

# Resolutions and Petitions Committee Final Report

## JURISDICTION COURT RESOLUTIONS

We received a total of 62 resolutions/petitions. The resolutions/petitions that are similar in topic have been combined and are included in this document. Several resolutions/petitions were referred to the proper committee. I would like to thank the members of the committee for their dedication and service to the committee:

- Jacob Hackman (IA)
- Gene Hesse (MN)
- Michael Lemire (New England)
- Sharon Geiger (KY)

The Preliminary Report was posted on the National Convention website and all members and delegates were provided with a notice of the comment period. After the close of the comment period, the committee met to review and respond to all comments. Every individual who submitted a comment received the committee's response and all the comments and committee responses were posted to the COF Convention website.

Where the committee believed appropriate, the committee revised the proposed report, and all delegates should review the report in total. Additionally, certain comments were referred to the High Court.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Grant Johannes (MN)  
Chairperson, Resolutions and Petitions Committee



<b>FINANCIAL</b>	
<p><b>1. Iowa, Minnesota &amp; Nebraska</b></p> <p>Increase the number of recipients for the TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) Scholarship to 100 recipients.</p> <p>With the number of applications made for the TAP Scholarship, it shows there is a need for more to be awarded.</p> <p>The TAP program shows COF’s support for Catholic Education.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates adopt the following resolution:</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the Resolutions &amp; Petitions Committee received several petitions citing the need to increase the number of TAP Scholarships,</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the TAP program shows COF’s support for Catholic Education, and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the petitions indicate a strong request support for an increase in the TAP scholarship program from the current 60 participants to 100 participants.</p> <p><b>Now Therefore Be It Resolved</b>, that the number of TAP scholarships be increased to 100 effective 2025.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Increase the number of recipients for the REAP (Religious Education Assistance Program) Scholarship to 150 recipients.</p> <p>With the number of applications made for the REAP Scholarship, it shows there is a need for more to be awarded. This shows COF’s support for Religious Education.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates reject the request to increase the COF sponsored REAP scholarships due to the fact that the current allocation of REAP scholarship has not been used.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> With inflation and cost of living we recommend TAP, REAP, and One-Time \$600 Educational Award amount be increased.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration as the recommendation impacts the finances of COF.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Increase Youth Allowance from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per event.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration as the recommendation impacts the finances of COF.</p>



<b>FINANCIAL</b>	
<p><b>5. New England &amp; Ohio</b></p> <p>To endorse, aid and help grow local courts with social media and print advertising for Catholic Order of Foresters products and benefits of belonging.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates adopt the following resolution:</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the Resolutions &amp; 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</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the Committee recognizes the need to use both social media and print media to foster awareness of COF and its products.</p> <p><b>Now Therefore Be It Resolved</b>, 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.</p>
<p><b>6. Minnesota &amp; South Dakota</b></p> <p>Increase the reimbursement to local courts to \$5.00 per member.</p> <p>Local courts are not allowed to be reimbursed if they have not been active.</p> <p>Need to consider increases in inflation.</p> <p>Courts that are active should have the resources to stay active with court activities.</p> <p>Local courts that wish to continue to fund projects previously funded at the Jurisdiction level need additional resources.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration as the recommendation impacts the finances of COF.</p>
<p><b>7. Michigan, Minnesota, &amp; South Dakota</b></p> <p>Jurisdiction recommends the High Court change the Matching Fund program to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$2,000 per year for regular and emergency Matching Fund.</p> <p>Change the maximum match for an emergency Matching Fund from \$1500 to \$3000. It has</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration as the recommendation impacts the finances of COF.</p>



<p>been a significant number of years since the matching fund maximum has been raised.</p> <p>The maximum amount of the matching fund has not kept up with inflation.</p> <p>There are less than half of the courts in existence today than 10 years ago; thus, the amount being paid out or having the possibility of being paid out in the matching funds program has decreased.</p> <p>It will make it possible for Courts that are active and willing to use the matching funds program for approved causes to better carry out their mission.</p> <p>A larger matching funds amount would help the organizers feel that their efforts are more significant.</p> <p>Regarding increasing the matching funds, we also said the organizers of a matching funds should be rewarded for their efforts or at least feel like their time and efforts were worth it. A larger matching funds amount may help the organizers feel a little more significant.</p>	
<p><b>8. Minnesota &amp; Wisconsin</b></p> <p>We recommend paying Jurisdiction trustees a per diem for each meeting attended (virtual and/or in person) as the trustees provide valuable time and effort to the jurisdiction.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer petition to the High Court for consideration as the Constitution &amp; Bylaws provides that the High Court has the authority to set the compensation of the Jurisdiction Trustees.</p>
<p><b>9.</b> We recommend all Jurisdiction officers and trustees receive expenses plus an annual stipend for their work.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration as the Constitution &amp; Bylaws provides that the High Court has the authority to set the compensation of the Jurisdiction Officers &amp; Trustees.</p>



<b>FINANCIAL</b>	
<b>10.</b>	<p>The Jurisdiction recommends paying the Jurisdiction officers an annual stipend for their efforts to represent the Order and respond to the High Court and to members between meetings. The officers of the Jurisdiction should be reimbursed for reasonable expenses.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration as the Constitution &amp; Bylaws provides that the High Court has the authority to set the compensation of the Jurisdiction Officers. Further Jurisdiction Officers are reimbursed for reasonable expenses.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Nebraska</b></p> <p>Request for napkins, placemats, and trinkets for meetings and insurance agents.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>North Dakota</b></p> <p>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 men are the future of the Catholic Faith.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates adopt the following resolution:</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the mission of the Catholic Order of Foresters includes support of our Catholic Faith; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, supporting the education of men and women dedicated to the service of our Catholic Faith is essential.</p> <p><b>Now Therefore Be It Resolved</b>, that the Delegates of 52<sup>nd</sup> 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.</p>	



FINANCIAL	
<p><b>13.</b> We appeal to the High Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters to donate annually to Parochial Schools 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.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates adopt the following resolution:</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, Catholic Faith based education has been a key component of the education of our youth; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, Parochial Schools and Religious Education Programs need financial support.</p> <p><b>Now Therefor Be It Resolved</b>, that the Delegates of the 52<sup>nd</sup> 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.</p>
<p><b>14. Ohio</b></p> <p>To recognize Court members with 50 years of membership with a golden rosary. Currently practicing this tribute with CKO (Catholic Knights of Ohio) members.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court as all CKO matters were the subject of the merger agreement by and between COF and CKO and the cost for providing the golden rosary for all members needs to be investigated by the High Court.</p>



<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	
<p><b>15. South Dakota</b></p> <p>Proposal to increase the number of elected Delegates and Alternates elected to the National Convention by electing one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for the first four hundred (400) insured adult members in the Jurisdiction. An additional Delegate and Alternate will be elected for each additional four hundred (400) insured adult members or for a major fraction of adult members in the same Jurisdiction.</p> <p>The National Convention typically has a high percentage of attendance; therefore, with a lower membership count overall in the organization, the proposal would keep the percentage of representation at a higher level at the National Convention.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the Governance Committee of the High Court for consideration.</p>
<p><b>16. Minnesota</b></p> <p>The jurisdiction recommends the National Convention be easily accessible to all delegates without demands that affect their disabilities, whether it be physical, financial, or technical.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recognizes that the American with Disabilities Act protects individuals with disabilities and does not recommend any additional action be taken by this convention with regard to this petition as individuals with disabilities are already protected.</p>
<p><b>17. Minnesota</b></p> <p>The jurisdiction recommends moving merged courts to a nearby active court in good standing rather than to a holding court. This would allow members to obtain the fraternal benefits that an active court provides.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration as the Constitution &amp; Bylaws provides that the High Court has the authority to merge and/or dissolve Local Courts.</p>
<p><b>18.</b> The jurisdiction recommends giving members of a holding court an annual notice of the right to transfer to an active court.</p> <p>The notice would provide a list of jurisdiction courts to the member.</p>	<p><b>Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court for consideration of providing each member of a State Holding Court, a list of Local Courts within</p>



the member’s Jurisdiction and the right to transfer to such Local Court.

**PRODUCTS**

**19. Iowa, Michigan, & Wisconsin**  
Offer a \$10,000 single pay/Whole Life or other affordable policy for youth to add members.  
COF insurance policies now start at \$50,000. We recommend this section be revised and/or COF underwrite policies that have a lower limit to allow members easier access to insurance. Higher limits require higher premiums that not all households can sustain.

**Committee Recommendation**  
The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates refer this petition to the High Court as it deals with insurance products and the cost and profitability of the products.

**CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

**20. Minnesota, New England, North Dakota, & Ohio**  
Be it resolved that the Catholic Order of Foresters members support the Holy Father Pope Francis in denouncing the “madness of war”.  
We ask for prayers for victims of wars – may God grant them peace.  
The Catholic Order of Foresters wishes to voice their support for the Holy Father, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons who provide care for the worldwide Church.

**Committee Recommendation**  
The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates adopt the following resolution:  
**Be It Resolved**, that the Catholic Order of Foresters members support the Holy Father Pope Francis in denouncing the “madness of war”.

**21.** 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.

**Committee Recommendation**  
The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates adopt the following resolution:  
**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.

## CATHOLIC IDENTITY

22. 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 and 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.”

Support the Right to Life Initiative.

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 resolved that the Catholic Order of Foresters members support the Holy Father Pope Francis in his mission against violations of human dignity, surrogacy, and gender theory.

The Catholic Order of Foresters will support the Catholic Church’s teaching and education on all life issues.

### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates adopt the following resolutions:

**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 Foresters 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.



**CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

**23.** Be it resolved that the Catholic Order of Foresters 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.

**Committee Recommendation**  
The Committee recommends adoption of the submitted resolution.

**PATRIOTISM**

**24. North Dakota**

Be it resolved that the High Court, Jurisdiction and Local Court Officers and all Catholic Order of Foresters members support our Armed Forces serving our country at home or abroad.

**Committee Recommendation**  
The Committee recommends the Convention Delegates adopt the following resolution:  
**Be It Resolved**, that the High Court, Jurisdiction and Local Court Officers and all Catholic Order of Foresters members support our Armed Forces serving our country at home or abroad.