

1<sup>st</sup> Day of the CONVENTION – 08.05.2024

## **FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

### **FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE RESOLUTION #1 HIGH COURT CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT AND RAISING AWARENESS OF SIMPLER FGC EVENTS**

Resolved that the High Court continue supporting and raising awareness of simpler FGC events and focusing on our members and families.

### **FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE RESOLUTION #2 HIGH COURT CONTINUATION OF ALTERNATIVE BREAK AND MISSION TRIPS**

Resolved that the High Court continue to promote and expand the implementation of Alternative Break and Mission Trip programs to provide our membership with new opportunities.

Further Resolved, that the High Court implement a “Buddy System” as a way to encourage younger members to participate with current younger members.

### **FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE RESOLUTION #3 HIGH COURT INCREASE THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS BY RAISING AWARENESS AMONG NON-TRADITIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Resolved that the High Court increase the number of applicants for the Educational one-time award by raising awareness among non-traditional college students and members in good standing.

### **FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE RESOLUTION #4 INCREASED COMMUNICATION TO LOCAL COURT OFFICERS AND AGENT ADVISORS ABOUT THE SPIRITUALITY TAP-IN OPPORTUNITIES**

Resolved that the High Court increase communication, led by our Agent Advisors, with our local court officers to spread awareness of these Spirituality Tap-in opportunities and attract different Catholic demographics.

## **RESOLUTIONS/PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

### **RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TAP SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Whereas**, the Resolutions & Petitions Committee received several petitions citing the need to increase the number of TAP Scholarships,

**Whereas**, the TAP program shows COF’s support for Catholic Education’ and

**Whereas**, the petitions indicate a strong request support for an increase in the TAP scholarship program from the current 60 participants to 100 participants.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the number of TAP scholarships be increased to 100 effective 2025.

**RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS  
INCREASE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND PRINT ADVERTISING TO GROW LOCAL COURTS**

**Whereas**, the Resolutions & Petitions Committee received several petitions requesting aid in growing local courts through the use of social media and print advertising of COF products and benefits; and

**Whereas**, the Committee recognizes the need to use both social media and print media to foster awareness of COF and its products.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Convention asks the High Court to consider expanding the use of social media and print advertising to promote COF and its Local Courts.

**RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS  
RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF DIOCESE SEMINARIAN FUNDS**

**Whereas**, the mission of the Catholic Order of Foresters includes support of our Catholic Faith; and

**Whereas**, supporting the education of men and women dedicated to the service of our Catholic Faith is essential.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Delegates of 52nd National Convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters appeals to the High Court to donate annually to Diocese Seminary Funds for each state which contain active local courts as these individuals are the future of the Catholic Faith.

**RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS**

**Whereas**, Catholic Faith based education has been a key component of the education of our youth; and

**Whereas**, Parochial Schools and Religious Education Programs need financial support.

**Now Therefor Be It Resolved**, that the Delegates of the 52nd National Convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters appeal to the High Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters to donate annually to Parochial Schools and Religious Education Programs to aid in Parochial Schools providing the faith-based education needed for our children and our future Foresters and our future local, state, and national leaders.

**RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS  
SUPPORT THE HOLY FATHER IN DENOUNCING WAR**

**Be It Resolved**, that the Catholic Order of Forester members support the Holy Father, Pope Francis in denouncing the "madness of war".

**RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS  
ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO PRAY AND MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS PROMOTING CATHOLIC VALUES**

**Be It Resolved**, that Catholic Order of Foresters and all local courts pray for the upcoming elections in November at all levels of government and educate themselves to make the right decisions that will promote Catholic values and the right and human dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS RESPECT LIFE AND UPHOLD CHRISTIAN VALUES**

**Whereas**, an essential principle in the Constitution and Bylaws of Catholic Order of Foresters is “Respect life and uphold Christian values and ethics, and whereas the three life issues (abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia) are of central concern to all Christians in the United States especially Catholic Christians;

**Whereas**, numerous pro-life groups in the USA encourage companies and financial institutions to reject abortion and the other life issues; and

**Whereas**, pro-life citizens of every religious denomination and political view object to the use of pro-life dollars by companies and financial institutions which promote actions which harm human life.”

**Be It Resolved**, that this convention to go on record in support of the “Right to Life” program, “Just Religious Freedom”, and Freedom of Conscience in our country.

**Be it Further Resolved**, that the Catholic Order of Forester members support the Holy Father Pope Francis in his mission against violations of human dignity, surrogacy, and gender theory.

**Be It Further Resolved**, the Catholic Order of Foresters supports the Catholic Church’s teaching and education on all life issues.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS SUPPORT OF MEN AND WOMEN DEDICATED TO RELIGIOUS LIFE**

**Be it resolved**, that the Catholic Order of Forester members support the men and women serving God and fellow man in the religious life and service to our communities.

Encourage and support priestly vocations and other religions lives with our prayers and monetary support.

We petition the High Court to encourage Local Courts to provide lay support to the Pastors of their local parishes.

We appeal to the High Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters to donate annually to Diocese Seminary Funds for each state which contain active local courts as these.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS SUPPORT THE ARMED FORCES**

**Be It Resolved**, that the High Court, Jurisdiction and Local Court Officers and all Catholic Order of Forester members support our Armed Forces serving our country at home or abroad.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day of the CONVENTION – 08.09.2024

### **STATE OF THE ORDER RESOLUTION**

## **REVISE THE METHOD OF ELECTING THE HIGH COURT AND SURVEY MEMBERSHIP FOR FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES**

**Whereas**, Catholic Order of Foresters (“COF”) is an Illinois domestic fraternal benefit society that is governed by the Illinois Fraternal Benefit Society Insurance Laws (“Illinois Law”) and the Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”);

**Whereas**, Illinois Law requires fraternal benefit societies to have a representative form of government;

**Whereas**, Illinois Law provides two (2) methods of fulfilling the requirement of having a representative form of government (1) by holding a Convention at least every four (4) years (“Convention Method”) or (2) by having all members cast a direct vote to elect its Board of Directors (“Direct Election Method”);

**Whereas**, COF uses the Convention Method to elect its Board of Trustees;

**Whereas**, Illinois Law requires that fraternal benefit societies operate on a lodge system;

**Whereas**, COF’s lodges are called Local Courts and Jurisdiction Courts;

**Whereas**, COF has experienced a sustained decline in the participation of Local Court and Jurisdiction Court member meetings;

**Whereas**, many Local Court Officers and Jurisdiction Courts are experiencing difficulties in finding replacement officers;

**Whereas**, during the 2024 National Quadrennial Convention cycle, Local Courts only filled sixty-two (62%) percent of the permitted delegate positions;

**Whereas**, the required National Quadrennial Convention has also experienced a decline in participation of members;

**Whereas**, other fraternal benefit societies have experienced similar challenges;

**Whereas**, as a result of these challenges, many fraternal benefits societies have transitioned from the Convention Method to the Direct Election Method to ensure that all members have the opportunity to participate in the representative form of government;

**Whereas**, due to the declining number of Local Courts and Jurisdiction Courts, many members have no opportunity to participate in the representative form of government;

**Whereas**, the High Court being cognizant of the issues directed the home office to prepare a presentation to be given at all of the Jurisdiction Conventions;

**Whereas**, at many of the Jurisdiction Conventions, the delegates recognized the current challenges and concerns of fulfilling the legal requirements for fraternal benefit societies;

**Whereas**, based on the feedback from the Jurisdiction Conventions, the High Court unanimously adopted a resolution directing the officers of COF to work with appropriate National Convention Committees to effectuate a plan consistent with the intent to change from the Convention Model to a Direct Election Model;

**Whereas**, the State of the Order National Convention Committee has considered all of the relevant factors and believes it is in the best interests of COF to transition from a Convention Method to a Direct Election Method.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**; that the State of the Order Committee recommends that the Convention approve a revision to the method of electing the High Court from a Convention Method to Direct Election Method.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Constitution Committee of the National Convention develop the Necessary Articles of Incorporation and Constitution & Bylaws changes to effectuate the conversion of COF from the Convention Method to the Direct Election Method.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the State of the Order Committee compels all of the membership of COF to have a renewed focus on membership engagement with revitalized spiritual, charitable, and social activity.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the High Court develop a plan to address the declining participation in fraternal programs to promote new engagement.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the High Court develop new regional and/or national membership gatherings to promote engagement by providing platforms that allow for networking, social interaction, charitable outreach initiatives, and education.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the High Court Officers, Trustees, COF Officers, and employees take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the above and foregoing resolutions.

## **STATE OF THE ORDER – RESOLUTION 2 HIGH COURT TO DEVELOP SURVEY TO DETERMINE SUPPORTED FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES**

**Whereas**, Catholic Order of Foresters (“COF”) is an Illinois domestic fraternal benefit society;

**Whereas**, fraternal benefit societies are organizations of individuals who share a common ethnic, religious or vocation affiliation and together aid and assist one another and promote a common cause;

**Whereas**, fraternal benefit societies must have a fraternal purpose and activities;

**Whereas**, the traditional COF fraternal activities have experienced a decline in participation;

**Whereas**, new members of COF avoid participating in COF traditional fraternal activities;

**Whereas**, the State of the Order Committee of the Catholic Order of Foresters 52nd Quadrennial Convention believes it is essential that the High Court/Board of Directors develop a regional fraternal gathering that will engage new and young COF members;

**Whereas**, the State of the Order Committee of the Catholic Order of Foresters 52nd Quadrennial Convention recommended that the substitution of the direct election method in place of the Convention method for electing the High Chief Ranger/Chair of the Board and the High Court Trustees/Board of Director Members; and

**Whereas**, the State of the Order Committee of the Catholic Order of Foresters recommends the Delegates to the 52nd National Quadrennial Convention adopt the above and foregoing resolutions.

**Now Therefor Be It Resolved**, the High Court develop a survey requesting input from all COF members as to the fraternal events and gatherings members would support.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that upon completion of the survey, the High Court after considering the results of the survey, develop regional fraternal gatherings.

## **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS MOTION TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CHAIR AND HST AND GC TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES**

**Resolved**, that the Chair of the Constitution Committee together with the High Secretary-Treasurer and General Counsel are hereby authorized to make any changes in the Constitution and Bylaws which are spelling, numbering and grammatical corrections so long as the sum and substance of the Constitution and Bylaws are not changed.

**Further Resolved**, that the Chair of the Constitution Committee together with the General Counsel with the approval of the High Court may make any changes in the Constitution and Bylaws as required by any state’s department of insurance wherein the Catholic Order of Foresters is licensed to do business, and amendments which might be necessary in order to effectuate any actions and directives passed by the National Convention.

**Further Resolved**, that the amendments approved to the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution and Bylaws approved at this National Convention shall take effect the later of January 1, 2025, or thirty (30 days after approval by the Illinois Department of Insurance and publication in the Forester Magazine.

### **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DAVID E. HUBER**

I move for the adoption of the following additional resolution:

**Whereas Brother David Huber** served the Catholic Order of Foresters (COF) with distinction as a High Court Trustee from 1984-1996, and;

**Whereas** Brother David Huber served the COF with competency as High Court Secretary-Treasurer from 2000-2004, and;

**Whereas** Brother David Huber served the COF with notoriety as High Chief Ranger/Chief Executive Officer from 2004-2017, and;

**Whereas** Brother David Huber served the COF with as High Court Chief Ranger/Chairman of the Board from 2017-2023, and;

**Whereas**, Brother David Huber retired from the COF in the third quarter of 2023;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Delegates of 52<sup>nd</sup> National Convention commends and applauds Brother David Huber for his honorable, capable and inspirational service to the Order over the course of four decades!

### **RESOLUTION THANKING HIGH COURT OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

**Whereas**, Catholic Order of Foresters, an Illinois domestic fraternal benefit society is governed by the High Court/Board of Directors;

**Whereas**, the current members of the High Court Officers, and High Court Trustees/Board of Directors have provided leadership through unprecedented times of economic upheaval, war, and pandemic; and

**Whereas**, the Delegates of the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters, on behalf of the entire membership desire to express their gratitude for the work of the High Court Officers and High Court Trustees/Board of Directors.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that we the Delegates thank our High Court Officers and High Court Trustees/Board of Directors for their continued efforts and support for our organization.

**Be It Further Resolved**, we thank the High Court Officers and High Court Trustees/Board of Directors for their support of Jurisdiction Courts and their meetings.