

Grand Knight's Message

Greetings, everyone!

Here we are in a new year of service at the Rock Creek Knights of Columbus Council #2797 and I am proud to be part of it.

First off, a big round of applause for Ivan Galic, PGK, who held the reins for two years. Ivan did a magnificent job at the council with communications, events like Teacher Appreciation Night, USASOA Food Drives, Special Olympics of Maryland, Chess Tournaments, AND MEMBERSHIP! Wow, well done, Worthy PGK. This is evidenced by our Star Council awards that hang on the wall in Lounge.

None of this is possible without the Mansion staff. Thanks to PGK Mike Horan and his crew and to the KayCee Club, who keep this property looking sharp and one of the best venues for events in the DMV!

We have amazing volunteers who help at all of the events, including officers of the council. So many people have helped that I'm not going to list names as I don't want to miss anyone. But thank you all for what you've done and continue to do.

So what's in line for the new Columbian Year? I'm not going to say improvements, as Ivan is a tough act to follow. Instead, I will add to the rock-solid foundation already in place. Our plan is to recruit new members to join the council. Why wouldn't they join? With the ability to start a campaign or project, you can do whatever you want with the council's help. Have an idea? Let us know. You get it set up and let people know you need a helping hand.

After all that work, you can enjoy some social time in the Lounge with your brothers, guests and family. There's something for everyone at Rock Creek Council 2797.

We already have speakers lined up to speak at a few meetings, a food drive at Giant at the end of July, a dart league being organized by Scott and Spencer Davis, a donation drive in October for A Wider Circle, as recommended by Chris Rhodes. I'm especially excited about the next Exemplification taking place on September 12. I'm thinking we're going to see over 10 new members, plus 3rd Degree candidates!

So, that's what I leave you with. Let's make this a collaborative year. Chip in, volunteer, help out, and let's hear your suggestions. Rock Creek Council 2797 is THE BEST!

Alex C. Lieb
Grand Knight

A Changing of the Guard



Congratulations to the newly elected (and appointed) officers of the Rock Creek Council, who were installed on July 9 at Holy Redeemer Church. Alex Lieb is Grand Knight, joined by Deputy Grand Knight (and PGK) Jon Schneider; Chancellor Mark McAndrews; Treasurer Charles Gormly; Recorder Bob Metzler (PGK Neil Dorian standing in for him at the ceremony); Advocate PGK Mike Houlihan; Warden Pat Corkery; Inside Guard Mike Naas; Outside Guards John Titus; Matt Murphy and Chris Horan; 3-Year Trustee Ivan Galic; 2-Year Trustee Jimmy Norris; and 1-Year Trustee Kevin August.

In parting words at the ceremony, GK Galic read: “You have demonstrated that a small group of people united in a common cause can be a powerful force for good, and that by working together as a team we can make a difference in our parishes, our communities and the world.”

At the post-installation luncheon, GK Lieb noted all the accomplishments that PGK Galic achieved, saying, “I’m not going to improve upon Ivan’s work, I’m just going to add on to what he did.”

Thanks to John Teare, Chris Horan, Mike Horan, Mike Naas, KC Horan, Kareem Watts, Kathryn Morin and Matt Morin, Jr. for catering the meal and drinks, setting up and breaking down.

New Directors Elected to KC Club

More than 40 members attended the Council’s annual stockholder meeting on Wednesday, June 14th to elect six new directors to the Board of Directors of the Rock Creek Kay-Cee Club Inc. Congratulations to the new directors (see chart below). On July xx, the KC Club elected Joe Murphy as its new president. Welcome aboard, Joe!

New KC Club Board

1 st Term	2 nd Term	3 rd Term
Chris Horan	Matt Dugan*	Brian Dowd*
Anthony Solazzo	Howard Frye	Bob Kestel*
John Teare	Tim Strachan	Joe Murphy*
Kareem Watts	Kevin Whitcomb*	Mike Naas *

New Directors *Incumbent Directors

Also, great thanks go out to the directors whose tenures on the Kay-Cee Club have concluded: President Jon Lowe, Secretary Ken Seethaler, and Director Paul Carroccio. See the following page for a message from the new Kay-Cee Club president, Joe Murhpy.

Message from New Kay-Cee Club President

Hello fellow Knights. I would like to formally introduce myself. My name is Joe Murphy and I'm the new Rock Creek Council Kay-Cee Club President.

I've been a member of the council since 2014. I grew up in Rockville, not far from Hard Times. I attended St. Mary's Elementary in Rockville and high school at St. John's in DC. I'm a veteran of the US Army and 101st Airborne Division.



I currently work for HITT Contracting in our technology sector with my main focus managing the construction of data centers for large tech companies. I'm a "builder," so I'm extremely well versed in the overall construction process of bidding/ -pricing, contract execution, scheduling, construction and client and subcontractor relationships.

The KayCee Club is excited for the new year. We are optimistic, with six new members joining the board, and we are looking to make several improvements to the mansion and grounds. Some of our potential initiatives include purchasing new patio tables and chairs, new landscaping around our entrances, parking lot and driveway paving, and various hall and bathroom renovations.

Financially, the Kay-Cee Club is in a strong position, and we have numerous hall rentals forecasted for the upcoming year. As of May 31st the council has booked more than \$136,000 for events, with these rentals being the lead revenue generator for the Council. If you're new to the Council, please know that members receive a discount for renting the hall.

The Kay-Cee Club generally holds our meetings once a month, currently on Wednesday's, at 6:30 pm. If you have any thoughts or ideas on any improvements that should be made to the mansion and grounds, please reach out to me at barron.murphy@yahoo.com.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing everyone around the Council.

Gotta Pay Your Dues if You Wanna Down Some Brews

KOC Rock Creek 2...
@koc2797



The Council recently established a Venmo account to make it easier for members to pay their annual dues. The first member to take advantage of this new capability was Thomas Kestel. Members may pay their annual dues (\$75) to the following Venmo account: @koc2979, or by scanning the attached QR code.

Please contact Financial Secretary Chris Ryan if you have questions about the amount of annual dues you owe and/or to arrange payment via cash or check.

The Council extends its gratitude to member Spencer Davis and FS Ryan for establishing the Venmo account.

Members Celebrate the Council's 85th Anniversary

Monday, June 12th, 2023 marked the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the Rock Creek Council Knights of Columbus. The Council hosted a happy hour to celebrate the occasion. More than 60 members and guests - including eight past and current Grand Knights, attended the event.

Programs Director Mike Horan served a delicious buffet; the buffet tables was adorned with dozens of mostly black and white photos taken at Council events during prior decades.

Financial Secretary (FS) Chris Ryan distributed 2023 membership cards and collected dues payments. Please contact the FS if you were unable to attend the event and would like your membership card and/or to pay your \$75 annual dues. *Note that annual dues may now be paid via Venmo (@koc2797).*

The photo was taken at the front door of the mansion; also in attendance, but unfortunately missing from the photo, was Council Officer (Inside Guard) Mike Naas; Mike was inside working hard, as is usually the case.

Thank you to everyone who made this a memorable event for our Council!



Photo: Kevin Kittka

O'Hare Scholarships Awarded

The Rock Creek Council awarded new O'Hare scholarships at the end of the past Columbian year. Congratulations to each of the following recipients, who received \$2,500 scholarships:

Class of '24

Bridget Ellis, Bernard Harman, Kathryn Morin and TS Roth

Class of '25

Lacey Cabrales, Eliza Dalbora, and Mary Gormly

Class of '26

Max Lowe and Matty Morin

Class of '27

Liam Grant, Penelope Harman, and Jane Friedrich

Rock Creek Council Grows by 14



Among the new Council 2797 Brothers are (front row, from left) Ryan Perraut, Joe McMahon, Scott Millard, Kevin Mulheron, Robert Tappan, Bill Corby, Tom O'Neill, Ali Boneval, Max Mulheron, and Michael Roualet. Also joining the Council but not pictured are Tom Friedrich, John Teare, Joe Murphy and Ed Mulheron.

Rock Creek Council Helps Out Women's Center



Pat Corkery with employees at the RWC.

Patrick Corkery volunteered his time and painting expertise at the Rockville Women's Center. Patrick did an excellent job, as usual, and the staff was extremely pleased with the end result.

"We love the new colors," wrote Amanda Rickett, operations manager at the center. "I am still surprised/shocked that you were able to do it all by yourself. You truly have a gift and we thank God for your gift and your willingness to use it at RWC," she added.

The RWC provides confidential support to women with unplanned pregnancies.

A Letter of Appreciation

The Disabled American Veterans organization sent the Rock Creek Council the following letter for the ongoing work the council has done with and on behalf of the DAV.

Don,

On behalf of DAV (Disabled American Veterans) we would like to thank the Lido Civic Club and Knights of Columbus for hosting the delicious Italian buffet dinner last Friday, May 5. It was such a beautiful evening at the Rock Creek Mansion and guests seemed to enjoy themselves very much.

The members from the Lido Civic Club and Knights of Columbus were so kind and engaged with the wounded, ill and injured and their families and caregivers. Knowing that the dinner guests will be treated with such warmth makes it a pleasure for DAV to coordinate logistics. Below are comments we thought you would enjoy reading, which were received from the Fort Belvoir Soldier Recovery Unit and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center attendees.



Thank you again for your efforts! We look forward to the next dinner at Rock Creek Mansion on June 9.

Sincerely,

Justin Hart, Matt Jahn, Danny Soto and Sally Miller

We loved the dinner. The food was wonderful and we greatly enjoyed speaking to all the hosts.

Also, thank you for the wonderful gift!

- Dinner was delicious and the service was very friendly and supportive of all our issues. Thank you for all you do.*
- Lido Civic Club and Knights of Columbus - thank you for the Italian dinner. As always, great way to meet new friends.*
- Dinner and company was amazing. Best dinner yet! Everyone was so wonderfully kind. We appreciate you! Thank you.*
- The venue is very elegant. The food was amazing. Very nice people.*
- This is my first time participating / joining in an event that was forwarded by Navy Wounded Warrior Program and I'm glad I did. I don't have any negative feedback. This is an excellent event with excellent people to meet and definitely excellent dinner! Thank you!*
- Enjoyed dinner and most of all it was so nice to see Margaret and Hal!*
- Great food. Great drinks. Great people.*
- Wonderful dinner and place to be.*
- Thank you for a delicious meal and friendship.*
- Dinner was phenomenal! Thank you for hosting and sponsoring this special event. My family had a great time!*