KJT STATE OF THE UNION REPORT

42ND GENERAL CONVENTION YEAR PREPARATION

With the dawn of 2018, I bid everyone a Happy New Year and a very successful year! At this time, I would like to thank all KJT members, society and district officers, insurance representatives, home office staff, and state directors and officers for all that you do! KJT once again showed positive results financially but membership numbers continue to be a concern. With all of your help, we can make 2018 a successful year on both fronts.

42nd General Convention – July 2018

The 42nd General Convention to be held on July 19, 20 and 21, 2018 in Houston is six short months away! All societies have already been mailed credential packets which are due back to the Home Office by March 31, 2018. Additionally, resolutions for changes to the Constitution or By-Laws are due to the home office no later than February 23, 2018. Resolutions received prior to the February 23 deadline will be distributed to all societies prior to the convention for deliberation. Resolutions received after this date will be presented at the convention; however, societies will have no previous knowledge of these resolutions to consider prior to the convention.

Director Elections at the Convention

There will be three vacancies for state directors at the 42nd General Convention in July 2018. Directors Robert Nors, Raymond Pokorney, and Ellen Zdansky will all be retiring at the end of their terms this year. In order to qualify to seek the position of state director, one must be eligible to serve as a delegate to the convention. Candidates must submit an application of candidacy stating

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2017 Life Premium Challenge Agents

At the beginning of the year, each KJT agent was challenged to write $3,000 in Life premium for 2017. Several agents answered this call to action and achieved the goal. The KJT Home Office would like to recognize the following agents who rose to the challenge and submitted at least $3,000 in Life Premium:

Thomas Arellano, Brenda Fietsam, Margaret Holik, John Kana, Joe Landsfeld, Mildred Machacek, Eugene Maroul and Ellen Zdansky

We congratulate the eight agents who achieved this goal. Thank you. In 2018, we will once again challenge our agents to reach the $3,000 Life Premium mark.

Three claim Heavy Hitter Awards in 2017…

The Heavy Hitter Award is an incentive that measures the sales representative’s production based on adjusted annualized premium and the number of applications. It rewards those representatives that not only submit a lot of premium but those that also submit a fair number of applications throughout the year. The four designations are Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

We are happy to announce that three of our agents qualified for the Bronze Level Award in 2017. Carly Divin, Eugene Maroul, and Joe Landsfeld all qualified for this designation. A huge thank you to each one of our Bronze qualifiers as they will receive a check for $100. Congratulations to our Heavy Hitter winners and we look forward to a successful 2018.

Zdansky secures another Pacesetter Award!

The Pacesetter Award was implemented in 2002 to reward those representatives that sold a high level of premium along with a high number of applications. Representatives received a gold ring with diamond inset upon winning the Pacesetter Award for the first time. Every year after that, another diamond is added to their ring when they qualify.

We congratulate Ellen Zdansky for once again qualifying for the KJT Pacesetter Award in 2017. This is Ellen’s seventh time winning the Pacesetter Award, and she will add yet another diamond to her KJT Pacesetter Ring for her achievement. We congratulate Ellen for her efforts and look forward to her accomplishments in 2018.

Quote of the Month

“When you put faith, hope and love together you can raise positive kids in a negative world.”

-Unknown
EDITOR'S NOTE

New Year, New Adventures

STEPHANIE PRIHODA
Director of Media and Marketing
Happy 2018 KJT Family!!

How quickly this year has taken off and look at us now, mid-January and we have made history with the number of “snow days” our children have been able to stay home for. It’s freezing outside!!

However, with the winter outside these SDOR meetings are heating up. Each week we will be heading out to your area to share the word of where this great organization has been over the last year and talk to you about what we have planned for the future. One of the topics that I’m emphasizing is how much I need all your help to make this the best KJT News that has ever been published. Below this article, you will find a list of storylines that we have planned for the 2018 newspaper. The centerfold story of each month will display those stories, and highlight our members. Now that January is filled, we are moving into February. If you or someone you know is celebrating an anniversary, either old or new, we would like to share your love story. Let us know now how many years you have been married, how did you meet, and maybe some before and after wedding photos. There is no limit to how many stories I can receive. I will find a way to fit them all in.

Second on my list of topics is social media. If anybody in your society would like to start a Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram account, your society could earn $100 for doing so. All that we ask is that you post events in your area. If I need to start a Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram account for you, I can do so. I will need a member of your society to also join me. That way I’m not the only one doing all the heavy lifting, and we can utilize all that social media has to offer to help get our organization out there in the public eye. This is one way we can increase membership in the KJT.

Last, but not least, we have created a NEW T.R.U.E. LEADERSHIP CAMP for our youth members. This is not to be confused with our summer camps. This is new and completely different. Any high school student who would like to spend a weekend away focusing on their leadership skills is welcome. Campers will learn leadership skills in how to gain respect and trust from others, and then how to unite and evolve others in their communities and schools. This camp has limited space and will be on a “first come-first served” bases. We will only be accepting the first 20 complete applications.

With no further ado, I pray each, and every one of our KJT members and their families has a blessed 2018. I pray your year is full of blissfulness and blessings. I pray that our members remain safe and warm throughout the rest of this winter, and I look forward to meeting many of our members throughout the rest of the month at SDOR meetings.

Sincerely yours,

January: Unsung Heroes
Stories of those who go above and beyond volunteering and caring for others.

February: Love Stories
Celebrating both old and new wedding anniversaries. Sharing your love story of a marriage that is brand new or one that has lasted for years.

March: Old Fashion Ways: Story of the Butcher House
Looking back in time when families gathered at the butcher house to split meat and lived off the land.

April: Gardener’s Special: Secrets of the Garden
Passing out secrets for a successful vegetable or flower garden. This is the time to help each other grow beautiful and plentiful gardens for any time of the year.

May: Where are they now?? A reunion of KJT camp counselors and campers. Counselors and campers alike, re-live your stories from KJT camp. Where are you now and what stories did you take away from your camp days?

June: Youth Edition: Young Ones in Action
We want to hear from the young ones. Let us know what you have planned for the summer and what you do to help in your community.

July: Beat The Heat
Let us know where you plan to travel this summer. Give others ideas on great vacation sites to visit.

August: Catch Up on Convention and Camp

September: Life Insurance Month
Stories on how having life insurance helped your family in a time of need.

October: Remembering those Lost:
A bitter-sweet reunion of KJT members who have passed on, and remembering their commitment to our organization for serving others in need through volunteering and donations.

November/December: The Gift of Giving
What do you do to give back during the holidays? Adopt a family? Care packages for soldiers?
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT

Goody 2017
Welcome 2018

MICHAEL REZNICEK
KJT Fraternal Activity Manager

With all the successful events and happenings in 2017, came along the very devastating events all across this great state of Texas. Being very proud KJT members, we prayed and helped our friends and neighbors across the USA and various parts of the world. We closed the year with a beautiful Christmas season where we celebrated the birth of our Lord. It reminds us that we are all children of Christ and to continue life in his footsteps. In 2018 our officers, directors and societies along with our spiritual heritage and cultural beliefs will move this great fraternal organization (The KJT) to greater level of success. This year in 2018 I hope each one of us will share all the KJT benefits to others and bring new members into each society. I am looking towards a great New Year.

As always thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Fraternal Activity Manager,
Michael Reznicek
Fraternal Activity Manager
Phone: (409)771-8101
Email: mareznicek@sbcglobal.net

Thank you, Societies for all of your donations and community services

KJT PERKSPOT
We are excited to announce we are bringing back Perkspot for our members.
Go on-line to KJT.perkspot.com to access all the great deals our organization has to offer.
There are thousands of savings for vacation locations, sporting events, to personal care and so much more!

Welcome to Your Catholic Union of Texas Discount Program!
Your discount program is a one-stop-shop for exclusive discounts at hundreds of national and local merchants!

SPASHWAY SAVINGS IS BACK!!

KJT members now have the opportunity to save on season passes for the 2018 Splashway Waterpark in Sheridan, Texas.
Just key in the savings code: KJTSP18 to save on individual season passes.
This offer will expire May 12, 2018.

Remember to follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook for events and happenings over the Christmas holiday.
Visit www.kjtnet.org for more calendar events.

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Holden Joseph Nev lud
Son of Bradley and Lynn Nev lud of Shiner, Texas. Grandson of Robert Sr. and Martha Nev lud of Shiner, Texas and Billy and Barbara Castro of Moulton, Texas; became a new member of KJT #20, Shiner. Grandfather, uncle & aunts are also members of KJT Society #20, Shiner.

Thank You Letters

At this season,

I would like to thank you and the KJT Board of Directors for the generous scholarship I received in August. Knowing I can count on the support of this organization, releases many of the extra burdens involved in formation. May the Lord continue to bless your work. Have a Holy Advent and blessed Christmas.

Very truly yours, Deren Ewiny
MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel (2 Tim 1:10).

This is why the United States Catholic Bishops have asked that Catholics throughout our country observe January 22 as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:

"In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the right to life in our country and throughout the world and please make a special effort to do penance (e.g., abstain from eating meat) that day in reparation for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, n. 373).

On January 22 (the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States), please make a special effort to attend Holy Mass and/or pray the rosary (visit http://www.priestsforlife.org/prayers/Rosary.html for pro-life rosary meditations) for the full restoration of the right to life in our country and throughout the world and please make a special effort to do penance (e.g., abstain from eating meat) that day in reparation for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

You might also consider joining in the 9 Days for Life, January 18-26, 2018, which is a "digital pilgrimage" of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person's life. A multi-faceted novena highlighting a different intention each day provides reflections, bonus information, and suggested actions. You can join to receive the novena through the 9 Days for Life app, daily emails, or daily texts. Visit http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/nine-days-of-prayer-penance-and-pilgrimage.cfm for more information.

And may our prayer always be:

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life.

(Collect, Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life).

The members of the Catholic Union of Texas, the KJT, wish to express their sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the departed members who are listed above.

May their souls rest in peace.
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017 TOP PRODUCERS

Joe Landsfeld  
Society #35, Ennis  
• First Place November Top Producer  
• First Place December Top Producer

Eugene Maroul  
Society #107, Abbott  
• Second Place November Top Producer  
• Second Place December Top Producer  
• November Volume Leader

W.K. Leonard  
Society #119, La Marque  
• Third Place November Top Producer  
• Third Place December Top Producer

Robert Nors  
Society #31, West  
• Fourth Place November Top Producer  
• Sixth Place December Top Producer

Linda Gaas  
Society #12, Frenstat  
• Fifth Place November Top Producer  
• Fifth Place December Top Producer

Thomas Arellano  
Society #141, Georgetown  
• Sixth Place November Top Producer  
• Seventh Place December Top Producer

Cynthia Nemec  
Society #139, Bay City  
• Seventh Place November Top Producer  
• Ninth Place December Top Producer

Ellen Zdansky  
Society #72, Corpus Christi  
• Eighth Place November Top Producer  
• Eighth Place December Top Producer  
• November & December New Application Producer – 155 & 156 months  
• November & December New Members Application - 152 & 153 months

Carly Divin  
Society #4, Ammansville  
• Ninth Place November Top Producer  
• Forth Place December Top Producer

John Kana  
Society #4, Ammansville  
• Tenth Place November Top Producer  
• Tenth Place December Top Producer

Brenda Fietsam  
Society #3, Hostyn  
• November Premium Leader  
• November Application Leader  
• December New Applications - 2 months  
• December New Members - 2 months

Kevin Hostas  
Society #59, Seymour  
• November Volume Leader

Mildred Machacek  
Society #20, Shiner  
• December New Application - 2 months  
• December New Member - 2 months

Maragaret Hanslik  
Society #38, Moulton  
• November Consecutive New Applications Producer - 2 Months  
• December Volume Leader

Margaret Holik  
Society #48, Hiljie  
• December Premium Leader
**KJT IN ACTION**

**KJT Society #100, Caldwell**

Pictured below are members of St. Benedict KJT Society #100 who participated at the annual Breakfast with Santa fundraiser which was held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 in the Caldwell St. Mary’s PAC. Pancakes and Slovacek’s Sausage prepared by members was served.

**St. Benedict KJT Society #100 Officers received a $250 KJT Matching Grant check from the KJT State Office (l-r) Joe Rychlik, President, Louemma Polansky, Secretary/ Treasurer, and Anthony Motloch, Vice President.** This KJT Matching Grant was based on the money made at their annual Breakfast with Santa fundraiser held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 in the St. Mary’s PAC.

**Newly elected officers were elected December 2, 2017 at the annual Christmas Meeting for St. William’s KJT #134 Round Rock. Elected officers presented Father Dean Wilhelm, Chaplain, with a check for Christmas. Left to Right: Tina Risinger, President; Father Dean Wilhelm, Chaplain; Leon Barton, Vice President; Janie Zbranek, Treasurer; Felix Leonardi, Secretary.**

**Santa came to visit the local youth at the Annual Christmas party. Along with a catered meal of fried fish, there was bingo and door prizes, followed by a brief meeting.**

**KJT Society #134, Round Rock**

Newly elected officers were elected December 2, 2017 at the annual Christmas Meeting for St. William’s KJT #134 Round Rock. Elected officers presented Father Dean Wilhelm, Chaplain, with a check for Christmas. Left to Right: Tina Risinger, President; Father Dean Wilhelm, Chaplain; Leon Barton, Vice President; Janie Zbranek, Treasurer; Felix Leonardi, Secretary.

**KJT Society #63, Smithville**

KJT Society #63 presented a 2017 Charity donation to the Priest Retirement Fund to the KJT District 8 President Linda Gaas and Secretary/Treasurer Hubert Polansky at the District 8 Fall Social which was held on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at Frenstat Hall.

**KJT Society #46, La Grange**

Santa came to visit the local youth at the Annual Christmas party. Along with a catered meal of fried fish, there was bingo and door prizes, followed by a brief meeting.

**KJT Society #112, Austin**

On behalf of St. Stephen’s KJT #112, a donation was made to the Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul. This ministry is one of three that the society is supporting. The society held a very successful bake sale fundraiser at St. Albert the Great, which earned a matching grant.

Pictured right, KJT 112 co-president Michael Hyzak presents a check for $375 to Father James Misko for the St. Louis Church Food Pantry. Proceeds from the KJT 112 Czech Bake Sale were also donated to Down Home Ranch and Sacred Heart Church St. Vincent DePaul.

Pictured L to R are Shirley Macik, Secretary, Nick Macik, Treasurer, Alicia Martinez, President of SVDP and Sarah Vitek, Reporter. The SVDP is very appreciative of any and all donations received for serving the needs of many.
KJT IN ACTION

East Bernard hosted a pastry raffle benefiting Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation (NF). The society raised $1470.00, while the home office matched $250.00 of the funds. Society President Edwin C. Marik presented the check to Marty Dunn, NF Representative. Attending the presentation was (left to right) Father Stephen Vacek, Jenny Marik (mother of Jake Marik), Society President Edwin Marik, Marty Dunn, Jake Marik (NF Patient), Society Vice President Sandy Logan, Society Treasurer Dennis Viktorin, Society Member Kim Tielke.

KJT Society #40, East Bernard

KJT Society #40 held many different fundraiser during the month of December. Four different presentations were made on behalf of their society.

Picutred to the right, Frank and Gloria Buxkemper present a check for $100 to KJT State Vice President David Wagner for the Priest Retirement Fund on behalf of the Youth Group in East Bernard. The society is still looking to hand out scholarships to the KJT youth within Society #40 who are active in the society.

East Bernard hosted its 14th Annual Memorial Service Mass for all members of Society #40, East Bernard who have passed away over the last 5 years. A candle was lit in their honor during mass. These members included KJT and KJZT members of the East Bernard area. Pictured left to right in attendance: KJT Society Treasurer Dennis Viktorin, Society Secretary Mark Dujka, Society President Edwin Marik, Chaplain Rev. Don Ruppert, KJZT Treasurer Emilie Svobada, Vice President Gladys Dusek, President Sophie Korenek and Secretary Angeline Grigar.

KJT Society #133 presented a check to Father Sunny Joseph of Holy Family Church for the church building fund, (Growing Together in Christ) during the St Mikulas Youth Society function. Shown at the presentation were (left to right) Chaplain Ben Machalec, Secretary Margaret Slanina, Father Sunny, President Al Janda and Vice President-Treasurer Harvey Koudelka.

Members of society #133, Lainey, Corbin, and Rhett Koudelka, John Paul Valentino, and Andrew Levine, enjoyed Christmas goodies.

Below the Holy Family Society #133 presented a check to Father Sunny Joseph of Holy Family Church for the church building fund, (Growing Together in Christ) during the St Mikulas Youth Society function. Shown at the presentation were (left to right) Chaplain Ben Machalec, Secretary Margaret Slanina, Father Sunny, President Al Janda and Vice President-Treasurer Harvey Koudelka.

Al Janda, Society #133 President, presenting the Society’s State Charity donation to KJT State Vice President David Wagner.

Pictured above, during St Mikulas Youth Social, the annual traveling Nativity Crèche is presented to Beverly Filip from last year recipients Karen and Ron Levine. Each year the Crèche is presented to another family to grace their home. Once again, this family is asked to remember our society in their prayers during Advent and Christmas season.
On Sunday December 3rd the KJT #35 in Ennis held their members meeting that included the election of officers for 2018. Pictured L - R; Ashley Holland (Vice President), Joe Landsfeld (Secretary/Treasurer) and Joe Block (President), were all reelected into office. After at least 23 years of service Janice Landsfeld has retired from her many positions at the hall. She was the bookkeeper and did the booking of the auditorium along with many other things. Thank you for all you have done, you will be hard to replace.

Also, after the meeting the Jourdanton members enjoyed food and fellowship while the youth club hosted their annual Christmas party. They enjoyed making crafts and playing games until a visit from Santa appeared. Thank you Angie Anderson for getting all of the activities together, everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

The Hostyn KJT Society #3 made donations to both Sacred Heart Catholic School in La Grange and St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Schulenburg to support Catholic Education and the purchase of religion materials.

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KJT IN ACTION

KJT Society #35, Ennis

On Sunday December 3rd the KJT #35 in Ennis held their members meeting that included the election of officers for 2018. Pictured L - R; Ashley Holland (Vice President), Joe Landsfeld (Secretary/Treasurer) and Joe Block (President), were all reelected into office. After at least 23 years of service Janice Landsfeld has retired from her many positions at the hall. She was the bookkeeper and did the booking of the auditorium along with many other things. Thank you for all you have done, you will be hard to replace.

KJT Society #139, Bay City

Society #139 in Bay City held a holiday baked goods sale on November 19, 2017 at Holy Cross Catholic Church. A total of $150.00 was raised during the sale. The society applied for a matching grant from the state KJT office and was awarded a check for $150.00. A check was presented to Holy Cross Catholic School for a total of $300.00. At the presentation of the check on January 4, 2018 were

KJT Society #3, Hostyn

The Hostyn KJT Society #3 made donations to both Sacred Heart Catholic School in La Grange and St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Schulenburg to support Catholic Education and the purchase of religion materials.

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St. Jerome Society No. 87 of the KJT and St. Rosalie Society No. 75 of the KJZT held its annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 3, 2017. A meal was prepared by the members, began at 12:00 p.m. with a Blessing. After the meal, both Societies gave updates on all activities they participated in throughout 2017. Both Societies had a very successful year and look forward to 2018! Father Kazimierz Oleksy was present and gave his approval of all the KJT-KJZT has done for the parish and he encouraged new membership and more advertising from both Societies. He stressed getting younger members to keep the Societies vital for the parish and community for years to come.
Surrounded by family and friends, Theodore (Ted) and Mary Kallus of Georgetown, Texas celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at their country home east of Georgetown, Texas. The Kallus’ were married at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Taylor, Texas on October 19, 1957 with the later Father Arthur Michalka officiating.

They are both active members of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Granger, Texas. Ted is a member of KJT Society #28, Granger.

Collin Michael Weyand of La Grange graduated Summa Cum Laude from South Texas College of Law-Houston on Saturday December 16th. The graduation ceremony took place at the Hilton Americas Ballroom in Downtown Houston. A reception hosted by the school administration and faculty was held immediately following the ceremony for the graduates and attendees.

Collin is a 2010 graduate from La Grange High School, received his Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches in December of 2014 and now his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from South Texas College of Law-Houston. Collin was the Senior Articles Editor of the South Texas Law Review, Associate Editor of the Corporate Counsel Review, Dean of Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity as well as a member of the Moot Court Competition Team that competed in Virginia last year. He will take the bar exam in late February and then return to his Associate position at Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard, and Smith in Houston in the Insurance Coverage Department. Collin is the son of David & Sandra Weyand of La Grange, and grandson of Doris & Lambert Lidiak, and April and Harley Weyand.
Unsung Heros

“Working together as God’s people in the world. I don’t know of anything more rewarding.”
Millard Fuller, Founder of Habitat for Humanity

I don’t know if I would call myself a hero. I do what I do for my community out of humanity, out of compassion for others, and I want to help where I can with the knowledge I have about architecture.

My journey with Habitat for Humanity began in 2006 when our firm, Cutright & Allen Architects, was asked to design the plans for the Fayette County Habitat for Humanity home that was to be built that year. We offered to do the work pro-bono and it was a great experience to be able to design an economical but well-constructed home, and I continue to do this service and look forward to starting home number 6. In 2011, I was asked to join the board of directors. I always wanted to do more for the community, but with three children at the time (and another on the way), I didn’t know if I would have the time. I did take the leap of faith and was glad I did. Being on the Fayette County Habitat board since 2011, I’ve been in many different positions that have allowed me to meet an array of wonderful people; being the homeowners themselves, donors, volunteers, construction leaders, vendors, and other affiliate directors.

Fayette County Habitat is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We are all volunteers from all corners of Fayette County who have a passion to help “give a hand up” to our neighbors who are struggling in our community. We would not be so successful without the help of so many dedicated people that don’t
Unsung Heros

want recognition but definitely deserve it!

My KJT Society #129, Schulenburg, has also stepped in to help with construction on two of the homes so far. We use it as our Joining Hands Day activity; with a family growing up in the construction field, it’s just in our genes! Fayette County Habitat has built five homes and is currently working towards building new homes for families who lost their homes in the Hurricane Harvey floods in August, so this is a great opportunity for other KJT societies to help in any capacity possible.

During my time with Habitat, I’ve gotten good at multitasking family and charitable life. My children love to go see the newest Habitat home under construction (I think they like the smell of fresh sawdust as much as I did during my youth), they know who “Mr. Richard” is when I’m on the phone discussing schedules, and even my husband doesn’t complain when I ask to borrow his truck (yet again!). Working with the partner families (new homebuyers) is a blessing to be able to show them that there are people in the world who see their struggles and are willing to help. But the most rewarding feelings is seeing the joy on the family’s faces when they get the keys to their new home and step across the threshold to the start of their new life!

So my dedication of “Unsung Heroes” goes out to all the volunteers and donors that make Fayette County Habitat the great success that it is as well as to the partner families who are willing to make their lives so much better.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Joanna Prihoda-Rogers

Volunteers at a project in La Grange : (L-R) Matthew Prihoda, Joseph Prihoda, Charlie Boldt, Patrick Prihoda, Julianna Prihoda, and Joanna Prihoda
Johnnie Polasek received his 75-year pin at the annual Society #3, Hostyn Christmas party. Mr. Polasek was presented with his pin by KJT State President Christopher Urban. Mr. Polasek was a member of Fayetteville #9 for 27 years, Austin Society #112 for 30 years, and has been a member of Hostyn #3 for the past 19 years.

Mr. Polasek has served in many different positions with the societies ranging from society president to camp counselor for the youth. Mr. Polasek served as president of KJT Society #112, Austin for five years and secretary for four years. He also served as an officer of KJT District #4 for four years in the Austin area, served as President of KJT district #2 for two years in the La Grange area, was elected as a delegate to the KJT State Convention seven times, and was a Marshal to the KJT State Conventions in Austin and Houston.

Johnnie Polasek married Lorenda Jetter Polasek in 1963 (54 years). They have two sons, Stephen and Edward, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter, who are all KJT members as well. Mr. & Mrs. Polasek are both active members of The Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn, Texas.

During the meeting Wesley Honza and Victor Spaniel were presented their 75 year membership pins from Secretary Joe E. Landsfeld and President Joe Block. It was very nice that they could make it to the meeting to be honored and receive their pins.

Albin Petter Jr. was congratulated at the Waco Society Christmas Party held on November 26, 2017. Pictured with Albin is Waco Society #117 President, Frankie Muehlstein, Robert Nors, State Director and his wife, Georgie Nors.

Congratulations, Albin!!!
KJT Society #31, West

Society #31, West presented Zachary (Zak) D. Jackson with his 25 year membership pin. Zak was Santa’s helper at the party at the annual Christmas party, also pictured is Sherry Pavlas, Vice-President of West Soc. #31.

Congratulations, Zak!!!
SOCIETY MINUTES

KJT Society #92, Damon
Eileen Medwedeff, Secretary

KJT Society #92, Damon held their last quarterly meeting. President Andrew Sykowski said an opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present. Minutes from our last meeting were read by Secretary Eileen Medwedeff.

During the meeting, the following events were reported:
- KJT Flag Day was held Sunday, June 11 at the Church Cemetery; the KJT $100 Visa Gift Card donation prize winner to Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Bazaar Raffle was Roger Barton of Needville; our KJT Society donated $100 to the ‘Harvey Fund’; a catered meal was provided by Jay’s Café of Needville. Treasurer Timmy paid $100 from our KJT funds to help defray the cost (with our KJZT #85).
- An election of KJT #92 new officers for 2018 was held. The same officers who ran in 2017 will run again in 2018. Officers Andrew and Timmy will attend the Society Officer and Representative Annual Meeting in January at East Bernard. Eileen Medwedeff and Kathleen Lindemann will attend the 2018 42nd General Convention on July 19-21 in Houston. Eileen will run as the Delegate for our Society and Kathleen will run as an Alternate Delegate. Finally, a beautiful 12x12 Religious 2018 calendar of Our Blessed Mother was presented to our Chaplain Eugene Pavlieck in appreciation for all his spiritual support and guidance to our local society members (who also lead us in prayer before our meal tonight).
- We were sad to lose two KJT members this year: Rueben C. Wlczyk and Marie B. Svoboda. May their souls rest in peace.

St. Stephen’s KJT #134, Round Rock
Margie Thompson, Secretary

KJT society 134 meet on December 2, 2017 for its quarterly meeting and Christmas party. Tina Risinger opened meeting leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Father Dean and Seminarian Zach Rodrigues were among our guests for the evening.

October 21 meeting minutes were read by Margie Thompson. Janie Zbranek read the treasurers report, and the following announcements were made: John and Sandy B. celebrated their 40 wedding Anniversary this month; KJT society 134 was celebrating its 29th anniversary as a society; A delegate is needed who is an insurance member to attend the July KJT convention in Houston in July; 2018 meetings are scheduled for March 3, 2018 and June 24, 2018; and Leon mailed out invitations for our quarterly meetings, and includes the dues owned by members. He encouraged everyone to pay their dues, the money is used to pay for our quarterly meals, door prizes and get together.
- Election of officers was held; the following will be our officers for 2018:
  - Tina Risinger President,
  - Leon Barton Vice president,
  - Janie Zbranek Treasurer,
  - Felex Leonardi Secretary
- A motion was made to send the priest religious retirement a check for $350.00 for society 134 in 2018. Santa Clause was present, and passed out candy and took pictures with all the children.
- Leon Barton read the meaning of what the Candy Cane represents.
- Door prizes were drawn.
- Les Miller played guitar and members sang Christmas Carols.

KJT District 7
Vincent Nemec

The 4th meeting of KJT Society #139 for the year 2017 was held at the Knights of Columbus meeting room in Bay City on September 25, 2017. The meeting scheduled in August was cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey. A social hour was held from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. with the membership enjoying drinks and fellowship. The members enjoyed a potluck meal before the business meeting.

Cynthia Nemec was introduced as the new sales representative for KJT Insurance Services. She read a letter from the state KJT office concerning the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and the need for aid for the victims of the storm. Cynthia also talked about the Project H program. Give Cynthia a call if you have any questions about your insurance or annuity portfolios. She will be glad to help you.

The minutes of the May 22, 2017 meeting and the treasurer’s report as of September 25, 2017 were reviewed by the membership. Vince Nemec reported on the state family membership. Vince also read a thank-you note from Dorothy Stavena expressing her gratitude for the spray of flowers from the membership in memory of Dan Stavena.

A holiday bake sale was held on November 19, 2017 after the 10:00 AM Mass at Holy Cross Church. All proceeds were donated to Holy Cross School in conjunction with the state matching grant program.

Larry mentioned that we should keep Harriet Janise and Paul Mallia in our prayers. The meal for the meeting on December 18, 2017 was a catered barbecue meal donated by Cynthia Nemec, KJT insurance sales representative, in appreciation for the membership of Society #139.

KJT Society #112, Austin
Sarah Vitek, Reporter

The meeting of St. Stephen’s KJT #112 was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2017, at Sacred Heart Heart Church. Co-President Michael Hyzak opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The secretary and treasurer’s reports were presented. VP Annie Hyzak sent get-well cards to State Director Ray Pokorney and to Nathan Motloch. We wish them good health for the new year. Sympathy cards were sent to Vlasta Vitek and Frank Hrachowy on the death of their sister, Bernice Ondreas and to the family of Clement E. Petru. A memorial was sent to the family of society member Edward Loeve. May their souls rest in peace.

A discussion was had on the joint KJT/KJZT Christmas party. Attendance was a little less this year but everyone enjoyed the visit from St. Nicholas, and all the other activities. Thanks to all who participated and brought dishes to share.

Nick Macik gave an update on the Annual Statewide Charity Fundraiser. The raffle winners were: $250 Visa Gift Card – Lupe Perez, $150 Visa Gift Card – Leonard Friesenhahn, $100 Walmart Gift Card – John Migil, Sr., $50 Target Gift Card – Louri O’Leary, and $50 HEB Gift Card – Michael Hyzak. Congratulations to all and thanks to your generosity the society is able to make a substantial donation to this very worthwhile cause.

As a result of our very successful bake sale at St. Albert the Great, the three charities selected, St. Louis Food Pantry, Down Home Ranch and Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul will get a generous donation from the society.

The President appointed an Audit Committee consisting of Kenneth Klanika, Eileen Rosipal and Sarah Vitek. They will give their report at the February meeting.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Eileen Rosipal, Chairman, Sarah Vitek and Kenneth Klanika presented the slate of officers. The society will be blessed to have the current officers remain for another year. They are President Michael Hyzak, Vice-President Anne Hyzak, Secretary – Shirley Macik, Treasurer – Nick Macik, Reporter – Sarah Vitek, and Chaplain – Fr. Matt Iwuji. Thank everyone for a job well done in the past and for stepping up to again serve the membership.

The next society meeting will be on THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart reception room.
In Memoriam of...

Honorary KJT State Director
Eugene "Gene" Jirkovsky

Eugene "Gene" Jirkovsky was born December 18, 1928 to John and Sophie Stavinoha Jirkovsky, in the Green Prairie Community near Shiner and Moulton, Texas. It was from his loving parents that he learned to always treat others as you would want to be treated.

He attended school in Evergreen, Dixon, and Moulton. He was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and was involved with various community, school, and church organizations.

He married Lois Jean Reinhardt July 14, 1952 in Yoakum and they were married 63 years until Lois’ passing in 2016. Their love for each other is a legacy of its own. Where you saw one, you also saw the other.

Gene was enrolled in The KJT by his parents when he was a child. However, it wasn’t until the late 70’s that he decided to attend a local Society #13 meeting to see what this organization had to offer. Little did he know that the society was looking for some new and younger members to take on the responsibility as society president. He returned home from the meeting and informed his family that he was now the president of KJT Society #13. He became a Sales Representative for the Society and later turned that task over to Lois. His attendance at one of his first District III meetings landed him the position of District President. It was in the late 80’s when on a cold day in March when the District meeting at Wied drew an unprecedented crowd of over 350 members. This was one of the largest District Meetings ever held which was an indication of Gene’s impact on this organization. Society and District activities were attended by many and the members that were drawn to this organization by Gene and Lois are too many to count.

It was prior to the 1986 General Convention when he decided to run for State Director; a position he held for 16 or 20 years. His common sense approach to life made him an asset to the Board. He encouraged priests to serve as Spiritual Directors as well as members to step up to serve on the Board. Between Gene and Lois, they drew in many younger members by enticing them with the benefits of The KJT. It wasn’t just the fishing contests, camps, scholarships and home loans that helped increase membership, but what was most important to them was the benefit of being remembered in the daily Masses offered for members. Gene and Lois proudly included as members their four children and their spouses as well as all of their grandchildren.

Regardless of what it involved, Gene was always eager to help others and was always looking out for everyone else. Up until his final hours, he continually expressed his thanks and appreciation to his family and those who visited and cared for him. He was a dedicated and hard worker who enjoyed woodworking, was an excellent cook, and loved being in the company of his family.

Survivors are: daughters, Sheryl Prihoda (Raymond) of Weimar and JoAnn Kloesel (Glen) of Shiner; sons, Larry Jirkovsky (Amy) of Sweet Home and Alan Jirkovsky (Laurie) of Hallettsville; grandchildren, Mark Prihoda (Laurie) of Weimar, Carl Prihoda (Kari) of Brenham, Terri Prihoda of LaGrange, Nicholas Jirkovsky and Erin Jirkovsky of Sweet Home; Matthew Jirkovsky of East Bernard, Casey Jirkovsky and Brianna Jirkovsky of Hallettsville; Chad Kloesel (Maria) of Moulton; and Ashley Pool (Bobby) of Bryan; great-grandchildren, William Prihoda of Weimar; Ellie Prihoda of Brenham; Sebastian, Thomas and Gabriel Kloesel of Moulton; and James Pool of Bryan.

Gene is preceded in death by his wife, Lois (January 19, 2016); parents John Jirkovsky (August 1978) and Sophie Jirkovsky (June 1978); and brother, Daniel Jirkovsky (June 2005).

Visitation was held December 20 at Thiele-Cooper Funeral Home in Yoakum followed with Rosary by Msgr. John Peters. Funeral Mass was December 21 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Yoakum with Rev. Jacob Koether officiating and assisting by Seminarian Luke Prihoda. Gene was laid to rest beside Lois at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Gene’s grandchildren served as readers and offertory participants for his Mass and his grandsons served as pallbearers.

Edmund Raymond Kozlovsky was born in Mesquite, TX., on October 11, 1929 and passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on November 25th, 2017. He represented 88 years of a well lived. Edmund was the 10th child of 12 children. He is preceded in death by his parents, Agnes and Joseph Kozlovsky, and his wife of 44 years, Myrjean (Jean) Kozlovsky. He is survived by two siblings, Albertine Grooms and Bernard Kozlovsky, his five children: Roseanne and Thomas Murphy, Paul and Magdalena Kozlovsky, Richard Kozlovsky and Linda Leos Highwood, John and Lisa Uribe Kozlovsky, Robert Kozlovsky and Lyon Gegenheimer. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Erin Murphy, Natalie and Brandon Webb, Andrew Murphy, Mia Uribe Kozlovsky and John Aidan Uribe Kozlovsky, as well as his great grandchildren, Ava Schira, Jake Schira, Casen Webb, Paisley Webb and many beloved nieces and nephews. He spent the last 18 years with his dedicated and caring companion, Alice Vida in San Antonio, Texas.

Edmund was very proud of his Czech Heritage. All of his ancestors were Czech and the Czech language was spoken in his childhood home. In his later years he became active with the Bexar County Czech Heritage Society in San Antonio. He and Alice met many Czech soldiers while hosting students from the Defense Language Institute at Lackland Air Force Base.

Later, he visited some of them during several of his 9 trips to the Czech Republic where Paul and Magdalena reside.

He spent his childhood in Mesquite, Texas and attended the area schools, including Mesquite High School. He served in the US Army from 1951-1953, after which he joined the Dallas Police Department. He served proudly as a Dallas Police Officer for 27 years. Many Dallas students will remember him as their School Resource Officer at Bryan Adams High School and Robert T. Hill Middle School.

His ashes were blessed on Sunday, December 10, 2017 during the regular 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Pius X Catholic Church. A reception celebrating his life was held in the St. Pius X Parish Hall following the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

Edmund R. Kozlovsky
October 11, 1929-November 25, 2017
**YOUTH IN ACTION**

*KJT youth members are the future of our society. Theses young members are learning how to become leaders in both their schools and communities, and I want to make sure their story is heard. Stories involving our youth in any kind of activity is welcomed. School or extra-curricular achievements are encouraged. If you know of a youth member who interacts in their communities (etc.: church, sports, academics, or FFA) and you would like to recognize them, submit a short story, along with a picture or two, and it will be included in the youth section of the newspaper. Thank you to all our young members who represent our organization by going above and beyond for others.*

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**KJT Society #112, Austin**

*KJT #112 and KJZT #93 youth members received a visit from Mikulas at their Christmas Party on December 2nd, who along with his helpers, told the Christmas story and handed out a bag of gold coins to each child. The children were asked to write a letter to St. Nicholas and have it ready for him when he arrived. Each child also got a bag of candy and fruit.*

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**KJT Society #55, Corn Hill**

*KJT Junior Jenna Danek (left) joins other students and the director of Holy Trinity Church’s CCE program in helping with the Corn Hill Society #55’s annual food drive. More than 500 pounds of food and $112 were donated by parishioners for the Caring Place, which helps the needy in the Jarrell/Georgetown area.*

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**KJT Society #134, Round Rock**

*Youth society members of #134, Round Rock visit with Santa at the annual Christmas party held December 2, 2018.*

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**KJT Society #40, East Bernard**

*Youth members from East Bernard KJT #40 Emma Logan, Isabella Dujka and Jake Marik along with Kellen Dorotik volunteered for cookies with Santa benefiting the Neurofibromatosis Foundation.*
There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right to the house in the middle, where is the white house?

The answer will be in the February issue!
We still encourage our local societies to hold Matching Grant Fundraisers for worthy causes where the society is located. This program is a great way to get your KJT society involved in various projects in your parish or community so be sure to ask your officers how you can be a part of this program. The KJT Home Office matched $8,950 which was the highest total that KJT has matched to date in any given year. Twenty-six societies and one youth club held charitable events that took advantage of the matching grant from the home office in 2017.

Join Hands Day is a national day of volunteering that societies can engage in a project to be “helpful” to some individual or entity. Flag Day is a day to honor the American Flag. We ask our societies to have some type of event honoring the American Flag, either on this day or some other patriotic day such as July 4th or Veteran’s Day. These events are great avenues to get publicity for your local society so please ask your local society officers how you can get involved!

**KJT State Family Day**

KJT State Family Day will be on July 29, 2018, which is the last day of KJT Teen Camp. If you are picking up your teen from camp that morning, come out and join us for a day of prayer, fun, music, and fellowship. Mass will begin at 11:30 a.m., lunch will be served shortly after Mass, and Chris Rybak will be on hand for entertainment throughout the day. We will also have fun activities for the kids as well.


KJT’s newest program, T.R.U.E. Teen Leadership Camp, will be held from April 20-April 22. This is a camp for KJT youth who are too old to attend summer teen camp and too young to become summer camp counselors. Those who attend will learn how to gain Trust, Respect, Unite others, and Evolve in their respective communities. This is a pilot program and we are excited to welcome our first group of leadership campers in 2018.

Youth Camp will be held from July 22 – July 26 and Teen Camp will be from July 26 – July 30. More details will be forthcoming in the KJT News and on our website as camp gets closer.

If your kids have friends that are not KJT members and may be interested in joining us for camp, please give us a call to see if we can assist them in becoming a member.

**KJT Scholarships**

The board increased the scholarship allotment from $15,000 to $20,000 for 2018 for presentation to qualifying applicants who will be continuing their education at the college level. Additional scholarships (the number to be determined at the annual meeting in March) will be available through the KJT Memorial Foundation for students who will continue their education at a vocational or technical college. The deadline for scholarship applications is March 1, 2018.

**PerkSpot (2nd Year)**

More and more KJT members are taking advantage of the savings from our PerkSpot benefit which offers a number of discounts from a wide range of merchants throughout the U.S. You can go to kjt.perkspot.com to sign up today or go to www.kjtnet.org to learn more about the program.

We at the home office and your state directors look forward to serving you once again in 2018. As we move forward this year, I ask God’s blessings upon KJT and its members for a successful year!

Christopher Urban

KJT State President
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Society #112, Austin
January 11, 2018
The quarterly meeting will be held at the Sacred Heart Reception Room at 6:30 pm

Society #12, Frenstast
Saturday, January 13
Get your dancing shoes on. We will be hosting our annual Priest Retirement Fundraiser dance with the Red Ravens Band. Doors open at 5:30, hamburgers served at 6:00 and dance to begin at 7:00 until 11:00.

Society #63, Smithville
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
The first meeting of 2018 will be on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the KC house. Planning for the year and election of officers. All members requested to attend. Meat provided, please bring sides & desserts.

Society #115, Victoria
Sunday, January 21, 2018
Quarterly Meeting January 21, 2018. The meeting will be held at the Holy Family Catholic Church Bridal Room following 7:30 Mass

Society #43, Wied
Sunday, January 28, 2018
Quarterly meeting Sunday, January 28, 2018 @ 10:30 am @ St. Mary's. All members are encouraged to attend.

Society #80, Sealy
Sunday, January 28, 2018
After Christmas Party/Meeting at Immaculate Conception Church Center.

Society #35, Ennis
Sunday, January 28, 2018
Annual Meeting at 1:30.

KJT
BBQ CHICKEN DINNER
SUNDAY MARCH 4, 2018
HUNGERFORD HALL
SERVING BEGINS AT 10:30
DINE IN OR DRIVE THRU LINE
AUCTION & FREE DANCE MUSIC BY RED RAVENS
EVERYONE INVITED!
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE UPTHE OF HUNGERFORD HALL

Bexar County Czech Heritage Society
Sunday, March 4, 2018

MUSIC BY:
MARK HALATA (2:00-6:00pm)
Martinez Social Club
7791 FM 1346 at FM 1516
San Antonio, TX 78220

ADMISSION $10.00
Children 14 and under – Free
Refreshments: Sausage on a Bun, Sauerkraut, & Kolaches

District 7 Meeting
-Victoria
February 18, 2018

33rd Annual PolkaFest,
February 24, 2018
Sokol Hall, Corpus Christi
Admission $10, Bands start at 11 a.m.
**See ad below**

St. Patrick’s Day
March 17, 2018

First Day of Spring
March 20, 2018

Check out our website:
www.kjtnet.org
for more events scheduled throughout the month.
HELP US FIND THESE MEMBERS

MISSING MEMBERS

Please help us find members that no longer have a correct address on file with the KJT. Contact with our members is very important to us. We need to deliver important papers to these members. If you have information concerning any of the names listed below, please call the Home Office at 800.245.8182.

Society #128, Killeen
Joe Podest

Society #130, Elgin
Kathryn M. Sloma

Society #137, Burnet
Melissa Reyes

Society #139, Bay City
Shelby G. Perry

FACEBOOK PAGES NEEDED

We are looking for somebody in your society to start a Facebook Page dedicated to your KJT Society. If interested, please give us a call here at the KJT home office and let us help you.

Catholic Union of Texas, The KJT
979-968-5877

KJT Memorial Foundation

For donations of less than $25 an enrollment card is sent to the designated individual and for donations of $25 or more, they will receive a hard-bound book with a beautiful holy picture.

All those enrolled are remembered in daily prayers and monthly Holy Masses. Express your love and remembrance for special occasions such as birthdays, graduations, weddings, anniversaries and times of illness as well as consolation to a loved one’s family by enrolling them today!