



*"Strengthening  
Catholic Families."*

**Inside this issue:**

**Council News**

**Membership & Recruiting**

**State Leadership Team**

**A TRUE MEMORIAL DAY  
STORY**

**2016-2017 Meeting  
Schedule**

# The Magnolia Knight

**Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus**

Volume XVI Issue VI

June 2016

## Final Words of Our State Deputy Jim McCraw



My Brothers,

For 23 months we have talked about the same key issues. The titles varied but the subject is the same. Charity, Unity and Fraternity. A fourth slips in occasionally and that may be the central issue: Forgiveness.

We have successfully welcomed 279 catholic gentlemen into our order, and in a few instances, I'm pleased to report, we welcomed several back home. We as a fraternal order provide the nourishment for men seeking relief for a fraternal hunger. The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, while at the same time, fulfilling a need to be of service. It is at the heart of Christ's teachings.

This is my final column as your State Deputy and it is both difficult and reflective for me.

We have shared much over the past two years and your friendship and loving support have gotten me through some challenges I did not wish to undertake. Just as you council leaders have experienced, there are times when there is no choice. Knowing the outcome may not be appreciated, it must be made. I think of these times as exemplary opportunities. How we conduct ourselves provides the example for others.

It has been my good fortune to have known and served with many outstanding state and council leaders. Some of these men are long gone but their voices remain with me in the form of a conscience. Those voices and prayer have been my foundation.

Mississippi is poised to set new records with the number of councils who will achieve Star Council this year. We are already past the record for Star Districts and growing.

I believe we will achieve the coveted Circle of Honor. We last earned this when Danny Lechner was state deputy and it is the pinnacle of success for any jurisdiction.

To be part of this, I am personally asking you to make a major push throughout June to bring in graduating seniors, reach out to your mission parishes and conduct an open house. For those who have not pushed recruiting this year, conduct a parish drive in honor of your pastor and make him your degree honoree. Do not forget Bishop Houck.

Your district deputy has a list of former members that you can scan. Some men left years ago because of work, family or other important factors. Things change. The craving... that fraternal hunger.... can return. Reach out and welcome your brothers back home. I have shaken many hands over the years and have embraced many of you as loving brothers. This has been sincere and with much affection. Let us join hands one more time and end this fraternal year with an explosion of unity and fraternity.

My health has improved significantly and I am committed to be with you as much as possible as we move Mississippi forward.

When State Membership Director Mike Kassouf or your district deputy calls on you for help... they are speaking for me. I am counting on you to elect good leaders and to step up with confidence as we continue to move proudly under the gaze of Father Michael J McGivney and all the parish priests who love and support us.

Vivat Jesus, My Brothers!

Jim McCraw

## **State Secretary Report**

My Brother Knights,

This has been a very productive year as I've served as your state secretary. I was not able to attend the membership training workshop in Dallas but Membership Director Mike Kassouf covered it and brought back much inspiration.

In August I represented Mississippi as one of your delegates to the Supreme Convention in Philadelphia Pa. Patty and I arrived Sunday before the start of the convention and were fortunate enough to take in many of the historic attractions of the city. These conventions are part of the "Experiences of a Lifetime" that we talk about as KC's. I would encourage any brother knight to try and attend at least one of these events. Like our own state convention, delegates and alternates are elected but any 3rd degree member may attend the business meetings and the States Dinner. On these trips, it is the State Secretary responsibility to choose and make reservations for the delegation's Wednesday night meal. This year I chose an Italian restaurant and the delegation seem to really enjoy the meal. It is a super experience and I thank the delegates for giving Patty and I the opportunity be involved.

When I reflect, on what I consider significant achievements for the administrative side of the state council, expanding how we use our state website is at the very top of my list. For a few years we have slowly replaced submitting paper reports with online submissions. This year we continued moving this effort forward.

All Per Capita Billing is now submitted electronically and I am proud to say that at the start of this convention there were no uncollected State Per Capita.

Degree Fees are now being billed electronically. These invoices serve a dual purpose. First, of course, is to notify councils of degree fee charges but secondly as a listing to the Financial Secretary of new 3rd degree Knights. Because we list the names of the candidates on the invoice, it give the FS a clear ledger of the Brother Knight receiving their Knighthood degree.

Convention delegates and alternates were reported through the website. Rather than mailing the same documents to the state deputy and state secretary. Council officers were able to enter the data and print your delegate credentials. The FS still has to sign and seal or notarize the credentials but there is no question if they were received by the State. We, on the state level, are able to use this data base to compare with convention registrations.

Necrology reporting is also done through the website now. The advantage with this is legibility of the names and a longer window to turn in unexpected deaths. This year we collected 97 names and the necrology file. Users also had the ability to view previous years. This option gave councils the advantage to add deceased Brothers to this year's roster that may have been missed in prior dedications.

Work obligations and family health issues hampered my state wide traveling a bit this year. One event that I was privileged to attend this year was the dedication of a new ultra sound machine in Picayune. This was the first device of this kind sponsored and mostly funded by Mississippi Knights of Columbus. It was a proud day for Picayune and a proud day for the Mississippi Jurisdiction.

As I close my year, I want to share with you the precept we as state officers try to follow "Leave your office better than you found it". It works well for you at the council and district level and it has worked well for us. I have tried, through the chairs, to automate the processes just a little and give the brother knight that follows a little easier job.

My brothers, again, I thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you and I look forward to serving you next year. While thinking about the year to come I became very apprehensive. Could I possibly live up to the Knights that came before me? I thought about the State Deputies that I have had the honor to serve under. Could I communicate and lead as well as they did? Tom Chady – the ultimate southern gentleman that no one could say not to.

Rich Lieding – a bilingual educator

Larry Tabor – the commanding presence with that New Orleans brogue

Danny Lechner – a man that chew you out and still leave you laughing and circle of honor winner

Peter Sukanek – the always witty college professor

Jerry Schmuck – the never say die Seabee Master Chief

David Scott - the articulate lawyer

Jim McCraw – who's tongue is as silver as his hair and who never forgets a name

Then I remember what my old Cajun grandpa used to tell me. He'd say "Tee Boy, the good Lord don't give you noth'in you can't handle." With that we go forward.

Vivat Jesus!

Noel Aucoin

State Secretary

Mississippi Jurisdiction

## State Leadership Team meets in D'Iberville.



A state Leadership team met at Council 9094, in D'Iberville, Sunday May 22 to iron out an Action Plan for the next fraternal year and beyond. The team met with Supreme Membership Program Coordinator, Joe Ramirez, PSD to outline goal on: membership growth, strong program visibility, charitable growth and training & development. After establishing the goals, the team then mapped out a plan to accomplish these goals. Finally the team was ask to predict were the jurisdiction would be (on these goals) in 3 years and in 5 years. In attendance were: State Deputy Elect, Noel Aucoin; State Secretary Elect, Philip Jabour; MPC, Joe Ramirez, PSD; State Treasurer Elect, Ben Mokry; State Warden Elect, Roy Gamez and State Membership Director Appoin-

# A TRUE MEMORIAL DAY STORY

## Of newborn life and stubborn survival during World War II

By Sabrina Arena Ferrisi

My father's earliest memories were of sirens blaring. Not from fire trucks or police cars, but the sirens of an air raid.

The year was 1943. My father's hometown was just outside of Messina, Sicily. He was one month shy of turning 3 years old and had little knowledge that his island had been caught up in a terrible battle. During that fateful summer of 1943, the American-British allies fought to liberate Sicily from the German Nazi and Italian Fascist forces.

As the German/Italian forces lost battle after battle, German forces concentrated on Messina. They set up cannons and anti-aircraft weapons all along the beaches, a few blocks away from my father's house.

American planes flew overhead during the day of July 14, 1943 – throwing leaflets to the ground with an Italian message.

These leaflets warned the civilian population below to evacuate the city because Americans would bomb it in the coming days.

My father remembers that his uncle Peppino immediately packed two suitcases with food, water and bedding. My grandfather was a petty officer in Italy's Navy. He was away and no one had any news from him. Peppino took my grandmother – a woman of 26 who was nine months pregnant at the time – my dad and his 5-year-old brother, Nino, and everyone started to walk.

The entire city, it seemed, was walking in those days. They walked around a lake, behind St. Nicholas' parish and up into the mountains. My father was too tired to keep walking so Peppino had to carry him, besides the suitcases.

Everyone in my family knows what happened next: my grandmother began to feel her labor pains coming. Sirens were blaring and the American planes were starting to bomb the city. Peppino knocked on the door of the nearest house frantically, and the Lunino family opened the door. They were probably getting ready to head up into the hills themselves when they realized the situation. Two women of the house brought my grandmother Nina into another room and closed the door. She gave birth to my aunt Josephina in two hours. But the situation was dangerous because they were still fairly close to the city. Everyone had to make the difficult decision to move to higher ground. My grandmother carried her newborn baby girl, unable to rest after childbirth until they reached a safer area.

The bombings continued for many days. The population of my father's hometown witnessed everything from their vantage point in the mountains. They were able to see when the Germans ultimately fled Messina. Cannons and broken machinery were left on the beaches. As the British and American soldiers marched into the city, the entire town spilled back down the mountain and rejoiced. Scottish soldiers marched with their kilts and bagpipes – causing my grandmother to marvel that these British men were so odd. They dressed like women!

American soldiers immediately began to pass out food packages. My father remembers this vividly because everyone had been near starvation for years. With all the able-bodied men at war, there had been very little food. The packages contained powdered milk, corned beef, biscuits and chocolates. The distribution of food would go on for years in every town that was liberated – an incredible example of America's generosity and organization.

It was the first happy moment in years.

Meanwhile, my grandfather had been captured by the German Navy in September 1943 because his ship had joined with ten other Italian ships near Cyprus declaring an armistice. The German government disapproved this move and surrounded the ships. The Italian admiral was executed by German troops. The officers on my grandfather's ship were also slated to be shot dead when Mussolini intervened directly with Adolf Hitler – and asked him to spare the officers and petty officers. Hitler relented and all the Italian officers were shipped to a German labor camp – a coal mine – for over two years. During this time my grandmother got word that her husband was a prisoner of war, but little else. They weren't treated as cruelly as Jewish prisoners, but they were barely fed. Often they supplemented their meager rations with poison ivy.

American forces liberated my grandfather's labor camp in 1945 but it took him six months to get back to Sicily. Transportation had been destroyed throughout Europe, so he made it home by walking and hitching rides. When my grandfather finally walked into my father's house in 1946, the first time my father remembers ever seeing him, he weighed 95 pounds.

During this Memorial Day, it is good to remember the many sacrifices made by our American armed forces throughout our nation's history. The sacrifices they made during World War II touched my family directly. My father would have grown up in a very different Italy had American soldiers not gone in. And my grandfather might not have survived the war had it continued for much longer. My parents moved to New York in 1968 and two years later I was born. Today, we are all proud to be American citizens.

God bless our nation and our armed forces.

Sabrina Arena Ferrisi is senior writer for Legatus magazine.

## **Message from Bryan V. Cassagne Community/Membership Director**

Brothers,

I wanted to introduce myself as your membership director for the coming year.

Before moving on however I wanted to take another shot at the Tootsie Roll/PID Drive. A few more Councils have taken on the Program since the Convention and I thank you. On Friday, May 20 Noel Aucoin, your SD elect made a \$2,000 presentation to the MS Special Olympics. Your K of C were already a Platinum level sponsor at the Keesler AFB Special Olympics. Noel explained how this donation was made possible by your hard work in the Tootsie Roll Drives around the state. All of this with only 20 councils participating! Please step up and get involved. These people need you.

We want more focus on this and Special Olympics in the coming fraternal year. It can happen. With just a handful of men my home council in Picayune collected over \$8,000 during a 3-day period last year. We received many, many compliments and "thank yous", even from Free Masons that appreciated what we were doing. We have a very generous people in this State that will give you money and thank you for taking it! Why are so many missing out? It is also one of the best 'feel good' projects we do. The interaction with the community keeps my batteries charged for months!

To schedule a drive you may have to contact city officials to reserve a date or apply for a permit.

Tootsie Rolls can be ordered from Tootsie Roll Division, TRI Sales Co. 773-838-3400.

There is a small amount of paper work to be filled out which Victor Gray-Lewis ([victorg@vicksburg.org](mailto:victorg@vicksburg.org)) or I (Bryan 601-466-3460) will be glad to help with. I would use the Knights of Columbus vests as well; you can't buy better public relations.

This is a can shake, no talent needed! Just put on your vests, grab some tootsie rolls and a can and go.

Check out the state website under programs for intellectual disabilities. You'll find all you need, information and order forms. Our state officers have made it easy for you; how about an assist for those that really need it?

Bryan V. Cassagne  
Community/Membership Director



## 2016 Mississippi Special Olympics Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS



You have a heart of gold. Thank you.

Because of your generosity, Special Olympics Mississippi can provide year-round athletic training and competition activities for more than 4,000 Mississippi athletes with intellectual disabilities. All programs and events operate solely on the kindness of our donors. I would like to personally thank you for your support on behalf of our athletes and families.

The Knights of Columbus' 2016 Summer Games donation, in the amount of \$2,000.00, ensures that Special Olympics Mississippi is available for athletes all over the state to compete at this pinnacle event. Through sports and local programming, you and Special Olympics are providing dignity, pride, justice, fitness, empowerment, friendship, acceptance and community to our participants. Special Olympics sports are a catalyst that reveals the champion in all of us- athletes, volunteers, coaches, fans, and supporters.

Thank you for being a champion.

Karri Chaney

Karri

Dir. of Development

Thank you for the Knights of Columbus' continued generosity! You put smiles on a lot of faces last week!

**Brothers, Information about the "Catholic Night at the M-Braves" for June 9th.**

**Charlie Sims**  
**Grand Knight Council 848**



Please bring your families out on June 9, 2016 for Catholic Night at the M-Braves. Ball Park gates open at 6 pm and first pitch is at 7 pm. Father Anthony Quyet will be throwing out the first pitch and he needs us there for support and to cheer him on. This is a "Thirsty Thursday" night and all Catholics are asked to sit on the 3rd base side of the ball park. A 4th Degree Color & Honor Guard will be on the field before the game for the National Anthem. Purchase a prepaid ticket vouchers for \$7 from the Knights of Columbus. This is \$2 less than a full priced ticket of \$9. Please support your local Knights of Columbus. Contact Charlie Sims @ 601-624-9966 for ticket vouchers



# Retention

During the past Leadership Workshops, we have conducted around the State I ask one question of the members attending, “, What makes somebody want to join your Council “, What do you offer them? Are your program activities in line with the times?

Without your members' support, you can't accomplish your goals effectively. Retaining your existing members is just as important, as bringing in new member's. if not more so.

Encourage member involvement, members do not want to sit passively on the sidelines while your Council works toward its goals. If they can't take part in the action -- any action -- they will lose interest in the organization. In many cases, an uninterested member will drop his membership and move on to something else. To keep members active and engaged, do what you can to help them get involved. Encourage them to attend meetings and events to help the organization raise funds for its charitable activities and take advantage of fellowship with other Catholic Gentleman. For any program you roll out to the membership, a well thought out, marketing effort is critical to show the VALUE of participation and what the program does for the Member, Church, Community or the Council.

The Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual Item #10237 which was mailed to every Grand Knight in fall 2015 will assist you in your efforts.



## "I'm the Guy"

(I'm the guy who asked to join your organization. I'm the guy who paid his dues to join. I'm the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful and loyal. I'm the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid attention to. I tried several times to be friends, but they all had their own buddies to talk to and sit next to. I sat down several times, but no one paid any attention to me. I hoped very much that someone would have asked me to take part in a fund raising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered. I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much to others whether I was there or not. The next meeting, I decided to stay home and watch TV. The following meeting, I attended, but no one asked me where I was for the last meeting. You might say I'm a good guy or a "good family man" who holds a responsible job and loves his community and country. You know who else I am? THE GUY WHO NEVER CAME BACK. It amuses me how the heads of organizations and the members discuss WHY the organization is losing members. It amuses me to think that they spend so much time looking for NEW members when I was there all the time. All they need to do was make me feel needed, wanted, and WELCOME!



# Mississippi Jurisdiction Retention Procedure

Revised 5/25.2016

1. Intent to Retain forms (1845) need not be sent to District Deputies nor to State Retention as we have a different mode to view what you have submitted to membership records.
2. State Retention Chairman checks that Council has a Retention Chairman.
  - Cannot be Financial Secretary as that would be a conflict of interest.
  - Should be Deputy Grand Knight or a suitable Member.
  - He will work closely with the Grand Knight and Financial Secretary each month to monitor the status of the current membership.
3. The Semi Annual audit must show number of delinquent members and total amounts in arrears in Section C of audit.
4. An email request to Grand Knight for Retention Committee notes regarding their findings when personal contact was made with member prior to the Knight Alert letter being sent to member. If Retention Committee notes are received, then skip item 5 and 6.
5. Wait 7 days and send second request via email.

6. If Council does not provide Retention Committee Notes State Deputy will ask Membership Records at Supreme to return all form 100's for members that an Intent to Retain was sent in, back to Council as correct billing procedure was not followed – No contact was made with member in arrears.
7. State Retention Chairman mails letter to each Member in arrears after Retention Committee Notes are received from Council.
8. State Retention Chairman will research any incorrect mailing addresses on any mail that has been returned. – GK or FS supplies information
9. Research of findings provided to Grand Knight and Financial Secretary.

**Our Mission is to ensure we've make personal contact with each Brother that we asked to join and re recruit them back into our Councils prior to being suspended.**

## How to Submit New Officers (185) & New Service Program Directors (365) "Best Done Using Internet Explorer"

New Officers Chosen – Due Date – **July 1, 2016**

New Service Program Directors – **August 1, 2016**

Sign on to **Officers Online**

Select **Member Management**

**Proceed** to the next screen where your options are;

Officers Online	Member Billing	Member Management	<b>Council Administration</b>	Print Center-MM
-----------------	----------------	-------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------

Select **Council Administration**

On Left Hand Side of Screen Select – **Council Officers Current and Next**

Than Select – **Next Fraternal Year**

You are now on the "**Change an Officer Screen**" which will have no officers listed yet. Just above the words in blue reverse print is another selection – **Copy Current Year** – Select this option which will transfer all last year's officers over to this screen (*only available now till June 30*). You can now, using the drop box, select the officer position that is changing and then select the new officer and then assign. After selecting all the positions that are changing or if there is no changes select the **Submit** button to transfer to Supreme. The default date is 07/01/2016. Supreme now has a copy.

You have two more steps before you are done - On the same line where you selected **Council Administration**,

Select **Print Center-MM**

Then Select **Next Fraternal Year Officers** – It will take a minute for the report to generate. Once it's generated you now have the option to email or print. You must email a copy to the State Deputy using this email – [sdreport@bellsouth.net](mailto:sdreport@bellsouth.net) and to your District Deputy. (Attached is a sheet with the District Deputy's emails). If you are using web mail you might have to save, attach and then email, if you do, please name the file with your Council number – x's = Council Number ex. XXXX 2014 2015 Council Officers.

One more step – Print a copy and update your State Directory – If there is not a change in Officers in the Directory go to your page and select Submit to update the date.

This same procedure is used for Service Program submittal.

Suggestion – Print a copy to keep in Records book for the Warden to answer for the Officer when the Recorder is calling the Roll of Officers.

## People With Intellectual Disabilities (P.I.D.) Drive



**Council 9094 D'Iberville**



**Council 9673 Woolmarket**

On May 20 and 21, members of both Council 9094 (From L to R: Stephen Dunn, Larry Walley, and Bob Kutterhoff) and Council 9673 Woolmarket (From L to R: Jason Saucier, Lola Saucier, and Bill Fessler) collected money at the D'Iberville Wal-Mart for the annual People With Intellectual Disabilities drive to raise money for the Special Education programs in the local schools.

# MISSISSIPPI



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS®**

## 2016-2017 Meeting Schedule First Fraternal Quarter

Friday June 17 – Saturday June 18

2016 Membership Meeting/State Advocate Training

Location: Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriot North

Time:

Registration (Friday): 3:00 – 6:00

Registration (Saturday) 7:00 – 8:00

Meetings (Saturday) 8:00 – until

Attendees: State Secretary Elect, State Advocate Elect, State Membership Director Appointee, State Program Director

Dress: Business Casual

Wednesday June 8 – Sunday June 12

Organizational Meeting of State Deputies

Location: Omni Hotel New Haven

Time:

Orientation seminar (Thursday) 8:00

Installation Mass (Friday) 8:00

Opening Business Session & Photo Session (after mass)

Break-out sessions (Saturday)

Attendee: State Deputy Elect

Dress: Business

Friday July 8

State Deputy's Reception

Location: Council 1244, Water St. Biloxi

Time: 6:30 – 9:00

Attendees: State Officers, District Deputies, Directors & Chairmen, other Invitees

Dress: casual

Saturday July 9

Enjoy the day with your spouse

Installation Mass

Location: St Michael, Hwy 90 Biloxi

Time: 5:00

Attendees:

Required: State Officers, District Deputies, Directors & Chairmen

Optional: All are invited

Dress: Officers & DD's - white dinner jackets, directors & chairmen – tuxedo

Officer & DD Installation

Location: St Michael, Hwy 90 Biloxi

Time: after mass

Attendees: State Officers, District Deputies, Directors & Chairmen

Dress: officers & DD's - white dinner jackets, directors & chairmen – tuxedo

Installation Dinner

Location: Council 1244, Water St. Biloxi

Time: Following Installation

Attendees: State Officers, District Deputies, Directors & Chairmen

Dress: officers & DD's - white dinner jackets, directors & chairmen – tuxedo

Sunday July 10

State Organizational Meeting

Location: Council 1244, Water St. Biloxi

Time: 9:00 – until

Attendees: State Officers, District Deputies, Directors & Chairmen

Dress: casual

Saturday July 16

School of Columbianism (Southern Region)

Location: Waveland Council 16433 (my preference)

Time: 12:00 – 4:00

Attendees: State Officers, District Deputies, Directors & Chairmen,

All Council Officers & Chairmen

Dress: State Officers - Coat & Tie, DD's – District Deputy Shirt,

State Directors & Chairmen – State shirt dress slacks

Sunday July 17

School of Columbianism (Central Region)

Location: Madison Council 9543 (my preference)

Time: 12:00 – 4:00

Attendees: State Officers, District Deputies, Directors & Chairmen, **All** Council Officers & Chairmen

Dress: State Officers - Coat & Tie, DD's – District Deputy Shirt, State

Directors & Chairmen – State shirt dress slacks

Sunday July 24

School of Columbianism (Northern Region)

Location: Oxford Council 10901 (my preference)

Time: 12:00 – 4:00

Attendees: State Officers, District Deputies, Directors & Chairmen, **All** Council Officers & Chairmen

Dress: State Officers - Coat & Tie, DD's – District Deputy Shirt,  
State Directors & Chairmen – State shirt dress slacks