



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
NEENAH COUNCIL #5514 – MEETING OF 2/7/2012  
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### February

- Feb 29, 2nd Degree Exemplification, tbd, 7:00pm (Chuck Rohr)

### March

- Mar. 6, 7:00 Business Meeting St. Gabriel's (Ed Sypek)
- Mar. 10, ESTO VIR MEN'S CONFERENCE, St Pius X Catholic Church Appleton, WI (Ed Sypek)
- March 17&18 Peanut butter/Jelly collection - at both parishes after Masses (Mike Simonis & Bob Yost)
- Mar 17, 2nd and 3rd Degree, Fond du Lac, 10:00 am
- March 18, 2nd and 3rd Degree, De Pere

### Grand Knight's Report:

I went over the numbers for last year again. To operate our council we spent about \$4450 in 2011. Where did it go? About 50% for per capita tax to State, Supreme funding Respect Life, and PKD to 100%. We fund the PKD and Respect Life from project accounts to qualify for complete council and Columbia awards. Liability insurance adds 10%, postage, paper, envelopes etc is about 30%(we need to get more folks on email) by comparison webhosting \$167 vs. about \$900 for postage, paper and copying. The e-mailed version has more information than the mailed copy. The mailed copy is shortened to save portage. Another 10% goes to St. Gabriel's to cover use of the building. Where do the funds come from? Dues, PKD, Respect Life cover about 3/4 of the total and the rest come from project accounts. The point is, please pay your dues timely and, if you can, give a little extra. We are doing good work and we are doing it in our parishes and community.

### Knight of the Month – Roger Bramm:

It is said that converts make the best Catholics and our council's choice for Knight of the month is a good example of that. Roger Bramm converted because of the example of his wife, Elvina. The Church and the Knights have been blessed by Elvina's example and Roger's conversion ever since. Sometimes gruff and outspoken, but always with the best intentions and a grateful heart, Roger has been a Knight since 1991. In his 90th year on earth, few are more active than Roger. He is at Bemis brat frys, pancake & porkie breakfasts, ARC events, and he helps out the St. Gabriel's ushers at the 4:30 Mass. He was our warden for many years, taught me a lot when I did that, and jumps into any and all events as needed. I think he has even done a few Lambeau Field events. Thank you and God bless you, Roger and Elvina.

### Family of the Month – Gary and Bonnie Elmer:

Gary was the winner of the Knights of Columbus Medallion award 2 years ago and it is a testimony to his activism in the Knights and St. Gabriel's. For those who are new and may not know, the Medallion Award is given at the State Convention to the Knight(s) who best exemplifies the organization through acts of charity, fraternity, and unity. Gary is involved with St. Gabriel's and the Knights in many ways. To mention a few, he has held most of the offices in our council including past Grand Knight, works with our TCCES schools on finance and is on the school board. He has chaired the Right to Life program, among others for the council. Gary coordinates the upkeep on various maintenance projects around St. Gabriel's, and with TCCES he works with the Global Outreach Program. Gary and Bonnie have traveled to Europe to interview candidates for the Catholic Schools student exchange program throughout the Midwest. Gary has golfed and bowled at state tournaments for many years and in February will chair the Knight's breakfast fundraiser for the Putzer family to help them with medical bills. Gary and his wife Bonnie have 5 children: Lorrie 44, Greg 43, Amy 40, Brenda 38, and Brad 34, and 13 grandchildren. Gary modestly defers his many achievements to Bonnie. Gary says without Bonnie he could do none of these things. Bonnie aids and supports him upon every activity.

### Financial Secretary's Corner: My Brother Knights:

Brother Knights: As of this newsletter, we still have 70 members with unpaid dues for 2012. Your obligation as a member, is to keep current at all times. If you are having a problem, please call me at 722-3690 so a solution can be worked out. Charity raffle ticket returns are 200 plus behind to reach our goal for 2012. Please try to sell them if at all possible. The only funding our Seminarian Fund receives during the year is the return of \$2.00 for each ticket sold. A reminder to all First Degree members: In order to receive your Second & Third Degrees on Sunday, March 18th at West DePere, your membership dues have to be current, no exceptions!

**Remember: "Anytime you see somebody more successful than you are, they are doing something you aren't."**

### Chaplains Report - Corporal Works of Mercy and Neenah 5514 reviewed

In the news you have probably heard about the capsizing of the cruise ship Costa Concordia, here is an insight you may not have heard about. Fr. Rafaeli Mallena, 70, described his ordeal to Fr Giacomo Martino, director of the Apostolate of the Sea for the Italian bishops' conference. Father Mallena said as he realized the ship was in serious peril he had two things at the forefront of his mind: protecting the valuables, which the staff had entrusted to him, and protecting the Blessed Sacrament.

When the first explosion was heard during dinner, Fr. Rafaeli said, "He felt immediately that something was very, very wrong". He immediately went to the chapel to pray and 40 minutes later, when he realized the "abandon ship" alarm was sounding, he consumed the Eucharist and locked the staff's valuables, including jewel'ry and money, in a safe. As chaos ensued among the 4,200 passengers aboard, the priest tried to stay aboard in an effort to help but he was persuaded by crew members that it would be better if he boarded a lifeboat and left the sinking ship. Fr. Mallena had now returned to Rome where he was recovering.

Another word for faith is trust. The crew of the ship put their valuables in the trust of Father Mallena, and he responded. Jesus put his trust in Father Mallena to protect his body in the Eucharist, the same trust that is put in us when we come forward for the

Eucharist and affirm that trust with our Amen. Jesus gave everything to give us the Eucharist, do we respond to Jesus, as Father Mallena did, risking everything for him in the Eucharist? Jesus' sacrifice and death is his promise of salvation to us. Our Amen is our promise to follow him to our death. 1Cor 11 V27 27. "Therefore, whosoever shall eat this bread, or drink the chalice of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and of the blood of the Lord."

**Financial Secretary's Report:**

- 70 members have not paid their dues.
- Raffle Tickets – We are 215 tickets short of our goal is to sell 468 raffle tickets this year. So far we have sold 253 tickets

**Trustee's Report:**

- We received a request for funds to help rebuild the St. Augustine's Church in Schullsburg, WI. They are looking for Councils to pledge \$3,000 over three years. Trustees will review a DVD provided with the request and will provide an update at the next meeting. This will be tabled until the next meeting.
- Trustees mentioned that Mike Bushman is requesting support for new Vestments for St. Pats. Ed Sypek mentioned that we will do a joint breakfast in March with the Menasha Council. The funds from the breakfast can be earmarked towards the Vestments. The Vestments request will be tabled until after the joint breakfast.

**Program Chairman's Report:**

- A website has been setup to cook a meal for the Putzer family.
- Rich Gagner mentioned that the tests for the Knowledge Contest at Saint Margaret Mary's were not graded. Rich will be grading the tests at 9:00 at St. Gabriel's on Saturday, February 11th.
- Three members from our Council went through their Second Degrees on January 31st in Winneconne.
- Paul Wolters said he is all set for the Valentine's Day Dance at the ARC on February 11th. Setup is at 12:15. Dance is from 1:00 to 3:30.
- There will be a Second Degree on February 29th at 7:00 pm. Location to be announced.
- Ed Sypek provided an update on Esto Vir Men's Conference at St. Pius X Church in Appleton on March 10th. Ed stated that Father Larry Richards will speak at the event. He was a Chaplain at a boy's school and is a very good speaker. Alan Keyes, a former Presidential Candidate will also speak. Ed mentioned that 800 to 1,000 men usually attend this conference.
- The Peanut Butter & Jelly collection on March 17th and 18th is all set and will be posted in the Church Bulletin.
- There will be a 2nd and 3rd Degree on March 17th.
- Recognition Dinner will be March 20th at the Menasha Clubhouse. Schweitzer will cater the event. Cocktails start at 5:30 and dinner is at 7:00.
- Ed Sypek and Chuck Rohr will represent our Council at the State Convention on April 27-29th in Middleton. Motion made by Art Schmeichel to accept the representatives. Motion seconded by Marv Speilbauer. Motion passed unanimously. Art Schmeichel and Dan Bornemann will be alternates.

**New Business:**

- Ed Sypek reported that every year our Council contributes \$25 every year towards dry cleaning of the robes for the Degree Team. The Winneconne Council takes care of the robes being cleaned. Motion made by Lloyd Delveaux to contribute \$25 towards the dry cleaning of the robes. Motion seconded by Paul Wolters. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ed Sypek reported the Mike Jordan is seeking help organizing Irish Fest. The work would involve attending meetings and helping with paperwork. Let Ed know if you are interested in helping out.
- Ed Sypek brought up the idea of purchasing a new Chasuble (Vestment) for Father Larry Seidl at St. Gabriel's. The selected Chasubles cost \$1,000 each. Paul Wolters mentioned that Father Larry is a member of our Council. Bob DeGrace made a motion that we purchase a Chasuble for \$1,000. His motion was withdrawn after further discussion. Discussion focused on the Council paying for half of the cost of the Chasuble and individual members donating money to cover the rest. A new motion was made by Rich Gagner to pay for half of the cost of the Chasuble (\$500). Motion seconded by John Elsinger. Motion passed unanimously. Individuals who would like to contribute towards the cost of the Chasuble can bring money to the next meeting.
- Pam Mullens, the Pastoral Associate at St. Gabriel's, is interested in acquiring the rights to show the movie Courageous. The movie is about men standing up for their faith and family. It costs \$200 to acquire the rights to the movie for one year. The movie could be shown at Stingle Hall and there would also be small group discussions. Rich Gagner would coordinate the showing of the movie. Motion made by Chad Olsen to acquire the rights of the movie for one year. Motion seconded by Dan Rosenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

**District Deputy's Report (Reported by Chuck Rohr and covered by Ed Sypek)**

Founder's Day, March 29, 2012, is the 130th anniversary of the Order. On that date in 1882 the Knights of Columbus was chartered by the State of Connecticut. It would be a great time to recruit and maybe have a pulpit or bulletin announcement. Founder's Day Mass in honor of Father McGivney is another idea suggested by Supreme. Remind your councils of the Blessed John Paul II medallions the recruiters may earn. For each month a Knight recruits a new member or members, he receives a small medallion. He will earn a large medallion with a wooden display stand if he recruits at least four new members during 2011-12 fraternal year.

In 2010, Knights of Columbus councils, assemblies and circles donated nearly \$155 million to charitable causes as well as 70 million hours of volunteer service. The IRS would just love to be able to tax organizations like the Knights of Columbus.

Knights of Columbus Squires in Action Information, Inspiration, Training and Fun in Green Bay - The State Council has selected historic Lambeau Field - a one-of-a kind, distinct, elegant, awe inspiring venue to commemorate a new beginning of a State Circle of the Columbian Squires. This will surely be a memorable experience for all who participate. March 9-11, 2012 More Details in the January Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes. (<http://www.wikofc.com/statedeputynotes.php>).

From Charles Silver in the January Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes:

EACH COUNCIL, YES; each council will at least submit a form with the minimum requirement. WE WILL HAVE 100% PARTICIPATION. As a matter of fact, Chuck said that he can make it up if he had to. He said that he will get the Council's Chaplin's

name correct out of respect for his office. But, each council might be surprised by the names he comes up with for Grand Knight. Does any council in the state of Wisconsin want to have a Chicago Bears or Minnesota Viking Appreciation Night as one of their major programs?

As part of the Food for Families effort, councils are encouraged to hold a 40 Cans for Lent program. The goal of the program is to ask each member of the council and of the parish(es) the council serves to donate one can of food for each day of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. Grand knights have already received a letter describing the full details of the 40 Cans for Lent program.

Day of the Unborn Child On Sunday, March 25, 2012, the Order will observe the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child. Knights of Columbus families are asked to pray, fast and work to restore respect and protection for unborn children. Now for more local information:

We had 10 candidates become new 2nd Degree members on Jan 31 in Winneconne. This included 6 from Council 8810, 3 from Council 5514, and 1 from 13083. Another 2nd Degree will be held on Wed Feb 29th. We are still looking for a location, but it will be on Wed night. Please notify Chuck Rohr if you have any candidates. Let's try to move up more Brothers in our ranks than in January. If you proposed a candidate into the 1st Degree, YOU should be the one helping him through the Degrees to full Knighthood.

A 2nd and 3rd Degree are also being held in DePere on Sunday, March 18th. Chuck is confirming if Fond du Lac is having a 2nd and 3rd Degree on Saturday, March 17th.

Haven of Hope would be appreciative if you would prayerfully consider them as a beneficiary of your Tootsie Roll Drive. Some of our Councils have supported them in the past, and they do appreciate our support.

**Good of the Order:**

Joseph Putzer, Sylvia Bushman, Ester Gagner, Tom Rebman, Marcy Gehr, Bob Gehr, Judy Delveaux, Andy Collar, Paul Bongers, Don Ashley, Becky Lerza, Dewey Lashua, John Kessler, Sister Donna Marie Kessler, Brian Younger, Mary Brandt, Mark Lokken, Terry Chang, Tony Ansems, Tom Rebman, Shirley Schomiche, Wally Maynard, Virginia Jensen, Tom Pawlowski, Ron Wisniewski, Evan Williams, Garland Smith, Richard Elsinger, Dan Rosenbaum. Gividas Vidoras, Cindi Bornemann, Joseph Putzer, Shana "Beck," Dick Searles, Bob Nackers, Lorraine Borsechnik, and Marty Wescabagge..

Priests Paul Radeski, Conrad Kratz, Paul Praider, Richard Allen, Larry Seidl, Jim Kubicki, and Mike Ingold. Our Seminarians especially Brian Wideman, Ryan Krueger, and Matt Rapp.

***Meeting adjourned by Ed Sypek at 8:27 p.m.***