

Wisconsin State Court News



A Newsletter for and about the Wisconsin Catholic Order of Foresters

Volume 2009 Issue 1 – Winter

From the desk of the Chief Ranger.....

2008 What a Year! It was a great year to be the Chief Ranger of the Wisconsin State Court.

The State Convention was demanding, stressful, exciting and very enlightening. A special "THANK YOU" goes to everyone who donated items for the silent auction. We were able to raise \$1,300 and this money was given to Stangleville Ct #1190 to help defray the extra costs of the many volunteers who helped to make the National Convention the SUCCESS that it was.

The National Convention was filled with excitement. The best part was having the Fantastic members of the Stangleville Ct# 1190 along with many volunteers and Convention Co-chairs Marvin and Debbie Cherney put on the best convention yet! Then again, it was in Packer Country, so it had to be Great!

Marvin and Debbie and their group welcomed over 500 delegates, officers, home office staff and guests to the Radisson – Oneida Hotel and Convention Center in Green Bay. All the diligent work in organizing and planning the events with the High Court finally became a reality. Smiles were everywhere, from the Opening Mass with Bishop Peter Sartain, the evening at Lambeau Field, all the meetings and the final banquet, they always made sure everyone was enjoying their time in Green Bay. Besides their warm smiles they could be spotted by their Green Bay Packer jerseys. I want to personally thank Marvin and Debbie and everyone involved in the convention for making 2008 a really great year.

Many of you were asked at the District meetings to create a scrapbook of Wisconsin activities from 2000 to 2008. I want to thank Denise Smerz and her daughter Jacque Ford for accepting the challenge. They truly did a fantastic job. It was such a thrill to have so many conventioners' stop and congratulate me on our FIRST PLACE Scrapbook.

As I traveled to several district meetings and other activities I was so proud of the great job that they had done. Many members were surprised and happy to see themselves or someone that they knew at one of the many activities. There were pictures from court activities, anniversaries, matching fund events, the annual state court family campouts, youth and adult bowling tournaments, state golf tournaments and the national softball tournaments. Their talents in the design and layout of the scrapbook are what gave us the first place honors. Thanks Denise and Jacque for making many of us proud to be a part of the Wisconsin Courts.

SEG – Matching Funds

There were several spirited discussions at the State Convention in April as well as the Fall Districts around the state in regards to the support of the SEG funds. With the increase to \$500.00 from \$350.00 per grant times 20, we will be depleting our funds by \$10,000 each year. Several years ago, when the interest was much higher we were able to cover this expense with the interest and the annual SEG assessments.

With the financial changes back in 2000 and the discontinuation of assessments it was agreed upon and entered into the by-laws that the state court would contribute \$5,500.00 or 10 % of the annual allowance from High Court. With the decline in membership, (over 1,200 members), lower interest and rising expenses, the state court will now allocate 10% of the yearly allowance. This will be approximately \$4,700.00 annually.

Recent Matching Fund activities, The Greg Blaska Memorial Golf Outing had generated approximately \$2,500 to \$2,800 to add to the fund. The Golf Outing started out with about 50-60 participants and has decreased to around 20 golfers in 2007. Participants were basically from the state court, Madison and Milwaukee area courts. This was a State Matching Fund event but received very little support and participation.

The Greg Cass and Blaska families put in many long hours to organize this event and were very discouraged to see the lack of support it received from our Fraternal Society. We understand that the travel time and expense were the demise of this event. This is why the delegates at the convention decided that each district would hold their own Matching Fund event to support the SEG.

The state court will do all the paperwork. Each district just has to hold their own event and mail the income to the state court. “A Matching Fund event is where members of a community (district) work together to help raise funds for their community.” If each district can raise between \$200-\$300, with the match from High Court, we court add approximately \$3,900 to \$4,500 to the fund to assist 20 seminarians with their yearly expenses.

We all know how badly we need more priests; please do your part to help us help them.

I also want to thank the many members who remember the SEG fund with donations in the names of their passing members.

Appleton Court #132 – Just Keeps on Giving

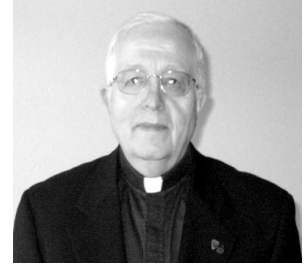
A Special “Thank You” to the officers and members of Appleton Court 132. Their hard work and diligence to give us a great convention in 2008. They also set A GREAT Example of what fraternalism is all about. The profit that they made on the convention book was divided up between several local food pantries and charities as well as a donation to our SEG Fund. Thanks again for all you do!

*Anyone wishing to remember a member or make a donation to the SEG Fund, make the check to:
The Wisconsin State Court
With a note in the memo line.*

Father Bob Rhyner

(New Spiritual Director)

HI! I am Fr. Bob Rhyner of the Diocese of Green Bay. I am happy to have the opportunity to serve as your state chaplain. It was a pleasant surprise when I was asked if I would take on this office. I hope I can serve you well.



I don't know just what you want to know about me in order that we can become acquainted. Knowing one's background does help to make a person more real. So I'll begin by saying that I was ordained May 23, 1959 in St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay, my home parish.

I had the privilege of serving as Assistant in a number of parishes in the Green Bay Diocese in the towns of Elcho and Pickerel, Green Bay, Appleton, and Sturgeon Bay. Then I served as pastor in Phlox and Mattoon, Two Rivers, and Green Bay. Following that I was blessed with the opportunity to serve in Green Bay and Pine Grove as associate pastor (assistant), something I had hoped I would be able to end my active ministry doing. Recently I become a "Senior Priest" (priests, like so many other people, don't retire). It was shortly after I received my letter from the bishop granting Senior Priest status that I was asked if I would be willing to be State Chaplain for the Catholic Order of Foresters.

During the years of my ministry in the parishes, I also "taught" at St. Joseph Academy in Green Bay, served on the mental health board in Appleton, and on a citizens committee for the WPS in Two Rivers. I was appointed to the Green Bay Diocesan Tribunal as a Field Advocate and was named as administrator for a Green Bay parish as well as for the Pine Grove parish. I am been actively involved in National Marriage Encounter, both locally and nationally, since 1980 and at this time I am once again the Executive Clergy of the NME Executive Team. Presently I am also chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council 4505 and am a member of the N.E.W. Community Shelter Board here in Green Bay. Also, I am the "on call" priest for Aurora Hospital and am scheduled as the "on call" chaplain at St. Vincent and Bellin hospitals several hours each week. That is why I am in the habit of always carrying my Cell phone.

Sixty-six years ago this month (February 20, 1943), my parents signed me up for the Catholic Foresters, along with my two brothers and themselves. I was ten at the time of becoming a Forester. We were members of the SS. Peter & Paul Court 1211. That court ceased to exist somewhere around 1990. I remember the meetings of the final years of the court were the gathering of the four officers (including my dad as secretary) and apparently the only active members of the court. I had the impression that the monthly meeting consisted of card playing.

My memories of Forester activities were mainly of the summer picnic. They are good memories. I know my brothers and I always looked forward to it. The free food, the gunny sack and three leg races, and all the other fun things made for a grand time at Bay Beach in Green Bay. I vaguely remember some gatherings or meetings in the SS. Peter & Paul church hall. But the picnics were the big event.

I have enjoyed my first meetings with the COF and some of you. I hope to get to know not only your names but who you are. I'm looking forward to being actively involved in the Foresters once again.

**Wisconsin State District Catholic Order of Forester Meetings
Spring 2009**

District	Court, Date and Location	State Court Representative	High Court Representative	Agent
Central District	3/29/09 – Rothschild St. Mary’s # 498 – 8:30 Mass	Rose Ann Jacob	Jim Demulling	Dale Vannes
Chippewa Valley	3/8/09 –Thorp-St. Vincent Court 1338 -10AM Mass	Gene Schindler	Jim Demulling	Richard Bourget
Eastern District	4/21/09 – Saukville St. Henry Ct 902 7:30 pm	Dan Brommer	Jim Demulling	Roman Claas
Fox Valley District	3/22/09 – Appleton Court #131 12:00 pm	Kelly Pinchart	Jim Demulling	Frank Bradley
Lakeshore District	4/19/09 – Rosiere – St. Peter’s Ct. 956 9:00 Mtg – 10:30 Mass	Mark Wessely	Tom Lepinski	Frank Bradley
Milwaukee District	4/1/09 – Butler–St Agnes Church Henni Court #142 7:00 pm	Duane Weisensel	Tom Lepinski	Roman Class
Mississippi District	4/19/09 – St. Mary’s Ridge Cashton Ct 1820 8:30 Mass	Dan Brommer	Jim Demulling	Roger Klein
Northeastern District	4/26/2009 – Sacred Heart Ct# 1369-	Patti Ellenbecker	Tom Lepinski	Dale Vannes
Northwest District	3/15/09 - Dobie 10 AM Mass	Gene Schindler	Jim Demulling	Roger Klein
Southeastern District	3/11/09-Racine St. Mary Ct 211 - Eagles Club, Racine,	Tom Peltier	Tom Lepinski	Roman Claas
Southern District	3/22/09 – St. Theresa Ct 897 St. Theresa Mass 10:00	Patti Ellenbecker	Tom Lepinski	Roman Claas
Southwestern District	3/28/09 – Castle Rock Ct 2046 St. Anthony– Sat 5PM	Jim Burbach	Tom Lepinski	Roger Klein

Agents Corner

To All Foresters,

It has been a pleasure serving as an agent for the COF, both as an agent and general agent. I am in my 39th year as a career agent and those years slipped by very fast. The year of 2008 has set some records for the COF, a society of 125 years, the state court convention in April hosted by Ct. #132 Appleton, Wisconsin. The National Convention held in August, 2008, hosted by Ct. # 1190 from Denmark, Wisconsin. With HCR David Huber being re-elected, we should have a great future. Our portfolio of products will stand up to any fraternal society and with the matching fund program, our society will provide many family’s and churches, with help at a time when they need it. COF members can feel real good about who we are, and as our motto states “We Care”. I wish everyone a prosperous new year.

Frank Bradley, COF General Agent

Wisconsin 2009
Youth Bowling Tournaments
(Remaining)

CENTRAL: April 26, at 12:30 p.m. - Marathon Lanes, 1200 S State Hwy. 107
Marathon. Contact: Rose Ann Jacob 715-443-2753 by April 19th.

MILWAUKEE: May 9, at 12 noon - All Star Lanes Milwaukee, 10500 W. Silver Springs Dr.
Contact: Rachel Smerz 414-795-8181 by May 2nd.

MISSISSIPPI (1st tournament): March 1, at 11:00 a.m. - Sparta Colonial Lanes, Sparta,
Wisconsin. Contact: John Dickman 608-654-5474 by February 22nd.

MISSISSIPPI (2nd tournament): March 15, at 12 noon - Winona Bowl, Winona,
Wisconsin. Contact: Elsie Brommer 608-626-2591.

LAKESHORE: March 21, at 1:00 p.m. - Kewaunee Lanes, Kewaunee, Wisconsin.
Contact: Neal LeDocq 920-255-2370 by March 14th.

FOX RIVER VALLEY: March 15, at 1:00 p.m. - Tenth Frame, 618 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Appleton. Contact: Michael Wachuta 920-734-7571 by March 8th.

2009 PHOTO & POSTER CONTESTS

PHOTO: GOING GREEN, No larger than 5 X 7 black and white or color. No frame, mat or glue photo to cardboard or any other material. Polaroid instant photos and digital photo files are unacceptable. **Printed photos taken with a digital camera are acceptable.**

POSTER: DOWN ON THE FARM, 8 1/2" X 11" cardstock or posterboard only. Photos, magazine cutouts, and computer printouts are not permitted.

Any questions contact State Youth Director Gene Jacob 715-443-2753.

CHANGES FOR YOUTH DIRECTORS

Youth Directors: Watch for changes coming out, from the National Convention.

A few changes that the State Court has been notified of are: *That the local courts would not be allowed to submit for youth allowance form YD-10 that was sent to the High Court in the past, when it is a State Court sponsored functions.

The State Court will pay \$4.00 per signature on proper forms. These activities are "Religious program, Holiday program, Family Picnic and Optional event" which need the Y.D.S.11 & Y.D.S.4 green forms.

The Bowling Tournament needs to have the white participation form # FA-196 filled out. The form will be included in the bowling information sent to the Youth Directors. All these forms are to be filled out in full and mailed to: Tom Peltier, C.O.F. WI State Secretary, 811 E. Brandybrook Road, Wales, WI 53183.

All other activities remain the same filling out the YD-10 form and mailed to the High Court as in the past.

*The local court youth director will be allowed to sign the YD-10 form for youths who are unable to sign.

*The local court youth director will be allowed to sign the YD-10 form for reimbursement.

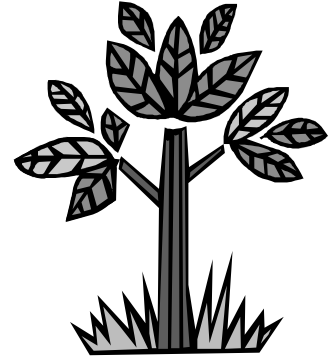
LETS HAVE SOME FUN AND GO CAMPING

THE WISCONSIN STATE COURT'S FAMILY CAMPOUT

Thirteenth Annual

Aug. 7 - 9, 2009

**Evergreen Campsites
Wild Rose, Wisconsin**



Cabins and trailer sites available.

Rates for the Catholic Foresters will be;

Cabins - \$115.00 Trailer & Tent sites \$45.00

Cabins - \$80.00 per night (\$35.00 + \$80.00 = \$115.00)

(Rates above include both Friday and Saturday nights)

Gilbert Brown Cancer Foundation Charities Weekend.

Profits from autograph sales go to the Cancer Fund

Evergreen Campsites is located five (5) miles East of Wild Rose on Kusel Lake.

Evergreen has many amenities to offer for the camping enthusiast to include; Horseshoe pits, Volleyball/Softball, 3 Playgrounds, Miniature Golf, Two Heated Pools, Swimming in Kusel Lake, Boat Rentals, Peddle Cart Rentals, and much more.

For info on Evergreen Campsites you can find them at

www.evergreencampsites.com or call Kelly at (920) 837-2143

To make reservations call or mail a check to Kelly Pinchart, **A.S.A.P.**

Please make check payable to: Kelly Pinchart

407 Maple Street, Casco, Wisconsin 54205

Can't make it for the weekend – stop by for the day!

EVERYONE WELCOME – PLEASE R.S.V.P.

Financial Report July 1, to Dec. 31, 2008

	6/30/2008	Balance on Hand		\$ 150,058.46
Receipts		High Court – Dues	\$ 23,619.50	
		Shirts Sold	\$ 32.00	
		H.C. Youth Activities	\$ 534.00	
		Scrap Book-Prize H.C	\$ 300.00	
	Cts. & Dist.	S.E.G. Donations	\$ 325.00	
		S.E.G. Annuity Dep.	\$ 450.00	
		S.E.G.-Memorials	\$ 440.00	
	S.E.G.	Int. 2,053.64		
	Gen.Fnd.	Int. 63.73		
	Promo.Fnd	Int. 912.98		
	Conv.Fnd.	Int. 37.89		
		Total Int. Income	\$ 3,068.24	
		<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	\$ 28,768.74	\$ 28,768.74
Expenses		State Ct. Mtgs.	\$ (706.07)	
		Postage,Ph.,Copies	\$ (283.10)	
		Officer&TrusteeComp	\$ (5,262.50)	
		Soc.Sec.&Unempl.Tx	\$ (471.93)	
		Anniv.Awards,&Mem.	\$ (1,154.52)	
	Spring 08	Dist.Mtg.-Dist.Pmts.	\$ (52.00)	
	Fall 08	Dist.Mtg.-Dist.Pmts.	\$ (2,957.00)	
		Dist.Mtg.-St.Ct.Reps.	\$ (866.39)	
		Court Visitations	\$ (381.48)	
		Memorials &Funerals	\$ (373.05)	
		Yth. Bowling	\$ (39.56)	
		Yth. Poster & Photo	\$ (30.05)	
		Yth. Other Activities	\$ (21.00)	
		Yth. Dist. Picnics	\$ (588.25)	
		Adults Dist. Picnics	\$ (1,763.45)	
		Camp-Out	\$ (321.46)	
		State Bowling Tourn.	\$ (87.60)	
		St.Ct.News. Ltr.	\$ (1,209.16)	
		Wi.Frat.Congress	\$ (697.91)	
		WFIC Conf. Gr.Bay	\$ (1,873.23)	
		2008 Conv. Exp.	\$ (414.50)	
		2008 Conv.-Balderics	\$ (180.00)	
		Nat'l. Conv. Exp.	\$ (1,798.84)	
		Nat'l. Softball Tourn.	\$ (888.20)	
		S.E.G. Annuity Dep.	\$ (450.00)	
		<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	\$ 3,344.25)	\$ (23,344.25)
		12/31/08 NET WORTH		\$ 155,482.95
		Daniel Brommer, Treas.		



Patti Ellenbecker
1150 Hillside Drive
Kewaskum, WI 53040

Calendar of Events

State Bowling Tournaments–March 28-29, April 4-5 & 18-19, West Bend, WI

Join Hands Day – Saturday May 2, 2009

Photos and Posters due to Youth Director, Gene Jacob- May 31

National Softball Tournament – July 25-26, Waterloo, Iowa

13th Annual Campout – August 7-9, Wild Rose, WI