

# THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Vol. 12, No. 4

April 2012

## A WORD FROM THE STATE DEPUTY

### CONVENTION: CELEBRATING OUR TIME TOGETHER AND THE SPIRIT OF COLUMBIANISM

BY GERALD E. 'JERRY' SCHMUCK

The time for our 108<sup>th</sup> annual convention is rapidly approaching! Are you ready for a good time? Linda and I are!

On April 27-29, Long Beach Council 4898 will host our convention at the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis. Convention time celebrates our time together and the spirit of Columbianism. It is a time to make new friends, renew old acquaintances and "recharge our batteries." Long Beach has worked hard to make this a successful event and will surely prove to be among the best conventions ever.

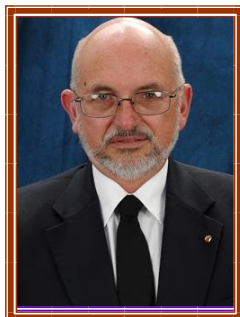
As in past years, we are happy to host several special guests this year. Bishops Morin, Latino and Houck are

all planning on being with us. We are especially pleased that Bishop Latino will celebrate our Saturday Necrology Mass

and Bishop Morin will celebrate our Sunday Mass. Our State Chaplain, Father Bob Higginbotham, will be with us as well to "keep us on the right track." Our Supreme representative this year will be Ronald White, PSD from Maryland.

While I'm sure we will all enjoy our time together, there is also important business for us to accomplish as well. The elected delegates will select or re-elect the men who will be held responsible for providing guidance to the Mississippi Knights for the coming year. They will also elect the men who will represent Mississippi at the Supreme Convention in Anaheim, CA in August. They will select the best projects from our six program areas from the many excellent projects and will tell us who Mississippi's Knight and Family of the year will be. There will also be several resolutions for us to consider. While all are important, one will need special consideration.

By now you should have heard about the Department of Health and Hu-



GERALD SCHMUCK

man Service mandate that will force religious institutions to fund services and products contrary to their moral teachings. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has taken a strong stand against the mandate. They have formed an ad hoc committee to defend our religious freedoms with our own Supreme Chaplain, the Most Reverend Archbishop-designate William E. Lori, as the Chairman. Also among the members is our personal friend, the Most Reverend Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile.

The Ad Hoc committee states that "Religious liberty is not only about our ability to go to mass on Sunday or pray the Rosary at home. It is about whether we can make our contributions to the common good of all Americans. Can we do the good works our faith calls us to do, without having to compromise that very same faith?"

We, the State Officers have submitted a resolution for your consideration to do whatever we Mississippi Knights can do to help win this battle. There will be more information to include a proposed "Fortnight of Freedom" program in coming Magnolia Knight issues.

Once again, thank you for all you do for our State and thank you for allowing me to be your State Deputy. Linda and I look forward to seeing you in Bay St. Louis.

Vivat Jesus!



#### 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.kofc-ms.org

## CHECK IT OUT!

COMPLETE AGENDA  
FOR THE 108<sup>TH</sup>  
STATE CONVENTION  
IS AVAILABLE  
AT [WWW.KOFC-MS.ORG](http://WWW.KOFC-MS.ORG)

Mississippi Knights of Columbus  
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108th State Convention-April 27-29, 2012



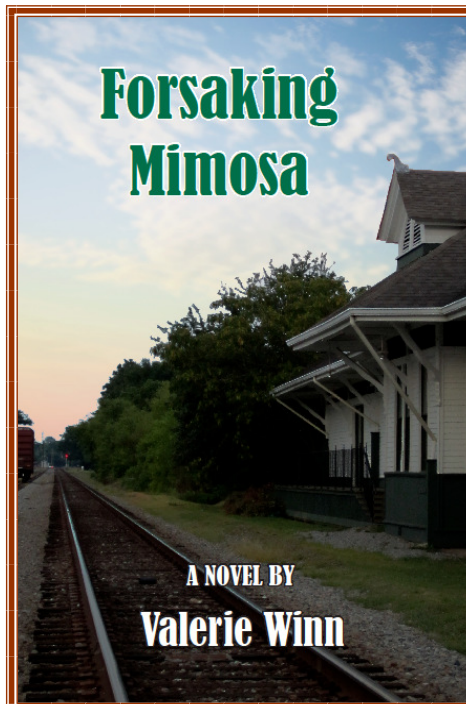
### LONGTIME WISH FULFILLED

*In a very special and emotional occasion, Madison St. Francis Council 9543 presented 4<sup>th</sup> Degree regalia to Sir Knight Ted Ravenstein, who is partially blind and wheelchair-bound and who has always wanted to be in the Honor Guard. He shows off his new chapeaux for wife Betty and (from left) Sir Knight Charles Wilkerson; State Master Larry Roberts, who presented the regalia; Ted's granddaughter, Emerald Ravenstein; and Sir*

### PHILADELPHIA HITS JACKPOT WITH ST. PATRICK'S DAY RAFFLE



*Employing the raffle method for the first time as a fund raiser for its charitable works, Philadelphia Father Rapfael Toner Council 13471 sold 2,556 tickets at \$1 each and shared the proceeds in a One-Half Pot of Gold St. Patrick's Day raffle. The Parish's new priest, Fr. Augustin Palimattam, drew the winning ticket held by Brad Young, receiving his prize from Grand Knight Ron DiPalma (left) and Treasurer Jerry Reynolds. (Submitted by Ron DiPalma.)*



Earlier this month, Dogwood Press of Brandon, whose owner-editor is Madison St. Francis Council 9543 Knight Joe Lee, rolled out a new hardback book by Mississippi author and cradle Catholic Valerie Winn of Gautier entitled *Forsaking Mimosa*.

The story takes place in a small, fictional railroad town in southwest Mississippi just before World War II. The protagonist, 14-year-old Max Brinkmann, is stunned when his father, a devout Catholic, moves his wife and seven kids from the town of Mimosa out to the middle of nowhere to get them away from "the temptations of the city" and enrolls them in the only Catholic school anywhere close by - St. Agnes Academy, which is an all-girls' school. *Forsaking Mimosa* takes place over a period of four years and is a true coming-of-age tale with lots of laughter, tragedy, and life lessons.

Valerie, the niece of retired priest Father Edward Balser, is a native of McComb and a graduate of Mississippi State University. She was the recipient of a 2008 Literary Arts Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission and was a finalist in the Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society's Creative Writing Competition and the James Jones First Novel Fellowship.



**'LIVE ON'****OR 'LEAVE ON' MONEY****BY JACK LEGUIN, FIELD AGENT**

As your working life progresses, your priorities will likely shift. Many major life events (weddings, births, education costs for children, etc.) are probably behind you. Your focus shifts to those "golden" retired years when you can enjoy your hobbies, grandchildren, travel or simply relaxing at home.

During my career as a field agent, I've had members ask me what they should do with a sum of money they are looking to "dump" somewhere for safe keeping. First, I tell them that there is no safer place to put their money than with the Knights of Columbus. No one has ever lost money using our retirement products. There are no risks assumed by you, the members. Second, I ask the member a question: Is this money to "live on" or "leave on"?

I ask this because the answer makes all the difference. If you want a guaranteed flow of cash in retirement, one of our annuity options might meet your needs. If this money is intended as a gift for grandchildren, to assist your wife in the event of your passing or to give to your favorite charity, a Single Premium Whole Life policy might be the best product.

When it comes to decisions about your finances and your family's future, don't leave things to chance. Discuss the options with a brother Knight who knows how to help - someone who has helped many other Catholic families not too different from yours; someone who can offer you life insurance, long-term care and retirement products backed by the strength and security of a AAA-rated insurance provider. Call me today to set up a time to meet. You'll only regret that you didn't call sooner.

*(Jack serves the Councils in Meridian, Laurel, Philadelphia, Pearl and Vicksburg. He can be reached at 601-917-1881 or [jack.leguin@kofc.org](mailto:jack.leguin@kofc.org))*

**YOUR AGENT IS HERE FOR YOU**

Stephen J. Dietz is a Field Agent with the Woods Agency serving brother Knights and their families in Western Harrison County from St. James in Gulfport to the Hancock County line (also serving Biloxi Council 1244).

The member of Gulfport St. James Council 11541, Stephen joined the Knights in 2002 to help serve the community and grow stronger in his faith. He became a Field Agent in 2011 to bring his experience in customer service and business to his fellow Knights.

A 2002 graduate of the U. of Southern Mississippi, Stephen is a former member of the Mississippi Army National Guard. Stephen was born in New Orleans but has spent most of his life in Biloxi, where he now resides with wife Cheryl, who works for a state university as a regional manager overseeing various community programs. They have a daughter, 5, who attends Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School in Biloxi.

"As a father who experience a debilitating illness at a young age, I understand the importance of protecting a family," Stephen said. "I want to help carry on the mission of Father McGivney by meeting with each member and his family every year. I want to help them realize their needs, hear about their goals and offer simple solutions through the Order's products."

Stephen can be reached at 228-326-5531 or [stephen.dietz@kofc.org](mailto:stephen.dietz@kofc.org).

**Stephen J. Dietz**

**Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 conducted a recruiting week-end in the four Parishes in its service area, capping the activities with an open house and cookout for new members and prospects**

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE  
BISHOP GEROW CONTRIBUTION**

**BY DON COX, CHAIR  
BISHOP R.O. GEROW PROGRAM**

April 15 was the deadline to mail a donation to the State Treasurer for the Bishop R.O. Gerow Priest Education Program. Many donations have been received and we are looking forward to another successful year.

All future donations should be carried to the State Convention and turned over in the registration area on Friday, April 27.

Vivat Jesus!

**3 MISSISSIPPI FAMILIES  
WIN FEBRUARY AWARDS**

The following won the February 2012 "Family of the Month" drawing from among nominees submitted by Council's throughout the Order:

Brian and Amanda Margavich, Biloxi James D. Hart Council 9673; Joseph and Jennifer Liberto, Grenada Rev. Clifford Meador Council 10443; and Elroy and Raven Badon of Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956.

Other Councils participants were 802, 898, 1605, 2134, 2180, 4472, 5654, 7120, 7915, 9124, 9543, 10901, 11934, 11995, 12271, 13502, 15155 and 15382.

