



***The Virginia Knight***  
**Virginia State Council**  
**Pat Rowland, State Deputy**



November 2023

**From the General Programs Director;**

Worthy Brothers All;

We are now more than one-third of the way through our fraternal year, and I need to reach out and let you know I see a lot of great activity from fellow brother knights throughout the great state of Virginia. A noticeably big part of what keeps our communications to everyone rolling along each week is the impressive IT help I get daily from brothers Tom Shoemake and Bill Wester. Both brother knights have been a tremendous help in not only helping with the weekly State Deputy Award Tracker, but in getting our state website updated with content and up to date forms for all to use. Thank you, Tom, and Bill.

As I am writing this, I have noticed there are less than 40 councils to date who have been sending their family of the month Form 10784 into Supreme on a regular basis. This is a wonderful way for each council to recognize that one family who has been there with support for the parish and council during a particular month. I will give the councils credit for this after I (or Supreme) have received four from the council. Please – for those who have been remiss in getting their forms to Supreme, let us take better care of getting this accomplished.

During the fall quarterly meeting, my programs team pointed out some great ways to get your councils active and involved, what I may have missed was an opportune time to point out, is there are still too many councils who have not sent in a recent VSS4 (State Council Delegate Information), a recent VSS6 (State Council Directory Information), a Supreme Form 365 (Service Program Personnel), a Supreme Form 1295 (Semi-Annual Audit 1/1 -6/30), and your per capita payment. If your council is active, and I see a lot of active councils in Virginia, it is prudent to ensure these forms have been completed for your council to pick up the State Deputy Award at the end of this fraternal year.

Grand Knights and District Deputies, Please go into the secure side of the Virginia State Website and review the State Deputy Award Tracker for your council/district. Please remember – I am tracking the activities of 150 different councils if you think I have mistakenly not given your council credit for having turned in a form- send a copy of it to me. If you have made any of the five trackable donations and the information is not up to date –

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send me a copy of the cashed check. If your council has participated in the Youth Soccer Challenge – send me the form 10784 so I can give you credit for it. If your council has held a Fraternal Benefits Night – or participated in one, send me a copy of your paperwork from Supreme so I can give you credit for it.

Being that we are in our fifth month of the fraternal year and most councils are active in membership, in programs, in spiritual growth and out being noticeable in their communities, I want to remind everyone that end of year Award Submissions must be in No Later than March 15, 2024. This date is firm since Virginia is required to have the State Winners to Supreme shortly thereafter. If you want to start writing and submitting them. I will be happy to start accepting and filing them.

*Thank you, Mark Zaccagnini, Virginia General Programs Director.*

### **Catholic Citizen Essay Contest**

Worthy Gentlemen.

The deadline for the Catholic Citizen Essay Contest is 16 December 2023.

I highly encourage you to go to the state website to get information on conducting a proper contest. If there are any questions that come up, do not hesitate to contact me for clarification.

Good luck, and I look forward to your timely submissions.

Fraternally

Toby Robillard  
Youth Chairman

HINT: If searching for the website using your phone; use **LANDSCAPE** mode. (turn it on its side)

### **Keep Christ in Christmas**

Hoping your sales are going well so far this year.

KCIC is pleased to offer a selection of cards and other items again this year. Contact your Area Coordinator, listed on the order form, for additional supplies. Order forms are posted on the State web site at <https://vakofc.org/> under the For Members section.

Hoping your sales are going well so far this year

We are offering English language cards made in America by a brother Knight-owned company as well as Spanish, Polish, Italian, French, Ukrainian and Tagalog language cards. Designs also include African American and Native American. Assortment cases of English and Spanish language cards are available. Other items include prayer cards, stationary, Easter cards, car magnets, yard signs and a variety of pins and ornaments.

The Rosaries have been very popular. They are hand made in Italy and were on back order. I have heard from the vendor that he has some in stock, so contact your area coordinator if you would like to order some.

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Thank you for your continued support of Keep Christ in Christmas. Sending Christmas cards with the true meaning of the day lets the recipient know the joy we feel in our hearts. Just as that bright star led the shepherds to Jesus' birth stable, we Knights will be the shining light to bring back others to the true meaning of CHRISTMAS.

Karl Kleinhenz  
KCIC Chair

### **KOVAR**

#### **End of Year Charitable Giving**

KOVAR invites all Virginia Knights of Columbus to prayerfully consider making a donation to their favorite charity during the "Giving Season."

The last quarter of the year is known as the "Giving Season" because it's the time when many people are more prone to open their wallets and donate to charities. In fact, about 30% of all annual charitable giving is done during the month of December. Many charities and non-profits rely on the "Giving Season" for as much as 50% of all the funds they collect during the entire year. It's such a bountiful time of the year, that many of them put their solicitation efforts into high gear to take advantage of the kindness of individuals during the holidays.

The Bible and the Catholic Catechism are replete with references to charity and giving. In Matthew 6:21 we read, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The bottom line is that your charitable donations indicate where your priorities in life are. Discipleship and love of God dictate that we give to Him our possessions to include money because they are, after all, His anyways. As models of good stewardship, us Virginia Knights of Columbus lead lives of charitable giving. We should do well to instill such behavior in others. It is the right thing to do. It's why we are Knights.

Individuals are more likely and predisposed to make donations to charities during the "Giving Season" for several reasons. Specifically:

- We feel good about supporting a worthy charity which directly impacts a specific cause.
- We get improved life satisfaction from following Jesus's example of selfless giving.
- We react more favorably to increased appeals from charities to donate.
- Our personal desire to help others is more pronounced due to the Christmas season.
- Advantageous tax treatment of donations to charities by the IRS promotes giving.
- End of year tax planning strategies can be used to minimize the payment of income taxes.

Whatever the motivation for donating, charities cleverly highlight them with targeted and heartfelt appeals to elicit all our innate reasons for being charitable during the "Giving Season." Shamelessly, the Board of Directors of KOVAR would like to encourage you to favorably consider a donation to help individuals with intellectual disabilities at this special time of the year.

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There are numerous techniques that individuals can use to give and possessions that can be donate to charities. Here are a few examples:

- **Cash (and a check)** is always king. A \$1,000 monetary donation for a taxpayer who is itemizing deductions could yield a \$168 income tax reduction on the tax return.
- **Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)** from a retirement account sent directly to the charity avoid all taxes at the personal level.
- **Gifting marketable securities** to a charity enables the donor to take advantage of a tax deduction for the full fair market value of highly appreciated assets. Most charities are capable of accepting these sorts of gifts and immediately converting them to cash.
- Planned giving strategies could be a viable long-term method to pledge assets to a charity.
- A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** is a proven technique for diverting otherwise taxable income and redirecting it to a charity.
- A donation from a **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)** at year-end can be a way to make a personal impact on a charity for an individual or family.
- **Divesting of physical assets** such as cars, boats, household goods, etc. can be a viable way to rid yourself of excess baggage that the charity can then auction and turn into cash.
- **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and United Way** enable individuals to make donations via payroll deductions from their work paychecks.

Charitable donations using any of the techniques noted above should always be done after consulting a tax professional or legal advisor to ensure compliance with applicable procedures and to guarantee maximizing the advantages of doing so.

Once you've been overwhelmed by all the charitable advertising, been moved by the Holy Spirit to make a donation, and determined what technique to use, how do you go about making the donation?

Most charities have various methods that you can access to make a donation. Mail, online via websites, QR codes, payroll deductions, and physically transferring hard assets are all methods which can be used to make your gift.

KOVAR has made it easy to make a donation using all of those methods. Specifically:

- **Mail.** Checks should be sent to KOVAR at PO Box 20872, Roanoke, VA 24018-0088.
- **Online.** Visit the KOVAR website at [www.kovarva.org](http://www.kovarva.org) to access the online giving tool.
- **Payroll deductions.** For CFC use code #42469. For United Way use code #8838 for campaigns in the greater Washington, DC area and #200467 in the rest of Virginia.
- **Vehicle donations.** Visit the KOVAR website to access the tool to set up the asset transfer.
- **QR code.** See the visual below.

Living the Catholic faith is not always easy or even natural. However, charitable giving enables us Knights to live out the Order's first principle of charity by actively donating to a cause which is at the heart of KOVAR: empowering nonprofit

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organizations with financial support to improve access to affordable housing, job training, sports participation, and personal care for Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities.

Please consider making a donation to help KOVAR during the upcoming “Giving Season.” We thank you.

**KOVAR’s QR Code** for donations:



### Vocations

With November, we are reminded to give Thanks for all that we have. We should show our appreciation for the men and women who have decided to give their lives to God for us. This includes our priests, sisters, and brothers serving the consecrated life. Tell them, in person or by mail, how much they are appreciated and say Thank You.

By now, every council and assembly should have identified at least one or more men or women who can use your support. Some councils support as many as ten men – great. However, some will find that one meets their ability. That is also okay. If you have not done so yet, and need a name, contact the diocesan vocations office.

Be sure to publicize information to your members about your RSVP candidate and encourage the members to send Christmas cards, or other means of encouragement.

November 5-11, 2023, is the National Vocations Awareness week, and hopefully your council is doing something special this month. Think of a possible event, even a small event, that can remind your council of vocations.

Arlington Diocese has five new men who entered the seminary this year. Please keep them in your prayers.

Please report any activity that your council or assembly has participated in related to vocations. Your activity, big or small, may give another council an idea. It may be a council event or a district event, or even a regional or diocesan activity. Remember that more is accomplished in unity. Share your ideas. If you have questions, ask.

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.” — St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests.

### From the State Retention & Engagement Committee

Several documents are posted on the state website to help you better understand the concept and importance of retention. Type "[vakofc.org](http://vakofc.org)" in your browser. At the landing page, click on the red "For Members" square in the upper right. At the next screen, click on the yellow "Build our Membership" square about half-way down

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on the left. At the following screen under a column titled RETENTION, there are links to several documents. The guidance addresses associated topics which afford the proper perspective in managing your members. While reading a document, you may notice "(separate document)" mentioned; you will find that separate document in one of the other links in the RETENTION column. Please use this information to create a unique retention plan for your council. If you have questions or need help, please email us at [retention@vakofc.org](mailto:retention@vakofc.org). We also try to attend the monthly Open Forums hosted by the Training Team, so bring your concerns!

As we approach another dues season when councils employ either the traditional billing cycle or Appendix B of the Affiliate Member Initiative Guidebook, a friendly reminder to be fraternal in the process. Some pre-formatted correspondence in Member Management/Officers Online is rather cold, matter-of-fact, and excessively focused on money which could be upsetting to your Brother. Communicate with compassion and help them to understand why dues are necessary and the benefits of remaining in Good Standing with the Order. Please navigate to the RETENTION section of the state website as described above and click on the link titled "Your Brother Knights Miss You" for more insight. The council could include a copy of this letter with the other correspondence being sent. Dues season is also an ideal time to provide each Knight a Member Interest Survey (Form 1842) and request their feedback on council activities/programs. A fillable version of the form is posted on the state website in the MEMBERSHIP column which is directly across from the RETENTION column.

And while you are being fraternal, show some extra kindness to: (1). Those in their golden years, or who have difficulty getting around or with driving at night; (2). Brothers who all but qualify for Honorary and Honorary Life Member status; (3). Those serving on active duty in the military; (4). Members with extenuating circumstances and; (5). Knights in arrears for the current calendar year only. Consider forgiving past dues if a Brother can pay for the current calendar year. Compassion towards someone can sometimes be rewarded ten-fold!

## From Worship Into Service

**SAVE THE DATE for *Knightsaplooza-24!*** The 2024 Virginia Knights of Columbus State Convention will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> at the fabulous Hyatt Regency Dulles in the northern Virginia town of Herndon. In addition to completing the important work of our Order; attending Holy Hour and Holy Mass, and the awards breakfast and formal dinner, expect to have some fun! you may want to explore are a golf outing on a premier golf course, a docent-led tour of the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum; and a tour of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, with Mass. Friday evening, we will have a "Vegas Night" with all the casino games---including horse racing! If you have some good ideas you would like to see the convention staff pursue, or if you'd like to help out, please contact Steve Bucher at [Stephen.bucher@verizon.net](mailto:Stephen.bucher@verizon.net). Save the date and see you there!





## VKCCI Newsletter Article November 2023



Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., (VKCCI) is one of the State Council's two 501 (c)(3) State-wide charity corporations. KOVAR is the other.

VKCCI provides grants of financial assistance of up to \$4,000 to residents of Virginia, who through no fault of their own, find themselves unable to provide for the basic essentials of life – food, clothing, shelter, transportation, or health.

I want to emphasize that Charity begins at home—here in Virginia, and this is what VKCCI does. There are many other charities that answer the cries of natural disasters and human needs. For instance, we are being bombarded almost weekly St. Jude's, Children's Hospital, Sacred heart Memorial Society, Boystown, and even by the Supreme Council to provide financial assistance to victims of disasters, not only in U.S. but all over the world. Today, I ask Districts and Councils to promote and support **YOUR** State Council's Charities, for there are needs to be satisfied here at home.

Since July, VKCCI has awarded 14 grants totaling over \$45,700. If this pattern continues, this fraternal year will see an all-time record in disbursements. This is your corporation; we rely entirely on the generosity of individual Knights and Councils of Virginia. We receive no support from the general public. Thank you for your past and continuing generosity; it keeps our grant program going and Blessed Michael McGivney's dream alive.

**Our primary source of funds is the return address label program, where each fall, we send out to every Knight in Virginia a set of address labels and request a donation to fund our grants. All Virginia Knights will soon be receiving a set of labels. Be on the lookout for them!** Thank you! We also receive funding from individual retirement accounts, Donor-Advised Funds, matching corporation contributions, the Ladies of Virginia, KOVAR, the Neary Award, and the Blessed Michael McGivney Award. We can now also accept boats and trailers as charitable donations.

Remember, this is your charity and charity is the first principle of our Order. What better way to embrace the State Deputy's theme for last year – Serving God by Serving Others – than by participating fully in VKCCI!

More detailed information about VKCCI and the Grant Application Form and instructions are available on the VKCCI website which is readily accessible from the State Council's homepage and clicking on the VKCCI logo. The website is being updated and contains more information about VKCCI, including a Tri-Fold that can be reproduced and distributed to your Council Members.

Thank you for your past support! It is critical to our mission. If you have any questions about VKCCI, feel free contact me at [vkccipresident@vakofc.org](mailto:vkccipresident@vakofc.org) or 571-215-1233.





NOVEMBER 2023

TAA

November is the fifth month of the fraternal year. And is the eleventh month of our fiscal year. TAA financial professionals and financial advisors are pushing extremely hard to hit their Practices business plans. I am happy to say that all of the Practices are doing very well.

One of the keys to the Practices successes are the seminars that TAA has been holding with the councils, parishes and recently on their own. Each of these events has brought in potential members to the state rosters. As of this writing, TAA financial professionals and financial advisors, have recorded over 425 new emembers!! Think about that for a moment. Where would the state of Virginia be right now if these financial professionals and financial advisors were not building their Practices? I don't think any one of us would really want to know the answer.

To date, TAA has completed 16 seminars this fraternal year with 9 more seminars scheduled between November 1<sup>st</sup> and mid-December, 2023. All but one of these are in person events!! Go to our website at [www.abbatekofc.com](http://www.abbatekofc.com) and attend one or more of these seminars.

Please try and get involved with these seminars with your financial partners. TAA is doing an exemplary job with emembers to the state roster. How about brining some of those that attend these seminars into your councils?

TAA's eight locations in the state of Virginia are there for one reason, "taking care of Owners of policies". If you are reading this and you are not an "Owner", WHY? Reach out to your financial professionals and your financial advisors and schedule an appointment. I promise you, we will not bite! And you just may find this experience to be wonderful. You are welcome to hold your officer meetings and district meetings in one of our offices near you. Work with your financial partner and make it happen.

Lets all pray for the families in Israel and the Ukraine.

God Bless you and your families.

Bob Abbate

**From Worship Into Service**

***The newest Knights of Council 11172 and their families shared pictures of their recent pilgrimage to New Haven, CT, the home of the Knights of Columbus***



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