



Knights of Columbus

Portland Council # 101 ----

The next Council Meeting will be on March 4 2015, "spring is coming we hope"

My Brothers: As I stated in last month's News Letter that the snow is still piling up and it is bitter cold. Good weather for skiing, ice fishing and snowmobiling well go for it. At my age, I prefer the pellet stove and a coffee!

As they say, "spring is just around the corner" and it will be a wet one no drought.

Given the snowy weather there were many cancellations and the knights were no exception, with cancelation of membership meeting and the scheduled 2/3 degree for February 15 – As of this letter there is no **new-posted** date for a 2/3 degree. The Maine State Council degree team conducts these two degrees and they will bring candidates from throughout the state. Weather is a major factor when scheduling degrees at this time of year. As soon as new degree information is available, we will contact the membership. All 1st degree members should seriously consider advancing to the higher degree of the order. Each degree teaches you something new about the Knights of Columbus and it is a rewarding experience. **Reminder that you must be a member in good standing [dues paid up to date] in order to participate.**

Council Dues \$30.00 Bills were sent out in December; please mail your CK to our Financial Secretary Ray Di Donato. If you have a financial hardship, PLEASE contact Ray [Tell. # Below] and discuss. Knights Alert Letters; They go out next week around March 2. We still have 31 members for \$1026.00 outstanding dues; this problem to be discussed at the March 4 meeting

First Degree: The next first degree will be on Sunday March 8 @ 7pm @ St Pius Ch. hall –conducted by council #101 degree team. Candidates must be there by 6:30 Come and support your council and new candidates.

Charity Raffle: We are presently distributing tickets [\$10.00] each – prizes \$500.00 – 150.00 – 100.00 – This is a very reasonable ticket price and all [hopefully] will do their best to [sell / by] as many tickets as possible. All funds will be used to support our annual charity distributions. Drawings to be held on March 14 at our annual St Patrick's Corn Beef Dinner. Treasurer Bill Green will expound more on the tickets sales at the coming meeting. Please contact Bill for tickets 773-8619.

Corn Beef Dinner tickets: Adult \$15.00 / Children \$10.00 will be on sale starting weekend of Saturday/ Sunday March 1 – Do not hesitate in purchasing them, they go fast

Membership/Insurance Corner

Doing your taxes? Did you know that there are products offered by the Knights, including IRAs and long-term care that are tax deductible? Contact me today to find out how the Knights can help you save some money on your taxes! It's all secured and backed by the Knights of Columbus top rated insurance agency!

We need the help of every member to increase membership. We have had success this year by bringing in 7 new members as of now, but we have had to suspend some inactive, non-paying members. As a result, we need to make a strong push these final 3-4 months of the fraternal year! Everyone should be able to come up with one name of a prospect (a neighbor, family member, co-worker, someone you see at Mass, etc.) We will be running the same contest we did in the fall. For every name you give me, you get one entry into a raffle. If they make their first degree, then you get two more entries. We will hold a raffle for a \$30 gift certificate to Bruno's Restaurant. This should be a team effort and, sadly, only one or two people have been active on this front. Let us make a strong push together! (One great recruitment opportunity might be at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner!) Recruitment Table

Gregory A. White, FIC

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I would like to thank all of our [six] Activity Directors for an exceptionally good job this year; it takes a good coordinated effort to keep a council in balance throughout the year. The fraternal year is not over until June 30, which gives us four months to work on remaining council projects.

Following each completed project the Activity Directors are required to fill out an [online] Surge for Service Report, in turn, the report is submitted to the State Council Activity Director and entered into each councils, State Surge for Service Report. Each report is a measure of the strength of a council activity. We are doing well on all of our activity categories but we are shy a few reports in two categories. Pro Life and Youth

Pro Life Category: we are shy [4] activities; Some Suggestions that have been put forward: Baby bottle collection drive [this drive will help support ABBA, the ultrasound clinic] on the corner of Warren and Forest Ave. Portland – Participation in the Respect Life Day at the State Capitol [an opportunity to talk to our state reps. on the prolife issues] Moving of our Memorial to the Un-Born from the front lawn of the former St Patrick Church. [do you have any ideas of where you would like to have it placed?] Distributing Carnations: throughout neighboring Cumberland County churches and on Mother’s Day at our cluster churches.

Youth Category: I am sure that the younger membership can find activities that all of the family’s might enjoy you. This time of year with plenty of snow [Riverside sliding is a lot of fun] we could provide refreshments etc. Sea Dogs outing [great fun] purchase a book of tickets [from council 2983] Joint adventure with neighboring councils. Swimming outing always a good time to bring family’s together.

Those are only a few suggested projects in the Pro Life and Youth category; I am sure that you have a few thoughts of your own that you would like to share, and possibly serve on a committee to make them happen.

Following is a list of council Activity Directors:

Membership: Greg White
Community: Lou Profenno
Family: [vacant]
Pro Life: Bob LaLiberte

Church: Donald Murphy
Council: Bill Welch
Youth: Anthony Burke

Each of these knights have stepped forward and taken the lead to make projects a success. Many projects you have already participated in, with our dinner and raffle coming on March 14 you will have an opportunity to show your continued council support.

As usual: “We will be in need of servers and a good cleanup crew”

Now I have rambled on for some time and it is getting late and guess what, Snow tomorrow as usual. I hope you have time to read this letter and note that I filled most of the pages to the max. We must get our money’s worth. I would like to see an exceptional turnout at our March 4 meeting; we have much on the agenda. “If I can remember it all”!

We are in the beginning of Lent and Easter is but a few weeks down the road on April 12. Let us give an extra effort to get to church for daily Mass and on the weekends with the Family’s. Now remember to follow through with your personal commitments for Lent, sometimes we tend to forget what Lent is all about.

As we start our New Year, please pray for all of our Brother Knights and their family members that are in distress. Given the volatile military situation in this world, please thank all of our active duty personal members for their service to our country and Pray to the Good Lord that they remain safe.

God Bless: Grand Knight John M. Brown --- Happy Easter

John M. Brown

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