

OCTOBER 2023

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 NEWSLETTER



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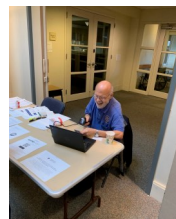
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LAUREL HILLS PARK PICNIC



SOCIAL PICNIC AT LAUREL HILLS PARK

The September 19th picnic was a rescheduled social after being canceled in June. The net result was trading a day of thunderstorms to one of mild and comfortable weather. Hence, the fall day was conducive to a great turnout of 58 guests with many contributing to a team-work of grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, slicing tomatoes and onions, setting up the buffet tables, etc. Also scheduled for the evening was the presentation "Of the Year Awards" for fraternal year 2022-2023. PGK David Payne introduced each recipient with a brief comment covering the reasons why they were chosen. Not surprising, the evening was filled with friendship and harmony guaranteeing that this event will become an annual affair.



“OF THE YEAR” AWARDS

KNIGHT OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Grand Knight
Shawn Bayle for both
Council and State



FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Mark and
Theresa Baumgartner



GOLDEN KNIGHT OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Tony Anello



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Scott Rees



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

ST. FRANCIS MINISTRY FAIR



Under the leadership of JaVon Hansknecht, Director of Justice and Peace, a Ministry Fair was planned for August 26-27 before and after each Mass. An invitation was sent to the over 50 ministries at St. Francis encouraging each to set up a table in Clare Hall with pamphlets and brochures advertising their charitable goals and accomplishments. Although our council is not considered a ministry, we were invited to be part of this event. And fortunate we were!! During each Mass parishioners were invited to visit the Fair with a challenge to find the time to become a member of a ministry. Our table decorated with flags and eye-catching posters and brochures drew attention but more recognizable were the blue shirts worn by our attending brothers which have become a trademark. To show for our efforts, we collected 12 names of men showing strong interest to join our council.

KofC COUNCIL 9709 ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEAN UP



Saturday the 9th of September was a wash out due to heavy rains and lightning storms. We began our highway cleanup on the 16th, a scheduled make-up day. Despite delays, we had a great turnout with 12 members and family showed up. Thanks especially to the Wagner Family for giving the high numbers. As always we shared great donuts and warm coffee thanks to John Dziadul, our crew leader.

9 bags of trash were picked up over our 2 mile route, and good time was had by all.

CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH DONATION



When St. Francis of Assisi runs a food drive for CPO, our Worthy Treasurer, Mark Baumgartner, volunteers to not only pick up CPO's truck but then returns it full of the food donations from our parishioners. The September food drive was special because in addition to CPO receiving the food, Brother Mark delivered our council's approved donation check of \$500. Even more special was the timing of our donation which happened to coincide during a matching gift program.

Kelly Rappl, CPO Food Pantry Program Director

EXEMPLIFICATION



EXEMPLIFICATION CEREMONY

Sunday, September 24th, a special day for our council as 5 new members were added to the roster. Brother Knights welcomed Jesse Woods, James Hoose, Thomas F. Boggs, Dave Rahe and Christopher Pramodit Marianathan. The ceremony was held in the Chapel followed by a reception in the Community Center where Knights and families socialized, enjoying coffee and pastries.



EXEMPLIFICATION



District Deputy presenting Past Grand Knight David Payne with Gold Star Award for previous year. This is the highest award that any council can achieve.

Gold Star Award presented to our council at exemplification.

SOCCER CHALLENGE



SOCCER CHALLENGE

Several weeks before the Soccer Challenge, which was scheduled for September 10th, Brother Will Austin, Youth Director, set in motion a recruiting campaign to get youngsters (ages 9 to 14) interested to compete in the event. Announcements in the church bulletin, TFS newsletter (Tidbit), and parental notification, garnered a variety of responses from a maybe, to we'll see, to yes. On the day of the event nine council brothers arrived early to set up a tent, tables, prepare the field and the goal for the competition, but not knowing how many athletes would show up. Thankfully, by 1:00 pm 11 youngsters arrived with parents and ready to go. As part of the rules, each athlete was given 15 penalty shots and awarded points according to where the soccer ball penetrated the net. After about an hour of amazing competition the following competitors scored the most points in their age group: Henry Adams, age 10, Lainey Andruchowitz, age 12, Nicolas Otero, age 12 and tied for second place was Caroline Vincitorio, age 12.

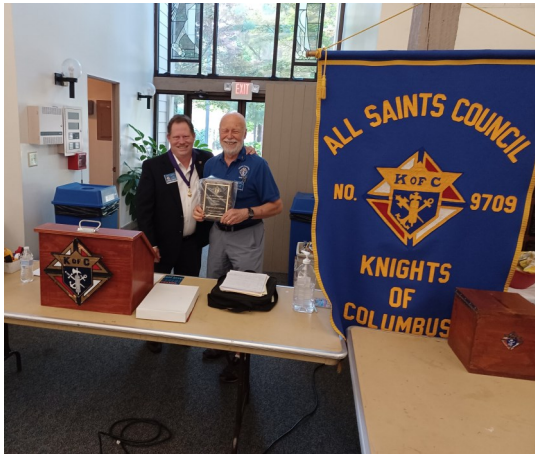
Will Austin received this note from a parent, "thank you very much for organizing this great event for the kids and families. It was great to learn more about the service you all do. God bless you."



SOCCER CHALLENGE



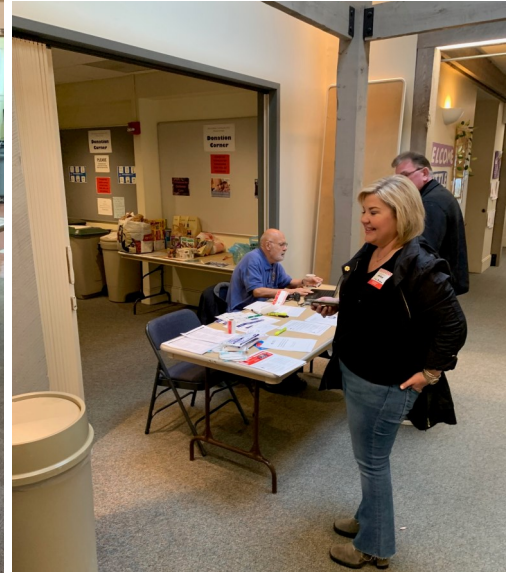
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



THE FATHER DAVID MCBRIAR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In the fraternal year 2022-2023, Ralph Guenther was chosen by his peers to be the recipient of the prestigious lifetime achievement award. Fifty-six years ago, on April 1st, 1967, Ralph joined the Knights of Columbus in Paramus, New Jersey. His journey took him to Council 8600, Fairfax, Virginia, then eventually transferring to All Saints Council in 1989, which at the time, was led by Charter Grand Knight, Larry Dudley. Ralph, as an active member of the council, helped it grow from when it took 9 members to form a quorum to today's membership of over 250 strong. Along the way, Ralph created the Parking Ministry, was and continues to be a devoted volunteer for the Special Olympics, led its aquatics activity for 5 years, won the GOAT award for his team selling the most raffle tickets for the council in 2022, has always served as part of the leadership team sharing his wisdom and experience. In FY 2014-2015 Ralph was chosen the Golden Knight of the Year of All Saints Council and the State Council. Ralph's crown achievement occurred when he was elected Grand Knight of All Saints Council, FY 1994-1995. Amazingly, he was succeeded by his son, Grand Knight John Guenther, FY 1996-1997. To quote Ralph, "I am proud to be in All Saints Council 9709 as one of the largest and well run and one of, if not the best council in the State of North Carolina at 84 years of age with 56 of those years as a proud Knight of Columbus."

BLOOD DRIVE



Red Cross blood Drive

Saturday the 23rd of September turned out to be a dismal rainy day for a blood drive! But you can say spirits were dampened, excuse the pun, but that was not the case. We had a good turnout despite and collected about 85 units of blood. Bryan Kozak ran a tight shift getting donors in and out quickly!

Welcome back Tom DuPree, master food provider. We had 5 members running to different dining establishments picking up food from 10am to about 1pm. We had donuts, and coffee to start followed by breakfast sausage muffins and fresh fruit! The next round brought subs from Firehouse subs, pizzas from Brixx and Dominos. Some tasty Asian dish with rice, along with even more subs. Lastly. We were going to have spaghetti from Manchesters, but there was a mix up on the date, thankfully. All said and done, we had 2 eight-foot tables filled with food, enough for a small army! All this food not only satisfied the donors but also our volunteered brothers. Finally, and disappointingly, the power turned off at about 1pm, leaving remaining donors unable to complete their donations. But all and all, it was a good day, and everyone ate well! Thanks to all that came out to donate and assist.

BROTHER KNIGHTS HIT A GRAND SLAM FOR THE DURHAM BULLS

The Durham Bulls had another successful season on the baseball diamond, claiming a division championship for the second half of the season, and playing in the International League Championship Series. The thousands of fans that attended the games were treated to winning baseball and a great family atmosphere.

The Brother Knights of the All Saints Council also had a successful season in supporting the Durham Bulls by volunteering their time to serve the best fans in baseball. The Knights worked at a beer cart and the Chicken Wings stand to raise funds for non-profit organizations in the Raleigh/Durham area. Brother Knights were able to enjoy fellowship -- working side-by-side with their Brothers -- at each game, while knowing their volunteer time had a direct connection to helping men and women in our community who need our financial support and our continued care and compassion. The money raised from our efforts funds local charities through the All Saints Council's philanthropic program. Programs such as Catholic Parish Outreach, Coats for Kids, Operation LAMB, and Veterans Affairs (any many other organizations) all received financial donations from our Council due to the efforts of the Brother Knights and their wives who volunteered at a Durham Bulls game this season.



The All Saints Council raised approximately \$18,000 this season. That is AMAZING. Your commitment of time to serve has a significant impact on the lives of so many people in our community.

Over the course of the baseball season, the Knights worked at 27 games. Most games required six volunteers. Brother Knights, and their wives, filled 134 shifts, giving approximately 804 hours of volunteer time.

There were 43 individual members of our Council, or their wives, who worked at least one game this season. Special thank you to Brother Dino Pinelli who worked 18 games this season. The following Brother Knights worked three or more games this season:

Omar Bashi	Michael Darrow	Larry Leins	Mike Rock
Mark and Theresa Baumgartner	Mike Evans	John Martin	Marty Schmidt
Shawn Bayle	Wes and Pat Evans	Steve Murray	Zubair Simonson
Dave Bole	Sandy Gayle	David Payette	Mike Wrzesien
John Brien	Chuck Hennesen	Dino Pinelli	
Troy Chaput	Mike Kozak	Nick Renga	

GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT

Brothers All:

It has certainly been an eventful first quarter of our Fraternal year!

We have celebrated many well-deserved awards for what the Council accomplished, transitioned our leadership with deep gratitude for the efforts of our prior officer slate, welcomed several relatively new Brothers into the ranks of our leadership, and built a new and innovative strategic plan for the year with a focus on Faith Formation and Evangelization.

Looking through the lens of our principles, it is easy to see the intense dedication of our group to serving our fellow brothers and their families as well as our Church, Parish, and community!

Fraternal – We have supported Brothers undergoing health emergencies, celebrated the lives of those we have lost while supporting their families through grief. We have installed a large group of new Brothers in a nearly packed Chapel. We have socialized at multiple family socials and a wonderful picnic. I am comforted yet energized at the true spirit of Brotherhood present among us.

Community – We have cleaned up the highway (almost dodging lightning bolts), put thousands of dollars into charities in great need, and collected 84 units of life-giving blood.

Youth – We have supported the Youth Ministry kick off event and brought some up-and-coming athletes to the soccer field for fun and competition.

Church – We have aligned our priorities with our Parish to great effect and expanded our growing relationships there. Notably, the invitation to the Ministry Fair enabled us to expand our membership. We are partnering with Parish Faith Formation groups to support events and we have been approved to return to Francis Fest food service and hold a weekend-long spring Membership Drive!

Your energy and commitment is so evident and powerful. Your successes are uplifting yet always humble and kind. Looking forward, we will launch our internal Faith Formation initiative using the Msgr. Clay KBL series and move on to the Knights Cor program, while continuing our support of the Parish Formation efforts. The upcoming FrancisFest and Columbus Day pancake breakfast will be awesome events to serve and build our presence in and around our Parish community. I encourage your participation.

I invite all to prepare personally for the coming Christmas season and its spiritual invitation to come closer to Christ. We plan to host a couple of Lent suppers along with running the outdoor Stations of the Cross. I am also excited for our December 3rd Christmas Party where I hope to see a packed restaurant!

In conclusion, I am continually amazed at the dedication of this Council and the impressive successes we continue to deliver. I advocate for everyone to build personal engagement and knowledge of our Faith and to put that Faith into action through our Council Programs.

Peace and Blessings,

Shawn D. Bayle
Grand Knight, Council 9709
Knights of Columbus