



Knights Digest



NJ State Council Bulletin Award 2010

Vol. 53 NO. 5

WWW.KOFC4504.ORG

January 2012

January 14th.....Build a Doll House
 January 15th..... Council Blood Drive
 January 19th..... Knight's Family Dinner
 January 20th.....New Member Social
 January 21st & 28th.....Free Throw Contest
 January 29th.....Runnell's Hospital
 February 5th..... Super Bowl Extravaganza
 February 11th..... Valentine's Dinner/Dance
 February 25th..... Tricky Tray

Free Throw Contest



The Knights of Columbus, Union Council #4504 in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club of Union will be hosting a Free Throw Contest on **Saturday, January 21, 2012** and will conclude on **January 28th, 2012**.

At this time we're asking anyone willing to participate to contact Nick Belmonte at 908-447-1869 for rules and confirmation.

The participants will consist of boys and girls ages 10-14 and each will receive a Certification of Participation. Plaques will be awarded to the winners of each age group.

Blood Drive

On **Sunday, January 15th**, the Council will be hosting a blood drive. As you are probably aware, blood supplies drop during the holidays, and this will be a good opportunity to help replenish those supplies.



The drive will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. All donors receive a free meal for helping out.

Representatives from the "**Be the Match**" bone marrow registry will also participate in our Blood Drive. This group matches possible bone marrow donors with those in need of bone marrow donations. Registration is easy and all that is required is a check swab. See our web site or visit the "Be the Match" web site, <http://marrow.org> for more details.

Anyone available to assist with this drive should contact Mike Gasser or Andy Schopfer.

New Member Social



Union Council will hold a New Member Social on **Friday January 20, 2012** at 8:00 PM at the Council. All new members who have joined the Knights of Columbus and our Council since 2009 are encouraged to attend to learn more about our Council. Representatives from the Council, Columbian Club, Swim Club, Fourth Degree, and Columbiettes will be there to meet and greet and to explain what each group does to help make the Union Knights of Columbus so special.

This will be an informative evening for you about who we are, what we do, what we have to offer you and your family, and how you can get more involved with us. Spouses are encouraged to attend so they too will see what the Knights of Columbus and specifically Union Council are. Light refreshments will be served. For more information please check our web site www.kofc4504.org or contact Steve Nagy at toys4504@aol.com.

The Tricky Tray is going "Broadway" on February 25, 2012

1034 Jeanette Ave, Union, NJ
 Doors Open 6:00 PM
 Drawing 7:30 PM

Tickets are \$20.00 which includes a sheet of minor prize tickets, coffee & cake.

***** CASH BAR *****

Tickets & info contact:
Chris Burlew: (908) 403-1590
 Email: chrissi714@aol.com
 or
Bernadette Watson: (908) 419-2993
 Email: blw45@verizon.net

We are also accepting donations

All profits will be donated to charity

Knight Digest

This bulletin is published monthly, by and in the interest of the Knights of Columbus Union Council 4504 and registered as third class matter April 23, 1958, at the Union Post Office, Union, NJ.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION: Submissions for consideration are due in writing by the 15th of the month for the following month. Please mail or drop off submission, with contact information to:

Tom Dudek
Knight Digest Editor
1034 Jeanette Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

or via email to: tomdudek@att.net. You must clearly identify all people in photos submitted and at what council event the photo was taken. Photos with alcoholic beverages will not be considered. Photos may also be submitted via email as hi-resolution image files. Hard copy photos will only be returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Council Officers

District Deputy.....Michael W. Gasser, PGK
Grand Knight.....Andy Schopfer, PGK
Deputy Grand Knight..... Alex Costa
Chancellor Open
Warden.....Steve Nagy
Recorder Open
Treasurer Frank Santangelo
Fin. Secretary..... Thomas Hornig, PGK
Inside Guard.....Gregory Henn
Outside Guard.....Giftus John
Membership Director..... Rich Fuentes
Program Director Nick Belmonte
Advocate Stephen F. Hehl
3rd. Yr. Trustee Joe Burlew, PGK
2nd Yr. Trustee..... Rob Salvatore, PGK
1st Yr. Trustee.....Mike Peter, PGK
4th Degree Faithful Navigator. Allen Pascullo
Columbian Club President.....Mike Panella
Swim Club President.....Allen Pascullo
Columbiette President.....Gina Zangari

Monthly Meetings

1st. Mon. -----Council Officers
2nd & 4th Mon.----- Council
3rd Mon.----- Swim Club
4th Wed. -----4th Degree Assembly
4th Thu.----- Columbian Club

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT



Brother Knights and Friends of Union Council 4504

As I reflect back on the just ended Christmas season, I sense that many of the members of our Council really take the message of Christmas to heart. In the weeks prior to Christmas we had several events, small and large, which gave us the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to charity and those less fortunate, and we clearly came through.

To begin, our Council combined with the Union Elks to sponsor the annual Christmas party for the students at Burnett school. We have supported this event for years and use some of the funds that we raise in our Special Citizens Drive to pay for the food, while the Elks donate their hall. While our actual attendance at this dinner has varied over the years, I was proud that at this year's event, Knights and their families required extra seating at the table that had been set aside for us.

The very next weekend, we sponsored the annual Camp Fatima Christmas party along with Sister Ann Domenic. Similar to the event noted above, this party honors children with special needs, and allows them and their families a few hours of pleasure and a visit with Santa to brighten their holidays. As always, a large contingent of Knights was there to assist, doing everything from helping the visitors set up the wheelchair ramps, cooking and serving, making last minute runs for the ice cream, and of course, donning the red suit for the honorees.

We continued the theme of providing for the children with the Columbiettes annual Breakfast with Santa, where our own children and grandchildren were the honorees. This year's event was a great financial success, and the sponsors immediately made a significant contribution to two charities to enhance their efforts for the Christmas season.

One of those two charities was for the Council's effort to provide gifts and fun for the students at the Deron School, a block away from our Council home. Using the funds from individual contributions and the Columbiette donation, we were able to buy gifts to be used at each of the school's 15 classes at a cost of over \$1000.00.

Finally, even our routine contribution of assisting the patients at Runnels hospital in getting to mass on Christmas had more participants than ever this year.

These are just the events that I am aware of, and that many of you have done even more to brighten the holidays. Thanks to all for what you do on behalf of others. It makes me more proud to be a Knight of Columbus, from Union Council 4504!

Vivat Jesus!

Andy Schopfer
Grand Knight 2011-2012



Swim Club

Please mark your calendars for our annual Swim Club meeting which is scheduled for **Friday, January 20, 2012**.

The meeting will be held at Union Council, starting at 7:30 P.M. Director's positions are to be nominated and voted on; if you have an interest in one of these positions, and if you can be an active board member, contact Nominating Committee members Steve Ruhl, John Perina or Andy Schopfer.

By-law changes will be discussed and voted upon. Please join us, light refreshments will follow the meeting.

Runnells Hospital

The next chance to volunteer at Runnells Hospital is Sunday, **January 29th** from 9 AM to 11 AM. Your assistance is needed to bring patients to the chapel to attend Sunday Mass. Contact Nick Belmonte at 908-447-1869.

Columbiettes

I'd like to wish everyone of our sisters and brothers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. December proved to be an exciting month as promised. We all had a great time at our Columbiette Christmas Party, (thanks Angela), and the bus trip to NYC was just as fun, (thanks Columbian Club). Breakfast with Santa was it's usual Big Hit (thanks Mary, Ellen, Paula, and Chris)

We're all looking forward to Family Dinner Knight on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012. Also Feb.25, 2012...Save the date!!!! Grab your friends and purchase some tickets for our annual Tricky Tray!!! It is promised to be bigger and better than ever. God Bless Everyone!!!!

Gina Zangari

Knight's Family Dinners



The next dinner is scheduled for
Thursday, January 19, 2012
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Family of 4 \$25.00
Adults \$8.00
Children and Seniors \$6.00
Cash Bar Available
50/50s



Anyone wishing to be on the mailing list for the monthly dinners, please send your email address and name to Judy Amorosa at Judi421@aol.com We hope to be able to send out an e-vite with each month's menu. Please sign up if you are interested. Thanks!!!



Knight of the Month

January 2012

Buddy Cotter



As noted in other articles in this Digest, our efforts to assist the students at Deron School at Christmas have grown from buying gifts for only a few students in one class to assisting 15 classes and over 130 individual students. The one constant in these efforts has been Past Grand Knight Buddy Cotter, who began this event several years ago.

He spearheads the efforts for contributions, works closely with the school to coordinate the date and time of the event, and personally obtains the lists of gifts that the students have asked for, and then purchases each of the gifts for them. By the day of the event, he has each classes gifts wrapped and organized by the teacher's names so that the actual presentation by our designated Santa goes smoothly and uneventfully.

For all of his efforts in making this event the success is was this year, we are proud to name Buddy our Knight of the Month for January.

Buddy had spent a long career in retail until just a few years ago when he successfully transitioned to a career in computer maintenance. He now works for a company located in Parsippany that specializes in providing sales computers to the pharmaceutical industry,. He is the primary help desk member for them, in addition to loading software for the representatives whenever a new release is needed for their computers. In addition, he has parlayed his computer skills to assist many Brother Knights in their families in the purchase and maintenance of laptops for their personal use.

Buddy grew up on Staten Island and obtained his degree from Baruch University in New York. He was a long time resident of Union where his two children attended school. Although he recently moved to Roselle Park, he is still seen frequently at our Council home where he serves on the Columbian Club Board, and has served as the Chairman for the past several Past Grand Knight Dinners. He enjoys golfing in his spare time, and has been known to assist the struggling economy by visiting Atlantic City and Las Vegas when he gets the opportunity.

Congratulations Buddy!

Knights Provide a "Merry Christmas" to Deron School



Thank you to all of the Knights and Columbiettes who donated this year and enabled us to send Christmas gifts to all the students of the Deron School in Union.

In our first year we purchased gifts for just 1 class of 7 students. It has grown to 15 classrooms totaling 132 students making this year our biggest struggle to collect the amount of donations necessary, but with the help of so many of you we once again were successful.

I would like to thank Andy Schopfer, Alex Costa, Joe Burlew, Steve Ruhl, Frank Santangelo and Rob Salvatore for playing the part of the "elves" and a special "Thank You" to Mike Scanlon and Kelly Scanlon for playing Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. I hope this tradition we started never fades away.

Thanks again to everyone for your time and support.
Buddy Cotter, PGK

Chili Cook Off

On **Saturday, February 11th**, the Columbian Club will again be sponsoring a chili cook off to determine the best Chili Chef in the area. Participants should bring their entries to the Council by 1:00 PM, warmed and ready to serve. The judging will start shortly thereafter.

Visitors should bring their appetites so that the judge's choices can be affirmed!

Prizes will be awarded!

For more information, contact Vice President Mike LoGuidice.

Build a Doll House



Union Knights and Columbiettes would like to invite all children to join us on **Saturday January 14, 2012** at 10:00 AM to help build a doll house which will be donated to the Tricky Tray.

Brother Knight John Esposito has been building custom doll houses for many years and will donate his time, talent and the doll house for this activity.

A parent or guardian must accompany and stay with the child during this activity.

Knights of Columbus Financial Corner

By Rich Fuentes

The State of Disability in America

Continued economic volatility, Rising home foreclosures. Eroded retirement accounts. Stubbornly high unemployment. The struggle for financial security and independence. Personal bankruptcies These conditions have heightened American workers' need for a reliable stream of income. Yet, many workers are not protected from income by savings, private insurance or government programs.

Just consider these facts about disability in America.

Over 1 in 4 of today's 20-year-olds will be disabled before they retire.

8.5 million disabled U.S. wage earners were receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits at the close of September 2011.

90% of new long-term disability claims are caused by illness rather than accidents. Fewer than 5% are work related.

The average long-term disability claim lasts for 31.2 months

New applications for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits increased 27% from 2008 to 2010.

About 100 million workers are without private disability income insurance.



RICH FUENTES CSA, FIC

Financial Advisor
Changing Lives, For Good...One Member At A Time.
richkofc@aol.com
(908) 437-0310 office
(908) 922-7551 cell

Christmas Party for Camp Fatima

Sister Ann Dominic from St. Michael's Parish in Union hosted her annual Christmas Party for the children who attend Camp Fatima at our Council in December. Sister Ann was helped by of our some of our Brother Knights and her many volunteers to provided these children an afternoon of music, dancing, food, fun, and of course a visit from Santa. For over 40 years, Camp Fatima's Summer Camp has provided a special place for children 5 -19 with developmental disabilities .

Campers are offered the chance to pick from one of the week-long sleep away sessions in August. There is no charge for campers to attend Camp Fatima, and ALL staff members are volunteers. Additionally, adults with disabilities are treated to a similar experience at 4 Camp Fatima Adult Weekends.

Funds raised by Sister Ann from her annual Valentines Dinner Dance at our Council help provided the funds for this party and other events at Camp Fatima. For more information about Camp Fatima, or how to make a donation to them, please go to www.campfatimanj.org . Or contact Sister Ann at St. Michael's Church.



Sister Ann and Santa joined by members of the Union Knights of Columbus 4504

Breakfast with Santa



Children with Mr. & Mrs. Claus



Santa and Mrs. Claus and all their 4504 helpers



Boy Scout Sean Pruszkowski, grandson of PGK Julian Pruszkowski and son of PGK Ray Pruszkowski, completed a renovation of the St. Michael's of Union Food Pantry as his Eagle Scout Project. (Right) Sean stands with Sister Ann Dominic in the newly renovated food pantry. (Left) Is a picture of the completed renovation.

***Camp Fatima
Valentine's Dinner/Dance***

When: Saturday, February 11, 2012
Where: Knights of Columbus - Union, NJ
Time: 7:00 PM to 12 Mid-night
 Dinner includes: appetizers, 3 course dinner, salad,
 soda, beer, coffee and dessert
 Music provided by Eddie GWiz
 Tickets: \$70.00 per couple or \$35.00 per person
 Make checks payable to: Camp Fatima or
 Sr. Ann Dominic or Knights of Columbus
 *

**THIS IS A MAJOR FINDRAISER-
 ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO CAMP FATIMA**
 *

Please help us support our children.
 For further information contact:
 Sr. Ann Dominic, OP, St. Michael's Convent
 1211 Orange Avenue, Union, NJ 07083
 (908) 686-5271
 Or
 Tom Conte
 (908) 687- 4898

Deadline for ordering tickets is February 8, 2012.
 Please provide your name, phone number and the
 number of people attending when ordering tickets.
 Seating is eight or ten persons per table.

For more info on Camp Fatima:

***Congratulations to the
Sisters of St. Michael's***

On December 17, 2011 at St. Catherine's Convent in Caldwell, our own Sister Ann Dominic celebrated her 70th Jubilee along with Sister Margaret William. Sister Gilbert, who resides in the infirmary in Caldwell also celebrated her 60th Jubilee. All three of these Sisters have been a part of the success of St. Michael's School as well as Church. Union Council sends warm congratulations, as well as prayers, on such important milestones.

***Annual Super Bowl Extravaganza
Sunday, February 5, 2012***

3:00 PM - End of Game

Pre-Snacks & Hors D'Oeuvres

Cheese & Crackers, Cocktail Franks, Chicken Wings,
 Stuffed Pepperoni Bread, Hot Dogs & Kraut,
 Pastry Puffs, Cold Cut Platter, and Salads

Buffet Dinner

Penne Vodka, Sausage & Peppers, Mussels, Chicken,
 Roast Beef & Gravy, Roasted Potatoes, Caesar Salad

\$15.00 Per Person
 Last Man Standing Super 50/50 Tickets
 \$20.00 per Ticket—Limited Sale of 100 Tickets
 Guaranteed Prize: \$1,000.00

For more information: Mike Scanlon (908) 578-8768

Knights of Columbus
COUNCIL 4504
 1034 Jeanette Avenue
 Union, NJ 07083



NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 UNION, N.J.
PERMIT NO. 37

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 Council Officers Mtg.	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Council Meeting	10	11	12	13	14 Build a Doll House 10AM
15 Council Blood Drive 9AM—2PM	16	17	18	19 Knight's Family Dinner 6:30 - 8:30 PM	20 New Member Social - 8 PM Swim Club Mtg. 7:30 PM	21 Free Throw Contest
22	23 Council Meeting	24	25 4th Degree Assembly	26 Columbian Club	27	28 Free Throw Contest
29 Runnell's Hospital	30	31	Next Month's Events: February 5th: Super Bowl Extravaganza February 11th: Valentine's Dinner/Dance February 25th: Tricky Tray			