



The Explorer



The Monthly Newsletter of Fr.A. Leo Abendschoen Council 11615

Overlea/Rosedale, MD

Knights of Columbus

January 2019



Happy New Year !#



Grand Knight's Message

Brothers,

The first weekend of December started with "The Breakfast with St. Nicholas" in the morning followed by our monthly bingo after the 4 pm mass. This also gave us the perfect opportunity to judge the entrees for the "Keep Christ In Christmas" poster contest.



The second weekend we took time out to attend our annual Christmas party at Carson's Creekside Restaurant. The food was great as was the dessert table. Deacon Frank's wife Darlene provided home made candies for all.

On Dec.19th Wayne and I went to St. Michaels church to present certificates and monetary gifts to the winners of the poster contest.

For those in our council who would like to participate in these activities or attend our general meetings you are always welcomed. Hospitality is provided before all meetings to provide a relaxed setting for fellowship with brother Knights. Try coming to one meeting you might like it!

Emrick Spacek

Grand Knight

Assistant Chaplain's Message

Brothers,

I hope that you, your family and your friends had a joyous Christmas and look forward to a happy and prosperous New Year. And for those members of your family and friends that suffer unhappiness due to the loss of someone dear or perhaps from financial difficulty, I hope that you are able to brighten their lives. Often we sense that someone is depressed but are unable to identify the source of difficulty. Spending time with the person while expressing your care and concern will often lead to the root of their difficulty. If you happen to find Christmas and New Year's celebration unpleasant, try to recognize the reason why. Look to others for relief that may be in similar situations, someone you can trust not to spread your innermost secrets. Don't withdraw from gatherings of family and friends because your spouse may no longer be with you or you feel your age. Try your best to adjust to new situations and look to help others.



Pray daily, thanking God for His gifts. Look to our Loving Father for hope and peace. Pray also to identify others that are in need and ask for guidance to help them.

God bless you,

Deacon Frank

Upcoming Meetings

Officer's Meeting – Monday, January 7th at 6:30 pm in the Annunciation Board Room.

General Meeting – Mondays, January 14th & 28th at 7:00 pm in the Annunciation Parish Hall. Hospitality will begin at 6:15pm.

Upcoming Degree Ceremonials

Admissions (1st)

Jan. 16 – Dundalk Council – Dundalk

Jan. 30 – Notre Dame –Baltimore

Formation (2nd)

Jan. 9 – St.Philip Neri Council - Linthicum

Knighthood (3rd)

Jan. 11 – Resurrection Council – Ellicott City

Patriotic (4th)

March 9th – Princess Royale Hotel – Ocean City

Happy Times

The following members of our Council family are celebrating Birthdays in January:

- 1 - Shawn Ruby
- 2 - Darlene Zeiler
- 4 - Dennis Cieslak & Frank Kelly II
- 9 - James M. Ashley Jr
- 11 - Kevin Vaeth
- 13 - John Meaney & Mary Schaefer
- 17 - Kristen Johns
- 20 - Fran Leppert & Patrick Saladini
- 30 - Phyllis Sewell
- 31 – Jerry Cirri

Anniversaries

January

- 4 – Dennis & Debra Cieslak
- 19 – John & Connie Gallup

Have Happy Times you would like to see published? Weddings, Baptisms, Births, Graduations, Promotions, etc? See a birthday or anniversary that's incorrect or not announced? Send them to Walt at wwanko@comcast.net

Sick & Shut-In

Please remember Brothers Fr. Justin Ratajczak, OFM, Conv, Robert Priller and Ed Yeager, and sisters Joan Gresdo, Charlotte Schaum and Margaret Wyatt in your prayers. If you know of any Brother or Sister who is in need of our prayers, please contact Walt at 410-866-6546 or wwanko@comcast.net .

1st Degree Team

We are always looking for guys who are able to step in for someone who can't make it on a particular night. There are four major speaking parts, two minor speaking parts, and five non-speaking parts. Those who have speaking parts are required to memorize their words. If you are interested in being a part of the degree team, please contact Walt at 410-866-6546 or wwanko@comcast.net , and we will get your training started.

Please Remember for When the Time Comes

Whenever a Knight passes on to his Eternal Reward, he is eligible for a Rosary Call and a presentation is made to the family. His wife is also eligible for a Rosary call. But, the family of the deceased must request the Rosary Call. Please do not count on the church, the funeral director or anyone reading the newspaper to notify the council. The easiest way to obtain the Council Rosary Call is to contact the Grand Knight of the Council. And if nothing else, please at least notify the council that the member has passed away.

The Explorer

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Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Council # 11615
of the

Knights Of Columbus
Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Monday
at 7:00 pm at the

Church of the Annunciation
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Wish You Were Here!

Did you know you can win money just for showing up at a meeting? Every member corresponds to a number on the roster and if your number comes up, you win! The attendance prize winner for December 10th would have been Robert F. Miller; and of course, there was no meeting on December 24th because it was Christmas Eve. If you are not sick or a shut-in, why not try making a meeting once in a while? It could prove profitable.

Time to Pay Up !



Billings for annual dues were mailed out on December 15th. IF YOU DID NOT GET YOURS, please notify Walt Wankowski. We ask that you remit your dues as quickly as possible. In addition to the bill, you will also find the annual Survey of Fraternal Activity, and a request for personal information. The Survey allows us to report to Supreme the types of activities and the number of hours that each of you expend on an annual basis in helping your parish and your community. The request for personal information will provide us with information that will be used to update our Member Management database. It also gives us the information we need to publish our Happy Times. All personal information is kept confidential between the Financial Secretary and the Supreme Council.
Note: When providing Wedding Anniversary dates and Wife's Birthday dates, the entire Month, Day & Year are needed. Supreme's Member Management database does not accommodate partial information. If we don't have the month, day and year, we can't put it in.

After we receive your annual dues, your 2019 Membership Cards will be mailed to you.

Council Christmas Party



We hope everyone who attended our Council Christmas party enjoyed themselves. Our thanks to PGK Shawn Ruby for organizing the event, and to Helen Ruby and Darelene Zeiler for the deserts and candies.

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BINGO

Our next Monthly Cash Bingo will be held on **Saturday, January 5th at 6:00 pm** in the Annunciation parish hall. The \$500 Jackpot will be played for 57 numbers or less. This is our most important source of regular income and has been for the last 13 years.

B I N G O				
4	26	43	59	70
9	30	41	55	68
7	23	32	50	63
8	20	31	60	75
13	18	34	52	69

The profits enable us to conduct many of our programs. As always, we could use additional help both in the Kitchen and on the floor. No experience is necessary. We will show you what to do.

Everyone working inside the kitchen should try to report by 4:00 pm. Everyone else needs to report by 5:00 pm or as close to it as possible. The Bingo starts at 6 pm and we are usually finished by 9:15 pm. So everyone gets home at a reasonable hour.

Membership

Please continue to concentrate on drumming up some additional membership. Let's try to recruit as many new members as possible, but remember, no matter how many guys fill out a Form 100, it doesn't count until we get them to their Admissions Degree. And please make sure they know that. Talk to guys in church, at work, in your community, talk to their wives! We need to grow this council. If we do, we can do great things.

Keep in mind that any prospective member doesn't have to belong to any particular parish. The only requirement is that he be a practical Catholic male, 18 years of age or older.

Be ready to talk about the programs we get involved in, the contests we run for youth, the things we do for the parish, the things we do in the community, etc. And have a Form 100 and a pen ready when you do. If you need a Form 100, contact Financial Secretary Walt Wankowski at 410-866-6546 or wwanko@comcast.net.

Faith Programs

Religious & Seminarian Vocation Program

Just a reminder that our Council is continuously collecting money for those studying for the priesthood and the religious life. If you'd like to contribute to the cause, you can place your donations into the transparent acrylic boxes that sit near the doors of Annunciation Church, or contributions can also be sent directly to Walt Wankowski, 5211 McFaul Road, Baltimore, MD 21206. Checks should be made payable to "Knights of Columbus 11615."



We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Family Programs

Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest

Congratulations to the winners of our 2018 Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest! In all, we received 180 entries. Judging took place during the December 1st monthly cash Bingo. The winners were as follows:

Ages 5-7: 1st Place – Max Sieck
2nd Place – Lacie Pham
3rd Place – Deklan Moutafis

Ages 8-10: 1st Place - Robert Miranda
2nd Place – Kaylen Clark
3rd Place – Megan Shumway

Ages 11-14: 1st Place – Maia Te
2nd Place – Leah Wentworth
3rd Place – Holly Bold.

First Place winners were sent to the Maryland State Council for additional judging.

Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

Thanks to all of the guys who pitched in to set up, cook, serve and clean up after our annual Breakfast with St. Nicholas. We had a great crowd and everyone seemed to have a good time. We received lots of compliments.

Community Programs

Box Tops For Education

Box Tops for Education may be placed in the plastic pouch attached to the council display in the back of Annunciation Church or you may mail them to Jason Karolkowski, 1322 Chapel Hill Drive, Baltimore, MD 21237. All box tops collected by our council are donated to St. Michael & Clement's School.

James E. Pierce, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Applications are now being accepted for the Jim Pierce Memorial Scholarship Awards. This scholarship was established to encourage the parishioners of Annunciation Church to send their children to St. Clement Mary Hofbauer School, which is now St. Michael & St. Clement School.



Applications MUST be submitted by March 1st. Applications and other information may be obtained from the pouch in the K of C display in the back of Annunciation church, downloaded from our website, or call Walt at 410-866-6546.

Life Programs

Pro-Life Rosary

All members are invited to join in on the monthly Rosary for Life which is held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Beltway Plaza Shopping Center, 7702 Belair Road in Fullerton. This shopping center houses an abortion clinic and the goal is to pray enough to get them to leave our community. The next date for this activity will be Saturday, January 19th at 9:00 am. We hope that more of you will consider joining in.



46th Annual March for Life

Friday, January 18, 2019

National Mall – 12th St.
Washington, D.C



Schedule

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Ben Shapiro Live Podcast

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Musical opening with
Sidewalk Prophets

12:00 p.m. Rally Program

1:00 p.m. March up Constitution Avenue to
Supreme Court and Capitol Building

3:00 p.m. After finishing marching:

- Silent No More testimonies outside U.S. Supreme Court.
- Advocate for life to your Representative or Senators.
- Visit the March for Life Expo.

Location

The March for Life Rally will take place at noon at 12th St. on the National Mall, in between Madison Drive and Jefferson Drive. Following the Rally, the March will begin on Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets at approximately 1:00 pm.

Travel Info

Please use the Metro to arrive at the rally site. Recommend locations: Federal Triangle, Smithsonian, Metro Center. For metro info: <https://www.wmata.com/fares/smartrip/>. (Check out our March for Life map — you can print off paper copies OR download the March for Life app.)

Have your metro card easily accessible, before you enter the station. Metro Stations are crowded

during rush hour, and even more crowded on the March for Life, during rush hour. Keep in mind that in the Washington Metro system, you need to tap in and tap out of their fare gates. One way to alleviate long lines, and avoid the frustration of fellow metro riders is to have your metro card ready, in your hand, before you enter the line for the fare gate. Also you do not need to wait for the gates to close after the person in front of you walks through, just ensure you tap your card to the SmarTrip target and proceed through the gate.

Important Notes

While walking, and riding the metro in D.C. **be respectful of residents and commuters**. Let's show the Nation's Capital how passionate and polite and respectful pro-lifers really are! Please read these 6 tips for riding the metro.

Do not leave trash or signs on the grounds of the National Mall, Supreme Court, or Capitol. This is our Nation's Capital and we should treat it with dignity and respect. If trash bins are full, carry your trash or sign with you until you find an available trash bin.

Do not engage with counter-protesters. Once again, be respectful of all people and stay focused on the cause of promoting and celebrating life, lovingly, prayerfully, and graciously.

Polar Bear Plunge

Last Call !

The Knights of Columbus invite you to **volunteer to work** at the 2019 Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Maryland Special Olympics on **Saturday, January 26, 2019** at Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County. This is a day-long event that many Knights across Maryland and their families and friends have been involved with for several years now. But you do NOT have to have any affiliation with the Knights to participate, and you do not have to stay for the entire day.



Once again we will need volunteers to assist with directing parking, food preparation, food and drink distribution, memorabilia sales, arcade game operation, etc. **No one is asking you to jump into**

the icy Chesapeake Bay. However, yes, some of the volunteers, especially the ones who volunteer to help with the parking, may get cold. But it's for a good cause. And it is a "party" day; especially for young people. There are celebrities, contests, people dressed in costumes, and prizes. Never a dull moment. Bring your camera!

If you are at least 16 years old (required by law), can stand being outside in the cold for several hours and can stay on your feet for that amount of time, you are eligible to be a volunteer. It will cost you nothing to park, nothing get in, you will witness one of the greatest "party" atmospheres of the year, and a lunch will be provided. And if you get one of the good jobs, the time should pass quickly because you will be very busy.

For more information, contact Walt Wankowski at 410-866-6546.

4th Degree News

The next meeting of the Archbishop Francis P. Keough Assembly will be a regular business meeting on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 pm at Columbus Gardens.

(Renewal of Vows has been moved to February 12th.)



The next Exemplification of the Fourth Degree will take place on Saturday, March 9th at 11:15 am in the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City. Cost for the exemplification is \$70.00, which includes one Banquet ticket. There will be entertainment for the Ladies beginning at 9:45 AM. Dress for the Ladies activity will be casual. Lunch and Entertainment included.

Cost for the Ladies Entertainment is \$35.

Deadline for applications which include a banquet ticket is February 14th.

For full information including room rates, contact Walt Wankowski at 410-866-6546 or wwanko@comcast.net.

District Message

As of press time, no message was received from the District Deputy.

Chapter News

The next meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 10th at Cardinal Sheehan of Baltimore Council #205, 6509 Harford Rd., Baltimore, MD 21214.

Insurance News

The Most Overlooked Aspect of Retirement Planning

A Knight since 1983, General Agent Robert Marlowe has been selling insurance in the greater Baltimore area for nearly four decades. His insights show why we need to add retirement planning into our New Year's Resolutions. Working with Brother



Knights and their wives over the past 35 years has led me to observe that it's a natural inclination to overlook what is perhaps one of the most important aspects of retirement planning — having the sufficient amount of life insurance coverage. Consider the elements of retirement

planning that most people fully consider:

- What their income streams will be in retirement; their pension and social security amounts?
- What will their monthly expenses be?
- What their 401k or investments will yield to supplement expenses?
- Will they have sufficient health insurance coverage?

All of these areas are vital, certainly. They are the basic architecture of a good retirement plan.

However, we must consider some effects death will have on our spouse. Here are some crucial facts to consider:

- The surviving spouse will receive the greater of the two social security amounts — which is about a 30 percent loss of income.
- The surviving spouse will typically receive only 50 percent of their spouse's pension (if they have one).
- Most group life insurance either reduces greatly or entirely upon retirement.
- There is a strong probability that one of the two spouses will live into their 90s and an early death could leave a surviving spouse 20-30 years to live with these reduced incomes.
- Term insurance will eventually become cost prohibitive or terminate in coverage as the spouse ages.
- Health care costs and taxes will go up — the longer the surviving spouse is alive, these costs can impinge on budgets.

So what is the answer? A simple analysis by your Knights of Columbus field agent will help you address retirement financial planning: a permanent life insurance policy that will never go up in cost and has a built-in guaranteed cash value. I like to call this the last "love letter" you will write to your spouse.

By purchasing a life insurance policy from Knights of Columbus, you make a choice to make a difference — not only for your family, but for the many charitable and humanitarian causes our organization supports.
your area.

State Council News

Yahoo!

The Maryland State Council sponsors a communication vehicle at Yahoo.com. Any Knight who has a computer, can sign up for it and it costs nothing. Among the items regularly passed on via the Yahoo site are notifications of illness and deceased members, upcoming activities at the local, State, and Supreme Level, access to information on State Programs, notifications of upcoming degree ceremonials, etc. To sign up for this service, simply go to <http://www.kofc-md.org/state1415/yahoo.asp> and then follow the instructions.

State Scholarship Opportunities

State Scholarship Opportunities Maryland State Council High School Scholarship Programs

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus is the sponsor of several High School scholarships for its members and for Catholic Students in general. Below is the complete information on these scholarships and information regarding eligibility for scholarship awards. Awards may be applied to tuition payments only. Application period is from October 1, 2017 to February 1, 2018. All applications must be received in their entirety by the Scholarship Committee no later than February 1, 2018. Scholarship information and application information is included below (preferred) or write to:

Maryland State Council
Knights of Columbus Scholarship Committee
PO Box 165
Westminster, MD. 21158

The Frederick M. Gossman Memorial High School Scholarship

Designed to assist members of the Knights of Columbus holding membership in councils within the jurisdiction of Maryland in paying tuition for their sons and daughters at accredited Catholic High Schools, two (2) grants of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years, and one (1) additional grant of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years funded by

the Maryland Knights of Columbus Insurance Advisors, will be awarded. Awards will be made on the basis of academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. Continued support after the first year is contingent on continued academic success. The children of deceased members are also eligible, provided the member was in good standing at the time of death. Funds are applicable to tuition only. Application packet [MS Word](#) [PDF](#)

The William J. O'Brien Jr., Memorial Catholic High School Scholarship

Three (3) grants of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years will be awarded. Eligibility for a grant under this program is open to Catholic students who are residents of the State of Maryland. Affiliation with the Knights of Columbus is not required. However, children and grandchildren of a member of a Knights of Columbus council within the jurisdiction of Maryland are also eligible. Applicants must have been officially accepted at or must be students at accredited Catholic High Schools. Applications will be judged on academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. Continued support after the first year is contingent on continued academic success. Funds are applicable to tuition only.

For more information and to download forms go to <http://www.kofc-md.org/state1617/committees/scholarships.asp>

Supreme Council News

Anytime You Think You Can't Handle the Job

Tajuan Farmer is a Catholic gentleman like all the other brothers in the Order. He is a third-degree knight who has served his council as its Worthy Financial Secretary for five years. What makes Farmer distinctive from most other Knights, especially as financial secretary, is that he's blind. "At this time, I am totally blind. I have a vision reading level in excess of 20/200. Since my youth it

has gotten progressively worse," the 43-year-old said.

Farmer lost his sight due to glaucoma, but he's still performing the duties of financial secretary for his second consecutive three-year appointment. A native of Washington, D.C., Farmer joined Bishop Patrick J. Byrne Council 3877 when he was in his 30s.

"The reason why I joined Byrne and accepted the role of financial secretary was because the council was in a difficult situation and I perceived the council as having a rebirth," Farmer said. "As part of that process, you had to show a commitment to the council. Accepting the role, which I knew nothing about, was my part in helping that rebirth." His fellow council members said they were grateful to have him helping out. Since joining the council, Farmer has been instrumental in leading and participating in several programs that better the lives of the parishioners and overall community. In October, Farmer encouraged a few members to be involved with the National Federation of the Blind annual conference held this year at the Catholic University of America. Farmer also worked tirelessly to promote silent auctions, Coats for Kids, food giveaways and fish fries, as well as the council's educational fair held each year after St. Patrick's Day.

Recently, Farmer suggested that the council host a health fair that might encompass a blood drive, diabetes screenings and allow medical experts to dispense advice to both parishioners and the community at-large. His ideas are always well-received.

"He had no knowledge of our financial operating system until he took the job," Treasurer Henry Hinnant said. "So with that he is doing a pretty good job. The only little resources he ever had was what I and the previous financial secretary who transferred to Maryland gave him."

As a 13-year employee with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Farmer has never allowed his disability to hinder him in any way. He leads a very active lifestyle for any person, but particularly one who is blind.

"I have always been led to believe that blindness itself is not a factor that affects one's ability to do something. Any disability can be overcome through

proper training and the learning of skills,” Farmer said.

It hasn’t stopped him from traveling the world, either. Farmer has visited a number of countries around the world including Canada, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago. He is scheduled to make his initial foray into Asia by visiting India at the end of October. His plan is to one day make it to South America, Australia and Africa.

Despite being unable to drive, Farmer still gets around the nation’s capital, using Uber and Lyft. Besides his career as a public servant, extensive travels and commitment to the Knights of Columbus, Farmer spends as much time as possible participating in tandem biking, an activity he uses for both fitness and entertainment.

Above all else, he’s grateful for the support of his brother Knights.

“The greatest success I can pull on is the fact that I’ve been respected as a Catholic gentleman in my council,” Farmer said. “I have always been taken seriously and treated as an equal brother. I have found true peace and security within the Knights of Columbus.”

And Finally, In Case You Missed it Because It Is No Longer Being Reported

This week we learned that in the eyes of some, Knights of Columbus membership could disqualify you from public service because of our adherence to Catholic teachings. Two members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, have questioned a candidate for the federal bench over his membership of the Knights of Columbus, with some calling the group’s Catholic views on abortion and same-sex marriage “extreme.” As the Senate Committee reviewed the candidacy of Brian C. Buescher for the District of Nebraska, Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Kamala Harris (D-CA) asked whether belonging to the Knights of Columbus could prevent Mr. Buescher from hearing cases “fairly and impartially.”

The senators suggested that the Knights’ opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage could cloud the candidate’s vision and impair his judgment. The

questions smelled oddly of a religious litmus test, since the positions under examination are held and taught by the Catholic Church itself and are not unique to the Knights of Columbus.

Article VI of the U.S. Constitution prohibits the government from considering a person’s faith when assessing fitness to hold federal office. This clause is part of the original Constitution and has been a bedrock principle since the founding of the Republic.

The Knights of Columbus have taken “a number of extreme positions,” Sen. Hirono stated in written questions sent to Buescher on December 5, such as contributing “to California’s Proposition 8 campaign to ban same-sex marriage.”

For her part, Sen. Harris asked Buescher whether he was aware that the Knights of Columbus “opposed a woman’s right to choose” and were against “marriage equality” when he joined the organization.

“The Knights of Columbus does not have the authority to take personal political positions on behalf of all of its approximately two million members,” Buescher said in his response.

A spokesperson for the Knights of Columbus, Kathleen Blomquist, decried the anti-Catholic bias implicit in the senators’ questions.

“Our country’s sad history of anti-Catholic bigotry contributed to the founding of the Knights of Columbus, and we are proud of the many Catholics who overcame this hurdle to contribute so greatly to our country,” Blomquist told the Catholic News Agency (CNA).

Articles for the February edition of *The Explorer* must be received by Friday, January 25th. Send all inputs to:

Walt Wankowski
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Baltimore, MD 21206

Or by email to: wwanko@comcast.net

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Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Council 11615
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Calendar Reminders

- January 1 – New Year’s Day.
- January 5 - Monthly Cash Bingo – 6:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- January 7 – Council Officer’s Meeting – 6:30 pm – Annunciation Board Room
- January 8 - 4th Degree Assembly Meeting – 7:00 pm – Columbus Gardens
- January 10 - Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights – 7:00 pm – Cardinal Sheehan of Baltimore Council
- January 14 - Council General Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- January 18 – National Pro-Life March – 10:00 am – National Mall/ 12th Street - Washington, DC
- January 19 – Pro-Life Rosary – 9:00 am – Beltway Plaza Shopping Center, Fullerton
- January 26 – Polar Bear Plunge – All Day – Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis
- January 28 - Council General Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall