



# Knights of Columbus



Our Lady of White Lake Council 12985  
5149 Dowling, Montague, Michigan 49437

## - Overview of Hierarchy -

The Hierarchy of the Knights of Columbus leadership starts at the Supreme Council, and moves to States, Districts, and Local Councils. All members must belong to a Local Council. For those that have completed the 4<sup>th</sup> degree, there are Assemblies which are grouped by Districts, Provinces, and finally governed at the National level. If you are a Grand Knight [**GK**] or Past Grand Knight [**PGK**] you may belong to a Chapter.

**Squire Circles** are for Catholic male youth, ages 12 – 18. Circles must be sponsored by a Council or Assembly. Below is a listing of the Officer Titles of each part of the organization with a basic explanation of their functions.

### **Council Structure**

The **Supreme Council** consists of the State Deputy and the living Past State Deputy of the various state Council; the past Supreme Knights; Supreme Officers as *ex officio members* (Supreme Knight, Supreme Chaplain, Deputy Supreme Knight, Supreme Secretary, Supreme Treasurer, Supreme Advocate, Supreme Physician and Supreme Warden); the Supreme Directors, (24 insurance members elected for three-year terms by the Supreme Council at its annual meeting); and such delegates as are duly chosen by the State Councils. (Section 4 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

The **State Council** includes the following officers; State Deputy, State Chaplain, State Secretary, State Treasure, State Advocate, State Warden are the only State Officers that have Official Jewels. State Jewels contain the Official Seal of the State in the middle of the Jewel. State Directors include the Program Director, Membership Director, and Operations Director. The State Council also includes the last past State Deputy, the Grand Knight and Past Grand Knight of each Local Council. The State Deputy is the only officer which also has a Dress Jewel. (Section 11 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

The **District** level includes a District Deputy. Districts are composed of several councils in the same geographic region. The District Deputy has general charge of the councils, is responsible for overseeing the Exemplification of the Second Degree, and installs Council Officers. The District Deputy's Jewel is a Sextant and Feather with the words "District Deputy" laid across them and suspended from a red ribbon. These symbolize his role in helping to guide the Councils in his district. (Sections 60-62 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

At the **Council** level there are 17 Officers, of whom 12 are elected. Below is a list of the Council Officers and a brief explanation of their functions, and description of the Ceremonial Robe, Explanations of the Jewels are taken from the “Official Knights of Columbus Emblems and Council Jewels”.



The **Chaplain** provides spiritual guidance and direction to the Council. The Chaplain is selected by the Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight and the three Trustees on an annual basis in accordance with the rules of the Bishop of the dioceses. His Jewel is the Isabella Cross in silver and blue suspended from a black ribbon. The Chaplain’s Ceremonial Office Robe is black with black trimming and a yoke with white projecting collar. The cincture is black with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 128 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

The **Grand Knight** is the top ranking officer of the Council. He oversees all of the Council’s activities and is elected by the members of the Council. Some of his duties include presiding over meetings, countersigning orders and checks, reading vouchers and notices relative to the Fourth Degree. His Jewel is an Anchor which is suspended from a purple ribbon. The Anchor is indicative of Admiral Christopher Columbus and has also been a vibrant form of the Cross for centuries. The Grand Knight ceremonial officer robe is royal purple. He wears a white cincture with silver fringe and a purple mantle with white roll collar. (Duties taken from section 135 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).



The **Deputy Grand Knight** is the second ranking officer of the Council and is elected annually by the members of the Council. He shall preside in the absence or inability of the Grand Knight. His Jewel is the Compass, also known as the Compass of Virtue, suspended from a purple ribbon, with the four main points representing Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The 32 points around the outside of the compass represent the virtues of (N) Charity, (E) Hope, (W) Faith, (S) Truth, which a man can possess. The compass is an important tool in navigation. The Deputy Grand Knight’s ceremonial officer robe is royal purple. He wears a white cincture with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 136 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

The **Chancellor** is the third highest ranking officer of the Council and is elected annually by the members of the Council. The Chancellor shall assist the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight in the performance of their duties and shall take charge during the incapacity or extended absence of both. He shall exercise a special interest in new members and members who are sick or in distress. His Jewel is the Skull and Cross Bones on the Isabella Cross and is suspended from a black over white ribbon. The Crossed Bones remind us of or immortality. The Chancellor's ceremonial officers robe is black trimmed with white. He wears a white cincture with silver fringe and a black mantle with a white collar. (Duties taken from section 137 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).



The **Recorder** keeps the minutes of the meeting and the historical records for the Council. He is elected annually by the Council members. In the absence of the Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, and Chancellor the Recorder will run the meeting. Also, he is responsible for the correspondence of the Council as directed by the Grand Knight. The Recorder's Jewel is a Crossed Quill Pen suspended from a white over yellow ribbon. The Cross Bones remind us of immortality. The Recorder's ceremonial officer robe is black trimmed in black. He wears a white cincture with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 138 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

The **Financial Secretary** handles the financial transaction record keeping. This includes issuing and collecting bills, issuing membership cards, etc. The Financial Secretary is appointed by the Supreme Knight and is compensated in a manner approved by the Board of Directors. His Jewel is a Quill Pen (record-keeper) and the Key (money, safe-keeping, and secrecy) crossed and is suspended from a white over yellow ribbon. This symbolizes his record keeping functions of the financial matters of the Council. The Financial Secretary's ceremonial officers robe is black, trimmed with black. He wears a white cincture with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 139 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).





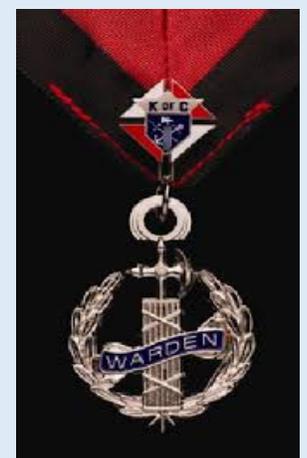
The **Treasurer** is responsible for the funds in the Council as is elected by the members of the Council. His duties include such functions as maintaining bank accounts and issuing checks based on receipts turned in by the Financial Secretary. His Jewel is Cross Keys, which represents responsibility for the safe keeping of the funds, suspended from a blue ribbon. He wears a white cincture with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 140 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

The **Lecturer** is responsible for the entertainment of the Knights of Columbus meetings and functions. He is selected by the Grand Knight on an annual basis. His Jewel consists of the Scroll over the Lyre suspended from a white over blue ribbon. The Scroll and Lyre represent Literature and Music. The Lecturer's ceremonial officer robe is black, trimmed with national blue. He wears a blue cincture with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 141 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).



The **Advocate** is the Chief Legal Officer for the Council as is elected by the members of the Council. His Jewel consist of a Scroll and Sward suspended from a yellow ribbon. The Scroll represents the legal literature and law and the Sward represents his authority to enforce those Laws. The Advocate's ceremonial robe is black, trimmed with golden yellow. He wears a yellow cincture with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 142 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

The **Warden** assures that all members at meetings possess the current membership card and is elected by the members of the council. He is custodian of all Council property except funds and is in charge of properly setting up the Council Chamber. He directs the activities of the Inside and Outside Guards. His Jewel consist of Axe bound by Fasces and is suspended from a red over black ribbon. Guards or protectors of Roman Magistrates generally carried the Axe and Fasces as a sign of Authority. The Wardens Ceremonial officers robe is black, trimmed with scarlet. He wears a scarlet cincture with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 143 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).





The **Inside and Outside Guards** each have the same symbol for their Jewel. They are in charge of security at the meetings and are to assist the Warden as needed. The jewel for the Guards consist of a Crossed Axe and Key, representing the authority as sentries at the door, is suspended from a white ribbon. The Guards ceremonial robe is gray with a yoke, trimmed in black. They wear a black cincture with silver fringe. (Duties taken from section 144 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws).

There are three **Trustees** in the Council, titled as 1<sup>st</sup> Year, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustees. They oversee the financial transactions of the Council, review all bills and financial reports and audit the Council's financial records semi-annually. Their Jewel is the Cross Key and Sward, which represents their financial authority, is suspended from a green ribbon. The Trustees ceremonial robe is black. They wear a green cincture with silver fringe. Duties taken from section 145 of the Charter, Constitution, Laws)



### - Fourth Degree Assembly -

Another degree open to the Knights of Columbus is that of the **Fourth** (or Patriotic) **Degree**. On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1900, the first exemplification of that degree was held in New York City. The ritual added patriotism to the three original principals of the Order; charity, unity and fraternity. Any 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree member in good standing, one year after their anniversary of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, is eligible for membership in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. The primary purpose of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism by promoting responsible citizenship and a love of and loyalty to the Knights' respective countries through active membership in local Fourth Degree groups called assemblies. Fourth Degree must retain their membership as Third Degree members in the local Council to remain in good standing.



Starting at the Supreme level there is a Supreme Master and the Supreme Board of Directors. The next level of the structure is broken into provinces of which there are twenty. Each province is led by a Vice-Supreme Master. The Vice-Supreme Master wears a light blue cape and chapeau. There are currently 15 provinces in the United States, 4 in Canada, 1 in Mexico and 1 in the Philippines.

The province is then broken up into districts. Most districts are either an entire State or a section of a larger State (*i.e. Pennsylvania has two districts – east and West*). A Master is in charge of a District and wears gold lined cape and chapeau. Masters are responsible for overseeing the Installation of 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly Officers. The Renewal of Obligations in January, and holding at least one 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification each year.



Also a Master usually has a District Marshall to assist him. The District Marshall wears a green lined cape and chapeau. The Jewel for the 4<sup>th</sup> degree officers are suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon. Each contains the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Emblem and title of the Officer's position. The Assembly is structured in much the same manner as a Council. Below is a chart that shows the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly Officer's title and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Council equivalent.



Fourth Degree Officer Title	Third Degree Officer Title
Faithful Navigator	Worthy Grand Knight
Faithful Friar	Worthy Chaplain
Faithful Captain	Worthy Deputy Grand Knight
Faithful Pilot	Worthy Warden
Faithful Admiral	Worthy Chancellor
Faithful Scribe	Worthy Recorder
Faithful Comptroller	Worthy Financial Secretary
Faithful Purser	Worthy Treasure
Faithful Inner Sentinel	Worthy Inside Guard
Faithful Outer Sentinel	Worthy Outside Guard
Faithful Trustee 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Worthy Trustee 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
Faithful Trustee 2nd Year	Worthy Trustee 2nd Year
Faithful Trustee 1st Year	Worthy Trustee 1st Year

## **- Color Guards -**

Certain members of the Fourth Degree serve as **Color Guards** and **Honor Guards** at civic and religious functions, and activities which has brought worldwide recognition to the Knights of Columbus organization. Honor Guardsmen have mastered the "Manual of the Swordsmen". The District Commander of the Color Corps wears a green line cape and chapeau. The Color Corp Commander wears a purple line cape and chapeau. Finally, all other members of the Color Corp wear red lined capes and white chapeaus.

When a Fourth Degree Member or Color Corp Member is dressed in his tuxedo there are seven miniature jewels he may wear if he validly holds the title of a past or Former Officer. Six of the seven jewels are; Past State Deputy, Former District Deputy, Past Grand Knight, Past Faithful Navigator, Former Master, Former Vice-Supreme Master.

## **Grand Knight Chapter**

Chapters are made up of Grand Knights and Past Grand Knights from several councils in the same geographic area. The Officers include a Chaplain, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Marshall, and Advocate.