

## The History of Council 1313

Note: This condensed history of K of C Council 1313 has been compiled and written by Brother Arnold A. Peter, with the able assistance of Brother James Lechman and Brother Maurice Ellinger. Dated January 21, 1991.

On April 19, 1908, 36 years after the city of Longmont was incorporated, a group of Catholic men gathered at the Donovan Hall building (corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main St.) to discuss organizing a Knights of Columbus Council. After some debate and with the approval of the pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Rev. Nicholas Seidl O.S.B., the decision was made to apply for a charter from the Supreme Council in New Haven, Connecticut.

With permission to accept applications for charter membership, a meeting was called and all Catholic men in the area were invited to become members. Election of officers was held and a list of Forty Seven Charter Members was sent to the Supreme Council for approval.

The approval was granted and on April 26, 1908. State Deputy, John H. Reddin of Denver, presented the Charter to the new Longmont Knights of Columbus, council 1313.

Following is a list of Charter Members, some who lived in neighboring towns.

Akers, George W.	Griffin, William	McCormick, Michael M.
Arnold, Henry S.	Grosjean, N. J.	McCormick, John
Bloom, George	Howlett, Thomas	McHale, J. A.
Bloom, W. J.	Hurst, Patrick	McDonald, John, H.
Brosnan, S. P.	Kennedy, John	McDonough, John
Bell, John A.	Kinny, Martin	Schauer, Albert
Byrne, Matthew	Major, H. A.	Schauer, Henry J.
Burtle, Joseph W.	Mulligan, E. J.	Seidl, Rev. Nicholas
Clennon, C. J.	Mulligan, Frank	Steensma, Leo
Cluskey, George	Mulligan, George	Sweeney, Ed P.
Collet, Jules E.	Mulligan, L. T.	Seckington, Thomas
Donovan, E. J.	Mulligan, W. P.	Steimel, John A.
Donovan, D. C.	Mulvaney, William	Smith, C. E.
Donovan, T. T.	Murphy, James	Ward, A. C.
Donovan, J. A.	McCellan, J. N.	Ward, D. M.
Doyle, J. F.	McCellan, Leo	

The first Council Officers were:

Chaplain – Fr. Nicholas Seidl	Warden – S. P. Brosnan
Grand Knight – C. E. Smith	Recorder – Henry Schauer
Dpt. Grand Knight – J. F. Doyle	Inside Guard – Frank Mulligan
Chancellor – J. A. McHale	Outside Guard – Martin Kinney
Fin. Secretary – Leo McCellan	Trustees – Ed P. Sweeney
Treasurer – Nicholas Grosjean	D. C. Donovan
Advocate – L. T. Mulligan	Albert Schauer

For the record, the council agreed to meet on the second and fourth Thursdays. The dues agreed upon were set at fifty cents a month or \$6.00 a year. A few years later, the meetings were changed to the first and third Tuesday of the month.

As the community population gradually increased, so did the membership in the council. By the year 1916 the records showed seventy members on the rolls, including all of the Charter Members.

One of the underlying reasons for trying to establish a strong K of C Council in this vicinity was to combat or try to neutralize the prejudices and discrimination which was so evident in this locality at the time, partly due to the strong Klu Klux Klan activities. The discrimination policy of "White Trade Only" was practiced by a number of downtown merchants for many years. The local Knights had a huge challenge ahead.

Before Vatican II, one of the church laws required every practicing Catholic to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion during the Lenten Season, (referring to the Easter duty). To encourage fulfillment of this obligation, Brother Thomas Mahony was instrumental in getting the Longmont Council to support a Corporate Communion Breakfast for all catholic men and boys of the area on the first Sunday of March in 1922. The response was so good that soon resolutions to expand the activity was accepted at the State Convention and later the at the Supreme Convention. In a few years the practice had spread to every K of C Council nation-wide and, to this day, is on the 1313 calendar of events for the year.

The Knights made a monthly event of receiving communion in a body during the first mass on the first Sunday of every month. This practice continued for a good number of years during the 1920's and 1930's. Besides being active in other church organizations, such as the holy Name Society, The Legion of Mary, and the Nocturnal Adoration Society, a number of Brother Knights were very active in community affairs and city government. Some having served on the city council, some on the police and fire departments as well as acting on other civic committees and county offices.

The Longmont Council, from it's beginning, has kept a close comradeship with neighboring councils, namely Boulder Council #1183 and Fort Collins Council #1214. In the early years of growth the local members received much support from their good neighbors.

In the 1930's the annual parish bazaar was one of the larger events in which the council was closely involved. Starting on Thursday evening, the Alter and Rosary Society and women of the parish, served a turkey dinner. On Friday evening the Knights served an oyster supper. Saturday afternoon and evening was the time for bingo and a variety of other games and booths which the Brother Knights helped tend.

During the Depression years of 1929 and the early 30's the council made monthly donations to the local Welfare Association and the individual generosity of some Brothers helped feed some of the poorer families.

Between the years 1938 and 1946 most of the younger members of Council 1313 were on active duty in various branches of the service during World War II. VE & VJ day were a blessing for all.

In 1944 a Knight of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly was established in Longmont. Through the years they have formed a very edifying Guard of Honor for the Blessed Sacrament on special occasions and Feast Days celebrated in the church.

The Council agreed to form a corporation and to buy a building on Main Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. The purchase was made in June 1952, and after considerable renovation Council 1313 had a home. In the next few years the membership climbed to probably a record high. The first Tuesday of month was the business meeting. The third Tuesday evening was the social meeting including a covered-dish supper followed by bingo and other games. Many activities were promoted by the Activities Chairman and club manager including dances, dinners, parties and wedding receptions. In 1958, being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, brought many celebrations in the council.

Three Charter Members were honored at the Anniversary banquet and dance held on April 26, 1958. They were George Bloom, Leo McCellan and, Joseph Burtle.

One of the big draw-backs for most of the social affairs held at the home was lack of parking space. The Knights owned no off street parking. The Council was one of the most active in the Northern District for six or eight years but, gradually the membership started to decline and with it the profits from the club. The corporation was having a difficult time paying the expenses of keeping the home. The building was put up for sale and the transfer of ownership was made in August 1972.

Though the Council has moved its meeting place many times since the first meeting in Donovan Hall, the desire to be helpful in the church and the community has always been one of the top goals of the Brotherhood. With this in mind, Grand Knight, Willard Pilkington presented a \$5,000.00 check to Fr. Martin Arno O.S.B. to be applied to the building fund for the new St. John the Baptist Church, which was dedicated in 1964.

Many Knights in recent years are active in the new liturgy as readers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, choir members and, ushers. A number of Brothers have capably served as District Deputies and have held State Offices.

Some of the present Council activities for the year are: Men & Boys Corporate Communion Breakfast; Annual Scholarship Dinner, (a \$500.00 scholarship to two qualified high school seniors who are going to college); The Tootsie Roll drive for the handicapped; Basketball Free-throw contest; and one of the largest activities is the monthly breakfast served after all morning masses on the third Sunday of the month.

This affair hopefully involves all the active members and their families. The price, (\$3.00) and a choice of menu has helped make the breakfast quite popular in the parish.

From this point the duties of keeping this record up to date were passed on to Brother James Rawlins. On 5/7/1999, the council went live, and online, with the internet when their website, <http://www.earthnet.net/kofc1313/>, was launched. The world now knows about the council's rich and proud heritage. James has been the driving force, and webmaster from its very beginnings.

It was the idea of Brother's Maurice Ellinger and Jim Lechman in early 2002 to approach James to post the historical information they had, for everyone to view. James took it and is now continuing the pages.

Council 1313 still remains very active in its community assistance. With events such as our Annual Garage Sale, Tootsie Roll Drive, Bell Ringing, recently added and ever growing Golf Tournament, Council 1313 helps community organizations such as Tiny Tim, The Salvation Army, The Mentally Challenged, The OUR Center, and other needy organizations.

Much has happened since the last major update. The years have gone by and the council is still as strong as ever. The biggest issue that confronted the council was the question of what to do with the council's home fund. This issue created somewhat of a rift within the council. Details concerning the rift are best left to the council minutes.

Shortly afterwards, the monthly council breakfasts were canceled. The council now serves breakfasts at sporadic times, but they do then in conjunction with other church ministries. Rest assured that when the Knights are in the kitchen the whole church community is happy.

2004 opened with the council riding the ups and downs of the wild economic wave. The council started making plans to move their home fund account. The plan was to move it from a slow but steady account to a more aggressive but steady account.

2004 ended rather tragically for the world and the council. The world lost over 150,000 people in a tsunami tide wave in South East Asia. The council lost its 2 historians Brother's Maurice Ellinger and Jim Lechman. It will take a long time to recover from both losses.

In 2005 the council received many more requests to host many more parish breakfasts. The various parish ministries requested our services to assist them raise funds for their organizations, by joining forces during our breakfasts. Needless to say we were more than happy to help out. The parish community, and its ministries, benefited greatly.

The council received various Order-worthy awards for Fraternal Year 2004 – 2005. For obtaining and exceeding its membership quota, the council received the Father McGivney Award. For obtaining and exceeding its insurance quota, the council received the Founders Award. For turning in all of our paperwork and completing a lot of good hard work, the council achieved Star Council status from Supreme. We earned it. Congratulations Men of Council 1313.

2005 was very good to our council. We all look forward to the new beginnings of 2006.

2006 saw Council 1313 move around quite a bit. With the fast growth of St. John's Parish, the Knights found themselves moving their business meetings to other locations in and around the church. They even had to hold an initiation offsite at the local VFW Hall in Longmont.

The Assembly, 0094, has become alive with activity. Last year the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree men of Frederick Colorado, joined forces with the Longmont Assembly. This merger has added a new spark to the Assembly to heighten the awareness of the Knights of Columbus in two cities and two counties. Well that's it for the first half of the year which closes out the 2006 fiscal year.

The new fiscal year opened with a surprise and a first. James Rawlins was asked and accepted the position of Faithful Navigator of Assembly 0094. With his acceptance James becomes the first African American to hold such a position within Council 1313. His brother Knights so far have given him a tremendous amount of support.

Following is a list of Council 1313 Grand Knights. The names and dates are as accurate as could be determined by referring to existing records.

C. E. Smith	4/1908 – 12/1908	J. F. Doyle	1908 – 1909
T. T. Donovan	1909 – 1910	J. N. McCellan	1910 – 1911
J. A. Donovan	1911 – 1912	George Doyle	1912 – 1913
Albert Schauer	1913 – 1914	John Reinert	1914 – 1918
Frank Mulligan	1918 – 1921	John Venus	1921 – 1922
Thomas Mahoney	1922 – 1927	A. F. Peter	1927 – 1928
E. P. Sweeney	1928 – 1929	Gary L. Davis	1929 – 1931
R. V. Batt	1931 – 1933	*John Curran	1933 – 1936
Edward Flaherty	1936 – 1937	V. B. Stephan	1937 – 1939
Klarence Nesmith	1939 – 1941	Jack Tordoff	1941 – 2/1943
Franklin Murphy	2/1943 – 7/1943	R. V. Batt	1943 – 1945
George Pomainville	1945 – 1947	J. P. Murphy	1947 – 1948
Sylvester Soucie	1948 – 1950	William Rose	7/1950 – 12/1950
Leo Rademacher	12/1950 – 7/1951	*John Curran	1951 – 1952
Paul O'Malley	1952 – 1953	Dean Seewald	1953 – 1954
Sylvester Soucie	1954 – 1955	**Martin Bersano	1955 – 1957
Alex Bauer	1957 – 1958	Earl Lewis	1958 – 1959
Theo Rademacher	1959 – 1960	Joseph Bley	1960 – 1961
Edward Mudd	7/1961 – 2/1962	Joseph Bley	2/1962 – 7/1962
John Spenner	1962 – 1963	Willard Pilkington	1963 – 1964
Joe Diedrich	1964 – 12/1965	Walt Krueger	12/1965 – 1967
Elmer Hart	1967 – 3/1968	*James Hanley	3/1968 – 1969
**James Lechman	1969 – 1970	Eldore Friese	1970 – 1971
Al Prom	1971 – 1972	John Kelly	1972 – 1973
Rudolph Susa	1973 – 1974	George VanEtten	1974 – 1975
Pat Sheridan	1975 – 2/1976	**Martin Bersano	2/1976 – 7/1976
Carl Burton	1976 – 1977	Edward Johnson	1977 – 1978
Russell Soraci	1978 – 1980	Robert Egan	1980 – 1982
Arthur Wong	1982 – 1984	*Michael Kudla	1984 – 1986
Richard Papp	1986 – 1988	Edward Collins	1988 – 1990
Leonard Garvert	1990 – 1991	Charlie Mack	1991 – 1993
*Rick Rittenburg	1993 – 1995	*Bob Distel	1995 – 1998
Mike Monares	1998 – 1999	Chris Tornow	1999 – 2003
Bruce Doyle	2003 – 2005	Ron Webster	2005 – 2007
Bob Distel	2007 - Present		

Legend:

\* = Means that person served at least one term as District Deputy.

\*\* = Means that person served at least one term as a State Officer.