



MARCH / APRIL 2010



Moving
Faith into
Action Since
1891

VOL 8 ISSUE 2

BRAGGING BOARD

HEARTS & HANDS

March 1
FOR SISTERS OF CHARITY
Holy Rosary Ct. 1036,
Bozeman, MT

March 6-7
FOR HOLY NAME CHURCH
Our Lady of Help Ct.
865, Cedar Lake, IN

March 7
FOR ST. PHILIP PARISH
St. Mary Ct. 998,
Rudolph, WI

March 12
FOR ASSUMPTION CHURCH
St. Cecelia Ct. 373,
Barnesville, MN

March 14
FOR ST. CASIMIR LIBRARY
St. John Ct. 1020,
Wells, MN

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Time for Legislative Action

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others that they may see your good deeds ...” (Mt. 5, 14-16)

NCSF is a fraternal not for profit Society. As such we, and all the other fraternal societies, do not currently pay Federal or State tax. This is what allows us to have the funding which we give back to our courts, their parishes, communities, and to people in need. And it is because we give back, volunteer, and have a positive influence in our communities that we enjoy our tax free status.

Today, however, this hundred years plus understanding is under scrutiny if not all out attack. Many states, and our Federal government, are in dire financial circumstances. Budget deficits are out of control, and regardless as to how they got in this position, state and federal governments are looking for new sources of funding. One of the fastest sources for extra funds is to look seriously at removing the tax free status of fraternal insurance societies, charitable hospitals, and other not for profit organizations, thereby collecting taxes that were not received before.

Some states are already reviewing the tax status of not for profit organizations and others states will probably begin the process in the near future. The federal government is planning to review this issue in the summer of 2010. We should not fear these reviews. For NCSF and others, the best defense is the truth. We should not fear a governmental review because we have been true to our mission: Love, Benevolence, and Charity have been expressed wherever NCSF has a presence.

The only cause we have for concern is that the truth can be a defense only if everyone involved knows it to be true. What do I mean by this? I have no doubt that your court does many wonderful things in your community ... but do local, state and federal legislators know what you do? Do they know the truth of your court and its' positive effect in your community? I fear most legislators are not aware of who you are and what you do ... and that is a cause for concern. We must become actively involved in a campaign to make local, state

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March 21
MADISON DIOCESE
CATHOLIC
MULTICULTURAL
CENTER
St. Ann Ct. 299,
East Bristol, WI

ASSOC. MEETING
April 27
MADISON
DIOCESAN ASSOC.
St. Mary Ct. 868,
Muscodia, WI

Lenten Prayer

God of compassion
and truth, your tender
mercy reaches into our
brokenness, touches
what has turned to
ashes, allows us to look
upon our failings
without fear.

We cannot move on,
cannot step forward
from anywhere other
than where we really
stand.

Let us see ourselves as
you see us: broken and
failed, utterly beloved,
with a clean slate to
start again.

In your tender mercy,
fill our wounded
hearts, that your
healing love may flow
through us to our
suffering sisters and
brothers, through
Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT The National Convention???

HOW MANY OF THESE QUESTIONS CAN YOU ANSWER?

~ *How is the National Convention defined?* ~

~ *What are its powers and duties?* ~

~ *Who gets representation and how do you become a delegate?* ~

~ *What is a 'credential'?* ~

~ *Are there really standing committees?* ~

~ *How do I get on a committee?* ~

~ *Who pays for all this?* ~

It would be reasonable for you to expect that I would answer all these questions for you. Well, luckily I don't have to ... All the answers are in your Constitution and Laws book Article VI and VII. (page 18 to 25 in the Constitution and Laws) All your questions answered in less than seven full pages!! That makes this section of our Constitution required reading for all courts, and indeed, all members.

I suggest you discuss this section of our Constitution at your next court meeting. That will help your court's delegate(s) become a true delegate representing your court and its members. We have said many

times that our Society is owned by our members, by you. And this is a true statement. So realize that as owners, you have both the right and the responsibility to send a delegate(s) to the National Convention who will vote the mind of your court. If you are not running for an office (and you should consider seeking an office within your Society) elect someone as a delegate who will help move the Society into the future so that "Love, Benevolence, and Charity" continues to be a positive presence in your community.

who will be the next NCSF Fraternalist of the Year?

Start thinking about nominating a deserving member of your court for the NFCA 2010 Fraternalist of the Year Award. This prestigious award can be given to a member over 16 years of age who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service to your court and the local community in 2009. Nominations must be postmarked by May 10, 2010. Forms can be downloaded from our website (www.ncsf.com then click on Court Relations) or call and request a form by mail.

All individuals who are nominated for Fraternalist of the Year will also be submitted to the NFCA as candidates for the Fraternalist in Action MVP Award. We want to recognize our dedicated members who exemplify Love, Benevolence, and Charity in their courts and communities.

and federal legislators aware of your court and NCSF. “... your light must shine before others that they may see your good deeds...”(Mt. 5, 16)

This is what I believe we must do:

- Whenever you hold a Hearts and Hands fundraiser, a volunteer service event, a Join Hands Day activity, a social event or any other gathering, invite local, state and federal legislators to attend. Whether or not they attend, keep inviting them ... you are establishing a relationship and helping them understand who we are and what we do.
- Whenever the opportunity arises – in person, in a letter, an invitation or a card – thank them for any past support of NCSF and other fraternal benefit societies’ and ask them to do what they can to maintain our tax free status so we can continue our mission.

- Realize there will probably come a time when our Society’s fraternal tax exemption is questioned by the legislature in your state. Many states are facing budget problems and are looking for extra tax income to ease their deficit. We will need to ‘tell our story’ to the legislators if we are to maintain our hundred plus year tax exemption – and that story is easier to tell when a personal relationship has been established.

If you need any assistance finding the names and contact information for your state or federal lawmakers, please call 800-344-6273, ext 204 or email james_tranel@ncsf.com and I will be happy to assist you. We would like to track your contacts with legislators so send me a copy of letters, emails, or calls made by your court. Let your light shine!!

JOIN HANDS DAY

Saturday May 1, 2010 — Join in the Fun!!

What’s it all about?

JOIN HANDS DAY is an important event for all fraternal organizations. It is a national day of volunteering that brings youth and adults together to improve their own communities. A benefit of the day comes through the friendships that will be made across generations. The new partnerships will be an important first step in bringing more young people into leadership roles within our Society.

Do we work with other organizations?

The whole purpose of Join Hands Day is to “join” and work with other organizations. A court that does an activity by itself is not participating in Join Hands Day. This day is an opportunity to reach out and form

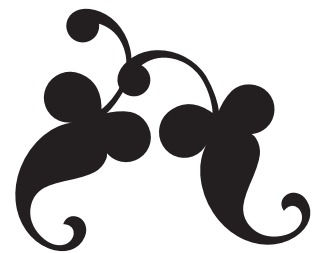
partnerships, especially with organizations of young people. Consider bridging the generations, have the adult and junior members of your court do a Join Hands Day project with:

- Catholic school students
- Religious education classes
- Confirmation students
- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- 4H Club
- or any youth group in your area.

Involve that group in the selection of, and planning for, your project. Have fun working with others. If there is anything I can do to help you organize your project or if you have questions, please let me know.

Form 990-N IRS REPORTING UNDERWAY.

I appreciate all the courts who returned their court audit report in a timely manner. This has allowed me to begin the process of filing the 990-N with the IRS ahead of schedule! Again this year everything has gone very smoothly and I am very grateful for that. We are required to file this report every year and your cooperation makes the process much easier. Thank you!!!!



“Yea, thou
art my lamp,
O Lord,
and my God
lightens my
darkness.”

2 SAMUEL 22:29

How well do you know the State hosting our National Convention??

We all know that the National Convention will take place in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We've learned a few things about the city of Cedar Rapids but how about the state of Iowa? Now's your chance to answer some questions and learn a few facts about the state of Iowa. Good Luck!!

<http://co.washington.ia.us/departments/funfacts.htm>

<http://www.theus50.com/iowa/quiz.php>

- (1) **What is the capital city of Iowa?**
a) Dubuque
b) Richmond
c) Cedar Rapids
d) Des Moines
- (2) **What is the state flower for Iowa?**
a) American Dogwood
b) Blue Aster
c) Wild Rose
d) Prairie Cornflower
- (3) **What is the nickname for the state of Iowa?**
a) The Hawkeye State
b) Prairie State
c) The Old Dominion State
d) Long View State
- (4) **What is the state bird for Iowa?**
a) Bluebird
b) American Goldfinch
c) Cardinal
d) Blue Jay
- (5) **What is the state of Iowa insect?**
a) Grasshopper
b) Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly
c) Celeste Moth
d) It has none
- (6) **The first Iowa State Fair was in 1854 in what town?**
a) Fairfield
b) Cedar Rapids
c) Iowa City
d) Des Moines
- (7) **Iowa, the 26th state in size, covers how many square miles?**
a) 28,900
b) 42,377
c) 56,276
d) 65,912
- (8) **Iowa possesses what percent of all the grade A land in the United States?**
a) 6%
b) 13%
c) 20%
d) 25%
- (9) **The word "Iowa" is an Indian word that literally means?**
a) Good soil
b) One who puts to sleep
c) Land of twisted rivers
d) Eagles nest
- (10) **Iowa achieved territorial status in 1838 and established the first capital in?**
a) Burlington
b) Cedar Rapids
c) Dubuque
d) Clinton

ANSWERS: 1-D; 2-C; 3-A; 4-B; 5-D; 6-A; 7-C; 8-D; 9-B; 10-A