

REPORT OF THE STATE DEPUTY Marc Peters

April, 2020

Membership

This month we will have reached 600 new Brother Knights. This is down almost 300 from the previous year but we still have 10 weeks of the fraternal year left. Our net; new members minus suspensions is at 303. We lost 300 Brother Knights who didn't think membership in our organization was worth their time. The local council didn't engage them to the point that they wanted to stay. This should be a concern to everyone. The final number we look at is net/net; the new knights minus suspensions minus deaths. We have lost 828 brother knights so far; our net/net number is a minus 525. This is why it is so important to keep recruiting and bringing in new knights. This number continue to grow larger each year. If local councils don't recruit, sooner or later the council will fold and it will just be a memory. We have 118 councils that haven't recruited one new member this year. On line membership continues to grow. We have 137 members thru the on line program. But of these only 28 have switched over to local councils. We have about 100 members with no home. The average age of on line members is 40. We have 10 suspended councils from Supreme giving Minnesota 275 active councils. We added one new council so far in Eden Valley with two more possible before the end of the fraternal year.

Programs

I am highlighting just some of the many programs going on in our state:

Iraq Initiative Minnesota has 4 councils participating in this Supreme program. 4797 Hutchinson and 9905 Lino Lakes has raised their goal of \$2500. 8253 Winsted is at 95% of the goal and 14420 Minneota is at 80%.

Wheelchair We have councils continually purchasing chairs for their parish, senior homes, and veterans' homes. The state has also been collecting money to purchase a container to ship overseas. With the wheelchair weekend held at Owatonna and Medford this past winter, they collected almost \$14,500 which got the state over the \$42,000 mark which will enable us to purchase a container. The collections we take in now will start the next one. It takes about two to three years to get the amount needed.

Basketball Free-throw Contest We had good participation from council, district, and regional. However, we never got to finish up with the state competition due to the state shelter in place order. State winners was determined by adding up all the scores of all the previous competitions. They will receive trophies and their name will be listed in the June *Knightly News*

Icon Our icons were traveling all over the state with thousands attending prayer services. Our district deputies oversaw the transportation from district to district.

Ultrasound machines One completed UI for Park Rapids in Nov. 2019,

In progress at Supreme: We have 3 UI waiting for approval at this time. One UI for #3166 Detroit Lakes, Two UI for # 5548 St. Cloud -

In progress across the state, at the local community level, we have 4 Ultrasound Initiatives: St. Cloud #5548, Belle Plaine #1503, Rochester #11460, #2018 Anoka

We had numerous programs going on under the direction of Joe George, our state program director. We are under the second year of Faith in Action. Many councils have obtained their Youth Protection Completion status and we need to continue to get all councils under compliance. Lately we are working with NO NEIGHBOR LEFT BEHIND to ensure that our members, our parishes, and our communities are covered and help, where needed, is gotten.

Insurance

We have 5 general agents overseeing our state to ensure our brother knights are protected. The field agents work with the councils and their members and are a good source of information about how to recruit new members as well as the benefits available to our current members. I particularly want to mention Lloyd Cybart, general agent of the Twin Cities area. He made the Supreme Knight's Circle of Honor for 2019. A great accomplishment for him and his agency.

The state had the great honor of hosting the 137th Supreme Convention last August in Minneapolis. Many councils and individual members helped in making this a success. Any funds left over will be made into a scholarship honoring the late Bishop Paul Sirba of Duluth for seminarians. Bishop Sirba was a state chaplain in 1994-95 when he was a parish priest.

GTO! Grow The Order