

Report to the West Virginia State Council, Knights of Columbus

Submitted by the District Deputy #7, Richard Fauss

West Virginia State Org Meeting July 19-21, 2024

In the past twelve months the councils of District 7 have had some success in recruiting new members but less than in previous years, so obviously we need to improve. In person council meetings are standard. In person degrees are the goal but are not being held very often. It still remains difficult to get internet recruited prospects to attend the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity in person. The majority of the councils are active in terms of program,

Three fraternal years ago Parkersburg Council #594 was made a part of District 7. This is an experienced council with a good number of Knights who can lead the council. Joe Stocking, who brings considerable experience in the Knights from another area has been elected Grand Knight. Mike Evans will continue to serve as Financial Secretary. Both of these gentlemen are experienced Knights.

This council meets often and participates in many of the Knights programs such as Seminarian Support Raffle. They are strong supporters of Catholic Charities. They have continued to demonstrate they are active by recruiting new members. The DD had the privilege of again visiting this council this past week for the installation of officers. As part of this program this council awarded scholarships to students for college expenses, using proceeds of their long standing and well organized Fish Fry. This council takes pride in working with Father John Rice and the other area priests.

Council 771 [Charleston] members have acted on their desire to become more active Knights. The DD received help from Financial Secretary Pat Lamb and a number of 771 Knights to move forward to merging Council 771 and 12630. Accordingly a merger document was adopted by both councils on April 9, 2024. The DD wishes to thank Mark Sadd, a longtime Knight and local attorney who knows Knights in each council and PSD Paul Neidbalski for their help and guidance. The merger documents were sent to State Deputy Mike Stanger who forwarded the documents to Regional Growth Director William Chasse. RGD William Chasse advises that the merger will be considered at the Merger Board meeting in July .

Council 3232 of Montgomery is an older council recently completing 70 years, with stable leadership. After many successful years as GK Michael Siemiaczko has retired. The new Grand Knight is Charles Veasey who is an experienced Knight. Bob Wymer remains Financial Secretary. They continue to stay active by keeping up with their traditional money raising activities and have formed a ladies' auxiliary to assist with raising money to help with various charitable activities. This council assists local food banks

This council takes works with their parish priest to make sure his concerns are met. The DD has visited this council and can report that they are continuing many of their traditional activities such as Coats for Kids. They again plan to support a traditional summer camp started by Father Leon Alexander. Council 3232 participated in Seminarian Support and contributes to the ASAP Program. This council helps with a very good parish fish fry.

Council 12630 of Charleston has stable leadership with GK Richard Fauss and FS Michael Green. It engages in activities throughout the year in support of our charitable activities and to promote a feeling of community in the church. During this past Fraternal Year conducted our major fundraising activity at the Vandalia Gathering. We also hosted several Hot Dog and Ice Cream Socials over the Summer and helped with the parish picnic this fall. We participate in Coats for Kids and conduct both Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Drive and 40 Cans for Lent to benefit the Risen Lord Food Pantry in Clay County. This past spring this council held parish fish fries which were a success.

This council has approved merger documents with neighboring council 771, as has been detailed earlier in this report. Council 12630 takes pride in working with their parish priest who has been very supportive of council activities. The DD is a member of this council.

Council 12634 of Ravenswood has stable leadership with GK Frank Nestor and new FS Todd Roberts, who is an experienced Knight. This council has accomplished a great deal to help the church including a very nice parish hall which houses many activities including parish fish fries which were continued during lent. This council shares a meeting night with Council 12630, so I have not yet visited a meeting this year, although I have stopped by to visit. I visited one of the Fish Fries sponsored by this council last year which was nicely done and attended the Stations of the Cross. Frank he talks of the many activities of this council which include Christmas and religious activities for the children of the parish, including working with Special Olympics. This council enjoys working with their parish priest to make sure his concerns are met.