



Knight Digest

Union Council 4504



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March, 2006

Membership Drives, Parade, Work Parties Set in March

After a very busy February, there will still be a high level of activity in Union Council 4504 during the month of March. The events begin on the first Saturday of the month, when the Columbian Club will sponsor its second annual trip to the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut. Participants on this trip, will receive bus transportation, sandwiches and liquid refreshment on the bus, a \$10.00 food credit or full buffet, as well as a \$10.00 bet on the Big 6 Wheel on arrival at the casino. The cost is \$32.00. Last minute tickets may still be available by calling Jamie Zappulla at (908) 380-9155.

Also in March, the Council will be conducting a membership drive at our local churches. That drive will be held at Holy Spirit Church and after all masses on Sunday, March 5. We will then repeat the drive at St. Michael's on the following Sunday, March 12. If you are interested in helping with this drive, please contact Membership Director, Nick Belmonte at (908) 686-6084.

On Saturday, March 11, members of the Council will be marching in the annual Union County St. Patrick's Day parade, which begins at 1:00 on Morris Avenue. Those interested in marching should contact Grand Knight Harry Lupo.

When the parade kicks off, the Columbian Club will once again be sponsoring its annual party to celebrate the Luck of the Irish. Admission is \$5.00, and tickets will be available at the door.

Beginning on Saturday, March 18 work parties to prepare the picnic grove and the pool area for the upcoming season will begin. These events will be held every Saturday morning from 8:00 in the morning. to 12:00 noon through the opening of the pool on Memorial Day weekend. Breakfast and lunch will be served to all participants.

The final highlight for March will be the first quarterly charitable raffle drawing to be held on Monday, March 27th. Be sure to return your tickets to John Murphy before the drawing!

Council Announces Scholarship Winners

Children of six council members who are attending Catholic High Schools were recently awarded scholarships totalling \$3,000.00 in recognition of their excellent grades, and their participation in school and community events. "All of the applicants were very deserving, and this was a difficult choice for our committee" noted chairman Andy Schopfer. He then added, "The winners have all demonstrated high academic achievements, while at the same time have found time to give back to their schools and their communities."

The winners of the scholarships, and their schools they attend are: Jacqueline Arce-Union Catholic, Melanie Calatayud-Benedictine Academy, Thomas Conte- St. Benedict's Prep, James Harbison-Union Catholic, Mark and Matthew Dudek-Roselle Catholic, and Brian Zappulla-St. Peter's Prep.

Reserve Early for the State Convention in Wildwood

The annual State Convention will be held in Wildwood NJ from May 18th thru 20th. Although the weekend is more than two months away, we have already begun to plan for the event. In order to do so, it is essential that we book our rooms at the Adventurer Motor Inn as soon as possible. Rooms are available Thursday thru Sunday evening. All 3 nights cost \$382.00 which includes the \$75.00 hospitality fee. If you are only able to stay 2 nights (Friday and Saturday) the cost is \$283.00.

Reservation are needed early so that we can provide the Hotel a room count. A deposit of one nights stay plus the \$75.00 hospitality fee is required to hold your reservation. Please contact Deputy Grand Knight, Buddy Cotter at 908-447-3378 or 908-964-9311 to make your reservation.

Based on feedback from recent attendees, we do plan on opening the hospitality room on Thursday evening, and will also have plenty of food on hand to satisfy the heartiest of appetites. It promises to be a great time, so be sure to make your reservations, and enjoy a weekend in Wildwood with your fellow Knights.

KNIGHT DIGEST

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RULES FOR SUBMISSION: Submissions for consideration are due in writing by the tenth of the month for the following month. Please mail or drop off submissions, with contact information, to Andy Schopfer, Knight Digest Editor, 1034 Jeanette Avenue, Union, NJ 07083 or via email at Aschopfer@comcast.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

<i>Chaplain</i>	
<i>District Deputy</i>	Michael L. Cavallo, PGK
<i>Grand Knight</i>	Harry Lupo (908) 851-2493
<i>Deputy Grand Knight</i>	Buddy Cotter
<i>Chancellor</i>	Andy Schopfer
<i>Warden</i>	Mike Peter
<i>Recorder</i>	Frank Santangelo
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Kardys
<i>Fin. Secretary</i>	Thomas Hornig, PGK
<i>Inside Guard</i>	Lenny Tripodi
<i>Outside Guard</i>	Rob Salvatore
<i>Program Director</i>	Clarence Cunningham, PGK
<i>Membership Advocate</i>	Director Nick Belmonte
<i>Lecturer</i>	James Conlon
<i>3rd Yr. Trustee</i>	Steve Ruhl
<i>2nd Yr. Trustee</i>	Joe Bennanato, PGK
<i>1st Year Trustee</i>	Mike Gasser, PGK
<i>Columbian Club President</i>	Joe DeMarco, PGK
<i>Swim Club President</i>	Bob Calderone
	James Feehan

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Words from the Grand Knight



I hope all is well. It is already March, and before you know it, the pool will be open for the 2006 year. Work parties will be starting very shortly- please try to come out and help.

We had a very successful Tricky Tray on February 25th, and I would like to give full credit for that success to my wife Diane for all of her efforts. She did assemble a great committee that also deserve a strong thank you: Judy Amorosa, Chirs Burlew, Karen Caulfield, Mary Cellitti, Donna Ruhl, Annette Vitale, Carol Walsh and Gina Zangari. I also want to thank all of the Brother Knights who worked on the day of the event, and also all of the families who donated baskets and prizes. The tireless efforts of all of these individuals helped to make this event the true success that it became.

We did however, have one incident that truly bothered us, and that I need to vent about. These girls worked very hard in obtaining donations from restaurants, stores, Club members and outside groups. We then spent all of Saturday afternoon setting up the hall, and took a 45-minute break before the event began to freshen up and relax. When we returned, one of the gifts had been stolen. When one remembers that this is the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal Catholic brotherhood founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, such an act is almost incomprehensible, and certainly not fair to those people who devoted so much of their time and energy to this event. Enough said on that topic- I don't want to let that one negative mar what was a truly successful evening.

Please mark your calendars with our upcoming events such as the St. Patrick's Day parade and party, breakfast with the Easter Bunny, and the Easter Egg Hunt, as well as our double bingo on April 22. We will need your support for each and every one of them- only you can help to make any of the events that we run a success.

I would also like to congratulate the Columbian Club on a great event that they held in February. Their comedy night was unbelievable, and anyone who was there was treated to a great time, with great food, outstanding music and super comedy by Chris Patela. Anyone who missed it should be disappointed, but this is why we urge you all to come out to these events.

May God Bless you all during the upcoming Lenten season.

Harry Lupo, Grand Knight

Mark Your Calendars

Make note of the following planned events. More details will be available in future Digests:

- April 9th- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Easter Egg Hunt
- April 22- Double Bingo at the Boy's and Girl's Club
- April 27-30 RCD Drive- Donations will be collected throughout Union
- May 1- First Annual Golf Outing
- May 6- Spring Food Drive at local supermarkets
- May 18-20 State Convention in Wildwood
- August 12- Bus Trip to Yankee Stadium via Ferry to see Yanks vs Angels

Columbian Club News

Brother Knights and Ladies,

The month of Feb. 2006 brought us Super Bowl 40, Valentines Day and the Columbian Club's Comedy Night, chaired by Mike Scanlon. To everyone who had the Super Bowl winner, congratulations. For the losers there is always next year. Personally I liked the under but a pal of mine, who is the best when it comes to picking winners, said, "go with me pal take the over." The over was 47, and the rest is history. Like Charlie said in the movie "Young Guns", its hard having pals.

That brings us to Valentines Day and Sister Ann's Camp Fatima dinner. The dinner served was fillet mignon and lobster tails. Once again our kitchen crew did an excellent job. I personally want to thank Frank Santangelo, Tom Conti, Allen Pascullo and Joe Berlew. The dinner generated over \$5,000.00 for Camp Fatima. I would also like to thank the bartender, the servers and anyone else involved with organizing and assisting with this event.

I hope all the ladies received a nice, romantic gift for Valentines Day. If not, like the Super Bowl losers, there is always next year.

The Columbian Club Comedy Night, held Feb. 18, was a huge success. The comedian, Chris Patela did an excellent job roasting the honorees: Harry Lupo, Frank Santamauro, Tom Conti and Pat Scanlon. With over 100 people in attendance no one was safe from Chris's jokes. The food was excellent, the music, provided by an 8 piece band called Sound Investment, was outstanding. I thank Mike Scanlon for providing everyone with a great time.

One final note- anyone interested in applying to run the Snack Bar this summer, please contact me at (908) 337-2504. **Bob Calderone, Columbian Club President**

Swim Club News

The Swim Club dues are now due, and it would be greatly appreciated if anyone renewing their membership or joining for the first time would send them in promptly.

Work parties will commence on Saturday, March 18th, and your participation is critical in helping to contain our yearly dues. By helping now, before the season begins, we will all be able to reap the benefits of a prosperous summer season. We are looking forward to a great season, and seeing everyone enjoying our great facilities.

Nick Belmonte Named Knight of the Month



Nick Belmonte is married to his wife Maria for 17 ½ years. They have a daughter Adriana who is 11 years old, and a son Nicholas who is 7. Nick and his family have been residents of Union for the past 14 years. The children attend St. Theresa's school in Kenilworth, where the family is also parishioners.

Raised in North Newark, Nick attended Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Benedict's Prep high school. He then attended college at St. Bonaventure University in Olean New York. He is currently employed by J&R Tobacco as a computer programmer.

Nick has been a member of Union Council 4504 for 2 ½ years, and is currently serving as our Membership Director. He can always be found helping out with many activities, including food drives, Runnels Hospital visits, the art auction, the Tricky Trays, work parties, and in the kitchen at many of our functions.

In his spare time, Nick coaches both his children's softball teams, and plays on the Knights softball team. In addition, he has also joined the bowling league. Nick also helps out with his son's Tiger Scout Troop, and enjoys watching football and playing "Texas Hold-em".

Union Council 4504 is proud to name Nick Belmonte as Knight of the Month for March, 2006.

Thanks for a Great Evening

As a participant in the "Knight to Remember" on February 18th, I would like to commend the committee of Mike Scanlon, Bob Calderone, and everyone else who was involved in what was a great evening. The food and entertainment were all first class, and the evening was certainly one to remember.

Thanks to all, and congratulations to Harry, Pat, and Frank.

Tom Conte