

My name is Darren Johnson. I am the district deputy for district four, and a charter member of Saint Columban's Council 17152 in Yelm. I am also the state convention chair this year, and the state Special Olympics chairman.

I am pleased to nominate the current state Warden, Dave Olwell, for the position of State Advocate for the next Columbian year.

I have known Dave since he arrived at Saint Martin's in 2015 to be the dean of engineering and computer science. He immediately started a College Council at Saint Martin's and it was chartered in December 2015 – I was the district deputy for the effort. He has been a confirmation catechist (20 years experience) and an RCIA instructor for 6 years – including the cohort where his wife became Catholic. He was on the board of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Monterey for six years. During his time in Monterey he was very active in the California State Council as a grand knight, district deputy (twice), faithful navigator, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree conferring officer, and state chairman for fraternal activities before coming home to Washington.

I say "coming home" because Dave spent 26 years in the Army. After he enlisted in 1974 he was selected to attend West Point. After retiring from the Army in 2000, he spent the next 15 years on the faculty of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey.

Dave is a fourth generation Washington State Knight whose grandparents first met at a Knights dance at the old Council 676 ballroom on First Hill in Seattle in the 1920s, and his son Matthew is a fifth generation Washington Knight.

Dave was district deputy 37 the last two years as well as state warden and earned double star district last year.

As warden he has supported the other state officers, tended to the state equipment inventory, managed much of the logistics at state meetings, learned a great deal, and helped work on a redesign of the state website. He ran the IT for the last two state virtual conventions which were hosted at Saint Martin's. Dave also managed to walk the Camino Santiago for the fifth time last month.

Dave is ready for his next state office and will be an excellent State Advocate. Thank you for considering his nomination.