

MAINE STATE COUNCIL SUMMER WORKSHOP – BELFAST – 232 JULY 2017

We began the day with the 0830 celebration of Mass at St. Francis of Assisi, celebrated by Fr. Bob Vaillancourt, where the Knights were heartily welcomed and thanked by Fr. Bob.

State Deputy Norm Gray opened the meeting at 10:50 am. Opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance led by DM Philip Lizotte. Introductions made:

- State Secretary Mark Bourgoïn, State Treasurer John Deetjen, State Advocate Jon Harvey, State Warden Michael Giroux, IPSD David Roy, Michael Foster (Surge Director/GK Gorham), Philip Lizotte (Membership Director), Anthony Alfiero (Community Director), Walter Boguslawski (outgoing General Agent), Greg White (incoming General Agent), Raymond Sargent (Executive Secretary & Ceremonials Director), Bruce Rioux (DD 3), Michael Caruso, representing Jon Josephowitz (DD 4), Michael Carignan (DD 6), Miles Brookes (DD 7), Keith Richardson (DD 8), John Ordway (DD 9), Ray DiDonato, Sr. (DD 13).
- Respective GKs, DGKs and FSs from Councils 101, 114, 136, 149, 249, 334, 680, 2368, 2537, 3942, 5756, 7300, 10020, 10221, 10897, 11376, 13861.

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. SD addressed the Supreme directive to do on-line training. 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.

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. Building the Domestic Church handout passed out and discussed. Into the Breach Booklet discussed.

Opened with the video of the Supreme Knight's 2015 Address to the State Deputies on the Domestic Church Initiative.

SD gave a presentation on Home Associations. Discussed the book from Supreme on evaluating the use and existence of Home Associations, in order to decide if your building is successful and should continue, or if it's draining on your council, and should be closed. Discussion followed on the signage and usage of Halls owned by Home Associations and the relationship between the council and the hall.

SD Gray with assistance from State Officers, installed the DD's present, Bruce Rioux, Michael Caruso, representing Jon Josephowitz, Michael Carignan, Miles Brookes, Keith Richardson, John Ordway and Ray DiDonato, Sr.

First Breakout session:

- Grand Knight/Deputy Grand Knight Workshop – State Secretary Mark Bourgoïn and 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
- 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

SD Gray 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. "If you want to suspend five members, I will only accept them if you replace them with five new members!" 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.

Passed out the "By the Numbers" State Map.

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 – Quote by Carl Anderson
- 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.

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. The book, Into The Breach is on the DD pen.

Many resources are available, the fraternal planner is key. Fraternal Planner: Each FS will receive 10 for members and officers of his council. You can order more as needed.

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.

Supremes' challenge coins were passed around and admired by all.

General Agent Walter Boguslawski – my agents and I look to assist you in growing the Order. Informed that we have a new incoming General Agent Greg White; Walter will be staying on as a Field Agent for another year. 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. Handed out an informational packet for each council. Included is a stylus pen, various brochures to help in the recruitment process. Agents do not talk insurance first; they recruit using information on the Knights of Columbus. Hand out Columbian Magazines with your council's contact information on the back.

- 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.
- Long-term care is becoming the Cadillac product industry-wide, for an Impala price. The KC has never raised the price on a policy in force.
- Disability insurance offered through the Knights, covers housing, utilities, and groceries.
- Don't allow any other insurance companies to intrude on YOUR Knights of Columbus!

Walter thanked everybody for the last three years, and SD Gray lauded him on this speaking from the heart, believing what he is saying.

SA announced that September 9 will be the date of their HO Bouchard Memorial Golf Tournament to help seminarians.

Do not hesitate to contact any State Officers for any reason, all of us are here to help you!

A raffle to support the KC store was also held raising \$195; \$50 in merchandise was won by Tom MacDonald from Calais.

State Membership Director Phil Lizotte, gave a presentation on Membership 365, which was presented to them in Dallas. Handout passed out pertaining to this. Handout on incentives for membership handed out and discussed. Discussion on accessing webinars, both past and future. Many definitions of leaders; don't all have to be officers to lead!

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.

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.

State Church Director Joseph McGovern spoke about the Men's Retreat, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, to be held on September 8-10 at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop. The theme is "Apparitions" i.e.: Fatima. The Retreat Master is Fr. Seamus Griesbach.

The Ladies' Retreat, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, to be held September 15-17 at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop. The theme is "Apparitions", i.e. Fatima. The Retreat Master is TBA.

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.
- Handed out a copy of the news release from the Diocese on the Campaign for People with Disabilities, as well as the State Newsletter on the same program.
- Handed out information on the 1st Annual Knights on Bikes ride.

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

District 3, Bruce Rioux, on August 20, at the Hall in Millinocket, at 1 pm.

District 4, Jon Josephowitz, TBA.

District 6, Michael Carignan, on August 25, at St. Vincent DePaul in Bucksport, at 6pm.

District 7, Miles Brookes, on September 26, at Notre Dame Hall, at 6 pm. (meal)

District 8, Keith Richardson, separate meetings at the individual council meetings:

Council 334 August, on August 1, Council 1299, Gardiner, on August 9, and Council 1423, Whitefield, on August 10.

District 9, John Ordway, TBA

District 11, Greg Jones, TBA

District 12, David Spada, TBA

District 13, Ray DiDonato, on September 30, at St. Pius in Portland, at 10 am.

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.

The Silver Rose was transferred to Maine today at noon, and we will have it for thirty days only; it's going next to Greenville with Deacon John. Our closing prayer was said in the presence of the Silver Rose, just delivered by State Church Director, Joseph McGovern. It was a decade of the Rosary, led by Deacon John Guerin, GK of the Greenville Council.