



INFORMER



Convention 2010

Official Publication of Michigan Columbian Squires

June 2010

New Beginnings

Dylan Cooper

State Chief Squire

Welcome to the 55th Annual Michigan Columbian Squires State Convention in beautiful Birch Run, Michigan. This is the first time in many years that we will not have the opportunity to race go-carts or swim at the beach in Ludington, Michigan, but the new and improved location and agenda will benefit the state in several more important ways. First, Birch Run is more centrally located amongst the numerous circles in the state than Ludington. This should encourage a high attendance, which is much needed. Secondly, the new agenda places all meetings and events on Saturday. This will ensure all business is completed, allows more flexibility in trip planning, and lowers the overall cost of convention. Lastly, the banquet will be held at the world famous Zehnder's Restaurant in Frankenmuth. This means that the food, especially the chicken, will be mouth wateringly delicious. With all the allowed free-time this year, spend some time enjoying the areas many attractions. Personally, I will be sampling the tasty fudge in Frankenmuth. Chocolate Peanut Butter and Cookie N Cream are my flavors of choice. I will also find some time to shop at the world's second largest outlet mall located in Birch Run right down the street from the Best Western where we will be residing. I plan on visiting the American Eagle, Nike, and Bed Bath And Beyond outlet stores. The mall in Birch Run shames the Meijer's in Ludington, though I don't know where I'm going to buy pizza rolls this year. All in all, I believe this will be a successful convention that

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Michigan Columbian Squires: Keep Up with Us!

You can find the Michigan Columbian Squires on all of your favorite social networks:

facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=4517964444>

twitter

<http://twitter.com/MiSquires>

...and of course <http://www.michigansquires.org>

It's Just Another Brick in the Wall!

Matt Dzewit

State Squires Director

Before I start my article I want it to be known that I did not give my article a title. Our State Chief Squire said that if we don't title our article that editor Ray Bilyk will do it for us. OK Ray, surprise me.

Esto Dignus!

Welcome to the 55th annual convention of the Michigan Columbian Squires. 55 years of Columbianism for this great organization. What a change we have for you this year. I apologize for any confusion that may have or will come up. Trying to plan everything for one day was a bit challenging and I hope it goes off without a problem. This was an attempt to keep the cost down and bring more circles to our convention.

I ask everyone to please give a Michigan Squires welcome the yoopers, who traveled from the far north of Chassel in the U.P. to be with us for their very first convention. We welcome you and we hope you learn a lot this weekend.

As we gather together to share some good times with one another lets not forget the real reason for being here. Deciding how our state circle will run for the next fraternal year. Voting upon by-laws and most importantly a new state board. Any squire can run for a state office position, but please take the job seriously. Don't run just to run. Run to do the job, to make our state strong.

I would like to congratulate the outgoing board members for a job well done. It was not an easy year. Six months ago the squire family came upon some hardship that kind of brought down the state circle. We stayed strong, we pulled together, we prevailed. That's what being squire is all about.

I have so many people to thank... I hope not to miss anyone. First I have to thank the Michigan State Council Officers, for keeping this program alive in Michigan. Its nice to see former squires actually leading the State Knights of Columbus. To all the counselors for your undying

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sets a precedent for future conventions.

On another note, this will be my last outing as a squire. I recently became a 1st degree knight and look forward to my future as a knight, though nothing will compare to the last eight years I spent as a squire. Thank you for the opportunity to lead the state as Chief Squire. It has been an honor and a privilege. **Esto Dignus, Be Worthy.** I will keep this motto close to me as a knight and preach it faithfully by living according to the teaching of the Gospel.

Prayer Requests

Brother Francis Boylan, csc, President of Holy Cross Childrens Services (Boysville), was in a severe car accident. He's in stable condition at the U of M Hospital. Brother Francis will need our prayers as he will undergo alot of physical therapy in the upcoming months. Please pray for a speedy recovery.

Please keep Phil Thelen, Former Lansing Area Squires Director, in your prayers as well. Phil will be undergoing a lot of medical tests soon and will need our prayers.

Let us also keep in mind all of the Squires, Counselors, Directors and the Brother Knights that supported our program that have moved on into Eternal Life with Christ Jesus.

Amen!!!

State Notary's Words of Wisdom

Josh Drouillard

State Notary Squire

Brother Squires,

I hope everyone has a good time at convention this year and everyone promises to work on membership because we are desperately in need of that. I would also like to wish all the State Officers Elect a good year on state Board.

Sincerely,

Josh Drouillard

SNS ❖

support in our program. For all the time you put into the squires and keeping these young men on the straight and narrow. These young men really need us. To the few but faithful circles that always and I mean always attend all the state activities. I wish we could get more circles to attend with us and see the great time that we have together. Our Detroit North Director Dan Nurenburg, for taking on the task of being the information guy. Making sure the circles and officers are always informed through emails and mailings. We all know how much fun putting packets together for mailing can be. I think his camera is permanently attached to him. Saginaw Director Ray Gehlmann, for taking on those little task that come up that we can't get anyone else to do. Ray, I do have to say that you made things interesting. My good friend Fred Mainville, thanks for lending a shoulder to lean on and fo r all the help and encouragement. Big THANKS to my home circle Fr. Daniel A. Lord #801. Ray, Jim, and Bruce (by the way, you've just been iced) you've been through it, you know what its like and I thank you guys and the circle for the help, support and being there when I needed you guys. I especially thank you for the "special" encouragement. I couldn't ask for a better bunch of friends. You guys are the true meaning of the squire brotherhood. Last but not least to my family, my wonderful wife Kim and my daughters Allie, (I'm watching you Sebastian) Katelyn, Aubri and Mary Grace. They have made many friends in the squires and always look forward to the family functions. I've spent many weekends away from home on squire activities doing what I enjoy most and you were always there to support and encourage me. I thank you for that and I love you very much. Having a very supportive family is a big part of a successful circle.

My brother squires, its time to get the ball rolling, time to work together and get another 50 years out of this state circle. In order to do so we all need to work as one and show every council in the state of Michigan why they should say yes to the Squires. As my former chief counselor once said about a million times, "Once a squire always a squire." (Some of you may know the ending.) I'm proud to say that I have been and always will be a squire.

Yours in the Youth of Christ

Matt (Matty) Dziewit

State Squires Director

**Make a Friend
A Squire**

DATES TO REMEMBER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30TH

CORPS D'ELITE AWARD FORM (#278-NC) DUE

BROTHER BARNABAS AWARD FORM (#279-NC) DUE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1ST

COLUMBIAN SQUIRES OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN FORM (#468) DUE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4TH

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLUMBIAN SQUIRES PROGRAM

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH- 8TH

MICHIGAN COLUMBIAN SQUIRES CAMPING/CANOEING
WEEKEND (PROJECTED)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

Circle Status and Audit Report (#247-NC-2) due

A View from the Entryway

Joe Gehlmann

State Sentry Squire

Squires,

More people should join and become active members of the squires. Many circles and people are actually members of the squires, but aren't active members. We should make some inactive circles become at least slightly more active. ❖



Knights of Columbus
SQUIRES
Youth Organization.

Squires are a Part of My Life

Sebastian Cooper

Chief Squire-Elect #801

Brother Squires,

For the last three years of my life, I have been living in France. During this time, I've been going to school and have learned the language at a very outstanding level. After achieving an average above 13/20 (10/20 being the honor roll), I was placed into the highest general class, a level that a great number of students are denied the honors of having. However, for many reasons, I have returned home.

Personal life aside, one of the things I'm most excited and just overwhelmed with joy about, is returning to Squires. I grew up with Squires, and have been proud to be a part of the program since my debut 7 years (wow time does pass) ago. Over the years, I've loved the jokes, the participation, the outings, the people, the way of doing things, and of course I can't forget...the push ups. I've been a part of the Boys and Girls Club for 5+ years, as well as the YMCA. But I have to say, no youth group on this planet compares to the Michigan Columbian Squires!

Squires are a part of my life. Squires are a part of your lives. When you're invested into one of the many circles that build up this group, the members of that circle are a new addition to your family, and will watch out for you and lead you into the right direction until the end of your days. That is the truth and every squire must know that. I didn't understand that fully up until the recent passing of my grandmother and father. My circle was there for me when I needed them the most, and I'll remember that forever.

I can't tell you how much it upset me to leave squires three years ago when I returned to France, I'll just say it did. You see, when you first join Squires, you sort of feel new and try to learn everything about it. But when you get more experienced, a feeling to just want to "push further" and "make the most of your stay" really builds. It has built in me and now, it has been fully constructed. What was recently impossible for me to be a part of, is now an opportunity for me to lead. What was last night a dream,

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From the Great White North

John Knight

Chief Counselor, Copper Country Circle 5288

We are the newest Circle I believe in the Upper Peninsula. It all began around November 2008 when I (John Knight, Chief Counselor) started talking with a young teenager starting High School. We talked a lot about the Squires and what an impact it would have on them doing different things for the churches and the community as well as having fun together.

Our Circle was chartered in February of 2009. One of our most treasured spiritual things we did was to go to the ordination in Marquette to witness two young men become priests. The boy's planned the trip and actually had to get out of school at noon time and they had to be picked up. One of the counselors and myself picked up the squires and had lunch in Lansé and before the squires who were with me said let us say grace before we ate and we did out loud. On the way back we ate in Marquette and again the young squire said let us say grace. It was an honor and pleasure to witness the ordination but also of this young squire who is now our newly elected Chief Squire.

The Squires were still talking about the ordination when they got back up here in the Copper Country. This is what this program is all about for which we were elected from you all last year as we won the Best Spiritual Award in the state of Michigan. This is our first time to go down to a convention as we have been only 16 months into existence. We are excited and hopefully will gather a wealth of information down there.

ESTO DIGNUS

JOHN KNIGHT, CHIEF COUNSELOR 5288 ❖

Born and Raised in North Detroit...

Pete Smith

Detroit Area Chairman North

Another year in the squires done and over and here we are at another convention. We will be at a new location this year which should make it interesting. The not so long drive to Birch Run will be nicer than the drive to Ludington. I hope everyone has a great time.

Esto Dignus ❖

can now become a reality. What was once a "yearly" reunion under someone else's term, can now be a "daily" one under my own.

The fact that I've been away so long changes nothing. Rather, it gives me an advantage. Being here has trained me to become better understanding, patient and most importantly, be able to adapt to a whole new environment. A real leader has already mastered these skills. I've known for a long time what it takes to make a circle successful: It takes experience, it takes commitment, it takes dedication, and above all, it takes the will to improve at all costs.

I'm running for State Chief Squire. I assure you, I promise you, that when elected, I will strive to make the State Circle better than ever before.

Brother Squires, our motto means "be worthy". Let me take you down a path that in the end assures satisfaction. Let me show you how "worthy" I am.

Avec moi, with me, Sébastien Cooper, let US show EVERYONE how worthy we can be. Let the new era of the Michigan State Circle commence. Permettez-moi d'être votre chef (allow me to be your leader)!

Sincèrement Le digne candidat (worthy candidate)

Sébastien Cooper

Chief Squire-Elect #801 ❖

Squires

Matthew Moilanen

Chief Squire-Elect, St. Augustine Circle 2466

This is what the Squires mean to me. The Squires are a group of people that I can socialize with and have lots of fun. I think that the Squires have really impacted my life to be more into my faith with other people. I have talked to people at the outings a lot and had lots in common and we were able to have fun. I try to encourage lots of people to join the Squires because I know they will love it. I know that Squires will have an impact on my life forever because it helps me get through rough times.

At first when I went to the investiture I thought that it wouldn't be fun because there were only 2 active Squires. After about 2 years after we got more members to go to outings with it was very fun. And now I think it is very good experience for me and everyone who is in the Squires. ❖

It's ALWAYS Been Real!!!

Bruce Hopkins, PSCS

Chief Counselor, Fr Daniel A Lord Circle 801

I don't presume that any Squires reading this article remember who I am, but in the 2003-2004 fraternal year, I was the State Chief Squire.

We have had six State Chief Squires since then, two of which are still active squires (though they graduate from our program effective July 1st). I became a squire in the fraternal year 1999-2000, and there were three State Chief Squires before my term.

Since the year I became a squire, 37 young men have served as State Officers. I am going to exclude current State Officers and present some figures to ponder:

3 consistently remain active and attend all State Activities with their circles.

3 have joined the U.S. Military

1 has passed away

This leaves 24 men that have (or have not) joined the Knights of Columbus and attend Columbian Squires functions sporadically, or in most cases not at all.

That is a whopping 65% of men that are missing in action! So what are councils not doing to retain these men and encourage them to contribute to their former circles? If the Michigan Columbian Squires is going to survive, then it is my hope that the State Knights of Columbus will make it a priority to District Deputies, State and Program Directors, and Grand Knights that they are missing out on these outstanding squires.

But these are merely State Officers. I can't imagine how many missed opportunities there are with squires who have not been elected to office! A squire is a young man in training for knighthood. Recruiting these young men as brother knights is beneficial to the K of C because councils gain members, quotas are met, numbers go up, people look good. Ken Grembowski and Mike Malinowski now this because they were/are State Chief Squires, State Directors, and State K of C officers. In return these same young men become counselors and repeated the process for new squires. This is a win-win for both the Michigan Knights of Columbus and the Michigan Columbian Squires!

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Honestly, if I didn't join the Columbian Squires, I would not have joined the K of C. So think about the kids that don't become squires at all. It is a simple cycle to promote, and with the backing of the honorable State K of C Officers, it can easily be achieved. Let's make the State Circle a priority, if not for the leadership training of young, Catholic men, then for the membership numbers for the K of C. They are ready-made leaders prepared to take on bigger roles in their councils and assemblies; individuals trained for this purpose.

So squires, keep recruiting candidates. Counselors, start recruiting squires. State K of C, start recruiting counselors. Let's raise our membership by raising that of the State Circle's, and we can all celebrate faith, fraternity, and fun together. "It's True! It's True!" ❖

The Rally Cry from Richmond

John Moilanen

Chief Counselor – St. Augustine Circle 2466

The Squires have been GREAT. Our Circle has been active for about 20 years, we've had ups & downs but we're still here. I have been involved for the last 2 years, but as a long standing 4th degree Knight in the Richmond Council I was always aware of the Squires and the importance they have to the success of our Council. Now that I am involved with the Squires, as Chief Councilor, I can say that I completely underestimated the impact the Squires organization has on our youth. In the short time I have been active I have seen complete transformations very quickly in young men that can only be attributed to the hand of God, (and hot dogs!) and we REALLY need to continue getting the word out, this can't be "our" little secret, we NEED TO SHARE IT WITH THE WORLD! Not to meet some silly quota, or to keep Dan off our backs, or to say "well, we tried", we need to do it because it is a part of our "calling" as Catholics to be the pawns so that "His Will be done". I want to thank the State and Area boards and Officers for all the time & hard work they put into this (insanity) organization as well as the Area Directors. Let's go get 'em. Esto Dignus.❖

Writers Wanted!

If you, a member of your Circle (either Squires or Counselors), or even a graduated Squire are interested in writing an article for *The Informer*, please forward the articles to Informer@michigansquires.org.

We can't do this without YOU!

What Squires Convention Is

Squires Convention is...months of preparation getting ready to send your circle's delegates.

Squires Convention is...stuffing your CD collection full of your favorites so you have some tunes to listen to on the way and at the hotel.

Squires Convention is...packing everything you can think of for a two or three day weekend even though you probably won't use 1/2 of it.

Squires Convention is...seeing everyone at the registration table after a long ride.

Squires Convention is...selling ads for the ad book (or making up your own) and thumbing through the pages trying to find the ones you sent in.

Squires Convention is...finding out what rooms your circle will be in and diving on your bed the second you walk into your room every year.

Squires Convention is...the opening Mass where you see everyone that you didn't see at registration and listening to Father Cross, Father Brian, or (going way back) Father Jim.

Squires Convention is...trying to argue your point concerning a particular by-law you may not agree with.

Squires Convention is...having your buddies nominate you for a state office and wracking your brain trying to come up with the perfect aims and aspirations speech before the election.

Squires Convention is...coming up with the craziest skit you can think of for the talent show and seeing all the crazy things everybody else does.

Squires Convention is...trying to recreate star constellations on the ceiling of your hotel room.....just because it sounds cool.

Squires Convention is...horsing around in the pool area or scoring the prank of the year.....and laughing about it with your friends more than ten years later.

Squires Convention is...sitting down to some awesome meals.....and eating WAY too much.

Squires Convention is...winning awards for your circle that you didn't think would win but sent in an award form anyways.

Squires Convention is...feeling proud after being named State Counselor of the Year or State Squire of the Year.

Squires Convention is...being elected State Chief Squire or becoming a State Officer for the very 1st time.

Squires Convention is...going to your 1st Convention as your very last Squires outing (in 1994), serving as Elections Committee Chairman at that Convention not knowing what to expect, wishing you'd been to every Convention the five years before that, and making sure you never miss another one.

Matt Sobkowski
Former Detroit Area Director North (2001-2005)
St. Augustine Circle #2466 - Richmond