



# **OHIO STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

## ***REPORT OF THE STATE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMEN***

**124<sup>th</sup> STATE CONVENTION**

**OHIO STATE COUNCIL  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO – MAY 20, 2023**

## **REPORT OF THE STATE DEPUTY**

### **Welcome**

I would like to extend fraternal greetings and best wishes to our clergy, my Brother Knights, ladies, and guests of this 124th Annual Ohio State Council Convention conducted this May 19-21, 2023 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown, Ohio. It has truly been an honor to serve you as your State Deputy these past two fraternal years.

It was 10 years ago at the Kalahari Resorts in Sandusky, Ohio that I was elected State Warden. Now 10 years later we meet here at the Hilton Columbus Downtown, and I am State Deputy.

### **Our Theme**

Our theme is, "*Lord, I Am Your Servant*," that came from when I was running for State Warden, I was praying over the decision to run or not and Our Lord said, he wanted me to run. So, I said, "Yes, Lord, I am your servant; I will do what you want me to do."

### **Membership Growth**

Each one of us knew there needed to be some far-reaching changes made regarding membership recruitment and retention here in Ohio. We conducted a series of monthly membership contests throughout the fraternal year. Every council would then at some point have an opportunity to cash in on a membership incentive. No council would be left behind or out of the membership contest. Councils that may have had a slow recruiting month would be able to get back in the game the following month.

I asked every District Deputy to schedule and conduct an admissions degree in his district every month. The State Website Degree Page should be overflowing with the posting of degree work in Ohio. It is still the belief of the State Council that if you schedule them, they will come.

### **Membership Retention**

The job of a State Retention Chairman resembles that of a long-distance runner. Many times, he works alone, always at his own pace, but determined to finish the race. His race though is never ending. Each Saturday they obtain a list of Brother Knights from the Supreme Website that are a log of "Intent to Retain" submitted for suspension. It is their job to make one last attempt to retain this brother Knight as a member of our Order. I am sure they grow weary from the endless hours spent trying to locate and speak with these Brother Knights. I cannot begin to thank them enough for their dedication and determination in the retention efforts they make. Thank you, Brothers Dan Warnock, and Brother Michael Jordan, for a job well done.

### **New Council Development**

As I am preparing this document for the State Convention, we have successfully started two new Spanish council in this great state of Ohio. They are:

- Council 18047 San Francisco Javier- Willard Hispanic Council
- Council 18195 San Pedro - Columbus Hispanic Council
- Intent to Start a New Council - Hispanic Council in New Carlisle,

Although we may not be able to obtain our Supreme Council quota, the opportunity to establish many more councils in Ohio still exists.

I want to thank the State Membership Director, Brother Michael Friel, State Assistant Membership Director, John Brown, and their associates throughout Ohio for an outstanding job this past fraternal year. We can only now look forward to exceeding our goals and once again becoming a leader in new council development.

### **State General Program**

Councils also had an extra program to report to, Retention. Our two State Retention Chairmen asked to be a part of the reporting process to evaluate a council's retention activity. This has worked well and has taken some of the workload off the State Membership Director.

Councils were also required to bring in a new member for each Membership Activity reported. It was always my opinion that if you conducted any type of Membership Drive its success would be measured in new members.

State General Program Director Andrew Nuckols and State Directors were up to the challenge. Our State Program directors are as follows:

- State Family Director Joseph Hartle
- State Community Director Duane Bassett
- State Life Director Christopher Bercaw
- State Faith Director Anthony Offenberger
- State Membership Director Michael Friel
- State Retention Directors Dan Warnock and Michael Jordan
- State Insurance Liaison Jason Staas GA

### **State General Program Contest**

The breakdown of Councils reporting an activity in each area is as follows:

- Life– 139 Councils
- Community – 162 Councils
- Faith – 146 Councils
- Family –146 Councils
- Membership –78 Councils.

Councils participated and reported at least one activity.

### **Insurance**

We are truly blessed with an excellent group of men dedicated to our Order and the financial protection of our families. Each one of them is a full-time employee of our Order and day in and day out lives Father McGivney's Dream.

The three General Agents of Ohio are Brothers Jason Staas, John Spencer, and Ross Conklin.

The General Insurance Agents with the addition of many new Field Agents continue to respond to the insurance needs of our members and their families, to provide an excellent product of insurance benefits, and to assist in the exploration of potential new growth within our state.

Please take every advantage of these fine gentlemen with not only your insurance needs but with Parish Drives and Membership Promotion within your council. All of them are excellent cold-call recruiters; well versed and able to help secure that new member.

### **Administration**

Administration or paperwork is always an area that needs more attention. Forms are required and due dates are requested but somehow year after year we spend a lot of time chasing down forms. It doesn't seem to matter how we present or showcase our efforts to receive forms on time, the plan fails.

Please Brothers upon the return to your councils, make every effort to complete and submit the required Supreme Council forms legibly and on time.

I would like to recognize the work completed by my Administrative Staff. They were always willing and able to meet the challenge whenever I called. They are:

- State Administrative Director Willi Meyer
- State Administrative Staff Joseph Mackos
- State Administrative Staff James Colegrove
- State Administrative Staff Bernie Fielder
- State Administrative Staff - Audio-Visual Sean Weirich
- State Website Director Tom Buehner
- State Fundraising Chairman Gary Eckstein, PSD
- State Special Warden Arron Mier
- Special Reports Chairman Ken Girt
- State Legal Counsel Dick Meyer

### **Support Our Seminarians (SOS)**

The Support Our Seminarians program continues to be one of the shining stars of the State Council's fund-raising efforts. From its conception in 1991 beginning as a simple "pass the hat" pocket change collections it has become the pride of our efforts as Brother Knights in the funding of religious vocations.

I would like to recognize Robert Byers, IPSD for another SOS successful year.

### **Measure Up Campaign**

I would like to personally thank all the Brother Knights and their families who have made the 2023 Measure Up Campaign another success!

There were 150 Councils that participated in the campaign that raised over \$270,470.00. Their contributions will benefit over 322 agencies, programs and schools throughout Ohio that provide

services to citizens with developmental disabilities. We as Knights of Columbus and charitable men have demonstrated our continued support of our “flagship” charity.

On behalf of all the citizens in Ohio with developmental disabilities, thank you for your generosity and dedication to this program.

I would like to recognize State Measure Up Chairman State Warden Christopher Sarka for another successful Measure Up Campaign.

### **Matching Funds Campaign**

I would like to personally thank all the Brother Knights and their families who have made the 2022 Matching Funds Campaign another success here in Ohio.

A total of 200, Councils and 18 Assemblies and 1 Chapter participated that raised \$56,678.00. A \$31,500.00 Matching Fund Grant was awarded by the Ohio Charity Foundation bringing the campaign total to \$75,993.00. An additional grant of \$750.00 was also awarded to the Byzantine Eparchy of Parma and \$250.00 to the Eparchy of Newton for their use in religious education. These contributions will support the many agencies, programs and schools throughout the six Catholic Diocese of Ohio providing religious educational services to the local parishes and schools. We as a brotherhood have demonstrated our continuing support of religious education. The real success of this annual campaign will be measured by the educational materials that the Catholic people of each diocese will continue to receive in the years to come.

On behalf of all the Directors of Religious Education throughout Ohio, I thank you for your generosity and dedication to this program.

I would like to recognize State Matching Funds Chairman for 2022, State Advocate James Maslach for another successful Matching Funds.

### **Super Cash Bonanza**

As I write this summary of the fraternal year the 2023 Super Cash Bonanza Campaign is well underway. State Treasurer Michael Felerski and his “Road Show” Team did a great job of presenting the campaign to the membership. The idea and rewards of a good partnering program along with council ticket sales was stressed. A record number of 676,200 tickets were distributed at nine “Road Show” stops throughout Ohio.

### **Football Frenzy Sweepstakes Program**

The Football Frenzy Sweepstakes program has continued to provide local councils an opportunity to earn money for their general operating funds. The 2023 Football Sweepstakes tickets sales were around 25,300, down about 3%, but councils were able to reap over \$210,000.00 in rebates and per capita credit for their councils. Many of the councils took advantage of a special incentive rebate offered in this year’s program to reduce their state per capita liability.

Final Four Sweepstakes tickets sold over 4,300 tickets, down from the previous year, however, this program earned nearly an additional \$15,000.00 for general operating expenses. Look for the

State Council to continue the State Per Capita Rebate based proposals in the next State Council Administration. I still believe that this may be Ohio's sleeping giant of a fundraiser.

I would like to recognize State Fund Raising Chairman PSD Gary Eckstein for running another successful Football Frenzy Campaign. Few of us know what goes on behind the scenes and what it takes to chair a program of this importance. I cannot thank him enough for what he does for everyone at the State Council.

### **March Madness Basketball Sweepstakes**

The March Madness Basketball Sweepstakes was a general mail program that had a limited ticket distribution to a database of prior ticket purchasers. A low-key sweepstakes campaign was run so as not to interfere with the Super Cash Bonanza Program. A reinvestment of a portion of the proceeds of the Football Frenzy Sweepstakes Program was used to fund the program.

With limited sales of 4,312 tickets sold the State Council earned \$14,800.00 for general operating expenses. This was nearly a 29% decrease in sales over the previous year. Thank you to everyone who participated in this extra fundraising effort.

I would like to again recognize State Fund Raising Chairman PSD Gary Eckstein for taking it upon himself to run this campaign.

### **State Council Website**

With thanks to a lot of patience and planning, we have a website that is highly informative. It is just not a website anymore. The site has the ability to instruct and inform our members. It has the ability to give the members the opportunity to grow as a member, as a council, and as a jurisdiction.

I would personally like to thank State Webmaster Thomas Buehner for all the time and efforts he has put forth to make the State Website as functional as possible. We also look to him for greater things to come within the electronic realms of the State Council Website.

### **Ohio License Plates**

When renewing your plates, you must ask the Deputy Registrar for Knights of Columbus plates. Many members continue to request Knights of Columbus license plates here in Ohio. I trust that someday all members will have a vehicle with a Knights of Columbus license plate. Remember \$10.00 of the extra \$20.00 license fee is refunded to the State Council and is used as a part of our donation to the Ohio Special Olympics.

### **Our Patriotic Degree**

We thank the Brother Knights that serve this great State of Ohio with distinction as Masters of the Fourth Degree under Vice Supreme Master Edward Ponder of the Hennepin Province. The District Masters for Ohio are Christopher Bush, Michael Gauder, and Brandon Robinson.

### **The Ultrasound Initiative**

I would like to send out a special "Thank You" to the councils and Grand Knights for successful fundraising to purchase Ultrasound Machines in their local areas.

- Hands of Hope - Paulding St. Joseph Council #2584
- Heartbeat of Lima Council 9788
- Council 10215 - Elizabeth New Life Center - Dayton, OH
- Council 711 - Voice of Hope - Bucyrus, OH
- Council 957 - Findlay OH

May God bless them for their extraordinary Pro-Life efforts. I also know we have some that are still in process.

### **Saint Joseph Icon Program**

The Saint Joseph Icon program began last October. The four icons of the Saint Joseph icon will circulate through the State of Ohio over the previous two years. The Icon was scheduled in each district for an entire month. This schedule would give every council and district some time to set up the prayer service either in a council chamber or in a parish. Many councils took full advantage of this prayerful opportunity to honor the Saint Joseph Icon within your council and parish.

We thank State Warden Brother Christopher Sarka for accepting the Chairmanship of this prayerful cause.

### **Finances**

The finances of the State Council continue to be a challenge. Our job as State Officers should be to find ways to enhance our programs rather than eliminate or cut funding to them. We have taken measures to reduce costs in many areas but still at time find it hard to make ends meet.

With an ageing membership we again are presented with a significant loss in per capita revenue. We also have had a significant loss in membership over years past; this also has contributed to the loss in per capita revenue.

The Ohio membership is by far the least taxed of G-11 Jurisdictions, yet they are one of the most compensated. Very few states pay their delegates as well as we do to attend the annual convention.

### **District Deputies**

The work of a District Deputy cannot go unnoticed. The job of a District Deputy is not that of a titleholder anymore. They have become an integral part of the State Council. They have been given a great responsibility to present, to promote, and to monitor all the programs the State Council sets before them. We know all too well that this is not an easy task. We also realize that you sacrifice many evenings away from the family in the workings of your office.

I, as State Deputy, and in unison with the State Officers, would sincerely like to thank you for all the hours of service you have provided to the State Council. May God continue to give you strength to continue your work and bless each one of you in your efforts.

**Appreciation**

It has been an honor to serve with such a talented team of State Officers, Directors, Chairmen, and Staff. I thank you fellow officers for the continued direction, fraternity, and patience during my first year as State Deputy.

I must also thank my loving wife Beth, for without her approval, support, and understanding none of this would have been possible. I thank God each and every day for the talent and ability he has given me and for the energies necessary to complete my tasks to serve our Order in this capacity.

**In Closing**

May God Bless you in your efforts as you continue to do the work you do in Jesus' name. Dedicate everything you do to Him for the honor and glory of God the Almighty. Stop and then see what changes it has made in your life.

*"Lord, I Am Your Servant,"* O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours for ever and ever. Amen

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark A. Siracusa.  
State Deputy



## **REPORT OF THE STATE CHAPLAIN**

The State Chaplain supervises all spiritual matters in connection with the State Council and assists brother Knights who attend our various state events.

The holy hours mandated by the Supreme Council have continued to go well. The theme for the reflection at the District Deputy Meeting in January focused on those things necessary for gaining Eternal Life. Faith in Jesus Christ, repentance from sin, Baptism, engaging in the works of mercy, and receiving the Holy Eucharist are just some of these most important elements of the life of the Christian. As Knights, we already live these essential things, but we must not fail to remain in that state of grace.

A new initiative from Supreme has made a promising start in Ohio this year, namely the “Cor Meeting”. The organizing parties are working prudently for a successful rollout. We pray that many men, even beyond the ranks of our order, will benefit from this good work.

Since this is the end of my tenure as State Chaplain, I offer heartfelt thanks to our Worthy State Deputy and his excellent team for the energy they have poured into their roles, and to all my brother Knights for your continual kindness toward me and your witness to our Catholic Faith.

Faternally,

Reverend Adam L. Hertzfeld, S.T.D.  
State Chaplain

## **REPORT OF THE STATE SECRETARY**

I bid you fraternal greetings to all in attendance at the 124<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus.

As my last year as State Secretary comes to a close, I continue to be amazed at how quickly my years as a State Officer have passed and often wonder where the time went. I want to take a moment here to thank all the Brother Knights throughout Ohio for allowing me to serve as a State Officer. It has been an extremely gratifying and eye-opening experience. I continue to learn something new about the State Council each and every day and I know it will continue to be a tremendous challenge for me in the days ahead. Any success will be only made possible by the efforts of many and the grace of our Blessed Mother and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The office of Secretary has been a tremendous learning experience. As the State Secretary, you are responsible for the record keeping of the day-to-day financial workings of the Ohio State Council. It continues to be a constant process in growth as an officer, always preparing oneself for the next level of involvement. I am most fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a talented group of dedicated men serving as State Officers alongside myself. They have gone the extra mile to ensure that I am comfortable in my position and with my duties as the State Secretary. I respectfully thank them for their assistance and co-operation.

As the State Secretary I have maintained the four State Council bank accounts. This includes issuing and writing checks as directed by the State Deputy and the reconciliation of each of those four accounts every month. During this past fiscal year, there were over 1400 checks written and payments made against those accounts for; State Convention Mileage and Per Diem, Measure Up Grants, Super Cash Bonanza Rebates, Football Frenzy Prizes and Rebates, Basketball Final Four winners and general operating expenses of the Ohio State Council. At the end of the State Council fiscal year a record of all deposits, checks, and reconciliations are submitted to the accounting firm of Blue & Company for audit, verification, and agreement with other state council financial records. These records and audit were made available to the Convention Audit Committee for their online inquiry and review via the Zoom internet meeting platform.

As State Secretary I continue to oversee the state council's accounting operation on a web-based operation through Quick Books. This operating system allows each of the fiscal officers to also monitor and to take a greater role in the state council's day to day finances. Having a web-based operation allows the State Deputy to have complete access to all the four state council accounts, and, at any time, knows where the state council stands financially. This process has given the State Treasurer the ability to record all state council deposits and have a hands-on responsibility of the financial and accounting system two years earlier than as in past administrations. This system has also allowed me as State Secretary, more efficient record keeping and the ability to keep the officers of the state council informed to state council finances. The web-based operation also provides the state council's accounting firm of Blue & Company to oversee the financial workings of the state council at any time, eliminating any chance of major error to our financial record keeping.

Another responsibility of the State Secretary is to assess, levy, and collect Per Capita billings each year after the State Convention in May. Per Capita invoices, which are based on a council's

total membership, are printed, and sent to the councils in the State of Ohio. Ohio's Per capita tax of \$6.50 per member is one of the lowest among the large jurisdictions within the entire order. The Per Capita billing is the primary source of revenue for the Ohio State Council. With the Per capita monies, the State Officers promote their programs as well as pay mileage and per diem to the state convention delegates. These monies are also used to pay mileage, per diem, and other state business related expenses to the State Officers as well as other State and Diocesan Personnel when approved by the State Deputy.

As State Secretary I am the chairman of both the Audit and Credentials Committees. The Audit Committee members are given the opportunity to review the state council's financial records for the past fiscal year, which runs from April 1 to March 31. This also includes the review of the State Council's financial audit for the past fiscal year. The Credential Committee will ensure that the convention is correctly represented with an accurate count of delegates and hierarchy within the state council.

As the State Officer of the Diocese of Youngstown, I truly believe that "Team Youngstown" is 100% committed to advancing and growing the order in the Youngstown Diocese. They continue to rise to the occasion and have made this year another year to remember. The councils have taken to the task coming out of our recent "pandemic" years and are working on getting their membership and programming levels back to pre-Pandemic standards. Needless to say, I am proud to represent them as a State Officer.

The three General Insurance Agencies that cover our diocese with the addition of several new Field Agents continues to respond to the insurance needs of our members and their families, to provide a great product of insurance benefits, and to assist in the exploration of potential new growth within our diocese.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve our State Deputy Mark Siracusa and the team of Brother Knights of the "*Lord, I am Your Servant*" State Program. I thank you fellow officers for the continued direction, fraternity, and patience during my second year as State Secretary. I must continue to thank those who assisted me and put up with me most, my closest associates and their wives, Brothers Mike Jordan, Chris Dodson, Mark Kahanca, Joe Mackos, Ken Girt, Phil Salasek, and Pete Rich. I especially must also thank my loving wife, Judy. For without her approval, support, and understanding, none of this would have been possible. I thank God each and every day for the talent and ability he has given me and for the energies necessary to complete my tasks and serve our Order in this capacity. I just hope and pray that I may live up to all expectations in my next step along the way.

May God Bless all of you for the work you have done and the work I know you will continue to do for our church, our community, and our Order in Jesus' name.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey T. Kiliany  
State Secretary

## REPORT OF THE STATE TREASURER

Greetings brother Knights and ladies to the 124th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus here in Columbus. What incredible progress we have made in the last twelve months!

The primary responsibility of the State Treasurer is to record the deposits for the four major State Council accounts: General, Fundraising, and Measure Up as well as the State Convention account. This past fiscal year there were 341 deposits made and over 6800 checks deposited with Chase Bank into the State Council's accounts. At the end of the State Council fiscal year, the records of all deposits are submitted to the accounting firm of Blue & Co., LLC for the financial audit, verification, and agreement with other state council financial records. These records and audit are made available to the Convention Audit Committee for their inquiry and review.

As a member of the Ohio Charity Foundation the State Treasurer is required to attend the Foundation's semi-annual meetings and may also serve on the Foundation's Scholarship Committee. In addition to this, the Treasurer is also a member of the Foundation's Budget and Investment Committee and serves as the Recording Secretary for that committee. I have also taken on the responsibility of the Ohio Knights of Columbus specialty license plate program. These special plates which cost an additional twenty dollars per year brought in \$2,540 this past fiscal year which goes directly into our Measure-Up program account. The plates are also a great way to increase our recognizability within our communities and as of a month ago the plates have been updated with our Order's current logo.

Brothers, as I write this report, we are twenty days away from the 2023 Super Cash Bonanza drawing to be held on Saturday, May 20th at the State Convention. "I Need You!" is this year's charity raffle theme playing off last year's success of the Charity Brothers. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Knights of Ohio. Our goal once again is to reach \$1,000,000 in sales and we are currently on pace to achieve that with your help. I hope you took advantage of mailing and "partnering" which was discussed during the Super Cash "Road Show". I would like to thank Past State Deputy Larry Moegling, Past State Deputy Gary Eckstein, and of course State Deputy Mark Siracusa for their informative and entertaining presentations during our road show stops.

I would also like to thank "Mackinac" Matt Stapleton, Rob "Curtis" Malone, "Southside" Jim Maslach, "Sister" Alicia Gresko, Sister Katie Stapleton, and "The Patient Parishioner" Kathy Maslach for helping create the *Charity Brothers Return* movie short for this year's Super Cash Bonanza Charity Raffle theme. I hope you enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed making it. When Matt and I came up with the idea for the cameos we never thought it would be so successful. You can find a link to it on our state website. There was no way I could have done it without them. Finally, I want to thank our past state deputies (especially Gary Eckstein the leader in fundraising and my mentor in this endeavor), the priests, and the Bishops of Ohio for their support.

Again, I cannot say enough about all the support I received from everyone throughout the state this year especially my "Barrel Captain" Benjamin Tobe, John "Johnny" Scales, my District

Deputy Coordination Timothy Mangan, our State Program Chairman Andrew Nuckols, State Membership Director Michael Freil, and of course PSD Dave Helmstetter. But sadly this fraternal year our state lost another great Knight in Past State Deputy John Welch. PSD Welch's "Called to Serve" theme and program symbolized what the Knights in Ohio are truly all about, and no doubt we will continue to carry that on.

I would like to close by thanking my fellow state officers who are always there for me, especially outgoing Immediate Past State Deputy Robert Byers who has been my mentor and big brother in all things fraternal. My wonderful and loving wife Heather I am pleased to report is back in Ohio after her internship in Utah. She has always been there in support of me along with our son T.J. And of course, thank you my brother Knights throughout Ohio for helping me and all of us on the state council and team make this a truly successful year under the leadership of State Deputy Mark Siracusa – "Lord, I am your Servant".

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael J. Felerski  
State Treasurer

## **REPORT OF THE STATE ADVOCATE**

Fraternal greetings to all in attendance during this 124<sup>th</sup> State Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus. It is great to be able to be back together and to celebrate all that we accomplished last year.

One of my primary responsibilities as State Advocate in the Jurisdiction of Ohio is Chairman of the Matching Funds Campaign held in the fall of each fraternal year. The monies collected for Matching Funds are given to the religious education and evangelization departments in each diocese in Ohio. All the money collected stays within the council's, chapter's, or assembly's diocese. This fraternal year created a challenge since many of our councils often collect their donations in their churches, and with so many of them operating at a reduced capacity, we did not know how well the program would fare this year.

With our 2022 theme; "Growing the Faith Through Catholic Education" our councils, assemblies and chapters were able raise \$44,089 which was an increase of \$8,917 than the previous fraternal year. This shows that the Knights of Columbus, in Ohio, continued our commitment to Catholic Education and Evangelization. When you include the generous \$25,000 matching contribution by the Ohio Charity Foundation and a \$6,500 match from the Ohio State Council State Officers, we reached a grand total of \$75,589. Thank you everyone throughout the state for your diligent efforts in supporting this fraternal year's campaign.

A total of eight (8) checks were presented at the January 2023 Mid-Year Meeting:

- Archdiocese of Cincinnati: \$15,950.86
- Diocese of Cleveland: \$10,190.23
- Diocese of Columbus: \$13,148.89
- Diocese of Steubenville: \$2,793.19
- Diocese of Toledo: \$15,996.45
- Diocese of Youngstown: \$16,175.48
- Eparchy of Parma: \$750 and
- Eparchy of Newton: \$250 on behalf of the Ohio Charity Foundation.

The state continued to offer our Online Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity every Wednesday night at 7PM via Zoom this fraternal year. We have offered these online exemplifications since April 2020. We have hosted over 42 exemplifications and have brought in a total of 172-new, e-members and advanced members through May 2023. I would like to personally thank the six diocesan teams for their continued dedication and support. A very special thank you to Phil Salasek of the Youngstown Diocese, for filling in as the facilitator when Youngstown presents so that I can have an evening to work on other projects or visit councils.

This year, I have also been given the honor to sit on the Ohio Charity Foundation's Scholarship Committee and had the added responsibility of being the chairman of the Foundation's Grants Committee. It is through your efforts statewide, brother Knights, that we can support our Catholic youth and so many charitable organizations in Ohio which is truly humbling.

I would like to thank my brother Knights and my fellow officers on the State Council for all your help during my second year as State Advocate. This year continued to be a learning experience as there were several cases and questions with legal ramifications that required my attention. I would like to thank, publicly, Supreme Advocate John Marrella and his staff. John was always available, no matter the time, to discuss any legal issues or concerns that I had during my tenure as State Advocate.

I would like to thank my Cleveland Leadership Team for their assistance and communication throughout this fraternal year. District Deputy Coordinator George Metz, Diocesan Membership Directors Jerry Nowesnick and Mike Incorvati, Assistant General Agent Christopher Winston, and Ohio District 1 Master Brandon Robinson for all their work with the talented and dedicated district deputies and council officers in Cleveland. I also would like to thank PSDs Roland Bator and Robert Collins Jr for their continued support and advice.

I offer a sincere thank you to all the councils and brother Knights within the Diocese of Cleveland and throughout Ohio who have met the challenge of coming out of the pandemic and returning to a state of normalcy. All of us have a great bond through our Catholic faith and our brotherhood in the Order. But most of all the Knights of Columbus offers friendship, a friendship which is not unlike a true family.

Finally, where would I be without the love and support of my wife, Kathy. She diligently works alongside me in the office on those late nights, conference calls and online sessions. She is my reminder of when it is time to stop and get some rest so that we can come back tomorrow and continue to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you, Kathy. I love you.

Respectfully submitted,  
James K. Maslach  
State Advocate

## **REPORT OF THE STATE WARDEN**

Worthy State Officers, Past State Deputies, District Deputies, Grand Knights, delegates, and guests all. Welcome to the 124<sup>th</sup> Ohio State Convention! Vivat Jesus!

It is said this greeting derived from the theme of the 96th annual meeting of the Supreme Council in New Orleans and it was made clear that the activities and programs carried on by the Knights of Columbus must be inspired and nourished by the Catholic faith. This weekend we share this greeting among fellow Brother Knights and recognize not only the promises of Jesus Christ, yet additionally the pledges we made as we stand united together, in service to our God, our family and neighbor.

I am truly honored each and every day I get to serve alongside you as your State Warden. Whether it be working with you through our “flagship” charity, Measure Up, or helping bring our faith-based programs to life with the St. Joseph Icon and Silver Rose. I continue to witness more than ever the genuine fraternity between catholic gentlemen. The support of many has helped me to develop further in my role to become a better Knight of Columbus. How appropriate is our State Deputy’s motto, “Lord, I am Your Servant”, for He calls every one of us to follow His commands with joy and to live not for the things of this life but for those of eternity.

In 2022, Measure Up has raised an astonishing \$270,470. That is an amazing job brothers! Each diocese in 2022 increased their council fundraising efforts and doubled the amount over last year. This coupled with our street collections and “gimmie-5”, continues to be our major drivers in raising funds. The impact this has on the 160 plus organizations will be life changing for many thanks to your hard work.

It is certainly an honor to serve as the State Officer of the Diocese of Columbus. A great thank you to all the local leadership in the Columbus Diocese. The teamwork from our Diocesan Directors, Columbus Chapter, District Deputies, Grand Knights, and all Brother Knights throughout has been extraordinary. Programs heightened, a new council was started, and membership expanded.

In closing, I would like to thank the fetching Mrs. Sarka. Gina has been at my side in service with the Knights for the past 15 plus years. She is my strength to continue forward and with the graces He provides, remaining to serve you for the years to come.

Fraternally,  
Christopher Sarka  
State Warden



## REPORT OF THE IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY

To all the Delegates, Attendees, and Guests of the 124<sup>th</sup> Ohio State Council Convention here in Columbus,

As Immediate Past State Deputy, I have served in an advisory role to our State Deputy Mark Siracusa and the state officer team. It has been an honor to serve with this team of officers. Congratulations to Mark, his officer corps, and his membership and programming team for a successful 2022-2023 fraternal year.

My prime responsibility this fraternal year has been tracking the financial contributions of the annual Support Our Seminarians (S.O.S.) program. I am pleased to report that this has been a very good fraternal year for vocations overall. Currently, over two hundred local councils, eight assemblies, and three chapters have contributed \$160,265.14 in support of the vocation's programs throughout the six dioceses of Ohio.

The financial summary (before expenses) for each diocese includes the following:

Cincinnati	\$21,124.52	45 Councils	3 Assemblies & 1 Chapter
Cleveland	\$14,779.58	31 Councils	
Columbus	\$74,620.85	46 Councils	1 Chapter
Steubenville	\$ 4,752.00	10 Councils	1 Assembly
Toledo	\$27,191.99	42 Councils	3 Assembly
Youngstown	\$17,796.20	30 Councils	1 Assembly & 1 Chapter

Over the last several years, Columbus has exceeded \$50,000 in each campaign, which is the most in Support Our Seminarians history. What a tremendous improvement over the 2002 campaign when the Columbus diocese raised just a little over \$6,000. Congratulations are extended to the Diocese of Columbus brother knights for their contributions.

This year's campaign marks the ninth straight year in which the overall state total has exceeded \$100,000 and is the fifth highest campaign total in program history. This campaign raises our collections for vocations to just over \$1.8 million since 2002.

I would also like to recognize four councils that donated over \$5,000 each and received the Gold Award: St. Brendan Council #11208 at \$9,788.50, St. Andrew Council #11275 at \$6,573.48, Christ the King Council #13705 at \$5,182.38 and Bishop McFadden Council #3777 at \$5,036.00.

This year 47 councils and 1 chapter reached the \$1,000 plateau or better to earn recognition at this state convention. Again, special thanks to all. *Please refer to the following chart.*

In closing, I would also like to thank everyone in the great jurisdiction of Ohio for their support during this past year as a state officer. I am always pleased to say that the Ohio Knights of Columbus and their families are the greatest people in the world. *My wife Peggy and I thank you for all your kindness and support.*

Council No.			Total
11208	St. Brendan	Hilliard	\$9,788.50
11275	St. Andrew	Upper Arlington	\$6,573.48
13705	Christ the King	Columbus	\$5,182.38
3777	Bishop McFadden	North Canton	\$5,036.00
910	St. Luke	Danville	\$3,946.61
11188	Miraculous Medal	Columbus	\$6,581.00
16561	St. Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli	Canal Winchester	\$3,572.87
	Columbus Chapter		\$3,333.00
14502	St. John XXIII	Perrysburg	\$3,102.17
10765	Saint Joan of Arc	Powell	\$3,000.00
4324	Ascension	Johnstown	\$2,900.00
10876	Saint Edward	Granville	\$2,800.00
14282	Our Lady of Peace	Columbus	\$2,754.00
5582	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Anthony P. Boeff	Navarre	\$2,512.00
12772	Fr. Edward Fitzgerald	Plain City	\$2,500.00
7970	North Ridgeville	North Ridgeville	\$2,473.00
957	Leo	Findlay	\$2,100.00
3724	Fairborn	Fairborn	\$2,000.00
8829	St. Caspar	Wauseon	\$2,000.00
5669	Fr. Michael Muehe	Kalida	\$1,900.00
14671	Sacred Heart	Cardington	\$1,830.00
1782	Bellefontaine	Bellefontaine	\$1,782.00
1362	Ray McKowen	Delphos	\$1,773.00
341	Canton	Canton	\$1,587.00
947	Painesville	Painesville	\$1,500.00
5253	Father Andrew H. Hohman	Reynoldsburg	\$1,500.00
11187	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Pickerington	\$1,335.00
10941	New Albany	New Albany	\$1,314.00
1056	Delaware	Delaware	\$1,280.00
11354	Saint Catharine	Bexley	\$1,169.52
1757	Ottawa	Ottawa	\$1,160.00
1195	Archbishop Elder	Cincinnati	\$1,100.90
2158	Fr. Andrew Kunkler	Minster	\$1,100.00
12359	Joseph Cardinal Bernardin	Cincinnati	\$1,100.00
3727	Assumption	Columbus	\$1,037.27
1915	Bryan	Bryan	\$1,032.00
7978	Perrysburg	Perrysburg	\$1,009.70
14457	Saint John Neumann	Sunbury	\$1,002.00
310	Gilmour	Mayfield Heights	\$1,000.00
3269	Father Ragan	Avon & Avon Lake	\$1,000.00
10863	Saint Brigid of Kildare	Dublin	\$1,000.00
2565	Father Klueber	Caldwell	\$1,000.00
15905	Saint Joan of Arc	Toledo	\$1,000.00
1641	Cambridge	Cambridge	\$1,000.00
5129	St. John	Tipp City	\$1,000.00
14504	Father Francis X. Hoffer OFM	Centerville	\$1,000.00
13813	St. Columban	Loveland	\$1,000.00
5297	Fr. John S Hannan	Circleville	\$1,000.00

Fraternally,  
 Robert E. Byers  
 Immediate Past State Deputy

## **REPORT OF THE STATE GENERAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy State Directors, Worthy Grand Knights, Delegates, Brother Knights, and guests of the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus:

I want to Thank all Councils who put their Faith in to Action under the “**Lord, I am Your Servant**” Ohio General Program this past year.

I want to say a big Thank You to my Faith in Action Directors who read, review, grade and tracked all the Council Choice activities that come in each first of the month from Supreme on Fraternal Program Reports (10784's) submitted by councils. It is only due to their dedicated and assistance throughout the year, especially this past month as we closed out the Ohio General Program for the State Convention. Thank you to Tony Offenberger - State Faith Director, Joe Hartle – State Family Director, Duane Bassett – State Community Director, Christopher Bercaw – State Life Director and Michael Friel State Membership Director for making the state program run as smooth as it does. I also thank the Wives and Families of these men to allow them to dedicate so much time to Ohio State Council.

I also own a sincere gratitude to Tom Buehner – State Webmaster, Ken Girt – State Special Reports, and Jim Maslach – State Advocate for their work to help keep the statistics, reports and tracking systems up to date and available for the State Team and all the Councils in Ohio. Their behind the scene work does not go unnoticed by me and all that they do to make my job easier. I also sincerely thank State Deputy Mark Siracusa for having the faith in me and offer this opportunity to serve the brother Knights and their Councils as well as the Ohio State Council. These past two years has been rewarding and satisfying experience. Thank you, Beth and Mark for all your dedicated support!

We have roughly 45 days left in the Fraternal Year, still time for Councils to make the Star Council Award. Make sure you send in Columbian Award (Form SP-7) by June 30, have earned the Fr. McGivney Founders Award (hosting or attending online two Fraternal Benefit Nights Form #11077), Submitted both the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (Form #1728) and Service Program Personnel Report (Form #365) and fully compliant with the Safe Environment requirements.

Now is also a good time for Councils to conduct their 2022-23 Fraternal Year in Review, to discuss what lessons were learned this past year, what they can improve upon for next fraternal year. Successful planning and effective implementation will lead to a year strong in Charity, Unity and Fraternity putting your Faith in to Action under “**Lord, I am Your Servant**” program.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Andrew J. Nuckols  
State General Program Director

## **REPORT OF THE STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

Greetings Brother Knights & families. Welcome to the 124th Ohio State Convention. 2023 Looks like it is going to be a Good Year for Membership Growth, and we are on target to meet our Membership Goals this year.

It has never been easier and quicker to join the Knights of Columbus than it is now.

E-Membership has made it more convenient for Men to join us in a quicker fashion vs the filling out the form 100 and sending it in. With the E-membership, it has enabled Ohio to grow its membership very well this year. As of this writing, we are standing at nearly 80% of our goal met, with two and a half months to go. I am confident with a last quarter push; we can make our Goal. We have been slow but steady with our New Members coming in each month.

Our new Council Growth this year has been in New Hispanic Councils. As of this writing we have formed 2 New Hispanic Councils, 18147 San Francisco Javier Willard, Ohio, and 18195 San Pedro, Columbus, Ohio. On the verge of forming is a Hispanic Council in New Carlisle, Ohio, Sacred Heart Parish. There is another possibility that's on the radar for Hamilton, Ohio and that will be pursued after the convention. Cincinnati has another possibility that is in the initial stages for Old St. Mary's downtown. There have been enough eMembers coming out of that Parish in which a New Council could be formed.

When we started the Fraternal Year in July, we had 400+ Councils that had not signed up a new member. As of this writing we are down to about 130 Councils that have not signed up a new member. Hopefully by June 15<sup>th</sup> we can whittle that number down in half.

We must continue to ASK men in our Parishes to join our Order, as the more men that join us, the stronger our Church will be. If we do not ask men to join with us, they won't.

I want to thank the 13 Members of the State Membership Team that have helped me get the word out into their Dioceses and into their Councils, which has helped us with our Membership Growth this year. Each Team Member was an integral part of our Growth this year. Membership is vital to each and every Council. It not only helps the Council grow, but it also helps to replace those who have passed away, and also enables us to do the good work we do.

Vivat Jesus !!

Michael Freil

State Membership Director

## **REPORT OF THE STATE DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

I want to begin by saying, “Thank you!” Thank you to all the District Deputies and District Deputy Coordinators. It doesn’t seem like quite enough for all you do.

We started the fraternal year with a District Deputy meeting again focused on training. We broke the Friday night sessions up. – Membership, Meetings, Forms, and Websites. These topics were taught by our District Deputy Coordinators. Holding our semi-annual District Deputy Meetings is challenging. The difficulty is tailoring the material for all our District Deputies. They have such a wide range of experience - from men who have only been Knights for a few short years to those who served as altar boys for Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney.

I actually heard for District Deputies who passed on the opportunity to attend our meetings. This leads me to ask a couple of questions. How can you be sure you are passing on the latest changes and information to your councils if you haven’t heard it yourself. Secondly, if you have that much experience, why aren’t you sharing that information with your Brother Knights by being a member of the state team.

In August I was honored to attend the annual Supreme Convention in Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Resort and Opry Center. This was our first live convention in several years. It truly was a pleasure to see and hear our Supreme leadership discuss the order’s successes and plans for the future. The keynote speaker for the States Dinner was Cardinal Timothy Dolan from the Archdiocese of New York City. Wonderfully motivating.

District Deputies had the opportunity to win a number of awards for their performance. Although no one was awarded the coveted Star District Award from the previous fraternal year, we had a number of individuals who turned in stellar performances. Thanks to the generosity of the Ohio State Council Officers, these individuals received \$25 gift cards. This year we more than doubled the number of District Deputies who were awarded the Bronze Platter Award.

In January, we held our Mid-Year District Deputy Meeting. We again featured evaluations. I’m a big believer in feedback. One of the first tenants of management is to make sure your subordinates know what you expect of them. That’s where feedback comes in.

The mid-year meeting also presented the opportunity to name the top DD in each of the six dioceses. These individuals were selected by the District Deputy Coordinators in conjunction with their diocesan officer. The top District Deputies for the First Six Months of the 2022-2023 fraternal year were

- DD #8 Kenneth Haacke from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- DD #25 Cris Drugan from the Cleveland Diocese
- DD #36 Dr. Eric Yang from the Columbus Diocese
- DD #50 Daniel Hitchcock from the Steubenville Diocese
- DD #64 Edward Maher, Jr. from the Toledo Diocese, and
- DD #82 Jeffrey Weber for the Youngstown Diocese.

Dr. Eric Yang from the Columbus Diocese was selected the Ohio State Council District Deputy for the First Six Months.

March brought the annual Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Championship again held at Bishop Ready High School in Columbus. This was the first year I was afforded the opportunity to attend it in person. The pageantry, tension, and sportsmanship are all very impressive. I urge you to go if you can.

Thank you to District Deputy Coordinators Tim Mangan, George Metz, David Bogner, Jeff Turner, Tim Bohls, Jr., and Mark Kahanca for their never-ending support.

Recently, I have seen a number of promotions encouraging men to take a leadership role in the Knights of Columbus. I would like to take that one step further. Become a District Deputy. Aside from possibly Supreme Knight or State Deputy, I cannot think of a more honorable position. It is by far one of the most needed positions in our order. Although it is a position of great responsibility, I believe that it does not require as many man-hours as being Grand Knight.

For our next fraternal year, I pledge all support I can give to my successor Chris Dodson from the Youngstown Diocese.

Fraternally yours,  
Jim Collins  
District Deputy Director

## **REPORT OF THE STATE FAITH DIRECTOR**

Worthy State Chaplin, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy District Deputy, Worthy State Directors, Worthy Grand Knights, Delegates, Brothers Knights, and Guests of the 124th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

How do you strengthen men and their families in their Catholic faith? You do spiritual activities that involve the family and the Catholic Church.

During the past year, there were 146 councils that submitted at least 1 faith activity then of those councils 59 of them max the faith program with 100 points. There were 62 Chaplin/Spiritual Advisor of the year nominations submitted. There were also 625 total reports to grade, which is significantly higher than last year. It appears that councils are starting to figure out the new format.

How is that compared to past years you might ask? It is better on both sides. More councils reporting and 10 more that maxed the faith program. This is still not good enough. We need more councils to report their programs. I know there is more going on in this great state then what is being reported. Also, the councils that are reporting need to finish the year with a nomination for a spiritual person within their council. It can be anyone that fits that role. I received several that were just Brother Knights that exemplified that role. There were many councils that were very close to 100 points. All they needed was that nomination and it turned in on time. I think it is very possible to get 175 councils reporting at least 1 activity and 75 councils max the faith program. This is my challenge to you, my Brother Knights.

I would like to thank all the 146 councils for their reports and the 62 Chaplin/Spiritual Advisor of the year nominations. Picking the Diocesan winner for each Diocese was hard but choosing the overall winner was considerably more challenging.

I would also like to thank our Worthy State Deputy, Mark Siracusa for asking me to serve my Brother Knights, the State Council, and our Order as the State Faith Director over these last two years. If any of you Brother Knights are asked to take a position like this, please consider it an honor. You will not regret serving this great State.

Finally, and most of all, I want to thank my wife Kristin for all her support and understanding. (And helping pick the overall winners) If not for her support, this would not be possible.

Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tony Offenberger  
State Faith Director

## **REPORT OF THE STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR**

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy State Directors, Brother Knights and Guests of the 124th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus:

It has been my true honor and pleasure to serve this past fraternal year as your Ohio State Family Director. It has been a joy to see all the great works that our Councils have done this past year to get families together in faith, fun, and fraternity.

This past fraternal year, we had 146 councils report at least one family related activity. In total, we had 772 family activities reported!!! We know that there are more councils conducting family activities and events throughout their parishes and community, so please remember to report these activities so we can see what you do to get families engaged and involved. Thank you for your reports and keep up the great work!

Of note, more than 75 councils reported participation in the Food for Families program, a flagship program of the Knights of Columbus to help support our food pantries and organizations so that no one is left hungry. The efforts of these councils resulted in thousands of pounds of food being donated to those in need. I commend all councils that participate in the Food for Families program.

I am also pleased to report that many councils reported new forms of family engagement in their councils and parishes, such as a Family Farm Mass, Fishing Derby, Flag Retirement with Family Bonfire, and many more. With recent changes in technology and the way that people participate in activities, our councils need to adapt and embrace a new way of doing things. I encourage all councils to think outside the box to join our families together in faith, fun and prayer.

A great number of councils reported a Memorial Mass this year. These are some of my favorite reports to receive, as it demonstrates our dedication to Fr. McGivney's call to action to remember our deceased brothers and support the families of our departed Knights. Now is more important than ever that we reinvigorate that spirit and commitment. I challenge you to find new and unique ways to remember our deceased Knights and their families, not just once a year, but throughout the year.

Thank you to our Worthy State Deputy for his confidence in me and allowing me to serve as your Family Director these past two years. Thank you also to our General Program Director, my fellow Directors, and all our State Officers for their support, guidance, and fraternity this past year. Finally, and most importantly, thank you to my wonderful wife, April, and our beautiful daughters, Audrey, Penny, and Evie, who have sacrificed time with their husband and daddy to allow me to serve in this position. I love you all dearly.

May God bless you and your families in all you do! Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully submitted,  
SK Joseph S. Hartle  
State Family Director



## **REPORT OF THE STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR**

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy State Directors, Worthy Grand Knights, Delegates, Brother Knights, and guests of the 124th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus,

Wow! The finishing touches of my second year as State Community Director for the State of Ohio are winding down. The fraternal year has seen councils recovering from a few dormant years and getting back into the normal phase in reporting their community activities. I am amazed and proud of the various community activities councils in the State of Ohio have reported throughout the year. Brother Knights are continuing to be a primary resource for church and community needs. The community activity reports show the desire and dedication of Knights of Columbus councils to be crucial leaders in volunteer service.

Programs such as Habitat for Humanity, Coats for Kids, Free Throw Championship, and Helping Hands have been successful because the knights have support of one another, coming together for a worthy cause and the fortitude for success. I received photos, documentation, and positive feedback from councils reporting.

The Soccer Challenge was conducted within the time limit as outlined in the Supreme Official Guide Booklet. The Soccer Challenge has seen a decrease in participation in the past 2 years. Consequently, the State level has not been held for the last two years. The Catholic Citizenship Essay contest was completed in the period outlined by Supreme. The number of entries continues to be small, but the essays were beautifully written. The Free Throw Championship program was conducted at the Council, District, Regional and State level. The State level had sixty-two contestants complete for the honors and trophies. I want to thank all the Program Directors, District Deputies and District Deputy Coordinators, and supporting staff for their help in getting me organized for these programs.

The fraternal year shows 162 councils submitting at least one Community Program Activity. A total of 845 Community Activities were reported. 59 councils maxed the Community Program which is higher than the past year.

The Youth of the Year activity had reports from 68 councils. The numbers are up significantly from last year, and the nominations received exhibit an array of extraordinary youths. The selection process, though time consuming and difficult, I enjoyed reading the supporting reviews of the nominees. I want to thank the councils for submitting their choice.

I would like to thank our State Deputy Mark Siracusa and State General Program Director Andrew Nuckols for supporting me for the past two years as the State Community Director. I want to thank the State Officers and staff for supporting me in my duties. The help I received was very instrumental in making The State Community Director an enjoyable experience.

Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully Submitted

Duane A. Bassett

State Community Director

## **REPORT OF THE STATE LIFE DIRECTOR**

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy State Directors, Worthy Grand Knights, Delegates, Brother Knights, and guests of the 124th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus,

Greetings! The Ohio State Convention is here. What a great year the Ohio State Councils have had in the Life Program!

As of this writing, abortion rights supporters are trying to collect enough signatures to put a constitutional amendment on the November 2023 ballot that would assert a right to abortion. We still need to be vigilant over the next few years that Ohio does not slide backwards, instead makes even more gains. And our work is just beginning . . . helping Moms and families in crisis pregnancies takes on even greater importance. Many councils across Ohio are supporting the pregnancy resource centers in their area. If your council is not supporting a local pregnancy resource center, you should take an active role in helping the Moms & their babies. Yes, much work is needed, but we are the Knights of Columbus . . . the men of this country that can unite to ensure the support and love is there. Yes, God's work is ahead of us, and I am thankful to be a part of a Catholic Men's organization who says yes! There is much disinformation prevalent today, so Education is needed, and we should help provide Education.

Thank you to the 139 of 372 councils that supported the many Life Programs. The following are some upcoming Life programs that many Ohio councils are currently doing or have done: A Life Program goal for the fraternal year was for each council to support a Pregnancy Resource Center. The Women who are facing crisis pregnancies need our help and supporting/being connected to a resource center in your area would be a difference maker. The new Supreme Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program provides an opportunity to support and then received \$100 for each \$500 contributes. Not every Pregnancy Resource Center is being supported, but a LOT are, THANK YOU for doing this!!

Silver Rose Program - Ohio will host the Silver Rose from June 25 to July 22. Several councils will be hosting the Silver Rose during that time.

Ultrasound initiative – in the last few months we have awarded or paid for five units, with a few more in the works and should be ready soon. Please remember that statistics show that 90% of women in a crisis pregnancy, who see their ultrasound, will keep their baby.

I was glad to see so many councils offering up your Rosary monthly or quarterly for Life. Many prayed a Novena for Life in your council & your parish in January. A few councils invited their local Special Olympics representative to speak at a social night and supported them with monetary donations and donations of time.

As a council, many attended right to life events/dinners and supported the organizations who are the front line and lobbying legislators for Life. There was an EXCELLENT turnout for the first annual Ohio March for Life in October and look forward to many more Council at the 2023 event.

I have seen several councils report they hosted a movie night for the council/parish with movies such as "Unplanned", "Bella", "Roe v. Wade", "The Matter of Life", "Lifemark" or "October Baby". You had pizza, popcorn, cookies, and lemonade with a free will offering, with proceeds to Life organizations.

Vivat Jesus and God bless you!

Respectfully Submitted  
Christopher Bercaw  
Ohio State Council Life Director

## **REPORT OF THE STATE SPECIAL REPORTS CHAIRMAN**

I would like to extend my fraternal greetings and best wishes to all the delegates attending the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio State Council Convention being held May 19-21, 2023, in Columbus.

It has been an honor to serve our State Deputy Mark Siracusa these past two years as the Special Reports Chairman, continuing several of the special reports that I developed over the years as a state officer. Those reports include:

**Monthly Star Council Status Report.** This report is updated and distributed every first of the month using data from several of the Supreme Council reports from their website. This report is used by the state officers and district deputies as a current “snapshot” of their council’s activities, submitted reports, membership growth, and state fundraising participation. I know we have many grand knights and councils who are working hard to achieve the Star Council Award. And Supreme Council has even made it easier this fraternal year by continuing the reduced council membership quota and insurance requirement.

**Council Master List.** This list of all active and inactive councils is used for various program and fundraising activities for establishing quotas. It is also used as a reference guide for all our councils as it lists their Supreme Council official name and location, district number, district deputy, diocese location, and membership total as of May 1 of previous fraternal year.

I assisted our State Secretary, Jeff Kiliany, this past year in establishing the State Council Per Capita invoices, mileage calculations for convention and district deputy meetings, and convention per diem and mileage rebate calculations.

I also assisted our State Treasurer, Mike Felerski, in recording the Super Cash Bonanza tickets and payments from our councils for this important charity fundraising campaign. I also created a back-up rebate calculation program as a verification for the rebate calculations of our primary raffle-ticket recorder.

I would like to thank our state officers, district deputies, general agents, and state directors for their continued support of the Star Council Award report. And thanks to you, the Grand Knights, and leaders of our councils! You have been elected to lead your council in its quest for the Star Council Award. Everything expected of a Grand Knight during a fraternal year is included in this one award.

In conclusion, let us all continue to grow our councils and to grow the Order here in Ohio. We need to bring in other Catholic men to help us with all our work.

Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ken Girt, PSD  
Special Reports Chairman

## **REPORT OF THE STATE WEBSITE DIRECTOR**

This year, we were again able to work with Supreme to allow councils to submit their General Program activities directly to Supreme via the Fraternal Programs Report Form #10784.

At the end of each month of the fraternal year, Supreme provided us with a data dump of everything submitted to them from the councils across the state of Ohio. In turn, we were able to import this data into our state website, allowing the State Program Directors to grade the activities to count toward the State General Program. This eliminated the need for councils to duplicate submitting the same information twice (once to Supreme and again to the State).

As of April 16, 2023, Supreme received 2,685 activities submitted to them from 176 councils in the state of Ohio.

Vivat Jesus,  
Tom Buehner  
State Website Director

## REPORT OF THE FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN

Worthy State Deputy Mark Siracusa, State Officers, State Directors, District Deputy's, Grand Knights, and Brother Knights of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus.

The 2022 Football Sweepstakes program continued to grow thus helping all councils that participated to earn additional cash rebates along with a credit toward this annual state per capita tax. The State Council created new incentives that encourage councils to increase their football ticket sales so they may increase their rebates to over \$10.00 for each ticket sold. As a result, this year's council sales increased cash rebates and per capita credit to over \$205,000.00.

The 2022 FBS sales were down almost 800 tickets over the 2021 sales; but many councils took advantage of the incentive offers by State Deputy Mark Siracusa. As a result, we had over 25,200 football sweepstake tickets sold. This is another outstanding job by our membership that directly benefits their local councils.

The 2023 Football Sweepstakes will begin in July, with tickets being distributed on the diocesan tours. **Our goal -- selling all 35,960 tickets.** Last year we sold nearly 71% of our goal and awarded over \$192,000.00 in cash rebates – so should we reach our goal of 35,960 – **councils would be sharing in nearly \$500,000 in rebates.** So, **get on the 2023 Football Sweepstakes team** and make extra money for your council while enjoying the NFL football season by winning some of the over **\$27,500.00** in prizes.

Diocese	Council Winners	Total Winners	\$\$ Awarded	Top Council Winners
Cincinnati	42	97	\$8,199.56	Wapakoneta 1272 - 7
Cleveland	32	56	\$5,324.35	Fr. Kunkler 2158 - 7
Columbus	34	60	\$6,022.58	St. Margaret 13429 - 7
Steubenville	10	20	\$1,492.17	St. Henry 2640 - 6
Toledo	28	53	\$4,343.02	Grove City 4603 - 6
Youngstown	17	31	\$2,343.52	Van Wert 6034 - 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>\$27,725.20</b>	Geneva 5286 - 6

Top councils earning rebates were:

1. Van Wert 6034	Toledo	\$4,990	6. Rev. Brotzge 14665	Cincinnati	\$2,835
2. Fr. Ragan 3269	Cleveland	\$3,866	7. Vermillion 4539	Toledo	\$2,772
3. New Albany 10941	Columbus	\$3,555	8. Fr. Kunkler 2158	Cincinnati	\$2,624
4. St. Joseph 11550	Cincinnati	\$3,400	9. Msgr. Dooley 4361	Steubenville	\$2,592
5. Grove City 4603	Columbus	\$3,116	10. Huron St. Ed's 5023	Toledo	\$2,583

Top councils \$\$ winners:

1. Wapakoneta 1272	\$1,122.65	6. St. Joseph 11550	\$547.00
2. Cardington 14671	\$650.00	7. St. Peter 11216	\$537.50
3. St. Margaret 13429	\$649.29	8. Geneva 5286	\$468.46
4. Fr. Homan 5253	\$609.25	9. New Albany 10941	\$448.59
5. Fr. Ragan 3269	\$583.09		

A total of 338 councils participated in the 2022 Football Sweepstakes; with 165 councils earning additional per capita credit. In a separate program, the Final Four Sweepstakes made an additional \$ 14,804.23 for the State Council.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary A. Eckstein, PSD  
Football Sweepstakes Chairman