# ... from the Texas State Council







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30-60-90 Day Outlook

**July 2022** 

## Be Not Afraid



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# From the Texas State Council:

# **KEEP IT GOING! START OUT STRONG!** Terry Fruge, Texas State Deputy

State Deputy's Message: My Brother Knights,

We have just completed another great fraternal year where Immediate Past State Deputy Alfredo Vela and his team are poised to earn the Pinnacle Award for 2021-2022 after earning the Pinnacle Award for 2020-2021. Achieving this honor back-to back has never been done before in Texas. And this was done during a



Terry Fruge State Deputy

Covid pandemic which shows what can be done when you accept "no excuses." We want to keep the momentum going with a strong start for the 2022-2023 campaign and we have the leaders to get it done. Our slogan this year is "Christ, Be Our Light." In John 8:12, Jesus said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." With the current state of our world, we need to look to Him to be our Guiding Light. Our Faith in Action Program is what fellow Catholics need while dealing with these trying times, and there will be new programs like "Knights of the Eucharist" and "Eucharistic Processions" that will be our guide.

With the overturn of "Roe vs. Wade," we have realized a dream 50 years in the making, but the fight has just begun. We must be vigilant of our Churches, Catholic Schools, Pregnancy Centers and most importantly our Clergy. These symbols of good and righteousness may be targets by those who have proven "rights for life" have little meaning, and vandalism & destruction is what they know. Be vigilant, but smart. Let your phone be your tool to report to proper authorities if issues arise.

It is particularly important to get ALL Council Officers to Diocesan Conferences as there are many changes and innovative programs coming from Supreme that they need to hear personally. One program is the Aid & Support After Pregnancy program, (A.S.A.P.) which will be covered in depth, where we can assist women that have chosen to keep their baby. Some of our Goals for this fraternal year are:

- Recruit 4500 new members, with at least 1300 of these to be Catholic men under 50 years old.
- Every Council Recruitment Active
- Start 8 New Councils
- Fraternal Benefits Events- over 375 active councils report at least 2 events.
- Obtain 175 Star Councils
- Membership Drive Goal 554
- Sponsor 200 Roundtables
- State Charity Fundraising Goal- \$820,000
- 300 or more Councils to be Safe Environment Compliant by May 31,2023
- Attain Circle of Honor

*July 2022* 

## Be Not Afraid



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I appreciate the effort of our 710+ Active Councils in Texas and what you do to Support our Bishops, Priests and other Religious that have dedicated their lives in service of Catholics in this Great State.

Keep up the Good Work!

Vivat Jesus!

Terry Frugé

State Deputy

## **Education, Training, & Communications:**

Our team is here to fulfill all your needs to be a Star Council. Visit www.kofc.org or www.tkofc.org at least weekly. Check out the Star Guide Section on the State website & download the latest version. Email all forms to the correct Supreme email address (located in the Star Guide) & to the Texas State Council at <a href="mailto:forms@tkofc.org">forms@tkofc.org</a>. Copy all forms to your District & Diocesan Deputy.

July – New Fraternal Year

July 1 - Schedule an exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, publicize it with your District Deputy. Order recruitment materials for Membership Drives

**July 1** – New Fraternal Year starts

**July 4** – Independence Day

July 15-17 – State Organizational Meeting – San Marcos, Texas

Conduct Yearly Planning Meeting

Diocesan Conferences beginning July 23, 2021

**August** – Getting your feet wet and building momentum.

**August 1**<sup>st</sup> – Schedule an exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, publicize it with your District Deputy. Ensure Council Recruitment Team members are identified and receive latest training.

August 12<sup>th</sup> – Blessed Father J. McGivney Birthday

**August 14<sup>th</sup>**—Blessed Father J, McGivney Memorial

August 15<sup>th</sup>—Form 1295 Council Audit Due

Diocesan Conferences continuing throughout the month

**September**  $-1^{st}$  Quarter in the books. Re-evaluate your plans make adjustments. September 1<sup>st</sup> - Schedule an exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, publicize it with your District Deputy. Schedule October Membership Drive. Coordinate needs with your Pastor.

September 30<sup>th</sup> - Roundtable Coordinator Form 2629 – Due September 30

Our Financial Secretary Trainers are ready to begin training new and established council officers, but especially Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries. Diocesan Deputies, please schedule your live training sessions by the end of August. David Solis (Chairman) dsolis4027@aol.com 915-238-8735 can assist you with scheduling training sessions. The room needs to have adequate wireless internet to accommodate all trainees. David can also schedule an online training session.

Vivat Jesus!

Ed Tydings, Education, Training, & Communications (ETC) Director

## Membership:

Brother Knights we ended last year strong; you did an amazing job in recruitment and membership growth. Your hard work brought Texas back into the Circle of Honor (COH) for the second consecutive year.

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> Program Director Carlos Martinez (Rosamar) 346-901-6966

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Star Council Director Bill Tillotson (Christina) 817-690-0556

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Council Growth Director David Zeigler (Laura) 903-926-0776 zigsr@att.net

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**Charity Director** Reed Fontenot, III (Donna) 501-920-0102

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Let's continue with this momentum into this 2022-2023 fraternal year and work to go into the COH for a third straight year.

This fraternal year's Membership Intake Goal is set at 4500. Growing our membership this fraternal year will take all our collective efforts. Schedule Exemplifications of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity now.

To get this fraternal year off to a strong "Jump Start", please ensure you share the following July Only incentives with all our Councils.

## **Grand Knight and Membership Director - Jump Start Incentives**

Every GK and MD whose Council brings in at least 3 new members, for the 2022-2023 Fraternal Year, as set by the Supreme Council, between July 1-31, 2022, will receive a Texas KofC Membership Cap.

Every GK and MD whose Council achieves 100% of their Membership Intake Goal, for the 2022-2023 Fraternal Year, as set by the Supreme Council, between July 1-31, 2022, will each receive a Texas KofC Membership Jacket and Shirt.

## **Council - Jump Start Incentives**

Every Council which achieves or exceeds their Council Membership Intake Goal, as set by the Supreme Council, between July 1-31, 2022, can earn the incentive rewards as listed below. The more your Council grows, the more you can earn.

- 100% of goal earn KofC Table Covering
- 150% of goal above earned item plus KofC Flagship Banner
- 200% of goal above earned items plus KofC Feather Flag
- 250% of goal above earned items plus Pop Up Canopy
- 300% of goal earn a \$300.00 gift card
- 400%+ of goal earn a \$400.00 gift card

NOTE: A council can only earn one of the gift card incentives, not both.

District Deputies be ready to assist your councils with their plans for this fraternal year. Remember Programs and Membership go Hand-in-Hand. Please ensure council leaders are trained on how to plan and execute effective membership drives. Ensure key KofC Leaders are engaged in the planning and executing of the drives. Plan and Schedule Exemplifications of Charity, Unity and Fraternity to support these drives. Communicate any changes regarding Membership and Star Council requirements.

Texas are you up for the challenge? Will you capitalize on the available incentives?

Vivat Jesus! Let Christ be Your Light! Derek W. Rabey Membership Director

## **Programs:**

My Brother Knights, as we begin the New Fraternal year, it is the blessed, best time to get a strong start. To initiate the activities, the GEAR, that impacts all aspects of all successful Councils. The State Programs team is here to assist, guide and support your programs that ensure sustainability of your home Council. This is the time to begin participating to attain the requirements to meet the Programs aspect of ultimately attaining Star Council!

## Faith in Action

This Fraternal Year is the first year of the Eucharistic Revival as being promoted by Supreme. This is the opportunity to support the return of our members and the families of all the congregations across Texas. Please work with your pastors in coordinating the Eucharistic processions for your parish.

#### Pro-Life & Pregnancy Resource Support

The Supreme Court's decision to support Pro-Life is a blessing that we have all prayed for

and are now seeing it come to fruition. Please continue to pray for the continued support of Pro-Life and know that now more than ever your support is needed. Please wear your ACE Wings proudly and promote all eligible to attain their Wings.

The Pregnancy Resources needed is greater today and continues to grow as more and more mothers support LIFE with the birth of their babies.

## Pilgrim Icon and Vocations Support

The Pilgrim Icon is available is now rotating across the State, please coordinate with our Chairman Tom Krueger. Our Seminarians continue with their curriculums and commitments to the Priesthood and depend on your Councils to offset their personal financial needs. Please take an active position in support of the RSVP program.

#### **Veterans Program**

As we prepare to celebrate our Independence, which was secured by our military, let us all acknowledge and pay tribute of all the sacrifices conducted by our Veterans. We pray for continued blessing for they and their families. Please take time during your Council meetings to celebrate and invite all Veterans to join your Councils.

#### **Athletics**

The State Softball Tournament is postponed until further notice. The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Johnny Lopez State Golf Tournament is coming up Sept. 16 – 18, 2022 in Scott Schreiner Golf Course in Kerrville and Buckhorn Course in Comfort. Distance between the two courses is 15 miles.

Please continue to promote your Councils and the Programs that sustain your success. Please Let Christ Be Your Light as your lead all your activities and programs! The Programs team is here to support and guide. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Vivat Jesus! Let Christ be Your Light! Carlos X. Martinez

## **Star Council Awards**

Many would say that, if the State Council was a department store, the Star Council Committee is the Toy Department. Fun and shiny – but in the end, not that important. We know this is true - we have all heard Grand Knights say, "We're not in it for the awards" or "I don't care about seeing my name on a plaque." While I appreciate the sentiment, I think it is, at best, misguided.

Instead, a better analogy is to think of the State Council as a factory. Then, the Star Council Committee is Quality Control. We see this in the way the Star Council and Lone Star Awards are structured. The behaviors of successful councils were observed by Supreme and the State and then codified into the criterion for these awards. If a council wants to become a better example of Father McGivney's vision, focusing on the criterion for these awards encourages the behaviors most seen in successful councils.

Just look at the Star Council requirements. If a council is striving for the Star Council award, the council is building membership, encouraging insurance programs, assigning directors who institute a variety of well-planned programs and focusing on charitable activities. ALL councils should strive for Star Council and Lone Star awards to strengthen their charity, unity, and fraternity.

So, what needs to be done right now? Well, as of today, the **Report of Officers Chosen Form 185** and **Service Program Personnel Form 365** are DUE (Form 365 has been moved up). The information for these forms should have been entered via the Member Management System (or submitted via e-mail as a PDF). Keep your eyes open for the Star Tracker to confirm Supreme has received these forms. And make sure a copy of each and every form submitted

FINISH LINE

goes to your District Deputy AND the state office at forms@tkofc.org.

If you don't know where the info for submitting these forms is, go to kofc.org, click on the search box (the window with the little magnifying glass) and type in FORM 185 or FORM 365. Scroll past the advertisement links at the top of the pop-up window and the first hyperlink is the one.

District Deputies – if you don't have both these forms in hand for all your councils as of today, you need to contact your councils NOW to get them submitted. And plan on taking paper copies of the forms to your council visits in July and getting the GK or FS to fill out the forms on the spot.

Another thing to be done right away is getting your council's **Safe Environment** requirements squared away. When the Grand Knight is elected (Form 185) and the Program, Family, and Community Directors appointed (Form 365), the Office of Youth Protection (OYP) at Supreme sends these men a link to take Safe Environment training and submit to a background check (Family and Community Directors only). Squires Counselors must also take training and agree to a background check.

After 30 days, if the training has not been completed, the Director will be removed from their position and the Form 365 will have to be resubmitted. **Only appoint men to these jobs who are willing to complete this requirement.** Training is good for 3 years, so appointing men who have previously done their training is a great idea.

For help with completing any of these requirements, your District Deputy is your first, best resource. You also may contact myself or your Diocese's assigned Star Council committeeman. The members of this committee are:

Bill Tillotson, Director - william tillotson@yahoo.com

Joseph Naderer, Safe Environment - <a href="mailto:pythagoras345@terranullius.info">pythagoras345@terranullius.info</a>

Hector Gutierrez, San Antonio & Laredo - hectorg77437@gmail.com

Brian Kozel, Galveston-Houston - briankozel@att.net

Clint Mendonca, Tyler, Beaumont, Victoria, & Corpus Christi - <a href="mailto:clint.mendonca@gmail.com">clint.mendonca@gmail.com</a>
Pat Ortiz, Austin & Brownsville - <a href="mailto:joesphortiz1963@gmail.com">joesphortiz1963@gmail.com</a>

Don Piwonka, Amarillo, Lubbock, San Angelo, El Paso - <u>donevon@verizon.net</u> Mark Von Rosenberg, Fort Worth & Dallas - <u>vonrosenberg@prodigy.net</u>

Vivat Jesus! Let Christ be Your Light! Bill Tillotson, Star Council Director

#### **Council Growth**

Father McGivney's vision was to have a Knight's presence in <u>EVERY</u> parish. Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly has challenged us to do just that. How do we accomplish this? By Council Growth which includes New Councils, Reactivations, Roundtables, College Councils, and Council Retention.

The Council Growth Team:

<u>New Council Development (NCD)</u> - Rick Guzman, Chairman - <u>skrickguzman6021@gmail.com</u> <u>Round Tables</u> - Dan Aguilar, Chairman - <u>daguilar1@satx.rr.com</u>

<u>Reactivations and Mergers</u> - Greg Dutchover, Chairman- <u>gdutchover@musiccitymall.net;</u> Jason Kelley, Coordinator - <u>jkell318@icloud.com</u>; Giovani Hyppolite, Coordinator - <u>hyppolite.giovani@gmail.com</u>

Council Retention - Michael Barnett, Chairman - mbarnett360@yahoo.com

<u> Hispanic Council Development</u> –

Miquel Torres, North Chairman - <u>mike.torres1681@icloud.com</u> Carlos Rene Ramirez, South Chairman - <u>carlosrenermz@gmail.com</u> College Council Development - Archie Wright II, Chairman - allw1989@yahoo.com

Worthy Diocesan & District Deputies,

Your to do list for this fraternal year from Council Growth is as follows:

Examine your Diocese & District to create New Council from a strong Roundtable or establish a Roundtable which can become the mustard seed for a new Knights of Columbus Council.

Take your list of suspended Councils and whittle it down to zero or try to merge a few councils. Verify your Councils pay their Supreme & State Council Assessments on time. Take the opportunity of our fastest growing population and get our Hispanic Catholic men engaged with the Knights. But do not stop with Spanish speaking catholic men, we are inclusive to all languages; see where we can help those men become Knights. Enhance our College Councils to help them grow and bring our average age down.

Each Diocese has goals and some are incentivized. Refer to the 2022-2023 Star Guide.

Our team is ready to continue this new fraternal year off with the momentum from last year. We will get to your goal; all you need to do is ask.

Vivat Jesus! Let Christ be Your Light! David Zeigler, Council Growth Director

## **Texas State Council Charities**

I am very proud to serve as your State Charities Director for the new Fraternal Year. Charity is the first and foremost principle of the order and the principle on which the Knights of Columbus was founded by Father McGiveny. There are several definitions of charity:

- Generosity and helpfulness especially toward the needy or suffering
- An institution engaged in relief of the poor
- Public provision for the relief of the needy
- Benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity
- Lenient judgment of others

I am happy to report that we have a full team ready to go for the New Year and ready to work for you! We will be introducing the team at our upcoming Organizational Meeting in San Marcos, Texas, however you will see some very familiar names! There are several opportunities to demonstrate charity with your time and funds this coming year at the local and State Council level.

**State Charities** - every council is assessed \$10 per active member each year and we are asking for 100% participation. 70% of these funds go to the Bishop of each Diocese to distribute to their charity of choice. The remaining 30% is held at the State Council level for distribution to various needs. With the introduction of the affiliate program, inactive Knights are no longer on your rosters and are no longer assessed. What does this mean? Expect your State Charity goal to be lower this year which is why we welcome 100% participation. We do not want to let our Bishop's down. Please put this in your council budget now and plan to pay this before the end of December. Statements will be out to you by the end of July.

**Wheelchair Mission** - The Knights of Columbus, in partnership with the American Wheelchair Mission, raise funds to support the purchase of wheelchairs for distribution worldwide. Our Worthy State Deputy has continued to set a goal for each Council to donate at least \$150 for the purchase of one wheelchair. This is also the designated Charity of the First Lady these next two years!

Cardinal Medeiros Fund - For a nominal contribution of \$1000 you can honor your Priest or

devoted Knight in your council. All the Bishops in Texas became honorees these past two years. Why not your Parish Priest these next two years? The fund pays for the **Educational Grants** – we donate every Spring to Catholic children.

**Special Olympics** - The mission of Special Olympics Texas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

**Bishop Thomas J. Flanagan Fund** - Grants for Retired Priests. For only an extra \$30 each year you can get your Texas KofC license plate! Others will know of your devotion to the order and \$22 will be donated annually to assist retired Priests in every Diocese.

The Emergency Response Team is fully trained and ready to assist in times of disaster The team consists of leader Harry Storey and four regional lead followed by an emergency response coordinator in every Diocese. So open your hearts, budget for the coming year and let us exceed our charity goals!

Vivat Jesus! Let Christ be Your Light! Reed A Fontenot, III

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The "Finish Line" is published Monthly by the Texas State Council and electronically posted on the www.tkofc.org website by the Editor. The publication is a running outlook of the activities, events, award criteria, and form due dates for the next 30-60-90 days. Specific questions about Membership, Charities, Programs, Council Growth, Star Council, Education, Training, & Communications, and the specific subjects therein should be directed to the appropriate State Director.