



Knights Digest



Vol. 49 NO. 8

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April 2008

Yankee Trip Set For Saturday, June 21st

With pitchers and catchers reporting to spring training it's time to think baseball. Come and see the Yankees play against the Cincinnati Reds in their LAST season at the "Mecca of Baseball", Yankee Stadium. Our annual Yankee trip will be held on **Saturday June 21st**. In addition to MVP tier reserved seats, we will serve refreshments on the bus as well as providing goodie bags for all in attendance. Tickets are limited and are on a first come first serve basis. The cost is \$60 per person. Don't miss out on this historic opportunity. Please call Steve Helmstetter at 908-688-5039 A.S.A.P.



State Convention

The convention will be held this year again at the Adventure Hotel in Wildwood from **May 15th to May 18th**. A three night stay will be \$410.00 and a two night stay will be \$310.00. We would need a deposit of \$185.00 by April 8th to secure the rooms. If there is any questions you can reach DGK Mike Peter at home 908-325-6440 or by cell 908-499-1162.

Food Drive May 10th

Time flies! It is time already for our annual spring food drive. Once again, volunteers are needed to collect donations at the stores, Pick up donations at the schools, sort the food at the council, and deliver the food to St. Michaels. Anyone who can help please contact Tom Walsh at twalsh129@comcast.net, phone: 908-686-4064, or at the council. Let's all pitch in to make this drive the most successful one ever.

Tom Walsh, Food Drive chairman

Knights of Columbus Union council #4504

It's time for our 3rd annual golf outing!

Monday, April 14, 2008

9:30 am registration, 10:30am shotgun start

Scramble format!

At the cedar hill country club in Livingston, NJ.

It's only \$135.00 per golfer

It includes:

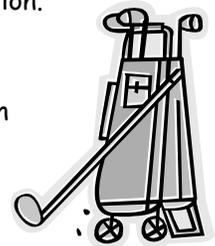
18 holes of golf, cart, liquid refreshments on the course, food on the turn, complete buffet dinner (back at the council), 3 hour open bar, plus a chance to win many great prizes.

Please call me for a golfer form and/or sponsor form and I will mail it, or for more information at 908-265-3757

This year a portion of the proceeds will go to the Autism speaks foundation.



Tony Quinones
Golf outing chairman



Council Officer Nominations for 2008-2009

The Nomination Committee will be interviewing candidates to become Council Officers for the year 2008-2009. Anyone interested in becoming an Officer please contact Committee Chairman Buddy Cotter at 908-447-3378 or email at acotterjr@yahoo.com to arrange an interview.

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 L. Cavallo, PGK
Grand Knight..... Andy Schopfer 908-265-7895
Deputy Grand Knight Mike Peter
Chancellor Rob Salvatore
Warden..... Nick Belmonte
Recorder Frank Santangelo
Treasurer Peter Kardys
Fin. Secretary Thomas Hornig, PGK
Inside Guard Lenny Tripodi
Outside Guard Chris Flory
Membership Dir...... Nick Belmonte
Program Director Position Open
Advocate Stephen F. Hehl
3rd. Yr. Trustee Buddy Cotter, PGK
2nd Yr. Trustee..... Harry Lupo, PGK
1st Yr. Trustee..... Joe Beninato, PGK
Columbian Club
President Clarence Cunningham
Swim Club Pres...... Steve Ruhl

Monthly Meetings

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

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT



Brothers, and friends of the Knights,

As the calendar turns another page, we are now heading into what has always been my favorite time of the year. We already have more daylight to enjoy, and hopefully very soon we will have consistently warmer weather to make our outdoor hours more pleasurable.

Springtime has even more meaning to us as Knights of Council 4504 because it is the time that we begin to prepare the pool area and the picnic grounds for what we always anticipate will be a successful summer season. For me personally, coming to the work parties in the back has always represented the best of what it means to be a Knight- the feeling of camaraderie as we work together for a common goal. It doesn't matter if the project is to clean the kitchen, paint the back fence, scrub the pool umbrellas or the myriad of other jobs that need to be done, the accomplishment that comes from working together to make our Council home the place to be in the summer is well worth the effort it takes. Unfortunately, each year, the number of volunteers seems to get smaller and smaller, and makes it that much harder to get all of the work completed on time and before we open for the season. Why not join us for a few hours on a Saturday morning to help us get the work done?

The spring months also bring us an opportunity to demonstrate our charitable side to the public. Not only do we have our annual golf outing on April 14 to raise money for charity, we also will be spending the weekend of April 25, 26 and 27 collecting for our Special Citizens Drive. This year, we will be able to solicit donations at select stores in town, and also hope to be able to walk the streets of the shopping areas to ask shoppers for donations to this worthy cause. Chairman Rob Salvatore has already done a lot of prep work for this drive, and we now will need volunteers who are willing to assist us for a few hours on any day of the weekend.

On May 10, we will also be outside the local supermarkets seeking donations for our annual spring food drive to replenish the food pantry at St. Michael's. To assist in that effort, please contact our Food Drive chairman Tom Walsh.

Enjoy the spring, and may God Bless us all!

Andy Schopfer, Grand Knight

Columbian Swim Club

As most of you know pool membership has been declining over the past years. Renewal membership for the 2008 season is significantly less than 2007 season. A recent survey conducted indicated that there are no pools in the area that are as reasonably priced as ours. Our family members pay \$245.00 for the season- which is Memorial Day and weekends in June until the public schools close and remain open until Labor Day. Our operating hours are normally 12 noon until 8 pm. A family of four who chooses to go to the Jersey Shore or to an Amusement Park for the day with entrance fees, gas, food, drinks and other expenses would certainly spend more than our seasonal fee in one day, the board of directors recognizes that these are tough times for all of us and, as a result, if membership does not increase, we will have to shorten our operating hours or consider other measures.



Mike Peter and Andy Schopfer marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Nativity Set Fund Raiser

Please remember that we are still trying to raise enough money to replace the Nativity scene for the lawn of town hall. The old one was beyond repair and was discarded. I know that Christmas is a long way off but we need raise the money now so a nice set can be ordered in time for Thanksgiving. That is when we put the Nativity set up. At the first meeting of March the Trustees read the annual report and we have 1,749 members in our council. If every member made a donation of only \$5.00 we would have enough money to purchase a Nativity we as good Christian's can be proud of. Think about it \$5.00 is not a lot of money, some people spend more than that on coffee and donuts a day. So I am asking you PLEASE make a donation to this worthy cause. You can send a check payable to Union Knights of Columbus 4504 to Brother Steven Ruhl 899 Lafayette Ave. Union NJ 07083 write "nativity" in the memo line.

Thank you and God bless

Knight of the Month



Tom Kramer



Tom lived in Mountainside when he graduated from Jonathan Dayton Regional High in 1952. He joined the Navy reserves after high school and served for 31 years. He married his wife Dolly and recently celebrated their 50th anniversary this past December.

Tom has live in Union since 1962 where he raised his three children Cathy, Mike and Kim. He is a member of Holy Spirit Church and has been a member of the Knights since 1990. He has been active ever since helping with repairs around the council. Tom also is an active member on the degree team and is a 4th degree member in the Color Corp. Tom also serves as bartender for many years. When he isn't busy at the Knights, Tom enjoys playing pinochle and spends his summers in the Poconos at Otter Lake Campground where he works as a security guard keeping all the little children safe. He also has a new love in his life, a 70 pound golden retriever named Abby. Being a retired Vet, he is very proud of his oldest grandchild Sarah, who joined the Army. Tom also has 4 other grandchildren, Jessica, Nicky, Jillian and Tommy.

Special Citizens Drive

Brothers,

Our annual Special Citizens Drive is approaching, and as this is the first year I'm involved with running it, along with Brian Klien, I will be looking for a lot of volunteers to help us in this endeavor. As you know, we need brothers to stand outside local businesses before and after masses the weekend of the drive. This year it runs from April 25th to 27th. I will be posting a sign-up sheet at the bar so everyone can sign up to participate. I am hoping that some new blood will sign up this year to help out the people who always donate there time for events such as this. As of this writing, the only stores that have given me the O.K are ShopRite, Food town, and Quick Check. We may be able to walk around Union Center, not at the traffic lights, but on the sidewalks. That is a work in progress right now. There may also be an event or two in conjunction with the drive. I look forward to scheduling everybody that weekend and am thanking you in advance for your support

Rob Salvatore,
Special Citizens Drive Chairman

Anthony E. Russo
Attorney

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