



# NASSAU

# CHAPTER NEWS



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AUGUST 2008

## *Chapter President's Message*

The new Columbian year has begun. I want to wish the new Grand Knights and their officers best wishes and good luck with your Council's endeavors. The Chapter is a resource available for you – make use of us.

There are a number of programs we initiated last year and will be continuing this year. A Living Rosary for our deceased brothers, Columbiettes and their family members will be offered. Our December meeting will feature a Christmas musical program. This year, we will be honoring the chaplains, associate chaplains and spiritual directors of the Councils and Assemblies. In January we will be sponsoring a fundraiser for Autism research and support. Our current scholarship and FAC programs will continue.

Our Council Giving program will also continue. At three or four meetings this year we will have a guest speaker from an organization that supports the virtues of the Knights of Columbus. After a brief presentation, the Councils will be given the opportunity to donate to the worthy cause. The donations are voluntary and made directly to the organization. If anyone knows of an organization worthy of our consideration based in the diocese, especially Nassau County, contact George Raplee, PGK, FDD, PFN, PNCC.

Our Chapter meeting on August 22nd will be hosted by Joseph Barry Council in Hicksville. This meeting will be the Chapter's indoctrination meeting. Information will be given to each council about the Chapter's programs and plans for the Columbian year.

Vivat Jesu, *Jim Bellotti PGK FDD*

## *Chapter Publicity*

Again a welcome aboard to those of you who are newly-elected Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators, and newly-appointed District Deputies. Between installations and planning for your upcoming year, this is an exciting, feel-good time. We wish your councils and assemblies an active year with plenty of participation! As you're making your plans, keep in mind the Chapter is here for you.

We'd like to get to get the word out about all the good works the Nassau Chapter has done, and will do in the year to come. So if you chair a program or event for the Chapter, please send it to me, and I'll put it in. I'd also be happy to put in pictures of Chapter events if space permits.

This also goes for major council events. If you're running a big event, and we have the space, we'll mention it here. Also, feel free add the Chapter to your council's mailing list. We'd like to get the word out to as many brother Knights in Nassau as we can, through e-mail (preferred) or snail-mail. So if you haven't been getting the Chapter News, you may either e-mail to me, or see one of us at the next Chapter meeting. There's a lot going on at the Chapter that can supplement what your councils are doing, so we want to get the word out. And if you get the Nassau Chapter News through e-mail, the pictures will come out in color!

So for now, feel free to send me what's happening, and I'll get the word out. That's all, folks!

*Mike Dragonetti*

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(The following was submitted by Dennis O'Connell from Floral Park Council. Thanks, Dennis!)

### **Hypertension linked to Agent Orange**

In a recent release, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies determined that limited or suggestive evidence exists that exposure to Agent Orange can lead to the development of high blood pressure (hypertension). The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has not yet added hypertension to the list of presumptive conditions or diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange, but this report from the IOM requires the VA to consider adding hypertension to the list. The American Legion has recommended that in-country Vietnam veterans who develop hypertension file a claim for the disability now.

### **Local Veteran Mental Health Concerns**

At a recent address to the Veterans Health Alliance of Long Island at the Nassau County Mental Health Association, New York State Director of Veterans Affairs James McDonough said that 63% of New England National Guard Iraq/Afghanistan veterans were showing signs of mental distress. Other studies revealed last year indicate the potential for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder may be as high as 30% for veterans with combat experience. Finding it hard to fall asleep, being emotionally "detached" from family and friends, trying to order people around, being inappropriately angry with others, driving too fast, drinking to much alcohol, feeling guilty about buddies who were killed or wounded may be signs of PTSD. Returning veterans should contact the VA Medical Center Northport 631-261-4400

The Veterans Health Alliance of Long Island (516-504-HELP) can also recommend some non-VA not-for-profits that also offer PTSD services.

### **Avis Wants to Buy from Vets**

Avis Budget Group is interested in conducting a matchmaker with a local veteran-owned business to satisfy their GSA contract obligations. A veteran-owned business that might meet the needs of Budget Truck Division maintenance and repair should contact John Narciso, NYS Veterans Business Outreach Center 1-877-875-VETS or [veterans@nyssbdc.org](mailto:veterans@nyssbdc.org).

### **Heroes**

The Patriot Guard Riders (GR) is a motorcycle organization that provides honors at military and veteran funerals, "welcome home" services for our latest veterans and escort missions. Originally created to protect grieving families from protestors who picketed some military funerals, the PGR has become a recognized part of many patriotic events. Locally the PGR has responded to 6 veteran funerals and 19 military support and escort missions since January 1, 2008. PGR has 142,226 members. For more information, contact [NYPCGR@aol.com](mailto:NYPCGR@aol.com).

## *Round the Councils*

The Columbian year is underway, and a few councils have already hit the ground running.

St. Mary/Maris Stella Council has already had a karaoke fundraiser for a woman who is suffering from heart failure. The August 7th edition of the Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald referred to the council as, "An organization with a heart of gold." St. Mary's/Maris Stella Squirettes have recently appeared on Telecare's "Good News" program.

Our Lady of Mercy Council recently repainted the lower church hall of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Hicksville. "The men of Our Lady of Mercy Council Knights of Columbus took an oath to support our Priests," Grand Knight Dr. Vincent Genna explained, "we take our oath seriously and show this by our deeds and our actions."

Robert W. Powell Council's new Grand Knight William Ludewig returned from World Youth Day in Australia. As Youth Coordinator for Uniondale's St. Martha's Parish, he's gone to several World Youth Day celebrations. He's also been nominated to receive the St. Agnes Medal.

Daniel J. Bradley Council is the newest council in cyberspace: <http://kofc.stchris.com/>

And in Fourth Degree Assemblies, Cardinal Mercier PFN Vincent Brooks appeared recently on Telecare's, "Good News" program, and gave a great description of the Fourth Degree and its role in Parish life. You can see it at <http://www.telecaretv.org/gnknights1.html>. And the Honor Guard for Pope John XXIII recently turned out for the dedication of Our Lady of the Snows Church.