



State Deputy

Daniel 'Danny' Lechner, Biloxi

State Secretary

Dr. Peter Sukanek, Oxford

State Treasurer

Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, Gulfport

State Advocate

David Scott, Madison

State Warden

Jim McCraw, Jackson

Immediate Past State Deputy

Larry Tabor, Biloxi

State Chaplain

Father Charles Nutter, Gautier

Send Council, assembly and circle news and announcements by the 10th of each month to:

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On the Web

www.ms-kofc.org

Coming Events

Exemplification

Saturday, Jan. 24

1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree, D'Iberville Council 9094, Sacred Heart Parish Gymnasium. 1st Degree Registration 8 a.m.; 1st Degree 9 a.m. followed by 2nd and 3rd degrees.

Noteworthy Dates

Mid-Winter Meetings

Saturday, Jan. 10, North, Tupelo Council 8848, noon - 4 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 11, Central, Madison Council 9543, noon - 4 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 18, South, Jan. 18, Ocean Springs Council 5654, noon - 4 p.m.

March for Life

Thursday, Jan. 22, Washington, DC

Supreme Reports

2008 Fraternal Activity, Form 1728; Special Olympics, Form 4584, to Supreme by Jan. 31.

The Magnolia Knight

Vol. 8, No. 12



December 2008



Merry Christmas!



New Team Leads Gerow Memorial Fund, Vocations

A new leadership team for the Bishop R.O. Gerow Memorial Fund and the State Vocations Committee is in place following the appointment of new chairs by State Deputy Danny Lechner.

Don Cox of West Biloxi Council 9490, long involved in raising funds for priest education at the diocesan and state levels, is the new chair of the Gerow Memorial Fund. Elvis Gates, Grand Knight of Long Beach Council 4898, and David Friloux, Past Grand Knight of Tupelo Council 8848, are new chairs of the State Vocations Committee, Gates filling the role in the Diocese of Biloxi and Friloux in the Diocese of Jackson.



Don Cox



Elvis Gates

They succeed Deacon Larry Campbell of Southaven Council 7120, who resigned as chair of the fund and the State Vocations

Committee following his appointment as Deacon-Ecclesial Minister of West Point Immaculate Conception Parish.

"We wish Larry and Margaret the best on his new assignment and thank him for all the love, dedication and hard work he has given for our seminarians, the Knights of Columbus and the Church," State Deputy Lechner wrote in a letter to Councils. "I ask that you give Don, Elvis and David the cooperation that you have given to Larry and his predecessors."

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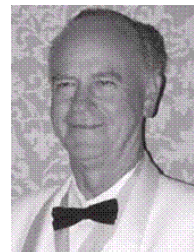
A Word from the State Deputy

'Culture of Life' Initiative Requires Our Resources

On behalf of the State Council family, I would like to wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

On Dec. 13, we held the State Mid-Winter meeting in Biloxi at Our Lady of Fatima parish hall. In attendance were state officers, district deputies, the state program director, the state membership director, ceremonials

co-chairs and a representative of the general agent.



We reviewed the strengths and weaknesses in each district and discussed plans of action to rectify the weaknesses. Program and membership action plans were

discussed. Degree schedules were revealed.

It was noted that one Council was offended by the Supreme assessment of \$3 per member for the Culture of Life Fund. The reason for the assessment was that Supreme had to prove that there was participation from the general membership and not just from the Supreme Council. Moneys

(Please See Word, Page 2)

What to Do ☒ **January Mid-Winter Meetings**

(See Coming Events on this Page)

Inspired Gautier Council Achieves Double Star Status

(Richard Geoff O'Neil, Director of the Diocesan Care Package for Seminarians program in Biloxi, captured the spirit of the successful membership recruitment campaign that brought Double Star Award status to Gautier Council 9124 in the following report. Geoff is a 3rd Degree member of the Gautier Council.)

My story begins very sadly, with a hurricane battered community.

Unfortunately, that was just the beginning. Our much beloved Priest, Fr. Pat Hayes, also withered before our eyes. In just six months we had lost our leader. The church family stumbled and bled. We lost many members in the ensuing months.

Another casualty was our longtime Music Director, Marion Leos, who succumbed to breast cancer.

The Knights of Columbus had fallen by the wayside; our Council meetings went unattended, and our parish lacked that unmistakable vibrancy that comes with an active Knights of Columbus Council.

Just then the ultimatums came down from the top: Either get serious, or get out! Our patron, Fr. Michael McGivney, must have been listening; and Mary must have overheard that her knights were in distress, because the next few months became a new day for our parish, our Council, our walk of faith and, most importantly, our church family. Mary's Knights were back!

In the next few months, our inspired Grand Knight, Daryl Ladner, personally recruited heavily for our Council, a practice he has never stopped advocating. We became a few key members and then a few more and then a whole bunch of folks started coming to meetings! I have seen meetings with standing room only!

Our parish has been gifted by the assignment of Fr. Charles Nutter, a new priest who has accepted the mantle of State Chaplain.

The accompanying photograph is of Council 9124 after State Deputy Danny Lechner and District (12) Deputy George 'Flitter' Roberts issued the Double Star Award for surpassing our membership quota not once, but twice!

Please, go out into your church, step up to that guy you saw taking communion and ask him, "Have you ever thought about joining the Knights of Columbus?" I promise, he won't hit you, and he might just help you.

Thank you to all the state and district Knights for their complete faith and support, especially Danny Lechner, Flitter Roberts, State Warden Jim McGraw, Past State Deputy and Fourth Degree Master Larry Tabor and many others who time and space prevent naming individually.



Members of Gautier Council 9124 at St. Mary's Parish are all smiles as they line up with the fruits of their recruitment labors - the Double Star Award provided for doubling their membership quota. State Deputy Danny Lechner (seated left) and District (12) Deputy George 'Flitter' Roberts (second from left) presented the award to the Council, whose leadership includes (seated to Flitters' left) Deacon Gayden Harper, State Chaplain Fr. Charles Nutter, Grand Knight Daryl Ladner and Deputy Grand Knight Terry Crow. Richard Geoff O'Neil, who submitted the article, is on the 2nd row at the left.

(Word, Continued from Page 1)

received from the assessments will be matched by Supreme up to \$4.5 million. This is a must for us to have the resources to fight for the beliefs of our Catholic ideals and for the Culture of Life.

Culture of Life Fund

In addressing the 2008 Annual Supreme Council meeting, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson made this statement about the Culture of Life Fund:

"Today, we constantly hear about change. We must remember that real change means building a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love. We are a non-partisan organization, and Knights belong to a variety of political parties. We do not endorse candidates for public office, although many of our members are elected officials. But we do take a strong interest in certain critical issues that affect our most fundamental values as Catholic Christians and as citizens. And if we truly hope for a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love, then we must first think, and then act, in new ways. If we are determined in our commitment to build a Culture of Life, considerable resources will be necessary."

The Culture of Life fund is a restricted fund wholly managed, maintained and operated by Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, and Knights of Columbus Canada Charities, Inc., a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency.

May the love of Jesus Christ be with you and your family.



Tylertown Dedicates St. Joseph Statue

Father Patrick Quinn Council 11956 donated a St. Joseph statue for St. Paul's Mission in Tylertown. The church has never had a statue of St. Joseph and the Council felt it was something that was needed. Knight Albert Rogers built the pedestal for the statue to sit on. Fr. Martin Gillespie dedicated the statue at a special Mass, with a 4th degree Honor Guard from Padre Pio Assembly participating. (Contributed by Grand Knight Pat Altentaler.)

10,000 Masses for Unborn Babies Jan. 13-21

The Saint Michael the Archangel Organization of Memphis, which coordinated the 2008 worldwide Rosary for Unborn Babies prayer event in October, is coordinating a 10,000 Masses for Unborn Babies effort scheduled for nine consecutive days, Jan. 13-21.

"The 10,000 Masses for Unborn Babies is being offered to provide protection for innocent unborn babies," said Patrick Benedict, President of the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization and a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in the Diocese of Memphis. A person who wants to be a part of this effort may do so by asking a priest to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the protection of unborn human persons (the Mass should be offered on any of the nine days). The date and the location of the Mass would then need to be registered with the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization. This can be done by either sending an email to

PatrickBenedict@rcin.net or by sending the information by mail to P.O. Box 41257; Memphis, TN 38174.

The website of the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization is www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org

Families of the Month

Supreme conferred Family of the Month designation on two Mississippi families for the month of October, according to State Family Director Carl Brochard.

The families selected were Leroy and Kimberly Rider of Hattiesburg Council 1908 and Michael and Lorie Brechtel of Brandon Council 10216.

Carl also expressed his thanks to Councils that submitted a family for consideration for this recognition. Those Councils were 802, 898, 1244, 1908, 2134, 2180, 4898, 5556, 5654, 6765, 6872, 7120, 7211, 7974, 8038, 9124, 9409, 9543, 10216, 10443, 10499, 10901, 11934, 11956, 12271, 13502 and 13936.

Gautier Contributes

Funds raised by Gautier Council 9124 in the annual People with Intellectual Disabilities campaign were presented to Singing River Industries, a provider of services to the developmentally disabled on the Gulf Coast. The Council's Ron Myers presented a check for \$570.06, enabling Singing River to purchase recreational equipment to enhance the health and activity awareness of patients. (Contributed by Richard Geoff O'Neil.)

Changes in Store for Grillin' for Life

The 2009 Grillin' for Life BBQ Cook Off has a new date, a new venue and a new partnership with an eye toward making the event bigger and better than ever.

The 5th annual cook off is scheduled Oct. 16-17, the third weekend of October, moving from St. Joseph School to the Cultural Arts Center in Madison. The Center is located at the corner of Main St. and Highway 51.

The Central Mississippi Councils that sponsor the event are teaming with the Scarecrow Cruise and Car Show, which attracted more than 300 classic car owners from Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana for the 4th edition of the show this year.

Grillin' for Life funds benefit state-wide pro-life charities that operate centers where pregnant women can find help and friendship. More than \$15,000 has been distributed in the cook off's first four years.

Auxiliary Loses Founding Member

Nel Rose Lambert, the first President of Jackson Council 848's Ladies Auxiliary and a founding member of the State Ladies Auxiliary, died Nov. 24 after an extended illness.

"Nel was a stalwart Knights of Columbus supporter for many years and played an integral role in recruiting members through their wives and through the RCIA program, which she has been involved with for many years," said State Warden Jim McCraw of Jackson Council 848. "She has served as a role model for Catholic women."

Mrs. Lambert's son, Bro. Ivan Lambert, is a Past Grand Knight and current Trustee for Council 848 and has been Faithful Navigator for the Bishop Gerow Assembly. Her late husband, Bob, was a former District Deputy and PGK for Council 848.

Meridian Salutes 1st Degree Honoree



Meridian Council 802 held a 1st Degree Exemplification, adding five Brothers to the Order, with Past State Deputy Tom Zettler (left) as the honoree. Grand Knight John Bennett presented the honoree certificate to Mr. Zettler, who served as State Deputy for the period 1993-95. He also is a member of Meridian's 1st Degree Team, filling the role of Grand Knight. (Submitted by District Deputy Mike Kassouf.)

(New Team, Continued from Page 1)

Bro. Don has a distinguished record of service to the Knights of Columbus since making his 1st Degree in 1987. Over those years, he says, his most rewarding assignment with the Knights was coordinating the Katrina Relief Program. "I could not have been successful in this assignment without the help of my best friend and wife, Carol."

He was previously a member of Moss Point Council 1605, where he served as Grand Knight, a position he also filled at Lucedale Council 11904, one of two new councils in whose formation he was instrumental while serving as a District Deputy. Don shared the 1997 District Deputy of the Year Award with Dennis Riecke.

Don served on the Jurisdiction's 2nd and 3rd Degree team for several years. He currently serves as a Trustee for Council 9409. He also is a 4th Degree Sir Knight and previously was a member of Assembly 561, which he served as Faithful Navigator.

Bro. Elvis joined Council 4898 in 1983 while a student at the U. of Southern Mississippi and became a Sir Knight in the 4th Degree in 1991. Through transfers with his company, Elvis has been a member of many Councils in the state.

Elvis was Council 4898 Grand Knight at the time Hurricane Katrina wiped out the Council home. He held meetings at his home to rally the Council to take the steps needed to help St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and the Council recover from Katrina.

As president of the Council's "Home Corporation," Elvis signed the documents purchasing the Long Beach Skating Rink that was then refurbished and served as the "lifeboat" church, parish elementary school and Council home.

Bro. David became a Knight in 1995 in the same Tupelo

Corinth, Tupelo Combine for 1st Degree



Corinth Council 8912 and Tupelo Council 8848 joined forces to host a 1st Degree Exemplification in Tupelo, inducting 14 new Knights into the Order. Tupelo added 8 members and Corinth welcomed 6 new Knights. Grand Knights Steve Clapp of the Corinth Council and Mark Dye of the Tupelo Council were instrumental in stage the Exemplification. (Submitted by District (1) Deputy Ray Ball.)

Council of which he is a member now and has chaired various service programs, including youth. He served as Grand Knight for the period 2001-03. He presently chairs the Council's Service Program and the annual men's retreat program.

Deacon Larry was appointed to the West Point ministry by Bishop Joseph Latino of the Diocese of Jackson. He has spent the past month commuting between Southaven and West Point and relocates to Immaculate Conception at the end of December.



'Light up for Christ' at Southaven Christ the King included a blessing service and the placement of hay in the manger, symbolically starting the Christmas season. Southaven Council 7120 joined Councils throughout the Order in a program that continues to grow in popularity each holiday season. Grand Knight Dan Bicknell assisted children in filling the manger with hay.

Mississippi Knights in the Kitchen

Long Beach Council 4898 hosted Thanksgiving dinner for seven visiting seminarians from Poland (left photo) and for Deacon candidates of the Diocese of Biloxi (at right). The seminarians were treated to a dinner of traditional Thanksgiving foods with a "South Mississippi" touch, including fried turkey and sausage gumbo. After the introduction by Diocesan Vocations Director Father Dennis Carver, the men were presented with a hard-bound Catholic Missal from Krakow, Poland. The missal will be 100 years old next year and had the seminarians turning through its pages and remarking at the handwritten passages and photos. Representatives from several K of C Councils on the coast as well as state officers were in attendance and shared in the men's company. It was a great evening for all and hopefully we will see one or more of these men in the future as our priests after



they are ordained. In the picture with the seminarians is Grand Knight Elvis Gates and Father Dennis Carver.

The Sacred Heart Cursillo Center in Deadeaux was the site for the Deacon candidates' dinner. The candidates are continuing their theology studies, with ordination scheduled for June at the cathedral in Biloxi. The group included (from left) Deacon Rich Hollingsworth, Associate Director Formation, Ministry of the Diaconate for the Diocese of Biloxi; Cathy Hollingsworth; Buddy VanCourt, candidate and member of the Council; Grand Knight Elvis Gates; Marriam Jones, Deacon class mentor; Mike Morgan, K of C member; Deacon Bob Jones, Deacon class mentor; Chef Peggy Morgan; 'Doc' Holiday, K of C member; Gayle VanCourt; and Deacon Gayden Harper, Director, Ministry of the Diaconate for the Diocese of Biloxi. (Contributed by Grand Knight Elvis Gates and FM Mike Gilly.)



Ocean Springs Council 5654 and the Ladies Auxiliary served more than 250 meals at their annual Robert Foster Thanksgiving dinner for senior citizens. Turkeys that were not served were delivered to the Lord Is My Help soup kitchen. The late Robert Foster started the dinner to thank senior citizens for their assistance to the Council. "It seems like we are serving more every year, which is great," commented Grand Knight Carl Brochard, who submitted the photographs.



About 40 members of Biloxi Council 1244 and their families socialized and ate steak as they watched the Carolina Panthers beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 38-23, in a Monday Night NFL game viewed on a large projector screen TV in the KC Hall. Past Grand Knight and Trustee Tom Easter prepared a sumptuous meal of prime rib cooked over an open grill, baked potatoes, salad and dessert consisting of chocolate and pumpkin pies prepared by his wife, Susan. Grand Knight Mike Arguelles (left) supplied a basket of locally-harvested oysters, which he shucked; Publicity Chair Joe Ravita (center) serves Past Grand Knight Chester Trahan and his wife Regina; and Joe Fell prepares the steaks. This event is one of several such spectator sport and tournament-type activities presented by the Council and managed by Deputy Grand Knight Randy Trahan. (Contributed by Joe Ravita.)