzelman
Two Year Trustee	Carlos Perez Jr
Three Year Trustee	John Landy
Insurance Representative	Thom Harrington

Committee Chairs and Special Projects 2019—2020	
Project	Name
Program Director	Adrian Santillan-Lecaside
Faith Director	Bob Collella
Community Director	Russ Smith
Family Director	Tony Then
Membership Director	Barry Basselgia
Life Program Director	Tom Siepmann
Recruitment Committee	Barry Basselgia
Recruitment Committee	Adrian Santillan-Lecaside
Recruitment Committee	Russ Smith
Retention Committee	PKG Mike Litzelman
Retention Committee	PGK Carlos Perez
Retention Committee	PGK John Landy
Insurance Promotion	Paul Gorham
Vocations Chairman	Adrian Santillan-Lecaside
Health Services	Maiquel Sampaio de Melo
Fraternal Chairman	Rich Miserendino
KOVAR	Mark Sawyer
Newsletter	Jeremy Smith
Website Webmaster	Michael Bender
Facebook Administrator	Tom Siepmann

We're Social!

Our council has joined the world of social media. You can "like" and "follow" us on Facebook and Twitter.

- Our Facebook page is: <https://facebook.com/KofC7992>. Alternatively, brothers can open Facebook, search for "Knights of Columbus Father Sikora 7992," and find our page that way. Make sure to "like" and

"follow" us.

- Our Twitter handle is: [@kofc7992](https://twitter.com/kofc7992). Log on to your Twitter account and type our handle into the search bar. Once you come to our page, make sure to follow us by clicking "follow."

We will update both of those pages with useful event info, announcements, etc.

April Newsletter Submissions — Due 25 March

We need your help to make our award-winning newsletter better! Please submit announcements, articles, and pictures to Jeremy Smith at jeremy_d_smith@yahoo.com. Submissions for April's newsletter are due to Br Jeremy by Wednesday, 25 March. Thank you!



Mark Your Calendars

March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Council Meeting & Open House	4	5	6 First Lenten Fish Fry	7 State Qtrly Meeting (Charlottesville)
8 DST begins (Spring forward 1 hr)	9	10	11	12	13	14 Spring Membership Drive
15 Spring Membership Drive	16	17 Council Meeting and St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21 St Patrick's Day Dinner Dance
22	23	24 Exemplification Degree	25 Newsletter Submissions Due	26	27	28 Family Spring Event
29 Donut Sunday	30 Parish Lenten Mission	31 Parish Mission Day 2				

April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Parish Mission Day 3	2	3 Second Lenten Fish Fry	4
5 Palm Sunday	6	7 Council Meeting	8	9 Holy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Easter Vigil
12 Easter / RCIA Reception	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18 Adopt-A- Highway
18	20	21 Council Meeting & Exemplification Degree	22	23	24	25 Fraternal Committee Presentation
26	27	28	29 Newsletter Submissions Due	30		