

State Warden Convention Report 2019-2020

Dr Tom Hulse

As stipulated in the Washington State Council Bylaws, I verify and state that I carried out my duties as State Warden as specified in Article 6, Section 5.

- I attended all meetings of the Washington State Council.
- I only admitted duly qualified third degree members.
- I carried out all other duties as requested by State Deputy Pat Kelley including:
 1. Provision of aid to State Deputy Pat Kelley during State Council meetings.
 2. Maintenance of an inventory, caring and storing State Council equipment and supplies.
 3. Photographing award presentations and special events.
 4. I attended the Centennial Celebration for Grandview St. Joseph Council 2103 and will attend the Mount Vernon Msgr. Boulet Council 2126 celebration if a group gathering is permitted.
 5. Set-up, take down and audio/visual support during State Council meeting.
 6. Duties of the Washington State Council General Program Director.

In addition, I assisted the Executive Director with organization and planning for the Washington State Convention scheduled to be in Yakima, Washington during 2020.

There were a number of unique challenges during the 2019 – 2020 fraternal year. Worthy Past State Deputy and Executive Director John Walker retired at the beginning of the fraternal year and passed on 8 February 2020. John was both a good friend and a mentor throughout my association with the Washington State Council. While John willingly provided assistance and encyclopedic information about the Washington State Council and its operations, his passing left a void in the Washington State Council's corporate memory, making it necessary for all officers to fill in where necessary including the State Warden.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused individual Councils as well as the Washington State Council to consider using virtual meetings as a new paradigm. We plan to attempt an experimental virtual Pilgrimage of the Silver Rose during May because of statutory limitations on group gatherings. The virtual Pilgrimage of the Silver Rose is intended to provide individual Council members with experience using a virtual meeting application.

Approximately one-fifth of the 167 Councils within the Washington State Council's jurisdiction have been completing online Monthly Service Reports. The Monthly Service Report enables the State Council to assess the health and value of state programs. However, as important, the Monthly Service Report is an invaluable training tool for each Council's Deputy Grand Knight or others, who also may serve as the Council Program Director. The Monthly Service Report

gives the Council Program Director insight into the working of the Council as well as the resources and talents that are essential for a Council's program development. We need to increase participation with completion of Monthly Service Reports; however, we must also develop a way to use information in the Monthly Service Report more efficiently; for example, linking information from the Monthly Service Report to forms required by the State and Supreme Councils for other reports.

Less than fifteen percent of Councils within the Washington State Council's jurisdiction submit Faith in Action Service Program Award applications, nominate individuals within their Councils for the Knight of the Year Award or families within the Parishes for the Family of the Year Award. The purpose of these awards is to share information about successful programs and to show gratitude and respect to the individuals and families who make significant contributions within our Councils, our Parishes, and our communities.

I have experienced a steep learning curve during the 2019 – 2020 fraternal year because I often had to search out answers that were previously available through a telephone call to John Walker. I don't sit back and wait for answers or to be asked to act when I perceive a need, which is undoubtedly a source of heart-burn for some. I am grateful to my fellow officers and our Executive Director Ed Rogers for their patience, advice, criticism and occasionally for their sense of humor.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to become acquainted with our Council Program Directors, Council Officers and Council Chairmen as well as our Washington State Faith in Action program Directors and our State Chairmen. All of these men have provided me with unique knowledge and perspectives that have made it much easier to carry out my responsibilities as Washington State Warden. Please accept my sincere thanks.

It has been both a privilege to have been able to serve our Washington State Council as State Warden and General Program Director and an honor to have been able to work with so many good and dedicated men. In conclusion, I am constantly reminded of my wife, Jo's, admonition when I first became a Knight while within the jurisdiction of the Military Archdiocese during December, 2007. "Why don't you join the Knights of Columbus so you can be with men who believe the tenets of our Church and act to serve those around them? Birds of a feather flock together." I am grateful for Jo's encouragement, support, generosity with her time, and patience without which serving our Washington State Council and carrying out the duties of Washington State Warden would be more difficult. It is because of my wife that I became a Knight.

I move that my report for the fraternal year 2019 – 2020 be accepted as reported and included as part of the record of the 117th Washington State Council's Annual Convention.