

FrontLine Focus

The State Deputy Newsletter

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TEXAS
STATE COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



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By Tony Herreth
State Deputy

PLAN TO BE A STAR !!

Worthy Grand Knights, I congratulate you on achieving this important position. Not only does your council depend on you to lead them to success, but the entire Order will depend on you for success. The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization united together for charity. Thus the principles of our Order; Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

To make a difference in the world, the Order relies heavily on your council membership. Membership is the tangible factor that gauges a team's success. With more members, the Order has a stronger voice for our Catholic moral values and more manpower for our charitable endeavors. That is why all of us, at different levels of the Order, have membership goals to meet. Just like you, Texas has a goal to meet. Through your recruitment and retention efforts, Texas has met its goal for the past 21 consecutive years. You can be proud that Texas shares this title in the "Circle of Honor" with

California. It will be even more impressive when Texas will someday hold this title by itself.

To be in the Circle of Honor this year, Texas will need:

- 1) 5400 new members, 3283 net gain (new members less suspensions and withdrawals)
- 2) 2249 net/net (net gain less deaths and transfers).

After the first quarter, Texas has:, 858 new members, 490 net gain (new members less suspensions and withdrawals), 218 net/net (net gain less deaths and transfers)

Continued page 2



By Reverend Jack Whitley,
Associate State Chaplain

Membership is a Special Grace

Our Brothers attending the Supreme Convention in Denver could not help but come away with enthusiasm, zeal, and great courage to increase membership in our beloved Order. We were urged to give recruiting and retention of members top priority as we left the mile high city. For the Knights of Columbus, as for any organization, new members are its very lifeblood.

I firmly believe that membership in the Knights of Columbus is a special grace which enhances and enlivens our union with God, who created us and keeps us in existence; with the Son who saved us and with the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us, making all things possible. We need to share this grace with our friends, fellow parishioners, and the thousands of men who have not been invited to join or who do not know the benefits of our Order. But you and I can rectify this situation.

We are all recruiters. To be a good recruiter, one must be a believer, a person of faith and must have a sense of ownership

Father Jack Whitley Continued Page 3

State Deputy Message Continued

If Texas is to attain its goals, your council should strive to be a Star Council. To help your council be a Star, you should make plans now for the entire year. Use your Star Guide to assist you.

RECRUITMENT

How many church drives will it take to meet your goal? Your membership director should schedule these now with your pastor.

The Membership Director should speak on the importance of new members at every meeting. He should inspire the members to recruit their friends and acquaintances.

Establish council awards for the top recruiters.

RETENTION (pages 27 – 28 and pages 31-35 of the Star Guide)

Appoint a retention committee to follow-up on members whose dues are in arrears.

A phone call or personal visit must be made. Letters and e-mail are not personal contact.

It is recommended that the Deputy Grand Knight and trustees make up this committee. Also ask the proposer to get involved. Document the results of the contact on Form TX1845A. "No phone number" is not accepted. Use "YP.com" or a similar website for current addresses and phone numbers.

You will be more successful if 1845's are submitted a few at a time. Do not ruin your councils chances at Star Council by trying to clean your books all at once. Some of these members have been in arrears over several years, but no one ever bothered to call them. Be patient. Try to win these members back with a little compassion.

Two consecutive audits must be completed.

If the assets and liabilities section is blank, then your audit is incomplete.

The number of members in arrears must be noted.

Form 365 must show a Retention Chairman.

Honorary Life members will not be suspended.

Personal contact of members in arrears is not the duty of the Financial Secretary. He has fulfilled his responsibilities when he invoiced the members for dues. Now the council membership must take part in the process. Let the membership know that it is their responsibility to be involved in the retention process. If not, then they should not complain about the members in arrears.

Your 1845's are verified by several people. The District Deputy and the State Retention Committee must verify that personal contact was made on all 1845's submitted. If they receive a large amount of 1845's from one council, they will find it difficult to call all of these members in 60 days, therefore the entire lot may be rejected. I suggest you work a few members at a time and submit 1845's on only those who said "NO" to the Knights.

Form 1845's and Tx1845A's to the State should be addressed to:

Ed Glisky, Retention Chairman

66 Country View Circle

New Braunfels, TX 78132

COLUMBIAN AWARD (pages 17 and 18 of Star Guide)

This past year, 30 Texas councils could have been a Star Council had they submitted their Columbian Award application by June 30. The form consists of 6 categories instead of 5 with the addition of Pro life activities. Your Program Director should plan now to complete 4 activities in each category.

This year, the Supreme Council has identified one activity in each category that will count for 4.

Youth – Squires –or- Coats for Kids

Church – RSVP

Community – Habitat for Humanity –or- Wheelchair Mission

Council – Special Olympics

Family – Food for Families

Pro life – Walk for Life –or- Ultrasound Machine

Submit the application BEFORE June 30.

SUBMIT FORMS

Form 365 – Service Personnel

Form 1295 – Audits by August 15 and February 15

Form 1728 – Fraternal Survey by January 31

Payments of Supreme Per Capita and Catholic Advertising before October 10 and April 10.

Worthy Grand Knights, your responsibilities are great. Your success as a Grand Knight is important to the success of many in the Order. If you have any concerns, you can call on me, your District Deputy, your Diocesan Deputy, or any of the State officers, directors, and chairmen. Good luck on a successful year.



A Response!

By Douglas E. Oldmixon, State Advocate

Several recent videos and messages accusing the Knights of Columbus of abdicating responsibility for not expelling certain members from our Order are based on an inappropriately narrow and judgmental view of men and events – rather than a Catholic, compassionate, fraternal analysis of the facts. The Knights have never been primarily about doing “business” for profit – regardless of the fact that our insurance branch proceeds are responsible for providing resources to support an enormous amount of the good we are able to do. While ratings, standings and market targets are important to the insurance arm of our fraternity, participation in our insurance programs is not a mandatory feature of membership in our beloved Order. The Order’s many benefits are available to every Brother Knight in good standing. The bonds of brotherhood; the satisfaction of our allied efforts for support of our families, our Church, and our communities – these inspire all our Brothers and reward our faith-driven, compassionate works.

When Pope John Paul II referred to the Order as “like a nation, designed for and intent on doing good in the Church and in society” or “the principal defender of the Church in America”, Knights everywhere swell with pride at the recognition of our motivation, our honorable intentions and our amazing results. When Bishop Farrell, Texas’ State Chaplain, describes the Knights as “more than the strong right arm of the Church, but rather as the backbone of Catholic parish life in Texas”, we know we are truly on the right path. Defenders of life, defenders of the family, defenders of the Faith – embodying Catholic civic and social action in regular, daily practice. Of these accolades we can be justifiably proud.

Are there Brothers among us who at times do not live up to our Order’s high ideals? Well of course – we are all frail and fallen. Do we each upon occasion fail to find strength in the promise of Christ to be with us “where 2 or 3 are gathered in My Name”? Yes, without a doubt. Should we spend a significant portion of our time and energy demanding explanations from and persecuting our Brothers who have stumbled or fallen? I think not. Should we not rather reach out to them individually and directly in fraternal charity and gently invite them back to the faithful brotherhood of men whose steadfast confidence in Christ’s power to change hearts emboldens our constant outreach? This I see as a more authentic approach to our errant Brothers – among whom we can all count ourselves at some point in our lives. While some men’s failures may be more public, they are each equally personal, and require personal healing to restore the strength of grounding and purpose that we find in the teachings of our Holy Church, the Body of

Christ in every age since His ascension.

In the midst of any controversy we face a choice. I ask, are the Knights not the greatest force for direct and positive good in our society that you or I, by our direct participation have experienced, in support of our Church, in strengthening our families and in countless beneficial projects in our communities? I answer with a resounding “Yes”! As Knights, we did not abandon our Holy Mother Church when it was revealed that a few feeble and imbalanced men had caused serious harm to the most vulnerable entrusted to their care. Rather we stood staunchly by Her as the living manifestation of God’s will in our world. Should we weaken our admiration for and support of our magnificent Order when a few errant Brothers publicly embarrass themselves by their abandonment of our ideals? Of course not. We constitute our Order – you and I are the manifestation of Father Michael McGivney’s dream in our time.

This is my personal take on the matter and should not be construed as the official position of the Order or of the Texas State Council. The Supreme Council has made available its formal response as well.

Father Jack Whitley Continued

in the Order. He and his family must demonstrate to others what membership has done for them.

- **A recruiter is a person of profound faith. His faith blossoms out into unity in the Knights, in his family, in his parish, and in his community. His faith is characterized by fraternity. He sees his brother Knights as true brothers. We are all living members of the Body of Christ.**
- **The K of C recruiter is charitable. He will go out of his way to help others, especially the less fortunate, people with disabilities and the poor. By sacrifice he comes to know, “It is in giving that we receive.”**
- **The K of C recruiter believes that to ask another man to join us is to preach to him and his family the Good News of Jesus Christ! Membership helps him and all of us to grow spiritually. Our prayer life is stronger, and a rosary is always in our pocket.**

By now, I am sure that all of you have come to realize that while membership in the Knights of Columbus is most valuable for social, cultural, recreational, and educational growth and enrichment, we must remember that membership is also spiritual growth and maturity, energizing us and our families on our pilgrim way to heaven and everlasting life.

Take the initiative! Approach every Catholic man about joining us now. Don’t be timid about sharing something as great as the Knights of Columbus. As I make this appeal, I would be remiss if I did not congratulate those of you who recently have brought in new brothers. Because of your enthusiasm you have made Texas “NUMBER 1” in recruitment, not only this year but for the past several years. Let’s keep it that way!

Vivat Jesus!



What Every Council Should

By Terry Fruge',
Communications Director

Strive For!

In the last issues of the Frontline Focus and Texas Knight, I explained what is involved to make Star Council, the most prestigious award that Supreme can bestow on a Council. While this is a major achievement, Star Council is the minimum requirement to qualify with Texas State Councils top awards for councils; The Lone Star Award for Excellence and The Lone Star Award for Excellence With Distinction.

The Lone Star Award for Excellence requirements are:

1. **Meet Star Council Award Criteria**
2. **Submit Form 185- Officers Elected**
3. **Pay State Per Capita (by March 1st)**
4. **Seat at least one delegate at the State Convention**

The Lone Star Award for Excellence with Distinction requirements are:

1. **Meet Star Council Award Criteria**
2. **Submit Form 185- Officers Elected**
3. **Pay State Per Capita (by December 31st)**
4. **Meet or exceed the State Council Charities goal (by December 31st)**
5. **Seat two delegates at the State Convention**
6. **Sponsor an active First Degree team**
7. **Conduct at least two degrees during the fraternal year and actively participate on a District Team (must be verified by District Deputy)**

To achieve these awards places a council in a very distinguished group that only the "Best of the Best" have achieved. See the STAR GUIDE, (page 21) for a picture of this exquisite award.

Exemplary Council from Humble

I am very proud to be a member of Phil Kelley Council #6878 in Humble that has just achieved Star Council for their 20th consecutive year. In addition, they have made 100% of their State Charity Goal for 20 consecutive years. During this streak, they achieved one of the Lone Star Awards every year since it's conception. I share this with you not to brag (although I am very proud of my Brothers), but to help you understand that success in achievement can be contagious, and other councils in their district have strived to join #6878 in their accomplishments and have obtained the attitude "if they can do it, we can do it". It also created a level of competition among the Grand Knights of the council that THEY did not want to be the one that let the streak die on their "watch", and was moved to do whatever it took to make the streak continue.

STAR TRACKER

To keep tabs on your council status, you should review the Star Tracker report that is available on the State website and also sent to the Diocesan and District Deputies monthly. Alvin Springgate does a great job, assisted by his wife, Marilyne, in taking the multitude of reports from State and Supreme and combining them into the Star Tracker report that makes it easy for you to have the information at your fingertips.

Diocesan Conferences

Being the leaders, everyone reading this should have attended one of the 17 Diocesan Conferences this summer. Your State Officers and Directors did a great job of sharing with you and your officers what they need to know to be successful, and also shared several changes that Supreme has passed down for this Fraternal year.

Have you attended a Financial Secretary Class yet?

By Craig Modrzynski, Texas State Trainer

Are you curious to know about the workings of the Financial Secretary and what goes on with the money collected? Guess what? All members are eligible to attend the Financial Secretary Class and there is no cost to you as a member.

What does this class cover? It covers the duties and responsibilities of the Financial Secretary and teaches how Councils work and the roles of the other officers. This class is especially important for District Deputies, Grand Knights, Trustees, Treasurers and of course, Financial Secretaries.

As the classes are taught, they are tailored to needs of each class and the questions of the members present. That way current issues and concerns are addressed.

Lately, one common issue seen is that Councils are not following the proper procedures to bring new members into the Order of the Knights of Columbus. Prospective Members are identified, by a membership drive or by a Member. Their information is sent to the Council's Membership Chairman.

The Admission Committee meets with the prospective member and fills out the Admission Committee report with their recommendation.

The Membership Chairman should then present the Prospective member's Form 100, Admission questionnaire and report to the Grand Knight to be read at the next meeting.

At the next regular business meeting, the Grand Knight will read the application along with Admission Committee's recommendation to the Council. The Warden and the trustees will determine if the Council will accept the Prospective Member by holding a secret ballot.

When the Prospective Member is approved by the Council, the Prospective Member will pay the Initiation Fee and prorated Dues to the Financial Secretary and the Grand Knight will sign the Form 100. The Membership Chairman will take the New Member to a First Degree.

After the First Degree, the Financial Secretary will sign the Form 100 and immediately send the Form 100 to Supreme.

It is imperative that these steps be followed, so that no Council ends up with issues concerning non-qualifying men joining the Knights of Columbus and then have further problems collecting dues.

If you have any questions or thoughts concerning the Financial Secretary and the procedures involved, come to the next Financial Secretary Class offered by your diocese. If you have immediate concerns that cannot wait, please contact any of the Texas State Trainers.



Achieving the Vision

By Jim Wade,
Council Growth Director

If our goal is to invite every Practical Catholic Man to become a Knight of Columbus then we must provide the opportunity for this to happen. It's hard to become a Knight if the Knights do not exist in our Catholic Community. A great way to start that presence is through the establishment of a Round Table. Last year we established 301 throughout the State. However each year we must re-file the 2629 with Supreme to continue to keep the Round table active.

As of 31 August we have re-established 107 of the 301 Round Tables started last fraternal year as follows:

Diocese	# in 2010/11	As of 31 Aug
Amarillo	18	0
Austin	9	1
Beaumont	11	10
Brownsville	39	3
Corpus Christi	16	6
Dallas	21	12
El Paso	5	1
Fort Worth	17	12
Gal/Hou	47	0
Laredo	18	4
Lubbock	10	0
San Angelo	19	13
San Antonio	33	33
Tyler	25	9
Victoria	14	6

As you can see we still have much work to do just to get back to the level of last year. As a Grand Knight it is your

responsibility to see that the vision of Father McGivney does not wither on the vine in these smaller Catholic Communities. As a District Deputy you should be checking on each of your Councils to ensure that each council is servicing all of our Catholic Communities. As the leaders of our Order, please make the time this month to reconnect with these smaller communities by filing the 2629.



Are You on "PACE"?

By Joe Torres,
State Program Director

As a Grand Knight, you will want to review the requirements of your council to ensure it becomes a notable council, not only in the State, but in the Order. One way you can help your Council achieve top tier status is to obtain the honor of receiving "The Pace Award." This award is a Texas Council award designed to encourage councils to participate in the documentation and submittal of Service Programs. Qualifications for the award are as follows;

PACE Setter Status – Councils who submit three (3) Service Programs by **March 1, 2012**.

PACE Setter Award – Councils who submit (6) Service Programs by **March 1, 2012**. This award will be presented at the 2012 State Convention in Houston.

The six Service Program content areas are: Church, Community, Council, Family, Pro-Life and Youth. These programs are designed to provide a variety of activities to serve your Parish, community, and membership. Providing a variety of programming will encourage participation of Brother Knights with diverse interests. Your members are maintaining their membership because the Council fills a need for them, a desire to feel charitable by serving their community and parish. Activities reported by the Council should be events that are planned ahead of time and are attended or hosted by at least three members from the Council. Through quality programming you can continue to serve and maintain each member at the highest quality level.

Many councils are already participating in some of these programs in some form or fashion. The problem is that councils are not taking full advantage of the recognition credit because they fail to submit the State Council Service Program Entry Form (STSP). The STSP form can be downloaded from the Supreme Web page and can be found under Council Forms. As Grand Knight, you owe it to your Council to ensure they get the recognition for all the hard and charitable work they are doing. If you need help in completing the Service Program Entry Form all you need to do is call me, State Program Director, at (361) 549-5803 or e-mail; kjcoetorres@grandecom.net

Make your Council, District and Diocese proud by being first to submit your STSP Forms to the State Program Director!



The First Principle!

Alfredo Vela
State Charity Director

Brother Knights and leaders of the Texas Knights of Columbus, Texas State Charities is composed of Fundraising, Special Olympics, Infirm Priest Program, Cardinal Medeiros Fund, and Educational Grants. All of the work done through the Texas State Charities is to benefit others.

We are off to a pretty good start in State Charities. To find out where you stand as a council, District and/or Diocese, visit the Texas State Council website at tkofc.org. There, you will find all the reports needed to keep you informed. As of the end of September 2011, there have been numerous councils who already have met their State Charities goal. To them, we say Thank You. To the other councils, we ask that you get on board and support Texas State Charities. It is a worthwhile cause and most importantly, your Bishop is depending on you.

Texas State Charities does more than just raise funds for our Bishops. We do not know when the next disaster will strike. We just never know, but we must be ready. Funds raised through Texas State Charities are used to help out when a disaster strikes. We do go out and help, but we cannot do it without the funds you and your councils contribute. It is you, at the Council and District level that make it happen. So, please get involved by meeting your State Charities goal.

Promotion, Promotion, Promotion. YOU guys are the leaders in our councils and our Districts. It is up to you to promote not only State Charities, but all the programs within the Knights of Columbus. You can set the tone for the success of your council. Within Texas State Charities, we need help promoting all the different programs, State Charities, Special Olympics, License Plates, Cardinal Medeiros Fund and Educational Grants. Please promote them.

If anybody needs any help or has any questions, please feel free to contact any of the committeemen in the State Charities program or you can call me directly.

Good Luck with the rest of the year.



Top Reasons Provided by Councils for Suspensions

By Bobb Mahrer
State Membership Director

There is a list of criteria that a council must meet to be eligible to submit a Form 1845 (Intent to Suspend) to the Supreme Council. Aside from being required to follow all proper billing procedures, there are several requirements (refer to Star Guide for the entire list) that a council must adhere to be eligible to suspend a member. Three very important criteria include:

- a council must have submitted their Form 365 to the Supreme and State Council offices showing who their Council Retention Chairman is (Note: This person can not be the Financial Secretary. This is outlined in the Financial Secretary Handbook.),
- a council must have submitted their last two consecutive audit reports to the Supreme and State Council offices (Note: An audit report requires a council to show how many members are delinquent with their dues. If there is no audit report, then there are no members reported as delinquent, and if there are no members reported as delinquent, then there are no members that can be suspended.), and
- a council must submit their Form TX1845A to the State Retention Chairman Ed Glisky (Note: This form documents what efforts the council retention committee went through to make personal contact with the member.)

Common reasons are stated on the TX-1845A as to why a council wants to suspend a member.


1. The member didn't pay his dues. (Note: This of course is the number one reason why a council will submit a Form 1845 to suspend a member. And this is a valid reason. But many councils do not want to go through the effort of making personal contact these members as required. Investigations by the State Retention Committeemen find that nearly 75% of all members submitted for suspension were never personally contacted.)
2. The member did not have a valid address and/or a phone number. (Note: In nearly 95% of all cases, an investigation through various free internet

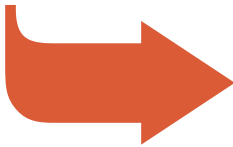
Texas Star and Double Star Councils for the Fraternal Year 2010-2011

DISTRICT	COUNCIL	DIOCESE	CITY	DBL STAR	DISTRICT	COUNCIL	DIOCESE	CITY	DBL STAR
2	10420	EL PASO	EL PASO	X	77	12480	DAL	FRISCO	
14	7736	FW	MANSFIELD	X	77	13044	DAL	PLANO	
14	14549	FW	ARLINGTON	X	79	8417	DAL	WAXAHACHIE	
16	1459	FW	MUENSTER		80	11862	DAL	GARLAND	
20	14679	FW	FT WORTH		81	799	DAL	DALLAS	X
21	9868	FW	FT WORTH		85	5656	DAL	IRVING	X
21	10930	FW	FT WORTH		85	10245	DAL	COPPELL	
24	13470	FW	FT WORTH		85	15033	DAL	IRVING	
26	4298	ASA	SAN ANTONIO		92	3491	BMT	GROVES	
26	12521	ASA	SAN ANTONIO		93	13825	BMT	ORANGE	
28	9902	ASA	SAN ANTONIO	X	103	1422	TYLER	MARSHALL	X
31	8327	ASA	PEARSALL		103	11026	TYLER	CARTHAGE	X
33	7697	ASA	SAN ANTONIO	X	104	3404	TYLER	LUFKIN	
33	15053	ASA	SAN ANTONIO	X	104	10790	TYLER	NACOGDOCHES	X
35	10002	ASA	SAN ANTONIO	X	106	1003	TYLER	TEXARKANA	
37	14190	ASA	SAN ANTONIO		111	13005	AUS	WACO	
40	8807	ASA	SAN ANTONIO		116	10186	AUS	CYCLONE/MARAK	
40	10181	ASA	SAN ANTONIO		116	13902	AUS	WESTPHALIA	
42	5090	ASA	GONZALES		118	4868	AUS	SMITHVILLE	
43	7347	ASA	CANYON LAKE		120	4457	AUS	GRANGER	
45	8738	ASA	SAN ANTONIO		121	14674	AUS	MANOR	
54	11468	AGH	HOUSTON	X	124	14943	AUS	BASTROP	X
55	9310	AGH	LEAGUE CITY	X	127	8156	AUS	AUS	
55	9708	AGH	HOUSTON		127	9151	AUS	WIMBERLY	
55	10574	AGH	DEER PARK		127	10209	AUS	AUSTIN	X
55	2801	AGH	ROSENBERG		127	11695	AUS	DRIPPING SPRINGS	
59	6812	AGH	LAKE JACKSON		127	14844	AUS	BLANCO	X
59	9817	AGH	DANBURY		129	13255	AUS	MARBLE FALLS	
60	8960	AGH	PEARLAND		133	3110	CC	ROBSTOWN	
61	6878	AGH	HUMBLE		134	10677	CC	CORPUS CHRISTI	
62	12385	AGH	HOUSTON	X	140	1202	CC	CORPUS CHRISTI	
64	11866	AGH	MAGNOLIA	X	140	2710	CC	CORPUS CHRISTI	X
64	12327	AGH	WOODLANDS		147	4307	VIC	BLESSING	
65	14512	AGH	SPRING		149	10249	VIC	MENTZ	
69	3313	AGH	SEALY		157	3558	AMA	BORGER	
72	5678	AGH	HOUSTON		158	9600	AMA	PERRYTON	X
72	14700	AGH	HOUSTON	X	168	13978	BV	BROWNSVILLE	X
73	8404	AGH	HOUSTON		170	12040	BV	McALLEN	X
74	4204	AGH	SUGARLAND		174	12661	BV	LA JOYA	X
74	14617	AGH	MISSOURI CITY	X	176	8773	SAN ANG	ODESSA	
77	11716	DAL	PLANO	X	177	3071	SAN ANG	MIDLAND	
					188	11620	LAREDO	LAREDO	X

FrontLine Focus

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 **TEXAS STATE COUNCIL**
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
A U S T I N • T E X A S
6633 Highway 290 East
Ste. 204
Austin TX 78723-1157



Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. Mother Theresa

Membership Continued From Page 6

- “people search” tools found a member’s valid address and phone number.)
3. The member did not respond to a letter (Note: As we all know, we did not invite the candidate to be a member through a letter. It was through personal contact. Our brother Knights deserve the same consideration when attempting to suspend him from the Order.)
 4. The member does not attend council activities. (Note: When you make personal contact, ask the member why he does not participate. If he is too busy, there will always be opportunities later.)
 5. The member no longer lives in our council’s jurisdiction. (Note: When you talk to him, ask if you can help him transfer to a council in his area. There have been cases where an investigation found that the member was on military or civilian deployment in the Middle East.)
 6. The member was having financial difficulty and could not afford past dues (Note: Because of the Order’s first principal of Charity, a member who states that he is having financial difficulty will not be approved for a suspension without an accompanying compelling reason. An investigation found that the member was unemployed and had been looking for work for several months.)
 7. As a council, we worked very hard to identify those members who had not paid their dues. (Note: An investigation found that the retention committee tried once to contact and determined that the member could not be contacted.)
 8. The council was without a Financial Secretary for the past two years, and even though no one had been billed for those two years, the new Financial Secretary felt it was necessary to suspend all members who hadn’t volunteered to pay their dues during the past two years. (Note: This does not comply with “proper billing procedures”.)
 9. The member was too old to be active, and besides, he was behind on his dues (Note: An investigation found that the member was 82 years of age with 64 years of service. The same investigation found that the council owed the member \$576.)

And here is my favorite:

10. The member deserves it. (Note: While I am not certain what that means, I am certain that suspensions are necessary.)

The State Deputy has instructed the State Retention Chairman to verify that all members are given due respect with personal contact. Once the council has met all eligibility requirements and proper billing procedures, their request to suspend a brother Knight will be approved. After all, we lost 1,421 brother Knights last fraternal year.