

Knights of Columbus WV State Council



WV By-Laws

118th West Virginia State Convention By-Laws

Article I – Organization

Section 1

This body shall be known as the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus. Its jurisdiction shall be co-extensive with the boundaries of the State of West Virginia. The powers of the State Council are set forth in the Charter, Constitution and laws of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. These by-laws shall in no way conflict with the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Supreme Council or the Board of Directors.

Section 2

a) The West Virginia State Council shall consist of the following who have voice and vote:

1. The Supreme Knight, ex-officio.
2. The State Officers who shall be the State Deputy, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Advocate, State Warden, and State Chaplain.

3. The Immediate Past State Deputy, provided, however, that when the Last Living Past State Deputy is actually residing in another state or jurisdiction, he shall thereby forever forfeit such right, and his nearest predecessor actually residing in West Virginia shall be entitled thereto.
4. The Grand Knight of each subordinate council in good standing.
5. A delegate from each subordinate council in good standing who shall be elected from the Past Grand Knights of the council. A council having no Past Grand Knight eligible and willing to serve may elect any one of its third degree members in good standing.
6. Alternates, who serve in the absence of the Grand Knight or delegate, who shall be elected from the third degree membership of the council, but need not be Past Grand Knights.

b) The West Virginia State Council shall also consist of the following who shall have voice (includes making motions) but do not vote:

1. All Past State Deputies.
2. All District Deputies.
3. Chairmen (not more than twelve) of standing committees of the State Council may be members of the State Council by expressed provision in its by-laws, but with the right to speak only on questions pertaining to the functions of their particular committees and without the right to vote. Thus, standing committee chairmen who are granted limited State Council membership under its by-laws and who are not otherwise members of the State Council have the right to present committee reports and to speak on any question pertaining to their committee function. They do not have the right solely as such chairmen to make motions or nominations or to vote on any question.

Section 3

The West Virginia State Council shall be convened annually in May, each year and every year, at a place designated by the previous State Council. The Convention shall convene on the Saturday following Mother's Day. It shall be the duty of the State Secretary to forward to each council in the State written or electronic notice of the time and place of the meetings at least 30 days prior to said meeting by US Postage Service or by electronic means.

Section 4

The State Council, in convention assembled, shall discuss policies and programs, and endeavor to promote the general welfare of the Order, shall transact such business and enact such rules and regulations as may be consistent with the Charter, Constitution, and Laws of the Knights of Columbus.

Section 5

The State Secretary shall prepare and furnish five credential forms to the Financial Secretary of each council, at least six weeks prior to the meeting of the State Council.

Section 6

The Grand Knights of each subordinate council shall instruct the Financial Secretary to prepare and certify credentials of the Grand Knight, the delegate and alternates on the forms so furnished, and send one copy to the State Secretary at least two weeks prior to the date of the annual meeting and shall deliver one copy to each Grand Knight, delegate, and alternate, who shall present same at said meeting.

Section 7

Temporary Roll Call of Delegates, The State Secretary shall prepare a roll of names of all Grand Knights, delegates, and alternates on the credentials presented to him prior to the calling to order of the meeting of said State Council and said roll shall be the roll of the State Council until the Committee on Credentials has submitted its report and the permanent roll determined by the action of the meeting on said report.

Section 8

Contest of delegates: In the case of a contest for a seat in convention, one member of each side may appear and make argument before the Committee on Credentials, each being allowed time not to exceed five minutes, except by special consent of the Committee. Said Committee's decision shall be the recommendation to the convention for the seat in the convention.

Section 9

Council in Arrears: Councils not having paid indebtedness owing to the Supreme Council or the State Council within the time required by law shall not be entitled to representation in the State Council.

Section 10

All Councils instituted prior to January 1 or July 1, shall not be liable for assessments levied by the State Council for the next succeeding half year following such institution.

Section 11

The State Deputy shall appoint Standing Committees, and the State Deputy shall appoint Special Committees when deemed necessary by him, or when directed by the action of the State Council. All Standing and Special Committees shall make reports to the State Deputy when directed by him, the reports shall be in writing and signed by the Committee Chairman.

The Standing Committees of the West Virginia State Council shall be as follows:

- a) Membership and Retention
- b) Family Activities
- c) Church Activities
- d) Community Activities
- e) New Council Development
- f) Ceremonials
- g) Culture of Life
- h) Athletic Events
- i) Publicity
- j) Website
- k) Keep Christ in Christmas
- l) Vocations

The Special Committees of the West Virginia State Council shall be as follows (the Directors of these committees shall submit reports in writing):

- a) Scholarship
- b) Mentally Handicapped Program
- c) Roundtables
- d) Catholic Schools Dinner
- e) Youth Activities

- f) Council Activities
- g) Others as required or recommended by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council or the West Virginia State Council.
- h) Keep Christ in Christmas

Section 12

The following committees shall be appointed for operation during the State Convention only:

- a) Appreciation
- b) Audit and Budget
- c) Credentials
- d) Resolutions
- e) Good of the Order
- f) Warden's
- g) Tellers and Judges
- h) Mileage and Per Diem

Section 13

All meetings of the State Council shall be conducted in the Third Section, and a majority of the members of the State Council will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The State Warden, and his assistants as appointed by the State Deputy, shall ascertain if each third degree member has a signed paid-up membership card as he enters the chamber of each session of the State Convention.

Section 14

The State Deputy shall preside at all sessions of the State Council, performing the usual duties of Chairman. He shall be ex-officio, a member of all State Council Committees.

Section 15

All resolutions, petitions, recommendations of changes, and amendments of the By-Laws shall be submitted, in writing, to the State Secretary and State Advocate at least thirty days prior to the annual State Council meeting. These shall then be processed by the State Secretary and State Advocate and then referred to the Committee on Resolutions. Resolutions and petitions, which do not pertain to changes of the By-Laws should be presented in the same manner but in any case must be presented to the Committee on Resolutions prior to its report to the State Council. Resolutions and petitions, which as a matter of course are presented annually as part of the State Council proceedings shall be considered to have met these procedures.

Section 16

Speaking Limitations. When a member is about to speak, he shall rise and address the Chair. The presiding officer shall request the name of the member and the council he represents, who, when recognized, shall confine himself to the subject under consideration. No member shall speak more than once upon any question until all others who desire to speak have spoken. The State Deputy may set a time limit for each speaker.

Section 17

The roll shall not be called upon a demand for yeas and nays, unless requested by majority by vote of the members present.

Section 18

Except as otherwise provided herein and in the absence of a standing rule of the State Council or Supreme Council, Robert's Revised Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the State Council sessions.

Section 19

The State Council shall have authority to levy, collect and enforce such assessments upon the subordinate council or membership in the State as it might deem necessary for the defraying of its legitimate expenses.

Section 20

The order of business of the State Convention shall be as follows:

- a) First Session
 - 1. Call to Order and Opening Ceremonies
 - 2. Report of the State Warden
 - 3. Opening Prayer
 - 4. Singing of the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States
 - 5. Singing of the Opening Ode
 - 6. Report of the Credentials Committee Chairman
 - 7. Roll Call by State Secretary
 - 8. Keynote Speech
 - 9. Announcements of meetings and various convention committees
 - 10. Reading of late communications
 - 11. Report of the State Deputy
 - 12. Call for acceptance of published reports of other State Officers, District Deputies, and Committee Chairmen, and Grand Knights
 - 13. Announcements
 - 14. Adjournment and Prayer

- b). Second Session
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Report of State Warden
 - 3. Opening Prayer
 - 4. Pledge to Flag
 - 5. Address
 - 6. Report of Resolutions Committee
 - 7. Further Reports of Convention Committees
 - 8. Review of State Council Budget
 - 9. Announcements
 - 10. Adjournment and Prayer

- c). Third Session
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Report of State Warden
 - 3. Opening Prayer
 - 4. Pledge to Flag
 - 5. Unfinished Business
 - 6. New Business
 - 7. Report of Credentials Committee
 - 8. Election of State Officers, Election of delegates, and alternates to the Supreme International Convention
 - 9. Report of Appreciation's Committee
 - 10. Report of Audit and Budget Committee
 - 11. Report of Good of the Order Committee
 - 12. Report of Scholarship Committee

13. Report of Other Committees
14. Announcements
15. Adjournments and Prayer

Article II – Finances

Section 1

All money owing to the State Council shall be made payable to the West Virginia State Council Knights of Columbus (Specific Account) by a check, draft, or money order, and forwarded to the State Secretary ONLY. The State Secretary shall immediately record the same and forward to the State Treasurer, who shall immediately deposit the same into the appropriate account. The forwarding council shall, at the same time, separately notify the State Treasurer, and special purpose Director as appropriate, of the date, amount and account of all monies forwarded to the State Secretary.

Section 2

All money of the State Council shall be deposited in depositories to the account of the West Virginia State Council. Special purpose accounts shall include identification of the special purpose. All accounts shall be subject to checks signed by the State Deputy or the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall be automatically bonded by the Supreme Council in the amount of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00). No warrant on the State Treasurer shall be paid unless countersigned by the State Deputy.

Section 3

The State Council shall levy a per capita assessment on all subordinate Councils in the State of West Virginia. Such assessments shall be charged against each Council in proportion to the membership of such Council as of the 30th day of June each year. The State Secretary will use the Supreme Council Membership Insurance Progress Report dated July 1 to December 31st following the adjournment of the State Council. The State Secretary will notify each council of assessments due not later than July 31st. Such per capita assessment when levied shall continue in force and effect unless and until reduced or increased by the action of the State Council. Any subordinate Council in arrears for the per capita tax or any assessment properly levied shall be denied representation at the meetings of the State Council, and if such arrearage continues for sixty (60) days, the State Deputy shall have authority to suspend such delinquent councils.

Section 4

Allowances for Attendance and Services: The Grand Knight of each Council or his alternate, State Officers, Past State Deputies, District Deputies, and State Council Committee Chairmen, and others as designated by the State Deputy shall be allowed per diem and mileage for actual attendance at the annual State Convention. The expenses of the second delegate from each subordinate council shall be paid by his council. Mileage shall be allowed for automobile only, based on one-way mileage. Per Diem allowance shall not exceed two days. Actual mileage and per diem amounts shall be determined from time to time by resolution adopted at an annual State Convention.

Section 5

State Officers, State Council Committee Chairmen, and other designated by the State Deputy, shall be allowed mileage and per diem, as specified in Section 4, for actual attendance at other meetings called by the State Deputy. District Deputies

shall also receive these allowances when not reimbursed by the Supreme Council. The expenses of a Grand Knight shall be paid by his council.

Section 6

Other Allowances. State Officers shall be allowed such compensation for the expenses of their respective offices as maybe determined by the State Council.

Section 7

The State Deputy shall direct the audits by an independent auditor are performed as required by the Supreme Council or governmental agency. Theses audits shall be conducted on all accounts held in the name of the West Virginia State Council. A copy of the written opinion, including financial statements, shall be made a part of the State Council proceedings. These audits are required by Section 56(b) of the Order's Laws and must be complied with.

Article III – Elections

Section 1

The State Deputy, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Advocate, State Warden and delegates and alternates to the Supreme Convention shall be elected annually by ballot, from the membership at large. The State Deputy in a manner acceptable with the Bishop of the Diocese shall appoint a State Chaplain.

Section 2

The nomination of candidates for State Deputy, other State Officers and delegates and alternates to the Supreme Convention of both the insurance and associate class shall be made. Only insurance members may be nominated as the insurance delegates. The number of insurance delegates shall be as determined by the Supreme Council. Insurance members are qualified for nomination as candidates for associate delegates. If at the time of the Supreme Convention, any such insurance or associate delegate, or his alternate is unable to attend the Supreme Convention, then in that event the selection of a delegate shall be made as provided for in the Charter, Constitution and laws of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council.

Section 3

Supreme Convention Alternates shall be elected by finishing as first runner up in the delegate election of the same position. Candidates appointed as alternates in this fashion may still run for other available positions. If at the completion of elections alternates have not been appointed an additional elections may be held as needed.

Section 4

Speeches presenting candidates for election to the Supreme Council shall not exceed five minutes in length. The seconding nominations shall be limited to the mere mention of the name of the candidate, the name of the person so seconding such nomination and the name of the council he represents.

Section 5

When votes are taken by ballot for the election of officers, delegates and alternates, the same shall be on a uniform size of white paper, the same to be furnished by the State Secretary.

Section 6

The State Deputy or presiding officer shall appoint Tellers to receive, sort and count the votes, and report the result to the chair.

Section 7

When only one candidate is nominated for a State Office, or only a number of candidates equal to the number of delegates or alternates to be elected to the Supreme Council are nominated, the State Deputy may direct the State Secretary to cast the unanimous ballot of the State Council for such candidate or candidates who may then be declared duly elected.

Section 8

In all cases of election to any office in the State Council, a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect, except that when several of equal degree are to be elected, as delegates or alternates.

Section 9

Officers right to vote. The State Deputy, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Advocate, State Warden, State Chaplain, and the Immediate Past State Deputy (as defined in Article 1, Section 2(a)(3)) shall have the right to vote. Should the Supreme Knight be present, he also has the right to vote.

Section 10

The terms of all State Officers shall be for one (1) year, beginning on the first day of July and ending on the thirtieth of June of the next succeeding year.

Section 11

District Deputies shall be appointed in accordance with the Supreme Council Rules.

Section 12

All other living Past State Deputies shall be members of the State Council and shall enjoy the same privileges as the Immediate Past State Deputy, with the exception of the right to vote.

Article IV – Duties of Officers

Section 1

State Deputy. The duties of the State Deputy shall be defined by the Charter, Constitution and laws of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council.

Section 2

State Secretary. The State Secretary shall cause to keep a true and faithful record of the proceedings of the State Council. He shall notify each subordinate council of assessments due, not later than July 31st. He shall not place the names of any delegates or alternates on the roll call unless their respective councils have paid duly levied assessments according to the procedure set forth in these By-Laws. He shall prepare and furnish credential blanks to the Financial Secretaries of each subordinate council, together with a bill of assessments remaining unpaid, not later than April 1st of each year. He shall forward to each council notification of the place and date of the annual State Meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting. Credentials, which indicate the place and the date of, said meeting shall meet the notification requirement. He shall prepare a roll of names of all delegates and alternates from the credentials furnished to him prior to the calling to order of the State Council, and shall refer said roll to the Committee on Credentials. He shall prepare and send credentials to all living Past State Deputies entitled to membership. He shall maintain registers for each account in the name of West Virginia State Council. He shall, immediately upon receipt of moneys forward to the

State Treasurer, and duly note the same in the proper account register. He shall prepare vouchers for disbursements from any account and record them in the register for the proper account.

He shall receive and pass on to the State Advocate all petitions, resolutions and amendments of any nature. Resolutions shall include all those adopted at the previous State Convention, including the year of initial adoption.

Section 3

State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall pay all money orders drawn upon him by the State Secretary. He shall deposit all moneys as outlined in Article II, Section 2, and shall keep accurate records of same as set forth by the Supreme Council. He shall maintain separate registers for each account of the West Virginia State Council. He shall, immediately upon receipt, deposit all moneys forwarded to him in the proper register. He shall record all disbursements in the register for the disbursing account.

Section 4

State Advocate. The State Advocate shall be the attorney of the State Council in case of trial and investigation of any matter whatsoever of interest to the State Council. He shall receive from the State Secretary, a copy of all resolutions, petitions, and amendments which are to be presented at the State Council and after due consideration of same, these shall be referred to the Committee on Resolutions without debate. He shall forward to the Supreme Secretary all resolutions adopted at the State Convention pertaining to revision of the State Council By-Laws, and additional resolutions that seek Supreme Council or Board consideration. Those resolutions shall be forwarded within ten (10) days of the Convention in accord with Section 22 of the Order's Constitution. He shall have prepared and sent to the Financial Secretary of each subordinate council, not later than the first day of June, forms for the reporting of the name and address of Council Officers elected for the coming year. He shall prepare and cause to have available a report of the proceedings of the State Council Annual and Mid-Year Meetings, said report to be certified by the State Deputy. A copy of the Annual Report shall be distributed to each council at the time of the Organizational Meeting, and the printed copy of the proceedings of the Mid-Year Meeting distributed to the same at the time of the Annual Meeting.

Section 5

State Warden. The State Warden shall have custody of all property belonging to the State Council. He shall check travel cards at all State Meetings and shall admit no one but delegates and alternates and those others so entitled to the privilege of the floor, except by permission of the State Council.

Section 6

Representatives to the Supreme Council. These delegates shall, to the best of their ability, promote all actions of the Supreme Council that will best serve the interests of the Knights of Columbus as a whole and the State of West Virginia in particular.

Section 7

The State Chaplain shall have complete charge of any matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the State Council.

Section 8

District Deputies shall perform all duties as required by the Supreme Council and the State Deputy. In addition, they shall attend the regular meetings of the State Council and make a written report of the conditions and activities of their respective districts.

Section 9

The immediate Past State Deputy, actually residing in the State of West Virginia, shall assist the State Deputy. All other Past State Deputies are entitled to serve on committees as appointed by the State Deputy.

Section 10

Additional Duties. In addition to the above listed duties, the State Officers shall do and perform any additional duties of their office, which the State Council or the State Deputy may direct.

Article V – Miscellaneous

Section 1

Activity Program. To the best of its ability, the State Council shall conduct annually a program as outlined by the Supreme Council.

Section 2

Annual Communion. To insure that each member of the Knights of Columbus fulfills his religious obligation, it is recommended that the members of each Council approach Holy Communion in a body during Easter on a date set by each council.

Section 3

Appointing of Committees. The State Deputy in his discretion, in appointing his various committees, may draw upon Past State Deputies and other third degree Knights in good standing. It being the desire of the State Council to in some way induce and perpetuate participation by the Past State Deputies in the activities of our Order and to involve new participation in the same.

Section 4

Charitable Fund. That a sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) be set aside annually for a charitable fund. This fund may be disbursed at the discretion of the State Deputy in amounts not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), for a total of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) annually for worthwhile purposes. The State Council assembled must approve disbursements in excess of these amounts. The State Deputy shall report on disbursements and make it a part of the fund audit. This fund is not to exceed a total accumulation value of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00).

Section 5

Program Burse. That a sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) be set aside annually for a "Program Burse". This fund may be used at the discretion of the State Deputy for programs that promote Columbianism ideals within West Virginia. The State Council assembled must approve disbursements in excess of this amount. The State Deputy shall report on disbursements and make it part of the fund audit. This fund shall not exceed a total accumulation value of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00).

Article VI – By-Laws

Section 1

How Amended. These By-Laws or any part thereof may be amended or repealed at any meeting of the State Council by a two-thirds vote, and such amendments or repeal shall be effective when duly approved by the Supreme Board of Directors. These By-Laws not in conflict with the laws of the Supreme Council, or any part thereof, may be suspended at any meeting by unanimous consent.

Section 2

When Effective. The West Virginia State Council, Knights of Columbus, in its annual meeting assembled in Clarksburg, West Virginia, on May 19th and 20th 2018 do hereby repeal all By-Laws heretofore adopted or existing together with amendments thereto and parts thereof, and do hereby enact and adopt the foregoing By-Laws of the West Virginia State Council, Knights of Columbus, and the adoption of which shall become effective and the above repeal shall be considered in force upon the approval thereof by the Supreme Board of Directors, and authority is hereby vested in the elected State Officers of this Council or a majority thereof to conform, change or add to these By-Laws in such a manner and in such respects as will meet the approval and direction of the said Supreme Board of Directors.

By-Laws Committee:
Brian Gordon, DD # 1
Doug White, GK Council 872
Rick Corbin, GK Council 10011

Adoption Moved By: Gerald Schmitt, PSD, VSM
Seconded By: Dick Sepkowski, PSD

Passed May 18, 2019

Approved as corrected, by vote of the Supreme Council Board of Directors
at its meeting in August 2017

118TH STATE CONVENTION MINUTES

DUE TO THE ONGOING COVIT 19 PANDEMIC, THE SUPREME COUNCIL BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS MANDATED THAT ALL JURIDITIONAL ANNUAL CONVENTIONS BE PRESENTED IN A VIRTUAL MODE. THE DATE AND TIMES WERE SET BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO REQUESTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL JURISDICTIONS. ALSO BY MOTION PASSED, ALL CURRENT CONVENTION PROCEDURES AT EACH JURISDICTION WERE ORDERED TO BE WAIVED AT THIS TIME.

WEST VIRGINIA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION WAS TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY MAY 16TH STARTING AT 2 PM

EACH COUNCIL IN GOOD STANDING WAS ABLE TO SELECT 2 BROTHER KNIGHTS TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. THE STATE SECRETARY WOULD BE CHARGED WITH PROVIDING A LIST OF ATTENDEES (2 PER COUNCIL). IN THE INTEREST OF TRANSPARENCY, EACH JURISDICTION WAS ALLOWED TO HAVE 4 ADDITIONAL NON-VOTING BROTHERS TO ATTEND.

IN ADDITION, THE SUPREME COUNCIL MANDATED WHAT VIRTUAL PLATFORM WAS TO BE USED AND MONITORED THE MEETING. TO VERIFY COMPLIANCE AND HELP WITH AND PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT PRESENT THEMSELVES. PETER HARRISON FROM SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, WAS CHARGED WITH THIS DUTY. THE PLATFORM DESIGNATED WAS FLS CONNECT BY TELEPHONE ONLY.

A SAMPLE SCRIPT WAS PROVIDED BY SUPREME AND OUR SCRIPT WAS TO BE PRESENTED FOR THEIR APPROVAL. THIS WAS TO VERIFY THAT EVERY JURISDICTION COMPLETED THE REQUIRED BUSINESS BEFORE THEM IN SIMILAR MANNER.

***** IN THE INTEREST OF TRANSPARENCY; I, PAUL NIEDBALSKI WEST VIRGINIA STATE DEPUTY, HAVE ORDERED THAT MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL TO REVIEW. THIS WAS DONE SINCE THERE WAS NO PRIVILEGE INFORMATION IN THOSE MINUTES. *****

The 118th State Council Resolutions



**Presented on May 16, 2020
Online Virtual Convention**

118th West Virginia Convention Resolutions

Resolution No. 1

RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council, in its One-Hundred Eighteenth Convention, respectfully and solemnly pledge our loyalty to our Most Reverend Bishop Mark Brennan. We pray that his spirituality will call us to a future, which will be rich in ecumenical experience with all our Christian Brothers. (2020) Amended
Action: Passed

Resolution No. 2

RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council, in its One-Hundred Eighteenth Convention assembled, gratefully express to our Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, our Supreme Officers and Directors, our utmost appreciation for their capable leadership and services during the past year.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we, in Convention, assembled via online virtual meeting, are indeed grateful and applaud the presence here with us of Brother Ronald Schwarz, Supreme Treasurer (2020) Amended
Action: Passed

Resolution No. 3

RESOLVED: To worthy State Deputy Paul Niedbalski, we express our gratitude in this most successful Virtual State Convention. We would like to extend to the Supreme Office our sincere appreciation for their arrangements of the first virtual convention. (2020) Amended
Action: Passed

Resolution No. 4

RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus continue to conduct an annual Council Officers Training School in each District of said State Council, same to be conducted under the supervision of the District Deputy. The school is to be attended by the Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, General Program Chairman, and one or more Trustees of each Council within each respective District. (1977) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS: The Year of the Family has been extended on a permanent basis by the Bishops of the United States.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council and its subordinate councils of the Knights of Columbus shall engage in programs which will strengthen "The Family" by making our homes the place where we pray together and live our Christian lives together as did the Holy Family. The members of our Order must set good examples to those committed to our care. We will make the Holy Family our ideal and above all we shall make Jesus the very center of our family life, thus preserving the sanctity of "The Family" in this nation. (1988) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS: The State Deputy receives requests for contributions to various charitable and emergency organizations; and
WHEREAS: The State Deputy is not always able to determine the legitimate nature of such requests.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That a committee be established to determine the true nature and amount of contribution to be made in response to requests made of the State Deputy. Such committee shall include the State Deputy, a District Deputy, and a Grand Knight to review the request. The State Deputy may choose to name additional members to the committee as he sees fit. (1984) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 7

WHEREAS: New Councils have very little funds when first established to purchase items needed to function properly.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the State Council of West Virginia will furnish Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to each new council established in West Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the State Council of West Virginia will purchase a full set of Council Officers Jewels for each new established council in West Virginia. (1992) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 8

WHEREAS: The success of this brotherhood in West Virginia in good times and bad, is due to those Brother Knights who have served as our leaders; and

WHEREAS: It is proper that the State Council of West Virginia give formal recognition to the families of deceased leaders so that the often great, difficult, kind, and charitable works of these leaders is not soon forgotten.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the State Secretary shall prepare a necrology for the Mass on the occasion of the Annual State Convention. Said necrology shall include, but not be limited to Past and Present State Officers, Chaplains, District Deputies, Grand Knights, Masters and Faithful Navigators of the Fourth Degree, of West Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the State Council of West Virginia, in Annual Convention, will read aloud the names of these deceased leaders in conjunction with a memorial service led by the State Chaplain.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the widow, or family, of the deceased leader be sent proper notice on official stationery, signed by the State Deputy of West Virginia, with a copy sent to the current Grand Knight or Faithful Navigator of the deceased members' Council or Assembly. (1993) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS: The West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus has in the past sponsored athletic events, which required planning and preparation; and

WHEREAS: It is of the utmost importance that these and future activities be conducted from year to year

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the individual councils sponsoring these events/ tournaments shall announce at the annual convention or mid-year meeting the nature of the event and dates and sites of them to the extent possible, and announce the possible use of event proceeds. If it determined that this is a statewide function, the sum of One Dollar (1.00) per participant, with the minimum of one hundred and fifty dollars (150.00) be paid to the host council to aid in covering event expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the host council recognize that many members regard these events as family affairs, and to the extent reasonable, make provisions for other family members in the planning of the event. In addition, these events can be used to recruit new members to our order and bring attention to the community the purpose and scope of the Knights of Columbus. The host council shall determine if the participants are members of our Order, or if the event is open to all members in the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all such events shall be under the direction of the State Athletic Director, who shall have the following responsibilities:

- 1) Promulgate and publish rules and regulations obtained from the host council for each event.
- 2) Determine that the event represents the goals of our Order, any questions should be referred to the State Advocate or Supreme Advocate's office for clarification.

- 3) Ensure that host council forwards the results and prizes to all participants in a timely manner. Not to exceed 10 days from the event. (2017) Amended Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 10

WHEREAS: The State Council office of State Advocate is established to provide the State Officers with legal counsel;

WHEREAS: The previous practice of a practicing attorney serve as the State Advocate is no longer followed;

WHEREAS: In the recent past the State Council has required the service of legal counsel because of legal action against the State Council, or to provide legal advise for other activities of the State Council; and

WHEREAS: It has been necessary to secure such council, or even to proceed without legal counsel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the position of Associate Advocate be established. Such position shall be filled by a Third Degree member of the Knights of Columbus who is a practicing attorney. The appointment to the position shall be made by the State Deputy in council with the State Council Officers, and the Candidate shall serve at the will and pleasure of the State Deputy. The Associate State Advocate shall attend all State Council meetings, and other meetings of the State Officers as determined by the State Deputy. (1998) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 11

WHEREAS: The number of vocations to the religious life is diminishing each year;

WHEREAS: The mother Church needs help in recruiting people for the Religious life;

WHEREAS: There are individuals who are undecided the direction their life should go; and

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus support vocations to the Religious life.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: A West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council will reach out to the Diocesan Vocation Director to offer assistance as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The State Council Vocations Chairman will be responsible for this task. (2014) Amended: Action–Passed

Resolution No. 12

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic Organization in the country;

WHEREAS: The Mass is a Catholic Obligation;

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus is Family Oriented;

WHEREAS: The Supreme Council would like each State to perform some worthy church activity yearly; and

WHEREAS: The Rosary is a valuable Prayer, and prior to the Mass, the Rosary is said by the members and family members.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: All West Virginia State Council members are invited to attend Mass in a body with family members each 5th Sunday of the month. (2001) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 13

WHEREAS: Each year the State Council makes Service Program Awards under Supreme Council categories;

WHEREAS: It is the objective to submit the best program in each category to the Supreme Council for order wide recognition; and

WHEREAS: The Supreme Council has provided the criteria followed in making its choice of the International winners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That those criteria as presented here shall be established as those used to determine State Council winning programs:

Service Program Awards Criteria

The Supreme Council Service Program Awards recognizes those councils conducting outstanding projects in each of the four categories of the Faith in Action program model; Faith, Family, Community, and Life. Judging criteria as received from the Supreme Council follow:

1. All entries shall be submitted on Supreme Council form STSP, found on the Supreme Council Web-Site. No entry will be considered without this form.
2. The project is based on a SINGLE project or activity conducted by the council in the May 1 to April 30 year. It is not a series of activities in a single area of the Service Program.
3. A project submitted in the wrong category will be disqualified. A community-wide project to benefit a parish church is a Church activity, not a Community one. Ask the question, "Who benefits from this program?"
4. All entries shall be in the hands of the responsible State Activity Chairman by May 1st. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.
5. The State Activity Chairman will serve as the chairman and additional members of the committee may be appointed by the State Deputy as he may determine to be required.
6. No Activity Chairman or Judge will be permitted to judge a project submitted by his council. The State Deputy will contact each chairman to determine if additional judges will be needed but the chairman will not change.
7. All judging will be completed prior to the arrival at the State Convention. It is intended that the Awards will be presented at a banquet Saturday evening of the convention. No Council will be permitted to enter a project, which has judged the winning project in the previous three years. This rule does not deny another council to submit a similar project.

Guidelines for Competition Judging

The following "Basis for Judging" distributed by the State Council shall be used for Service Program Awards.

1. *Nature of the activity:* Does it demonstrate the objectives of the Service Program (Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service)?
2. *Participation of membership in project:* How many members participated? What percentage of the entire membership participated?
3. *Results:* What were the benefits derived from sponsorship of the project? How did the results affect Faith, Family, Community or Life?
4. *Program Originality:* Was the program something new?
5. *Committee planning:* How effectively was the program organized? How much detail was involved in staging the event?

6. *Delegation of responsibility:* How many members served as workers or planners? What type of organization was established for implementation of the project?
7. *Publicity:* How effectively was the program publicized throughout the area (Radio and Television, local and diocesan newspapers, and council newsletters)?

While supporting documentation can be submitted, the complete documentation on the current year STSP form should be the controlling factor. It most certainly will be in Supreme Council judging. (2018) Action: Amended. Passed

Resolution No. 14

WHEREAS: The West Virginia State Council and the Supreme Council make awards in addition to the Service Awards addressed in Resolution 15;

WHEREAS: The determination of the winners shall be determined in a manner allowing the State Deputy sufficient time to make arrangements for the winners to attend and be recognized at the annual State Council Convention; and

WHEREAS: The criteria for those awards differ from those applied to the Service Awards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That those Awards and Criteria for judging are as follows:

1. Knight of the Year
2. Family of the Year
3. District Deputy of the Year
4. Top Proposer of the Year
5. Priest of the Year
6. International Leave No Neighbor Behind

Entries for the Knight and Family of the Year shall be forwarded to the State Deputy only prior to May 1st of each year. The winning entry will be determined by the State Deputy and such committee as he determines. The Family of the Year award shall be submitted to the Supreme Council for consideration for the Supreme Council International award. The entry shall be submitted prior to the deadline determined by the Supreme Council.

Top Proposer candidates shall also be submitted to the State Deputy only by May 1st.

District Deputy of the Year shall be determined by the State Deputy without committee. (2020) Amended Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 15

WHEREAS: All persons associated with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, together with all other ladies who become associated with them and their successors, are constituted a body corporate by the name Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus;

WHEREAS: The purpose of the organization is (a) to aid the Knights of Columbus Councils; (b) by promoting and conducting educational, charitable and religious work;

WHEREAS: It may adopt a constitution, by laws, rules and regulations for its own government and the advancement of its own well-being; and

WHEREAS: The State Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus would consist of two bodies from each auxiliary. This would include the President and one elected lady. Their goals would be to assist councils in setting up a Ladies Auxiliary if none

has been formed. They would also assist in statewide functions of the Knights of Columbus. (2002) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 16

WHEREAS: The State Secretary is in line for the position as State Deputy.

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has placed emphasis on education of State Officers as to their duties and responsibilities.

WHEREAS: The Supreme Convention affords the delegates an insight into the complexity of the order.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The State Secretary shall be strongly considered for the position of Supreme Convention Delegate during at least one of his two years in the office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The State Secretary should attend the Supreme Convention at least once prior to becoming State Deputy in the normal course of events. If not elected as a delegate and if the funds are available, the State Council will pay his expenses at a delegate rate. (2014) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 17

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the State Council per capita assessment shall be Six Dollars (\$6.00) annually. College Council per capita assessment shall be Two Dollars (\$2.00) annually. Inactive members shall be Four Dollars (\$4.00) annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the State Council has established the mileage rate at Forty-Five Cents (\$.45) per mile, one way; and a per diem rate of Eighty Dollars (\$80.00), not to exceed two (2) days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the State Council forward to the State Convention host council the sum of Ten Cents (\$.10) per member, based on the Supreme Council Membership Insurance Program Progress Report dated July 1 of the Fraternal Year of the Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That attendance of Grand Knights and or Financial Secretary at other meetings called by the State Deputy is vital to the ultimate success of the State Council service programs and communication with subordinate councils. And since personal financial considerations may hinder such attendance, the State Deputy has the discretion to provide Grand Knights and or Financial Secretary a sum of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for food allowance and Forty-Five Cents (\$.45) per mile, one way, for attendance at "other meetings called by the State Deputy". Total expenditure not to exceed one day per such scheduled meeting. (2017) Amended, Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 18

WHEREAS: The exemplification of the Knighthood Degree is important to the growth of the Order and necessary to teach the lessons of Charity, Unity and Fraternity to all members;

WHEREAS: The Initiation Fee of each new member of the Order is intended to cover the cost of that members initiation in all three Degrees of the Order;

WHEREAS: Knighthood Degrees are scheduled well in advance by the State Deputy and are known by all Councils;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That each subordinate Council be assessed at the rate of Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each new member. This fee shall not apply to reinstated members, and subordinate councils shall make note of any corrections to fees charge when remitting fees to the State Secretary. Monies so collected shall be placed in a fund to defray costs of the Exemplification of the Knighthood Degree, and that the State Council shall supplement the fund as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Presenter of the Fraternal Charge be reimbursed at the current mileage rate of the State Council.

(2014) Action: Amended, Passed

Resolution No. 19

WHEREAS: The success of the State Council, and its operation, and the Subordinate Councils, depends upon information transmitted between the two bodies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus be made available to the State Officers and each council at the time of the Mid-Year Meeting, and that a transcript the Proceedings of the Mid-Year Meeting be made to the same at the time of the Annual State Meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the State Secretary and the State Treasurer of the West Virginia State Council, Knights of Columbus submit their required financial reports based on a fiscal year of July 1st to June 30th, and that the official reports and audits be distributed at each Mid-Year Meeting. Furthermore, these reports and audits shall include the Charitable and Program Funds, as well as all other West Virginia State Council special purpose funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the State Deputy be empowered to edit reports of State Officers, District Deputies, State Program Directors and Chairmen, and Grand Knights to each Annual Convention to limit such reports to no more one page. This restriction is not applicable to the State Deputy's Annual Report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a printed copy of the proceedings will be available upon request.

(2003) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 20

WHEREAS: It is proper for the State Council to establish programs to recognize the contributions of both individual Councils and individual Knights for contributions to both the Church and the Order.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That each year a State Church Activity Award be presented to a Council or a Catholic Layman for outstanding support of the Church. The recipient of this award to be chosen from recommendations made by the councils, the State Activities Chairman, the State Deputy and the State Chaplain, with the approval of the Ordinary of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese.

Recommendations for the award must be submitted to the State Deputy at the annual Mid-Year Meeting, and the choice finalized in time so as to be presented at the following Annual Meeting of the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That because Council Newsletters are an excellent communication to inform not only local council members, but State Officers, State Program Directors and Chairmen of local council activities, each subordinate council publishing a newsletter transmit a copy of the same to all State Officers, Chairmen and Directors, and all West Virginia Grand Knights. A committee under the direction of the State Publicity Director shall determine the best council newsletter and the State Council shall present a suitable award to be presented to that council at the Annual Meeting. (2003) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 21

WHEREAS: The West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus, and it's subordinate councils have continuously supported the Mentally Handicapped Program since 1979; and

WHEREAS: The subject council has established the COLUMBIA MENTALLY HANDICAPPED FOUNDATION as a separate entity with the jurisdiction of the State Council to direct this program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus, assembled in Convention, is dedicated to continuing this program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all subordinate councils participating in the annual Mentally Handicapped Drive, and following the rules and guidelines set forth under license and registration granted to the West Virginia State Council, Knights of Columbus, that the subordinate council's share of net proceeds from its drive be set at Eighty-Five Percent (85%), and the Columbia Mentally Handicapped Foundation share be set at Fifteen Percent (15%).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the State Secretary and the State Treasurer of the West Virginia State Council be permitted to transfer from the West Virginia State Council all funds remitted to it from the various drives to the Foundation, except that it shall retain a sum not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,500.00), which the State Council shall use to pay the necessary expenses it may occur for the success of the program (i.e., liability insurance). (2003) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 22

WHEREAS: The West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus has maintained a State Scholarship Foundation intended to benefit Members of Councils chartered in the State of West Virginia and their children alike, for more than Twenty Years (20); and

WHEREAS: The Fund, which supports the scholarship program, is in constant danger of depletion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus adopts the "Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Card Program as a continuing State Council Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That any "bonus" per box sold paid to the West Virginia State Council by the distributor of the Christmas Cards be designated for the State Scholarship Foundation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That when the Scholarship Foundation principal on deposit and/or invested of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) is realized, this resolution does revert to the floor of the next Annual Meeting of the West Virginia State Council for reconsideration of reassignment of the State Council's "bonus" per box.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council adopt the NFL Sweepstakes Program as a continuing program, and that Sixty Percent (60%) of the profits be transferred to the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Foundation, Inc., after the first \$5,000 profits has been realized which goes to the Catholic Schools Dinner as stated in Resolution No. 23. (2017) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 23

WHEREAS: The West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus and its subordinate councils in convention assembled, continue to offer our services and support to our Bishop, Priests, and Religious, in all categories.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus is firmly in accord in providing our Bishop with financial aid in the education of candidates to the Priesthood, continue to support the Bishop's Burse Program began in 1936.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That subordinate councils demonstrate their unceasing effort to improve the Vocations programs of our Diocese and the Supreme Council through the RSVP Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Prayer for Vocations be recited at all State and Subordinate Council Meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That support of Catholic Schools is important to both our Bishop and all members of the Knights of Columbus of the West Virginia State

Council, designates the first Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) of proceeds of the NFL Football Sweepstakes for the Catholic Schools Dinner as a supplement to the contributions of the subordinate councils. (2003) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 24

WHEREAS: The West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus needs to join into the 21st century;

WHEREAS: The need of the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus needs to be able to communicate with the rank and file members of all councils in the State; and

WHEREAS: We need to establish a web site on the Internet and be able to have two-way communication with our Brother Knights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That a State of West Virginia Internet site be established and that the necessary funds to host this site and to obtain and keep a domain name be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the State Deputy shall appoint a web master and shall oversee the site. The domain name will be known as; "wvkoc.org." (2003) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 25

WHEREAS: Grand Knights are chosen leaders for all Knights of Columbus Councils in West Virginia;

WHEREAS: Grand Knights are enlisted with the direct responsibilities for leading and guiding the destination of their councils; and

WHEREAS: The numerous hours devoted by grand knights in fulfilling their leadership responsibilities often go unnoticed with little or no recognition for their services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That April of each fraternal year be designated as "Grand Knight Month", whereby, all First Degree ceremonies held during April are to be conducted with the names of Grand Knights as class honorees. (2005) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 26

WHEREAS: The Supreme Council has established a Matching Fund Program whereby contributions from the West Virginia State Council will be matched by the Supreme Council on a dollar-for-dollar basis, to a maximum of \$5.00 per member of West Virginia, said funds to be contributed to Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. and the earnings thereon to be paid annually for charitable purposes as established in this resolution; and

WHEREAS: It is deemed beneficial to charitable programs of West Virginia State Council to avail itself of such a matching fund program and thereby enter into a cooperative arrangement with the Supreme Council whereby the charities of the West Virginia State Council will receive greater benefits.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 2006 annual meeting of the West Virginia State Council hereby adopts this resolution so as to enter into the Matching Fund Program proposed by Resolution 134 adopted at the 1992 Supreme Council Meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council shall donate to Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. the \$30,000 of the monies raised at various fund raising events, and monies to be transmitted to Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the fund raising event, it being understood that the monies be received and credited as of June 30 and December 31 of each year only.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we hereby designate the following to be the recipients of the earnings on our portion of the Christopher Fund: The West Virginia

Knights of Columbus Scholarship Foundation, Inc. which includes the following Board Members: Immediate Past State Deputy, State Deputy, State Advocate, President, Secretary and Treasurer, it being of the earnings on our portion of the Christopher Fund: the West Virginia Knights of Columbus Scholarship Foundation, Inc., it being understood that the earnings disbursed by check to these recipients but forwarded after April 1 of each year to State Deputy of West Virginia for appropriate presentation, it being further understood that the recipients may be changed from time to time by a State Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we hereby establish a special committee as follows; the members of the board of the West Virginia Knights of Columbus Scholarship Foundation, Inc. to administer the West Virginia State Council's participation in the Christopher Fund, said committee to be known as the Christopher Fund Committee and to be composed of not more than six members of said committee, said committee to perform all acts that are necessary in administering the West Virginia State Council's participation in the Christopher Fund. (2006) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 27

WHEREAS: Young members are continuously being heralded as the most important resource needed for growth and development of any organization;

WHEREAS: The various subdivisions of the Knights of Columbus are continuously stressing the need for recruiting young members; and

WHEREAS: Many young prospective members refrain from joining the Knights of Columbus due to financial hardship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That members within the age group of 18 years of age to 21 years of age will be exempt from paying West Virginia State Council per capita dues, and at the discretion of subordinate council dues until their 22nd birthday. If a Knight is enrolled in a duly qualified institution of higher learning as a full-time student, the age for exemption shall be raised to 25 years of age. The State Council will not be obliged to exempt a subordinate council if the council does not exempt member(s) from paying initiation fees and council dues. In addition, the Financial Secretary must notify the State Secretary of any and all members in this category. Members within this exempt status remain obligated for paying Supreme Council's per capita dues, Catholic Advertisement Assessment and the Culture of Life Assessment. (2012) Amended Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 28

WHEREAS: Parochial education, whether directly through Catholic Schools or Parish supported C.C.D. classes, have been the backbone of Catholic teaching of young adults.

WHEREAS: Priests, Principals, Teachers and parents of children have created a common goal necessary to insure the highest quality of education of young adults.

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus has strongly supported Catholic Education.

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus is committed to inform the Catholic community of its various programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The State Deputy along with the State Officers shall create a Special committee to work with Priests, Deacons, school principals, C.C.D. coordinators and P.T.O. leaders to keep them informed of Knight of Columbus activities and to assist those educators in potential projects, which would enhance the quality of the Catholic education. This joint cooperation and shared knowledge can result in Catholic men in good standing to seek more information concerning the Knights of Columbus and to apply for membership in the order. (2012) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 29

WHEREAS: The Catholic Church teaches that the right to religious freedom is based upon the inherent dignity of the human person, which is known through both reason and divine revelation; and

WHEREAS: The right to religious freedom is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS: Religious freedom means that all persons are to be free from coercion in matters of belief and conscience, and that no person should be forced to act in a manner contrary to his or her own beliefs or conscience; and

WHEREAS: During his visit to the United States in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that it should never be necessary to deny God in order to enjoy our rights and that it is inconceivable that believers should have to suppress their faith in order to be active citizens; and

WHEREAS: The Church consistently teaches that religious freedom is an inalienable right which should be recognized in the governing laws of each country in such a way that it is acknowledged as a basic civil right; and

WHEREAS: Religious freedom is not a benefit that a government confers out of a sense of mere tolerance and that can be removed, but rather it is an inalienable right, rooted in the transcendent dignity of every human being; and

WHEREAS: Religious freedom is at the very heart of human rights because it encompasses freedom of speech, assembly and conscience, which together form the basis of civil society and respect for the individual; and

WHEREAS: On August 1, 2011, the U.S. Department of the Health and Human Services issued preliminary regulations pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that require all Americans to subsidize health insurance plans that provide coverage for surgical sterilizations and contraception, including abortifacients such as “morning after” pills; and

WHEREAS: These abortion-inducing drugs attack a developing unborn child either before or after implantation in the mother’s womb; and

WHEREAS: On January 20, 2012, the Obama Administration finalized this mandate and announced that non-profit religious institutions, including the Catholic Church, would have one year to comply with the rule, and that no exemption would be granted for Catholic hospitals, dioceses, charities, social service agencies, schools, colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS: The mandate also forces private Catholic employers and businesses – such as the Knights of Columbus – to provide all employees with insurance coverage that includes abortion-inducing drugs, contraception, and sterilization; and

WHEREAS: On February 10, 2012, the Obama Administration offered to religious organizations a so-called “accommodation” which did not change the mandate and was quickly rejected by the U.S. bishops because Catholic organizations and individuals would still be forced to violate their religious convictions; and

WHEREAS: One of the rationales for this mandate – that abortifacients, contraceptives and sterilization are less expensive than child birth – lays the groundwork for the government to one day mandate that all health insurance plans include abortion; and

WHEREAS: This mandate sets a dangerous precedent and represents one of the most serious intrusions on religious freedom in our lifetimes; and

WHEREAS: In a recent meeting with bishops from the United States, Pope Benedict XVI expressed concern over “certain attempts being made to limit that most cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion;”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we will never waver in our efforts to defend religious freedom as an inherent right of all Americans; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That as American citizens and as Knights of Columbus, we will steadfastly support the free exercise of religion as it is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That we stand in solidarity with our bishops in their call to the Catholic faithful, and to all Americans, to join together in the great struggle to oppose this mandate and to protect religious liberty and freedom of conscience; and FURTHER RESOLVED: That we call upon President Obama to rescind this mandate which is a clear and direct violation of our religious liberty rights; and FURTHER RESOLVED: That we call upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation that will protect the constitutional right of religious institutions and individuals to be free from government coercion in health care and all other matters; and FURTHER RESOLVED: That we will remain steadfast in our opposition to any future governmental action or policy that forces Catholic institutions and individuals to violate our most deeply held moral and religious convictions; and FURTHER RESOLVED: That our struggle for religious freedom at this decisive moment in our nation's history is not only for our sake, but for the sake of our children, our grandchildren and all future generations, so that they too may know a country that is "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." (2012) Action: Passed.

Resolution No. 30

WHEREAS, The Seventh Precept of the Catholic Church states that we shall participate in the evangelization of the Church; and WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II called all Catholics to be part of the "New Evangelization," which is an effort to inspire "culture Christians" to rediscover the Faith and live it more fully. It is about re-proposing the Good News of Jesus in a fresh new way; and WHEREAS, there are nine Catholic Radio stations on the air in West Virginia and several more preparing to come on air; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the West Virginia State Council, Knights of Columbus, do hereby morally back these stations and we urge the local councils to make financial contributions either directly to a Catholic Radio station in their area or through the Catholic Radio Association PO Box 3744 Charleston WV 25337 (2013) Action: Passed

Resolution No. 31

WHEREAS, The West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council has been inexistence for one-hundred sixteen years, and WHEREAS, The successful moral growth of the Council promotes on going activities beneficial to our Church, our families, our communities and our Country, and WHEREAS, The activities need to be recorded and preserved for posterity, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus will establish and maintain a permanent program to support archives pertaining to the jurisdictions history, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The appointed position of State Council Archivist be filled at the discretion of the State Deputy. (2016) Approved: Action: Passed

Resolution No. 32

BE IT RESOLVED; The West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus nominate West Virginia State Deputy Scott K. Nale for the election to The Supreme Board of Directors. (2019) Approved: Action: Passed.