

Maine Organizational District Deputy Meeting
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Bangor, ME
Saturday, June 24, 2023

Present were: State Deputy Jon Harvey, Supreme Regional Growth Director William Chasse, State Secretary Michael Giroux, State Treasurer Gilman Berube, State Advocate Gilman Ouellette(DD13), State Warden Gary Boynton (DD6), Immediate Past State Deputy John Deetjen, Jr., and Executive Secretary PSD Raymond Sargent; Fraternal Benefits Agent Aaron Weiss, Fraternal Benefits Agent William Weiss, Community Director Anthony Alfiero(DD11), Faith Director Russell Brimmer, Life Director Charles Bougie, PSD Norman Gray, PSD David Roy, PSD Philip Lizotte, Assistant Event Coordinator Paul Ouellette, Paul Rand, DD2 Stephen Brooker, DD3 Bruce Rioux, DD4 Daniel Modrusan, DD5 Laurier Castonguay, DD7 G. Michael Hammond, DD8 Michael Carignan, DD9 Keith Laser, DD10 Robert Michaud, DD12 Thomas Nigro, DD 14 Simon Mutapa, DW15 Jon DiCentes, DD16 Anthony Brenna, DD17 Chris Leconte, and DD18 Edward Stover. DD1 Bernard Michaud and DD 15 Kevin LaFreniere were excused.

We opened at 8:00 with prayer offered by SD Jon Harvey. District Master Duane Belanger then led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. SD Jon Harvey gave us a message from Fr. Aaron D'Amboise. He is encouraging us to do Eucharistic Processions in our areas, and be sure to reach out to our priests to see what we can do to assist them. Introductions were made. DDs were welcomed and thanked for coming forward to serve. We only have two districts that are now being covered by State Officers.

SD Jon Harvey reported on last year and gave us our expectations for this year. Our goal for last year was 175/168. We were at 168 by Convention. We are at 194, headed for 200 by fraternal year-end. **This year our goal is 230. It is very attainable.** We have some incentives to assist with this. For the first six months, for every 10 members we sign up as e-members, and convert them to a council, we gain one member. Supreme would prefer that we sign everyone up electronically, scanned form 100's don't always get to where they should properly, and they are being phased out. If we get half of our quota by December 31, we have 5% deducted from our total. For District Deputies, if you get half of your District Quota by December 31, you'll earn \$250 cash. For Councils in each class, the top recruiter in each class gets a duffel bag plus, valued at \$150. For **each council that gets half of their quota by December 31, they will get a 10% reduction in their per capita.** Please pay it as due; **you will get a rebate check** from the State Treasurer.

The first presentation by the SD was on Fraternal Operations. There are a multitude of training videos available; please educate your councils on how to access them. **At kofc.org**, without logging in, click the red, **"For Members"** button on the upper right-hand corner, then scroll down until you see the **"Training & Webinars"** button. Just below that is the **"Programs"** button, which has all the information you need on our FIA programs. Good programs engage and evangelize; engagement equals satisfaction, satisfaction equals retention and growth, and growth equals more Evangelization!

168,600 Affiliate Members were added to the programs last year, and just under 6000 of them were returned to active councils. **Advertise the link to kofc.org/join** on all your communication. We need to continue to recruit to replace our rapidly dying members. Please fill out the **10784 for Special Olympics**; we should have double the donation from Supreme that we received last year. Even if your council does nothing for Special Olympics, fill out that you did nothing, and Supreme will send a certain amount of donation to Special Olympics for every form filled out and submitted. The month of January will provide us with another opportunity to utilize the Affiliate program. This was originally intended as a once only

program, so if you haven't yet used it, please avail yourself of this opportunity. We were admonished not to use it **without doing your due diligence. Please make every effort to retain your members first.** DDs should remember that they have a once-a-year form to fill out on each of their councils, **Form 944, due September 15.** It is mandatory to fill that form out.

To honor Blessed McGivney and the faith formation side, we are supposed to evangelize and bring people back to the Church. Changing minds and saving souls. Competence, empathy, and humility. Empowerment, accountability, and love for our Brother? When did Jesus stop being enough? The day that he died on the Cross for us. Eucharistic processions, and eucharistic revival were stressed. **Cor Ad Cor Loquitor/Heart Speaks to Heart.** Eucharistic processions from four corners of the United States, culminating in Indianapolis, are planned for next summer. Quote from Saint Mother Teresa: The Fruit of Love is Service...if we don't love, we can't serve. Give notice to your council's before visiting; **be encouraging and uplifting.**

Bill Chasse was introduced. He spoke about how down to earth Patrick Kelly was and gave the example of him dancing with his girls at the last Supreme Convention. We need to show our priests that we are here to serve them, and to help them. We need to continue to prove that we will do what we say we will, in order to make their lives easier. They have so many demands on their time. Ask your priests to breakfast/dinner monthly, see what you can do. We are parishioners of the greater Catholic Church. We shouldn't hear "Father isn't a strong supporter of the Knights". **It's not what you say, it's how you say it.** We need to forget the past and build for the future. The little things add up, just a tap on the shoulder and a quick thank you for what they do. My signature is: **the more that we invite to the Catholic Church, the stronger we will be.** Numbers are important, but if we do what we're supposed to do, the numbers will be there, and the Catholic Church will be better because of it. **The KC will make you a better person, father, husband, Catholic!** We all know Brother Knights that don't attend Church; find someone you know and ask them to come to Church with you. Buy them breakfast as a bribe if you need to. If you ask ten men, and one comes back to Church, it's worth it! Help to fill our pews back up! **We can no longer be the best kept secret.** Tell them about what we do, not just the pancake breakfast, but the big picture. Money sent to Ukraine; Coats for Kids; ASAP; Charitable works in your church, community, and nationwide. The ASAP program has been a huge help. Talk with Father about Eucharistic Processions. The COR initiative is going strong and expanding from a pilot program. It needs to be a separate meeting where we can talk about our Faith. By getting together and discussing faith-based ideas, you will create better men and stronger councils. **Bring back the Shining Armor award.** It is another important way of engaging new members and getting them to be active in the council. **We need to abolish the statement, "We tried that before and it didn't work!"** Meeting the 50% quota by December 31 is very important. It will be a huge help to your council and our state if you start fast! Summer is short in Maine; utilize your summer activities to recruit. Utilize the Agency to assist you in that recruiting. RGD Bill's Chasse's phone number is 203-361-8693 and his e-mail is William.Chasse@kofc.org. If you can't get an answer from your State Officers, please reach out to him!

We next viewed a video address from our Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly.

The FIA Team was introduced next. FIA Directory Michael Foster is in Savannah, GA and wants to thank his Directors for their continued work in their respective categories. His comments were read by the SD, Jon Harvey.

COH Charitable impact goals: **Our goal was \$544,941 raised; we reported \$715,566. Our goal was 139,600 hours of service; we submitted 154,800 hours. Keep submitting those Form 1728's.** This is of the utmost importance. **We also need to submit a report when we hold a membership drive.** All you need to do is send an e-mail to the SD, and/or your DD, and he can forward it. This is crucial, as we have a quota of drives which must be met as well. **Remember that most council activities can qualify as a membership drive.** If you host a dinner or breakfast, talk about what your council is doing. Have an informational table with free literature on joining. All these qualify as membership drives.

Star Council: You need the Columbian Award, which still only needs 16 programs in total, four in each category. **Use Form 11784 to report everything, and don't forget to duplicate those reports on the State Website, in order to qualify for State recognition.** Class A councils need 28 members or potential members to attend FBN's over the course of the year. Class B councils need 20 members to attend. This could be 14/10 at two different events, 7/5 at four different events, and so on. Reach out to the Weiss agents for assistance.

Community Director Anthony Alfiero spoke first. **Tootsie Roll Drive should raise \$100,000 annually;** we were there once; we need to get back there. He has a handout explaining his projects, and it is attached to this report. All Tootsie Roll forms can be found on the website.

Family Director Wes Tab was absent, but his comments are attached as well. They were read by the State Deputy.

COR Director Russell "Spike" Brimmer spoke on Faith programs and access to information on **kofc.org**. Anyone can access this information; you do not have to be logged in to do so. His comments are in the attachments. We then watched a video on the **new COR initiative**; please don't call it a program, call it an initiative!

Bob Dumond, Vocations Director addressed the group. **Deacon Peter Bernier is the new Director of Seminarians for the Diocese.** We are awaiting a new list which should be forthcoming. In his video presentation, our Supreme Knight spoke about women and pregnancy. The Holy Family Council in Lewiston has a program called **"I Survived Nine"**, making T-Shirts and pins. IPSD John Deetjen purchased the only one he had with him, and donated it to our Regional Growth Director, Bill Chasse. Brother Bill shared that his daughter-in-law was expecting in four weeks, so it was very heartening to him. Please look for upcoming information to support this program. Don't forget to let Bob know when your council sponsors a particular seminarian, so that we make sure that everyone is covered, and know how much each of them has had donated to them in the fraternal year. **Please send Bob a list of names when you sponsor someone, and keep it updated.**

The Supreme Representative, William Chasse, next addressed the DDs with a training slide deck, also attached. A vigorous question and answer session followed.

Charles Bougie addressed the combined Knights and their Wives during lunch. Unfortunately, the news is not always conducive to lunchtime discussion. LD 1619 is the most serious threat facing our State at this time, and in a showing of the strength of Satan, the House tabled their vote for hours in order to ensure that they had the votes they needed to advance it to the Senate. **Please pray that hearts and minds will be changed, and the true evil will be voted down.** There are other issues and directives to focus on, such as the Silver Rose program, pregnancy center support, and the installation of new 3D

ultrasound machines. We continue to promote the ASAP initiative and are working diligently to spread the message of pro-life! There is an attachment from Charlie and Courtney as well, which will assist in learning more about how they can help your councils succeed in the area of Life Programs.

Norm Gray, Membership Director addressed us with the Knights to Christ book, in memory of Tony Levesque. "Charity, in preparing the way of the Lord", was the reading. What kind of tree are we growing? If you have eight hours to cut down a tree, you spend six hours sharpening the axe. If you can't do the computer skills, hire a Brother Knight to help you, or find one to donate their time. We can turn our councils around, a little at a time! **Our Faith is not the back door to membership, it's the front door to membership.** We are Catholic Family MEN, and your Faith motivates you, and helps you to sell that Faith to others. We need to pray for our priests. We are in spiritual warfare and need to pray for God's intercession. All it takes for evil to succeed in this world is for good Men to say nothing! **We should all contrive to follow the footsteps of St. Joseph.** Our mission to recruit Knights is of utmost importance. When you visit your councils, strive to see the Face of God in all those you see. Utilize the "Into the Breach" Book, and host groups to study the films, readily available on kofc.org. Suggest that all of your councils use this program. Use the "That Man is You" program to show Knights involvement in acting out and showing your Faith. We are all Brothers of the same Jesus Christ, and we are meant to support each other and our Church! We are called to do the work of the Lord! **Your job is to save souls.**

Bill and Aaron Weiss, Fraternal Benefits Field Agents, were next to present. Aaron spoke on taking care of our families, providing for our wives. **The Knights have the tools to ensure that your families are taken care of.** We want to make sure that you are set for the future, no matter what it holds. We will soon have mutual funds available in the state, investing in-line with your religious beliefs. Be a fearless Catholic gentleman! Men will join because they are being men and standing up for their Faith! Bill added that they are actively recruiting more agents, and if you know of a qualified individual, to please let he and Aaron know about him. He doesn't even have to be a Brother Knight yet, we can sign him up!

District Master Duane Belanger, reported on the state of the Patriotic Degree. There have been some changes to the uniform, most recently to the service baldric, and these have increased interest among new younger members. A "Maine, One Nation Under God" baseball cap was presented to the Supreme Rep. All Veterans were asked to stand and be recognized. We are looking at September 16 or 23 for a possible economical degree in Houlton. November 12 is the date of the Patriotic Degree at Togus. December 10 is the date of the Wreaths Across America. The Biannual Meeting will be held in the spring, in southern Maine, on either March 17 or 24. March 29 is the Founder's Day Mass in CT, and SKs are needed to march at Mass. There will be transportation to NH, where a bus for the remainder of the trip will be available. The deadline for the civic award application is June 30. You need four different civic-minded patriotic events in order to qualify. The application is attached, due by June 30. If you don't have programs done this year, please plan on it for next year. Copies of the Drill Manual are Available, as well as a PDF on-line (Booklet #808). A year and a half from now, on February 22, 2025, will be the 125th anniversary of the Patriotic Degree, first held in honor of George Washington in New York City. Watch our FB Page, or your e-mails, for more information on programs to honor this occurrence as we get closer to that date.

Our Cash Calendar Guru PSD Philip Lizotte addressed the group. He is handing out calendars as needed, please get in touch with him. As you all know, the cost of everything has increased. The cash calendar is how we support the works of the Maine State Council without the need to raise per capita.

PSD Mark Bourgoïn was introduced to speak about upcoming retreat dates at the CLC in Frenchville. **We will have retreats again in the CLC.** Fr. Antony Alexander Maria Doss, better known as Fr. Alex, is the new Director of the CLC. He wants an Advent Retreat, from December 1-3 and a Lenten Retreat, from March 15-17. Both Retreats are \$100 per person.

The State Officers gave their closing remarks.

IPSD John Deetjen, Jr., also the Ceremonials Chairman, gave a discussion on the still relatively new Ceremonial. **He would like to see a team in each district.** He offered that we should rotate parts on a team, so that members become cross-trained. The State Team is also available if you need one. Please let him and the SD know when you are holding an exemplification, as one or more State Officers should be present. It would also allow more councils to potentially attend with their new members, or at least observe your ceremonial. He thanked the State Deputy for a magnificent year, and pledge the support of all the Past State Deputies to him and all the State Officers. They stand ready to serve the Maine State Council.

SW Gary Boynton reported that we should utilize the directory. When you recruit a new member, educate them on all the FIA programs we have to offer, and engage them based on their interests. Doing so will help enhance the council and get them excited. He showed us his enthusiasm for his new position all weekend, and his willingness to assist you in any way necessary.

SA Gilman Ouellette awarded the State Bowling Tournament prizes to the respective DDs for presentation. The first-place trophy went to Sekenger Council 1947, and runner up medals to Augusta Council 334, and Bangor Council 114. He then mentioned some changes in the Safe Environment requirements for next year, most notably the need for four separate individuals in order to be compliant. **The GK can no longer hold a second position!!** This qualification is even more important with our new liability policy, which does insure us against allegations of a sexual nature, **providing your council is compliant!** He will be reaching out to each of you; we need 100% compliance among our councils!

ST Gilman Berube reported on the current state of the Safe Environment program, and the high level of compliance throughout the State. We need to improve on this, as there is no reason for any council not to be compliant. If you don't have the computer skills necessary, have someone who does sit down and help your council leadership. Maybe that person is you, the District Deputy! He gave us a story on how he continues to work at things he loves, and spoke on the passion for what we are doing as Knights...and doing what we believe in. That's what makes us successful, the fact that we believe in what we are doing, so we continue to persevere, with the help of our wives and families.

SS Michael Giroux thanked all the DDs for their willingness to step forward. He recognized the hard work of Assistant Event Coordinators Paul and Alma Ouellette in making the weekend run smoothly. He reminded us to Involve our wives in our activities, and most importantly to THANK our wives, for allowing us to minister and serve our councils, parishes, and communities. It would be almost impossible for us to do what we do without their assistance. He thanked all the State Officers for their willingness to always go above and beyond; reminding the DDs that assistance is but a call away. If you haven't already done so, please forward your date for your district meeting to him as soon as possible, so that he can get the word out to all the State officers and FIA team. Please remember to invite them, as well as your Fraternal Benefits Agent.

Supreme Rep Bill Chasse spoke about how passionate he has found the leadership in Maine to be, from one month ago, to the involvement and participation of all our DDs this weekend. He expressed the pleasure of having each of our eighteen DDs present or represented. He also acknowledged that help was only a phone call or e-mail away, if need be...although he admonished us all to go through the SD first, as he would most certainly do so.

SD Jon Harvey gave us the following thoughts:

Thank you all for your participation in "pass the hat" for ASAP at the convention. We raised \$14,717 and with Supreme's matching 20%, **we will be able to donate almost \$18,000 among eight Pregnancy Centers**. There are still councils/assemblies who have not turned in the pledge money. The State Officers will be contacting them in the next couple of weeks. I would also like to remind you about the "Coats for Kids" program. I have requested that Maine receive the **"buy one, get one free"** deal. Please email Anthony Alfiero or me and **the State will order the coats and send them to you** for the same discounted price.

Most importantly, thank you for all you have done throughout this fraternal year. Thank your wives for their support, because their call to support us is just as important as our call. Remember, you are the link between the Maine State Officers and the councils. I depend on you. Be proud of your office, be available, present to assist, and never underestimate your presence at council events. Do not be afraid to **shine your light of Christ**. Show your faith, enthusiasm, and energy. It will spread like wildfire.

I close with these two thoughts: First a quote from St. Philip Neri. Cast yourself into the arms of God and be very sure that if he wants anything of you. He will fit you for the work and give you strength to complete the task.

Second, before Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven, he said " Be not afraid, I am with you always".
Vivat Jesus!

SD Jon Harvey adjourned the meeting at 3:25, in order to prepare for Mass and the Installation of the District Deputies. Mass was offered for us by Fr. Justin, who travelled from the Ellsworth/Bucksport area, and just recently joined the Knights in a special Exemplification with another of his fellow priests from Cameroon.