

Highlights November 2011 State Officer Meeting

The November 2011 state officers meeting was the second of four conference calls this fraternal year.

The following are highlights from that meeting:

Associate State Chaplain Fr. Tuttle began the meeting with his just completed membership 365 prayer.

The State Deputy reported presented the communications he has received since the last meeting. SD Spada also informed the officers that he has submitted the required form for next year's State Convention to the Supreme Council.

State Deputy Spada also reported that the Supreme Council has waived the per capita due from council #10637. A report from Supreme also was received that council #4741 was awarded the Columbian after investigation that the council submitted an outdated form. A notice was given from Supreme that the awarded Father Ryan council Star council status after it was discovered they submitted an out of date Columbian award form. A thank you letter was received from Monsignor Dennis Lyle of Mundelein for the State Councils donation to the welcome back seminarian dinner that was just completed.

The State Deputy received a letter from Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard announcing a Military Scholarship program and more information will be forthcoming. Notified the elected officers that the audit committee has met and is in the process of reviewing the budget processes used and ways of making the coding and various ways of making the billing process a little easier. State Deputy Spada also informed the status of interviews for the new Executive Secretary position.

State Secretary presented minutes of the Illinois State Council and Charities Inc.

State Treasurer Doerfler reported on their Illinois State Council and Charities Inc. accounts being balanced. He also provided an update on assets of both ISC and Charities Inc.

Associate State Chaplain Fr. Charles Tuttle - has notified the State Council that he has been invited by the Supreme Council to attend the State Deputies November meeting. Father Chuck will be arriving in Nashville on November 16th and the State Deputies will arrive on the 18th. Supreme has provided the Chaplains 4 questions on how the Chaplains can help the State Jurisdictions in membership growth. Father also gave us a status report in regards to the preparation for the Winter DD meeting mass services. Father Tuttle also presented his Illinois 365 membership prayer.

The State Advocate submitted a report on the various contracts the State Council is has on file such as the server provide, the copier and rent. State Advocate Stites is preparing a spreadsheet so when the date of renewals are due the state council will be aware and can offer bids for a new provider on each of the contracts.

The State Warden provided a reminder of upcoming events and the State Deputy assigned the Elected and Selected for attending and representing the State Council.

State Membership Director, Jerry Bevignani reported on the current status of the Membership growth in Illinois and Year to Date (10/29/2011): Gain: 477 Loss: 649 Net: -272. Month to Date: Gain: 160 Net: +119.

Jerry reported that the Columbus day recruitment drive enjoyed an excellent number of new brother Knights joining the order. We welcomed over 80 new Knights into the order that weekend. The State Membership Director also provided an update for the activities planned at the Mid-Year District Deputy meeting to be held in Normal on the December 1st weekend. Jerry also gave an update on the results of the Rockford Diocese Catholic Men's Conference in DeKalb. The "Gentleman Start Your Engines" incentive program is complete and there were two councils that qualified for the \$25.00 award. 1 District Deputy also will be recognized. The State Membership Director presented the Second Quarter membership incentive program which will be to the Diocesan Coordinators for distribution to the council leadership. He also gave a status report on the following new council development sites along with retention and recruitment activity for the month.

District Deputy Director, Jim Russell, reported on his activities with the District Deputies. Jim is working with the District Deputies in making sure the one on one meetings with the Grand Knights are being conducted which the State Deputy requested at the July District Deputy meeting.

The State Program Director, Frank Schwartz, reported on the many programs that are under way in Illinois. The State Council has purchased 48 winter coats for each diocese in the Coats for Kids campaign. The State council is hoping that each diocese will at least match the amount of coats purchased for their diocese.

The Charitable Activities Director Erik Lockett reported on the status of the charitable programs in the state.

The state officers denied one GAF application due to the organization did not meet the criteria for receiving funds.

Director Lockett updated the amounts received in the various active charity programs currently underway.

State Advocate Stites gave an update from the accountant handling a trust fund that Illinois Charities Incorporated has been named in.

The Charities Inc. board members purchased a ½ page color ad in the Rockford Observer Newspaper honoring Bishop Doran's 50th anniversary of priesthood.

The charity inc. board reviewed one application for a zero interest group home and has tabled that until a more complete application is received. There are possibly 2 group home loans to be awarded in February.

One Intellectual Disabilities fund application was approved and 3 were denied due to not meeting the criteria needed to be accepted.

Immediate Past State Deputy Jim Bednar felt the membership recruitment for Illinois is heading in the proper direction but state we must keep focused on the importance of 1st degrees at the local council level. That is the backbone of membership recruitment. Worthy Membership and Programming Consultant and Past State Deputy Joseph Pietruszynski was not able to attend the meeting due to his Supreme Responsibilities with the Georgia jurisdiction but did provide to the officers 8 questions on how the State of Illinois is performing to date. The meeting ended with a prayer given by General Program Director Frank Schwartz.