



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LIFE

To: State Deputies, State Advocates, District Deputies, Grand Knights, and MPCs in the United States and Canada

Copied: Supreme Officers and Supreme Directors

From: John Marrella, Supreme Advocate JM

Date: November 28, 2012

Re: Use of Facilities Owned by Home Corporations

We have recently received inquiries from Grand Knights who are concerned about the rental of home corporation facilities for events or activities that are unrelated to the mission of the council and may be inappropriate.

As you know, home corporations are legally distinct from the Knights of Columbus. They are independent corporate entities that exist to support the mission and activities of the council. Successful home corporations provide facilities for councils and assemblies to host meetings and conduct degrees. Some home corporations choose to make their facilities available for rent to the public to host events, parties, or other social or recreational functions.

Occasionally, a person or an organization will seek to rent a home corporation facility for an event or function that may be incompatible with the principles of the Knights of Columbus or the tenets of the Catholic faith. Such a rental by a home corporation could impair the mission and activities of the council. *Accordingly, if the council is concerned about a home corporation rental, the Grand Knight should, before taking any action, refer the concern to the State Deputy and the Supreme Advocate's Office for review and consultation.*

Home corporations that rent out their facilities to the general public may be subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing public accommodations. Failure to observe these laws and regulations may expose the home corporation to significant penalties and to lawsuits. Accordingly, Knights of Columbus members who hold leadership positions in their council's home corporation should ensure compliance by consulting with a knowledgeable attorney. The State Deputy can provide the name of a knowledgeable attorney.

The Officers' Desk Reference, which is available online, provides more information on the subject of home corporations.