

# **The KnightLetter**

January - February 2020

GRAND KNIGHT - Andrew Wnukowski 908-353-3987, 908-764-3559

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## **Grand Knights Message**

Brothers, Greetings:

I write this with the earnest hope that You and Your Loved Ones had a Blessed and Joyful Christmas, and I wish You All a Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year. I pray that the new Decade of "The Twenties" will be a stable, productive and peaceful one. I am pleased to report on a very active past two months, with events as follows:

On Nov 01, we held a very successful WALK-IN FUNDRAISER DINNER benefiting Citizens With Disabilities. As in the past, it was organized, supervised and prepared by our devoted FS, PGK Robert Kaelblein. See inside for his assistants.

On Nov 06, our Formation (2d) Degree Team, under the usual excellent direction of our Team Capt. SK Joe Michalik PGK-FDD, conducted an EXEMPLIFICATION at Union Council, #4504, which included two of our Council Brothers.

On Nov. 07 we gathered at Christ the King Church for our ANNUAL DECEASED MEMBERS MASS, well attended and celebrated by our Chaplain, Rev. Luke Tran. Members of the 4th Degree, JFK Assembly Color Corps added to the ceremony, as did John and Gloria Ferro and myself, from the Christ the King choir.

On Sunday, Dec. 01, the Annual VETERAN's PANCAKE BREAKFAST was held at the Columbian Club, it was organized by the Chapter of UNICO International, the Italian American service organization, under direction of Chapter President Angelo Bonanno, and co-hosted by our Council, represented by our Deputy GK, Pat Mahon. The event was attended by disabled vets from Lyon's Hospital, local politicians, members of the Hillside FD, including Brother William Pelletiere, Deputy Chief. Presenting the colors was the Hillside HS Jr. ROTC Color Guard.

On Dec. 11, we placed a wreath at the gravesite of our Council's namesake, Rev. Thomas F. Canty, in Mt. Oliver Cemetery, Elizabeth, NJ. In attendance were PGK Will Evans, myself, and Trustee, PGK, FDD Joseph Michalik, thanks to whose initiative we participate in this annual mini-pilgrimage.

On Dec. 14 the Council celebrated it's ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/PGK/KNIGHT-COLUMBIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS DINNER PARTY. Congratulations go to SK PGK FDD Joseph Michalik for earning Knight of the Year. Note: this year and henceforth this award will be named the "Anthony J. DeVito Memorial Knight of the Year Award". The Robert A. Jotantos Memorial Columbian of the Year Award was justly presented to Brother Tim Fanning. Well done and deserved, Brothers! Added to this annual happy event was something unusual. We incorporated the 50th Wedding Anniversary of your Grand Knight and his lady, Kathleen (Kathy), and simultaneous 32d birthday of Son, PGK Robert (Robbie) Wnukowski. A joyous event was had by all.

Our ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY was held the next day under the capable and appreciated direction of our Deputy GK, Pat Mahon. This year's Santa was well played by our Treasurer, Brother Steve Karwowski. Food was prepared by PGK Steve Whoeler. Thank you all

Brothers, you have paid your dues, you are members, so why not participate? Do one event, support one FUNDRAISER and lend a hand. Have the satisfaction of contributing to a great continuation of this fraternal year.

Fraternally Yours

Andrew Wnukowski, Grand Knight.

## COLUMBIAN CLUB

Columbian Club Directors meet at 7:00 pm every 2nd Thursday of the month, prior to normally scheduled Council meetings. All interested Brothers are invited to participate.

## DUES

2020 Dues notices have gone out. Please submit your dues early as this helps greatly with budget planning and expenses.

## HELP WITH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

To all of you who live within reasonable distance but, for whatever reason don't come to meetings, we have short term programs, especially (but not necessarily) competitions for kids. If you're available on weekends and wish to contribute to a good cause for a tiny bit of time, we need you for such things as: basketball free throws, soccer challenge, poster contest, coloring book program, and of course, charitable collections, etc. give us a call

As always we ask that if you can find the time to chair or contribute to a program or activity, please contact me, it will be greatly welcomed and appreciated. Remember, think out of the box, and pass it on. Ideas are as welcome as service.

## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE, JANUARY, FEBRUARY

JANUARY	01	Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, HAPPY NEW YEAR!	
"	09	Columbian Club Directors Meet	7:00 pm
"	"	Council Meeting	8:00 pm
"	23	Council Meeting	8:00 pm
"	31	WALK IN FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR CHARITY	5:00 pm-8:00 pm
FEBRUARY	13	Columbian Club Directors Meet	7:00 pm
"	"	1st DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION	8:00 pm
"	"	Council Meeting	8:45 pm
"	22	POLAR BEAR PLUNGE Seaside Ht's NJ	
"	27	Council Meeting	8:00 pm
"	28	LENTEN PASTA DINNER	5:00 pm

## WALK IN CHARITY DINNER

On Friday, January 31, 5:00 - 8:00 pm we will hold a fundraiser to benefit our many charities. Menu choice: ½ Chicken / Roast Beef / Stuffed Shells W-Meatballs. All meals served with Soup, Salad, Bread, Dessert, Coffee or Tea. Donation: \$15 Adults, \$12 Seniors and Children. GREAT FOOD, GREAT CAUSE! Please support!

## WALK IN LENTEN FUNDRAISER DINNER

Once again we will be holding our Annual Lenten dinners from 5pm. To 8pm. Please put on your calendars Friday February 28 we will hold our Annual Pasta Walk-In Dinner and on April 3 our Annual Walk-In Fish Dinner. As always all meals include Salad, Soup, Main Course, Dessert, Coffee or Tea. Cost is \$15 Adults, \$13 Seniors, and Children (12 and Under) Please reserve that night for meeting your friends and fellow parishioners for great food and companionship.

## K of C BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST

Thanks to Br. Jim Boyle for our involvement in this program with the first phase taking place on Dec 30, 2019, at Hillside High School. We had 14 contestants participating, with 6 category winners moving on to the second phase on February, 16 at 2:00pm. It was fun watching Br Jim, the HS Head Athletic Trainer and Teacher, running a smooth as a Dunk event.

## POLAR PLUNGE TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

This annual event, which benefits the NJ Special Olympics, will be held at Seaside Park on the afternoon of Feb 22. Our Council representative (I shudder at the thought) will be PGK FDD Joseph Michalik, Trustee. For more info on participation or donations please contact PGK Michalik. Thank you, Br Joe, for your fortitude and dedication.

## IN MEMORIAM

During the period Nov--Dec, 2019 we lost the following relatives/loved ones of Council members: Beatrice Liska of Phoenix, Az, mother of Kathy, and Mother in Law of GK Andrew Wnukowski. / Helen Michalik, of Hillside, mother of PGK FDD Joseph Michalik, Trustee. / Violet, in Zimbabwe, Mother in Law of Br. Anthony Kunaka, / Peter Tran, of Hillside, father of our Chaplain and Council Brother, Rev. Luke Tran. Our prayers are with them, and condolences to the families.

## A. J. DEVITO HONORED BY KENILWORTH VOL. FD

On November 12 a large portion of our local Brothers, and well over a hundred friends and area fire fighters, EMT's and other civic workers joined the DeVito family at the Kenilworth Vol Fire Department for a momentous ceremony honoring the life of A. J., a dedicated and respected firefighter of that department, beloved Brother of our Council, and son of Br. John DeVito, That Department unveiled and christened a fire truck with the name of Anthony J. DeVito, and numbered it #63, which was AJ's dept number. After the ceremony all joined in a wonderful repast at the firehouse.

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Keep Christ in Christmas Magnets (\$5 Donation) and Lapel Buttons (\$1 Donation) are available at the Columbian Club.

## BAPTISMAL ROSE PROGRAM

The Council presents congratulatory roses to mothers of children baptized at St. Catherine's and Christ the King churches. If you can help with the presentation program let Angelo Bonanno, program coordinator at St Catherine's, or Andy Wnukowski, program coordinator at Christ the King, know of your interest. This is a well received program and a beautiful way to let parents-parishioners know about our Council.

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

So much was done in this past reporting period; I will try to thank so many on behalf of our Council, in addition to those already mentioned in previous paragraphs: Thanks to those who climbed stools and ladders to decorate the Club Bar for Christmas: PGK Kevin Mc Clave, Br. Tim Fanning and Br Jim Silva.

To those who did same in the Hall, in preparation for the Christmas /Awards Dinner: Br Mike Petrone, who brought a marvelous Christmas tree, and couldn't do anything more because of an arm in a sling. To my family, Kathy, our Son PGK Robert and D in L Nicole. for trimming and decorating that huge, gorgeous tree.

To PGK Bob Kaelblein, Captain of the kitchen, who organized, cooked and scrubbed like a dedicated fiend, which made our Christmas Dinner Party and Kathy and my 50 th Anniversary a wonderful success.

To DGK Pat Mahon, and his friend Clare Eller Spears for taking over and running the Children's Christmas party, and helping with previous dinners and events. Also to Steve Whoeler in the kitchen, and all those who helped staff the Hall and Bar at THIS and or PREVIOUS events, Brs John DeVito, Mike Petrone, Paul D' Olivera, Gary Williams, Jim Silva, PGKs Will Evans, Joe Michalik, THANK YOU ALL!

## FIRST DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION ON FEBRUARY 13

Our Degree Team, under direction of Team Capt. PGK FDD Joe Michalik (this year's A.J. DeVito Memorial Knight of the Year winner) will conduct a 1st Degree at our Council on February 13. All Brothers who know of an eligible candidate please contact a council member, or preferably the FS, PGK Bob Kaelblein. Degree will begin at 8:00 pm, candidates to arrive at Council NLT 7:30 pm, and be respectfully dressed, preferably in jacket and tie.

## KofC INSURANCE

Our Council has finally received Field Agent service, Bob Mc Geehan, General Agent, Central/Southern NJ. He will be overseeing general insurance operations and steer inquiries in the proper direction. Agents from his office will respond to our needs. The Agency can be reached at 732 569 6045. Any Brothers affected by unresolved questions or concerns about their policies, AND HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED by Supreme Council Compliance Department should REACH OUT to that department at One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, Conn. 06510.

Those members who HAVE ISSUES and HAVE received COMMUNICATIONS but NOT RESPONDED, please DO SO! It's important for you and your loved ones.

## KofC Jackets & Shirts

PGK Charles Orgelfinger has for sale customized 3-season windbreakers and polo shirts to Council Members. The emblem may be worn by members who are First Degree or higher, as well as wives and minor children of members in good standing. If interested contact PGK Charles at 732-381-3389 or via email at [chuckbda@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckbda@yahoo.com).

## KNIGHTLETTER PROGRAM

Material to be submitted in the March - April issue of the KL must be received NO Later than February 15. Contact GK Andy Wnukowski at 908 764 3559, or leave in the wooden KnightLetter box at the bar. To place an ad, please call the Columbian Club at 908 688 3197.