

BISHOP DWENGER COUNCIL 1881

Rensselaer, IN 47978

Brother Knights:

I hope each of you had a very joyous Christmas season and that you are ready to start the new year off with a bang.

In an attempt to hold down costs, I have been trying to keep everybody current on events at the hall with regular emails. However, I understand not everybody has emails, so periodically a newsletter needs to be mailed out. If you have access to email and have not been getting my regular postings please be sure to get me your email address and I will add it to my list.

As you know, the Knights of Columbus is a charitable organization. Our events at the hall, whether they are a fish fry, rib-eye steak/pork chop dinner, a breakfast, party/reception event, or any other activity, are our fund-raisers that help us to be charitable. However, before we can be charitable, the first thing we look at is our ability to pay our own bills and keep the doors to the hall open. Support for any of these fund-raising events, whether it is from working the event or attending and supporting the event, is necessary for these events to be successful. Your council officers work hard to plan these fund-raisers and your support is critical.

Fish fries are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays of the months unless there is some type of conflicting event like a holiday or whatever. The pork chop dinners, which have taken the place of the rib-eye dinners, are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the odd months. Confused? That's January, March, May, etc. You see the pattern. Our monthly breakfasts are on the last Sunday of the month. I would suggest to you that there is good value in any of these meals for the money.

The hall rentals remain an excellent money making event for us. There are several ways to go with these rentals. Wedding reception, birthday parties, graduation open houses, etc. are all possibilities. We are very flexible when it comes to use of the hall for any event. I would urge you that if you are considering having an event and looking for a place other than your home to hold it please consider your K of C Hall. Contact me (866-7642), our booking agent Becky Wiener (866-0825), or just leave a message on the phone at the hall (866-9938).

We have in the past, and will continue to do so, worked with a couple of different causes with our fund-raising events. Those include but are not limited to St. A School with the Ash Wednesday fish fry and Birthright of Rensselaer with the Good Friday fish fry. Also, we have done a couple of steak/chop dinners for the Families of JCYC. We are continuing to assist with the DC trip breakfast for the RCMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders and the Kruizin'With Kent (Mahnesmith) breakfast. We are looking for other groups to work with on the pork chop dinners. If you know a group that is looking to raise some revenue please feel free to have them contact me.

The officers are always looking to hold events for the membership that are more fun than work. Events like a Christmas/holiday party or a Super Bowl party have been held in the past. Unfortunately, these events have not been well attended. There was not a Christmas party this year because of lack of attendance at the past couple of parties. The Super Bowl party has had modest success and will continue.

One of the biggest fund-raising events we have had the most success with in recent years is our Casino Night. This is a major event that really helps out with the maintenance and improvements of the hall. It is very demanding of man-power to make it successful. If you can assist in any way, again just let me know. We need a lot of workers for this one.

This year we will once again be doing our annual Tootsie Roll drive around the first part of June. This is an annual event. I wish I could remember how many years we have been doing this. Trust me when I say it's been a long time. Our chairman for this, Dirk Wiener, has struggled the past couple of years getting sufficient workers to man the different collection sites. Please keep this very worthwhile project in mind and volunteer when you get the call.

Finally, I would like to extend to each of you an invitation to attend regular council meetings. It seems like it is always the same 12 to 15 people in attendance each meeting. I know that everybody is busy with work and family, but it would be nice to see fresh faces in attendance and to hear some new ideas. We are also in need of fresh faces to fill the officer chairs. Recently, we had to recycle our grand knights. I mean, we had to fall back on past grand knights and ask them to take another turn at it. Tim Shide was the first one and now I am the second. Finding enough members to fill the chairs is always a challenge. I hate to say it, but this is a sure sign that the council is dying. And, it is sure to be a slow, lingering, and agonizing death. We have the members, but there seems to be a lack of interest in the membership to participate outside of working a fish fry or party. Officers try to figure ways to get more participation, but often fall short of expectations. Don't ask yourself "why me?" Ask "why not me?"

Here's hoping to see you at a meeting this coming year.

John Mercer, Grand Knight