

## Highlights of October State Officer Meeting in Galena, Illinois

On the weekend of October 24, 2009, the state officers met in Galena, Illinois to address the business of the Illinois State Council and Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. The following are highlights of that meeting:

- Associate State Chaplain, Charles Tuttle, led the state officers and their wives through a Spiritual Exercise program to launch the start of our meeting. During the exercise, Father Tuttle demonstrated concepts of nurturing opportunities for strengthening our Catholic Faith and our leadership. He emphasized a positive attitude and turning obstacles into opportunities.
- State Treasurer, Donald "Skip" Kinyon, provided an overview of our assets and accounts indicating all are secure and that our accounting balances.
- State Advocate, Bill Doerfler, is reviewing the Illinois State Council By Laws and has asked PSD Bill Spainhour and PSD and Supreme Ceremonial Director, Gary Nolan, to serve on his committee. If there are any changes recommended, they will be brought before the membership for their approval.
- State Warden, Ken Mendel, reported on the Rockford Diocesan Mens' Conference held in DeKalb. It was an uplifting experience and provided an opportunity for recruitment as he arranged to have the state council information booth (the one we've used at our recent conventions) at the conference.
- Executive Secretary, Don Lajoie, discussed the great potential for council recruitment if they follow up on prospects from the Supreme Council web site that he sends to the appropriate councils. The state team will be working with our insurance department and council leaders to more fully follow up on these prospects.
- Former Supreme Secretary and PSD Charles Foos reported on the status of the Father McGivney Guild. There are 135,000 members Orderwide and 3,900 are from Illinois. Brother Foos discussed whether the state council had a current assessment on the percentage of MRLD funds collected that actually go to the cause. Generally, it is only the cost of candy and aprons that are commonly deducted from the collections. There are sometimes other costs such as printing and postage that may be involved, so the State Deputy asked the Executive Secretary to provide an actual assessment for our next meeting.
- Associate State Chaplain, Charles Tuttle, reported on squires activities. The state squire retreat is being held at the Newman Center in Champaign Urbana on November 8, 2009 and there is a possibility that Monsignor Ketchum, who presides over the Newman Center, will be the retreat master for the boys.
- Program Director, Gary Schmidt, reported on a number of programming events but there was particular emphasis on our jurisdiction's Pro Life activities during the month of October. Our state Pro Life couple, Marge

and Larry Theriault, submitted a written report on their and others activities around the state. Also, the Program Director asked the state officers to act on two bids submitted for holding the 2011 State Bowling tournament. The state officers accepted the Father C.C. Boyle council in Chicago. The soccer challenge was reported as going well and the Program Director will be working with the state chairman to assist district deputies. Gifts for our Troops is a program that a group from Chicago, including St. Florian council (all firemen) and councils of Samuel Cardinal Stritch assembly, coordinate in a big way to support our troops. The Program Director reported that information was released to assist that effort; and, emphasized that it is not yet a state program though consideration is being given on it becoming one. Councils have an opportunity to participate in small and large ways toward this patriotic cause.

- Membership and Programming Consultant (MPC) and PSD Joe Pietruszynski cautioned the state officers about rules from Supreme Council pertaining to use of the emblem and the name of the Order. This is especially a concern with regard to fund raisers such as raffles. This is driven by an increased concern at Supreme Council on protecting the good name of the Order in publications and fund raising activities. Specific guidelines are available and the state officers are examining them to ensure that we are in compliance.
- In preparation for the upcoming March for Life that takes place in Washington D.C each year in January the state officers approved assisting each diocese with a \$1,000 support taken from the General Assistance Fund. Also from the GAF there was approval to support the Philippines' disaster in the amount of \$5,000; and, the Georgia flood disaster in the amount of \$2,500.
- State Membership Director, Steve Mann, continues to urge councils to hold first degrees and to form first degree teams. He reported on New Council Development efforts and indicated that both he and the NCD chairman feel there is need to have more assistance from district deputies. Reports on council participation in the order wide Blitz were filtering in slowly. Efforts are underway to follow up with district deputies on what their councils are planning.
- Ceremonials Chairman, Barone, reported on the upcoming major degrees and the SD assigned officers as follows:

<b>Diocese/Council</b>	<b>Date of Degree</b>	<b>Assigned State Officer</b>
Rockford-St. Rita	November 1, 2009	SW Ken Mendel
Joliet-Joliet council	November 1, 2009	SA Doerfler
Belleville-Pinckneyville	November 8, 2009	TBD
Peoria-Lincoln	November 8, 2009	ST Kinyon
Rockford-Freeport	November 8, 2009	SD Bednar
Joliet-Kankakee	November 15, 2009	IPSD-Barone
Springfield-Edwardsville	November 15, 2009	Prog. Director Schmidt
Peoria-Urbana	November 15, 2009	ST- Kinyon

Belleville-Cahokia	November 15, 2009	TBD
Rockford 4 <sup>th</sup> degree	November 21, 2009	SS Spada
Chicago-Glenview	November 29, 2009	SS Spada

- MPC Joe Pietruszynski (PSD) reported that the Culture of Life fund is at 88 percent paid in the U.S and there has been a total of 2.9 million dollars collected in defense of life issues supporting for example the ultra sound machines and organizations that effectively work to better educate and encourage responsible legislation at both National and local levels. In Illinois we have had 87 percent of councils pay the assessment in whole or in part. Reminder was given that failure to make payment of this assessment has suspension consequences.
- Charitable Activities Director (CAD), Bob Bukowski, reported that our MRLD results are still coming in and hopes to have a final report by our next meeting. He reported that the Newman program is off to a great start and there was some discussion about increased activity in members' use of the credit card option. Overall, the Newman chairman is promoting the program well and more donations are yet needed. On Vocations, the CAD reported that we released birthday cards with a gift to each seminarian. The current release represents those whose birthdays will occur through November. There was a welcome back dinner at St. Mary of the Lake seminary welcoming seminarians who study there from throughout the jurisdiction. Plans are underway to organize the annual basketball tournament for seminarians.
- The Charities Board approved a gift of \$2,500 to be given to Archbishop Lucas on behalf of Knights throughout Illinois. Bishop Lucas was assigned archbishop of Omaha following many years as bishop of Springfield diocese.
- A group home loan of \$200,000 was approved from MRLD funds for the Arc of Rock Island group home. This program is made possible through the 10 percent set aside from all funds collected from councils throughout the state. All necessary paperwork on the new home and supporting financial documentation was given to our attorney for examination and processing. Fees for the attorney work are paid by the organization receiving the funds.