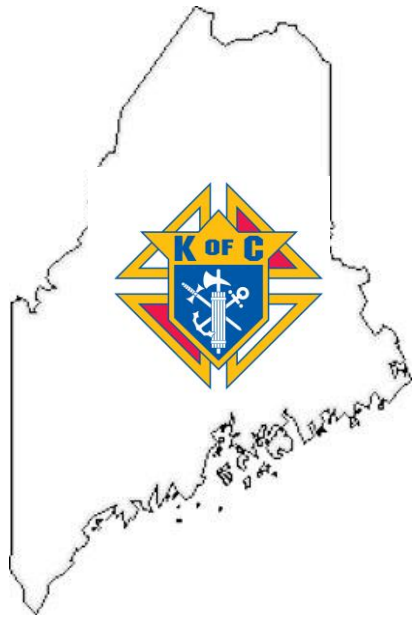


Maine State Council Knights of Columbus – State Advocacy Newsletter Autumn 2012



We hope this newsletter will provide answers to questions that you may have in your Council in regards to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Written by State Advocate Mark Bourgoin and approved by State Deputy Philip Lizotte.

If you have any questions whatsoever regarding information printed in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the State Advocate or the State Deputy.

Feel free to e-mail the State Advocate at mbourgoin@tamc.org if you wish to see a specific issue addressed in this newsletter.

Conduct Unbecoming of a Knight of Columbus

Recently, as State Advocate, I have fielded a number of questions regarding council members that act in a manner that would be considered inappropriate; in a manner that may cause a “black mark” on the Catholic Church, the Maine State Council, and the Order.

As Knights of Columbus, we are the “Defenders of the Faith” and as our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson stated recently to all State Deputies; “we change lives and save lives every day”. What an awesome way to “show and tell” someone what a Knight of Columbus is and does.

Unfortunately, some members of the Order have forgotten what it truly means to be a Knight of Columbus; to be a Catholic gentleman; to be a child of God. When we became a Knight of Columbus we swore an oath to abide by the orders of our superiors: Council Officers, State Officers, and Supreme Officers. We also swore to uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Supreme Council.

This is especially true when the Knight acting inappropriately is an officer himself. Thus, it is difficult at best for the membership of his council to abide by the orders of their superiors when their own Grand Knight or other council officers do not.

If the Knight is a member of the State Staff, a District Deputy, or a State Officer, the State Deputy may need to remove them from their position depending on the magnitude of the incident that occurred.

What are Violations of the Constitution of the Order?

Because of the number of items that may fall under Section 162 our Constitution, only those items that we have recently been made aware of are being listed below (which may result in a fine, suspension or expulsion of the member). For a complete list of offenses that are considered as misconduct and nonfeasance (failure to perform either a legal requirement or an official duty) of members and officers, please see Section 162 of the Constitution.

Insubordination: willful contempt, insubordination, or disobedience of the lawful orders of superior authority.

Giving Scandal: giving scandal, scandalous conduct or practice unbecoming a member.

False Charges: preferring charges against a member when such charges prove to be false and malicious.

Slander: making unjust or false statements, accusations, or personal vilification of or against any officer of the Order in his official capacity.

Additional Offenses of Officers:

Any officer of the Order having duties to perform under the laws or ceremonials may be removed from office for:

- Failure to Comply with Laws
- Giving privileges to persons who have forfeited their membership
- Misfeasance or nonfeasance in office
- Failure to remain a practical Catholic
- Failure to pay dues, contributions or assessments
- Conviction of a Felony