

WSC 117th State Convention 2020

Report of the State Advocate

Tom Williams

My Brother Knights,

As of today, in accordance with the Washington State Council Bylaws, I affirm and report that my duties as State Advocate were carried out as prescribed in Article 6, Section 4.

There are just two major duties:

- Be the legal advisor of the State Council and shall give subordinate councils or members advice on questions pertaining to the Knights of Columbus, when requested to do so.
- Receive from the State Secretary and the State Treasurer all financial records for previous fiscal years. Provide storage for such records for a period of seven years; assuring that such stored records will be made available upon orders from the State Deputy.

I have learned a lot in my role as State Advocate, and I am still learning – there is a lot of reading material! Some is interesting and some is pretty boring, but it is all important to performing my job duties.

One of the most important jobs I have is managing the Safe Environment Training compliance for the State. This program protects both the most vulnerable members of society and our Order, and is the focus of a lot of attention. I could not manage compliance without the assistance of our State Administration and Finance Chairman Kevin Fraley, his in-depth knowledge of and dedication to the program has been a great boon to me. I get lots of feedback from our members on this program, and even Supreme acknowledges that gaps exist, but it is not going away and I thank you for your attention to this most important program.

Another duty is helping Councils follow proper procedures as determined by Council and Supreme bylaws. This requires lots of research and reading, while working through the options and requirements. Our Supreme Advocate John Marrella has provided great leadership and guidance to me whenever I have reached out to him.

In addition to these duties, I have served as State Membership Director for the past year. I also facilitated preparation of the Resolutions for the 117th Convention and Chaired the Resolutions Committee. I served as Secretary of the Board of Directors for “Pennies for Heaven, Inc.” and “Columbus Charities, Inc.” And last, I maintained the State Council’s financial records from the previous ten years.

I have been able to accomplish my duties as State Advocate because of your cooperation and submission of reports as requested. I want to thank my fellow State Officers and the entire State Council for your support and prayers. Most importantly, I want to thank my wife Dawna and my sons Matthew and Brendan for their love and support during the many hours devoted to the Knights of Columbus.

That concludes my report as State Advocate for Fraternal Year 2019/2020. I move that my report be accepted and entered into the record of the Knights of Columbus Washington State Council 117th Annual Convention.

Is there a second?