



# BISHOP ODIN NEWS

## BISHOP ODIN COUNCIL 2917 - KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



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Sam Okonski, Grand Knight  
Paul Rekieta, Editor

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### GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGES

Sam Okonski, Grand Knight

Thank you brother knights for coming out and participating in the elections. Your 2003/2004 council officers remain the same except in the chancellor, position is Oscar Ochoa; warden is Ken Boudny and guard is Arvin Mobley. Thank you for giving a small part of your time to continue the work of the Lord through your Knights of Columbus council. I want to thank the Ladies Auxiliary, under the leadership of Rita Rekieta, for their donation of \$2,500. I also want to thank the Catholic Daughters court 1750, under the leadership of Patricia Koterass, for their donation of \$600. Ladies think about joining these wonderful organizations.

Our Family of the Year is Ron & Judy Wendt and Knight of the Year is Greg Okonski. Join me in congratulating them for jobs well done.

There must be a lot of praying taking place among us. This is my third year as grand knight and before that, I was a trustee for 3 years. Over these years, I have heard that 2917 is not the council it used to be. I heard statements from folks that they would pray that 2917 could turn around and become active again. My dear brothers and sisters, your prayers are being answered. Let us take a stroll down memory lane. **1998** - Council web site; **1999** - June Bug Jamboree was started; **1999** - Mr. Sportsman Award dinner and gala; **2001** - Toys for Tots BBQ cook off led by David Wilgus. **Dec. 5 & 6.** Telstars play Friday night; **2002** - Bank of America / United Way bingo. In addition, y'all did such a great job serving and entertaining Bank of America that evening, they are coming back, Tuesday **October 7.** More future events **2003** - Family Day dance with Texas Sound Check on **Sept. 28,** the proceeds will go to Special Olympics; **Dec 5 & 6** Toys for Tots BBQ dance and cook off; **2003 - New Years Eve party and dance,** last one was 1997. We did have a couple of years participating in Special Olympics. We should have a chairman for Special Olympics. We had a blood drive which brother Floyd Supercinski is chairing 713-861-6725-call him he needs 21 people. Our VA visitation lead by Anton Swiech is a wonderful opportunity to help those who served our country. Anton has been the anchor of this work for many years. Our membership director is Al Alvarez, we are a dozen new members stronger. Harold Fenn is the bowling president and the Easter Bunny for the hunt the Saturday before Easter. We have the children's Christmas party ( Tony Saenz & Ed Brossman play Santa) lead by Ron & Judy Wendt and Ron always has a meal ready at the meetings. Our adult Christmas party, family day, awards night and our Memorial Mass for our departed brothers and sisters. The council purchased the meat for the Assumption church bazaar and worked in the booths. We have quarterly corporate communions and membership drives. Just recently the council purchased the large flower pots in front of Assumption church and we are working on a memorial for the unborn. Last, but not least, is our bingo program led by Ed Brossman. Bingo supports the majority of our charity budget. Brothers and sisters we have a very active council. Tell these men and ladies "THANK YOU!". Some of the functions are once a year. And you know, that's all right. Find what is in your heart, help those who are directors or lead one. Yes, we can do more. We have 800 members, 300 who are young and close by. We have a 100 insurance only / non-members. Let's get them back in and active. Greg Okonski, as your program director, has kicked into high gear with the help of Larry Tobias to make sure we have and keep an active council. Drop me a note in the mail, call me or email me (look on the web site for email) with your name, address and telephone number to be entered into a drawing at family day dinner. You have to be present to win.

Support the Friday night bingo. Each of you is a sales person for the hall rentals. Check out our web site-<http://www.kofc2917.org> - and pass the link on to all your email buddies. God bless you.

### NORTHSIDE COLUMBUS CLUB REPORT

Joe Pavlik, President

Voting is over and the ballots are in. Out of 840 members, we had 5% who exercised their right to have their voice heard. Typically, the democratic way. My vote doesn't matter — so why vote. But it does matter, just as your presence at the meetings & functions are important, it allows you to observe the members you put in office. Like any union of men, the union is only as strong and as good and as beneficial to its members as the membership made it.

Total votes cast: 46. Thirty-nine percent (39%) chose to stay. Thirty-three percent (33%) chose to sell and move. Seventeen percent (17%) chose more than one option and eleven percent (11%) chose to sell part. The 5% have spoken through the ballot box. Now let's see how many of the five percenters are going to help make their dream come true.

We have been at this location for about 58 years. Many of our structures are old and in need of repair or refurbishing, or just plain worn-out and in need of replacing. Some structures have not been used in years while some are used only a few itmes a year (less than 8 times a year).

Since we have decided to stay at our present location, let us all now pitch in and help make a go of it. We will be in need of bartenders, cleanup and setup people, maintenance (building & grounds), financial people, advertising people, scheduling people, leadership in throwing functions, cooks and many more. Committees will be formed to spearhead this organizational setup, so all the help you can give them will be greatly appreciated.

July 12, John Buck and I, with the help of 10 men from the Texas House spruced up the facilities since it was cleanup day. The crew was very helpful. Many touch ups look normal, but they must be done, such as empty trashcans and reline with plastic bags, replace light bulbs, trim sucker limbs from trees and low hanging limbs, repairing fence, rearranging tables under the pavilion, pickup rocks and fill pot holes, clean gutters of new hall, located possible leak source on roof of new hall (by J. Buck) and repaired, plus he repaired some a/c drain lines and closed a loose panel on a/c unit of new hall roof, cleaned and cut grass around perimeter of property, trimmed sidewalks-trees-buildings, and had time to lend a hand to Mickie to help clean up the old hall which was rented.

It is a long list and yet, I'm not sure I got everything down that was done. There are things that need to be resolved which will take more money than we have at present. Let me list a few: 1) two a/c units in the old hall are 38 years old and one is not working due to the air compressor being out. Plus the one working is not running as efficiently as it should which in turn is costing us more money to operate. Presently, we are in the process of getting quotes to replace the two units. They are not cheap. Two 15 ton units plus labor to install. 2) Our driveway and parking areas are not in the best of shape. 3) The roof on the new hall is in need of a re-coating. 4) The a/c units on the new hall are getting passed their efficient life cycle.

We have been handed a challenge that seems overbearing, but with the Grace of God and the good cooperation of our Brother Knights, we will meet this challenge head on and accomplish what must be done. This will not be done over night, but in time it can be accomplished.

### \$100 CLUB

Don Psencik

Since the \$100.00 Club only generated about \$11,000 and we had a potential of \$80,000, we need to look into other ways to raise funds. The Northside Columbus Club will be issuing bonds. We will issue \$100,000 worth of bonds at 5% once a year. We will be issuing bonds effective October 1, 2003. These will be 10 year bonds. We will do this on a first come basis and as soon as we raise the \$100,000, we will immediately discontinue. Minimum bond is \$1,000. If you are interested, please contact the Northside Columbus Club at (713) 694-2341 to make arrangements. The purpose of the bond is for the improvement of the driveways, grounds, and buildings.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THE \$100 CLUB

Theresa Stegent, in memory of Danny Stegent  
Philip & Helen Borski  
Jaime & Elva Jaime  
\$11,000 total, so far.

### VISITATION

Brothers who participated June 15, 2003 Visitation:  
Jim Bilnoski and Anton Swiech.  
Council 5678 - Arthur Diaz  
Council 6836 - Abner Brown Sr., Abner Brown Jr., Thomas Roberts  
Our next visitation wil be August 24, 2003.

### FROM THE SECRETARY

Paul Rekieta, Financial Secretary

The proposed Charity budget for Council 2917 for the current fiscal year as recommended by your trustees and officers follows:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Texas State Charities                                     | \$7,000 |
| 2 Sponsorship of two seminarians                             | 1,000   |
| 3. Interfaith Charities                                      | 1,500   |
| 4. State K of C Apostolate for the Imprisoned                | 200     |
| 5. 100 Club  | 100     |
| 6. Church Donations  | 1000    |
| 7. Miscellaneous   | 1200    |
| 8. St. Pius High School (banner for Football/Baseball field) | 1500    |
| 9. St. Vincent de Paul Society                               | 300     |
| 10. Special Olympics   | 200     |

**Total \$14,000**

This will be read and voted on in our September meeting.

### FAMILY DAY AND DANCE

#### SUN. SEPT. 28TH

Come out, bring the family and enjoy a free spaghetti dinner with the other brother knights and their families. Dinner will be served at 12:30pm. Members and their immediate family will get a free dinner. Guests will be charged \$4.00. "To-Go" plates will be \$4.00. Stay around til 3:00pm and dance to the music of "The Texas Sound Check". Brother Bennie Okruhlik and the gang will be playing polkas, waltzes and a little C&W til 7:00pm. Admission of the dance for a KC member and his family will be \$3.00 a person, all others will be charged \$5.00. Children 12 & under no admission. Proceeds from the dance will benefit Special Olympics.

### MORE JUNE BUG INFO

More names to mention for helping out. Working the Saturday night dance was Floyd & Sandra Rekieta, Don & JoAnn Psencik, Trinidad & Odelia Yanez, and Al Alvarez. On Sunday at the door was Al & Elizabeth Meschwitz, Ed Okonski, Kris & Ken Boudny. Paul & Rita fixed a batch of their margaritas and helping them was Ed & Margaret Brossman, Tony Saenz, and Dolores Cobb.

Thanks to all those that bought and sold raffle tickets. Several members did a great job in sales. Ed Brossman and Ron Wendt sold over 30 books each. The following people sold over 20 books each: Phillip Wagner, Pat Koterass, Eddie Mocek, Rita Rekieta, Ladies Auxiliary, Jeff Hoffart, Sonny Kainer and June Sechelski. Ed Okonski was responsible for selling and delivering 80 books. He was able to get other people involved to help him sell. Robert Miller did a great job in leading ticket sales at Assumption Church.

### IN MEMORY

Pedro T. Castro 7-15-03 Edward Zalesak 8-4--003

### MOON TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Charlie Heinrich came in first, Floyd Rekieta came in second — wait a minute, that's the wrong Rekieta — well at least he's keeping it in the family. Brother Domino Players, let's remember these days, there were a bunch of us that forgot about this one, including myself.

### CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

Pat Koterass

The short hot summer is over and it is time to star our meetings and activities again. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 2, 2003. The social is at 6:30pm and the meeting at 7:00pm. We need new members and September is the perfect time to join. If you are interested or have any questions about the Catholic Daughters, please call Pat Koterass at 713-864-4490.

### BIRTHS

Paul Rekieta

The Meschwitz Clan has expanded once again. Congratulations to Albin & Elizabeth Meschwitz on the arrival of their newest grandchild, Hannah Elaine. She made her debut appearance on August 10, 2003 at 12:02pm, weighing in at 5lbs., 14ozs. and measuring 17-3/4in.

The proud parents are their daughter Daina & Roger Sebesta. Oh, we cannot forget her big brother William, who cannot give her enough kisses and hugs. This makes a total of 2 granddaughters and 3 grandsons for Al and Elizabeth.

### LADIES AUXILIARY

Rita Rekieta, President

Where has the summer gone? I hope all of you enjoyed the free time. Our board meeting will be on September 3 at 7:30 pm and general meeting on September 17. We have been busy this summer. The council had their Awards Presentation in July, and I was extremely proud of all our ladies and their husbands who were honored with the Family of the Month and Family of the Year Awards. The Auxiliary also presented 25 of our ladies with Certificates of Appreciation. Thanks to all of you who gave of your time to our many functions. We furnished refreshments for this. We have gained 3 new members this summer, which brings us up to 135 members. A big welcome to Doris Henderson, Carrie Walkoviak and Marilyn Kainer. We are still looking for a few new ladies to join us. Don't be left out.

We have the new Entertainment books going on sale now. The price is \$21.00 per book and will be good til November 1, 2004. If you've never had one, see one of our members and look at all the savings from 2-for-1 dining, casual dining, savings on airline tickets, car rentals, 50% off Astros tickets, grocery stores and more!!

There is a precinct bus trip scheduled for Tuesday, September 16. Tentatively we plan to visit the Sealy Outlet Center, lunch on your own, and Brookwood Community Center. Reservations are being taken by Elizabeth Meschwitz at 713-861-0272.

Family Day will be on September 28. We will be taking care of the dessert booth. The Telephone Committee will contact you for your favorite homemade desserts.

Bank of America will be sponsoring their fundraiser for United Way on October 7. We have our workers for the kitchen already lined up. The Telephone Committee will contact you for desserts. They will not be calling you twice for the above functions.

We have several members who are ill or shut-ins. Please remember all of them in your prayers. God bless all of you.

**TRIP TO COUSHATTA — WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 9:00 AM**

**TRIP TO COUSHATTA — WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8@ 9:00 AM**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS WELCOME!**

**YOU MUST BE 21**

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!!**

**RITA REKIETA - 281-448-6623**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THESE DATES **ALL MEETINGS START AT 7:30 PM** (except where noted)

Sept 1 Labor Day -Holiday		Sep 17 NCC Board Meeting	7:30 pm	<b>BINGO EVERY FRIDAY</b>	<b>7:15 PM</b>
Sept 3 Council Officers Meeting	7:30 pm	Sept 17 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	7:30 pm	Oct 1 Council Officers Meeting	7:30 pm
Sept 3 Ladies Auxiliary Board Meeting	7:30 pm	Sept 22 Council Open "Rosary" Meeting	7:30 pm	Oct 1 Ladies Auxiliary Board Meeting	12:00 noon
Sept 8 Regular Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Sept 28 <b>Council Family Day</b>		Oct 6 Council Domino Tournament	7:00 pm
Sept 9 Seniors Get Together	9:30 am	Sept 29 5th Monday Moon Tournament	7:00 pm		