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Knights of Columbus
Ohio State Council
Jeff Kiliany, State Deputy



126th ANNUAL CONVENTION - FIRST OFFICIAL CALL CLEVELAND HILTON DOWNTOWN, CLEVELAND, OH

MAY 23, 24, & 25, 2025

Worthy Grand Knight:

It is a pleasure to issue this **FIRST OFFICIAL CALL** for the 126th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council, Knights of Columbus. Please read all the information in this packet and follow the instructions carefully to make your convention stay enjoyable.

Your council should avail itself of the full representation at this convention by having two (2) accredited delegates attending. The success of the work of our Order in Ohio and your council depends on your council's full participation at the annual convention.

The rules of the Order provide:

1. The Grand Knight, by virtue of his office, will be a delegate.
2. The other delegate must be selected from among the Past Grand Knights of your council if they can attend. If there are NO Past Grand Knights available, any third-degree member in good standing may be elected.
3. That alternates for the two (2) delegates who are elected. They need not be Past Grand Knights but must be third-degree members in good standing.

DELEGATE REGISTRATION (Ohio State Council By-Laws Article II Sections A and B)

All the forms and information for the 2025 Ohio State Council State Convention are available on the state website at <https://kofcoho.org/state-convention-4/>.

The **CONVENTION REGISTRATION** form is the single most important document to be completed and submitted. Each individual person/family planning to attend is required to register. There are no joint registering delegates or alternates. Each must do their own registration. This is the only form you must complete for delegate and guest registration.

***THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AT THE CONVENTION.
PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY!***

The form can be completed in one of the following methods:

1. Print out the PDF version, complete and send the form and payment prior to due date OR complete and submit the online registration form available at <https://kofcoho.org/state-convention-4/>.
 - a. A copy of the registration will be sent to the email address supplied when completing the form and to the Ohio State Council. Payment can be made either via credit/debit card or check. Please include the **Confirmation Number** in the memo field of the check.
2. Make all checks payable to the *Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus* and send them to: **James Maslach, State Treasurer, 4927 Autumnwood Ln, Brunswick, OH 44212.**

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This will be used to prepare the Official Credential List.

To conform to the Supreme Council's Charter Constitution Laws (Section 12e), the Ohio State Council will pay per diem and mileage for two (2) delegates to the state convention. This amount will be remitted to the council after its State Per Capita Tax is paid.

Nothing in this letter or any subsequent correspondence should be construed as an invitation to your council to participate in this convention if it has failed to meet the requirements of Article II, Section E of the Ohio State Council Bylaws (Councils Failing to Pay Assessments not Entitled to Representation) prior to the date of the convention.

All Delegates and Non-Voting Members wanting access to the business sessions, are **REQUIRED** to bring their 3rd Degree Travel Card. Access will be denied to those that do not provide the required credentials.

RESOLUTIONS (Ohio State Council By-Laws Article VII Section D)

Resolutions on any subject relevant to the work of the order may be presented by your council for consideration of the delegates. The resolution must be submitted on Council letterhead paper (8 ½" x 11") and be typewritten. The resolution must show the date the council approved the resolution, signed by the Grand Knight attesting the council vote, and filed with the State Secretary no later than **April 24, 2025**. Proposed By-Laws changes must be submitted by **March 25, 2025**.

IN MEMORIAM

The In Memoriam Form should be completed with the names of all your council members who passed away during the past year. The PDF Form or Online Form can be used. If the PDF Form is used, send the completed form to the *Ohio State Council* no later than **May 9, 2025**. The online form will be closed on **May 9, 2025, at 11:59 PM**. PDF forms received after the date will not be included in this year's Convention Memorial Book.

SUPER CASH BONANZA

The Super Cash Bonanza Drawing will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza in Middleburg Heights. The drawing will be broadcast on the state YouTube Channel and other media outlets. Please plan to send your tickets to the State Treasurer by Monday, May 12, 2025. Since we will not have a drop off area at the state convention this year, please make arrangements with either your state officer or with Jim Maslach for any last-minute tickets. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause. If you have questions, please contact Jim Maslach by phone/text at 440-785-9838 or email at kofcjk@gmail.com.

!!SPECIAL ATTENTION!!

Each delegate and guest to the 126th Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus Convention is asked to bring personal hygiene items to help the homeless population in the Cleveland and Akron area. We are looking for the following items: full and trail size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, and deodorant. Items can be dropped off at Convention Check-In located on the 3rd Floor Hope Ballroom A&B. These items cannot be handed down to others like clothes and blankets can. **!!PLEASE DO NOT FORGET!!** Our request is simple but needed. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

EXCURSIONS AND GUIDED TOURS

This vibrant city and the dynamic Northeast Ohio region offer a wealth of opportunities for members and their families to find just the activity or activities to enhance their experience this weekend. There are downtown events with transportation

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available, an event at the hotel itself, and for those with more time and a willingness to explore further out, opportunities to visit some of the regions remarkable Catholic locations as well as some well-known Cleveland landmarks.

Some guided tours that are available are free and others have a small cost associated with them.

- Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument – FREE - Limited to 30 people.
- Old Stone Church – FREE – Limited to 40 people.
- Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist – FREE – Limited to 30 people.
- Archives of the Diocese of Cleveland – FREE – Limited to 15 people, but there are three groups available.
- Guided Bus Tour of Lakeview Cemetery - \$15.00/Each – Limited to 20 people.
- Historic Churches of Cleveland by the Cleveland Restoration Society – FREE – Limited to 50 people.

A shuttle bus will be looping to various locations throughout the Greater Cleveland area on both Friday and Saturday from 12 Noon to 5:00 PM. Stops include some very popular locations such as:

- The Public Square
- The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- The Great Lakes Science Center
- USS Cod Memorial
- The Cleveland West Side Market

We understand that it is difficult for the delegates and their families to enjoy all the offers. We suggest you consider arriving early or staying later to explore the many other activities Cleveland has to offer. Some require a short drive but can be well worth the time. If the weather is nice and you're longing for a stroll, downtown Cleveland has a delightful Walking Tour. Cuyahoga and the surrounding six county region offer a wealth of museum opportunities for just about every age and interest.

- Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine
- Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch
- Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon
- Nativity of the Lord Jesus Catholic Church
- Shrine of St. Elizabeth of Hungary (oldest Catholic church in the region)
- The wonderful Cleveland Zoo
- The Christmas Story House and Neighborhood

More information is available on the state website and at Convention Check-In on the 3rd Floor Hope Ballroom A&B.

HOTEL INFORMATION

It is extremely important that you follow the instructions in this letter concerning hotel reservations, convention registration, and the State Deputy's Banquet. If you complete and mail or submit the online form and include correct convention registration payment, your convention check-in, and stay will be a simple and orderly task.

Hotel reservations should be made immediately by visiting:

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<https://book.passkey.com/go/KnightsColumbus25>

and click on **Make Reservation**. Follow the instructions to complete.

The deadline for hotel reservations is **May 1, 2025**, no exception. **Hotel reservations need to be made as soon as possible.**

The convention registration fee for everyone attending is **\$150.00**. This includes your registration, convention book, Ohio State Pin, Friday Night Party, State Deputy Banquet, donations to the various tours, and Sunday Men's or Ladies Luncheon. Additional items are available for purchase.

The Convention Registration Form is available on the state website (<https://kofcoho.org/state-convention-4/>) as a PDF to print and mail or electronic Online form. The deadline for registration is **May 9, 2025**. Any registrations after May 9, 2025, are subject to a \$10.00 Late Fee. If you need to cancel, do so 72 hours prior to the event to receive a full refund after the convention. Banquet table reservations are taken directly from the Convention Registration Form. No separate form is required.

ALL attendees must make their **OWN** hotel reservation and register for the convention. No reservations or registrations are automatic. **You are responsible for your own paperwork.**

The Cleveland Hilton Downtown has provided a block of **standard king and two (2) queen rooms** available. These rooms have the rate of **\$159.99 per Night plus appropriate taxes and fees**. The rooms rates are based on averages for the number of rooms that will be used throughout the weekend and are only used to be an approximate cost. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Jim Maslach, State Treasurer and Convention Chairman via phone/text at 440-785-9838 or via email at kofcjk@gmail.com.

Vivat Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Felerski".

Michael J. Felerski, State Secretary