



THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS |

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FROM THE STATE DEPUTY

STATE IS DOING WELL TOWARD ITS GOALS FOR THE YEAR

Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner. Have you completed your preparations yet? If you are like Linda and me, you still have a lot on your "to do" list. Actually, Linda is done and wondering why I always procrastinate so much. There's still plenty of time to get ready. After all, Christmas is still 10 days away!

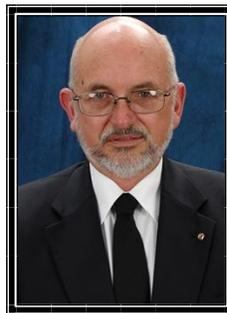
The mid-year State Deputy's meeting in Nashville went well. During that meeting we broke into groups and discussed where we are in relation to the goals we established in June and our plan of action for the remainder of the year. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson also introduced some new programs. Among them is a program to support Semi-

narian Education for the Military Archdiocese and a new 2nd Responders program designed to help with disaster relief throughout the country. Our State Programs Chairman, Elvis Gates, will be discussing them in detail at our Mid-Winter Regional meetings next month.

We worked hard but had some fun, too. The meetings ended with a dinner/dance on Saturday night with a "Western" theme. Linda did us

proud by wearing her black cowboy hat with a ceramic magnolia in the front. It was interesting to watch the Supreme Officers, many in jeans, boots and cowboy hats, trying to line dance.

Last July, Supreme told us that any state reaching 45 percent of its recruitment goal by Dec. 31 will get \$2,000 deposited into its Christopher Fund account. For those who do not know, the Christopher Funds is a Supreme-sponsored program. The money we put into the Christopher Fund is invested, and every year each Diocese receives a check for the interest accrued. These checks are presented at convention time along with our Bishop Gerow contributions. As of Dec. 9, we still need 23 new Knights to get that money. Our State Membership Chairman tells me he has three Form 100s ready to send in and two District Deputies tell me that between them they have another 11 ready for exemplifications. That's good, but it still leaves us short. This is free money that will help benefit our Seminarians for years to come. We need to make one final push. Please do what you can to make this happen.



Gerald Schmuck

The State Officer's meeting was held Dec. 3 and was attended by the State Officers, District Deputies, State Program Chairman, State Youth Chairman and the State Ceremonials Chairman. We discussed the status of each District as well as where we are in relation to our State goals and made plans on how to get them accomplished by the end of the year. Overall we are doing well. Our recruitment is up slightly from last year, but, as in past years, we are still having retention problems. We seem to be losing Knights as fast as we are bringing them in.

Also at this meeting we were introduced to a potentially new program. Some members of the Vicksburg Council are part of an effort to form a non-profit organization designed to help homeless veterans. While the program is just getting started, it appears to be a worthwhile project. We will be presenting information to you on this later to see if your Councils are interested in participating.

Our Regional Mid-Winter meetings are rapidly approaching. This year we will have our Southern Regional Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 8, at Council 5654, Ocean Springs. Our Northern meeting will be on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Council 13502, Batesville, and our Central meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 15, at St. Richard's Council 15131 in Jackson. The St. Richard's meeting will start at 1 p.m. All others will start at noon. While all are encouraged to attend, we would like to see all Grand Knights, Program Directors and Membership Directors at the meetings.

Linda and I would like to thank you for your friendship and support this past year. We wish all of you a prayerful, joyous Christmas and New Year. May 2012 will bring you and your families many blessings.



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

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The Magnolia Knight

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www.kofc-ms.org

It's Not Too Late to Have A FANTASTIC Year!!!

By-Elvis Gates, State Program Director

Okay, it's December, almost the END of 2011, and you are looking back at the year and saying, "Wow! What happened to the time? I really meant for us to do..., I really wanted our Council to accomplish..., why didn't we get around to doing..., etc, etc, yada-yada-yada. Well if you are a Council leader or just a motivated brother Knight, let me tell ya, IT AINT TOO LATE!!! There is SOOOOO much good you can still do in the remaining months of the state Fraternal Year.

Our state's fraternal and activity year runs until the last day of March 2012. SO, if the Mayans didn't get the dates mixed up and the world doesn't end on Feb 12 (you know – 02-12-2012) or anything crazy like that, you have time to work in a lot of good charitable and fraternal activity. The Christmas season (all the way to New Year's) is a great time for food drives, clothing drives, helping out with a toys for tots campaign - a host of good and saintly tasks. How about Council Christmas parties or a Corporate Communion Christmas Mass with Honor Guard provided by the 4th Degree? Wouldn't THAT add some distinction to such a blessed event?

After Jan. 1 you have things to do as well. The annual March for Life occurs the weekend of Jan. 21. Are your Councils planning to put up a Support Life display? Crosses or banners to show our support for the unborn? What are you doing on Supreme's Day of the Unborn on March 25? How about having a Mass or Rosary service to pray the Rosary for the unborn? March also is the month in which our founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, saw his vision becoming real: March 29 is Founder's Day. Why not a Council party to celebrate the event that has brought so much good to the world and fraternity between our brothers?

Whatever time you think you have lost, put it behind you. REALLY. Look at what time you have left and GET AFTER IT!!! You have time to still have some fun and do some mighty deeds. All you have to do is put the right people in motion and make it happen. The saddest feeling of a leader is that they didn't get anything done. Keep that feeling from taking root by making something happen. You and your Councils still have time and the ability to end this year with a bang. Plan the work and work the plan (and don't forget to report it before March 31 so we can give you credit at the convention).

Vivat Jesus!



Cemetery Restoration Completed

Members of Philadelphia-Tucker Fr. Raphael Toner Council 12271 have been active in clean up and restoration of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish cemetery in Philadelphia. The Council presented a check to the President of the Parish Council to cover the expense of incorporating a statue of the Pieta into a reflection area built by a brother Knight and located near the entrance to the cemetery. The Holy Cross Parish President presented a letter to the Council thanking the Knights for their contribution to the clean up and restoration. (Photo by Doug Prosen; submitted by Ron DiPalma, Grand Knight.)



Altar Servers Recognized

Council 9124 and Father Charles Nutter of St Mary Gautier presented Altar Server Certificates during the Church's recent Christmas Party. (Submitted by Robert Barr, DD 12.)

Be Thankful for Our Priests of the Future

By Don Cox, Chair, Bishop R.O. Gerow Memorial Fund

Christmas is a time to be thankful for all that we have and also to remember those who need our support.

I ask you to be thankful for all the young men who have said "Yes" to the Lord by becoming seminarians and our priests for the future. I ask you to pray daily for them and show your support by making a donation to the R.O. Gerow Memorial Fund for Seminarian Education.