

THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

VOL. 12, No. 7

AUGUST 2012

A WORD FROM THE STATE DEPUTY

'CONGRATULATIONS ALL ON A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR'

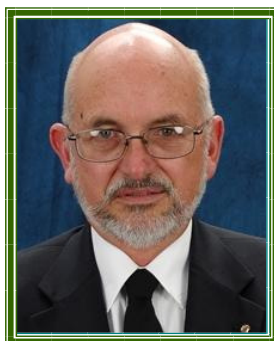
BY GERALD E. 'JERRY' SCHMUCK

As one fraternal year ends, another one begins. We fell slightly short of our state goal in the past year but, in my opinion, we still had a successful year nonetheless.

While we fell 49 new members short of our goal, all but 10 Councils in our state were recruitment-active. I have not received confirmation from Supreme yet, but of the 52 active Councils, it appears we have nine Star Councils and three Double Star Councils. We also have a Star District. That is GREAT news! Congratulations all for a very successful year.

As we enter into a new year it is time to review past practices and see what you can do to improve this

year. Remember, the key to a successful year is PROGRAMS. An active Council will keep its members happy, will help recruit new members and will help reduce suspensions and withdrawals. Your members all



GERALD SCHMUCK

want to do more than just go to meetings. If you have nothing scheduled for next year in the way of programs, I guarantee you will have problems

with recruitment and retention.

The month of July was very busy for all of us. We held the organizational meeting for State Officers and District Deputies the first weekend of the month. This year we had to say goodbye to Ray Ball, DD#1; Martin Bisek, DD#6 and Eddie Stutzman, DD#7. We, the State Officers thank each of them for their time and dedication to our State Jurisdiction and the Order. As we say good bye to them, we also welcome Mark Dye from Council 8848 Tupelo as DD#1, State Master Larry Roberts from Council 9543 as DD#6 and Louis Ybarra from Council 7915 Brookhaven as DD#7. We look for good things from each of them in the years ahead.

After our organizational meeting, we conducted our State Officer's and District Deputy's installation followed by the yearly installation banquet, all hosted by Council 9094 D'Iberville. Vancleave Council 15155 hosted the Southern School of Columbianism on July 8. The following weekend, Oxford Council 10901 hosted the Northern School, with Jackson

Council 15131 hosting the Central school.

At those schools we established our goals and made plans to build on last year's success for an even better year this year. Our state goal this year is like last year: difficult but attainable. But I'm not asking you to be concerned about that. If each Council and District does its best to achieve their goals, the state will make theirs as well. If we all remember that it is our responsibility to bring in **One Man Per Council Per Month**, the rest will fall into place.

Lastly, I need to review with all of you the subject of paperwork. This is the time of year when we have several forms due. Your Report of Officers Chosen for Term (Form 185) was due July 1. As of this writing, seven Councils had not submitted their reports. Your Service Program Personnel Report (Form 365) is due by August 1st. So far 43 Councils have submitted their reports but 19 Councils still need to submit theirs. The Semiannual Audit for the period ending 30 June will also be due by August 15. I don't have numbers on that yet but records show there are two Councils that are already one or more audits past due. Men, we need to get all these reports done! I will be contacting each District Deputy later this month and will be directing them to make personal contact with all Grand Knights who are delinquent on any forms. If your Council is currently on the past due list, save yourself some trouble by getting them in now.

Congratulations once again to all you Grand Knights who had a successful year this year. Your guidance and leadership helped make the difference. Keep up the good work!

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 10th of each month to:

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

THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

On the Web
www.kofc-ms.org

INSTALLATION OF STATE OFFICERS LAUNCHES NEW YEAR FOR JURISDICTION



MISSISSIPPI KNIGHTS RETURN THE FAVOR FOR THEIR INDIANA BROTHERS

Surplus building materials and tools shipped by Indiana Knights in 2005 to help with rebuilding areas of the Gulf Coast devastated by Hurricane Katrina ironically were returned to the Hoosier state in June to help rebuild areas of the state raked by a deadly tornado.

The tornado struck in early March, with Catholic Charities and the Knights of Columbus immediately springing into action and sending officials in to help manage the crisis. One such person sent from Catholic Charities was Jane Crady, whose direction and organizational skills proved invaluable as the relief effort proceeded.

Bill McDonald, K of C District Deputy of the affected area, rallied local Knights to organize a large relief team. Pleas for assistance were heard by Knights on the Gulf Coast, who recalled the outpouring of support from Indiana after Katrina and moved to repay the kindness and generosity of the state's residents.

State Advocate Noel Aucoin, a Past Grand Knight of D'Iberville Father Patrick McAlpine Council 9094, led his Council and other Gulf Coast Knights in a large and complicated effort to repay their Indiana brothers.

Noel and Tony Dixon, a PGK of Council 1522 in Bay St Louis, determined that it would take an 18-wheeler to transport the warehoused materials sent for Katrina relief (most of which came from Indiana) to Holton, IN, where the tornado relief effort was centered.

As with any undertaking of this type, numerous individuals, organizations and companies had a hand in its development. Darren Cowart, Immediate PGK of Natchez Bishop R.O. Gerow Council 1034, was among those responding to a Good of the Order call, and he in turn brought 1034 GK Sonny Daniels into the picture, who then recruited colleague Shirley Gurney. Daniels and Gurney secured funding for fuel costs through an anonymous source. Council 1034 Treasurer Conrad



State Advocate Noel Aucoin (from left), Tony Dixon, Nick Martino and John Fontenot were among Gulf Coast Knights who contributed to the Indiana relief effort. (Photo by Sonny Daniels.)

Anderson was a huge player in facilitating the funding and converting it into pre-paid Visa cards for the trip.

After unsuccessful attempts to locate a company willing to donate a tractor for the trip, state K of C leadership approved the use of funds from the Archbishop Rodi Disaster Relief Fund to lease a tractor from Ryder. When it became obvious that the Mississippi State Council would have to front the money to lease a tractor, Aucoin circulated an email throughout the Jurisdiction requesting input on how best to proceed. The response overwhelmingly favored doing whatever needed to make the relief effort happen. State Deputy Jerry Schmuck endorsed the plan, and Aucoin proceeded to set it in motion.

The Knights needed a licensed commercial driver for the trip. Enter Charles Carrick of Natchez, who volunteered to do the driving.

June 15; just a few days before the hoped-for departure for Indiana: Dixon and his son were loading the trailer in Gulfport. Carrick and Daniels drove the tractor in from Baton Rouge. Then, another setback: The axles seized and the trailer would not roll, jeopardizing the trip before it began.

The following week, Aucoin spent hours negotiating with Ryder for credit to the K of C for the days the tractor was not used. The Archbishop Rodi Fund was depleted and prospects for leasing another

tractor at full cost were bleak. Just when it appeared hopeless, prayers were answered: Ryder called, stating that, although it was unable to credit the Knights for the lease, it could lease the tractor the following weekend free of rental fees. The only charge would be the mileage surcharge.

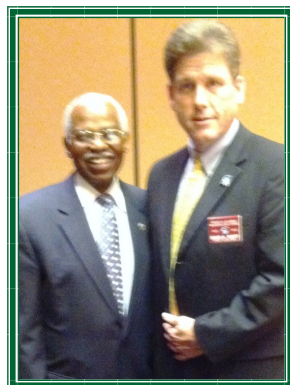
With the tractor secured, the focus shifted to finding an adequate trailer. At Aucoin's suggestion, Daniels contacted John Fayard Moving & Warehousing in Gulfport, whose devout Catholic owner agreed to donate a 53-foot trailer for the trip, assuming the risk in the event of an accident. Simply put, John Fayard rescued the project.

Carrick agreed to give up another weekend to serve as driver, and on Thursday and Friday of the week of June 22, Aucoin, Dixon and other Knights transferred the freight to the new trailer. They were just finishing when the tractor arrived, and the trip to Indiana was underway at 6 p.m.

Carrick and Daniels arrived in Holton to a scene of massive destruction the following afternoon. The work detail of Mrs. Crady and Knights and their families made short work of unloading the trailer.

Carrick and Daniels were back in Bay St. Louis early Sunday afternoon. After returning the trailer and driving to Baton Rouge to drop off the tractor, they loaded into Daniels' truck and drove back to Natchez. Total miles driven: 1,900 to 2,000. (Submitted by Sonny Daniels.)

STATE OFFICERS JOIN WITH SUPREME STAFF FOR REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAM GOALS



Ben Mokry, Supreme Membership Director Dannie Harris and Mike Kassouf (left) and Supreme Director of Fraternal Services George Hannah and David Scott review 2012-13 goals in Dallas Meeting.

State Secretary David Scott, State Membership Director Mike Kassouf and State Program Director Ben Mokry met in Dallas with the State Secretaries, State Membership Directors and State Program Directors from all Jurisdictions along with representatives from Supreme. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the State leaders with the membership and program goals for the year along with resources that will help each Jurisdiction reach its goals. This meeting reinforced the material and information provided State Deputy Jerry Schmuck in New Haven in early June at the State Deputies meeting. The major Supreme membership program this fraternal year is "One Member Per Council Per Month." Special emphasis was also placed on Supreme-sponsored programs such as, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Food for Families, Coats for Kids, Wheelchair Mission and Sonogram Project.

'SUPER SENIOR' BILL CHORBA PICAYUNE OSCAR J. GELPHI COUNCIL 6872

(This article appeared in the Sunday Picayune Item on June 17 and was submitted by Field Agent Jody Knight.)

92-years-young, Bill Chorba is this week's Super Senior for his dedication to his community and devotion to his wife of 72 years.

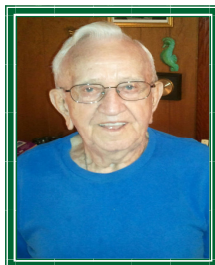
Chorba was recommender by his fellow K of C member, Norman Weinstein, who wrote a compelling letter about what a motivated community servant Chorba is through the K of C and the fact that he still finds time to work out three times a week at a local fitness center.

Chorba helps at the K of C hall prepare for weekly bingo and cleans up afterwards. He also helps in clean up after the hall has been rented. "I have been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 40 years and it means a lot to me to be part of this fraternal organization. I help with the (People with Intellectual Disabilities) fundraiser, Operation Smile and anywhere else that I can. I believe it has given me a better quality of life to be involved in doing good for the community. I also recycle and bring cans to the SPCA. Those people work hard and those animals need a fair chance in life."

Chorba has lived in Picayune for eight years but says, "I have been

coming to Picayune since 1941. I married a Picayune beauty, Jessie Whitfield, and I am as in love with her today as the day we married."

Chorba, as a young airman, first saw his wife walking down a street in



BILL CHORBA

in the Catholic Church.

He is a war veteran, who worked on the flight line for the bomber maintenance. In 1942, he was shipped to England and then on to North Africa. From there, he went to Sardinia for a total of 23 months. The youngest of 12 children from Austrian immigrants, Chorba has three children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

His wife is 87 and now suffers from ailments which make it hard for her to get around. He says, "She is still as beautiful as ever. She has always been so talented. You know she played the organ in the Catholic Church for 46 years. I take her to

Jackson. He knew immediately that she was the one. Six months later, in October of 1941, they were married. In fact they were married twice. Once with a Justice of the Peace and again

says, "My love for my wife and my commitment to my community through the Knights. I have to be strong for my wife now; she needs me and has taken the best care of me throughout the years. The Knights are my support group and it makes me feel good to know that we are helping so many people through our work."

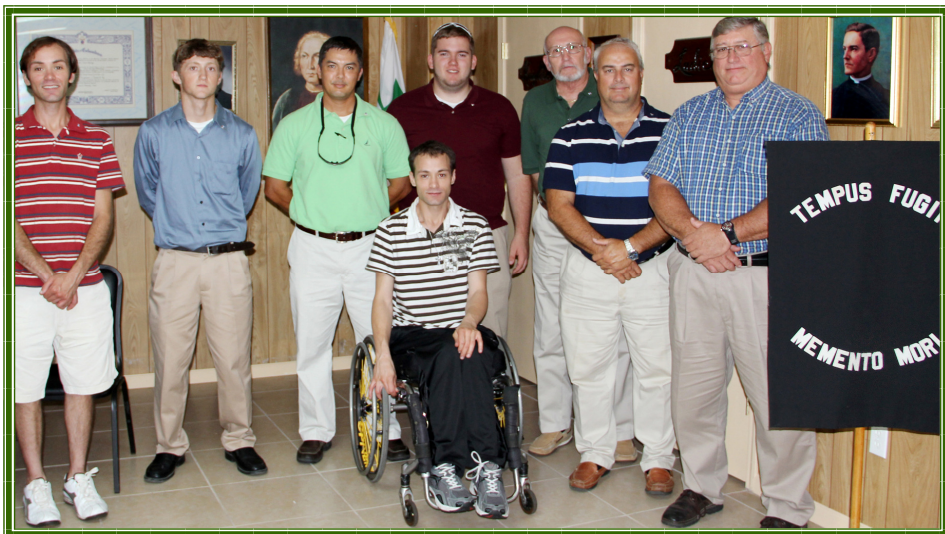
STARKVILLE COUNCIL FEEDS COLLEGE KNIGHTS

Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765 cooks dinner for college Knights every third Thursday during the Mississippi State University semester at no charge regardless of what Council they belong to.

Young men 18 years old that are practical Catholics and might be considering joining the K of C are also invited to join this monthly fellowship.

Dinners are at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 607 University Blvd. in Starkville, at 7 p.m. Future dates are Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18.

For information contact Gerald Michel (662) 985-856-6562, GeraldMichel@aol.com) or Mike Kassouf (662) 312-2973, kassouf@bellsouth.net



NEW KNIGHTS REPRESENT 5 SOUTH MISSISSIPPI PARISHES

Eight new First Degree Knights were initiated at the KC Hall at St. Alphonsus Church in Ocean Springs. The Ocean Springs First Degree Team made up of Knights from St. Alphonsus and St. Elizabeth Seaton Parishes conducted the exemplification. The new Knights group is made up of men from five different parishes in South Mississippi. They are Bobby Bayliss, James Edwin Bayliss, Michael Lurix, Brandon Parnell, Mathew Russell, James Broussard, B. Scott Sisson, and Robert Guardia. (Submitted by Dennis Van Acker.)

'RIGHT TO APPLY' HELPS WIDOWS IN NEED

BY JACK LEGUIN, FIELD AGENT

The laws and rules of our Order, as well as state or provincial laws, specify that the Knights of Columbus may accept insurance applications only from Knights of Columbus members. As a member, you may apply for insurance on yourself, your wife and your dependent, minor children.

The Order's Board of Directors has taken action, though, to assure that a brother Knight's widow maintains the right to purchase additional insurance for a limited time. This can be of great benefit and comfort to those we leave behind.

This "right to apply" is available only to the widows of insured members. If a member has not availed himself of our top-rated life insurance program, or purchased an annuity or long-term care policy, this benefit is not available to his widow.

But if the Knight was an insured member, his widow has the right to apply for additional insurance on her life and on the lives of the member's minor children. This right can be exercised for up to one year following the Order's receipt of proof of the insured's death.

Remember two major parts of my role in the Order. First, I'll assist your widow and children in any way possible if you should die, both with your Knights of Columbus insurance and any other life insurance you may have. Second, I'll provide them my best professional advice and service to ensure that they continue to have adequate insurance protection.

As a professional agent and a brother Knight, I have no greater responsibility. Call me today at 601-917-1881 or contact me via email at jack.leguin@kofc.org to learn more.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY CORNER

Congratulations to **HARRY STEIN-WINDER** for completing 42 years of service as Financial Secretary for Biloxi Council 1244, the longest serving.

Thanks Harry.

Additional thanks to:

RICHARD HODA of Council 7087 Kiln, 32 years.

CHAD SONNEK of Council 898 Vicksburg, 20 years.

Thanks and congratulations to **JAMES FARRIS**, who retired after 20 years as FS for Southaven Council 7120.

Welcome to the new Financial Secretaries who were appointed this year:

BEN DI LORENZO, Long Beach 4898.

ROBERT MAHONY, Picayune 6872.

PAUL SHAHAN, Southaven 7210.

FRANCIS PRATTINI, McComb 8054.

DONALD SCHIFFNER, Gulfport 11541

FRANK A. WHITEHEAD, Clarksdale 2969.

With the years of service contributed by the current Financial Secretaries, the state has 451 years of experience in this position.

BILOXI, FLOWOOD TO HOST MEMBERSHIP TRAINING

State Deputy Jerry Schmuck has approved two Membership Training Workshops for Biloxi and Flowood. Grand Knights and Membership Directors are requested to attend one of the two days together as a team.

Saturday Oct. 6, 12:30 - 4:30 pm
Host Council: Reinhart Schroeder 9409, Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 2090 Pass Rd Biloxi

Sunday Oct. 7, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Host Council: St Paul 10216
St Paul, 5971 Mississippi 25 Flowood.

Registration is by email, with the names of attendees and how many will be eating lunch to: kassouf@bellsouth.net.

BILOXI COUNCIL 1244 TAKES ITS PID DRIVE TO 3 PARISHES, COAST BUSINESSES



Biloxi Council 1244 held its annual People with Intellectual Disabilities campaign during June and July. Brother Knights offered Tootsie Rolls to generous parishioners at three parishes - Nativity B.V.M Cathedral, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Church and St. Michael's Church - in Biloxi and to patrons at coast businesses. The Council raised over \$1,600. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the Arc of the Gulf Coast, a work center for people with disabilities, and to the residents of Biloxi Community Homes and Cheshire Homes in Gulfport, to help fund these live-in facilities for people with disabilities.

NIELSEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Lauren Cannon and Sarah Soares are the most recent recipients of The Chris Nielsen Scholarship Award, presented as a memorial to their son by Henry and Jean Nielsen and Ocean Springs Fred L. Westbrook, Sr., Council 5654. The scholarship candidates are chosen from applications and selected by a committee comprised of teachers and members of the Council. Mrs. Jean Nielsen and Council 5654 Grand Knight Chuck Nannery presented the awards following Mass at St. Adolphus Church. (Submitted by Dennis Van Acker)



NEWLY CONFIRMED AT OCEAN SPRINGS ST. ALPHONSUS, KEESLER OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY



Bishop Roger P. Morin of the Diocese of Biloxi celebrated Mass at the confirmation of 28 young people at Ocean Springs St. Alphonsus Church. The newly confirmed are first row (from left) Alexis McClellan, Courtney Baldwin, Katelyn Bishop, Alexis Witcher, Mary Katherine Mattiace, Katelyn Eaton, Caroline O'Connor and Bailey Wineski; second row Jack Wilson, Adria Sabino, Garbrielle Aultman, Kayla Hawkins, Jacqueline Aultman, Catherine Lynn, Kristen Kuhn and Danielle Bergeron; third row William Beaugez, Seth Goellner, Shelby Nichols, Steven Briggs, Daniel Carter, Robert Murphy, Andrew Rinker and Emily Wright; and top row Brennan Broussard, Weston Bordis and Cantrell Norman. (Photo by Dennis Van Acker).

Archbishop of the Military Services, USA, Timothy P. Broglio presided at the confirmation of Precious Williams and Christian Conger at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Community at Keesler Air Force Base. (Photo by Rosemary Van Acker.)

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON STATUE DEDICATED, BLESSED



Sir Knights of Fr. Francis Deignan Assembly 2059 of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Alphonsus churches in Ocean Springs provided an Honor Guard for the dedication and blessing of a new Italian-made statue of Elizabeth Ann Seton. (Photos by Rosemary Van Acker.)



SHRIMP SUCCESS

Jackson St. Therese Parishioners wait for shrimp plates prepared by Jackson Bishop R.O. Gerow Assembly 554 and St. Therese Council 8285. The plates were sold at the home parishes of Councils 848, 7854, 8038 and 15131.

FOR 2012-13 . . .

**ONE MEMBER
PER COUNCIL
PER MONTH**