



# EAST COOPER KNIGHTS

AUGUST 1, 2007

THE VOICE OF COUNCIL #9475

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## GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT

Brother Knights and Families,

I write to you this month having just returned from the Grand Knight's Workshop in Columbia where new Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries spent a day being trained by our State Officers on how to complete required State and Supreme reports, fill out forms, and a myriad of "behind the scenes" activities and responsibilities that are required to be a successful Council. We were also given our new member, insurance and ceremonials goals for the upcoming year. For this fraternal year, we are challenged to produce 13 new Brother Knights, 7 new Insurance Members and hold six 1<sup>st</sup> Degree ceremonies.

These are the minimum goals for obtaining Star Council, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Council. I had the privilege of presenting PGK Neil Whitman with his long overdue Star Council Award at our last business meeting and was recently informed by our District Deputy that we fulfilled all of the requirements to once again be honored as a Star Council for the amazing work our Council did last year under PGK Rick Karkowski. Congratulations once again to Neil and Rick for leading our Council to this prestigious honor.

Driving home from Columbia I started asking myself how we were going to continue the momentum started by Neil and Rick and once again obtain Star Council for a third consecutive year. The answer while simple finally came to me about 15 miles out of Charleston; recruit new members and retain existing members. DGK Brenden Lo is the chairman of our membership committee and is charged with developing our Council's plan for both the Fall and Spring Blitz at all of our Churches. Brenden will have my full support as well as the support from the entire slate of officers to make our membership blitz successful; however the best way to identify a prospective new member lies within each of us. Simply ask a Catholic gentleman if he would like to join the Knights of Columbus. Thirteen is not an extremely large number and if each of us asks just one person we see at Church, and even if half of them decline, given the size of our membership we should easily meet and exceed that number.

The other piece of this puzzle is retention. As a member of the retention committee (along with the Trustees) I am currently in the process of compiling meeting attendance statistics for the last several years and will be personally calling those Brother Knights who have not been to a meeting in the last six months to find out what we can do to get you back in the fold and share in the excitement and fellowship of Council 9475.

In other news, there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Exemplification at Council 704 on August 19<sup>th</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree in Goose Creek on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Please mark these dates and consider or plan to attend these Exemplifications to continue your journey to full Knighthood in our Order.

May God bless and keep you,

John Gallagher  
Grand Knight

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Officer's meeting	02
Life Center - 7:00 PM	
Nocturnal Adoration	02
Stella Maris - 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	03
COK - 7:30 am to 5:00 PM	
Pro-Life/Rosary	04
COK - 7:30 AM	
Knights of Columbus Family Week	11-19
155th Anniversary of the Birth of	12
Father Michael J. McGivney	
117th Anniversary of the Death of	14
Father Michael J. McGivney	
Business Meeting	21
Island Club - Sullivan's Island	
Dinner - 6:30 PM	
Meeting - 7:30 PM	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Stanley Adams  
Michael Angelacci  
Vincent Angelacci  
Peter Bernard  
Darin Bish  
Ronald Brunsvold  
Ercole Chiola  
Timothy Davis  
Mark Dickson  
Michael Eovino  
Rocco Falcone  
Greg Heffron  
Robert Higgins  
Michael Kennedy  
Jack Kingston  
Hoyt Kiser  
Ronald Kolanko  
Brian Mc Gee  
William Mc Lellan  
Thomas Oltorik  
Michael Rausa  
Steven Roberts  
William Schnipke  
Michael Swindle  
Joseph Tarr

A few thoughts on member recruitment....

Every year and almost every meeting we hear the mantra. Recruit...Blitz...Recruit. It seems like the Knights of Columbus is hanging by a thread and if we don't bring in 5, 10, 15, etc. new members the whole organization will crumble. State Deputies know that making their quotas will put them in the "circle of honor". Not making it will give them a chair near the men's room. Why all the fuss?

Since I attend meeting for many councils, I get a unique perspective and a chance to see what effect strong recruiting or weak recruiting has on the performance of the councils I serve. The difference is striking. Councils that make their recruiting numbers with regularity have an energy that is definitely lacking in councils that don't. Everything works. Leaders lead and the workers work. The steady flow of new members ensures there will be a steady flow of members achieving their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees and the leadership development for the council is a river, not a trickle. Most of all, councils with strong recruitment have the manpower to take ideas and make them reality.

Weak recruitment has the opposite effect. Without a steady flow of new members, the energy of the council is drained. The same members seem to do all the work and they burn out. Leadership becomes stagnant and it becomes difficult to fill officer and director positions. There are few members taking 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees so the problem gets worse every year. As the council weakens internally, its ability to serve the parish and community declines and recruitment becomes even more difficult and the downward spiral continues.

The scary thing is that no successful council is more than a few bad recruiting years from becoming dysfunctional. The good news is most struggling councils are only a few solid recruiting years away from being successful again. Recruitment is not major surgery. We know how to do it and we do it better than any other organization. When we get in trouble is when we fail to give recruitment the proper priority in our councils. Successful councils have strong membership chairmen and solid membership and retention committees. Successful councils schedule degrees in advance and make sure there are new members available for these degrees. And most of all, successful councils make sure that every member knows that it is his responsibility to help with this vital function.

As we begin a new fraternal year, we need to look at our own council and ask "which direction are we going." "Do we have the right people in place to have a successful recruiting year?" Don't wait until our State Deputy is assigned a seat next to the men's room to make the changes you need to make. It really is that important.

Roy Spurlock, Field Agent

**GOD BLESS AMERICA  
AND  
PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS**

## **COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Co-Chaplain	Rev. Msgr. James A. Carter	884-5587
Co.-Chaplain	Rev. Msgr. Lawrence B. McInerney	883-3109
Grand Knight	John Gallagher	849-0321
Deputy Grand Knight	Brenden Lo	388-8859
Chancellor	Bill Harrington	209-4038
Financial Secretary	Tom Kelly	884-2964
Recorder	Michael Swindle	224-8024
Treasurer	Pat Piglia	216-7680
Lecturer	Ron Davis	856-4950
Advocate	Matt Story	849-7244
Warden	Tim Davis	971-2050
Inside Guard	Michael Fabrizio	388-6908
Outside Guard	Barry Sturmer	881-6714
3 Yr. Trustee	Rick Karkowski	971-3095
2 Yr. Trustee	Neil Whitman	856-5034
1 Yr. Trustee	Joe Harkins	881-5768
Program Director	Tom A. Franzone	884-5670
Church Director	Tom A. Franzone COK	884-5670
	Jack Urbanic SM	886-2591
	Gene McLaughlin SB	849-2271
Community Director	Mike Swindle	224-8024
Pro/Life Couple	Barry & Jacque Sturmer	881-6714
Health Services	Tom Kelly	884-2964
Council Director	Mike Swindle	224-8024
Public Relations	Dick King	971-1591
Family Director	John Gallagher	849-0321
Youth Director	Matt Story	849-7244
Oper. Hope Chairman	Jim Pancake	856-3887
Admissions Chairman	Neil Whitman	856-5034
Membership Director	Neil Whitman	856-5034
Recruitment Committee	John Gallagher	849-0321
	Mike Stuffle	813-3778
	Jim Pancake	856-3887
Retention Chairman	Michael Fabrizio	388-6908
Insurance Promotion	Hoyt Kiser	884-7620
Newsletter	Fran Franzone	884-5670
State Chaplain	Rev. James Parker	556-9454
State Deputy	Robert Ficco	803-324-0044
District Deputy	Ron Byrd	402-9066
Insurance Agent	Roy Spurlock	843-379-9319
Supreme Fraternal Services		203-772-2130

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

*Wendy and Leo Albano  
Annie and Michael Angelacci  
Dorice and Peter Bernard  
Patty and Joseph Bolchoz, Jr.  
Bonnie and John Crosby  
Theresa and James Dodds  
Andrea and John Gallagher  
Sarah and Patrick Hunkler  
Diana and John Isaac, Jr.  
Sheila and Pope Lawson  
Patti and John Mc Dermott  
Deborah and Brian McGee  
Pamela and Michael Rausa  
Sandra and Edward Robinson  
Joan and Richard Schiliro  
Marianne and Cliff Solberg  
Geri and John Urbanic  
Amelia and Marco Vasquez*