



THE VOLUNTEER KNIGHT



FOUNDED 1903

TENNESSEE STATE COUNCIL

116TH YEAR

TENNESSEE STARTS STRONG IN FY19-20

Following a stellar FY 2018-2019, under the vision and leadership of Past State Deputy **Tracy Staller**, Tennessee's Knights continue to reach record heights in the Order. Only a few days into September and Tennessee ranks 6th among the 75 jurisdictions of the Order and 3rd in the United States – having achieved nearly 16% of its annual membership goal of 612 new members. Tennessee currently ranks 2nd in the Southeast Region, which also includes Louisiana, South Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina, Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, and West Virginia. At the East Tennessee Kickoff Meeting in July, Tennessee was then ranked 15th in the Order, trailing six Southeast Region jurisdictions. State Deputy Michael McCusker challenged Tennessee to race to the front of the Southeast, teasing his Southeast counterparts that “Tennessee was coming for them.” For its 2018-2019 efforts, Tennessee was recognized as a **Circle of Honor** winner. Tracy Staller attributes the state's success to our willingness to fully embrace the Order's new **Faith in Action** program by emphasizing our constant call to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.



STALLER & DEE SHINE AT SUPREME CONVENTION

On Monday morning, August 5, 2019, PSD **Tracy Staller** and current State Retention Chair, **Jimmy Dee**, were front and center at the Supreme Convention's Membership Seminar in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they discussed the keys to Tennessee's membership growth success in 2018-2019. Following their remarks, Staller & Dee drew a standing ovation. It was a proud day for Tennessee's 11,837 Knights!

STATE DEPUTY'S MONTHLY MESSAGE



MICHAEL R. MCCUSKER, COUNCIL 9317

Brothers, there are not enough words to tell you how honored I am to serve as your State Deputy for FY 2019-2020! When Theresa and I arrived at New Haven, Connecticut on June 5th for the State Deputy's Meeting (a tough day for Mom since it was our daughter Meredith's 12th birthday), I found I was filled with sense of excitement that I have not known since I was a child on Christmas morning. After eight long years in the State Officer Chairs, the time had arrived for me to be installed at St. Mary's Church as the 69th State Deputy Supreme Knight of Tennessee. Prior to becoming State Deputy, I wondered how I would be able to face the demands and challenges of serving you and our incredible Order. On the day of my installment, June 7th, I arrived at St. Mary's and was escorted to the Tennessee State Pew, where all my predecessors have sat since 1903. I cannot tell you how nice it was to find two friendly faces from Tennessee waiting for us; **Supreme Director Mike Wills and his wonderful wife, Kathy**. When you're installed, you first go to the narthex following Communion and line up in alphabetical order. As Theresa and I stood there, nervously waiting, I glanced to my left and came face-to-face with the stained-glass image of St. Catherine of Siena. My mind raced back to my childhood and my beautiful, saint of a mother, Cathy, who died at 40 years of age when I was only 14. She always talked about St. Catherine of Siena and how proud she was to have her as her patron saint. In that moment, I knew I was in the right place, at the right time. In the days since, St. Catherine of Siena continues to "pop up" in my life as a State Deputy.

Just when I thought God had shown me all He had to share with me, I soon learned I had been selected to read the second reading at the opening Mass of the Supreme Convention in Minneapolis. Of all days, it was the Feast of the Transfiguration; only four years earlier in Philadelphia, I had sat in mourning at the Supreme Convention on the same feast day, when my father's name was listed in the Memorial Mass booklet. As I sat there, it struck me that I was only 20 blocks from Transfiguration parish where my father, Former District Deputy **Jack McCusker**, had grown up. Now, four years later, I was reading on the same feast day, and the reading included my father's oft quoted, favorite verse of scripture that he loved to share with my brothers and me "***This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.***" That night, at the States Dinner, the keynote speaker used his remarks to discuss the canonization process of John Henry Cardinal Newman, closing the evening by reciting ***Lead Kindly Light***; Newman's poem that my father had shared with me and asked me to read each day during my tour of duty in Afghanistan. Now, as I enter my third month as your Deputy, I am filled with the awe of God's love and grace that He is bestowing on me through these signs that my parents are still with me in the Communion of Saints, that I am not alone, and that He will sustain me in the days ahead. It is my prayer, for you, in the coming fraternal year, that you, too, feel his loving presence as He guides you in all His ways. ***Vivat Jesus!***

TENNESSEE STATE OFFICERS INSTALLED AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



LEFT TO RIGHT:

David Zwissler – State Warden

Bill Markiewicz – State Treasurer

Tracy Staller – Immediate Past State Deputy

Msgr. Peter Buchignani – State Chaplain

Michael McCusker – State Deputy

Fred Laufenberg – State Secretary

Eric Pelton – State Advocate

Officers were installed following Mass on July 12th at St. Francis of Assisi, home parish of Council 9317. Dinner & Karaoke followed.

ROGERSVILLE KNIGHTS COVER VETERANS IN CHARITABLE LOVE



On August 13th, members of **Council 8860 (Rogersville)** presented patriotic quilts to eight veterans residing at Signature Assisted Living Center.

The Knights presented in conjunction with the ***Quilts of Valor*** program, which since its founding in 2003, has distributed more than 200,000 homemade quilts. Leading the distribution was new District Deputy ***Bill Hewitt*** of District 21.

CONGRATS TO COUNCIL 11424 DAYTON: 100% DEDICATED!

Within the first two months of FY 19-20, Council 11424 of Dayton became the first Council in the State to reach 100% of its membership goal. Many thanks to Grand Knight **Stephen Thorn** and his brothers for their hard work to reach their fraternal year membership goal. Dayton is home to St. Bridget Catholic Church. Dayton has a fascinating history. In July 1925, the Rhea County Courthouse in Dayton was the venue for the trial in the State of Tennessee v. John Thomas Scopes aka **The Scopes Monkey Trial**, which involved Tennessee's **Butler Act**, which forbade the teaching of evolution in Tennessee. **Council 15234 Brentwood** is the second highest recruiting council in the State, having achieved 70% of its quota for FY 19-20. Not far behind at 50% are: **11074 Lewisburg**, **15585 Madisonville**, **15837 Lafayette**, and **15981 Manchester**. Way to live your Faith in Action by welcoming new brothers to our ranks!

SAVE THE DATES!

DD Midyear Meeting 12/14/19
(Council 4972)

Midyear Meeting 1/11/20
(Nashville – Pastoral Center)

State Awards Deadline 3/15/20

State Awards Meeting 3/28/20
(Location TBD)

117th State Convention 5/1-5/3, 2020
(Franklin Cool Springs Marriott)

SOCCER CHALLENGE

INFO

State Finals
Sunday, Nov. 17th
St. Rose of Lima
Murfreesboro

Contact State Youth Director John Beattie
at beattie_j@msn.com

or

Soccer Challenge Chair
Jacob Stigler at

umonhonbowers@gmail.com

for information regarding Council & District
Schedules.

SAINT OF THE MONTH



St. Teresa of Calcutta
1910-1997

Feast Day Sept. 5th

Mother Teresa Pray
For Us!



SUCCESSFUL GOLF TOURNAMENT AT COUNCIL 9132

Our Lady of the Lakes Council 9132 in Hendersonville held their annual Golf Tournament on August 17, 2019 raising over \$14,000 to help support the Knight's initiatives. The outstanding success of the tournament is attributable to Council 9132's Committee Members: Brothers **Bruce Hay, Bill McGuire, Steve Bollig, Anthony Dana, Chris Fenton, Jason Allman, Don Ellis, Paul Dana, Tom Cirone, Kevin Morency, Paul Dana and Larry Phillips.**



Next year's event is scheduled for August 22nd. For more information, contact Tournament Chair Barry

Share your Council News with the State Council at [Newsletter](#)

2019-2020 DISTRICT DEPUTIES

District	Name	Email
District 1	Keith Wade	DD1@kofc-tn.org
District 2	Tom Spencer	DD2@kofc-tn.org
District 3	Mike Esposito	DD3@kofc-tn.org
District 4	Milton Griffis	DD4@kofc-tn.org
District 5	Wyatt Brooks	DD5@kofc-tn.org
District 6	Jim Stanhope	DD6@kofc-tn.org
District 7	Pending Appointment	DD7@kofc-tn.org
District 8	Tom Brinkmeyer	DD8@kofc-tn.org
District 9	Dave Johnson	DD9@kofc-tn.org
District 10	Ton Santangelo	DD10@kofc-tn.org
District 11	Tex Shellhart	DD11@kofc-tn.org
District 12	Carlos Olivarez	DD12@kofc-tn.org
District 13	Bill Walsh	DD13@kofc-tn.org
District 14	Raleigh Cooper	DD14@kofc-tn.org
District 15	Pat Bisson	DD15@kofc-tn.org
District 16	Rick Watts	DD16@kofc-tn.org
District 17	J.J. Wilder	DD17@kofc-tn.org
District 18	Henri Usey	DD18@kofc-tn.org
District 19	Hank McCormick	DD19@kofc-tn.org
District 20	Bill Hewitt	DD20@kofc-tn.org
District 21	Thad Branch	DD21@kofc-tn.org

UPCOMING DEGREES

Knighthood (3rd) Degrees

**Sat., 9/28/19 @ 10 am
Council 9317 – Cordova**

**Sat., 10/19/19 @ 3 pm
Council 6099 – Chattanooga**

**Sat., 11/2/19 @ TBD
Council 9132 – Hendersonville**

4th Degrees

**Sat. 10/12/19 @ 2pm
Memphis**

**Sat. 11/9/19 @ 3 pm
Chattanooga**

***DID YOU KNOW COLUMBIA MAGAZINE
IS ONLINE?***

TENNESSEE STATE COUNCIL WEBSITE:
WWW.KOFC-TN.ORG

STATE DIRECTORS & CHAIRS*

Membership:	PSD Steve Comm	Email
Retention:	FDD Jimmy Dee	Email
Programs:	FDD Alan Stanley	Email
Online Membership:	Trey Benson	Email
Faith:	FDD Tony Amadeo	Email
Life:	FDD Tim Brown	Email
Youth:	DGK John Beattie	Email
Family:	Vacant	
Community:	FDD Dan Hanley	Email
Ceremonials:	Tracy Staller	Email

**Additional Chairs will be listed in October's Newsletter*



Remember!!

All Required Reports Go to the State Secretary *and not* the State Deputy!

Email to:

StateSecretary@kofc-tn.org



Julia Gardiner Tyler

CATHOLIC HISTORY : FIRST CONVERT

We know that **Brother John F. Kennedy** and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy were the first Catholics to occupy the White House, however, they were not the first members of the small family of presidential history to be Catholic, that distinction belongs to Julia Gardiner Tyler, wife of John Tyler (1841-1845). Julia who served as First Lady from 1844-1845, was raised Protestant. In the 1860s, she sent her daughter, Julie, to Sacred Heart Convent in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her daughter soon took to Catholic teaching but did not convert. Following Julie's untimely death in childbirth in 1871, Julia soon found solace in the Catholic faith, and in 1872, was administered the Rites by then Bishop Gibbons, later James Cardinal Gibbons, who in 1877 would ordain **Father Michael J. McGivney**, Founder of the Knights of Columbus. Of Catholicism, Julia, who would remain a devout Catholic until her death in 1889, once wrote:

"I have indeed (converted), and much to my satisfaction. No priest or nun had anything to do with it. It was simply from my conviction of its being the best and truest religion, as well as the oldest. There is unity and system in it, as well as beauty and real Christianity. The other sects I came to see were like ships at sea without anchor or rudder..."

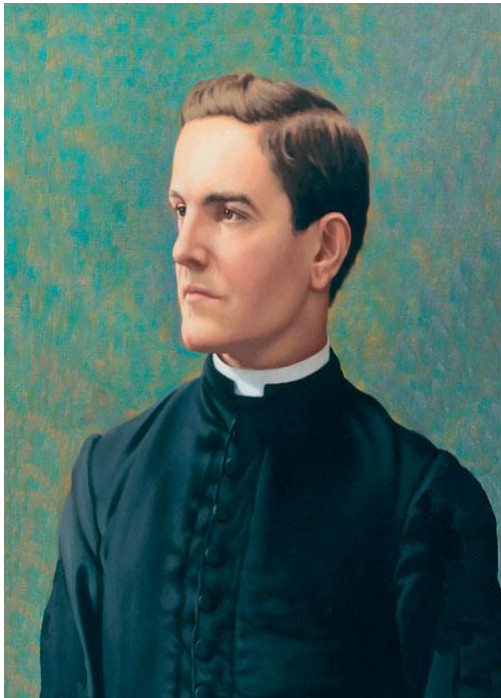
DID YOU KNOW THE STATE COUNCIL NOW HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE!?

Click [Here](#)

Many thanks to FDD Rob Tomlinson for setting up & managing the page!

MEMBERSHIP & FORM 100 INFO & TIPS

- Do Not Send Form 100s Directly to Supreme!
- Instead send form 100s to membership@kofc-tn.org or form100@kofc-tn.org.
- State Council Membership chair will review, then submit to Supreme with a copy to the Council Financial Secretary.
- **ALWAYS INCLUDE SPONSOR NAME & MEMBERSHIP NUMBER!**
- For specific instructions consult the Financial Secretary Handbook.
- **AND REMEMBER:** Withdrawals are accomplished only by a letter from the member and not by use of a Form 100.



*His Legacy Continues Because
We Are Called to Build Our Own*
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To Plan for Tomorrow



THE SCHACHLE AGENCY

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Office [615.441.8588](tel:615.441.8588)

Click [Here](#)

STATE OFFICERS EMAILS

Michael R. McCusker, State Deputy

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Fred Laufenberg, State Secretary

[Email](#)

Eric Pelton, State Advocate

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Monsignor Peter Buchignani, State Chaplain

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Bill Markiewicz, State Treasurer

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David Zwissler, State Warden

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Tracy Staller, IPSD

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