



Phone: (410) 893:6442

# COUNCILAIRS

## Bel Air Council 4714

23 Newport Drive, Forest Hill, MD 21050



Initiated Dec 1958

August 2014

### **Grand Knight's Message**

It's August and summer is in full swing. I want to thank everyone for a very successful year last year. We created a presence at St Mark's and St Margaret's, at St Margaret's School and the John Carroll School. The change in how and where we did our programs enabled an extremely successful membership year as well. I would like to capitalize on the momentum we created last year and bring in a number of new members for this August's 1st degree. We brought in 14 members last year, I'd like to challenge you to bring in 24 this year. With the right programs in the right places with everyone's support 24 is a doable goal. I would like to place a star on the wall from Supreme this year to show how great Bel Air Council actually is. With your help Star Council is possible.

Vivat Jesus,

**Stephen Conley**, Grand Knight, 443-417-7538,

[knightsfc@gmail.com](mailto:knightsfc@gmail.com)

### **District Deputy**

Congratulations to St. Ignatius and Corpus Christi councils for achieving enough net new members to qualify for star council. Reaching star council status is a distinguished honor for a council. Thank you to the other district councils for your considerable efforts to recruit new members last year. I'm sure that the recruitment momentum gained last year will carry over and result in more substantial gains again this year. The challenge as always is to have the new members become active members. That's where sponsors come in. Don't let a new member sit on the sidelines. Get him and his family involved.

SD Adamczyk puts a special emphasis on us carrying our rosary that was given to each of us Knights at our first degree. Let's follow his example and carry ours as well. It will help us all to live up to the motto he has chosen for this year. His motto is "Be Not Afraid, Our Faith is Our Courage". That motto challenges each of us to not be afraid to ask someone if they know about the Knights of Columbus. It can be an effective

way of opening a dialogue that can lead to an invitation to join us in the Knights of Columbus.

A first degree ceremony is scheduled at Bel Air Council on Tuesday, August 5. If you have candidates for this degree, let GK Stephen Conley and FS Tom Sutera know in advance.

I also encourage Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights and Past Grand Knights to attend Baltimore Chapter Grand Knight meetings. Please take a look at their website (<http://www.mdkofc.org/baltimore>) to find the location of future meetings.

#### **State events:**

- September 5 - 7 - Trip to Boston (Red Sox game), Cooperstown NY (Baseball Hall of Fame) and Camden, NJ (minor league game)
- Saturday, September 27 - State Special Olympics Day - an event per council
- Saturday, October 11 - Columbus Day Ball at BWI Marriott (Reservations and payment must be made by September 1)

#### **District Events:**

- Saturday, August 2 - Corpus Christi Installation
- Saturday, August 16 - Havre de Grace Installation
- Sunday, August 24 - Bishop Becker Installation (tentative)
- Saturday, September 20 (10am - 12 pm) - District Meeting at Bishop Becker
- Sunday, September 21 - Bel Air Installation
- Sunday, October 5 (12 pm) - Golf Tournament at Exton Golf Course - tentative

#### **Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights Events:**

- Thursday, August 14 (8:00 p.m.) - Monthly meeting at Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council, 10817 Stang Rd. Owings Mills, MD 21117
- Thursday, September 11 (8:00 p.m.) - Shrimp Night (Ladies are invited) at Cardinal Gibbons Council, 4301 Klosterman Ave. Baltimore, MD 21236

**Richard Belmonte**, District Deputy #16

## Bel Air Council 4714 Monthly Schedule of Events

First Tuesday - 7:30 pm - **Business Meeting** - open to KC members only

Second Tuesday - 7:00 pm - **Home Corporation Meeting** - open to KC members and invited guests

Third Tuesday - 7:00 pm - **Social Meeting** - open to general public

Fourth Tuesday - 7:00 pm - **Officers' Meeting** - open to KC members and invited guests

All Fridays - 7:00 pm - **Bingo** (board is lit) - open to the general public

### **Fraternal Benefits**

#### ***Update your beneficiaries***

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the simplest of things. Take the beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. If your policy was applied for and issued several years ago, it could very well be that the person you originally selected as the beneficiary is no longer the person you would want to receive the policy proceeds. If you bought the policy when you were single, for example, you may have named your parents as beneficiaries. If you have since married, your policies should be updated to reflect your spouse as beneficiary. Maybe you've had children who are not named on the policies.

Most people list a primary beneficiary, who is specifically designated as the first in priority to receive policy proceeds. We also encourage the naming of a contingent beneficiary, an alternate person designated to receive policy proceeds, usually in the event that the original beneficiary pre-deceases the insured.

I routinely call all of my policyholders for annual review appointments, usually near the anniversary date of your policy – the date it was originally issued. One of the matters that I'll discuss during this review is the status of your beneficiary designations. If they need updating, and they often do, I can complete the paperwork during that appointment.

I look forward to meeting with each of you to discuss your family's needs.

**Edward A. O'Keefe**, CLU, ChFC, CASL

<http://okeefefinancialplanning.com>

### **Council Activities**

#### ***Columbus Day Ball***

The annual Columbus Day Ball will be Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 7:30pm to 11:30pm at the BWI Marriott in Linthicum. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$125 per couple. CHECKS ONLY are accepted, made out to Maryland State Council. There will be no tickets available at the door; all attendees must have prepaid reservations. Dress for members is black tie (i.e., tuxedo) preferred/business suit acceptable. The ladies should dress appropriately for a gala occasion. The sooner we can turn in a full reservation sheet for a table of ten, the better table we will get at the ball. We already have two committed to this affair. Please note: ALL CHECKS AND THE RESERVATION SHEET must be turned in BY SEPTEMBER 1, which is BEFORE our September business meeting. Therefore, if you wish to attend, please turn in your money and the names for which you are buying tickets to DGK Kevin McNamara NLT the officers meeting on Tuesday, August 26, so they can be conveyed to the Columbus Day Ball Chairman before September 1. If there are any dietary restrictions in your party, please advise me when you present your check and the names of your party members. If you are unable to present your check, names, and restrictions (if any) in person, my address follows.

**Kevin McNamara**, DGK

2305 Castleton Road

Darlington, MD 21034

#### ***First Degree Team***

We most definitely WILL have a first degree at the August business meeting. However, the rehearsal I had planned for next week will have to be cancelled due to an unforeseen event. So everyone get your parts ready!

Anyone who wants to participate in this activity, especially if you're willing to learn a major speaking part, please contact me at [kgm4714@gmail.com](mailto:kgm4714@gmail.com) or 443-206-0317.

**Kevin McNamara**, DGK, Team Captain

### ***Fourth Degree***

Any third degree member in good standing is eligible to become a fourth degree Knight. The next scheduled exemplification of the fourth degree in the Maryland District is in March 2015 in Frederick; the precise date and other details as they become available. If a closer or earlier exemplification is scheduled, an announcement will appear in the Councilairs.

**Kevin McNamara**, PFN, St. Francis Xavier Assembly

### ***Pot of Gold***

Each month at the Business Meeting, the Council conducts a "Pot of Gold" drawing. All that is required is your attendance. The prizes range from \$5.00 to \$50.00. After there is a winner, the prize starts at \$5.00 and each month that a name is drawn and the winner is not in attendance, \$5.00 is added to the kitty until it reaches the maximum prize of \$50.00. You must be in attendance to win. See you at the next meeting! The name drawn at the July meeting was Lawrence Wiseman and he was not in attendance. The drawing at the August meeting will remain at \$50.00.

**Tom Sutera**

### ***Sick and Deceased***

Please keep the Worthy Grand Knight, Stephen Conley, in your prayers as he enters the hospital on July 22 for the first of two knee replacements.

Please keep Second Lady Gilly-Ann McNamara, wife of DGK Kevin McNamara, in your prayers as she enters the hospital August 12 for a spinal fusion.

Brother Vic Ferrara, who has most ably chaired both Church Activities and Alive and Well for many, many years, recently advised the council that he and his lovely lady Millie are moving to Pennsylvania to be with their daughter. We thank Vic and Millie for all the fellowship they have shared with us and all the work they have accomplished for Bel Air Council. Please keep the Ferraras in your prayers as they start this new chapter in their lives.

Until a new Alive and Well chairman is appointed, please advise me of any prayer needs that should be brought before the council. E-mail me at [kgm4714@gmail.com](mailto:kgm4714@gmail.com) or call me at 443-206-0317.

**Kevin McNamara**, DGK

### **Youth Activities**

Troop 999: The Troop attended summer camp from July 6 through July 12 at Camp Tuckahoe which is located in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. Participating in camp activities this year were 2 adults and 4 scouts from troop 999 and 2 adults and 2 scouts from troop 807.

Troop 999 completed 17 of 19 merit badges and received the Baden Powell Award. This is the highest a youth achievement award available in scouting in several countries. A scout must take part in at least 10 separate camps, must be more than 10 nights camping at more than 3 locations, show a high standard of camp craft and maintain a log.

Matt Abel, Cameron Blomquist and Austin Gusler earned their World Conservation Award after completing their 3rd merit badge for conservation.

Pack 999: Participation in the July 4th picnic and parade was cancelled due to low participation. The picnic has been rescheduled for July 27 at the Rock Spring Swim Club. The pack will provide hot dogs, chip, pretzels and drinks, (lemonade and water). Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish or tray of food or dessert and swim gear.

The pack is planning a trip to Nottingham, Pennsylvania to tour the Herr Potato Chip factory on August 5.

**Joe Pisani**

### **Community Activities**

I'm organizing a team again this year to walk at the Harford County Walk to End Alzheimer's on November 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. The walk will be held at Tollgate Equestrian Center. Total walk is about 2 1/2 miles with little elevation change. Please consider joining the "KC 4714" team that day for the walk or sponsor someone on the team by making a donation. Join the team now and then ask your friends and neighbors to support you. Information about joining the "KC 4714" team or making a donation can be found at the following web address:

[http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2014/MD-GreaterMaryland?pg=team&fr\\_id=5157&team\\_id=217746](http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2014/MD-GreaterMaryland?pg=team&fr_id=5157&team_id=217746)

**Dick Belmonte**, [rbbelmon@gmail.com](mailto:rbbelmon@gmail.com),  
410-838-6329.

### ***Perry Point Program***

The Bel Air Council will be assisting patients at Perry Point on the first Sundays of the month. We will once again be looking for help on the first Sunday of August (3rd) for our turn to aid the patients at Perry Point. If you would like to join us, we leave from the McDonalds on 543 in Riverside at 9:30 AM, or you may want to join us at the Chapel in Perry Point at 10:00 AM. Mass is at 10:30 AM. After returning the patients to their various buildings, we usually return to Riverside by noon. If you are unable to help with patients, you are very welcome to join us at Mass with Father Jonathon. If you want more information call Tom Sutera at (410) 638-1096 or Pat Dolan at (410) 679-7058.

***Tom Sutera***

### **Catholic Ladies Service Organization**

Hello Everyone, Mother Nature called our July meeting short. Figuring it is better to be safe than sorry we closed the meeting and hurried home right after the Secretary's reading of correspondence. After the heavy rain stopped there was a beautiful double rainbow. Did any of you see it?

Since we were not able to cover all the things we had on our agenda, I will try to briefly mention here the most important items to bring everyone up to date.

Old Business - there was a reminder about our CLSO Birthday Party at Mamie's Café in Beard's Hill Shopping Center on August 10th at 1 P.M. and a correction about the cost per person. The cost is \$15. In addition to celebrating, we will also announce our Lady of the Year at the birthday party. Can you guess

who it is? I won't tell. You have to come and see for yourself who she is.

Our New Business includes the announcement of the Perry Point Veteran's Cook Out on September 20th, anyone wishing to volunteer please contact Pat Lijewski. Everyone who volunteers at Perry Point always has a great time. It's hard to decide who has more fun, the Veterans or the volunteers.

The Installation of Officers for the Knights and the Ladies will be held on Sunday September 21st at Saint Mark's Church after the 11 o'clock mass. There will be a social immediately following at the Newport Room (Council Home). Mark your calendars.

We did not have time to select a Color or Saint of the Month so I propose St. Therese of the Child Jesus and purple.

Our officers and the executive committee will be working on the budget and activities for the coming fraternal year, updating our data bank and telephone tree. If you have not returned your information sheet please do so as soon as possible.

Card night is August 11th and our next business Meeting will be held on August 12.

Remember to pray for the repose of the soul of Hilda Lijewski, (Pat's mother -in -law) and for successful surgery for Gilly MacNamara and all the people on our prayer chain.

We will be collecting school supplies for needy children. Please bring any items you care to donate to the August meeting. Enjoy a safe summer.

***Dee Kozlowski*** -President CLSO 410-676-2862



## *REFLECTIONS*

Lawrence P. Grayson

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### **The Morphing of America's Core Principles**

In America, democracy, tolerance, justice and freedom are extolled as fundamental precepts to be pursued without reservation. While these seminal concepts can bring great benefit to an individual and the nation, the terms are prone to redefinition and a warping that can denigrate the nature and dignity of the human person.

Democracy, that is, a government of the people in which its leaders are elected directly by the populace or their representatives, is a opportunity-creating framework for man to work out his purpose in life. It is, however, a fragile structure that can be easily transformed, for power often begets a desire for greater power. There are many instances in history of elected heads of state who, once gaining control, became dictators and declared themselves in office for life. Adolf Hitler is the prime, but not only, modern example. Hugo Chavez was elected in Venezuela, Benito Mussolini in Italy, Kim-Il Sung in North Korea, and recently Hamas in Palestine.

A democracy is continually threatened, both from within and without, by changing situations. The most insidious threat often is from the changing expectations of the people themselves, when people rely on the government to provide for their needs, their security, their happiness, when they look to it as the regulator and sole arbiter of how they conduct their lives, of what they can and cannot do. Alexis de Tocqueville, in his perceptive work, *Democracy in America*, wrote:

"Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence; it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies a people, till each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd."

Through apathy, complacency and a pervasive desire for benefits without effort, the constitutionally-established, democratic America of 1789 is morphing into an Orwellian government of 1984. A democracy,

if it is to be preserved, must be continually guarded, defended and recreated with each generation.

Absolute tolerance claimed by a minority often results in oppression of the majority. This is especially so when a desire to "allow my lifestyle" becomes a demand to "affirm my lifestyle." JP Morgan Chase, the international banking firm, aligning itself with the nation's non-heterosexual segment, recently asked its employees whether they were "an ally of the LGBT community." The question is not only indicative of company policy, but was intimidating when employee identification numbers were included on the survey.

Opposition to the insistence by same-sex couples that they be recognized as married is not intolerance, but rather a legitimate expression based on an age-old, universally-accepted concept rooted in the nature of man and woman. Proponents of the claim are not satisfied to gain the public benefits of marriage through civil unions, but demand that the definition of marriage be changed to suit their behavior.

The concept of justice in America is being slowly altered by the increasing accommodation to Islamic practices in accord with Shariah law. The U.S. Constitution entitles everyone to due process and equal protection under the law. No distinction is made for gender, age or family relationship. In contrast, under Shariah law, there are defined and separate roles for men and for women in society, while the rights of the child are subordinated to those of the father. There also is no concept of proportional justice, which recognizes mitigating factors such as intentions, motives, surrounding circumstances, and causes to be considered in judging a violation of the law.

The emphasis in Shariah law is on retribution, rather than deterrence or reform. As a result, aspects of the law allow forced marriages for young girls, death for apostates from Islam, stoning of adulterous women, families being subject to the absolute rule of the father, and honor killings, among similar elements that are antithetical to American principles. The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that "sharia is incompatible with the fundamental principles of democracy." Yet, U.S. courts, schools and other public institutions are permitting aspects of Islamic practice, even while forbidding parallel Christian practices.

Freedom is another core concept of the American way of life that is being distorted. Today, people strive for an unconstrained freedom to do whatever they like, whenever they like, with whomever they like. But freedom without restraint is license. It does not recognize anything as absolute and makes one's desires the ultimate measure of behavior.

Freedom must be limited by obedience to a higher set of laws, by moral values, by recognition of the transcendental constraints reflected in the human soul. Pope Leo XIII, in his encyclical, *On the Nature of Human Liberty*, stated: "it is manifest that the eternal law of God is the sole standard and rule of human liberty, not only in each individual man, but also in the community and civil society." In America today, indifference to God and His commandments, coupled with the weakness of human nature, is leading to an unconstrained freedom that is an invitation to perversity, both in individuals and in society.

The religious, social, and political freedoms that Americans presently enjoy were won by past generations, at a very high price. The nation was founded as a religiously tolerant society in which people could live and work together in freedom to achieve their common goals. As God is removed from the public sphere, so is the recognition of our common transcendental end, and with it an adherence to a set of higher values, the absolutes upon which America was founded. The nation's core concepts are being warped and diluted to fit prevailing temporal desires. As a result, man is becoming an egocentric, materialistic individual, with society exhibiting a disregard for the innate dignity and inviolable value of every human life.

As Pope Benedict XVI said many times, a democracy without values can easily slide into tyranny. A democracy without morally-sound principles runs the risk of becoming dangerous and enslaving. -- Be vigilant. Pray for our nation.





**K of C Pledges \$1.4 Million for Special Olympics World Games**  
 Knights of Columbus Pledges \$1.4 Million for Special Olympics World Games in L.A.

The Knights of Columbus formally announced a donation to cover the costs of athletes from the United States and Canada during their time in Los Angeles as they participate in next year’s Special Olympics World Games.

The Knights’ \$1.4 million sponsorship will cover the costs of food, transportation and entertainment for every athlete from the two countries during their time in Los Angeles.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson made the announcement during a news conference on July 14 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Joining him at the announcement was World Games CEO and President Patrick McClenahan and Archbishop of Los Angeles José H. Gomez.

“The Knights of Columbus were there with Special Olympics and its founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, from the very beginning,” said Supreme Knight Anderson. “Sargent Shriver, Eunice’s husband, was a friend and a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, and like him, we are here today to continue those efforts on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities. Our support exemplifies our commitment to the dignity of every person, our dedication to assisting with our neighbors’ needs whatever they may be, and our deep appreciation for the great work done by Special Olympics.”

Anderson also announced that he is asking the leadership of the K of C in each U.S. state and Canadian province to increase the number of volunteer hours donated to Special Olympics this year.

In a 1986 letter, Eunice Kennedy Shriver reflected on the Knights’ long involvement, observing, “When a great organization like the Knights of Columbus decides to support Special Olympics, I know that God is looking after his children.”

Patrick McClenahan, president and CEO of Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015, noted: “Anyone that is a part of the Special Olympics movement is deeply aware of the long and generous support by the Knights of Columbus, and today’s pledge is another amazing milestone. We hope their donation inspires other organizations to be a part of what will no doubt be a life-changing experience for all involved in the 2015 Special Olympic World Games.”

At Monday’s event, the Knights were also named as a “Founding Champion of the World Games.”

Also at that event, Archbishop José H. Gomez also announced the Archdiocese’s spiritual support for the World Games.

“The Catholic community is happy and proud to welcome the Special Olympics to Los Angeles,” Archbishop Gomez said. “The Special Olympics is a celebration of human dignity and a beautiful sign that our world is truly one family drawn from peoples of every race and language. We look forward to working with the Knights of Columbus, and we pray that this competition will promote solidarity and make all of us more aware of our common humanity.”

In keeping with its long history of support for Special Olympics, K of C councils donated more than \$3.5 million to Special Olympics in 2013. Members also provided more than 250,000 hours of service at nearly 20,000 Special Olympics events. K of C councils also donated an additional \$13.5 million to a number of other projects assisting people with intellectual disabilities.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Bel Air Council No. 4714**

23 Newport Drive

Forest Hill, MD 21050

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