



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



December 2023

**From the General Programs Director**

Worthy Grand Knights and District Deputies;

Some quick information for you. I have inserted a link where you can find Fillable Documents for your EOY award nominations for Young Man/Woman; Knight of the Year; Family of the Year and instructions on what not to put on these documents. The fillable Catholic Essay Contest is also in here as well as other fillable State Documents. Please use these when entering your Brothers/the Youths/ for Essay contest. Please do not use any other forms.

<https://members.vakofc.org/state-forms/>

For the EOY awards on the Supreme Form 10784. Please Make it known on the 10784 itself that this is intended to be an EOY Award Submission. Place this information "EOY" in the area designated "If Other, Program Name" Before you name the Program. an Example would be EOY-FAITH-Rosary Program Nomination

Please make sure I receive your submissions in a timely manner, which can be Tomorrow (if you wish) or any day up until 3/15/2024. I will not accept any submissions after that date. Once it is received by me and validated by me-Your Council will receive the points for it. Please remember, if there is insufficient content of information in your submission it may be rejected by our worthy State Deputy as invalid, and no points will be awarded for it.

Thank you,  
F/Mark

**Courage Lion Program**

I am happy to report that two large deliveries were made recently. 342 Courage Lion sets were delivered to Childrens Hospital at Kings Daughters in Norfolk and 420 sets were delivered to the children's hospital at UVA. Keep the good work going.

Bob Maher

## KOVAR

KOVAR Corporation thanks all of you for your hard work and dedication! KOVAR is your Virginia Knights of Columbus charity established in 1971. KOVAR's mission is to provide grants and home loans to tax exempt organizations that provide support and services to Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities. The primary goal of all grants awarded is to help the quality of life for persons with intellectual disabilities. KOVAR grants help provide job skills training programs, life skills training programs, transportation, group home support, employment opportunities, athletic programs, and startup programs.

Through the continued efforts among the councils in Virginia, collectively we have raised \$19,000,000 since our inception 52 years ago -- which includes the almost \$600,000 raised by you all this past fraternal year. It is a tremendous accomplishment over such a sustained time period and has truly made a difference to Virginians with Intellectually Disabilities.

With this funding, KOVAR has provided over \$13,000,000 in grants and more than \$5,000,000 in interest free home loans since 1971. In the last five years, KOVAR averages about \$440,000 in grants to 30 different organizations each year. The home loan fund of over \$2,000,000 is encumbered in 15 group home loans to 7 different group home providers in all corners of the Commonwealth.

Please visit the KOVAR website (<https://kovarva.org/>), and also view, like, and share the KOVAR Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/kovarva>), which can also be accessed by the link on the website. The KOVAR website has information and tools to help, such as an online donation link, and a printable poster and brochure. We have a QR code that links to the online donation page which should assist in your storefront and parish collections when donors do not carry cash.

Thank you!

Eddie  
Edward S. Whitlock, III  
KOVAR President

## March For Life

The Time Is Here: For 50 years Virginia Knights have been the national March for Life marshals. For 5 years we have done the same, marshal for the Virginia March for Life. We cannot just rely on the same guys who have "always done it." Sure, they will help, if able, but now is the time to invite some new brothers to share the amazing experience of helping the largest annual peaceful civil rights demonstration in the world. And the largest Richmond has seen in recent memory.

\* 100 Virginia Knights to marshal the January 19, 2024 national March for Life, that's what we need. The March for Life marshal sign up is at [www.tinyurl.com/KofC2024MFL](http://www.tinyurl.com/KofC2024MFL). Click 'Sign Up' then click 'Save and Continue'. Complete the form and click 'Sign Up Now'.

\* 40 Virginia Knights to marshal the February 21, 2024 Virginia March for Life, that's what we need. The Virginia March for Life is the capstone to the Virginia Pro-Life Day on the Hill in Richmond. The Virginia

## From Worship Into Service

March for Life marshal sign up is at [www.tinyurl.com/KofC2024VAMFL](http://www.tinyurl.com/KofC2024VAMFL). Click ‘Sign Up’ then click ‘Save and Continue’. Complete the form and click ‘Sign Up Now’.

Why is this important? In keeping with this year’s theme, women need to know that in America we are “Pro-Life: With Every Woman, For Every Child.” The unborn need a voice in the public square, and that is what we are – the voice for the voiceless – the voice for the unborn. And for the many thousands who will come out to be that voice, we Knights help make that happen as marshals.

Fraternally,

Thom Harrington, March for Life - Operations

703.336.9020

### Saint Joseph Icon

Please Contact Faith Deputy Mike Martin to have your District or council host the St. Joseph Icon.

[dbronzos07@verizon.net](mailto:dbronzos07@verizon.net)

Text 804 677-9348

### Vocations

Answer the Call! It is easy to tell men and women to “answer the call”; however, how many of us have “answered the call” of encouraging others to consider the call to religious life? What has your council or assembly done to encourage vocations? These questions are worth pondering during this past month of Thanksgiving and the week of Vocations Awareness. Now is time to remember both those discerning vocations, as well as those who have taken their vows. Something as small as sending a Christmas card, individually or as a council, can mean so much.

Many of you make resolutions for the new year. Consider making a resolution to support those men and women discerning a vocation. Check with the diocese and plan for some of the young ladies in your parish to visit one of the local convents. They may find the women serving as nuns offer just what could be that something they need or might spark an idea. Read the articles on the back of the monthly Columbia magazine to learn how some men and women decided.

If your council has yet to participate in the RSVP this year, it is a grate time to do so. Make it a Christmas gift to the seminarian or novice. Remember, one of today’s seminarians may be your pastor in the future and you will want his support.

Do you have a seminarian, or ordained priest, who is willing to speak at the State January meeting about how the Knights of Columbus helped him and what it meant to him? Let me know ([datodd@verizon.net](mailto:datodd@verizon.net)).

**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 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 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. We also try to attend the monthly Open Forums hosted by the Training Team, so bring your concerns!

As you spell retention, keep these actions in mind...

- R emind members to report changes in their contact data
- E ngage a Brother’s passion
- T alk regularly with seldom-seen Knights
- E ncourage members to share their ideas and be open to fresh ways of doing things
- N ew Brothers need a sponsor
- T hank people for their deeds
- I nitial impressions are lasting
- O ffer a ride to events for Knights who are disabled or have difficulty driving at night
- N ot everyone uses email so spread the word accordingly

Thank you to all the DDs and councils for seeking our help recently to confirm the location of nonresponsive members! We enjoy hearing when our search efforts facilitated the re-establishment of contact with a Brother. If you have been slow to respond to Knights who have “gone dark,” please send us their full name (include a middle initial or middle name if available), last-known postal mailing address, and age. Then give us a few days and we might solve your mystery!

**FROM THE ABBATE AGENCY**

**How to “Insure” a Happy Holiday**

‘Tis the season of searching for the best gift at the best price for your loved ones. Many take advantage of major deals and discounts online but forget about the most precious gift of all ... life. The Abbate Agency would like to ensure you have the best holiday possible by following these tips to reduce these added risks:

- If picking a live Christmas tree, look for one where the needles are green and fresh. Place the tree at least 3 feet away from any heat source and keep the tree hydrated by adding water every day.
- Inspect your lights. Some are for indoor use only and other can be used outdoor. Replace strings that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Home-related accidents are no gift. If having guests over, please remember to clear driveways, walkways, and stairs. Avoid fall hazards by removing clutter, cleaning up spills and keep areas well lit.
- Cold weather brings cold vehicles. Car thieves don’t take the holidays off so please remember to keep your vehicle locked if warming up before a drive.
- Most importantly, don’t let anyone you love drink and drive.

Following these simple rules can reduce the chances that you or your family would need to act on an insurance policy.

But how special would it be to give a loved one the peace of mind that an insurance policy can bring? It’s not your typical gift but ensuring that your family is covered in case of an accident could be the best way to show them you care. Not to mention you do not need to go to a crowded mall or fight the traffic to meet with one of our agents. Contact our office at 1-866-868-1492 to make an appointment that could be the gift of a lifetime and beyond!

## 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!



**Make Every Program Event an Opportunity to Serve and Grow!**