



State Deputy

Dr. Peter Sukanek, Oxford

State Secretary

Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, Gulfport

State Treasurer

David Scott, Madison

State Advocate

Jim McCraw, Jackson

State Warden

Noel Aucoin

Immediate Past State Deputy

Daniel 'Danny' Lechner, Biloxi

State Chaplain

Father Al Camp, Madison

Send Council, Assembly and Circle news and announcements by the 10th of each month to:

Fred Middleton
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Coming Events

Saturday, March 20

North District Free Throw Competition, Tate Baptist Church, Corinth, 10 a.m.

Thursday, March 25

K of C Day of the Unborn Child.

Saturday, March 27

Central District Free Throw Competition, warm-up 10:30 a.m., competition 11 a.m.

Monday, March 29

Founder's Day, 128th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Columbus by Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney.

Saturday, April 10

4th Degree Exemplification, Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Assembly 1251, 1:15 p.m., Council Hall, Hwy. 19 North.

Friday, April 23

State Convention Golf Tournament, Duncan Park Golf Course, Natchez, 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Entry form available at <http://sites.google.com/site/kofc1034/Home/ms-convention-2010/golf-tournament>

April 23 - 25

Mississippi State Convention, Eola Hotel, Natchez. Registration available at <http://sites.google.com/site/kofc1034/Home/ms-convention-2010>

Sunday, April 25

World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The Magnolia Knight

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March 2010

A Word from the State Deputy

By Peter J. Sukanek

Reaching Out — The Bedrock of Our Order

Each March 29, we celebrate Founder's day, remembering the founding of our Order by the Venerable Servant of God, Father Michael McGivney in 1882. According to St. James, "Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father, is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world (James 1:27)." Later in his same letter, St. James reminds us, "You see now that it is by doing something good, and not only by believing, that a man is justified (James 2:24)." Father McGivney wanted a group of active "doers" in his new organization who would demonstrate their religion.

As the Order grew from a handful of men in the basement of St. Mary's church in New Haven to its current membership of almost 1.8 million men around the world, the Knights have remained faithful to its original mission and vision of our founder. Certainly, the Knights, through its insurance program, provides its members with the ability to care for their families on their death. In addition, the commitment to charity, the basis of the Order, demands reaching out to those in need and personally giving one's time to them.

We Knights do this through a variety of programs at the national, state and local levels. We do this through our programs in support of our Councils, our Churches, our Communities, our Families, our Youth and for Life, the six program areas of the Knights. The two main programs at the State level in Mississippi are the Program for People with Intellectual Disabilities (the "Tootsie Roll" program) and the Bishop Gerow Memorial Fund (the "Priest Education" fund). Both, of course, require Councils' participation, through golf tournaments, special dinners, pancake breakfasts, and many other programs, to be successful.

In addition, individual Councils put on a variety of programs to honor those serving in the military and in police and fire departments, to express their appreciation to their priests and religious, to help foster a sense of community in the local parish, to help the family of a brother Knight in need, to grow a civilization of love and of life and to support many, many more needs and wants at the local level.

Two events happen statewide in March. First, we need to get ready for the State Convention in Natchez next month. This means some additional paperwork: electing convention delegates, preparing the list of brother Knights who have died in the past year to be remembered at the Convention's Saturday Mass, (and submitting those names to me and to Jerry Schmuck, our State Secretary), and writing up your best activities in each of the program areas, and submitting those to Elvis Gates, our State Program Director. It means making your donation to the Bishop Gerow fund.

The second statewide event is the March Membership Blitz, an effort to recruit new Knights into Councils through church drives, open houses, special invitations and a combination of these and other methods. The purpose is not just to get more bodies, but to recruit new Knights who will become involved in the Council's programs, who will become more involved with the Church and who will become better Catholics. In short, more men who will help to fulfill the vision of Father McGivney.

9 Councils Receive RSVP Refunds

Nine Councils in the Jurisdiction received \$2,100 in rebates for participation in the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) for the 2008-09 Fraternal Year.

The participating Councils made donations of \$10,500 to 16 seminarians during the year. Donations Order-wide amounted to \$2,857,560, with refunds climbing to \$567,367.

Councils participating in the RSVP receive a \$100 refund for each \$500 in contributions to the support of seminarians.

"The facts of the overall program speak for themselves, showing tremendous growth over the 28 years the program has been in full existence," the Supreme Council noted in a statement.

Mississippi recipients, with amounts donated and refunded, include:

Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802, \$3,000, \$600;

Vicksburg Council 895, \$1,500, \$300;

Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898, \$2,500, \$500;

Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765, \$500, \$100;

Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7120, \$500, \$100;

Lumberton Council 7211, \$1,000, \$200;

D'lberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094, \$500, \$100;

Oxford St. John Council 10901, \$500, \$100; and

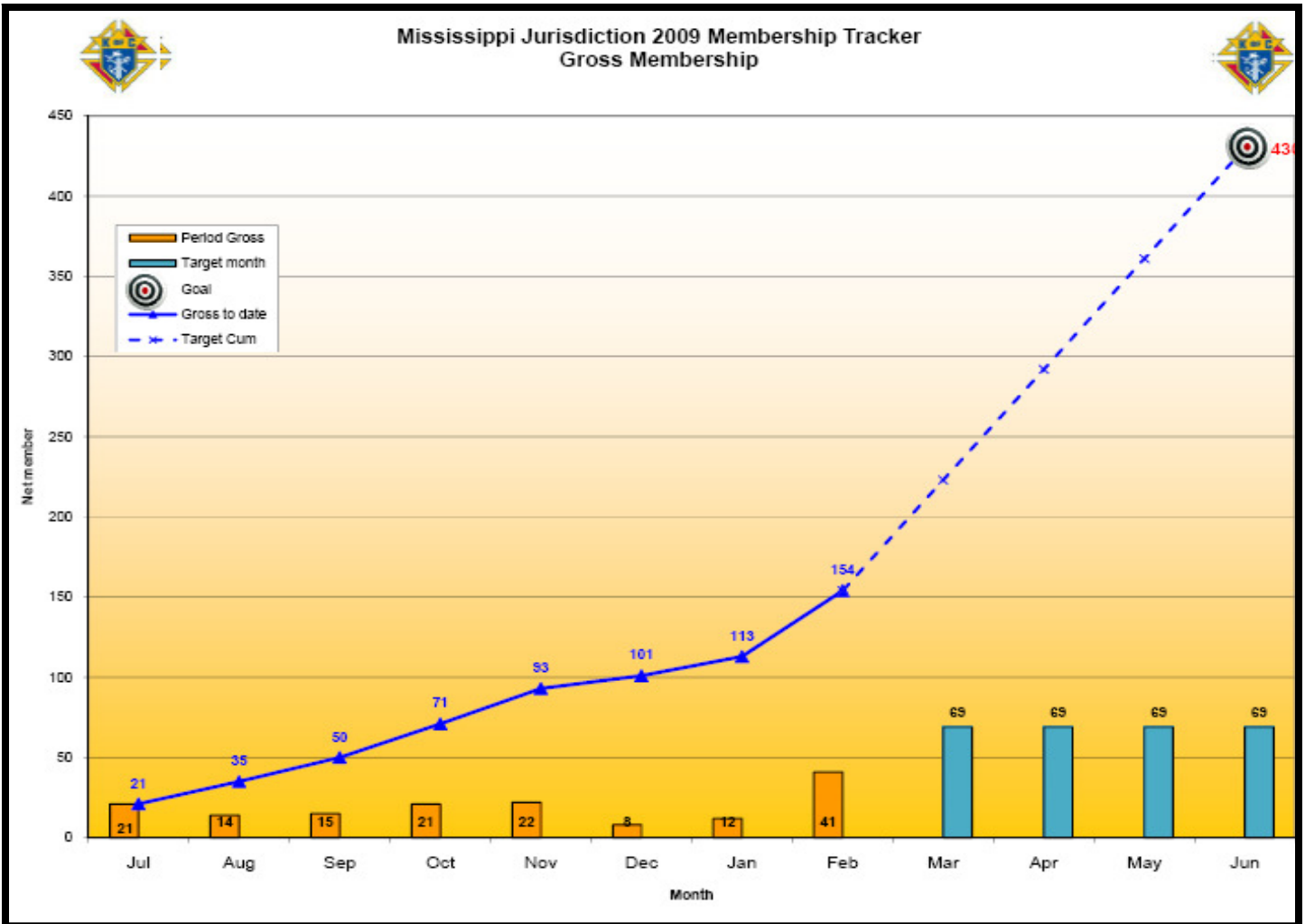
Dedaux Sacred Heart Council 12331 \$500, \$100.

January Families of the Month

Mississippi families Thomas and Theresa Beeman and Earl and Sandra Westfall were winners in the January Family of the Month contest, obtained through a random drawing at the Supreme Council office.

The Beemans were the Family of the Month for Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802, and the Westfalls were selected Family of the Month for Brookhaven Joseph Bonfiglio Council 7915.

Other Councils submitting Family of the Month participants for January were 898, 2134, 2180, 6765, 6872, 7120, 9094, 9124, 9543, 10216, 10443, 10499, 10901, 11934, 11956 and 12271.



We Can Help

By Thomas P. Smith, Jr., Executive V.P., Agencies and Marketing

In the January column, I wrote about the alarming statistic which tells us that about 50 percent of the households in the U.S. and Canada have no individually owned life insurance. If you recall, we talked about group life insurance and the tendency to get very comfortable that you are "covered" if you have this benefit at work.

But that certainly doesn't comprise the entire 50 percent block of people. What else could cause a person to carry no coverage?

The statistics for why people have not availed themselves of life insurance coverage are pretty clear, and they really don't change from survey to survey. First, let's look at the survey results (provided by the Life Insurance Marketing Research Association).

Why people don't buy life insurance:

- 74 percent list "can't afford the coverage" as a major rea-

son they don't buy.

- 52 percent say a major reason is that they "can't decide what to buy."
- 50 percent agree it is a good idea but "put it off until tomorrow."
- 43 percent worry about "making the wrong decision."

Let's examine each of these reasons. First, the vast majority lists a major reason as lack of affordability in the coverage, yet coverage is only offered if it meets your budget. It is in no one's best interest to offer you a product that you cannot afford. A good agent (like ours) goes through a process with you of determining what the affordable monthly cost is. For the record, a healthy non-smoking 40-year-old male can get \$500,000 of term coverage with the Order for just about \$1.50 a day.

If a client can't decide what to buy, the agent will help him decide, and a

lot has to do with identifying goals and objectives as well as a budget. We offer term insurance, permanent insurance or a mix of both. We believe a combination of these products can solve all personal protection issues.

Putting the purchase of life insurance off can be costly, and we would recommend against that. You get older and premiums go up, and you run the very real risk that your health can change. A negative change in your health can cause your costs to increase, or cause you to be denied coverage all together. Delay can be disastrous.

For those who worry about "making the wrong decision?" Well, we can help. You have to trust us. Our professionally trained agents work with hundreds of families just like yours. They know what to look for and what to recommend. A conversation with a K of C agent can help erase your doubt.

South District Free Throw Champions Hosted by Ocean Springs Fred. L. Westbrook Sr. Council 5654

10-Year-Old Girls

Allison Mayers, Hattiesburg Council 1908; Marina Cole, Ocean Springs Council 5654/10499; Jasmine Brown, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166

10-Year-Old Boys

Joshua Kelly, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166; Becht Rowel, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166; Michael Martin, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166

11-Year-Old Girls

Hannah Horn, Ocean Springs Council 5654/10499; Julia Bishop, Hattiesburg Council 1908

11-Year-Old Boys

David Alfred, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166; Chet Rodriguez, Ocean Springs Council 5654/10499; Trip Case, Hattiesburg Council 1908

12-Year-Old Girls

Ceili Rassier, Hattiesburg Council 1908; Kathleen McMackin, Ocean Springs Council 5654/10499

12-Year-Old Boys

Johnathan Brown, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166; Tristan Bridges, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166; Cullann Rassier, Hattiesburg Council 1908

14-Year-Old Girls

Aaliyah Alfred, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166

14-Year-Old Boys

Alex Turner, Gautier/Pascagoula Council 9124/12166

No athletes for the 13-Year-Old Boys or Girls Divisions

Improved NRD Launched

A new National Resource Directory (NRD), designed by the Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs, provides access to services, programs and resources at the national, state and community level.

The directory is designed to serve users such as Wounded Warriors, Service Members Veterans, their families and caregivers. It provides a tool for supporting service providers, such as Recovery Care Coordinators, Federal Recovery Coordinators, health care providers and case managers at Veterans Service Organizations.

The new features allow the military and veterans community to identify available resources and to browse for information.

To learn more about the National Resource Directory's new features visit

www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov.