



PA Central District Fall 2016



Worthy Faithful Navigators, Comptrollers and brother Sir Knights,

It is an honor to continue as Master for the Pennsylvania Central District and serve our many fine Sir Knights. The Patriotic Degree has an important and challenging mission that will take all of us working together to succeed. Here are a few items I want to address:

Chain of Command: I am a firm believer in following the chain of command. Please enforce this policy with your officers and members. Bottom line is I can't help you if I don't know about a problem or issue. I do my very best to respond to emails/calls and get an answer in a timely manner. Although a member may think calling Supreme is the fastest way to resolve an issue, it actually adds time, especially with limited staffing. Many times the request is simply sent back to down the chain to resolve; the answer sought is only further delayed.

Pins: Our Worthy VSM Wayne Freet has issued the following guidance: Supreme and Provincial Color Corps event will still require the PG 113. VSM Freet has left it to the district masters on assembly level events. **I will allow the flag pin for assembly Color Corps events.** However, the Color Corps must maintain uniformity, so all must wear the flag pin. I leave it up to the assembly to make sure there are enough pins on hand.

Officer Installations: September was a very busy month for installations. It was a pleasure visiting so many assemblies. Thank you for the hospitality you extended to Karen and I. For those still wishing to schedule an installation, please let me know when you would like to schedule your officer installations as soon as possible. I will make every effort to make the installation and, if unable to attend due to a previous commitment, will ask a former master to stand in my place.

Reports: There are a number of practical reasons why reports are to be completed and on time. We need to know who your assembly officers are so we know who to contact, especially if there is an urgent situation. The Navigator and Comptroller need the report of officers turned in for online access to membership and billing. Having conducted an investigation of a faithful purser misappropriating funds from his assembly in another region, I can't underscore the importance of the assembly annual audit.

Obituaries: Given the ever shrinking amount of time between the posting of an obituary and funeral services, it is critical to check obituaries on a daily basis. A great online source is <http://www.legacy.com/ns/>. I search by the keyword "Knight". Sometimes, the family may only list the name of the council/assembly, so you may also have to search by the council or assembly name.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Oct 7 @ 12 Noon - Red Mass, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton**
- **Oct 12 @ 7 PM - Red Mass, Cathedral of St Catharine of Siena, Allentown**
- **Oct 22 @ 10 AM- District Meeting, St Joseph the Worker, Orefield**
- **Dec 17 @ 12 Noon – Wreaths Across America**
- **Jun 10 @ 1 PM – 4th Degree, Holiday Inn, Fogelsville**

* The District Meeting will be held on October 22 at St Joseph the Worker Parish Center, 1879 Applewood Drive, Orefield, PA 18069.

What is my plan to promote & grow the 4th Degree?

1. Publicity:

- Encourage assemblies to promote their activities in Supreme Council, State council, diocesan and local media.
- Distribute Central District and assembly newsletters to PA State Website, districts and councils.

2. Presence:

- Increase Color Corps participation in Confirmations, Ordinations and other church or local activities. Seek out the parishes that have not invited the Color Corps.
- Provide Honor Guards when requested for deceased family members and deceased 3rd degree members.
- Encourage assemblies to participate in local and regional events reinforcing the bonds between assemblies and councils.
- In addition to myself, encourage district and assembly officers to attend council meetings and exemplifications. Always ask for the opportunity and be prepared to speak.

3. Increase membership in the 4th degree

- Increase membership in the lesser degrees/develop new councils.
- Work with DDs to develop a coordinated exemplification plan (1st, 2nd, and 3rd degrees) that builds up to 4th degree exemplifications.
- Assist DDs with planning and promotion of 3rd degree exemplifications. Be prepared to talk.
- Publish and promote 4th degree exemplification schedules and information as early as possible.
- Focus on the putting principle of patriotism into practice, not the cost of tuxedos and regalia.
- Increase the number of assemblies holding information nights for prospective candidates.

4. Retention: Provide patriotic opportunities to all Sir Knights. Most will not become members of the Color Corps and need activities to maintain a connection to our patriotic principles. Referrals are an effective method for recruiting. Examples include:

- Voter Registration drives
- Religious Freedom activities
- Military Vocations
- Citizenship Essay Contests
- Wounded Warrior and other veterans assistance
- Christmas cards to deployed soldiers
- Outreach to local emergency responders
- Social events with Patriotic Themes



New registrations for the upcoming General Election must be submitted by Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

Patriotism in Action

Cathedral Assembly Faithful Navigator Bob Haggerty and Faithful Scribe counting the number of veterans' graves at Resurrection Cemetery, Wescosville. Last year, participants in a local Wreaths Across America thought enough wreaths had been donated based up the count provided by the VA. Unfortunately, there were not enough wreaths. Recently, the Knights, Bethlehem Catholic students and Air Products employees spent a hot afternoon in September counting the number of veterans' graves and those that had missing or damaged grave markers. Although given a count of 1100 graves by the VA, the group discovered the actual amount was over 1400, with 84 missing grave markers and a large number damaged. The group's effort will help to make sure enough wreaths are donated and that missing/damage grave markers are replaced.



*Join us on National Wreaths Across America Day
December 17, 2016*



<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

District Meeting

Oct 22 @ 10 AM -12 Noon

The District Meeting will be held at St Joseph the Worker Parish Center, 1879 Applewood Drive, Orefield, PA 18069. All assembly officers are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to jlfitzpatrick@Verizon.net. Light lunch will be served following meeting.

PAST AND FORMER MINIATURE JEWELS AUTHORIZED DISPLAY OF MINIATURE JEWELS ON REGALIA

Uniformity is a reflection of unit discipline and the Color Corps is no exception. A sharp and uniform Color Corps adds beauty and dignity to any event. However, I continue to see miniature jewels displayed in a variety of locations on the tuxedo, including on the pocket. **There is one standard for wearing miniature jewels and it is found in the Color Corps manual:**

1. Miniature past and former jewels in the order of precedence is detailed below. They are worn upon the formal tuxedo jacket, centered on the left front panel between the lapel and the left armhole seam with the **bottom edge of the jewel(s) 1/4 inch above the top of the pocket.**
2. A maximum of four medals may be worn on a single row with the left edge of the holding bar aligned with the left edge of the pocket. Please use a holding bar for multiple jewels.
3. If a second (or multiple) row(s) of medals is worn, the bottom edge of the ribbons on the top row of medals will extend down to the top edge of the MEDALS on the bottom row. When the upper row contains 4 medals the left edge of the holding bar will be aligned with the left edge of the pocket. When the upper row contains less than 4 medals it will be centered above the lower row (see pictured diagrams).
4. **No medals of any other group or organization are allowed to be worn in regalia, whether social or color corps.**



DUTIES OF KNIGHTS AS FAITHFUL CITIZENS

- To become active and informed participants in the political life of your local community.
- To register to vote and encourage others to register to vote.
- To initiate and participate in robust “get out the vote” efforts to bring voters to the polls in all primary, general, and special elections.

YOUR ROLE

- Knights are first and foremost Catholic citizens who are members of their communities and constituents of their elected officials.
- As a citizen, your most effective petition to an elected official is as an individual voter.
- As a Knight, you must exemplify your patriotic duty through the practice of charity and unity.

Scheduled Officer Installations:

- September 28 - Assembly 1928
- September 29 - Assembly 2605
- October 18 - Assembly 981
- October 23 – Assembly 1859
- October 23 – Assembly 959

WAKES

From time to time there have been questions about who is entitled to an Honor Guard. The following from page 27, Color Corps Protocol provides guidance. Note that honors **shall be offered** for deceased 4th degree members and **may be offered if requested** in the other situations. Whatever the case, be proactive.

“Without exception, honors by the Honor Guard shall be offered to deceased Sir Knights of the Fourth Degree currently in good standing on all counts at the time of death. A two-man Honor Guard team in intervals may be offered to the immediate family members of a Sir Knight in good standing and Third Degree members in good standing and to their immediate family members provided a request is made.

It must be distinctly understood that the wishes of the family of the deceased member are paramount and will be given the fullest consideration as to the selection of elements of the Honor Guard involved, if any. “

When the deceased Sir Knight is a member of the clergy, four Honor Guard members should be posted to watch. If this deceased member is lying in state in church, the guards should be stationed two on each side on a line with the ends of the casket and two paces from it or from the candles which may be placed along the length of the casket. The Honor Guard will remain until the family departs or until directed by the family to leave.

If your Color Corps is having trouble staffing a viewing or funeral, please contact your diocese marshal, district marshal or Master.

Our Supreme Knight stated that the Order must continue outreach to military personnel and veterans' programs and to recruit more military, police and fire personnel who understand the principles of commitment, sacrifice and values. He also noted that 2017-18 will be the 100th. anniversary of the US entry into World War I. The first US casualty of the war was a Knight of Columbus. The last casualty was a Catholic military chaplain.

In honor of the 100th anniversary, I ask that your assembly start planning events in honor of this historic occasion. The Knights supported the cause by forming K of C Huts, “Everybody Welcome, Everything Free”. Consider setting up your own K of C Hut for local veterans, or perhaps there is a WWI monument in your area to hold a ceremony together with local veterans groups.



Are you, or do you have a relative who is, a member of the military or a first responder and would like to share your experiences? Email a short article and picture to me and I will include in an upcoming newsletter

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To our Lovely Ladies...

When your husband joined the Knights of Columbus, he joined the largest Catholic, Family, and Service Fraternity in the World. What does all that mean?" Simply put, he's doing a good thing! The Knights of Columbus is a Service organization, dedicated to supporting our parishes and community. We believe in the Family, and need our family's involvement and support. With these as its high ideals, it is the responsibility of his assembly to run patriotic programs and activities that support our parishes and community.

Let's clarify an incorrect belief about the Knights of Columbus. While Knights keep secret their degree ceremonies, it is NOT a Secret Organization! If your knight isn't sharing with you everything else, then ASK HIM! Make him explain to you and his family about his Knights involvement. What activities, events and programs are being planned by the assembly; how the assembly is meeting the needs of the pastors and parish communities; and what family and youth events are coming up. And for any other question you may have, simply ASK HIM! He should welcome your interest and involvement!