

THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Father Bob Higginbotham, D'Iberville

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

Fred Middleton
4322 Bloombury St.
Southaven, MS 38672
fredmiddleton@comcast.net
901-218-2393

The Magnolia Knight

On the Web

www.ms-kofc.org

FROM THE STATE DEPUTY

COLUMBUS DAY, HOLIDAYS ARE A GOOD TIME TO SHOWCASE YOUR COUNCIL AND RECRUIT MEMBERS

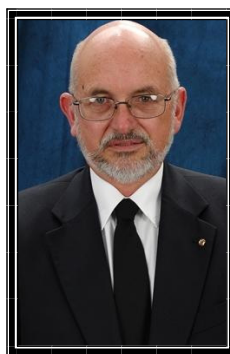
By GERALD E. 'JERRY' SCHMUCK

From reading your newsletters and talking with some of you at various functions, it looks as though many of you are doing some great things with programs. Many of you are active in programs with your youth, in your families and in your Church, such as sponsoring special recognition nights, family picnics and Life Teen programs, and that's just to name a few. You are all doing great! Keep up the good work.

Speaking of Council activities, I had the pleasure earlier this month of helping Gulfport Bishop Gunn Council 1583 celebrate its 100th anniversary. Gulfport Mayor George Schloegel was on hand and presented the Council with a proclamation and I had the pleasure of presenting the Council with a letter and proclamation from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. The food was delicious and a good time was had by all. PSD Guy Todaro and his son came from Utah as well to help the Council celebrate. It was good to see and talk with Brother Guy again.

Now that we are through Labor Day, the holiday season is fast approaching. Columbus Day will soon be on us with Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas close behind. Have you made your Council plans yet? Now is the time to get busy planning for all your holiday activities.

With Columbus Day coming next month, think about having an open house. A family-oriented social evening might be a good way to recruit a



Gerald Schmuck

few new members. Supreme has some excellent videos and brochures you can use. Also, that would be a good time to invite your field agent to discuss fraternal benefits.

Veteran's Day will follow shortly after. Have you thought about a Veteran's Day Mass to honor all veterans? My home Council at the Seabee base does one every year. We invite the veterans from the Biloxi Armed Forces Home and have a 4th Degree Honor Guard and a flag ceremony with representatives from each branch of service.

Shortly after that will come Thanksgiving and then the Christmas season. If you are planning on selling Christmas cards this year, it's time to order those boxes of cards. Nat Zummo is anxiously awaiting your order.

It is my honor and pleasure to serve as your State Deputy, and I look forward to seeing all of you in the near future. Remember, as we enter this busy time of the year, it is very important that we take some time out each day to give our Lord the honor and praise He deserves. That should ALWAYS be our first priority.

VIVAT JESUS!

Coming Events

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2nd and 3rd Degree Exemplification, registration at noon, Grenada Rev. Clifford Meador Council 10443, 320 College Blvd.

Saturday, Sept. 24, Financial Secretary Training, 10 a.m. D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094, 10446 Lemoyne Blvd.; 2nd and 3rd Degree Exemplification, D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094.

Monday, Oct. 3, 1st Degree Exemplification, 7 p.m., Hernando DeSoto Council 7120, 785 Church Rd. West, Southaven.

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2nd and 3rd Degree Exemplification, Hattiesburg Bishop Fahey Council 1908.

Saturday, Oct. 22, 4th Degree Exemplification, D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094.

Sunday, Oct. 30, 2nd and 3rd Degree Exemplification, Flowood St. Paul Council 10216, registration at 11:30 a.m., 5971 Highway 25, Flowood.

Save \$32
Display Case of 35 Boxes
of Christmas Cards
\$130 by Sept. 25
Contact Nat Zummo, Chair
Keep Christ in Christmas
35 Sunline Dr.
Brandon, MS 39042
601-825-0793
zummonat@bellsouth.net

STATE DEPUTY'S RULES FOR RETENTION/SUSPENSION**BY DANIEL LECHNER, PSD, STATE RETENTION CHAIR**

The following information is offered in order to clarify the State's position on suspensions, discussed at the Regional Schools of Columbianism:

From its establishment, the Mississippi Knights of Columbus has lost more members through death, withdrawals and suspensions than we presently have in total membership, a trend we cannot allow to continue. With the State Deputy's blessing, we have devised some rules that must be followed in an effort to reverse this trend.

Rule No.1 - Establish a Retention Committee to examine reasons why Knights become inactive and let their membership lapse. This committee plans programs to conserve the Council's membership and anticipate and solve problems that may cause membership suspensions. The Deputy Grand Knight should be named to the position of Retention Chair and his committee composed of the Council's Trustees. After discovering problems, the committee should work with Council officers to remedy them.

The Financial Secretary should provide the Retention Committee with a list of members in danger of being suspended. The Retention Committee contacts these members and discusses their reasons for being inactive and urges them to pay their dues and become active again. The Financial Secretary can also furnish a list of suspended members. The committee should also contact former Knights who still meet membership eligibility requirements and ask them to rejoin.

Rule No. 2 - Supremes' theme this year is "You are Your Brother's Keeper." When you have a member that is up for suspension, think of him as your brother and do everything in your power to save him. Remember that someone put in a lot of effort to make him your "brother," so you owe it to him to put in as much effort to save him. Never suspend a brother Knight because he can't pay

his dues. Suspend him because he won't pay his dues.

Rule No. 3 - When you have completed Rule 1 and Rule 2 and your "brother" cannot be saved, you must follow the proper procedure for suspension.

JURISDICTION PROCESS TO SUSPEND

The following guidelines are in place to ensure the correct procedure is followed during the suspension process:

- 1) You must have a current form 365 on file at Supreme with a Retention Chairman listed.
- 2) The process to suspend must be followed as outlined in the Financial Secretary Manual dated Jan 2011, Page 4 - Billing - and page 53 - Suspension Non-Payment.
- 3) You must have completed the semiannual audit report form 1295 or 1295-2 correctly (see page 44 - Schedule C, sample 1295 on page 46 of the FS Manual).
- 4) A copy of your Council's "Outstanding Balance Report" and a copy of the "Retention Committee Report" with the 1845s must be mailed to the State Deputy and District Deputy.

Failure to follow the above procedures will null the proposed suspensions.

Note: The State Deputy has the authority to approve or disapprove suspensions.

TWO FAMILIES SELECTED FOR JULY AWARD

Two Mississippi families were selected in Supreme's drawing for July Family of the Month awards from among nominees submitted by Councils throughout the Order.

The families selected are Steven and Lynn Overman of Pascagoula Msgr. P.J. Carey Council 1605 and Daniel and Linda Hebert of McComb Charles R. Brill Council 8054.

PROGRAMS – THE 'KEY' TO MEMBERSHIP RETENTION**BY ELVIS GATES
STATE PROGRAM CHAIR**

Worthy Council leadership, it is really a simple concept:

Men join the Knights because they want to DO SOMETHING, and they have seen the Knights DOING SOMETHING they WANT TO DO themselves. The key is to keep DOING SOMETHING and having something TO DO that fits with what your members like or want TO DO.

Councils with the most activities that are spread out among Supreme's six areas of activities - Church, Council, Community, Family, Youth, Pro-Life - historically have the LEAST amount of membership turnover. That is because they have found a way to schedule activities in areas that appeal to the different tastes of their membership. Not everyone wants to work with Youth programs, BUT, those same individuals may leap at the chance TO DO SOMETHING in an activity within the Church or Community area. Some men have joined our organization just to stand up for life and to support our Pro-Life stance. These guys may not want to do a Lenten fish fry because they don't like to cook but may respond enthusiastically for a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for a crisis pregnancy center. It is all a matter of WHAT THEY LIKE TO DO.

So, to keep men from leaving your ranks because they think "all the Council ever does is have meetings and do stuff I don't care that much about..." develop a few activities in every area and see what that does for your retention.

If you are reading this and are not a Council officer, YOUR responsibility is to point out to leadership your desire to DO SOMETHING in the areas you are interested in! You aren't going to find too many Grand Knights that won't take you up on your willingness to get involved. Just remember: we're all just human and can't read minds. Get your interests before the Council and JUST DO IT!

JURISDICTION HOSTING SILVER ROSE, PARTICIPATING IN NEW MARIAN PRAYER PROGRAM

BY JOE JONES, STATE SILVER ROSE CHAIR

The Silver Rose is coming to Mississippi next month, crossing from Alabama into the state at Meridian on Oct. 16 and making 20 other steps before being passed off to Louisiana Knights at Slidell in November.

Three silver roses have been making their way from Canada to the U.S. to Mexico since May 1 exemplifying Knights of Columbus devotion to Our Lady and commitment to the Culture of Life. The roses conclude their journey on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey, Mexico

Following its arrival in Meridian, the Silver Rose will make appearances as follows: Oct. 17 Philadelphia, 18 Columbus, 19 Tupelo, 20 Oxford, 21 Batesville, 22 Grenada, 23 Vicksburg, 24 Jackson Council 848, 25 St. Richard, 26 Gluckstadt St Francis, 27 Canton, 28 Brandon, 29 Hattiesburg, 30 Ocean Springs, 32 Gautier, Nov. 2 Biloxi, 3 Gulfport, 4 Kiln, 5 Dedeaux and 6 Picayune.

BY BOB LEO, STATE MARIAN PRAYER PROGRAM CHAIR

A new Knights of Columbus Marian Prayer Program dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe was launched at the Supreme Convention in Denver. The prayer program will continue through next year, concluding with the 2nd International Guadalupe Festival in the Los Angeles Coliseum a few days before the opening of the 2012 convention.

State Deputies received specially prepared framed images of Our Lady of Guadalupe for use in the program.

The Mississippi Jurisdiction is circulating two Icons. Each district will have the icons for a period of two months. The schedule for the icons is as follows: **Icon 1** – District 12 through October; District 11 Nov. 1 - Dec. 31; District 10 Jan. 1 - Feb. 28; District 9 March 1 - April 30; District 8 May 1 - June 1; District 7 July 1 - Aug. 31. **Icon 2** - District 6 through October, District 5 Nov. 1 - Dec. 31; District 4 Jan. 2 - Feb. 28; District 3 March 1 - April 30, District 2 May 1 - June 1, and District 1 July 1 - Aug. 31.



TUPELO COUNCIL SPONSORS BOY SCOUT TROOP

Members of Tupelo Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council 8848 (from left) Financial Secretary Jeff Houin, Scoutmaster Ronny Buse, Thomas Whitenton and Grand Knight Kenny Valentine proudly display the banner of Boy Scout Troop 2627, now sponsored by the Council. Buse also chairs the Troop Committee, of which Houin also is a member. (Photo by District Deputy 1 Ray Ball.)

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT?

BY ELVIS GATES

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This is a VERY COMMON statement that most, if not all, Council and state leadership have had to make in the past.

What are we talking about, you wonder?

We're talking about members (and some officers, too,) being "out of the loop" because they aren't updating us with their most current email address or other means of contact. We are a charitable organization, so every dollar we spend on postage is one less dollar going toward feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, educating future priests . . . you get the idea. So the use of email and other electronic forms of communication are the most cost effective way to get the word out.

Please help us by keeping your information up to date with your Council leaders, and if you are in Council leadership, please keep the state updated with your most current email address. That way, you will receive timely information and can plan accordingly.

MADISON ST. FRANCIS COUNCIL 9543 COOKS FOR INSTALLATION OF NEW CANTON PASTOR



Madison St. Francis Council 9543 did the cooking for the luncheon following the installation of Fr. Michael Barth, ST, by Bishop Joseph Latino as the new pastor of Holy Child Jesus Church in Canton. The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity assumed pastoral care of church and school in July, and Fr. Barth added duties as pastor to his duties as pastor and Mission Director for Camden Sacred Heart.

KC COUNCILS TEAM-UP ON WORTHY FUNDRAISER

BY GREGORY KELLER, COUNCIL 15121

Lumberton Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 7211 and Poplarville St. Joseph Council 15121 responded to the plea of the grandmother of Michael 'Buddy' Sherrill, 6, who was born with quadriplegic spastic cerebral palsy and fetal alcohol syndrome and underwent open heart surgery at the age of 6 months. Buddy is confined to a wheelchair but has a very upbeat attitude and an engaging personality.

His grandmother contacted the Councils and advised that a procedure called PERC or Percutaneous Muscle Lengthening would allow Buddy to be able to independently sit up by himself, stand and possibly walk with the assistance of braces and a walker.

The Councils took on the organization of fund raisers to offset the family's out-of-pocket medical expenses and accommodations while in New



Jersey, where the surgery was performed in August. They held spaghetti and meatball fund raisers in July, raising approximately \$14,000.

The word of this fund raiser spread through the K of C family and inspired other Councils to lend a helping hand. Council 12989 of La-combe, LA., donated funds toward the total amount raised. Grand Knight Fred Cowburn of Council 783 in Summit, NJ, was contacted and his Council assisted the family during their stay in New Jersey.



Grand Knight 7211 Joe McQueen, Buddy and Grand Knight 15121 Reginald Savoie.



Jackson St. Therese Council 8285 Brothers Julian Valencia, Kerry DeVertuil and Grand Knight Rusty Kemp hit the ground running early one morning to dismantle a metal building on the church property. The building was taken down to make way for paving the church's parking lot. (Submitted by Ben Mokry.)