

# KNIGHT LETTER – June 2017

Volume 2017, No. 6



Knights of Columbus  
Sacramento Council 953  
5961 Newman Ct.  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 736-0953



[www.kofc953.org](http://www.kofc953.org)

Sacramento Council 953  
District 10

“Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Pray for Us!”

## COUNCIL OFFICERS

Grand Knight	Bryan McKrell
Deputy GK	Adam Struck
Chancellor	Garrett Thomas
Warden	Michael Litwin
Recorder	Matt Curran
Treasurer	John Watling
Advocate	Matt Lucien
Inside Guard	Greg Wolfe
Outside Guard	Clif Bachmeier
Lecturer	
Financial Secretary	John Sheldon

## TRUSTEES

3-Year	Lewis Muñoz
2-Year	George Mills
1-Year	Fred Struck

**CHAPLAIN** Rev. Aaron Engebretson, SJ  
**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR** Dn. George Kriske

## HALL SETUP/CLEANUP

Terry Corcoran 224-7786

## HALL RENTAL

Steve Mills 599-8522

## HOME CORPORATION BOARD (Building Association to Which All Belong)

*GK Bryan McKrell	*DGK Adam Struck	* By Virtue of Council Office
President	David Carboni	
Vice President	William “Bill” Renard	
Treasurer	Terry Corcoran	
Recorder	Steve Mills	
Member	PGK Al Piccardo	
Member	Rudy Nagle	
Member	Bob Ocenosak	

## SERVICE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Programs	Adam Struck
Church	Fred Struck
Community	Matt Curran
Council	Matt Lucien
Family	Adam Struck
Membership	John Watling
Youth	Dale Edwards
Pro-Life	Hector Garcia
Health	Michael Litwin
District Deputy #10	Ricardo Saldaña
Ins. General Agent	Todd Cabral
Insurance Agent	Philip De Leon
Knight Letter	Adam Struck
Webmaster	Fred Struck

## CHAPTER DELEGATES

GK Bryan McKrell  
PGK Floyd Wells  
PGK Dick Cutting



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 953  
BUSINESS DIRECTORY**



**HALL RENTALS  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

5961 Newman Court  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
Phone (916) 736-0953

Hall Rental  
Steve Mills 599-8522  
Hall Setup/Cleanup  
Terry Corcoran 224-7786

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## Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brother Knights:



My term as Grand Knight is coming to a close and thus I have arrived at my final Grand Knight's message. This has been a great experience for me, and I hope that the Council has benefited in some way from my tenure. I know I have personally benefited, and I can't thank everyone enough for all of your support and help this year.

I have just returned from our State Convention and I found the entire experience to be eye opening and quite honestly a lot of fun. The convention is going to be held in Sacramento next year and because of that I wanted to provide some observations in the hope that many of us attend next year.

- There were two masses at the convention, an opening mass and a closing mass. The first mass was celebrated by our current State Chaplain, Bishop Oscar Solis of Salt Lake City, who as he pointed out has a very Hispanic name, but he is actually 100% Filipino. I honestly have never heard a funnier priest/Bishop say mass. If you ever have the opportunity to hear, or meet this man you really should. The mass was co-celebrated by over 40 priests and deacons. As you can imagine it was quite a site. In addition, the closing mass was celebrated by the Archbishop of Los Angeles and co-celebrated by the Bishop of Orange. There were two altar boys who's only job was to hold the Bishop's hats and deliver them at the appropriate times during mass. There were four different sets of 4<sup>th</sup> degree Color Guards escorting everyone and anyone. If you are interested in pomp and circumstance, just attend the opening or closing mass at next year's convention.
- Our current State Deputy, our State Deputy elect, our current State Chaplain (the Bishop), and our next State Chaplain were all in the seminary together as young men in the Philippines.
- Most of the meeting was just like our monthly business meeting, except the officers on the dais were the State Officer's. They held the exact same format for elections, conducted the same budget process, and passed resolutions the same way. And the more than 500 voting delegates acted the exact same way – there was even a guy who kept abstaining on every vote.
- We had zero chance of getting our three resolutions passed, but they did make me famous. I stood up without a microphone and asked the State Advocate who was reading our first resolution (the place was fairly quiet because we were the 67<sup>th</sup>, 68<sup>th</sup>, and 69<sup>th</sup> resolutions to be read) and asked if this is when I advocated for people to vote in favor of our resolutions. He instructed me to walk around to a microphone, which I did, but everyone in the room was watching me do this. Then I gave my speech, which boiled down to the fact that we needed to modernize as an organization if we were going to survive. That little speech received a standing ovation and although they voted all three of our bills down, at least a third of the open assembly voted in favor of the bills, surprising our State Officer's in my opinion. But this episode provided me instant fame, because after that, random guys would stop me and my wife all over the resort and want to talk to me about technology, modernization and the terribly antiquated systems that we use. They would stop us in hallways, at lunch, in the elevator – it

## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE (continued)

was remarkable. And it turns out that several Council's already accept on-line payments through Square and through their websites.

- Everyone was very friendly and part of this was due to the fact that we all have something in common which made the experience very comfortable.
- They performed a live first-degree ceremony during the convention in front of more than 500 people and during this they inducted 37 new Knight's. The first-degree team that performed the ceremony had supposedly tried out against three other teams and won. I can honestly say, that if I memorized my part, and Sheldon memorizes his part, we could easily beat these guys and perform at next year's convention. George Mills, Dale Edwards, and Matt Lucien are simply head and shoulders above when it comes to their parts. It turns out that very few Councils state wide have first degree teams and many of them utilize a DVD or provide scripts to new initiates.
- I learned that there are only two sanctioned charities that are under the State Umbrella. The first is the "Brother's Helping Brother's" which most of us know as the 365 club. During the convention, a majority of the Grand Knight's in attendance walk up and hand a check to the heads of the charity and the Council number is called out to the audience along with the City of Origin. Our council collected \$1,100 dollars and donated it to the charity. The second charity is the Knights of Columbus care home facility located in Marysville CA. This 20-unit living facility provides apartments and three meals a day for Knights of Columbus in need for approximately \$1,200 dollars per month. This is a very worthy and well-intentioned charity, except for their funding is down nearly 80% since its founding. You are reading that correctly – very few Council's donate to this charity known as the Columbian Retirement Home. It would probably be a very good idea for us to figure out a way, as a Council, to voluntarily donate to this facility and organize an afternoon where we drive up to Marysville and help them out in some way.

As we look ahead to next year and into the future it was also insightful to know that nearly every Council I spoke with is struggling with the same issues. I met councils with their own halls and not a single one of them signed the paperwork for Supreme. In fact, two of them flat out told Supreme to forget about it or they were quitting with the threat of becoming a Parish men's club. All of them complained about the inability to drop brother Knights who did not pay and who had not paid in over five years. They complained about the cumbersome paperwork, the lack of technology and the difficulty with attendance. But through all of the complaints, there was always the acknowledgment that the organization is founded on and continues to be an organization for good. We simply exist to do good things and help people in need. We can all be happy to be a part of an organization that purely exists to do good things.

Thank You,  
Bryan McKrell  
Grand Knight, Council 953

## Calendar of Events

Get updated event information 24 hours a day at <http://sacramento.kofc953.org/calendar>

<b>June</b>	1	Thursday	7:00 pm	Officers and Directors Meeting
	4	Sunday		Pentecost
	8	Thursday	6:00 pm	Dinner (Hall Opens 5:30)
			7:00 pm	General Business Meeting
	11	Sunday	After all Masses	St. Mary's Second Sunday Pancake Breakfast
	18	Sunday		Fathers Day
	22	Thursday	7:00 pm	First Degree Exemplification
	29	Thursday	6:00 pm	PGK/Old Timers' Dinner & Installation of Officers
<b>July</b>	4	Tuesday		Independence Day
	6	Thursday		Officers and Directors Meeting
	13	Thursday	6:00 pm	Dinner (Hall Opens 5:30)
			7:00 pm	General Business Meeting

## Officer Elections for 2017-18 Columbian Year

The nominations committee has nominated the following slate of officers for the 2017-18 Columbian Year. The slate of officers will be voted on at the June business meeting. Nominations may also be accepted from the floor at the June business meeting, provided the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

Grand Knight – Adam Struck  
 Deputy Grand Knight – Garrett Thomas  
 Chancellor – Michael Litwin  
 Warden – Clif Bachmeier  
 Recorder – Matt Curran  
 Treasurer – John Watling  
 Advocate – Fred Struck  
 Inside Guard – Greg Wolfe  
 Outside Guard – Tom Nulk  
 3-Year Trustee – Bryan McKrell  
 2-Year Trustee – Lewis Muñoz  
 1-Year Trustee – George Mills

## Change of Contact Information

Please notify your council of any change in mailing address, telephone number or email address. Changes can be submitted by phone message at (916) 736-0953 or by email at [fs@kofc953.org](mailto:fs@kofc953.org).

## First Degree Exemplification

Council 953 will be hosting a First Degree Exemplification on Thursday, June 22 . All members are invited to observe the ceremony and welcome our new Brother Knights. The doors to the council hall will open at 6:00 pm, and we are requesting that candidates arrive no later than 6:30. The exemplification will begin at 7:00 (or shortly thereafter). Refreshments will be served following the exemplification.

## Knights of Columbus and Arlington National Cemetery

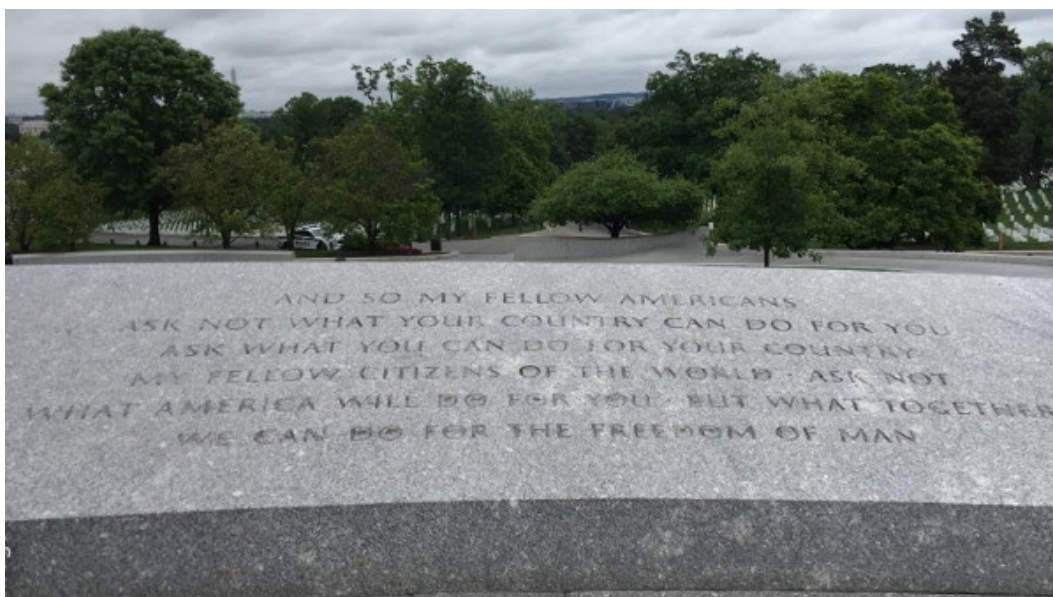


SK Garrett Thomas recently returned from a trip to Washington, DC and shared with us these pictures from Arlington National Cemetery.

At left is a memorial plaque displayed at the Tomb of the Unknowns donated by and proudly bearing the Knights of Columbus logo.

Below is a plaque at President John F. Kennedy's grave site bearing the famous words of his inaugural address. The 2011 restoration of this plaque was underwritten by the Knights of Columbus. Kennedy, of course, was both a Knight and the the first Catholic president.

Brother Garrett reports that the Knights are quite well-represented in Washington, DC, due in large part to the many patriotic displays and activities in which the order participates.





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Brothers, it was my great honor to be one of the witnesses during the ordination of 3 new priests for our diocese on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were 24 members of the Knights of Columbus Color Corps who participated in this sacred ceremony. Likewise, I also noticed many brother Knights with their families who attended the ordination.

Bishop Jaime Soto gave an instruction to the candidates before they were ordained and presented with the Book of Gospels. The one phrase that resonated with me is a thought that can apply to all of us in relation to our Christian faith. “Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.”

This past year, we have seen so much division, violence, and controversy throughout the world and in a multitude of facets of our daily lives. As members of the Knights of Columbus, the Venerable Michael J. McGivney founded our order, first and foremost, on the principle of Charity. As I have always said, we are brothers helping brothers. We accomplish that generous task in many ways, both locally and globally.

Many of those good works are accomplished through the legacy that the Venerable Michael J. McGivney left for us through the KofC Insurance Program. But, there are other vehicles within the Knights of Columbus that can help, too.

In the past year, I have seen attendance at some council general meetings begin to dwindle and waning participation in events in that help do good things for our parishes and communities. While I understand that we all get busy with our families and work, we should not neglect our spiritual life and the charitable contributions that we do for the Knights. You don’t have to be active in every event. At least participate in one or two events during the year.

Finally, do something for your loved ones if you haven’t already. Remember that you can take advantage of the legacy that Fr. Michael J. McGivney left for us through the Insurance Program by leaving an estate for your loved ones. That will not only leave a lasting legacy for your family, but it can also benefit your brother Knights, their families, and so many of our Catholic programs and causes.

Finally, we need to always remember to recruit new members. There was a really great article in the Columbia this past month. It talks about a generation of Knights from just one family. If you have a moment, go online by following the link to: <http://kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/generations-of-brotherhood.html>



May God bless you, our families, and all our friends.

Philip De Leon (CA License #OK63623)

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[philip.deleon@kofc.org](mailto:philip.deleon@kofc.org)

[www.philbetterinsured.com](http://www.philbetterinsured.com)

## For Whom We Pray

Memorial Mass: None this month

Spiritual Bouquets: None this month

Sick: PGK Charlie Nulk, Marie Nagel (wife of PGK Rudy Nagel)



If someone in your family is hospitalized or sick, contact Michael Litwin at (916) 208-2426 or [pray@kofc953.org](mailto:pray@kofc953.org). A spiritual bouquet will be sent to them in our Council's name. Prayers are the best medicine for the sick. Mass cards are also sent to the families of deceased Brothers or deceased members of their immediate families. WE NEED YOUR HELP! The spiritual bouquets and Mass cards cannot be sent if we are not told of the need. So please let us know by contacting Michael at [pray@kofc953.org](mailto:pray@kofc953.org).



You may also make a prayer request by leaving a comment at the council web site under prayer requests <http://sacramento.kofc953.org/prayer>

## Business Meeting Dinners

Below is the upcoming schedule with the names of the volunteer cooks and greeters:

Month	Cooks	Menu	Greeters
June	Adam Struck	Pulled pork, baked beans, corn	TBD
July	Terry Corcoran	Ribs & chicken	TBD
August	TBD	TBD	TBD

Your meal at the Business Meeting is free in the month of your birthday. All members of Council 953 who have a birthday in the month of June get to eat for free at the June Business Meeting. Happy birthday!

## Council Web Site

Please take the time to visit our Council web site at <http://www.kofc953.org>, where you can download current or past issues of the Knight Letter. In addition, there is a calendar page listing all our council events, a photo gallery page, and links to other websites of interest. Also, if you go to the Prayer Request page at <http://sacramento.kofc953.org/prayer>, you may post a prayer request by leaving a comment. All articles published by the Northern California Chapter of the Knights of Columbus are now published on our website as well. In addition, the Northern California Chapter has recently redesigned its website, the address of which is <http://www.kofcncc.org>.





# Knights of Columbus #953

PGK & Old Timers Dinner / Installation of Officers

Thursday, June 29, 2017

*Join us as we honor our outgoing Grand Knight, Bryan McKrell, and install our newly elected officers for the 2017-18 Columbian Year*

Featuring a delicious dinner prepared by  
Chef Matt Herman.



*Stick around after dinner as we recognize all our PGK's and those of our long time members who have achieved milestones of service in the Knights of Columbus.*

No-Host Bar 6:00 pm  
Installation of Officers 6:30 pm  
Dinner 7:00 pm  
5961 Newman Ct.  
Sacramento, CA 95819

Cost of the evening is \$10.00 per adult.  
PGK's and children under 12 are free.  
Make your reservations by contacting  
Adam Struck at 916-914-5041 or  
[struckam@hotmail.com](mailto:struckam@hotmail.com), or by visiting  
[www.kofc953.org](http://www.kofc953.org)