

Use of KC Halls

This memo focuses on proper uses of a KC Hall and, conversely, improper uses of a KC Hall. It is meant to give guidance to those local councils that have control of their KC Hall, be it through a “home corporation” set up to own the KC Hall with the local council as the primary tenant or otherwise.

If a home corporation has been established, that home corporation has control of the KC Hall and the use of the same. However, it is important to note that the primary tenant of the KC Hall is the local council. Further, the home corporation should be established in a way that the decision making of the home corporation is by the same people that are members in good standing with the local council. As such, this memo is properly addressed to home corporations in charge of certain KC Halls, just as it is addressed to our local councils having the use of KC Halls across the State of Iowa.

The Knights of Columbus is the right arm to the church. To be a Knight is to be a practical Catholic adhering to the teachings of the Church. It is therefore imperative that we as Knights use our talents and our treasures to and for the benefit of the Church. Our KC Halls are an example of one of these treasures. It is, therefore, altogether fitting that we review certain absolute truths which have been adopted by the Knights of Columbus and which must be upheld in our KC Halls. These absolute truths include our stand on pro-life issues and on heterosexual marriage. Our KC Halls should advance these causes. The antithesis to these absolute truths would be the following evils:

- a) Abortion
 - b) Embryonic stem cell research
 - c) Euthanasia
 - d) Same-sex marriage
- (herein the “Prohibited Issues”.)

A KC Hall should not be rented to an organization that has a record for advocating the Prohibited Issues. For example, a home corporation would be well within its rights to deny Planned Parenthood the use of a KC Hall even without knowing the specific speakers on the agenda because it is clear where Planned Parenthood stands on abortion.

A KC Hall should not be rented to a person that has a record for advocating the Prohibited Issues. There are a number of candidates that have made their record clear in support abortion and examples can be made of Democrats and Republicans alike. These candidates should not be able to use a KC Hall because of their position on abortion. The same test can be applied to these candidates with respect to the rest of the Prohibited Issues.

A KC Hall should not be rented to an organization that will allow speakers to advocate on, or will perform some activity to advocate for, the Prohibited Issues. An example here may include the Iowa Democratic Party, which has adopted certain Prohibited Issues such as “equal marital rights for all consenting adults regardless of sexual orientation” and “preservation of Roe v. Wade”. However, the Iowa Democratic Party requires adherence to a majority of its planks on its

platform, but not all planks. Therefore, a local Democratic group, or a Democratic candidate, may be properly admitted for the use of a KC Hall as long as the local Democratic group or candidate disavows the Iowa Democratic Party's stand on the Prohibited Issues.

One might ask if these issues will subject the home corporation or the local council to liability for discrimination. Certainly, we cannot deny equal access to public facilities on account of race, color, religion, or national origin. But we are not doing that. We are denying access to our facilities on account of the stands taken by certain persons or groups on the Prohibited Issues.

With respect to these situations, it becomes important to ask questions. Properly identify the person or group renting the KC Hall. If the person or group has a record for advocating Prohibited Issues, the person or group must be denied use of the KC Hall. If the record is not clear, ask more questions of the person or group in order to get to the bottom of their stand on the Prohibited Issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Knights of Columbus