

Highlights of December 2010 State Officer Meeting in Normal, Illinois

On the weekend of December 4, 2010 the state officers met in Normal, Illinois to address the business of the Illinois State Council and Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. The following are highlights of that meeting:

- The state office manager is looking into securing training on QuickBooks- the application used for our accounting purposes. The training would assist him and office staff in conduct of daily business and to more fully use the application to our advantage.
- State Secretary, Rich Spada, reported on his completion of proceedings from the May 2010 convention. The proceedings under Illinois By Laws are to be certified by the State Deputy by the winter district deputy meeting. The Secretary will be releasing a letter on the completion of this task in December.
- Secretary Spada reported that a number of councils have inquired with him about a communication from Supreme Council on the resolution concerning Honorary Member billing. The communication urges the FS to contact the state secretary regarding the charge for that state's honorary member per capita as all states have different charges-some that exceed \$10. Illinois charges honorary members \$5 for the year. The Supreme Council charges \$4.5; therefore, the total charge for Illinois could be as low as \$9.50 per year.
- State Treasurer, Donald "Skip" Kinyon, provided an overview of our assets and accounts indicating all are secure and that our accounting balances.
- State Treasurer also reported that the independent auditors reviewed our accounting procedures as part of the annual audit conducted for both Illinois State Council and Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. There final report is due out in early 2011.
- Treasurer Kinyon will be notifying those with uncashed checks to please cash them or the checks will be cancelled. There are a number of uncashed checks carried each year for some length of time that always complicates our accounting; and, closure is needed after a period of time has passed.
- Our State Chaplain, Bishop Joseph Siegel, attended our meeting and participated in our deliberations. He is planning to work with our chaplains and councils in getting out the word on the Church's new missal and urged members to be supportive of diocesan efforts to promote better understanding of the new missal.
- State Advocate, Bill Doerfler, informed the Board about recent issues related to councils. He is also researching requirements on the proper conduct of charities activities and the distribution of funds for qualified 501 c 3 organizations. This is an internal control task to ensure that we are compliant with both IRS and Illinois requirements.
- Membership Director, Steve Mann, reported that our recruitment efforts are steadily improving and we are headed in the proper direction. He is

working to visit each diocese and conducting an informational meeting to assist councils in various recruitment needs that they may have. He began with the Belleville diocese and the response was very good. He is now working in the Peoria diocese in a similar manner.

- The State Officer Assignments for the Major Degrees are as follows:
 - 12/12 Elmhurst SS Spada
 - 1/9 Genoa MC Balsaitis
 - 1/15 Bethalto PD Stites
 - 1/15 Mundelein SS Spada
 - 1/16 Canton ST Kinyon
 - 1/28 Frankfort SD Bednar
 - 1/30 Arlington Hgts SS Spada
 - 1/30 Springfield SD Bednar
 - 1/30 Trenton PD Stites
 - 2/13 Naperville SS Spada
 - 2/13 Smithton PD Stites
 - 2/20 Chicago SS Spada
 - 2/20 Utica SD Bednar
 - 2/26 Lisle SD Bednar
- Former Supreme Secretary, Charles Foos reported on the Father McGivney Guild and as of 12/2/2010, there are 4792 members in Illinois; and, 139,000 members in the Order. Investigation to the miracle is coming along well.
- March 19, 2011 is the Chicago Men's' Conference and it will be held at the Oakbrook Marriott.
- Associate State Chaplain, Father Tuttle, gave remarks on the season of Advent and how our lives have so many starts and stops. He commented that as Ordinary time ends in the liturgical year, advent begins and so often the secular perspective is that appreciation begins as early as the day after Halloween! In reality, Christmas extends from Christmas Eve before the birth of our Savior until the baptism of our Lord. We should remember that as we enter this glorious season.
- Supreme Director, Logan Ludwig shared some developments from the Supreme Council. One item was that there is an initiative to update the promotional material on the Free Throw contest that may also include a video. The Supreme Director thanked the Illinois State Council for keeping membership growth a top priority for our jurisdiction and indicated results are showing that the emphasis is effective.
- The Father McGivney Center for Hope and Healing is a Pro Life project in the archdiocese of Chicago that will benefit a state-wide need for those contemplating abortion. Details on the project can be found on the Illinois State Council Website at www.illinoisknights.org The project's Board will be meeting to discuss setting a location at Maryville.
- Plans are being made for the upcoming district deputy meeting in Normal, Illinois on January 7-9 2010.
- Newman solicitation for donation is being handled differently this year by processing the release of letters from the state office in Kankakee rather than by the Supreme Council. The action is intended to reduce the cost of mailing by handling the matter in house.

- Based on funds collected during fraternal year 2009/2010, the Board approved \$230,000 for distribution this year. Distribution is determined by a formula approved by the ordinaries of each diocese and is based on the number of students at universities with Newman Centers. The distribution amounts for each diocese were calculated by a designated Newman Director and approved by the Illinois Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. Board.
- On behalf of Illinois Knights, \$100,000 was donated to Illinois Special Olympics to sponsor the winter Special Olympics Games. This donation is made from the 10 percent collected from all councils during the Intellectual Disability drives which also support the Group Homes program.