



State Deputy

Daniel 'Danny' Lechner, Biloxi

State Secretary

Dr. Peter Sukanek, Oxford

State Treasurer

Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, Gulfport

State Advocate

David Scott, Madison

State Warden

Jim McCraw, Jackson

Immediate Past State Deputy

Larry Tabor, Biloxi

State Chaplain

Father Charles Nutter, Gautier

Send Council, assembly and circle news and announcements by the 10th of each month to:

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A Word from the State Deputy Kudos for a Convention Job Well Done

By Danny Lechner

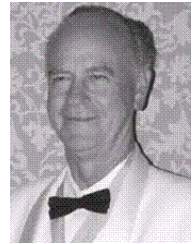
I was thrilled to see my brother Knights at our State Convention in Jackson. The convention went very well. Many Councils received well-deserved awards. We had productive meetings and, as a bonus, got to share quality time with each other. The convention committee deserves our thanks for a **job well done**.

With our State Convention behind us, we will soon be starting a new State year. With Dr. Peter Sukanek as our incoming State Deputy, I feel that this year can be the best ever. However, in order for us to accomplish this, we have to improve on membership retention and report submission. We can and will accomplish this through planning and training.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and confidence this year.

We still have over a month left in this Fraternal Year. Let's end it with a bang and set the bar for the coming year.

May God bless you and your families.



Peter C. Sukanek Elected 55th State Deputy

Dr. Peter C. Sukanek, a charter member of Oxford St. John Council 10901 when it was founded in 1991 and who was elected to his first statewide office in 2001, becomes the Mississippi Jurisdiction's 55th State Deputy on July 1.

Dr. Sukanek was elected at the State Convention in Jackson last month and succeeds Daniel J. Lechner of West Biloxi Reinhart Schroeder Council 9409, who served two terms as State Deputy beginning in 2007.

The new leader of the state's 59 Councils and almost 7,000 Knights began his service to the Jurisdiction as Council Activities Director and then Program Director before his election as State Warden. He progressed through the state offices of Warden, Advocate, Treasurer and Secretary.

Also elected at the 105th State Convention were State Secretary Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, State Treasurer David Scott, State Advocate Jim McCraw and State Warden William 'Bill' Waggoner.

Peter served as chairman of the De-

partment of Chemical Engineering at the University of Mississippi from 1991 to 2007. He continues as a professor and also is director of the Mississippi Space Grant Consortium, a NASA-funded education, research and workforce development program.



Peter Sukanek

He has served as his Council's Deputy Grand Knight and Grand Knight and as Faithful Navigator of the Fr. Cletus Mannon Assembly in Oxford. He is on his Council's 1st Degree team and has worked with the 3rd Degree team on several occasions.

Peter has lived in Massachusetts, California and upstate New York, as well as one year in The Netherlands. He and his wife Kathy will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in September. They have three children and two grandchildren.

The experienced leadership team for 2009-10 also includes:

Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, Secretary – Jerry attends St. Joseph the Worker parish aboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (Seabee Base) Gulfport and is a member of Gulfport St. Joseph the Worker Council 12271. He joined the Knights in 1994 as a member of Gulfport Fr. Harry Wade Council 7910. While with that Council, he served as Grand Knight. In 1998, he became the Charter Grand Knight of Council 12271. He has served as District Deputy, State Membership Director, State Warden, State Advocate and State Treasurer. Jerry serves on 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree teams throughout the state as needed. He joined the 4th Degree in 1995 and served as Faithful Comptroller of Assembly 2347. Later he helped form and became a charter member of Assembly 2759, where he also served as Comptroller. He is a member of the Southern Region 4th Degree team. Jerry has been married to his wife Linda for 39 years. Together they have two sons and five grandchildren. Jerry is currently employed as an education specialist working with the Department of the Air Force in Gulfport.

(Please See Election, Page 2)

Archbishop Rodi Disaster Relief Fund Established

Establishment of the Archbishop Rodi Disaster Relief Fund and a change in the disbursement of funds collected through the sale of the Jurisdiction's Knights of Columbus specialty auto tags to help fund the new initiative were among resolutions adopted by Delegates to the 105th State Convention last month.

Many Knights communicated a desire to establish such a fund after seeing firsthand the benefits of disaster relief assistance through the generosity of many Councils and Jurisdictions throughout the Order in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Mississippi Knights were inspired to develop a means to provide charitable assistance to those who have suffered a loss as a result of a disastrous calamity.

Remaining funds donated to the Jurisdiction for Katrina relief purposes will be credited to the Archbishop Rodi Disaster Relief Fund. Then the Bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi,

Archbishop Rodi, who was installed last summer as the second Archbishop of Mobile, was lauded for his leadership following Hurricane Katrina. All Councils within the Mississippi Jurisdiction are encouraged to donate funds to the Archbishop Rodi Disaster Relief Fund.

Delegates also approved a change in the distribution of proceeds received by the State Council from the sale of K of C specialty car tags. Pre-

viously, the Christopher Fund for seminarian education received the proceeds. Because the fund has reached such a balance as to capture full matching benefit from Supreme, proceeds from the sale of the K of C tags will now accrue to five other funds during the 2009-10 Fraternal Year as follows: 50 percent to the Archbishop Rodi Disaster Relief Fund; 10 percent each to the Supreme Council's Culture for Life Fund and to the Mississippi Pro-Life Memorial Fund in the two Mississippi Dioceses; and 20 percent to the K of C Foundation of Mississippi.

Each Knight in the Mississippi Jurisdiction is encouraged to support these causes and to promote the Knights of Columbus by purchasing a specialty car tag.

Archbishop Rodi attended the Friday night State Convention banquet and concelebrated the Memorial Mass for 88 Deceased Knights and Ladies on Saturday morning.

\$90,465 for Gerow Fund By Don Cox, Gerow Fund Chair

The Bishop R.O. Gerow (priest education) program was an outstanding success this year, with \$90,465 donated to our bishops. My thanks and gratitude go to all who made this year so special. As always, we should now step up to a new challenge to surpass this amount and have 100 percent participation by our Councils, Assemblies and Ladies Auxiliaries.

Election, Continued From Page 1)

David Scott, Treasurer

David attends St. Francis of Assisi parish in Madison and is a member of Madison St. Francis Council 9543. He joined the Knights in 1987 and has served as Grand Knight, Trustee, Recorder, Inside Guard, Membership Director, Program Director, Youth Committee Chairman, Tootsie Roll Drive Coordinator and Newsletter Editor. On the State level, he has been the State Youth Chairman, State Free Throw Chairman, State Program Director, State Warden and State Advocate. David serves on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree teams. He is a 4th Degree member of Assembly 2269 in Madison. David has been married to his wife, Mari, for 18 years and they have two daughters, Catherine, 16, and Elisabeth, 12. David is an attorney employed by the Mississippi Attorney General's Office.

Jim McCraw, Advocate

Jim is an active member of St. Peter the Apostle parish in Jackson. He joined the Knights in 1982 as a charter member of Pearl St. Jude Centennial Council 8038, where he served as Program Chair, Newsletter Editor and Recorder. Jim transferred to Jackson John T. Savage Council 848 in 1994 and served as Recorder, Membership Director, Newsletter Editor, Trustee and three years as Grand Knight. Currently, he is Council Director. He joined Bishop Gerow Assembly 554 in 1983 and served as Scribe, Comptroller and Trustee and as Faithful Navigator in 1999. Currently he fills the office of Faithful Admiral. Jim has served two years as State Council Director, 4 years as State Hispanic Coordinator, four years as District Deputy and two years as State Warden. He has served on numerous State Convention committees, chairing the 100th State Convention in 2004 and co-chairing last month's State Convention. He is an active member of the district's 1st Degree team, regional's 3rd Degree team and the Hank Kajdan 4th Degree team. He and wife Barbara have two sons, a daughter and a grandson. He retired from the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Division of Information Systems and is now a self-employed management consultant, active in professional, community and service organizations.

William C. 'Bill' Waggoner, Warden

Bill attends Our Lady of Victories Parish in Pascagoula and is a member of Moss Point Msgr. P.J. Carey Council 1605, where he became a Knight in 1996. He became a charter member of Pascagoula Sacred Heart Council 12166 in 1998, where he served as Trustee, Advocate, two years as Deputy Grand Knight, two years as Grand Knight and Membership Director. He was twice recognized as Knight of the Year. Bill transferred back to Council 1605 in 2008, where he serves as Deputy Grand Knight. He became a Sir Knight in 2002 and currently serves as Faithful Navigator for Assembly 561 in Pascagoula. Bill has served as the Southern Region Membership Coordinator for one year, two years as State Program Director and four years as State Membership Director. He represented the Jurisdiction as an Associate Delegate to the Supreme Convention in 2007 and 2008. Bill and his wife Patricia have three children – Jesse Hudson, John Hudson and Joanna Howell. He is employed as a Criminal Investigator/Deputy U.S. Marshall in the U.S. Marshals Service Southern District of Alabama in Mobile.

2008-09 Top State Awards**Councils of the Year**

Small Council Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956
Medium Council Gulfport St. Joseph the Worker Council 12271
Large Council Ocean Springs Msgr. Gregory Kennedy Council 10499
Extra Large Council D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

District Deputy of the Year

Philip Jabour, District 6 Pearl St. Jude Centennial Council 8038, Madison St. Francis Council 9543, Brandon St. Paul Council 10216, Gluckstadt St. Joseph Council 11934

Knight of the Year

Stephen Dunn D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

Family of the Year

Alan Woolley Family Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802

Top Proposers

State Mike Kassouf, Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765
Central Region Felix Garth, Jackson St. Therese Council 8285; Tony Kumor, Pearl St. Jude Centennial Council 8038
Southern Region Joe Goellner, Ocean Springs Msgr. Gregory Kennedy Council 10499; David Seymour, D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

Small Council

Highest Net Gain Pass Christian Sacred Heart Dedeaux Council 12331
Highest Percentage Gain Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956

Medium Council

Highest Net Gain Corinth St. James the Less Council 8912
Highest Percentage Gain Corinth St. James the Less Council 8912

Large Council

Highest Net Gain Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765
Highest Percentage Gain Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765

Extra Large Council

Highest Net Gain Madison St. Francis Council 9543
Highest Percentage Gain D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

Priest Education Trust Fund (Insurance)

Madison St. Francis Council 9543; Brandon St. Paul Council 10216

Field Agent of the Year

Rene Davidson, Gulfport

Posters

Age 8-11 Alcohol Abuse Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898
Age 8-11 Drug Abuse Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898
Age 12-14 Drug Abuse D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

Best Newsletter

Small Council Columbia St. Jude Council 13936
Medium Council Pass Christian Msgr. Leech Council 4472
Large Council Southaven Hernando Desoto Council 7120
Extra Large Council Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802

Best Scrapbook

Small Council Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956
Medium Council Lumberton Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 7211
Large Council Southaven Hernando Desoto Council 7120
Extra Large Council Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802

100 Percent Supreme Family of the Month Submitters

Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802
 Laurel Council 2180
 Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898
 Ocean Springs Fred L. Westbrook Sr. Council 5654
 D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094
 Madison St. Francis of Assisi Council 9543
 Oxford St. John Council 10901
 Gulfport S. Joseph the Worker Council 12271
 Vicksburg Council 898
 Hattiesburg Bishop Fahey Council 1908
 Cleveland Fr. Rotondo Council 5556
 Picayune Oscar J. Gelphi Council 6872
 Gautier St. Mary's Council 9124
 Grenada Rev. Clifford Meador Council 10443
 Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956
 Columbia St. Jude Council 13936

Top Gun Councils

Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802
 Pass Christian Msgr. Leech Council 4472
 Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765
 Corinth St. James the Less Council 8912
 Gautier St. Mary's Council 9124
 Jackson John T. Savage Council 848
 Greenwood Msgr. John F. Clerico Council 5267
 Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7120
 D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094
 Madison St. Francis of Assisi Council 9543

2008-09 Top State Awards (continued)

Wiggins Fr. Paul Gillis Council 11654
 Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956
 Olive Branch Fr. Leo John Dehon Council 14051

Gluckstadt St. Joseph Council 11934
 Dedeaux Sacred Heart Council 12331

Stellar Councils

Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802
 Pass Christian Msgr. Leech Council 4472
 Gautier St. Mary's Council 9124
 Brandon St. Paul Council 10216
 Gluckstadt St. Joseph Council 11934

Jackson John T. Savage Council 848
 D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094
 Madison St. Francis of Assisi Council 9543
 Ocean Springs Msgr. Gregory Kennedy Council 10499

Distinguished Councils

Natchez Bishop R.O. Gerow Council 1034
 Greenville Fr. Korstenbroek Council 2134
 Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898
 Bassfield Fr. Malachy Burns Council 6592
 Picayune Oscar J. Gelphi Council 6872
 Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7120
 Tupelo Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council 8848
 Wiggins Fr. Paul Gillis Council 11654
 Columbia St. Jude Council 13936

Hattiesburg Bishop Fahey Council 1908
 Laurel Council 2180
 Ocean Springs Fred L. Westbrook Sr. Council 5654
 Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765
 Kiln Fr. A.C. Denis Council 7087
 Brookhaven Joseph Bonfiglio Council 7915
 Woolmarket James D. Hart Council 9673
 Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956
 Olive Branch Fr. Leo John Dehon Council 14051

Honor Councils

Vicksburg Council 898
 Gulfport Fr. Harry Wade Council 7910
 Oxford St. John Council 10901
 Philadelphia Fr. Raphael Toner Council 13471

Clinton Holy Savior Council 7854
 McComb Charles R. Brill Council 8054
 Pascagoula Sacred Heart Council 12166

Councils of Excellence

Leland C.G. Shapley Council 2945
 Cleveland Fr. Rotondo Council 5556
 Pearl St. Jude Centennial Council 8038
 West Biloxi Reinhart Schroeder Council 9409
 Pass Christian Fr. R. J. Sorin Council 11995
 Dedeaux Sacred Heart Council 12331

Clarksdale Msgr. James T. McKenna Council 2969
 Columbus W.H. Jolly Council 6974
 Holly Springs St. Joseph's Council 8760
 Lucedale St. Lucy Council 11904
 Gulfport St. Joseph the Worker Council 12271
 Batesville Fr. Thomas M. Boyce Council 13502

Activity Awards**Church**

1st Place D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

2nd Place Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898

Community

1st Place Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802

2nd Place Tylertown Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956

Council

1st Place D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

2nd Place Madison St. Francis of Assisi Council 9543

Family

1st Place Ocean Springs Msgr. Gregory Kennedy Council 10499

2nd Place Brandon St. Paul Council 10216

Youth

1st Place Brandon St. Paul Council 10216

2nd Place D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

Pro-Life

Biloxi Diocese D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

Jackson Diocese Madison St. Francis of Assisi Council 9543

Vocations

Biloxi Diocese D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094

Jackson Diocese Madison St. Francis of Assisi Council 9543

Convention DVD For Sale

A commemorative DVD of the State Convention can be ordered and will be distributed at the upcoming Schools of Columbianism in July. The DVD includes the Past State Deputy tribute, "In Their Own Words," which was shown at the Saturday banquet. In addition, the DVD includes highlights of the Golf Tournament, awards presentations, luncheons and social activities. DVDs are \$10 in advance. Contact Larry Roberts 601-898-3935 or poppar@comcast.net.

Upcoming Exemplifications

May 30 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Degrees
Tupelo Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council 8848. Conducted in Hispanic.

June 6 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Degrees, St. Peter Cathedral, Jackson. 1st Degree Registration 9:30 a.m. 2nd and 3rd Degree Registration 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch \$5 - 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Contact: District Deputy Bill O'Conner, 601-924-6073, waoconnor@comcast.net, or Grand Knight Guy Heying, 601-209-2911, GuyJHeying@Eaton.com

Delegates Determine Future Convention Sites

Delegates selected sites for the 2012 and 2013 State Conventions, setting the schedule for the next four years.

Offers from the Gulf Coast as the 2012 host and Vicksburg in 2013 were approved by the delegates.

Natchez is the host city for 2010, with Tupelo replacing Oxford as the site of the 2011 convention.

Bishops, Archbishop Express Appreciation to Jurisdiction

The Most Rev. Joseph N. Latino, Bishop of Jackson, and The Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, former Bishop of Biloxi and now Archbishop of Mobile, attended the State Convention and concelebrated the Memorial Mass for deceased Knights and Ladies. The installation of The Most Rev. Roger P. Morin as the third Bishop of Biloxi occurred simultaneously to the Convention. All three expressed gratitude to the Jurisdiction and Mississippi Knights in letters to State Deputy Danny Lechner following the Convention. Excerpts of those letters include:

“ . . . I am particularly appreciative of your constant commitment, dedication and financial support for the education of young men studying for the priesthood for our dioceses. Your interest and efforts to foster and promote vocations is a wonderful testimony of your love for the Church and its mission.”

Joseph N. Latino
Bishop of Jackson

“ . . . I wish to express my congratulations and gratitude to all of you in this annual gathering of the strong Columbian Spirit in Mississippi. Your willingness and work for the Catholic Church in our state speaks well of your dedication and service to God's People in our Diocese. . . . Yours is a noble investment. Your contribution of today, toward meeting the priestly needs of our church for tomorrow, will prove to be a sacred investment that will yield man, many years of sacramental service.”

Roger P. Morin
Bishop of Biloxi

“It was a pleasure to be with all of you. More importantly, I give thanks to God for having the opportunity to express my deep gratitude to you and to all the members of the Mississippi Knights of Columbus for their consistent support of the ministries of our Church. The support and encouragement of seminarians, the witness to the respect of life and the sanctity of marriage, and the involvement in parish life, are hallmarks of the Knights of Columbus. I have certainly seen this firsthand in the Diocese of Biloxi and throughout Mississippi.

Thomas J. Rodi
Archbishop of Mobile

New Members Since April 1 Need to be Reported *By Bill Waggoner, State Membership Director*

While the 2008-09 state fraternal year may be over, we have begun a new state year and still have about a month and a half left in the current Supreme year. Our membership numbers are looking very good for the Supreme year, but please don't forget that you still need to send me the names of your new members since April 1 along with the names of their proposers and the dates they made their 1st Degree.

That information is needed so that Noel Aucoin will have the most accurate records available when he assumes the office of State Membership Director on July 1. The job of State Membership Director is a year-long commitment. If the records are not kept current and accurate, not only are individual Councils affected, but the entire Mississippi Jurisdiction is affected. There have been times in the past when we have been able to correct mistakes made at the Supreme level because we had the correct information.

Please send me the necessary information as soon as you can and remember to keep on recruiting. Remember you are now working toward your Council's success at next year's convention in Natchez. Supreme is now starting to recognize the accomplishments of all the knights in Mississippi, so let's not disappoint them.

The information should be sent to Bamawag@aol.com.

Thank you for your support and hard work

PID Drive Opens **Week of May 17-23**

The 2009-10 People with Intellectual Disabilities drive officially begins the week of May 17-23.

In his State Convention report, PID and Foundation Chair Jim Farris of Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 appealed for “participation in some way by all Councils, as these persons who benefit from our efforts need help and attention. With most agencies cutting budgets, maybe we are needed now more than ever. Any amount is welcome.”

Farris also reminded Councils to submit the necessary forms so it is clear to which agencies the proceeds collected are to be distributed.

Manage Member, Billing Matters on Supreme Site

Access to Member Management and Member Billing is available for the Financial Secretary and Faithful Comptroller provided that a form 185/186 has been submitted. You should receive an **“invitation code,”** allowing you to set up a user id and a password on the Supreme site.

The code should arrive to the FS or FC who was listed on the form 185/186. If for some reason you do not receive this, you can call the help desk at 800-380-9995 and request an **“invitation code”**.

Congratulations to Family of the Year

Alan and Joyce Woolley

Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802

and Knight of the Year

Stephen Dunn

D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094