



# THE ADVOCATE...

APRIL 2018

FEATURE ARTICLE:       ELECTIONS  
                                  MOVIE NITE

Welcome to THE ADVOCATE ... a newsletter dedicated to all Council Advocates but should also be shared with everyone in your Council and our jurisdiction. This month's newsletter and all previous issues are available on the State web site at [www.kofc.ab.ca](http://www.kofc.ab.ca) under Publications.

This month there are two Article... *Appeals for Political Support* and *Movie Nite*.

The FORUM ... *State Council versus State Board*

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## ***ELECTIONS***

The following contains excerpts from the Charter, Constitution, Laws of the Order and from the ODR (Officer's Desktop Reference).

With the upcoming State Annual Convention it is important for everyone, especially the nominated candidates, to understand and respect the rules enshrined in our By-Laws concerning canvassing, obtaining support, directly or indirectly, in the upcoming elections.

Section 162.23 of Supreme's By-Laws states specifically - Issuing appeals for, or soliciting by virtue of his membership in the Knights of Columbus, aid, or assistance or support by or in behalf of or announcing candidates for public office, or candidates for office (including delegates to State Board and Supreme councils) in another society or body or in the Order may result in a fine, suspension, or expulsion.

Any member who knowingly permits or acquiesces in such appeals, solicitation, etc., shall if elected, be ineligible to hold office.

The rule is that no member may knowingly permit or agree to issue appeals for, or solicit by virtue of his membership in the Knights of Columbus, aid, or assistance or support by or in behalf of or announcing candidates for office.

In order to effectuate this rule and to promote fairness and mutual respect in council elections, the Office of the Supreme Advocate has developed guidelines which may be

reviewed in detail in the section of “*Council and Assembly Issues*” of the Officer’s Desktop Reference accessible on Supreme’s web site at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

General Principle: A candidate running for office in the Knights of Columbus is expected to conduct himself as a Catholic gentleman. While he may promote his candidacy by highlighting his own qualifications, he may not comment negatively about any opponent. A candidate is not permitted to canvass support for his candidacy and is held responsible and accountable for any third parties acting on his behalf. Regardless of the forum all elections must be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity.

### **State Board and Supreme Convention Delegates**

A member desiring to run for an office of the State Board or as a delegate to the Supreme Convention must have his local council adopt a resolution announcing the member’s candidacy for office. The resolution can set forth the qualifications of the member for the office that he aspires to and can further indicate the council supports the candidacy. The local council must then submit the resolution to the State Office for review by the State Secretary. To ensure validity in the submission the member must be a member in good standing with his Council and the Council must be current on its per capita with both State and Supreme.

For all valid submission the State Secretary will then have the resolution(s) distributed to all the Councils in the jurisdiction and the state officers. The distribution of the resolution is not meant to solicit support for the candidate, but is deemed to be merely an announcement of the member’s candidacy and of his qualifications.

In addition, at election time, a candidate may be nominated “from the convention floor” providing the candidate possesses *in writing* a signed letter from his Grand Knight stating that the candidate is a member in good standing with his Council and his local Council is current on its per capita with both State and Supreme.

A candidate for State Board or the Supreme Convention **may**:

1. Prepare a short biography to be included in the resolution.
2. Request his council pass a resolution in support of his candidacy. If the council passes such a resolution, the council will send the resolution for review to the State Secretary.

A candidate for State Board or the Supreme Convention **may not**:

1. Use council funds to finance his campaign.
2. Display signs, flyers, or posters.

3. Distribute business cards (Knights of Columbus or otherwise) , buttons, t-shirts, pins, hats, bumper stickers, or any other souvenirs or promotional items to other members of the Order.
4. Send mass mailings or emails in support of his candidacy.
5. Engage or enlist others to assist in canvassing for the candidate
6. Disseminate derogatory information about another candidate.

Contravention of these rules, as set forth by Supreme, may result in a fine, suspension, or expulsion.

For further information on this topic refer to the Charter, Constitution and By-Laws of the Order and also the Officer's Desktop Reference.

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## ***MOVIE NITE***

Many Knights of Columbus councils offer "movie night" as a source of entertainment for members, their families, and the general public. These events provide an opportunity to promote fraternalism, build community, and enrich the culture with Christian values.

Council officers should bear in mind that they are personally responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable legal requirements relating to the showing of movies. Copyright laws in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere typically prohibit individuals and organizations from showing films outside the home without authorization from the owner of the copyright. Accordingly, councils must obtain the proper legal authority to show a movie to a group. In addition, council officers should also ensure that the content of the film reflects the Order's Catholic character.

In order to show a film at a council meeting or public event, a council needs either permission or a license. When a council acquires a DVD, it owns only the DVD itself. The council does not thereby acquire the right to broadcast it to a public audience, regardless of whether the council decides to charge admission. That right can only be given by the copyright holder.

Licenses can be purchased for a fee from copyright collection companies. For example, an Umbrella License® may be obtained from the [Motion Picture Licensing Corporation](#) and also from [Audio Cine Films Inc.](#) which holds certain exclusive rights.

The Knights of Columbus does not endorse any copyright collection companies, film producers, or distributors. Each council should conduct its own research to determine which licensing company meets its needs, interests, and budget.

For further information on this topic refer to the Charter, Constitution and By-Laws of the Order and also option 7 (Movie Night) found in the section *Council and Assembly Activities* of the Officer's Desktop Reference at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) .

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## ***FORUM***

The State Council is different from the State Board. Let me elaborate...

### State Council

Membership in the State Council of Alberta consists of voting delegates comprised of the Grand Knight and a Past Grand Knight, actually residing in the Alberta/Northwest Territories Jurisdiction, from each Subordinate (local) Council in good standing and State Officers, ex-officio and the last living Past State Deputy. The State Council normally meets once a year at the annual State Convention. At its discretion a Subordinate (local) Council may elect alternates as their voting delegates to attend and be their representatives at the annual State Council's State Convention.

It is the voting delegates of the State Council attending the annual State Convention that elect, by ballot, the State Board executive (a State Deputy, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Advocate and the State Warden), and the insured and non-insured delegates to the annual Supreme Council Convention.

Minutes of the annual State Council Convention meetings are prepared by the State Secretary into a report to be certified by the State Deputy. Once certified, copies of the report are distributed to each Subordinate (local) Council in our jurisdiction, all State Officers, Past State Deputies, District Deputies and State Directors and Chairmen if requested.

### State Board

Voting delegates of the State Council attending the annual State Council Convention elect, by ballot, the State Board executive (a State Deputy, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Advocate and the State Warden).

At his discretion the State Deputy conducts board meetings with the State Board's executive to discuss matters for their jurisdiction. Minutes of these meeting are recorded by the State Secretary and distributed to the State Board members only. Due to their confidential nature State Board minutes are not distributed to other members of the State Council.

For further information please refer to Subsection 204 (1) and Subsection 206 Meetings in the Grand Knights manual.

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Your feedback is invaluable. If anyone has any questions or comments drop me a line. Also, if there is a topic you wish covered in future newsletters just send a note to [SA2017@kofc.ab.ca](mailto:SA2017@kofc.ab.ca)

Thank you ...and God Bless.

***Vivat Jesus***  
***Sir Knight John Onyskiw***  
***State Advocate***