

STATE DEPUTY'S REPORT

Roy C. Bartholomay
2020-2021

As State deputy, it is the responsibility and my honor to report annually on the condition of the Idaho Knights of Columbus. In spite of all the challenges we have faced during the pandemic, and with 34 of our councils reporting, the Knights of Idaho donated over \$216,000 and 2 cows to our charitable causes of Faith, Family, Life, and Community this year and over 61,700 hours of labor. With work efforts like this, I can honestly say that the future of the Idaho Knights of Columbus continues to be very bright!

Our thoughts and prayers always remain with Pope Francis who is a tremendous supporter of the Knights of Columbus, world-wide.

The State Council is thankful for the leadership and spiritual guidance of Bishop Peter Christensen. We appreciate his support of the Knights in Idaho, and his leadership within the Diocese of Boise. We stand **always** in "Solidarity with our Bishops and Priests" in Idaho. We renew our pledge to be their right arm as the lay leaders that the Church so badly needs and that our founder, **Parish Priest** and Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney envisioned when he conceived this organization 139 years ago.

We are also very grateful for the continuing commitment and spiritual leadership of our State Chaplain Father John Kucera. Fr. Kucera sacrifices much of his time to serve as spiritual advisor at our State meetings as well as here at the Convention. This year, Father led a Spiritual retreat for the State Officers that was one of my most memorable experiences in my 29 years of being a Knight. May God bless you, Fr. Kucera, for your service.

I express my sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the State Officers, District Deputies, Directors and Chairmen who contribute to the goals of the State Council. All the successes that we have enjoyed this past year are a direct result of their dedication, perseverance, and communication. My duties have been lightened by your strong support. In addition, we cannot accomplish anything without the support and dedication of local Council officers and members. Our work is for you and our successes are from you. Thank you all and may God bless each of you for all you do.

I need to thank my wife Darcy and my children, for their continued help and support of me. My thanks to all the wives and families of all my brother Knights for their continual support of us and our Order. It is only through the generosity of our families that we can dedicate the time and energy to serve others. Without our families, much of what we do, would not matter as much.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Chuck Davlin, our Regional Growth Director. He has been a tremendous asset and has been my mentor for this past year. The State Council is blessed to have had him assigned to us.

Worthy delegates, you have been chosen by your Councils to represent your Council's membership at this convention. Please take this responsibility seriously. Your vote during the elections, resolutions process and other business decisions obligates your Council to abide by the decisions made at this meeting.

We are continually asking you to invite another Catholic man to join in our charitable efforts. Why is it important that we GROW THE ORDER? We have to recruit every day of the fraternal year, because it IS IMPORTANT. If we are not growing, then we are dying like so many other organizations. It is through Council growth that we recharge our Councils with more hands to share the load, we must be Knights in more

than just name alone; we must act as the true and loyal Knights that we pledged to be when we learned the lessons of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

On every Council roster, there are Knights who have decided not to participate in our charitable works. We can all do a better job of keeping them involved in our activities, mentoring them and keeping in touch with them. As part of the ongoing activities in your Council, you must talk to these men to maintain their inclusion in your Council. Make a TRUE effort to retain members. All too often, Councils spend more time trying to suspend those who have fallen away, than working to including them. The job of the Retention Committee is to **RETAIN** not suspend! The Retention Committee's work starts when a new member is brought in by finding out what activities interest him and how he can help the Council. We can retain him by keeping him interested in what we do.

As of April 3, our state membership stands at 4,980 members. So far this year, we have recruited 107 new members. We have reached 50% of our state membership goal. However, we are 75% of the way through our fraternal year. In order to achieve our statewide goal by June 30, we need to get serious about inviting other Catholic men to join with us. Membership has been hit hard because of the social distancing and smaller masses brought on by Covid; however, we have gone through the whole year with the opportunity to offer free online membership and can still offer this to any eligible Catholic man we meet for the rest of this year by asking them to go to KofC.org/joinus. I challenge everyone in this room and on this call to recruit just one more guy. We must actively offer our Order and the good works we do, to every eligible Catholic man and his family. Help them become better men, Catholics, fathers and husbands, by joining their efforts with ours. Most importantly we must do our best to help keep this virus from spreading. Pray and be Safe!

Thank you to all Councils that have recruited this year. To those that have not; join the rest of us and help us to build the order!

NEW COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AND REACTIVATION

Last year we started a new Council at the Cathedral in Boise. This Spanish Council; Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe (Our Lady of Guadalupe) has done really great with learning about the Knights of Columbus and growing their council and I welcome you here today to your first State Convention. Lately, we have been working hard in Twin Falls to see if we can reestablish a Hispanic council in St Edward's Parish. A very special thank you to our Hispanic Coordinator, Carlos Tipia Murillo. He has been very helpful with recruitment in these and other Councils in southern Idaho. Also, a special thank you to Pona Magano, our Hispanic Growth Coordinator from Supreme. He has traveled to Idaho several times to help us with training for councils 17462, 4013, 12881, and 16757. He led two Hispanic retreats this year and helped with Hispanic membership recruitment in Boise, Mountain Home, Caldwell, Gooding and Twin Falls.

ROUND TABLES

I remind all District Deputies and Grand Knights that each Round Table ceases to exist on July 1st and so a new Round Table Form must be submitted for a round-table to continue. Having a round table fulfills Fr. McGivney's dream of having a Knights of Columbus presence in every parish. A Round Table contains the spirit and the energy of the Knights in a visible, active and focused forum even if it never grows into a full council, it is one more step in the realization of Fr. McGivney's dream. This year we have worked with the Gooding council to establish a Hispanic Round table. Initial information was also shared with the Caldwell and Fruitland councils to start establishing Hispanic round tables in their councils. Our College round table at University of Idaho has continued to be a great success under the leadership of David Gonzalez, our College council Coordinator. David has worked hard to get meetings going to spread out to other councils in the State meeting with the Idaho State University coordinator, and he continues to try to coordinate with Boise State University to set up a round table with Our Lady of the Rosary Council.

STATE COUNCIL ACCOUNT BALANCES

Whenever requested, the State Treasurer and Secretary have provided updated reports of all accounts. I look the accounts over on a regular basis. I can attest that all accounts remain strong and are solvent. State Secretary George Mesina and State Treasurer Dan Moberg are to be commended for their diligence to good accounting principles during this fiscal year. We utilize an independent outside auditor to review our books, to protect both the State membership and the State officers.

INSURANCE

Kevin Tuuri is our General Agent. He has several agents working with him to cover all of Idaho. There are no Councils that do not have an assigned agent. Kevin has been very responsive to any questions or requests we have asked of him. With the new requirements for the Founders award, two order-wide insurance promotion nights with Tom Hegna and Joe Jordon were offered to all brother knights and fellow catholic parishioners' virtually. Kevin has indicated his team is looking to host a third one later this spring. There is the opportunity for every council to earn the Founders award this year. Kevin is committed to the success of his agents and to help the councils and members with their insurance needs.

Please take every opportunity to welcome, invite and utilize these valuable assets. As always, these dedicated professionals don't just sell insurance, they sell the Knights of Columbus. Their goal is to give as many Catholic families as possible a chance to fully participate and enjoy all of the benefits that come with membership in our Order. Do your part to provide these benefits of membership to all of the members of your Councils by actively promoting and using the Agency Staff here in Idaho. Remember that these agents are brother Knights trying to earn a living for their family, so please take every opportunity to meet with them.

FOURTH DEGREE

We are also blessed by the service of our District Master, Sir Knight Dave Ellingsen. Dave has been a vital part of the Idaho Knights of Columbus for many years and we are look forward to continuing to work with him as the District Master.

CEREMONIALS

The new Combined Ceremony of the First, Second, and Third Degree, is being used and is a great tool to bring new Knights up to the Third degree. Ken Reif, our ceremonial chairman has done well with holding live ceremonies in the Treasure valley and several councils in other parts of the state now have teams to perform the ceremony. There is no better way to invite a new knight into our order than through a well-done live ceremony, and we continue to encourage all our councils to form a team and hold in-person ceremonies as your local churches will allow under the pandemic. The video has also been used extensively to help promote social distancing, and our state has done really well with reaching out to our new online members and inviting them to degrees and getting them into their councils.

The Patriotic Degree falls under the direction of the current District Master. We had a couple opportunities for some virtual ceremonies in cooperation with our adjoining states.

Degree teams are now operating in every part of the State, so there is no reason why new members cannot progress to the 4th Degree in less than a year.

VOCATIONS

This last year was another successful one in the support of vocations by the Idaho Knights of Columbus with over \$15,200 given to the RSVP program. Do not forget that support is not just money. Seminarians should receive cards, letters, invitations to Council events and visits from members. If your Council is not supporting a Seminarian, I urge you to do so and help with the development and growth of Vocations.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES/LEAVE NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND

Our State has done extremely well with our support for the Leave No Neighbor Behind Program. Many of our councils have set up calling trees to check up on their brother Knights and reached out to their priests to offer help and support for their parishes. The food for families' program has been one of our primary contribution programs in the state this year. Council's donated over \$27,700 and 7,300 hours of service to their local food banks. One council did a scavenger hunt for food, combining a fun family activity with giving to their local causes. Two council's had beef cattle bought, butchered and wrapped to give meat to their local causes. Also, at the beginning of the Fraternal year, we provided a challenge to award the first council that reported raising 5,000 pounds of food for their local food bank and Post Falls Council 12560 immediately stepped up and won the challenge by donating 16,263 pounds in the first two months of the fraternal year.

COATS FOR KIDS

I am extremely proud of Idaho's accomplishments with the Coats for Kids program. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of our Councils participate in this program to help put coats on kids in need. This past year councils in this State purchased over \$20,000 in coats and did really large distributions in Grangeville and Post Falls delivering thousands of coats to kids in need. Each year Supreme offers to match any box purchased as long as your council submits a plan for your local distribution. I encourage all our councils to consider even purchasing one box from Supreme and getting a box matched to help support your local causes and continue to request donations for gently used coats from your local parishes, which many councils already do as part of their Coats for kids' program.

GLOBAL WHEELCHAIR MISSION

The pandemic certainly slowed down our opportunity to host Wheelchair Sunday's, but some our council still were able to provide some funds to this important program. As churches open up again, please remember to consider this as something we can do to provide the gift of mobility to those in need.

CULTURE OF LIFE

I have the honor to announce that Council 1397 was able to raise the funds and do the paperwork for matching funds from Supreme to purchase a new ultrasound machine for their Wish Medical Center this year. Lifeline Pregnancy Center in Nampa reached out to the Knights for an ultrasound machine, but before we were able to get the paperwork approved another local church raised the funds to purchase a machine. As a State, councils raised over \$9,000 for the ultrasound initiative and provided over \$8,300 to local pregnancy support centers along with many service hours. Idaho Knights also participated in Marches for Life in Idaho Falls, Boise, Lewiston, Moscow, and Coeur d'Alene.

REPORTS

To preserve our tax-exempt status as an international organization, your Council has to report charitable hours through the Fraternal Activity report. The government would love to get their hands on our charitable funds; it is up to each of you to help protect our status as a non-profit organization by reporting your service activities.

The Colombian Award Report is the vehicle to report activities to Supreme and be recognized for service in our Parishes and communities. It is important that we recognize our members who do so much charitable work.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

The Pennies from Heaven Fund continues to help those in need. Last year many Councils helped to support this cause. Thank you all. Please contribute again this year so we can continue to help those who need it most. I encourage you do a fundraiser for the person in need as well as make a PFH request so that we can be of even more help to them when the cause is needed.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Once again, the State Council is partnering with Special Olympics of Idaho in the sale of raffle tickets for a car. Every dollar raised went back to Special Olympics this past year. Additionally, local councils donated many service hours and over \$6,200 to Special Olympics this past year.

SUMMARY

This has truly been a roller coaster of a year with all the challenges but has also been an Experience of a Lifetime, I have been blessed to have been elected into an Officers role and have the opportunity to work with all of you. I have met a lot of wonderful people during my travels and am impressed with the activity and dedication within the Councils that I have visited.

I urge you to use your membership to grow spiritually and grow personally. Singlehandedly you cannot affect as many lives as you can within a group of great men that are there to help and foster change.

Take ownership of your roles, you have accepted the role that your council elected you to. Make the most of it by achieving the goals set before you. We still have 10 weeks to make a difference in Idaho.

Thank you, members and delegates, for your prayers and support, I have tried to help and lead you, but ultimately, it is YOUR actions that guide our jurisdiction. I have been lucky to be able to visit with more than half the councils throughout our great State and have loved every minute of my experiences.

Reach out to another Catholic man, invite him to join with the Idaho Knights of Columbus to **CHANGE LIVES AND TO SAVE LIVES AND PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION!**

Vivat Jesus
Roy Bartholomay
State Deputy of Idaho
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