

August 2024

Welfare & Relief Fund Report

The Welfare and Relief Fund Trust (“Trust”) was created as a separate and free-standing trust, initially receiving funding from bequests and gifts to the Catholic Order of Forester (“COF”). In addition, the Trust received certain disbanded Local Court funds that reverted to the High Court. The Trust also received funding from insurance and fraternal benefits when the COF could not locate either the member or beneficiary or the benefits were refused. This practice ended in 2008, as COF is required to escheat those funds to the unclaimed property divisions of the appropriate state.

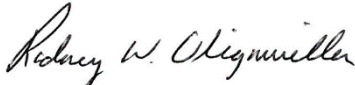
On May 25, 2021, the Trustees, David E. Huber, Rodney W. Oligmueller and Betty K. Fiegen, with the approval of the COF amended and restated the Trust. The Trust was updated to reflect changes in the Constitution & Bylaws. The Amended and Restated Trust names the High Chief Ranger by virtue of his/her Office as the Chair of the Trust. Additionally, the Trust requires a minimum of two (2) and no more than four (4) trustees as determined by the COF High Chief Ranger. Such additional individuals shall be nominated by the COF High Chief Ranger and ratified by the COF High Court. Currently, High Chief Ranger Rodney W. Oligmueller serves together with High Secretary Betty K. Fiegen, and High Court Trustee, Michael J. Schuster.

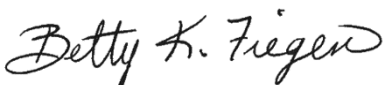
In 2022 and 2023, the Trust was the recipient of transfers from the Jurisdiction Courts f/k/a State Courts. This resulted in over \$1.0 million of additional funds being deposited in the Trust. Most of the Jurisdiction/State funds are subject to endowment agreements that specify the use, investment, and process for distribution of the funds.


	2020	2021	2022	2023
Beginning of Period Fund Balance	\$1,303,372	\$1,341,892	\$1,426,565	\$1,523,902
REVENUE AND SUPPORT				
Contributions	\$250	\$1,025	\$7,049	\$1,500
Interest and Dividends	\$59,919	\$62,753	\$64,606	\$94,675
Capital Gain/Loss	\$808	\$188	\$66	\$723
Total Revenue and Support	\$60,977	\$63,965	\$71,721	\$96,898
EXPENDITURES				
Program	\$35,000	\$73,000	\$79,098	\$71,750
Administrative	\$1,633	\$5,799	\$3,181	\$9,432
Total Expenditures	\$36,633	\$78,799	\$82,279	\$81,182
Funds withheld for Jurisdiction Convention Expenses (payable to COF)	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Funds withheld for Other Expenses (payable to COF)	\$580	\$1,900	\$0	\$1,114
Funds in Accounts Payable	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,600
Transfer from State Courts	xxx	xxx	\$226,505	\$819,683
Securities Fair Value Adjustment	\$13,596	\$97,607	-\$128,609	\$60,194
Year-End Fund Balance	\$1,341,892	\$1,426,565	\$1,523,902	\$2,433,209
Jurisdiction Funds received (excludes 2024 Jurisdiction Convention Expenses)				
	Amount	Date Received		
Wisconsin Jurisdiction Seminarian Educational Grant Fund	115,825.52	6/7/2022		
Kentucky State Court Funds	20,779.03	9/13/2022		
Ohio State Court Funds	62,907.59	9/16/2022		
2nd funds received - Ohio State Court Funds	18,651.55	6/21/2023		
Indiana State Court Funds	26,992.69	10/11/2022		
Nebraska State Court Funds	19,130.91	3/31/2023		
Minnesota Camp Fund	452,008.67	5/5/2023		
Illinois State Court Funds	37,330.27	6/21/2023		
Iowa State Court Funds	16,134.38	6/21/2023		
North Dakota State Court Funds	7,707.18	6/21/2023		
Minnesota State Court Funds	108,239.37	6/21/2023		
Michigan State Court Funds	63,696.45	6/21/2023		
St. James Court	96,645.83	6/30/2023		
St. Mary's Court	138.65	12/21/2023		
Total received from Jurisdictions	1,046,188.09			

The Trust investment philosophy entails managing said funds on a balanced basis with Growth and income that is mutually beneficial. This management will allow the Trust to accomplish the goals established in the endowment funds as well as the long-term goals of the Trust.

The Trust assets are segregated from COF's assets; since inception the Trust has received an independent audit as required by Illinois Law. The Trust Agreement requires the Trustees to provide an accounting of income and disbursement activity to the COF National Convention at its regularly scheduled meeting. The Trust's Assets are invested with the objective of first generating income and second generating growth. It is the intention of the Trustees to disburse most of the income after expenses for welfare relief, fraternal, charitable, religious and educational purposes while reinvesting any remaining income to provide for growth of the Trust's assets.


Rodney W. Oligmueller
High Chief Ranger


Betty K. Fiegen
High Secretary


Michael J. Schuster
High Court Trustee