



# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina State Council

### State Secretary Annual Report Fraternal Year 2023-2024

The State Secretary is responsible for gathering all council membership information and submitting it to our liability insurance carrier in a timely fashion to ensure our liability insurance does not lapse. As the state secretary, I am also responsible for submitting vouchers for each disbursement of all funds from the State Council. Gathering all information for the State Council and submit the annual survey or fraternal activities for the state council to supreme. Duties also include selecting venues for the state meetings.

Serving as the State Secretary this fraternal year 2023-2024 has been both challenging and rewarding, and I would not change anything about it since I find myself growing in faith, patience and humility with each task. One of the challenges for me as State Secretary was the amount of time that is required in negotiating with hotels for our various functions. I have traveled across the fine State of South Carolina from Spartanburg to Myrtle Beach to Rockhill to Hilton head for multi-district and state functions to include, district meetings, fraternal benefit nights, state convention planning, and numerous activities across the four corners of my territory. Some of my personal favorites include the state soccer challenge, basketball free throw competition, several CFU exemplifications in both English and Spanish, Fourth degree Exemplification, and other fraternal benefit nights. I finalized the last Hilton Head District Deputy's winter meeting, and the state convention which had its challenges, but rising to these challenges helped me understand the demands of this worthy position.

In addition to the above I have attended

- State council Installation of officers meeting July 2023
- Fourth Degree Exemplification August 2023
- Multi District meeting in Myrtle Beach September 2023
- Fraternal Benefit night in Rockhill October 2023
- Fraternal Benefit night in Charleston and presented the Contest of Champion award(Highest percentage membership gain) October 2023
- Attended and participated in a CUF degree at the Citadel November 2023.
- Awarded two council 11991 and 11471 their star Council awards November 2023
- District Deputy Mid-Year meeting in Hilton Head December 2023.
- Membership drive Mount Pleasant January 2024
- Grand Knights Mid-Year meeting in Columbia February 2024
- Fourth Degree Exemplification in Lexington February 2024.
- Council meeting in Mount Pleasant March 2024
- Will be attending the State convention in Spartanburg April 2024

I am honored and blessed to have had the opportunity to serve as the Secretary for the State Council for the fraternal year 2023-2024 thus far and continue to put faithful effort in this position. Stepping up to these demands I have secured the hotel and procured a contract with the Embassy Suites of Columbia for a 3-year contract for the State Convention 2025,2026, 2027. Currently working on coordinating Installation of State Officers and our Summer Columbus Hope, DD And GK meeting to be held on June 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

Joining the Knights 20 plus years ago as a Knight it's difficult to put into words the enjoyment of working, praying and serving alongside the most faithful men I know. Being a Knight to me is not only a privilege but an honor no matter which hat I'm wearing at the time. All Knights have a role

in our call to Faith, Family, Community and Life (Faith in Action) whether it's as simple as volunteering for a pancake breakfast or representing our state at the Supreme Convention. I have full respect for each and every member of the order and look forward to rolling my sleeves up and giving 100% to serve the State Council.

My hope is and always will be that through my leadership the Knights continue to be leaders in our families, our communities and the Church, and by doing so, attract younger Knights so that our organization can thrive well into the future. My sincere gratitude for the many mentors I've had along the way, its brothers like Jeff, Paul and Mike among a few, that have assisted me in become the leader and Knight I've become.

J Scott Friedman  
SC. State Secretary  
*J. Scott Friedman*



## Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

March 30, 2024

Worthy State Deputy and Brother Knights of the South Carolina State Council,

It is the duty of the State Treasurer to be custodian of all the funds and securities of the State Council. Including receiving all monies, keeping a true and accurate account thereof and depositing the same to the credit of the South Carolina State Council, Knights of Columbus, in a bank selected by the State Officers.

During the 2023-2024 fraternal year I attended and participated in the following:

- State Council Installation and District Deputy Organizational Meeting, Greenville, SC, July 14-16, 2023
- 91<sup>st</sup> Fourth Degree Exemplification, Charleston, SC, August 12, 2023
- District Deputy Midyear Meeting, Hilton Head Island, SC, December 9, 2023
- Grand Knights Mid-Winter Meeting, Columbia, SC February 2, 2024
- 92<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Degree Exemplification, Lexington, SC, February 10, 2023

As a State Council Officer, I have represented the State Deputy at several events. I serve as Chairman of the Annual State Council Charity Raffle.

As the State Treasurer, I have performed several functions for the State that have needed scrutiny, analyzing situations, and have contacted the Supreme Council when necessary, all to the approval of the State Deputy.

In this new role, I have experienced many new and previously unknown challenges. However, through prayer and with the support of my fellow State Officers, I have come through them and am growing into this vital office.

Overall, it has been an extremely rewarding year and the support offered to Karen and I is sincerely appreciated. I look forward to continuing all Treasurer Assignments through the end of the fraternal year in June with the State Council.

Fraternally submitted,

**S. Edward Wilcox**

S. E. Wilcox, State Treasurer



# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina State Council

### STATE ADVOCATE'S ANNUAL REPORT

July 2023 through April 2024

What a fantastic year to be a Knight of Columbus! This year has been one of questions and recommendations. The biggest question this year was about liability coverage. My Brothers the Knights of Columbus insurance coverage is exemplary. It covers your Council and its activities as you go out to perform Charity, Fraternity and Unity for our communities. When considering an activity or an issue always think what the headline in the New York Times would look like in order to protect your Council and the Order. Always remember our collective oath not to bring politics into our meetings. This year is an election year and therefore be on guard. The Knights of Columbus position is to encourage every Catholic to Vote and exercise their civic duty. Partisan politics has no place in our meetings or activities.

When you have a question about Knights of Columbus position on an issue always first go to KofC.org and search. If you can't find an answer don't hesitate to ask your District Deputy, as they can always answer 90% of your questions. Always remember your actions and programs are always on stage. Every action however small is observed and our order judged by the behavior of our Knights of Columbus family. Evangelization is our mission and the example of our lives is what converts our world. "They will know we are Christians by our Love"! Jesus new commandment *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

What I did this last year as your State Advocate was to be a member of the State Leadership Team. As your State Advocate, I have filled my responsibilities as the representative of the Supreme Knight and the State Deputy to Councils within South Carolina. As an extension of the Supreme Knight's supervisory, I have provided legal advice to the State Council and subordinate Councils, provided advice to subordinate Councils regarding conduct of meetings, managed the Safe Environment program for the state, promoted the Safe Environment program to the District Deputies and Grand Knights, Composed resolutions for the State Convention and Supreme Convention, assisted the State Warden with room setup for State Council meetings and workshops, assisted the State Deputy and State Secretary in all other tasks and duties assigned.

As a State Officer I attended GK workshops, State Officer and District Deputy installation meetings and ceremonies. Presented training events at GK workshop and advanced the COR program for State and my council. The Knights of Columbus has been my vehicle to increase my spirituality this year.

Humbly Submitted  
Richard W. Swain, Ph.D.  
State Advocate



## Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

Worthy State Deputy, State Officer's, District Deputies, Grand Knights, and my brothers all,

It has been an absolute privilege to have been your membership director this past year for the state of South Carolina.

As in previous years, business is booming and then some. As of this writing 15 councils have reached their goal for the year with 3 having obtained over 200% of their goal (councils 1668, 6726, and 6891). 11 councils are within 2 of their annual goal. 8 districts have reached their goals for the year, and the rest are within reach.

The state is nearing 500 new members for the year, making our membership goal for the year almost a foregone conclusion. Reaching the pinnacle goal for the year for a third year in a row appears to be just the same.

Over 12 Hispanic outreaches have been performed in the past year bringing in over 200 new brother knights into the Order, with a prospect of another 200 men as well that could be interested in joining. That same process has been used by two councils in the state for the English community and both councils received interested from 46 and 35 men as well.

In March we officially surpassed over 11,000 members for the first time in our states history and future growth appears strong with Catholic men in our state are looking for an opportunity to grow in their Faith, support the church, and help their fellow man.

All in all everything is booming for the Knights of Columbus in the state of South Carolina.

Yours in Christ,

Brandon Chambers  
State Membership Director  
Assistant General Agent

God Bless



**Knights of Columbus**  
**South Carolina State Council**

Following are the reports for Faith, Life, Family and Community.

**Faith-** 50 Councils reported, 1889 Volunteer hours and 86 new members recruited.

**Life-** 18 councils reported, 269 Volunteer hours and 52 new members recruited.

**Family-** 53 councils reported, 1284 Volunteer hours and 24 new members recruited.

**Community –** 53 Councils reported, 4092 Volunteer hours and 45 new members recruited.

Tony Zammarrelli, SC State Program Dir.



# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina State Council

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### The Official Convention Report for the South Carolina District of the DeSoto Province

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At the outset, let me first Congratulate SK Daniel E. Barton for being the fourth South Carolinian to serve the Order as Vice Supreme Master. And thank you to Michael McCusker, Supreme Master for having faith in me as a replacement for Daniel's unexpired term. Our Supreme Knight reminds us that "We have weathered the storms of pandemic and change that have tossed us about the turbulent seas of time, and now, we mend our sails, determined to continue our journey in the service of the Church." As Sir Knights we have a special duty to stand by our post as men of recognized civic virtue, faithfulness in Church and in family life and fidelity to the promises we have made. We must be determined to embrace our church and our priests even more. Do not let our current difficulties deprive us of the most precious gift we have: our faith. It is our choice.

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#### Membership

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The Patriotic Degree continues to be strong in South Carolina. The South Carolina District hosted two exemplifications bringing in 70 new members or 43% of our goal for this Fraternal year. I want to personally thank SK James Roche and SK George LaPierre for their leadership in facilitating these Exemplifications. We must continue to recruit new Sir Knights. A reminder that every new Member third degree Knight – plan to recruit them from the new degree to the next scheduled fourth degree exemplification.

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#### Exemplifications

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My thanks to the Sir Knights who assisted in hosting exemplifications this fraternal year, and thanks to our degree staffs. To build a healthy fourth degree district in South Carolina we need new Sir Knights in every part of the state. Experience shows that having exemplifications in all areas of the state make it convenient for busy younger men to join our ranks as Sir Knights. Currently we are planning exemplifications in Spartanburg, Orangeburg (Spanish), and Myrtle Beach. Contact me or the District Secretary to discuss scheduling one in your area.

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#### New Assemblies

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This year we welcomed in our newest assembly, The Pier Georgio Frassati Assembly #3984 in Carolina Forest. A local assembly means less travel time for Sir Knights which has proven to increase participation at meetings, functions, and honor guards. A new assembly can be formed with as few as 30 members. South Carolina has 64 Councils and 31 Assemblies so there are still opportunities to form additional assemblies. I have been in conversation with several men around the state interested in creating new assemblies. If your council is interested in starting a new assembly, please let me know so we can get you up and running.

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#### Serving Those Who Served

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The Fourth Degree Knights are a volunteer partner with the Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities in Augusta, Georgia, Charleston, and Columbia, South Carolina in a program known as "Serving Those Who Served". Established in 1946, the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) has become the largest volunteer program in the Federal Government. If you are interested in serving as a representative please contact me, we need all the help we can get.

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#### Warriors to Lourdes

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Several years ago, we made a promise to our Faithful Friar, Fr. Higgins, to send a South Carolina Veteran to Lourdes every year. Then COVID happened and that pledge was placed on the back burner. This year I have asked Faithful Navigator and State Warden nominee, Patrick Noone to



## Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

take on the challenge of raising funds to resurrect the Warrior to Lourdes project in South Carolina.

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### **Honor Guards**

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Without exception, honors by the Honor Guard shall be offered to deceased Sir Knights, their immediate family members, Council members and to their immediate family members provided a request is made. It must be distinctly understood that the wishes of the family of the deceased member are paramount and will be given the fullest consideration as to the selection of elements of the Honor Guard involved if any. It is my opinion that no Knight or family of a Knight that passes expecting his brothers to gather around him in honor and send him off in prayer should be left unaided during their time of loss. Keep in mind that no matter the wishes of the family or last request by a brother Knight, under no circumstances will the old regalia be used in any ceremony at any time for any reason.

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### **A Final Thought:**

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How many times do we hear about how busy this or that person is? It's a common complaint from all quarters (including my own) these days. A recent reflection from Dr. Tod Worner caught my eye and I believe it worth sharing with you. GK Chesterton observed: "comradeship and serious joy are not interludes in our travel; but ... rather our travels are interludes in comradeship and joy, which through God shall endure forever." How descriptive of the Knights. A band of brothers – comrades in charity whose joy and happiness comes from our deep commitment to each other and to helping those in need. Brothers let us focus less on building our resume of busyness and more on our principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism building toward those sturdy bonds of comradeship and shared joy in the life of Christ.

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### **Many Thanks ....**

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To all who have helped me get through this year as your Master. To the Sir Knights from assemblies that hosted exemplifications for your efforts in putting on first class events. To Father Robert Higgins who served as Faithful Friar again this year. To the degree teams for your time and effort in traveling, memorizing your parts and dedication to advancing the Fourth Degree. To Chris Hilditch and Tom O'Donnell for all their administrative support. To Daniel Barton for his advice and encouragement as our Vice Supreme Master. To my wife Debbie for sharing her organizational skills, her help putting together the banquets and ladies events for the exemplifications and keeping me in line and always being at my side for support. And finally, to my Brother Sir Knights for defending the faith and supporting our veterans.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael A. Allen, PSD  
District Master, South Carolina





## Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

Columbus HOPE Strives to offer positive change based on known evidence of effective practice. We invite everyone involved in the Knights of Columbus to join the effort, share what they are doing to build the organization's social capital, and grow and sustain the foundation.

Columbus HOPE's goal is to eradicate or greatly alleviate issues related to the Intellectual Disability and Special Needs (IDD&SN) challenges, but also strive to transform situations so that they are different from and far better than they were before. We aim to determine the role we play in eliminating the social and environmental challenges faced by individuals, our culture, and the environment. We HOPE to create bold visions and goals, and the capacity to achieve those visions and goals.

Despite this, there is more illness, abuse, ethnic and cultural conflict, and poverty in the IDD community than ever before. While the numbers of charities continue to skyrocket, they remain small and relatively insignificant in achieving major societal changes related to the mission. While there will always be room for good people doing good things, Columbus HOPE concentrates its efforts on those Charities that truly want to accomplish the mission on a significant scale with significant impacts. We are after **heroic men** at a scale that impacts for the better every individual, family, community, and social environment associated with the IDD&SN community in significant ways.

It is time to meet needs fully, and eradicate pervasive social, health, human development, cultural and environmental issues that pertain to Intellectual Disabilities and Special Needs Citizens. It's time to organize, lead, and manage the Knights to do that. It is time to transform pervasive social situations so that our people not only survive but thrive.

As we head into the 104<sup>th</sup> State Convention for South Carolina, I am pleased to report that the Columbus HOPE drive is at 45% of our projected goal or \$ **214,503.34**. With almost half of the councils yet to report, you have truly exceeded the expectations we set back in July.

I think we can safely say we are over the pandemic once and for all!

The next CHF drive meeting is tentatively set for June 29, 2024, where State Deputy Jeff Crouch has decided to merge what is effectively three meetings into one. I HOPE to see each of you there.

Faithfully submitted,  
March 27, 2024

Michael A. Allen, PSD, DM, CNE.  
Chairman of the Board



# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina State Council

April 4, 2024

Worthy State Deputy,

The nominating committee met last night and this morning and put forth the following brother knights for the Slate of Officers for the 2024-2025 Fraternal year:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
State Deputy	Jeffrey M. Crouch
State Secretary	J. Scott Friedman
State Treasurer	Sherrill "Ed" Wilcox
State Advocate	Richard W. Swain
State Warden	Patrick Noone

For the position of delegates to the 142nd Supreme Convention, each Jurisdiction has two automatic delegates, the State Deputy and the Immediate Past State Deputy.

The following brother knights have been nominated for our remaining six delegate positions and alternates.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Insurance Delegate	J. Scott Friedman
Insurance Delegate	Daniel E. Barton
Associate Delegate	Patrick Noone
Associate Delegate	Chris M. Ryder
Associate Delegate	William E. Weiss
Associate Delegate	Richard W. Swain
Alternate	Michael A. Allen
Alternate	Sherrill "Ed" Wilcox
Alternate	Alexander Kirby

I want to thank the following members of the Nominating Committee for their time and diligence:

Paul V. Burchell, PSD  
Michael A. Allen, PSD  
Brandon Chambers, FDD, Asst. General Agent  
Thomas O'Donnell Sr., DD  
Joe Nesbitt, DD  
Paul LaRosa, DD

Respectfully Submitted,

*Daniel E. Barton*

Daniel E. Barton, PSD  
Vice Supreme Master, DeSoto Province  
Knights of Columbus



## Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

April 4, 2024

Worthy State Deputy,

The Budget and Finance Committee has thoroughly reviewed the proposed budget for the next fraternal year, which has a Per Capita rate of \$7.50 per billable member (minus Inactive, Disabled, and Honorary Life).

The State Officers are to be commended for preparing the budget, considering the impact of recent Council mergers and reactivation efforts, the projected loss of billable membership due to the Affiliate Membership Initiative, and the increased cost of doing business in our current economy.

Therefore, after carefully reviewing the Proposed Budget for the Fraternal Year 2024-2025, the Budget and Finance Committee recommends its adoption.

I want to thank the following members of the Budget Committee for their time and diligence:

David Perez, DD #7

Bruce C. Hutchinson, DD #10

Respectfully Submitted,

*Daniel E. Barton*

Daniel E. Barton, PSD  
Vice Supreme Master, DeSoto Province  
Knights of Columbus