



DIRECTIONS

Website: www.kofcsd.org

December 2016

The information contained in this publication has many items that are of great importance to the success of each council during the coming fraternal year. Please read this and pass it on to other officers, directors and members in your council so that they may also be informed about upcoming matters. Send information to Doug Chilson, 1921 Iowa Ave SE, Huron, SD 57350.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Now - Council History Worksheet due.
- Now - Send in Tootsie Roll Fund Drive report and funds collected.
- December 25—Christmas
- January - Hold Local Free-throw Contest.
- January - Review convention checklist in state forms book..
- January 31 - Bids for 2022 Convention due.
- January 31 - Fraternal Surveys due.
- January 31 - Resolutions due.
- Feb 1—State per capita & ceremonial assessment due.
- February - District Free-throw Contest.
- March 5—State Free-throw-Chamberlain

DEADLINES

As you can see there are many deadlines coming up. It is already getting to be the time of the year when we need to start thinking about getting ready for the convention. There is a reason for all of these deadlines and your cooperation is needed and appreciated. Take a look at pages 4 & 5 for important dates to remember. This would be a good time to look in the forms book and review what is needed to fulfill the requirements of the Elite Council Award. This award is the one that every council should strive to earn since there is no one to compete with for it and it gives you a good nucleus of activities. Details about forms are available on the state web site.

PER CAPITA BILLING

The financial secretaries have recently received this years billing for the state per capita and ceremonials. It is important to know that these assessments are based on Supreme's numbers and are not to be changed to reflect what you think is accurate. If you think that your

numbers are inaccurate, take the proper steps with Supreme to get your numbers corrected. I would encourage each council to go through your roster and keep it current but it is imperative to take the proper steps. You should also strive to add a new member for each one that you take off your roster. Contact your District Deputy or State Membership Director with membership questions. **Please note that these funds are mailed to State Secretary Pat Powers, 800 W Elm Ave, Flandreau, SD 57028.**

WINTER MEETING

The State Council held its winter meeting on December 3rd & 4th at Huron. Covered in the meetings were the importance of membership as well as many other State programs. While it was stressed that the first three months of the year historically are the most productive for holding membership drives, we need to actively seek new members all year long. We need to hold more 1st Degrees and get new members initiated as soon as possible and then follow through and get them to the 2nd & 3rd Degrees. Work with your local KC Insurance agent and get him involved. They are a great help and they look forward to helping you. Contact your parish priest now to make sure that you can do something special to develop interest in the Knights of Columbus. Encourage all officers to make a special attempt to recruit a new member. The officers are the leaders and should set an example. Another area of the Degree work that needs improvement is the number of spectators. The more spectators there are, the more meaningful the Degree!

Ceremonials 2nd & 3rd Degrees

- Jan 21 ———Eagle Butte
- Jan 28 ———Vermillion
- Jan 29 ———Tyndall
- Feb 12 ———Redfield

Form 100's

We talk extensively about membership and we should. Often time much effort is put into arranging degree work, whether it is 1st or 2nd & 3rd. Don't forget to do a vital part of the process, the Form 100. They should be submitted immediately to make it official. The new candidate is not a member until Supreme says that they are and at that time they become eligible for the fraternal benefits. Also use the Form 100 for other member changes such as address changes.

DELEGATES

Convention time is near. There is still plenty of time for your council to prepare for this expense. If you need to, plan a fund raiser to help cover the expense of your delegates. Please plan on attending the convention, you won't regret it.

PENNIES

A new charitable fundraiser was started to help build our KC Foundation, the penny challenge. I encourage all councils to get a can in their council halls to start collecting pennies. There will be more details provided in an upcoming issue of the Crusader.

New Year's Resolutions

The fraternal year of the KC's started July 1st and many of us strived to do certain things better. The new calendar year will soon be upon us so it gives us a chance to renew these resolutions. Now is the time to resolve to become a more active Knight. While it is a good start, it isn't enough to just attend the meetings. One should strive to become more active in supporting and promoting the Knights of Columbus.

COMMENTS FROM STATE DEPUTY LIEBIG

Brother Knights,

We just finished the State Council Winter Meeting focusing on membership growth, not only adding new and former members but also realizing the importance of retention of our current members. Members are the life blood of any organization and the Knights of Columbus is no different. Without members invigorating our councils, our charitable programs will cease to exist. If that should happen, then our great organization, the Knights of Columbus ceases as well.

We have an aging population in the Knights of Columbus with South Dakota's average age at 58 years. Therefore we can never stop in our responsibility to recruit new and former members. College Council development continues to be a priority for South Dakota. We need to also be able to recruit young men and their families to the Knights of Columbus....but how? It is important to welcome their ideas, enthusiasm and energy, their communication styles, and be ok with them taking over projects, supporting them, mentoring them.

But before that can even occur, it is imperative that we as local KC councils find and create activities/programs that attract young men AND their families. Today's young family is very different than families 15-30 years ago. We need to recognize and embrace that, welcoming them. Fr. Michael J. McGivney was only 29 years old when he started the Knights of Columbus in 1882.

Focusing these programs and activities in our local parishes in concert with the pastor's wishes and parish needs will indeed Build the Domestic Church (our families) while Strengthening our Parishes. South Dakota has done very well in membership the past several years lowering our age by bringing in over 1500 members in the past 4 years but we have to realize there is one thing we can not avoid....deaths. According to Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and actuaries in the KC Insurance Department, the Knights of Columbus in about a decade will enter a death-spiral due to the number of members in their 70s-90s that the Order will not be able to overcome. So...in a nutshell, the Knights of Columbus must get

younger in order to overcome the inevitable deaths that none of us can avoid.

Dire straights....I think definitely not. We have the opportunity of a lifetime to invite all eligible Catholic men to the Knights of Columbus, no matter their age. When we do this, we will never have to worry about the age of nor have to question the future existence of our Order....Knights of Columbus. Is South Dakota up to the challenge? Yes, we are! Vivat Jesus!!

The State Officers and their families would like to wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus,

Thad Liebig
"In Humble Service"

IN HUMBLE SERVICE
