

MAINE STATE COUNCIL SUMMER WORKSHOP – YORK – 24 JUNE 2017

State Deputy Norm Gray opened the meeting at 9:00 am. Opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance led by FDM Raymond Sargent. Introductions made:

- Supreme Rep Christopher Micik, State Treasurer John Deetjen, State Advocate Jon Harvey, State Warden Michael Giroux, IPSD David Roy, Michael Foster (Surge Director/GK Gorham), Gary Smith (State Council Director) Anthony Alfiero (Community Director), Frank Pease (Pro Life Director), Walter Boguslawski (General Agent), Greg White (Field Agent/Incoming GA), Raymond Sargent (Executive Secretary), Dave McDonald (State Retention Director), (Ceremonials Director), (Leo Baillarger DD 10), (Dennis Guay DD 15), (Anthony Brenna DD 16), Field Agent John Burrell.
- State Secretary Mark Bourgoïn and Membership Director Philip Lizotte are excused; they are attending Supreme training in Dallas.
- Respective GKs, DGKs and FSs from 101, 106, 1299, 2219, 2347, 2755, 3942, 8742, 8868, 9782, 10019, 10221, 10887, 11257, 11376, 11747, 11940, 12652, 12941, 13861, 14246, 15791.

Passed out the “By the Numbers” State Map. (Note: Two councils missing, 11747 Scarborough and 12033 Kennebunk) SD outlined HIS plan, he created it, wants the SOs, DDs, and all in the room to buy into this plan. Required all DD’s to hold a degree each month in their district, and obtain 2 members per district per month.

KC USB Pen with all documents pertinent to the position of DD, provided to the SOs, DDs, and Select State Staff. Discussion followed as to how to utilize it.

Took blame for past lack of attaining goals, explained that DD’s and up are no longer volunteers; leadership positions come with expectations.

State Community Director & Chairman for People with Disabilities Program Anthony Alfiero:

- Touched on Community Programs and the Special Olympics Programs (Lobster Dip, Polar Dip, Regional Spring Games and State Summer Games)
- Thanked everyone for their increased involvement with Tootsie Rolls, noted that Greenville was on board, already increasing last year’s participation level.

State Retention Chairman Dave McDonald gave us real-world scenarios on tracking down and retaining members. Advised us not to suspend members who are in nursing homes, or otherwise unable to pay; remember Charity and continue their dues to keep them active. However, we must also look to clean up our membership lists; we should not be paying dues on deceased members. Suspend only if absolutely necessary: conduct unbecoming or no longer a practicing Catholic. (\$9.50 to Maine State Council and \$2.75 to Supreme Council)

Discussions followed with SD on waiving per capita taxes per member; we run a lean budget, and cannot afford to waive too many per capita billings. You may discuss individual cases with him...alternatively suggested that we could make better use of the disability form.

SD addressed the Supreme directive to do on-line training. Supremes’ challenge coins were passed around and admired by all.

SD addressed the need to change our ways of thinking and acting, in order to change the perception of the Knights of Columbus into the reality of today's Knights. We are much more church-based than ever; we need to dispel the old perceptions of the Knights as a drinking club. We are not Knights to give accolades to the Knights, but to God our Father.

First Breakout session:

- **Grand Knight/Deputy Grand Knight Workshop – State Warden Michael Giroux**
 - **Distributed and reviewed Grand Knights Guide, Leadership Resources Guide, & Guide for Conducting Council Meetings**
 - **Distributed the Grand Knight Training Outline**
 - **Keeping the council active during the summer**
 - **Role of the Grand Knight – STAR Council – Establish Relationship**
 - **Forms, Forms, Forms – advised which council having delinquent forms**
 - **Surge with Service Program; particular emphasis on Colombian Award**
 - **Showing Appreciation**
 - **Involving Wives and Families in all aspects of council planning and meetings**
 - **Shared personal experiences Do's & Don'ts's**
 - **Q & A session. Comments: Focus is on Activities and Protocol, needs to be more on our Faith, our Churches, and activating member involvement**
- **Financial Secretary Workshop – State Treasurer John Deetjen, Jr. and State Advocate Jon Harvey**
 - **Reviewed the Financial Secretary Training Video from Supreme Council and any changes to the online reporting**
 - **Shared personal experiences Do's & Don'ts's**
 - **Q & A session**
- **District Deputy Workshop – State Deputy Norm Gray and Immediate Past State Deputy Dave Roy**
 - **Reviewed the District Deputy Guide**
 - **Stressed the value of the pen from Supreme, with ALL the document that they need to succeed at their position**
 - **Shared personal experiences Do's & Don'ts's**
 - **Q & A session**

Brother Christopher Micik was introduced to speak on membership. He gave us his direct phone number at Supreme (203) 752-4349. This is his 1st year as Manager of Membership Incentives and Promotions. Asked each DD to schedule one Admission Degree per month; applauded SD for setting the bar even higher at two members per district per month. Feels that that is an attainable goal. Stated that society has changed over the last 50 years; the Church used to be the central focus of society, and now there are so many ways to connect socially, that groups such as the Knights are struggling to complete. Our net gains are still positive, however, less of that net/net comes from US and Canada, only 10% overall...the majority of the gains are coming from overseas, and the newer Jurisdictions, such as Poland, etc. We are challenged to bring more churches into the fold through new councils, bring back inactive members, and establish round tables. There is an increase in ethnic communities, where English is not the primary language. These are brothers in Christ, and a real opportunity to start councils within these communities. Start by recruiting a leading member of those communities as a catalyst, possibly convert that member to a round table, and then have it become a free-standing council, providing that you do not exclude that council...make them an active part of your districts. Some of these ethnic members and even our missionary

priests have never heard about the Knights, or any other fraternal group. We need to reach out, introduce ourselves, and educate them as to who we are and what we do.

Many resources are available, the fraternal planner is key. Indispensable tool for GK's, etc. The new council guide (10319) is a great resource, KC Guide on Council Growth and Retention (10506) is a new guide, well put together by Supreme, and the Membership recruitment and retention manual (10237) is an indispensable tool. This information is also on the DD pen.

Use prospect cards (921a) if applicable, and follow up on questions, etc. when conducting church drives. Nothing tops person to person recruitment.

Utilize fraternal webinars (kofc.org/webinar), you can watch them at your leisure if you can't attend live. Take advantage of this updated information. Order a free church drive kit, available to each council twice a year, with updated brochures and membership recruitment tools. Question about availability of pens, they will be available to order in the near future.

A question came up, SW had mentioned that only 4 councils had submitted the SP-7 (his was one of them) If you have any questions on the SP-7 and the BDC requirement, you can call Jack Liebowitz at Supreme directly.

SD introduced the new State Pin, with emphasis on the size of the Cross relative to the logo of Maine, as the Cross / Church of Maine grows, so must the emphasis on the State diminish, relative to the history between John the Baptist and our Lord.

State Surge Program Director Michael Foster:

- Gave us a short bio on himself; if you want something done, ask a busy man. He is a convert, was never asked to join, even though he had heard about the Knights.
- Involve members of your council where they are strong; if they are involved in Church, make them a Church director, etc.
- Use the website, and our new Facebook page, to get ideas on new projects or areas you can try to expand in.
- Use Building the Domestic Church
- We are going digital! Submit your reports on-line, easier and less time consuming than the traditional paper process. Working on a program that can be universal to be used to submit programs on-line, with a linear connection between Program Directors, DD's and State Surge Directors.

General Agent Walter Boguslawski - my agents and I look to assist you in growing the Order. Introduced new incoming General Agent Greg White; Walter will be staying on as a Field Agent. Greg will have his office in Waterville. Field agents have been tasked to assist you in increasing membership. Please contact an agent anytime that you have a potential member join the Order.

- Do not just ask for a signature on a Form 100. Get to know a person, then talk about the benefits of joining.
- Council can get personalized pens, great tool...people take it home, put it on the table, and it helps plant the seed. Used example of giving one to a non-Catholic, eventually, gentleman became Catholic, two weeks later, joined the Knights.
- Fill out questionnaire. Even if children are not at home, they should be listed. These are potential future members
- When you bring in a new member, ENGAGE them. Don't just invite them to your meetings...involve them in projects that are of interest to them.

- Know when the next first degree is...should not wait 1 or more months to get a new member in. If each District has a first degree monthly, this will NOT happen.
- Shining Armor Award has been updated
- Our agents are BROTHER KNIGHTS first, they will err and walk away from a sale, not to seem pushy...they really care about that Brother Knights' welfare first and foremost.

SW Michael Giroux presented a request by GK 334 Patrick Dunn, asking for assistance to help house the new chaplain for Togus. SD added to it how better to show our support for our clergy, then to physically support this young man, who has dedicated 7 years of his life to minister to our veterans.

SD, with assistance from the Executive Secretary, presented a program from Supreme on Building the Domestic Church through Council Programs, put together by Bob Ennis and Thomas Perretta. (Workshop 2, Fraternal Programs) Contact them at (203) 752-4270.

Encouraged attendance to "To God Be the Glory" next Spring in York, March 15-18.

Building the Domestic Church handout passed out and discussed.

IPSD David Roy introduced as Roundtable coordinator; discussion followed on how to calculate how many roundtables you are eligible for, and SD gave examples on how to build the need for a Roundtable, and how that Roundtable might evolve into a new council. Councils should order or download the Parish Round Table Guide, Form 2632, or get it from their DD; he has it on his pen.

Another Consecration to the Holy Family icon will arrive this year, more information to come.

Journey to the Inn program presented; new transition, potentially connected to the Essay contest.

Fraternal Planner: Each FS will receive 10 for members and officers of his council. You can order more as needed.

Utilize the Kiosk, amazing tool!

Into the Breach #340, introduce to men how they need to become involved in their parishes. We are supposed to build each other up, not tear each other down. The emasculation of men today has resulted in women doing everything in our parishes, and men need to take a more active role in our Church. This book is on the DD pen.

Council Action Plan! We have a State Action plan; have spread it into the DD action plan. Soon, all councils will do one of these.

(kofc.org/Domestic Church) Explore this site to see how much "stuff" can be obtained for free.

Promote the "Family Fully Alive" program.

Start an "Into the Breach" study group!

Councils need to work together in all areas; combine efforts

Visit kofc.org and maineknights.org, add to that our new Facebook page; share it with all your friends, introduce them to what the Knights of Columbus in Maine are doing.

All councils are encouraged to make a pilgrimage to the JP II Shrine in Washington, DC. This will fulfill two of your requirements for Church activities. Requires 10 members and wives, and a Mass said in the Luminous Chapel.

Family Camping Weekend at Camp Tall Pines, August 25-27!

\$245 raised for Raffle Draw for \$50 in merchandise; proceeds to fund the van travelling the KC ladies around.

IPSD David Roy spoke on the new Charity Fund guidelines, the newsletter was distributed, and discussion followed on the "new" ability to submit a request from ANY council.

District Deputies were asked about their District Meetings, results as follows:

District 10, Leo Baillarger on September 7, at 7 pm, at the Basilica.

District 15, Dennis Guay, on September 12, at 6:30pm, at St. Ignatius.

District 16, Anthony Brenna, on September 19, at 7 pm, at St. Christopher's

Microphone was then given to PSD Raymond Sargent, who spoke about inviting State Officers to your functions; they will attend as many as they are able; it is good for your council members to see and get to know them.

Presentation of a KC cutting board and a 4th Degree Crucifix were made to Supreme Rep Christopher Micik.

Councils/Districts should send 1st Degree date list to Ray Sargent for publication on our website and calendar.

Patriotic Degree to be held in Van Buren on May 19th, 2018.

Host GK/DD Anthony Brenna thanked his council for their work in hosting this event. He invited everyone present to stop at the cemetery to see the KC Headstone. We have spaces reserved at Mass for the Knights.

Supreme Rep Christopher Micik was given the microphone, and gave us thanks for a wonderful meeting and superb hospitality. As a parting thought, he stated that 9 years ago he relocated to CT to work for the Knights of Columbus. One of the benefits is that he is a parishioner of St. Mary's, and has the ability to pray at the sarcophagus of Fr. McGiveny, asking for his blessing as he performs the work of the Order. Imagine what this world would be like if the Knights of Columbus did not exist. The amount of charity that is done because of the Knights of Columbus is phenomenal. Vivat Jesus!

