

MINNESOTA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

REPORT OF THE STATE ADVOCATE

May 17, 2019
Alexandria, Minnesota

Dear Brother Knights:

The past fraternal year marks my 31st year as your State Advocate. As always, I continue to enjoy working with the State Officers, staff, District Deputies, Grand Knights and Council members in regard to the rules of the Order and for the good of the Order. There are a few highlights of the year I wish to summarize for you:

1. Insurance Coverage.

I must emphasize that there is no blanket coverage by the State Council of insurance for local council activities. In the past we have looked into getting coverage for local councils, but found the premiums to be far in excess of what we could afford. Thus, it is incumbent upon each council to seek out a local insurance agent to secure insurance coverage for local council events. The Supreme Council provides an insurance policy for councils, but councils should be aware of not what is covered but what activities are exempt from coverage.

2. Charitable Gambling/Fundraising

The Knights of Columbus Councils continue to do well in complying with all state regulations of the Charitable Gambling Board. We continue to have a good working relationship with the State as an organization. In order to sustain this relationship, I urge all councils that do participate in any form of charitable gambling to be always up front and honest in working with the Charitable Gambling Board. If you have any general questions concerning gambling, feel free to call the State Board at 651-639-4000.

3. Home Associations/KC Halls

There has been some new developments regarding KC Halls. Traditionally, you will remember that legally they are separate corporate organizations with separate board of directors, separate tax numbers and separate tax EIN numbers. The common links are that the corporate shareholders and the members of the council are one and the same, and above all, the home association's main purpose is to serve to the benefit of the Knights of Columbus Council and its members.

The Supreme Board of the Knights of Columbus has issued a policy whereby all Home Associations/KC Halls cannot use the titles: "K of C" or "Knights of Columbus" in their signage or legal titles of ownership. These are copyright logos that are owned by Supreme and open the Order up to potential lawsuits. Please contact the State Advocate (952-492-2800) to arrange solutions/changes to accommodate your hall and your council.

4. Use of the Order for Political Purposes Forbidden

Under Section 162 of the Supreme Bylaws, it is strictly emphasized that politics may not be brought into the Order. Seeing that this is a political season, I must emphasize strongly that no member of the Knights of Columbus is to release any membership mailing list to any political candidate of any party. This is also true for nonpartisan offices. I also wish to emphasize that you are not to invite political candidates in the part of your lecture program. The reason for this is that many councils only invite one candidate and thus it becomes very one sided. But more importantly, once we start bringing political action into our councils, there is a great likelihood that our tax exemption status may be revoked and thus it will give serious consequences to our existence.

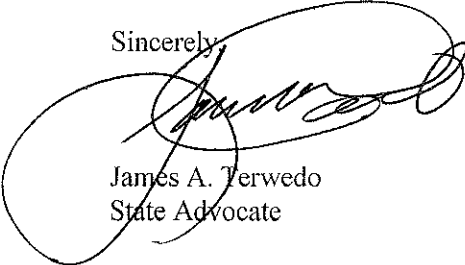
5. Rules of the Order and the Good of the Order

The rules of the Order have been developed over many years by the Supreme Board of Directors to insure consistency and purpose of our members. Unfortunately, there are times when strict rules of the Order may not apply to every situation in every council. And sometimes, the strict obligations of a rule may cause more harm than good. There are members of an Order who try to use the rules of the Order to their own advantage and bring disarray to the council. Above all, we all must look to the good of the Order and to the purpose for which we became Knights. There will be times when, in order to achieve the best goals of the Knights of Columbus; you may have to bypass crossing all of the "t's" and dotting the "i's" as dictated in the rules of the Order. So please, don't get overly hung up on the literal wording of the rules if it causes a breakdown in the orderly mission of your council. If at any time you need an interpretation of any rules of the Order, feel free to contact me.

Again, it is my honor to serve you as your State Advocate. I look forward to the upcoming year because, as always, when a job needs to get done, everybody looks to the Knights. Let us keep our image clean and shiny for all to admire.

As always, I remain

Sincerely,



James A. Terwedo
State Advocate

JAT/avj