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Daniel 'Danny' Lechner, Biloxi

State Chaplain

Father Al Camp, Madison

Send Council, Assembly and Circle news and announcements by the 10th of each month to:

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Coming Events

Exemplifications

Tuesday, January 19

1st Degree, Greenville Council 2134,
6:30 p.m., Council Hall.

Sunday, January 24

1st Degree, Meridian Council 0802, 1
p.m., Council Hall.

Saturday, February 6

Major, Clinton Council 7854, 1st Degree
11 a.m.; 2nd Degree 1 p.m. followed by
3rd Degree, Holy Savior Parish Hall.

Thursday, February 18

1st Degree, Starkville Council 6765, 7
p.m., St. Joseph Parish Center.

Saturday, February 27

2nd and 3rd Degree, Starkville Council
6765, 2nd Degree 10:30 a.m. followed
by 3rd Degree, St. Joseph Parish Cen-
ter.

Saturday, January 30

Major, D'Iberville Council 9094, 1st De-
gree 9 a.m., 2nd Degree 11 a.m., fol-
lowed by 3rd, Sacred Heart Parish gym.

Saturday, April 10

4th Degree, Meridian Assembly 1251,
1:15 p.m., Council Hall, 109 North.

Noteworthy Dates

Jan. 31, Survey of Fraternal Activity
and Special Olympics Participation
forms 1728 and 4584 to Supreme.

Feb 15, Semiannual Audit Form 1295 to
Supreme

The Magnolia Knight

Vol. 10, No. 1



January 2010

A Word from the State Deputy

**A Different Plan of Action is Called for
If We Are to Make the New Year Truly 'New'**

By Peter Sukanek

Happy New Year!

We say that a lot at this time of year, but what makes it "new?" Certainly, we have to remember a new number when we write out a check. But that by itself does not make it "new" in the sense we have a new movie to see, or a new CD to listen to or a new car to drive. The year is only "new" if we choose to make it so. There is nothing delightful or magical about it unless we choose to make it that way. Making a resolution to lose weight or stop smoking will make no difference in our lives unless we consciously decide to do so. I like to think that Christmas is a magical season, but the day after Dec. 31 is just like the day before unless I make it so.



To "make it so," unfortunately, always requires some work. I would like to be able to fit in an older pair of pants I have, but that means eating less, exercising more and doing without ice cream (at least most days). Just wishing for it, and doing nothing else, insures I will have to buy new pants.

As you can see from our Membership Director's figures that also appear in this issue, our membership numbers for this Fraternal Year are pretty poor. Wishing they were better won't make them so. Unless we choose to do things in 2010 different from how we did them in the latter part of 2009, our numbers will not improve. As our Immediate Past State Deputy Danny Lechner said, many of our Councils have been in the "suspension mode." Unless we work to get back to the "recruitment mode," we will stay at the bottom of the Order's membership listings.

All of the State officers are willing to work to make this another successful year. I am asking that you work with us on this. Make this New Year a successful one for membership in the Knights of Columbus. Put on a "Blitz" in March. Get the word out to all the men in your Parish. The Knights of Columbus are looking for good Catholic men. If you want the assistance of any of us, State officers, District Deputies or Program Directors, we are all willing to help. Call or send us an email.

One final thing. An important thing. The purpose of new members is not to have bigger numbers in order to win membership awards. The purpose of new members is to let our Councils serve more Parishes, to put on larger and better programs, resulting in more and more effective programs supporting our Church, our community, our families, our youth and life. The purpose of new members is to insure that we will be able to continue to present these programs in the future. The purpose of these new members is to help us demonstrate that first and foremost, the Knights of Columbus stands for Charity.

New State Website Up and Running at www.kofc-ms.org

Jurisdiction Leadership Gathers for Mid-Winter Activities Review



State Officers, Program Chairs and Council leadership from throughout the state convened at three sites this month for mid-winter meetings to stay abreast of activities in the jurisdiction's Northern, Central and Southern Regions. State Deputy Peter Sukanek greets General Agent Jerry Woods of Cleveland, who reported a 13 percent increase in K of C insurance sales for the year, during which the program gained A.M. Best and Standard and Poor's top ratings for the 34th consecutive year; and Hispanic Outreach Chair Pascual Cruz of Sardis invited Knights who speak or read Spanish fluently to consider becoming a member of a Hispanic 1st Degree team which is in the formative stage. Interested individuals should contact Pascual at pascualcruz@panola.com or at 662-487-1374. The meetings were held in Gautier, Brandon/Flowood and Oxford.

Degree Exemplifications Planned at Four Sites in Coming Weeks

Meridian, Clinton, Starkville and D'Iberville Councils will hold degree exemplifications during the remainder of January and into February, with details as follows:

1st Degree, Jan. 24, 1 p.m., Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council Hall.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree, Jan. 30, D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094, Sacred Heart Parish gymnasium, 10446 LeMoyne Blvd. Notify GK Lee Landry at 228-396-3177, leepluto@bellsouth.net, or DD #11 Roger Feters at 228-392-6647, rd57@msn.com, with the number of candidates no later than Monday, Jan. 25. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the 1st Degree at 9 a.m. Registration for the 2nd and 3rd Degrees begins at 10 a.m., with the 2nd Degree ceremonial at 11 a.m. and the 3rd Degree following. Lunch is \$5 for everyone; the dress code is jacket and tie.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree, Feb. 6, Clinton Holy Savior Council 7854, Holy Savior Parish Hall, 714 Lindale St.

Notify GK Bill O'Connor at 601-924-6073, waconnor@comcast.net, or DD#5 John Piazza at 601-636-1727, jibl1727@bellsouth.net, with the number of candidates by Jan. 20. Registration for the 1st Degree begins at 10 a.m., with the ceremonial beginning at 11 a.m. Registration for the 2nd and 3rd Degrees is at noon, with the 2nd Degree ceremonial beginning at 1 p.m. followed by the 3rd Degree. Lunch, at no cost to candidates and \$5 for all other members, will be served immediately following the 3rd Degree. The dress code is coat and tie

1st Degree, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765, St. Joseph's Parish Center. The Council follows this ceremonial with 2nd and 3rd Degrees on Feb. 27 at the same site. Please email starkvilledegree@bellsouth.net with numbers for each degree as well as names, as Degree certificates will be provided. Lunch will be served at \$5 per person, with no cost to clergy, candidates and the Degree teams. Dress attire for the Exemplification is dress slacks and dress shirt; tie and sport coat are optional.

Bring Candidate Kits for the 1st Degree if available; otherwise, kits will be available from the host Council at a cost of \$4. Cost for the 2nd and 3rd Degree is \$16 for those over 26; \$10 for those 26 and younger (\$5 if an insurance member and 26 and younger).

Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Assembly 1251 will host a 4th Degree Exemplification on Saturday, April 10. See February's *The Magnolia Knight* for full details.

Two Families Honored

The families of Henry and Patricia Zuber of Ocean Springs Fred L. Westbrook Sr. Council 5654 and Chris and Mary Manning of Madison St. Francis Council 9543 were selected as recipients of Family of the Month awards in November's Supreme drawing. Other Council nominations were: 802, 1605, 2134, 2180, 4898, 6765, 7120, 9124, 9673, 10216, 10443, 10499, 10901, 11956, 12271.

Supreme Launches 'Food for Families' Initiative

With the number of Americans and Canadians at risk of hunger far higher than usual and the number of those planning to give to charity lower than usual, the Knights of Columbus has committed \$1 million and legions of active volunteers to its "Food for Families" program to collect food and financially support food banks in the United States and Canada this winter.

In a letter to State Deputies, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson urges appointment of a Food for Families state program chair to promote and direct a food collection and delivery drive to restock local food banks. The goal is to have at least 25 percent of the active Councils in each Jurisdiction take part.



As an incentive, Jurisdictions that reach the 25 percent goal will receive a share of \$1 million that the Supreme Council has set aside to restock food banks in their areas.

"This is an emergency situation, and the Supreme Officers have decided that the Knights of Columbus must step forward once again to take a leadership role in addressing the crisis," Supreme Knight Anderson wrote in his letter.

Food for Families is the third part of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program which began last February in response to the economic crisis. It joins the Coats for Kids and Help a Child in Need programs.

Membership Champions

Extra Large Councils

Brandon St. Paul Council 10216

Large Councils

Hattiesburg Bishop Fahey Council 1908

Medium Councils

Pass Christian Msgr. Leech Council 4472

Small Councils

Dedeaux Sacred Heart Council 12331

COUNTDOWN

By Don Cox, Bishop Gerow Chair

Convention is less than 4 months away. It is time to finalize your fundraisers to meet the donation date of April 15. The transmittal for donation was distributed previously and is also available on the web site. Brothers, let's show our support for our seminarians, the priests for the future, and be 100 percent in participation.

