

THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

VOL. 13, No. 4

MAY - JUNE 2013

2012-13 - YEAR OF FAITH



***Convention Photos
By Nat Zummo
Brandon St. Paul-Flowood
Council 10216***

A WORD FROM THE STATE DEPUTY**THE EXPERIENCE IS A TREASURE, BUT THE JOB IS NOT FINISHED****BY JERRY SCHMUCK, STATE DEPUTY**

As State Deputy it is my honor to report to you on the status of the Mississippi Knights of Columbus.

First off, I want to thank all of you for continuing to put your trust in me and my abilities and for allowing me to serve you as your State Deputy. Over the last two years, Linda and I have traveled throughout our state and developed lasting friendships and relationships with many of you. Thank you all for the hospitality and fraternalism that you have shown us over these past years. Our time with you has been an experience that we will treasure for a lifetime.

With approximately 60 days left in the Supreme Fraternal year, we left last year's convention with recharged batteries and an action plan in hand as to how we would achieve our Supreme goals. Our goal last year was to bring in 400 new Knights with one new Council. We got the new Council but fell a little short on our mem-

bership goal. We started the year with 6,634 members and brought in 351 new members, only 49 short of our goal.

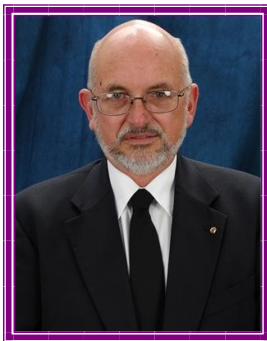
However, we also lost 178 through suspensions and withdrawals and another 132 through death. That gave us a net gain of only 41 men to end the year at 6,675. We

ended the year with one Star District, 10 Star Councils and 4 Double Star Councils. To those of you who earned those awards, congratulations again for your hard work and achievement.

Following the Supreme convention, the state team established the Councils' membership quotas and updated the strategic plan to reflect the new goals and objectives. As with last year, the team wanted to promote membership growth through more active participation in local Council programs. Also like last year, we encouraged all Councils to work with their Ladies Auxiliaries. Councils and their Ladies working together make a formidable team that can do outstanding work to promote charity, unity and fraternity in all Parishes in the state.

How are we doing this year? Like last year, we are doing OK but could be doing better. Let's address a few specifics.

Membership: Many of you have mentioned over time that you feel state officers put too much emphasis on membership. My reply is that we evidently are not emphasizing membership enough. If we are to continue being the "strong right arm" of the Church, if we intend to continue supporting our Bishops, Priests and Re-

**GERALD SCHMUCK**

ligious, then we must continue to grow stronger through the attainment of new members. In 2010, the Mississippi Jurisdiction had 6,600 members. Today, three years later, we have 6,716. That's not a very good growth record. We started this fraternal year with 6,675 Mississippi Knights. Our goal for this year was 454 new members. So far, we have brought in 272 new Knights. That's 182 short of our goal. To the 16 Councils who have already exceeded their Supreme goals for the year, thank you for your hard work. To the 19 Councils who are at either zero or negative growth, what's the holdup?

Since July 1, Membership Chair Mike Kassouf, the District Deputies and all of us, your state team, have been urging you to bring in one new member per Council per month. Brothers, we're down to crunch time. One member per Council per month will no longer cut it; we must now bring in 91 new members a month for the two months remaining in this fraternal year. That's not an easy task but with a lot of hard work from everyone we can still make our goal. When I started this job. I said that nothing would please me more than to represent the Mississippi Knights at a Supreme convention as we accept the Circle of Honor Award. That didn't happen last year. Please, let's pull together and make it happen this year.

Retention: As in past years, retention continues to be a problem. So far this year, between deaths, transfers, withdrawals and suspensions, we have lost 243 men. That means after all the hard work, Mississippi has managed to grow by only 37 men. We MUST turn this around if we are to continue supporting our Bishops and Priests through our charitable works and promotion of Catholicity. One way to do this is by **(See State Deputy Report, Page 5)**

**STATE CHAPLAIN**

Father Bob Higginbotham, D'Iberville

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

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

DAVID SCOTT WILL LEAD STATE TEAM IN THE NEW YEAR

David Scott, whose rise through the ranks of the Mississippi Jurisdiction began with appointment as State Youth Director and State Free Throw Chair for 1999-00, was elected State Deputy at the 109th Annual State Convention in Vicksburg in April.

The new SD initially joined Hattiesburg Bishop Fahey Council, receiving his First Degree in June 1987. He transferred to St. Francis of Madison Council 9543 in 1989, where he served as an Outside Guard and Youth Chair before being elected Grand Knight in 1998.

Scott was appointed to the position of State Program Director in 2001, filling that role until his election as State Warden in 2005. He then followed the path of his predecessors to the top office, completing two-year terms as Warden, Advocate, Treasurer and Secretary.

Completing the state team for the 2013-14 year are Jim McCraw of



David Scott, offering the prayers of the faithful at Madison St. Francis of Assisi where he serves as a Lector, was elected State Deputy of the Mississippi Jurisdiction at the April convention in Vicksburg.

Jackson, Secretary; Noel Aucoin of D'Iberville, Treasurer; Philip Jabour of Flowood, Advocate; and Ben Mokry of Jackson, who was elected Warden after

Flowood, Advocate; and Ben Mokry of Jackson, who was elected Warden after serving two years as State Program Director.

SERVICE PROGRAM DIRECTORS, CHAIRS APPOINTED

State Deputy-elect David Scott named the following as Service Program Directors and Chairs for the Jurisdiction beginning July 1:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Chaplain | Rev. Bob Higginbotham, Council 9094, D'Iberville. |
| Program Director | Fred Middleton, Council 7120, Southaven |
| Church Director | James Everett, Council 1583, Biloxi |
| Community Director | Robert Leo, Council 802, Meridian |
| Council Director | Guy Heying, Council 15131, Ridgeland |
| Family Director | Carl Brochard, Council 5654, Ocean Springs |
| Membership Director | Mike Kassouf, Council 6765, Starkville |
| Youth Director | Joe Jones, Council 11934, Canton |
| Ceremonials Director | Gerald Schmuck, PSD, Council 12271, Gulfport |
| Round Table Chair | Peter Sukanek, PSD, Council 10901, Oxford |
| Vocations Chair | Joe Goellner, Sr., Council 10499, Ocean Springs |
| Pro-Life Chair Couple | Dennis and Muna Riecke, Council 9543, Brandon |
| Health Services Chair | Jeff Houin, Council 8848, Tupelo |
| PR Chair/ MK Editor | John Lacourrege, Jr., Council 9543, Ridgeland |
| Awards/Report Forms | Richard Greenwold, Council 10499, Ocean Springs |
| State Squires Chair | Quincy St. Pierre, Council 15382, Seminary |
| Free Throw Chair | Joe Jones, Council 11934, Canton |
| Council Retention Chair | Philip Jabour, Council 10216, Brandon |
| Member Retention Chair | Gerald Michel, Council 6765, Starkville |
| New Council Dev. Chair | Marion McCraw, Council 848, Jackson |
| Marian Hour Chair | Robert Leo, Council 802, Meridian |
| PID Campaign Chair | Larry Tabor, PSD, Council 9094, Biloxi |
| McGivney Guild Chair | Tom Zettler, PSD, Council 802, Meridian |
| Poster Contest Chair | Joe Jones, Council 11934, Canton |
| Special Olympics Chair | Larry Tabor, PSD, Council 9094, Biloxi |

The new SD is employed as an attorney by the Mississippi State Attorney General's office. He is a graduate of the U. of Southern Mississippi and the Mississippi College School of Law. David attends St. Francis of Assisi Church in Madison, where he serves as a lector, ??

The installation of officers is scheduled for July 20 following the State Organizational Meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Madison beginning at 9 a.m. A Mass at 5:30 p.m. begins the installation program, with a banquet following.

A District Deputy training/meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 21, at St. Francis.

The Central Region School of Columbianism is scheduled for Sunday, July 21, noon-4 p.m., at Madison St. Francis of Assisi.

Southaven Christ the King is the site of the Northern Region School of Columbianism on July 17, noon-4 p.m., and Woolmarket St. Mary' Church is the site of the Southern Region School of Columbianism on July 28, noon-4 p.m.

2013 NECROLOGY MASS



A Mass of Remembrance was celebrated at the State Convention to honor and pray for all members of the Order who died during the past year. They included:

Meridian 802
Jackson 848
Vicksburg 898

Natchez 1034
Biloxi 1244

Bay St. Louis 1522

Gulfport 1583
Pascagoula 1605

Hattiesburg 1908
Greenville 2134
Laurel 2180
Leland 2945
Long Beach 4898

Greenwood 5267
Ocean Springs 5654

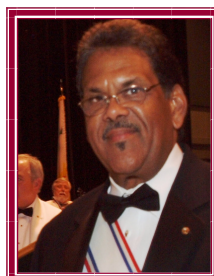
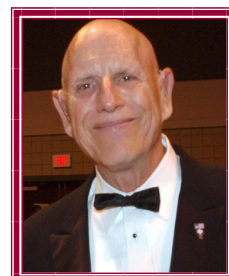
Starkville 6765
Picayune 6872
Southaven 7120
Clinton 7854
Brookhaven 7915
Pearl 8038
Tupelo 8848
D'Iberville 9094

Gautier 9124
West Biloxi 9409

Madison 9543
Woolmarket 9673
Lizana 9958
Flowood 10216
Ocean Springs 10499
West Harrison 10499
Batesville 13502
Olive Branch 14051
Hattiesburg 15382

Virginia Baughman (Ladies Auxiliary)
 John R. Belz, Michael J. Moeller
 Sydney W. Johnston, Michael A. Mahoney, Rev. James O'Riordan, Joseph A. Gerache, Sr., Joseph A. Gerache, Jr., Ray M. Castellane, Michael J. Terry, Sr.
 Arthur W. Weed, Eugene Blanchard
 Charles L. Todaro, Guy G. Mansi, Henry B. Ryan, Gerald F. Lamey, PGK
 Richard C. Bessey, George DiBenedetto, William H. Grisham, Terryl M. Ladner, Owen R. Otilio, Donald S. Renz, Herb Sires, Fr. Armand Theriault
 Guy Todaro, Jr., PSD
 Donald G. Brimm, Harold R. Comello, Shannon J. Gilly, Gerald A. Kennedy, Jr., Warren B. Seely, Harold W. Strickland, Karen Gilly (Ladies Auxiliary) Alvie S. Walker
 Dan Dorgan, Charles Vivian
 Dan M. Robertshaw, James Westenhoefer, FSW
 Sam Garbo
 Vince Venuti, Phillip 'Buster' Morlino
 Gerald W. Favre, Joseph S. Giuffria, Rodney J. Sandoz, PSD
 Jesse J. Quinn, Jr., PSD
 Harry Leaghty, Luigi Florenza, Waudell King, Brenda Foster Schwergman
 Jason Pigg
 George Breaux, George Heikamp, PGK
 Michael D. Holden
 Danny Niolet, Pete Villari
 Msgr. Joseph A. Koury, Dr. Wade H. Ditcharo, FDD
 Elmer C. Solomon, Voyed D. Couey
 Jeyak Suppiah
 Austin J. Touchet, John A. Bignoli, Alan Farmer, Lonnie Paul Rhodabach
 Leland Gager, James Cluff, Robert Dehmer
 Mark Barhanovich, Lewis Langlinas, John Welter, William Entriken
 Floyd Q. Doolittle, Ted Ravenstein, Lynn Eberhardt
 Regina Diaz Taylor (Ladies Auxiliary)
 Francis Moran
 Robert Noiseworthy
 Philip Messer, PGK; Dr. Peter Pavlov, Jerry Bodin
 Thomas 'Bert' Schnadelback
 Walter Bray, David Stengel
 William Irby
 Joseph Yore

GEROW AWARD WINNERS



**GEROW SUPPORT EXCEEDS
 \$85,000 FOR YEAR
 BY DON COX, CHAIR**

The 2012-13 year was a great success for the R.O. Gerow Priest Education Program, with donations from Councils and Auxiliaries exceeding \$80,000.

This included over \$45,000 for the Jackson Diocese and \$35,000 for the Biloxi Diocese. The Christopher Fund checks from Supreme added \$5,785.88, bringing the grand total to over \$85,000.

Awards were presented at convention for the largest donations. In the Diocese of Jackson, the winners were Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802; Greenville Msgr. J.J. Igoe Assembly 555; and Greenville Auxiliary 2134. In the Diocese of Biloxi, winners were Picayune Oscar J. Gelphi Council 6872; Picayune Fr. Michael A. Leane Assembly 2227; and Gulfport Bishop Gunn Auxiliary 1583.

BEST IN STATE FOR 2013 YEAR

| CATEGORY | COUNCIL | GRAND KNIGHT | ENTRY NAME |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Church Activity | Madison 9543 | William Amadio | The Gala Drawdown |
| Community Activity | Southaven 7120 | Fred Middleton | Expand Community Ministry |
| Council Activity | Hattiesburg 15382 | Jim Ghents | Tornado Relief |
| Culture of Life | Oxford 10901 | Dennis Ott | Save-A-Life Fundraiser |
| Family Activity | Vancleave 15155 | Jarrold Feters | Parish Picnic |
| Youth Activity | West Biloxi 9409 | John Rickman | Spiritual Retreat for Youth |
| Vocations - Biloxi | Long Beach 4889 | Michael Morgan | Seminarian Edu. Lenten Meals |
| Vocations - Jackson | Meridian 802 | Patrick Carter | Funding Vocations |
| Best Large Council | Starkville 6765 | Gerald Michel | |
| Best Medium Council | McComb 8054 | Andy Spinnato | |
| Best Small Council | Vancleave 15155 | Jarrold Feters | |
| Family of the Year | Meridian 802 | Patrick Carter | Roland and Betty Stewart |
| Knight of the Year | Southaven 7120 | Fred Middleton | Fred Middleton, Ginger |

OTHER AWARDS**NEWSLETTER**

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Small-Medium Council | Pass Christian 4472 | Rodney Malburg |
| Large-Extra Large Council | Meridian 802 | Patrick Carter |

SCRAPBOOK

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Small-Medium Council | Pass Christian 11995 | Charles Heim |
| Large-Extra Large Council | Meridian 802 | Patrick Carter |

PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FUNDRAISING

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Highest Dollar Amount Collected | Picayune 6872 | Theodor Barze, Jr. |
| Highest Dollar Amount Per Member | Corinth 8912 | Mark Grieser |

100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Meridian 802, Patrick Carter; Pascagoula 1605, Steve Frederic, Sr.; Hattiesburg 1908, William Jarrett, Jr.; Greenville 2134, Mark DiBiase; Laurel 2180, Ronnie Morales; Ocean Springs 5654, James Starnes; Southaven 7120, Fred Middleton; McComb 8054, Ron Knight; Madison 9543, William Amadio; Biloxi 9673, Paul Mitchell; Grenada 10443, Matt Strong; Ocean Springs 10499, Kenneth Meyer; Oxford 10901, Dennis Ott; Madison 11934, Duane Stevens; Tylertown 11956, Larry Reid; Pass Christian 11995, Charles Heim; Gulfport 12271, James 'Jamie' Rodgers; Vancleave 15155, Jarrold Feters.

HONOR COUNCIL

Meridian 802, Patrick Carter; Jackson 848, Hollis Felts; Vicksburg 898, Tim Derossette; Laurel 1280, Ronnie Morales; Cleveland 5556, Robert Vargas; Ocean Springs 5654, James Starnes; Clinton 7854, Rob Smith; D'Iberville 9094, Nick Martino; Gautier 9124, Ron Knight; Madison 9543, William Amadio; Biloxi 967, Paul Mitchell; Ocean Springs 10499, Kenneth Meyer; Madison 11934, Duane Stevens; Philadelphia-Tucker 13471, Ron Di Palma; Batesville 13502, John Stonecipher; Jackson 15131, Andre De Gruy.

COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE

Long Beach 4898, Michael Morgan; Picayune 6872, Theodore Barze, Jr.; Kiln 7087, Jimmie Hoda; Brookhaven 7915, Luis Ybarra; Corinth 8912, Mark Grieser; West Biloxi 9409, John Rickman; Hattiesburg 15382, Jim Ghents; Pass Christian 11995, Charles Heim.

DISTINGUISHED COUNCIL

Southaven 7120, Fred Middleton; Pass Christian 4472, Rodney Malburg.

STELLAR COUNCIL

Starkville 6765, Gerald Michel; McComb 8054, Andy Spinnato; Vancleave 15155, Jarrold Feters.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH WINNERS, BY CARL BROCHARD, STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR

Congratulations to recipients of the Family of the Month award from Supreme for the months of February, March and April: **February:** Benjamin & Carol Lee Cantin, Ocean Springs 5654; Eugene and Betty Bradt, Gautier 9124; and Roger and Cristel Hudson, Gulfport 12271. **March:** Jim and Brenda Riordan, Pass Christian 4472, and Thomas and Becky Corkern, Brookhaven 7915. **April:** Milton and Dot Schott, McComb 8054, and Joseph and Eileen Keller, Gluckstadt 11934.

STATE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS



TOP GUN COUNCILS

Starkville Fr. John P Egan Council 6765, Gerald Michel Grand Knight; Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7120, Fred Middleton GK; McComb Charles Brill Council 8054, Andy Spinnato GK; Philadelphia Fr. Raphael Toner Council 13471, Ron Di Palma GK; Wiggins Fr. Paul Gillis Council 11654, Bernard Hipchen GK; Vancleave Fr. Denis J. Harlow Council 15155, Jarrod Fetters GK; Poplarville St. Joseph Council 15121, District Deputy O.D. Landrum accepting for GK Reginald Savoie; and Hattiesburg St. Thomas Aquinas Council 125382, Jim Ghents GK.

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE GAIN



Ben DiLorenzo, Long Beach 4898

EXTRA LARGE – Council 4898 Long Beach; 17 new members, 155 percent.

LARGE – Council 7120 Southaven; 17 new members, 189 percent.

MEDIUM – Council 11654 Wiggins; 13 new members, 325 percent.

SMALL – Council 15121 Poplarville - 9 new members, 300 percent.

HIGHEST NET GAIN



Quincy St. Pierre, Hattiesburg 15382

EXTRA LARGE – Council 4898 Long Beach, 17 new members.

LARGE – Council 7120 Southaven, 17 new members.

MEDIUM – Council 15382 Hattiesburg, 15 new members.

SMALL – Council 15155 Vancleave, 11 new members.

TOP PROPOSERS



Sherwood Beckham, Wiggins 11654

NORTH MISSISSIPPI - Dennis Fink, Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 Southaven.

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI - Byron Tullos, Fr. Raphael Toner Council 12471 Philadelphia.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI - Sherwood Beckham, Fr. Paul Gillis Council 11654 Wiggins.

STATE - Sherwood Beckham, Fr. Paul Gillis Council 11654 Wiggins.

KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

MOST SUBMISSIONS – St. Thomas Aquinas Council 15382 Hattiesburg.

HIGHEST PERCENT OF SUBMISSIONS – St. Thomas Aquinas Council 15382 Hattiesburg



Dennis Fink, Southaven 7120



Jim Ghents, Hattiesburg 15382

FACES OF THE 2013 STATE CONVENTION



Best Large Council
Starkville 6765



Best Medium Council
McComb 8054



Best Small Council
Vanceleave 15155

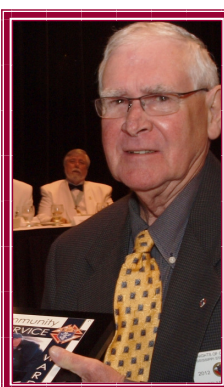


Assembly of the Year
Southaven 2195

SERVICE ACTIVITY AWARDS



Church
Madison 9543



Community
Southaven 7120



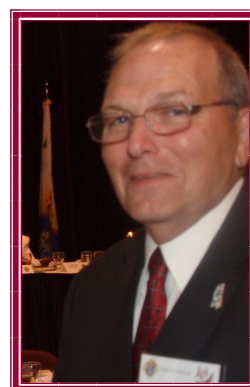
Council
Hattiesburg 15382



Culture of Life
Oxford 10901



Family
Vanceleave 15155



Youth
West Biloxi 9409



Family of the Year



Assembly Family of the Year



Sir Knight of the Year



Knight of the Year

BEST VOCATIONS PROJECTS



Diocese of Biloxi



Diocese of Jackson

BEST AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SERVICE



STATE DEPUTY'S REPORT (FROM PAGE 2)

changing the way many of you do business. When you hold on to your "deadwood" for several years for the sake of getting an award such as Top Gun or Star Council, you are only hurting yourselves. It is better in the long run if you suspend your people a few at a time rather than purging 40, 50 or even 60 men at once. When you plan out your suspensions and spread them out over time, you have a better opportunity to replace them with new Knights. Recruit one year and dump the next is not a good way to run your Council. Remember, recruitment and retention go hand in hand.

Insurance: Earlier this year our General Agent, Jerry Woods, decided to retire. Shortly after that he developed some health issues and was hospitalized. We all pray that Jerry has a speedy recovery so he can enjoy his new lifestyle.

Our new General Agent is John Stice from Alabama. He started off in the hot seat right away because of our agent shortage in the state. While some of our Councils are still not covered by an insurance agent, John is doing what he can to get an agent assigned. In the meantime, if any of you have insurance needs and do not have an agent assigned, contact the Stice Agency. They have promised me they will be happy to take care of you.

Squires: Organized statewide in 1995, the Squires program provides an effective tool in guiding young men in honest and upright lives and provides potential new Knights. Since the death of our Squires Chair, PSD Tom Chady, the Squires program in our state has faltered. We are currently down to one Circle whose membership is shrinking. However, there is a new face on the horizon. Brother Knight Quincy St. Pierre from Hattiesburg St. Thomas Aquinas Council 15382 has volunteered to chair this very important program. Also, in my travels around the state, several of you have indicated an interest in sponsoring Squires Circles in your area. Thank you, Brother Quincy, for your dedication to our Order and to our youth.

Programs: As mentioned earlier, we decided two years ago that in order to

promote membership, we needed to really promote more Council participation in programs. The feedback this year, like last year, from Councils and Auxiliaries has been encouraging. The reports we receive along with the articles in this newsletter show that our more successful Councils are doing well because of their efforts in promoting projects within their Parishes and communities. Every Council will be successful if only they will do "just a little more" to support their Parish, community, family and youth.

Last year we kicked off a new program called the Second Responders Program. The goal of the program is to have each state create a database of Knights and Councils available to help others in a time of need. All of us in Mississippi know how important a program like this can be after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. I attended a regional planning meeting in Atlanta awhile back with the intention of getting the program up and running. Since then, Brother Knight Tony Kumor, from Pearl St. Jude Centennial Council 8038, has volunteered to become our Jackson Diocese Regional Coordinator and Tino Milazzo from Vancleave Fr. Denis J. Harlow Council 15155 is our Biloxi Diocese Regional Coordinator. They are responsible for setting up teams of volunteers in every District to assist emergency responders when disaster strikes.

Ceremonials: Last year we split the First Degree exemplification away from the Second and Third. This year we split Second and Third Degree exemplifications as well. Splitting the First Degree away from the others gave Councils more freedom to host their own exemplifications as they needed them instead of waiting for the state to schedule one. Having the freedom to schedule your own degrees makes it so much easier for you to bring in new members.

The Second Degree exemplification is now under the control of your District Deputy. He has the authority to organize his exemplification team and conduct the exemplifications. When we first started this new way of doing business, we hit some stumbling blocks because we had only two certified

Second Degree teams in the state; one in District 6 and one in District 11. We now have four certified teams (Districts 4, 6, 8 and 11) with two more (Districts 2 and 9) working on becoming certified before the end of this Fraternal Year.

The new Third Degree exemplification is doing well. We currently have three Conferring Officers available for exemplifications: Rich Lieding and Larry Roberts in the central area and Paul Mitchell in the southern area. To schedule a Third Degree exemplification, have your District Deputy contact the Ceremonials chairman or the State Deputy to set up a date.

Brothers, I want to thank you one more time for your encouragement and support for this team of men you elected. I especially want to thank you for allowing me the honor, privilege and opportunity to serve you these past two years in a very humble way as your State Deputy. Everything your state team has done was meant to promote our Order and to show everyone that we are extremely proud to be Mississippi Knights of Columbus.

As I prepare to step down as your State Deputy, there are several people I need to acknowledge. First, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve you. Next I want to thank our State Chaplain, Fr. Bob Higginbotham. His leadership, spiritual guidance and support these past two years has been invaluable to our state team. I also want to thank our immediate Past State Deputy, Dr. Peter Sukanek, and all the state officers for their hard work, dedication and support. Together I think we made an excellent team and accomplished a lot. I also want to thank our District Deputies and State Chairs. I know I pushed you hard and made a lot of demands on you, but I also knew that I could depend on you to get the job done. Lastly, to you, my brother Knights, I want to thank you for your dedication and hard work. Everything you are doing for our Order and our state is greatly appreciated. Lastly, I wish you all well and pray for your success in the coming years. But don't think you have seen the last of me yet. I will always be available to your state team and to you to do whatever it takes to help make our Mississippi Knights shine!