News Headlines!

A Better Approach

For many months now, we have heard our State Deputy ask us all to assist in telling the story of the Knights of Columbus in Georgia. Throughout our state, worthy Knights dedicate time and talent daily to a wide variety of church, community, council, family, and youth programs. We need to share our efforts with our fellow Knights. This sharing, telling our story, serves three important purposes:

1. We give appropriate and deserved public acknowledgement to those brother Knights whose efforts carry forth the good works of our Order.

2. We inspire Knights across the state with fresh ideas for programs and activities that can be used in their councils.

3. We develop a vibrant and close-to-home recruiting tool to communicate to potential Knights the vitality and mission of the Knights of Columbus.

Over the past year we have worked to redesign our three principal vehicles for delivering that story -- our web site, our newsletter, and our annual convention book. While each publication has different content and a different focus, all support the common desire to tell the story of the Knights of Columbus in Georgia. The fundamental prerequisite for the sustained effectiveness of each of these publications is good content -- stories from Knights across the state.

What has been missing is a concise and coherent method for obtaining that content. In the past, at random intervals throughout the year, Knights across the state have been hit with a variety of requests and deadlines from various individuals for the submission of stories for these publications. A better approach to obtaining content for these publications has been developed. A single email address has been created for all submissions, news@gakofc.org. Don Reott (web site), Jim Gust (newsletter), and Mark McMullen (convention book) will access that account regularly to retrieve articles for the publications.

With this new approach, a request will be sent just once a month asking for stories from districts and councils. Contributors are asked to submit a brief summary of an event (~100 words) including names, dates, locations. Pictures (jpg format) should also be submitted along with the event summary. Do note that if a minor is in a picture with pertinent identifying information included in the accompanying text, a parental consent form is needed in order to use that picture/information. A copy of the consent form can be found in the “Resources” section of the state web site, www.gakofc.org.

This streamlined approach will minimize the requests for news. Of course, you do not have to wait for a reminder; you can always submit news as it happens. All state officers and directors should also submit their articles to the same address, news@gakofc.org. The goal of this new approach is to make the submission of news easier for all Knights so as to enhance our publications’ effectiveness in telling the story of the Knights of Columbus in Georgia. Please contribute to that ongoing story!
Greetings, Georgia Knights of Columbus and Families!

Donna and I recently attended my 35th class reunion at West Point. As with all reunions, it was a great time to renew friendships, get caught up with classmates, and to reflect on the years long gone. To reassure us Old Grads, the Superintendent always speaks to the reunion classes certifying that the cadet experience is every bit as tough as it was when we were cadets. This is, of course, always met with laughter and disbelief. None had it as bad as we did!

This time, the Supe’s talk struck a peculiar chord. One of his topics was retention. (He really didn’t want to talk about Army Football, for good reason!)

Seems that retention rates are up - not because it is easier to get through four years, but because of a change in attitude. When we were cadets, the retention rate was about 60% - plus or minus. It is now about 80%! In our day, we tried to weed out those not good enough to make it. Now, the attitude is that everyone who is offered a slot at West Point is good enough. He or she has made the cut; he or she is good enough to be a future leader of soldiers in the United States Army.

So, what has this to do with the Knights of Columbus? Well - what is your attitude toward retention? Are you trying to weed out those who aren’t good enough to be Knights, or are you trying to keep those who made the cut? If a man was good enough to be asked to be a Knight, isn’t he good enough to continue to share the fraternity, unity, and charity? Instead of looking for ways to reduce our rosters, shouldn’t we be looking for ways to keep our Brothers and grow our rosters? As we grow, so does our charity and the strength of our fraternity in unity.

Let’s show our Brothers our real fraternity and give them good reason to remain Knights of Columbus!

By the way, if you need to get a relative or friend a Christmas gift this year, why not the gift of membership in the Knights of Columbus? It’s never too early to share the benefits of membership with our fellow Catholic men.

Let’s Keep Christ in Christmas and share the spirit of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

Thank you for all you do for Our Church and our Order!

I’m Mr. Opportunity and I’m Knockin’...

By Joseph Pietruszynski, PSD - Supreme Regional Program Consultant

Please take out a piece of blank paper - now write one word on the page and only one word - “Opportunity.”

What opportunities in your life would you have missed out on if someone had not asked you to become a member of the Knights of Columbus?

Would it have been the smile from a Brother Knight after you both completed a successful programming activity that assisted someone in need? Would it have been the feeling of joy you felt when children ran up to you and thanked you for the playground equipment? Would it have been a thank you hug from a Special Olympian? Or perhaps it may have been the letter from a young teenager after they received their first bible and it was a gift from your council. By becoming a Knight of Columbus, you and your family have developed lasting friendships with fellow Knights and their families.

Think about the many opportunities that you have experienced as a member of the Order, and ask yourself, which one you would give up; you probably answered none. I think that you would agree with me that becoming a Brother Knight has truly enriched your life.

Now think about the Catholic men and their families who have not been invited to a part of the opportunities that you have experienced. Someone should ask these men and their families to enjoy the many opportunities that membership in the Knights of Columbus has to offer. That someone is YOU! You are not just a member. You are a community. Share the opportunities that membership in the Knights of Columbus can bring with family, friends, and the men of your parishes. Give them the opportunity to have fun, make friends, and help to help others. Give a man and his family the “Opportunity of a Life Time.” Ask him to join the Knights of Columbus.
Georgia 2008 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge

By David Oatman - Soccer Challenge Chairman

The 2008 Soccer Challenge will be held November 9, 2008 at 2:00PM at Wyomia Tyus Park in Griffin Ga. As in previous years, trophies will be awarded for the top three contestants in each category and Knights of Columbus logo balls will be awarded to the first place winners.

Last year we had a great competition and hope to repeat. I encourage the District Deputies to forward the forms from the district competition to me by November 3rd.

Please encourage your councils to have the forms completed correctly and legibly. Common miscues are incorrect classification. By that I mean that contestants are put into the wrong age group. Please refer to the “Eligibility Clause” on page 4 of the official guide. Also, please have a parent or guardian signature.

I have some forms in Spanish if anyone needs them. Please forward all district forms to me at doatman@hotmail.com - Fax 1-717-735-2971 - mailing address - 115 Rolling Hill Dr., Williamson, Ga. 30292.

The rain out date will be November 16, 2008.

Leave Partisan Politics Outside the Order

By Rick Sisko - State Advocate

The citizens of the United States are in the process of electing a President and Vice President. I am sure that we all have reasons to support one candidate or political party; however, as members of the Knights of Columbus we are required to leave partisan politics outside the order. Remember "Let no man bring partisan politics into this Order, or into any of its Council Chambers. Let no man seek political support on the ground of fraternity alone"

The Knights of Columbus Charter Constitution Laws speaks to this issue. Section 162 Item 23 Appeals for Political Support states: Issuing appeals for; or soliciting by virtue of his membership in the Knights of Columbus, aid or assistance or support by or in behalf of or announcing candidates for public office, or candidates for office (including delegates to State and Supreme councils) in another society or body or in the Order: fine, suspension or expulsion.

Any member who knowingly permits or acquiesces in such appeals, solicitation, etc., shall, if elected, be ineligible to hold office.

On another front, did you know that if you or your council takes a photo of a minor and that you may be using that photo in marketing, newsletters, etc. you are legally required to have a consent form signed by the parent or guardian. You can find a consent form on our web site (www.gakofc.org). I would recommend that your council keep the consent form as part of your council’s records.

National Family Week -

November 23-29. What activities do you have planned to celebrate this important part of the Knights of Columbus Team? Why not host an event to introduce parish families to the Knights of Columbus and recruit the entire family to be part of our Order?

Membership Goals Status -

As of October 15, six councils have met or exceeded their membership goals for the year already:

- 4599 Marietta (240%) Duluth (111%)
- 14488 Kathleen (200%) Atlanta (109%)
- 13204 Alpharetta (150%) Kennesaw (100%)

Six other councils are over 2/3 of the way there:

- 4358 Decatur 11402 Dunwoody
- 4410 Rome 11768 Woodstock
- 9792 Marietta 12287 Dallas
Dear Senator Biden:

I write to you today as a fellow Catholic layman, on a subject that has become a major topic of concern in this year’s presidential campaign.

The bishops who have taken public issue with your remarks on the Church’s historical position on abortion are far from alone. Senator Obama stressed your Catholic identity repeatedly when he introduced you as his running mate, and so your statements carry considerable weight, whether they are correct or not. You now have a unique responsibility when you make public statements about Catholic teaching.

On NBC’s Meet the Press, you appealed to the 13th Century writings of St. Thomas Aquinas to cast doubt on the consistent teaching of the Catholic Church on abortion.

There are several problems with this.

First, Aquinas obviously had only a medieval understanding of biology, and thus could only speculate about how an unborn child develops in the womb. I doubt that there is any other area of public policy where you would appeal to a 13th Century knowledge of biology as the basis for modern law.

Second, Aquinas’ theological view is in any case entirely consistent with the long history of Catholic Church teaching in this area, holding that abortion is a grave sin to be avoided at any time during pregnancy.

This teaching dates all the way back to the Didache, written in the second century. It is found in the writings of Tertullian, Jerome, Augustine and Aquinas, and was reaffirmed by the Second Vatican Council, which described abortion as “an unspeakable crime” and held that the right to life must be protected from the “moment of conception.” This consistent teaching was restated most recently last month in the response of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to remarks by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Statements that suggest that our Church has anything less than a consistent teaching on abortion are not merely incorrect; they may lead Catholic women facing crisis pregnancies to misunderstand the moral gravity of an abortion decision.

Neither should a discussion about a medieval understanding of the first few days or weeks of life be allowed to draw attention away from the remaining portion of an unborn child’s life. In those months, even ancient and medieval doctors agreed that a child is developing in the womb.

And as you are well aware, Roe v. Wade allows for abortion at any point during a pregnancy. While you voted for the ban on partial birth abortions, your unconditional support for Roe is a de facto endorsement of permitting all other late term abortions, and thus calls into question your appeal to Aquinas.

I recognize that you struggle with your conscience on the issue, and have said that you accept the Church’s teaching that life begins at conception – as a matter of faith. But modern medical science leaves no doubt about the fact that each person’s life begins at conception. It is not a matter of personal religious belief, but of science.

Finally, your unwillingness to bring your Catholic moral views into the public policy arena on this issue alone is troubling.

There were several remarkable ironies in your first appearance as Senator Obama’s running mate on the steps of the old state capitol in Springfield, Illinois.

His selection as the first black American to be the nominee of a major party for president of the United States owes an incalculable debt to two movements that were led by people whose religious convictions motivated them to confront the moral evils of their day – the abolitionist movement of the 19th Century, and the civil rights movement of the 20th Century.

Your rally in Springfield took place just a mile or so from the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, who in April 1859 wrote these words in a letter to Henry Pierce:

“This is a world of compensations; and he who would be no slave, must consent to have no slave. Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, cannot long retain it.”

Lincoln fought slavery in the name of “a just God” without embarrassment or apology. He confronted an America in which black Americans were not considered “persons” under the law, and were thus not entitled to fundamental Constitutional rights. Today, children of all races who are fully viable and only minutes from being born are also denied recognition as “persons” because of the Roe v. Wade regime that you so strongly support. Lincoln’s reasoning regarding slavery applies with equal force to children who are minutes, hours or days away from birth.

The American founders began our great national quest for liberty by declaring that we are all “created equal.” It took nearly a century to transform that bold statement into the letter of the law, and another century still to make it a reality. The founders believed that we are “endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable rights,” and that first among these is “life.”

You have a choice: you can listen to your conscience and work to secure the rights of the unborn to share in the fruits of our hard-won liberty, or you can choose to turn your back on them.

On behalf of the 1.28 million members of the Knights of Columbus and their families in the United States, I appeal to you, as a Catholic who acknowledges that life begins at conception, to resolve to protect this unalienable right. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues personally with you in greater detail during the weeks between now and November 4.

Respectfully,

Carl A. Anderson

Supreme Knight

September 19, 2008

AN OPEN LETTER TO SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN
“The Silver Rose. . .”

The “Running of the Silver Rose” is a program that features a sculpted silver rose carried by Knights from Canada, through the United States, to Mexico, bringing the “Culture of Life” message on its journey. The Silver Rose is received at councils and parishes along its way, and Masses and prayer services are offered. In some instances special border ceremonies, with Fourth Degree Honor Guards, are held when the Rose is transferred from one state to another.

Beginning in 1960 as a project of the Columbian Squires of North America, it honors the Blessed Virgin under her title of “Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas,” In 2001, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson expanded the program by beginning the “Running of the Silver Rose” from the 119th Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council in Ontario, Canada to Monterrey, Mexico through the United States.

With the Supreme Convention finishing up, and the regular excitement and work that constitutes the beginning of a new fraternal year in Georgia, the “Silver Rose”, and its visit to the state, was almost overlooked and actually came and went with little notice or recognition.

The “Silver Rose” program, a sign of the Order’s unity on life issues, was scheduled for only a two week stay in Georgia. District Deputy #12 Wes Bell, representing the Tennessee State Council, turned over the Rose to District Deputy Gene Brannon and his wife Lori, in a very small transfer ceremony at the Tennessee/Georgia border August 12, 2008.

Pastors contacted about celebrating a Mass and the associated Prayer Service surrounding the Silver Rose did not have enough lead time to prepare for such a service in their busy parish schedules. Fr. Dayro Rico, Parochial Vicar at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Douglasville, welcomed the opportunity to have such an icon at his parish and was able to include it into the Mass celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Friday, August 15.

After that one Mass and prayer service, the Rose was once again transferred from Georgia. On August 12, 2008 Gene and Lori Brannon carried the Rose to the Alabama/Georgia state line and passed it to Randy Brouillette, District Deputy #2 in another small transfer ceremony.

“The ‘Running of the Silver Rose’ is a perfect program for the Knights of Columbus,” said Supreme Knight Anderson. “Through it we honor not only Our Lady of Guadalupe and express the Unity of the Order, but we also reaffirm the Order’s dedication to the sanctity of human life. It is to the Blessed Mother to whom we turn in prayer as we work to end the “Culture of Death” that grips our society. As we think in terms of ‘One Life, One Rose,’ it is most appropriate we turn to our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of roses.”

It Takes a Hero to be “Pro-Life”. . . We Need Heroes!

By David Canale - Pro-Life Chairman

October has passed, but, my Brother Knights, the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops has traditionally designated the month of October as “Respect Life Month.”

During this election year, we have a responsibility as Catholics to spread the Pro-Life message and to educate ourselves on the significance of life issues in the upcoming national and local elections. On the state website, you will find a link to the Pro-Life page and my letter to all GK's, detailing our programs for this year. We must spread the Pro-Life message and the importance of voting our Catholic ideals! The Church teaches that no Catholic, especially those serving in public office, may endorse or promote abortion, euthanasia, or embryonic stem-cell research. We have heard much in the news of late about the Church correcting the misinformed views of several Catholic politicians who blantly mistated the Church's position (see page 4) on abortion and the dignity of human life, from conception until natural death. Make no mistake, biological science has already answered the question of when life begins. The only remaining question is, as a civilized society, what do we do about it? Do the unborn deserve the same legal protections that we accord to other living persons? As Catholics, we must be forceful in defending the most vulnerable amongst us and voicing the truth to those around us. We must not shy away from demanding that our elected leaders honestly address these issues. We are a “People of Life.” Let's start showing it.

(See “Pro-Life” Continued on page 7)
**District Happenings - “Didjano That. . .”**

**DISTRICT 10 - (DD Ken Lucier)**

. . . On Saturday, September 13th, St. Marguerite d’ Youville Council # 12905 conducted a competition BBQ event to raise funds for the Wheelchair Fund charity. Three other Councils and one private group entered the competition and a lot of very tasty ribs, pulled pork, sliced beef and chicken was enjoyed by many parishioners. The Council successfully raised enough funds to pay (along with matching corporate funds) for 12 wheelchairs!

. . . On Saturday, September 27, 2008, the Knights of Columbus Council 13440 conducted their second annual “Kids Identifest” at St. Oliver’s Church in Snellville, GA. Eighty-seven kids had Identity Kits completed for their parents. Kits included height, weight, pictures, fingerprinting and DNA samples. These Identity Kits will make the difference should an emergency arise and a child comes up missing or is abducted by some person. They are the first and foremost tool used by law enforcement agencies when searching for a missing child.

. . . Local law enforcement from Gwinnett County conducted child car seat checks, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations sent Special Agents and Computer Forensic Specialists from their Cyber Crime Division to provide valuable information to families, and the Gwinnett Fire Department sent a fire engine and firemen to the event. The DEA donated portable fingerprinting stations and The Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI donated the Kids Identity Kits. Additional donations for the event were provided by Kroger’s, Publix, Wal-Mart, Target, CiCi’s, Party Land and other local businesses and individuals. Our Brother Knights, Ladies Auxiliary, Boy Scouts, family and friends graciously volunteered their time in making the event a success.

**DISTRICT 12 - (DD John Zarzycki)**

. . . Saint Peter Chanel Council has been an integral part of supporting the opening of a new sanctuary on August 15. The new Church which seats 1220 people. The Knights have helped Pastor Frank McNamee in any way he needs including planning and hosting the first New Years Eve party. The council recently ran their Soccer Challenge and the District final is on November 1.

. . . The Transfiguration Council participated in a ministry fair last month. Numerous parishioners will be at their next 1st Degree.

Congratulations to St. Peter Chanel, St. Andrews and Holy Family for achieving Double Star Award. St. Ann’s Council also achieved the Service Award. Congratulations to all.

. . . Holy Family Council hosted a Third Degree on October 4 and 49 new 3rd Degree Brothers were exemplified.

**DISTRICT 18 - (DD Gene Brannon)**

. . . The annual Labor Day Charity BBQ conducted by Fr. Grady Council 4410 was another success. They cooked 2,000 lbs of pork, 400 lbs of beef, 250 lbs of ribs, 300 gallons of Brunswick stew and 400 chicken halves. Approximately 65 Knights, spouses, and family members logged 750 volunteer hours and raised $15,000 at the event. A post BBQ celebration and prospective “Knight Night” occurred on October 18. They conducted a First Degree Exemplification initiating new members into the Order for Councils 4410, 8731,

. . . Msgr. Regan Council 8731’s annual “Second Sunday Pancake Breakfasts” began again in conjunction with the new school year and will continue into June next year. The council sponsored a Soccer Challenge and will be hosting the District Soccer Challenge Oct 21. Council members chaperoned and prepared breakfast for OLPH Youth Group’s “Cardboard Campout” raising awareness for the poor and homeless.

. . . A council Soccer Challenge was not the only youth project taken on by Sweetwater Council 10821. They also donated and cooked the pork for the Life Teen annual “BBQ Dinner” fundraiser for the group. The council Tootsie Roll (Intellectual Disabilities) Drive also began, and the Columbus Day weekend kicked off their membership recruitment efforts.

. . . September begins Fr. Mulvin Council 12287 annual Tootsie Roll (Intellectual Disabilities) Drive with two more events scheduled for October and December. The council planned and participated in a Parish Chili Contest during the fall festival for St. Vincent de Paul parish awarding prizes and helping raise over $3,000 for the parish at the festival. Council members also traveled to Atlanta to help distribute food and clothing to the homeless.

. . . St. John Vianney Council 12580 recently instituted the “Elijah Cup” within the parish allowing parishioners to take home a donated chalice to pray for vocations. They also conducted a Soccer Challenge, sending group winners to the District Competition. State Deputy Dan Baker presented Past Grand Knight Paul Bleess, his wife Ginger, and Fr. Martin Breski the “Star Council Award” during a Mass.

(See “Didjano” Continued on page 7)
that coincided with a council membership drive weekend.

DISTRICT 20 - (Mark Hofmann)

... The Danny McMichael Council 12984 Jackson recently held their annual family picnic, and took this time to honor those who serve. An armed services medley was played, and Grand Knight Billy Fisher presented certificates to Brothers that had served in the military. Each one stood to tell when they had served and the branch; much applause and plenty of HOORAHs followed.

... On September 27, 2008, Council 7601 sponsored the 1st Annual Parish Oktoberfest at St. James the Apostle Catholic Church in McDonough, GA. It was a festive night with traditional German decorations, music, dancing, and food. Over 250 parishioners and friends of St. James the Apostle Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus purchased tickets and attended this parish event. Worthy Grand Knight Joe Alfonso and his Oktoberfest Committee worked hard for many months to make this event a success. Brother and 4th Degree Knight Hue Huckaby and his wife, Mrs. Martie Huckaby provided the authentic Oktoberfest decorations and obtained the authentic German food which was cooked to perfection and washed down with two types of German beer. The Huckaby's also wore traditional German Oktoberfest clothing and showed the fest goers how to dance traditional dances such as the Chicken dance. Finally, the Oktoberfest was also the very first event to be held in the newly constructed Knights of Columbus Picnic Pavilion. Among the attendees were the Pastor of St. James the Apostle Church, Reverend John M. Murphy, and Worthy District Deputy of District 20 and 4th Degree Knight Mark Hofmann and his wife Mickie.

DISTRICT 21 - (Bradley Burnett)

... Council 6920, Gainesville – The council just completed its “Chicken Dinner to Go” fundraiser. Dinner tickets were pre-sold for several weekends after all church masses. They then prepared all meals, and had them ready for parishioners to pick-up on a Saturday afternoon. The GK, Chris Walski, was very pleased with the results. Y sold over 265 meals, generating over $1400 in profits for their charitable causes. By pre-selling the meals, preparation, and potential profits were known in advance - a great way to ensure success.

... Council 7923, Lilburn – Each month the council holds “The Family Breakfast”, the first Sunday of each month. This has been going on for several years and has become quite a tradition. The council has also added a monthly theme dinner. The GK, Bob Gesuelle, reports that these 2 monthly events have great community involvement and they generate good cash flow for them to have ongoing support for their charitable causes.

... Council 12000, Norcross – Big plans are in the works for the upcoming “International Festival.” This is the church’s main fundraiser and fall event. GK, Adolfo Trana, reports that the council and the men’s club share the sponsorship of this activity. Over 45 different countries or nationalities will be represented. Booths will be set up and food, festivities and information will be available throughout the parish grounds. The event will run through the day and evening. It will be a lively event that will be entertaining for people of all ages.

... Council 14122, Lilburn – GK, Bob Cunneen, reports that the grills were really smoking this month. They have established a successful ongoing fund raising program of “Barbeque to Go.” The council members start cooking Saturday evening and throughout the night. During this time they enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow Knights as the pots simmer. Sunday, after all masses, the parishioners are able to pick up their barbeque and take it home for Sunday dinner.

DISTRICT 22 - (Mike Feeley)

... On September 7th, many Brother Knights of Council 11746 planned and conducted a Breakfast for the Parishioners of St Francis of Assisi specifically and the public in general. The proceeds of this event will be put towards the Council’s Keep Christ in Christmas program and the local charities supported by the Council, i.e., Habitat and S.A.F.E. as well as the St Francis of Assisi building fund.

... From September 17th thru September 21st, many Brothers participated in the Parish Festival coordinated by Brother Ray Radzak and his wife. Although this was a parish wide event 90% of the workers were either Council Brothers and/or their wives. The event netted over $16,000.00. (See “Didjano” Continued on page 8)

(“Pro-Life” Continued from page 5)

Mark your calendars for January 22, 2009. Consider bringing a group of Knights from your council to the March for Life in downtown Atlanta, at the state capitol. We will have a special meeting point for all Knights, their families, and anyone else they can bring. Signs will be provided as well. Please make plans to attend.

Also, keep in mind that you should be planning a fundraiser to raise money for the two ultrasound machines that our state council will be purchasing. Checks should be made payable to and sent to Columbian Charities of Georgia, and please note on them that they are for the ultrasound machine fundraiser. The evidence clearly shows that expecting mothers who have ultrasounds are much less likely to abort their babies. Please help us in this effort.
$31,000 for the parish.

. . On September 24th, several Brothers of the Council banded together to display their “fraternalism” by cleaning up the overgrown yard of a Brother Knight who was physically unable to do the work himself and care for his very ill wife.

Retention is as Important as Recruiting

By Frank Moran - Membership/Retention Chairman

“I would rather try to persuade a man to go along, because once I have persuaded him he will stick. If I scare him, he will stay as long as he is scared and then he is gone.” (Dwight S. Eisenhower, U.S. President). I don’t know if we are scaring men away but currently for every four men we bring into the Knights we are losing one. Retention is as important as recruiting. Imagine you’re trying to fill a bucket with water. Every drop you put in should increase it’s contents, but if there’s a leak, then you may end up losing more water than you gain. Think of the membership in your council in the same way – every new Knight you add won’t help your membership increase and grow stronger if you lose existing members. For the next few newsletters, I would like to focus on retention. Please email me (fmoran@bellsouth.net) any ideas that you might have on retention activities that have been successful in your councils.