

THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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FROM THE STATE DEPUTY

FROM RULINGS TO SURVEYS, MISSISSIPPI KNIGHTS HAVE A STAKE

BY GERALD E. 'JERRY' SCHMUCK

By now I'm sure all of you know about the latest ruling from the US Department of Health and Human Services declaring that employers, including Catholic employers, will be forced to offer their employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs and contraception. This has a tremendous effect on all of us Catholics. Accordingly, the US Council of Catholic Bishops has taken a stand against the ruling. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson sent a personal letter to all Grand Knights asking that we support our Bishops. The recent "compromise" offered by President Obama is, in the terms of a recent CNN article, nothing more than a "bait and switch." While the words have changed, the intent and mean-

ing remain the same. I encourage everyone to learn more about this and to take a stand according to their conscience. Please go to www.usccb.org/conscience and www.kofc.org to learn more about what you can do to help.

When this month's issue of *The Magnolia Knight* is published, Valentine's Day will be over. Did you remember to treat your wife to a "Special Day?" The members of Woolmarket James D. Hart



Gerald Schmuck

Council 9673 sure did. I was invited by Grand Knight Paul Mitchell to attend their annual Valentine's Dinner. The men decorated the hall, complete with balloons, hearts and flowers. They also prepared the meal and served as waiters to their wives. When Linda and I arrived, I was informed that this is the wives' "special day" and that I would have to work for my meal by serving my wife. At the end, the men even cleaned up while the women "chatted." It turned out great. Everyone had a good time.

Many of you may remember that at last year's State Convention PSDs Rich Lieding and Larry Tabor each submitted a Resolution for the Delegate's consideration. PSD Rich submitted a resolution suggesting Supreme recognize 3rd Degree team members, and PSD Larry submitted a resolution suggesting that Supreme start a Memorial Mass for all deceased members. Both passed our convention and were submitted to Supreme. Those resolutions also passed at the Supreme level and have been implemented. There is now a Memorial Mass said for all

deceased Knights at St. Mary's in New Haven. Also, those of you on a 3rd Degree team should have received a Certificate of Appreciation and a "Challenge Coin." Congratulations to PSD Rich Lieding and PSD Larry Tabor!

As you know, the Fraternal Surveys were due this month. Thanks to Councils that submitted them. When adding things together, it is apparent that Mississippi will have an excellent year and will once again show all throughout the Order that while we may be small, we have a big heart. Looking at the submitted reports, it is apparent that you have done an outstanding job. Let's keep up the good work!

At the Mid-Winter meetings, several of you asked about the State Bowling Tournament. We knew when it was supposed to happen but not where. It took but one phone call, and Natchez said, "Sure; we can make that happen." Get your teams together and mark your calendars for March 3rd and 4th. We'll see you there!

We are doing well on the membership side of the house as well. We do, however, need to pick up the pace a bit. Our goal is 50 new Knights a month for the next 5 months. That might appear to be a little high to many of you, but it is doable. If each of you brings in "just one more Knight," we'll get there. The more men we have in our State, the more good things we can do. I don't know about you, but I can truly say that being a Knight has made me a better Catholic. We owe every Catholic man the opportunity to be a member of our great Order.

In closing I want to say thank you; thank you for being a Knight of Columbus, thank you for all you do for our State and thank you for allowing me to be your State Deputy.



State Deputy

Gerald E. 'Jerry' Schmuck, Gulfport

State Secretary

David Scott, Madison

State Treasurer

Jim McCraw, Jackson

State Advocate

Noel Aucoin, D'Iberville

State Warden

Philip Jabour, Flowood

Immediate Past State Deputy

Dr. Peter C. Sukanek, Oxford

State Chaplain

Father Bob Higginbotham, D'Iberville

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

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The Magnolia Knight

On the Web

www.kofc-ms.org

STATE ADDS 22 KNIGHTS IN JANUARY RECRUITING EFFORT

By MICHAEL KASSOUF, STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Only missing our state goal of 25 new Knights in January was an outstanding job by the 12 Councils that brought in the 22 New Brother Knights.

This brings our total additions in this Fraternal Year to 204; our goal for the year is 400. February's goal is 50, our largest monthly goal; but past history shows that February has been our best recruiting month in the past.

January 2012 Recruiting

| Council | Dist. | City | Gain |
|---------|-------|---------------|------|
| 1244 | 11 | Biloxi | 2 |
| 1522 | 9 | Bay St. Louis | 3 |
| 4893 | 10 | Long Beach | 1 |
| 7120 | 2 | Southaven | 2 |
| 8038 | 6 | Pearl | 1 |
| 8912 | 1 | Corinth | 5 |
| 9094 | 11 | North Biloxi | 3 |
| 9543 | 6 | Madison | 1 |
| 9673 | 11 | Woolmarket | 1 |
| 11934 | 6 | Gluckstadt | 1 |
| 12331 | 9 | Dedeaux | 1 |



Corinth St. James the Less Council 8912 led the way in January recruiting, adding five members in an Exemplification that also brought in one new Knight for Tupelo Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council 8848. Degree team members and recruits were (from left) Deputy Grand Knight Tommy Thompson, Guard Bill Geer, Financial Secretary Larry Gann, Chancellor Wyvil Sartain, Council 8912 recruit Juan U. Longoria, Grand Knight Fred Reiselt, Council 8848 recruit Mark Summers, Council 8912 recruit Tom Treadway, Warden and District Deputy 1 Ray Ball, Council 8912 recruit Luis Rosales, music director William Garth, Council 8912 recruit Kenneth Floyd, Guard Oliver DeLonge and Council 8912 recruit Justin Ulibarri.

BATESVILLE, D'IBERVILLE HOST FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

Member Management and Member Billing will be reviewed for Financial Secretaries in workshops at Batesville and D'Iberville.

The Batesville workshop is Saturday, Feb. 18, beginning at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, hosted by Batesville Fr. Thomas M. Boyce Council 13502.

D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094 hosts the second workshop on March 10 at the Council Hall.

Time permitting, bylaws also will be reviewed if any Grand Knights are in attendance.

Those planning to attend are requested to register by emailing Kassouf@bellsouth.net and to bring a laptop if they have one.

Both Councils will provide a meal.

FROM THE GENERAL AGENT

ISSUE AGE RAISED TO 80 FOR K OF C INSURANCE

By JERRY WOODS

When I started as an agent with the K of C the maximum age for obtaining insurance was 65. A few years later, that was increased to 70, then to 75. Since January, the issue age for whole life insurance is 80.

This is tremendous – anyone between the ages of 75 and 80 can apply for whole life insurance in our Order. No longer can anyone between those ages say they cannot apply for insurance in our Order. Of course, the application is subject to underwriting regulations.

This opens up a new area for Councils to achieve their insurance quota.

Contact me for an appointment regarding this new availability. My e-mail is jerry.woods@kofc.org. or call at 662-846-6308.

NATCHEZ WILL HOST 50TH BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Rivergate Bowl in Natchez is the site of the K of C 50th Annual State Bowling Tournament scheduled for the weekend of March 3-4.

Singles and doubles events are scheduled for 11 am. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, with the team event at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 4.

Entry forms and rules are available on the State K of C website at www.kofc-ms.org. Return entries to Tournament Chair Darren Cowart, 4 Oakhurst Dr., Natchez, MS 39120; 601-446-7876; darren-cowart@yahoo.com.

There will be one cash prize awarded for each five entries as prize funds allow, with trophies for winners of each event.

The tournament is open to all members in good standing of the K of C, Ladies Auxiliary and Columbian Squires.

Mississippi Knights in Action



Vocation Sponsorship Award

Olive Branch Our Lady Queen of Peace Assembly 3081 received the Vocation Sponsorship Award from State Master Larry Roberts at the Mid-Winter School of Columbianism in Batesville. Faithful Navigator Otha Jones accepted the award along with Olive Branch Fr. Leo John Dehon Grand Knight John Chiumento, District Deputy 2 Joe Suhanin and Financial Secretary Mervyn D'Mello.



District Free Throw Champions

Gautier St. Mary's Council 9124 hosted the District 12 Free Throw Championship with support from Pascagoula Msgr P.J. Carey Council 1605, Ocean Springs Fred L. Westbrook, Sr., Council 5654, Ocean Springs Msgr. Gregory Kennedy Council 10499 and Pascagoula Sacred Heart Council 12166. Ten champions were crowned.



Oxford Council Disburses PID Funds

Oxford St. John Council 10901 Grand Knight Basil Richmond presents a check to Gena Ivy, President of the Scott Center, a school for special needs children. The check for \$1,200 represents proceeds from the annual People with Intellectual Disabilities fund drive.



First Champions for Vancleave Council

Vancleave Fr. Dennis J. Harlow Council 15155 Youth Director Jarrod Fetters presents certificates to two of the winners in the Council's first Free Throw Championship.

Plan for Gerow Support, By Don Cox,

Brothers, our State Convention is approximately two months away, and we should be in our final preparation to support this important event in our Fraternal Year.

I hope your preparation includes a donation to the Bishop R.O. Gerow Program. Your State Treasurer and I are in weekly contact, and the donations will be monitored closely.

We plan to properly represent you as we present your donations to our Bishops.

Advertising your Lenten meals is likely to receive great Parish support if they are advertised as events that support priest education.

Please use the transmittal in making your donation.