

Official Publication of the Catholic Kolping Society of America | Vol. 94- No. 1 | October 2018

# **42nd National Kolping Convention**

### Celebrating a Long Standing History of Kolping Values in the City of Brotherly Love

The 42nd National Convention of the Catholic Kolping Society of America was held the weekend of September 7-9. 2018. Our hosts were the members of the Philadelphia Kolping Society. The Embassy Suites Airport Hotel was the

convention headquarters. Some conventioneers arrived early to take advantage of the sightseeing opportunities. Activities for the convention began on Friday with registration and hospitality time at the hotel.

On Friday evening the National Officers and National Representatives held their meeting. Lisa Brinkmann, National President, welcomed the members. Along with the usual business items, there was a discussion on several of the proposals. The budget was approved and the convention agenda was approved. The meeting was then closed. There was a hospitality room setup after the meeting, and there we met up with old friends and acquaintances, as well as a surprise visit from Benjamin Franklin and Betsy Ross, who were very entertaining.

On Saturday morning we had Mass celebrated by Fr. Richard Bretone, National Praeses and Praeses of the New York Kolping Society, concelebrated by Deacon William McLoughlin, Praeses of the San Francisco Kolping Society. Following Mass, the convention was opened. Lisa Brinkmann began the meeting once again welcoming the delegates. We proceeded with the order of business, that being the setting of the delegates by Helene Schrand, National Secretary, and the nominations for the National Officers positions. There was one nomination from the floor. There was one candidate for president, two for vice president, as well as one for secretary and treasurer, along with candidates for the five trustee positions. A vote was taken for the National Vice President position. The following is the list of new officers.



Lisa Brinkmann, San Francisco

#### **Vice-President**

Walter Amrein, Cincinnati

#### Secretary

Helene Schrand, Cincinnati National Praeses Fr. Richard Bretone. New York

#### **Treasurer**

Ted Wilke, Cincinnati

#### **Trustees**

Lucille Colletti, New York Jonathan Groll, Chicago Henry Faulk, Cincinnati Robert Mayer, Chicago Marilee Uhlhor, Cincinnati









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#### **Kolping Banner**

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# Catholic Kolping Society of America

#### **Mission Statement:**

We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society of America, extend the vision of our founder, Blessed Adolph Kolping, by promoting the development of the individual and family; we foster a sense of belonging and friendship through our program of spiritual, educational, charitable and social activities.

**Episcopal Moderator:** Bishop John M. Quinn

#### **National Officers:**

Praeses, Fr. Richard Bretone Associate Praeses President, Lisa Brinkmann Vice President, Walter Amrein Secretary, Helene Schrand Treasurer, Ted Wilke Trustees Lucille Colletti Henry Faulk Jonathan Groll Robert Mayer Marilee Uhlhorn

**Kolping Family Locations:** 

Brooklyn Kolping Family, 6504 Myrtle Ave., Glendale, NY, 11385-6250, 718-456-7727

**Buffalo, New York Kolping Family**, 1145 Cleveland Drive, Buffalo, NY 14225-1257, 716-632-7360

Chicago Kolping Family, 5826 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60646-5544, 773-792-2190 Cincinnati Kolping Family, 10235 Mill Rd., Cincinnati, OH, 45231-1924, 513-851-7951 Detroit Kolping Family, 1201 Rock Valley Drive,

Rochester, MI 48307

Los Angeles Kolping Family, 1225 S. Union Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90015-2021, 213-388-9438 New York Kolping Family, 165 E. 88th St.,

New York, NY 10128-2241, 212-369-6647 **Philadelphia Kolping Family**, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA, 19114, 215-606-7020

Rochester, New York Kolping Family, 284 Malden Street, Rochester. NY 14615-2658.

Saint Louis, Missouri Kolping Family, 4035 Keokuk St., Saint Louis, MO, 63116-3513, 314-776-5312 San Francisco Kolping Family, 440 Taraval Street, San Francisco, CA, 94116-2530, 415-831-3989

For more information about the Catholic Kolping Society of America, becoming a member, or establishing a Kolping family in your parish or community, please contact the Catholic Kolping Society of America, P. O. Box 4907, Clifton, NJ, 07015-4907, Telephone: 1-877-

659-7237, e-mail: PATFARKAS@optonline.net.

Please visit the Catholic Kolping Society of America internet website at: http://www.kolping.org.

# From the President's Desk ...

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE CONVENTION

"The needs of the time will teach you what to do"
- Adolph Kolping

What a simple message and yet so powerful. Spoken over 150 years ago, these words hold true today. As it was then and in prior times when those early immigrants came from Germany and other countries, an organization like the Kolping Society was what was needed for their times. Boarding houses were started; benevolent funds established and the foundation for family values, work ethic and Christian beliefs was laid.

Many of our Kolping families feel the challenge of our times – an aging membership, lack of interest in joining and participating in organized groups or feeling like you may not be able to live up to the expectations of "those who came before." How do we best utilize the physical, financial and human assets we've secured as individual families to further the values of Father Kolping – family, hard work, education? Like many before us, we, too are entering a new time for our Kolping Society. And just like them, we also have the opportunity to craft how we would like Kolping to respond to the needs of our times.

At our last convention in New York, we rallied around the theme Kolping Vision 2017. We explored the possibility of developing a more cohesive bond between Branches to show our solidarity and commitment to an organization bigger than ourselves. We acknowledged that while we may be different in size and focus of activities, we could build on our shared values and utilize the gifts we have to support common projects.

At the time we recognized that we did not have the manpower or expertise to create our own Lenten Project. Yet, we saw value in supporting an endeavor that represented Kolping at the national level and promoted Kolping in general. We learned of the work that International was doing in various countries and decided to support a project that necessitated the recipients learn new skills, receive education on an issue that was meaningful for their livelihood, and work hard to help the project succeed. A committee was formed and the small animal initiative in Africa was selected and then narrowed down specifically to providing goats to Kolping families in Kenya. Together we were able to raise over \$25,000, money not only used to promote the idea of sustainable farming, but to show our brothers and sisters in Kenya the reach of Kolping.

At our last convention we also recognized the need to remain relevant and, like it or not, in today's world that often means having a website and making information available electronically. Over time the Kolping site had become dated and its content no longer current. Some of our larger families already had their own comprehensive sites, while the smaller families had none. Again, together we formed a committee to draft the structure of the site and identify what content was important to post "nationally" and what could remain local. Today, anyone who is interested in the Kolping Society can read the latest edition of the Banner, see where we have local branches and make contact both with National and with a local family. ¬I encourage everyone to check out kolping.org and welcome feedback.

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# A Praeses Proclaims...

# THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC KOLPING SOCIETY: MENTOR TO AMERICA

By Fr. Richard Bretone, National Praeses and Praeses of the New York Kolping Society

The Kolping Society of America is poised to be a leading force in American home life. Our Founder, Blessed Adolf Kolping, knew a very important fact of culture: that everything begins with the family and ends with the family.

In other words, the family is "the oasis of formation" instructing us to be not only a productive citizen of our country, but also a wonderful citizen of the world.

How is this so? It is so, because Blessed Kolping based his understanding not on transitory societal constructs--for example, capitalism or socialism. He based his understanding of the family on his understanding of Catholicism as lived in his immersion in scripture. and his life lived at the altar presiding over the miracle of the Eucharist each day of his priesthood. He also spent his life forming the family bonds for journeymen and apprentices who would have been left to their own devices, and more, presumably their own vices, if Fr. Kolping did not intercede for them in forming "Kolping Houses" throughout Germany and eventually beyond that, to the entire world.

What the Kolping House provided was order, fraternity, and faith. First, order, or structure, is so important for the fruitful development of the human person. The rules of the house provided a steady parameter of growth for the individual.

Second, fraternity or camaraderie added a sense of shared experience

among people living the family life within a typical Kolping House. This experience of community went a long way in the dispelling of loneliness that was a chronic companion of the average young worker so far from home. Friendship restored their soul – keeping at bay so many sins born out of loneliness and isolation.

66 The virtue of giving is reinforced as people learn to reciprocally rely on their Kolping brothers and sisters. 99

Finally, faithfulness to a religious tradition provided the presence of likeminded people that strove to live more moral lives, becoming role models of holiness. This was aided by the availability of the Eucharist on a daily basis and a priest Spiritual Director that had the concerns of these young workers close to his heart. Taken in its totality, this faith component helped each Kolping family member to develop a lasting and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

This relationship would serve them well, not only within their Kolping community, but also in the workplace. For example, they used their moral lessons given in scripture during daily mass to give people an honest days work, to use edifying language on the jobsite, and to refrain from the post-work behaviors of drinking and

carousing. They were made aware, or warned, of the types of activities that caused the destruction of so many other journeyman and apprentices not associated with this salvific Christian family immersion provided by the Kolping Houses of Blessed Adolph's inspired creation.

Parenthetically, as a kind of an important aside, the Kolping House also sponsored Christian dances and interactions with other organizations, so the Kolping House transcended a monastic setting to become filled with life: traditional dancing with local girls, good German cooking, and a modest brew or two! Many people met their future husbands and wives at these events. The "spirit of Fr. Kolping" that brought them together was "transferred" or passed to their children. This enabled the Kolping family to continue to grow from one generation to the next...and here we are today.

What can we learn from the way the Catholic Kolping Society was structured by its founder going forward from this day? What lessons of value may we glean from Fr. Kolping as a way of adding to our need to be close to our families in today's changing culture?

Our job going forward, as members of this great organization, is that we must help "Mentor America" in the re-forming of family life. American families have been under enormous economic and social pressures these

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At this 42nd National Convention we will again look to "the needs of our time." Our mission statement says that we aim to extend the values of Father Kolping by promoting the development of the individual and family and fostering a sense of belonging and friendship through our program of spiritual, educational, charitable and social activities. I encourage each family to consider "what do we want Kolping to look like in 10, 15, 25 years?" Do we have a vision? What role do we want to play? And what would it take to do so?

There is a lot of experience, skill and wisdom in our numbers. I am confident we will better understand the needs of our times and use our expertise and hard work to teach us what we still need to do.

Thank you to Philadelphia for hosting us!

Lisa Brinkmann, President

# Chicago Reports

Dear Kolping Sisters and Brothers from Coast to Coast,

Several months, if not a full year, have passed since we shared some of the happenings/activities from our Kolping family in Chicago.

Let me try to jog my memory bank and report some of our highlights, lowlights and in between activities that most organizations, be it religious, cultural or social, have to go through. One of our current problems is a declining membership due to age and being called to tend our heavenly garden. Within our family, we had to say goodbye to several friends, brothers and sisters; may God grant them eternal peace.

Our spiritual guide, Praeses Fr. Mike Scherschel, was reassigned from his position at St. Joseph Seminary of Loyola University in Chicago to pastor at St. Hubert parish in Hoffman Estates, IL. A very belated congratulation to our Reverend Fr. Michael Scherschel and to the congregation of St. Hubert. They made a good choice and welcomed Fr. Mike to be their pastor (shepherd) of their flock. Despite of the new challenges, responsibilities and multitude engagements of being pastor of a very vibrant parish and school, we, the Chicago Kolping family, are very fortunate and grateful that Fr. Mike will continue to be our Praeses. Every member of our "family" is very happy to see you celebrate our Eucharist and join us at other social functions. It is very gracious for Fr. Mike to travel the 20+ miles (one way) to tend to the small flock of our Kolping family. THANK YOU and may GOD bless and keep you.

We are keeping most of our functions from past years, mainly those for fundraising purposes in order to provide needed monies for our charitable recipients. The proceeds of these functions were on a declining scale but we were still able to provide some of the needed funds.

Our other get-togethers in the inter-weaning months were the Family Christmas Party, World Day of Prayer,



Chicago Kolping Indoor Picnic 7-21-18



Super Bowl Party and Mother's Day get-together in May with the crowning of Mary. Our annual picnic in a Forest Preserve grove was changed to our facility's beautiful hall. It was a good success with Kolping providing hot dogs and brats. All the side dishes and desserts came on a potluck basis. Everyone present, including our Fr. Mike, enjoyed the day without getting sunburned or chasing insects.



Fr. Mike blessed our food.

Lastly, let me mention that we elected two new members to our board, Kathryn Fon and Gordon Hawkes. After serving on the board for more than 10 years, Angela and Heinrich Prommer withdrew from



being re-elected due to physical problems. THANK YOU to all on the board for your comradery and to our readers; this may be my last report.

Treu Kolping, Heinrich Prommer

### (continued from page 3)

past years. For example, the model of one salary providing for the needs of the entire family has long faded from our collective memories. This single economic factor (the need for two salaries to support one household) has often led to so much stress for the two income producers in the household - scheduling and juggling so much in order to carve out a little family time. It also has provided challenges for the children in such circumstances to be rooted in the family and not feel alone or abandoned, or fall prey to unsupportive friendships among their peers, or live in a virtual world of online games and chatter. All of this is no one's fault. It is just the family trying to stay financially solvent during difficult economic times.

Another phenomenon that has troubled American families during about this same downturn in wage growth, has been the near epidemic outbreak of divorce which tears at the fabric woven in the wedding nuptials and wounds those torn by its effects. The optimistic and joyful newlywed couple now often becomes cynical and jaded having gone through such a soul wrenching rupture. What was once "forever" is now for a while, and for "better or worse" now becomes until one no longer fulfills the other's needs. The sad part of divorce is that it not only hurts those shattering the bond, it also has a devastating impact on the children and the extended family. The porcelain pitcher sipped together on the honeymoon and filled with amazing memories and the joy of building a mutual life of happiness is broken in divorce. What do we do with the chards? More importantly, what can we do to avoid these situations that destroy the family? The National Kolping Society can "Mentor America." How so?

We can remind people of Blessed Adolph's accomplishments. Our individual, local Kolping families can continue to sponsor family activities.

We can be the place where family structures of order still exist, where fraternal and familial bonds are still forged, where faith and social events instruct and lead people in the need for a greater belonging, that Christian community is the answer for loneliness and isolation, that the helping nature of an extended family is part of the "charism of Kolping." Watching or minding the children as they are playing. volunteering to help organize and prepare, cooking a meal, participating in the cleanup, sharing ideas by being part of the Board - these are all ways to add value to Christian living. What the world has been used to paying for, we as Kolping members have been donating with joy over these many years. The virtue of giving is reinforced as people learn to reciprocally rely on their Kolping brothers and sisters.

Please Remember To
Pray For All Our Dear
Departed Members Who
Have Gone To Their
Eternal Rest

### **BROOKLYN**

Claire Heiser Bernard Poschmann Jean Seidl

### **CINCINNATI**

Erwin Kohlmorgen

### **DETROIT**

Brigette Born

### **NEW YORK**

Maria Reuber

### ROCHESTER

Francis Siebert

We "Mentor America" by our Christian Catholic homes, and we thereby advance the goodness of our entire society, teaching by example the original inspiration of Blessed Fr. Kolping: that family is the beginning and the end of all culture.

May Jesus, Mother Mary, and Saint Joseph, our original Holy Family, continue to bless our individual families, our Kolping Society and its mission to "Mentor America", and may our Founder Blessed Adoph Kolping complete his official journey to sainthood that he so richly deserves.

# National Endowment Fund

The National Endowment Fund received the following contributions for the months of July 15, 2018 to September 15, 2018

In Memory of Bernard Poschmann, deceased member of the Brooklyn Kolping Society Brooklyn Kolping Society

In Memory of Jean Seidl, deceased member of the Brooklyn Kolping Society Brooklyn Kolping Society

In Memory of Brigette Born, deceased member of the Detroit Kolping Society Gary & Mary Dolland, Detroit Kolping Norb & Kris Kreuter, Detroit Kolping Elizabeth Pfuerstinger, Detroit Kolping Don & Barbara VanHove, Detroit

### Kolping Society National Endowment Fund

Kolpina

c/o Lisa Brinkmann 311 Greene Street | Mill Valley, CA 94941-4132

# Treasurer's Report

The following is a recap of Ted Wilke, National Treasurer's report at the convention. Ted was unable to attend, so Andrew Hessler gave the report.

Period of 8/1/16 - 7/31/17

INCOME	\$82,994.51
EXPENSES	66,912.14
PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$16,082.37

Period 8/1/17 - 7/31/18

INCOME	\$69,272.78
EXPENSES	66,714.31
PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$2,558.47

Lisa Brinkmann gave a recap regarding the National Lenten Project. A discussion followed regarding extending the Lenten Project for another two years, the small animal project of Kenya. It was decided to continue for the next two years, and revisit this project at the next convention. Marilee Uhlhorn of Cincinnati prepared two large poster boards showing photos of the people of Kenya also with their goats, as well as all documentation regarding the distribution of the goats. There are photos of that poster board in the Banner.

Lisa also gave an update on the website. She and Kathy Biesty of San Francisco revised our website which is now up and running. She encouraged all families to update their site, and she was always available to assist them.

Bernie Preisser gave an update regarding the Endowment Fund and our finances. John Reitter gave a report regarding our activities in the UN.

Andrew Hessler, in Ted Wilke's absence, gave a report regarding the International Convention in Lima, Peru. He and Ted attended this conference. He was very thorough with his report, and his reactions to the convention, as well as the City of Lima.

Lunch followed and the afternoon session was devoted to the proposals that were approved by the Board. Two of the proposals involved scholarships/internships funded by the Endowment Fund. There was a discussion as to these proposals, and a committee was formed to look into the legal and feasibility of these proposals, and possibly report

at a later time, perhaps the next convention The afternoon session was then completed.

On Saturday evening all the delegates and non-delegates were bused to the Cannstatter's where they prepared a schnitzel chicken dinner, German potato salad and asparagus. The food was very good along with all the companionship. We were entertained by the German Dance Group and everyone was impressed with their dances, and it was enjoyed by all. The evening concluded with the presentation of the Distinguished Service Awards. The winners of the Distinguished Service Awards were:

Brooklyn - Rosemarie Rom Chicago - Mark Stemper Cincinnati - Nancy Pelzel Cincinnati - Michael Pelzel - Paul Wienkamp Cincinnati - Mary Garofalo Detroit Los Angeles - Maria V. Schafer New York - Fr. Richard Bretone New York - Helmi Pinner San Francisco - Bill Luque

The Membership Trophy was awarded to the Los Angeles Kolping Society for the highest percentage increase of their membership

On Sunday morning we were bused to St. John the Evangelist Church for the 10:30 Mass. Fr. Richard Bretone and Deacon Bill McLoughlin concelebrated the Mass. It was a beautiful Mass and the parade of the Kolping flags was so impressive.

After Mass we were again bused to the Cannstatter's where a fabulous buffet was served. Of course the highlight was the Philadelphia Cheese Sandwich, which everyone was waiting for. Again it was a very pleasant afternoon, and we were entertained by a Mummer's Band, which Philadelphia is famous for, especially in their New Year's Day Parade. After our afternoon dinner, we were bused back to the hotel, and many of our friends had to depart for home.

A special thank you to the Philadelphia Kolping Society for a great weekend, of friendship, love and camaraderie!

Patricia Farkas

# News from Cincinnati Kolping

Greetings from Cincinnati, fellow Kolping brothers and sisters! It is hard to believe that more than half of the year is over, and as we look forward to fall, it is nice to sit back and review the activities that have taken place so far with the Cincinnati Kolping Family.

We started out the year with the King's Party, and then at the end of January, we cured the "Winter Blues" with our Stube Nacht that included entertainment for the whole family. In March, we welcomed our new Praeses, Fr. Dan Kroger, whose daytime job is the editor of the St. Anthony Messenger magazine. Fr. Dan has been a great addition to the Cincinnati Kolping Family and will be spearheading an effort to form a group to give spiritual opportunities to our members through an outreach to the community.

Our weekly Fish Fries began on February 16th and went through the Friday before

Good Friday, with the proceeds from our last Fish Fry being sent to the National Endowment Fund. We would like to thank Mike Seibel, who has been organizing our Fish Fries for the last few years, for all of his hard work and dedication, as he will not be involved in this function next year.

March brought the King's Ball, the premier event during the King and Queen's reign. In April, we held our annual Awards Banquet, where 36 members received longevity awards, and members Ted Klosterman and Jim Stukenborg received Meritorious Service Awards. A special award was given to Betty Poole, who had been playing the organ for Kolping's Communion Sundays since 1958. In addition, eighteen new members were inducted at the banquet.

The Kolping Sängerchor held two events the Schlachtfest, their annual fundraiser dinner, in February, and their Spring

Konzert, held in April. In April, two high school students who are sons of Kolping members were awarded Father David Hiller Endowment Fund scholarships to the Catholic high school of their choice. The winners were Aidan Wienkamp, son of Paul and Karen Wienkamp, and Daniel Schnieder, son of Michael Schnieder. In June, we held our annual Father's Day/ Anniversary Mass, where members with significant wedding anniversaries were honored. Fifteen couples were honored, and many family members, friends, and other Kolping members came out to help them celebrate. Also in June, the Kolping Sports Club donated a check for \$5,000 to Cincinnati Children's Hospital, which was the proceeds from the Seth Stevens Memorial Soccer Tournament that took place in May. In addition to the check, many toys and other items were donated for the patients of the hospital.

## **April 15th Awards Banquet**



70-year Kolping members; Gary Gerdes on the left and John Tensing on the right



50-year Kolping members, L to R: Henry Sieverding, Maria Von Den Benken.



Meritorious Service Award recipients: left, Ted Klosterman; right, Jim Stukenborg.



65-year Kolping members, L to R: Gus Schroeder, Otto Hermes, Martha Stukenborg for Josef Stukenborg, Karl Von Den Benken. Not present – Hubert Kramer.



60-year Kolping members, L to R: George Ostendorf, Ben Albers, Hubert Mohs, Bill Janszen, Vince G. Meyer. Not present: Gerhard Diekmann, Otger Kappen & Liz Ruether.



25-year Kolping members; front row, L to R: Anna Marie Burwinkel, Jim Schnieder, Susan Griffin, Jerry Stegman, Doris Ahrnsen. Back row, L to R: Brian Brunsman, Mike Brunsman, Erna Vosseberg, Mike Meyer, Mike Brakers, Phil Neumann. Not present: Gary Brunsman, Ronald Clabbers, Erwin Kohlmorgen, Bob Fehrenbach, Jerry Hargis, Robert Sommer, Gary Sprowls, & Charles Stinson.



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# DATED MATERIAL

# News from Cincinnati Kolping (continued from page 7)

The annual Schützenfest, our main fundraiser for the year, took place the rainy weekend of July 20-22. The heavens opened up on Friday and Saturday of the fest, but God blessed us with a beautiful Sunday. In spite of all the rain and mud, our financial results were the third best ever! This festival gets bigger and better every year – now if we could just control the weather! We had tip jars at all of our booths, and through the generosity of our patrons, were able to send a check to St. Joseph



The new Schützenfest King and Queen, Ted and Ann Hoerstmann. Photo courtesy of Ted Hoerstmann

Home (a home for children and adults with developmental disabilities) for over \$1,400. We also crowned a new King and Queen at the event – Ted and Ann Hoerstmann, who will reign for one year. Congratulations, King Theodore IV and Queen Ann!

We want to thank the awesome group of volunteers that it takes to put on this festival each year, especially Jim and Anna Stukenborg, who have chaired Schützenfest for the last six years. Many of the fest volunteers, as well as everyone who volunteers throughout the year, were treated to an Appreciation Dinner on August 17th, which was prepared by John and Linda Knizner and their Crew. We are truly blessed to have such amazing members in the Cincinnati Kolping Family who are willing to put in so many hours to help the Society in so many ways.



Opening ceremonies prior to Fr. Dan Kroger blessing the keg of beer. L to R: Jim Slouffman, Sponsorship Committee Chairman; Martin Wilhelmy, Honorary German Consul; Don Heinrich Tolzmann, President of the German-American Citizens League, Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM, Cincinnati Kolping Praeses; Brother Marcel Groth, OFM.

We want to take this opportunity to wish all of our Kolping brothers and sisters a beautiful fall season and we wish you all of the Lord's blessings. Treu Kolping!

Nancy Pelzel