

Knights of Columbus

Arthur J. O'Neil Council 5112

Goffstown, New Hampshire

Serving St. Lawrence & St. Raphael Parishes

www.goffstown-kofc.com

May 2015 issue

Our next business meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13th at St. Lawrence Parish hall at 7:00 PM. Please use the door downstairs at the rear of the church. All Council business meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00 pm. The meetings rotate between the Grasmere Town Hall, St. Lawrence parish hall and St. Raphael parish hall. Your attendance at the monthly business meetings is important. **Your Council is an active Council and there are many activities to get involved in.**

There is much to report this month and there is more than one issue deserving page one status. The last page of this monthly newsletter contains photographs of the many exciting events happening this past month.

The 116th Annual New Hampshire State Council Convention and awards banquet was held this past weekend at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua. The convention was exciting and fruitful, kicking off with Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Peter Libasci, Bishop of Manchester. A new slate of officers was elected with State Secretary Wayne Griffin succeeding Rich McDermott as our new State Deputy. Rich is to be congratulated for serving two successful terms as our State Deputy. Also elected were Glenn Camley as State Secretary, Ray LeMay as State Warden and Joe Kowalik as State Treasurer. Reelected was Jordan Ulery as State Advocate. Your Council delegates to the Convention were Jim Finn & Chris Sweeney. Council 5112 was represented with a table consisting of Jim & Ann Finn, Lionel & Lillian Coulon, Chris & Andrea Sweeney, Louis & Jeanine Batres and Rick Plichta.

Your Council also received a number of very prestigious awards.

Chris Sweeney received his ***Knights in Shining Armor*** pin and certificate for his outstanding contributions to the Council during his first year of membership; from initiating and chairing the Thanksgiving "Families Feeding Families" meal for the elderly, shut-ins and otherwise alone on the holiday persons, faithful attendance at the monthly meetings, to bringing in a new member. Chris fully deserves this award and our congratulations go out to him.

Rick Plichta received the ***American Patriot award*** in recognition of his years of service to our veterans. Rick has given so many years of faithful and dedicated service to our veterans that his efforts are legendary and recognized throughout the state. Rick is a longtime member of Council 5112 and at age 83 is a 56 year member of the Knights of Columbus. Congratulations for recognition long overdue.

Rafael Peschiera and his wife Alyssa with their three children were recipients of the ***Family of the Year award***. The Peschiera family fully exemplifies the Catholic family. Rafael gave a talk supporting the Knights of Columbus during our recent membership drive at each weekend Mass at St. Lawrence Church. At the 10:30 Mass as Raphael was coming down from the alter after delivering his presentation, little Emily ran up to greet her daddy and as he picked her up into his arms in the middle isle, he said to

the parishioners “we’re a right to life family”. This unscripted moment had more impact on the parishioners than the speech Raphael had just given. God bless Raphael and Alyssa and God bless all of our families.

The **Grand Knight of the Year award** was presented to **your Grand Knight**. This award, though it has my name on it, is truly an award to our Council. Over the past few years our Council has come alive again and we are a re-energized group of men dedicated to the ideals of the Knights of Columbus. As the awards above testify, we are younger men interested in following Christ as Knights, we are older men who continue to live our lives following Christ, and in our families and everyday lives we strive to follow the teachings of Jesus.

As your Grand Knight, I try to encourage the energies of our new members, listen to and learn from the wisdom of our older brothers and keep our focus on the ideals and goals of our founder, Fr. Michael McGivney. *Jim Finn*

The concert featuring Paul Bordeleau scheduled for Saturday May 16th, a fundraiser for St. Lawrence parish operating budget, is progressing with the committee meeting every Wednesday evening for the past six weeks. The help of all our brother Knights is needed to help sell tickets to the event, and of course, purchase tickets and attend the dinner and concert. Tickets are only \$25.00 for the “pasta extravaganza “ and concert or \$10.00 for the concert only. There will be 50/50 drawings and a drawing for a time share donated by one of our very generous members. Your help is needed to make this event successful for our Council and for St. Lawrence parish. We only have two weeks left.

Membership Report: Four new brothers joined our Council this month, receiving their First Degree at St. Elizabeth Seton Council in Bedford. David Geaney, Timothy Hanson, Daniel LeBrun and Kevin McCormick are our newest members. There is a 2nd & 3rd degree scheduled in Rochester on Saturday, May 23rd in Rochester, NH. The semiannual 4th degree exemplification is being held in Littleton, NH on Saturday, June 13th. At the State Convention this past weekend, your Council tied for first place in new member recruitment. Great going brothers and thank you Dennis.

Upcoming Fundraising: At the State Convention last weekend we received our **NH State Annual Charity Raffle** tickets and our supply of Tootsie Rolls for the **annual drive for persons with intellectual disabilities**. Chairmen and committee members are needed again this year for these two important charities. Council 5112 has been very successful in raising funds for these charities in past years, let’s do it again this year. See Jim Finn to volunteer to work with your brother Knights this summer raising much needed funds for these two charities. Or call me at 497-3773.

Memorial Day parade in Nashua: Our brother knights from Nashua Council 13904 & assembly 1506 have invited all Councils & Assemblies to participate with them on Monday, May 25th in the Nashua Memorial Day Parade. See Jim Finn at the May monthly meeting or call 497-3773.

5th Annual Council 5112 Family BBQ. Following the 10:30 Mass at St. Lawrence Church in Goffstown on Sunday, August 23rd will be the family social event of the year. Being held again this year at the home of Jim & Ann Finn at 11 West Union St., Goffstown – just down the street from St. Lawrence Church, it promises to be another great annual event. All members and their families are invited to attend as well as bringing men and their families interested in joining our Knights of Columbus family. The weather promises to be great again this year – if not we’ll just move into the barn and perhaps play some pool as well. As always, this is a free event intended to introduce members old, new and prospective to each other with their families for a fun filled day. Mark the date on your calendars now – Sunday August 23rd following the 10:30 Mass. Please consider joining us at Mass as well.

New Hampshire State Council Weekend Retreat: Friday September 25, Saturday September 26 and Sunday September 27 are a great weekend to spend with Father Smolley in retreat at Camp Bernadette on beautiful Lake Wentworth in Wolfboro, NH. Kevin Tucker and I attended this retreat last

year and recommend it to anyone seeking to reinforce his faith while enjoying a beautiful lakefront setting and lots of unbelievable food prepared by Brother Knight John McClure. Jim Finn will have Fr. Smolley's information packet with reservation forms at the May 13th meeting.

New Hampshire State Council Scholarships: There are scholarships available from the State Council for College studies. See Jim Finn for the Scholarship Announcement. Or call 497-3773

Fourth Degree: This month's Assembly 626 meeting has been changed from the 25th to the 18th to avoid a conflict with Memorial Day. The meeting is being hosted by the Notre Dame Council 5163 in the Bishop Gendren Building at Sacred Heart Church on South Main Street, Manchester. Rosary is at 7 pm with the meeting following at 7:30 Assembly elections are this month.

Please pray for those on our sick list: Rick Plichta & Lionel Coulon are well on their way to recovery, Tom Martin and Ray LaCasse are progressing well but are still on the mend, and Dave Geaney is undergoing surgery.

Nominations for Council Offices: Council elections of officers for the 2016 fraternal year will take place next month at the June 10th meeting at St. Raphael's. The nominating committee appointed at last month's meeting has proposed the following list of candidates:

Grand Knight	James R. Finn *
Deputy Grand Knight	Christopher Sweeney
Chancellor	Louis Batres
Recorder	_____
Treasurer	Lukas Labedzki *
Advocate	Dennis Caton
Warden	Brian Masi
Inside Guard	Richard Dobbyn *
Outside Guard	_____
Trustee, 3 years	Kevin Tucker
2 State Delegates	James Finn & Christopher Sweeney
2 Alternate Delegates	Louis Batres & Michael Smith

Candidates with an asterisk following their names are incumbents. All candidates listed have agreed to fulfill the duties of the position if elected. The positions of Recorder and Outside Guard have received no applications as of this date. The position of Recorder must be someone willing to attend all meetings of the Council and all Council officers must be Third Degree members. Nominations will remain open until the evening of June 10th, election night at the June monthly meeting.

Our new Financial Secretary is: Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has appointed Michael Smith to fill the position of Financial Secretary. Mike is an exceptional choice for this demanding position. With Lionel Coulon having filled this important position for the past 30 years Mike has big shoes to fill. Thank you Lionel for the years of devoted and dedicated labors on behalf of our Council for a job well done and seldom appreciated.

Jim Finn, Grand Knight

