

Alabama State Council

Knights of Columbus

State Meeting – January 9, 2016
Mid-year

Prattville, Alabama

Call to Order:

R. Evan "Pete" Parrish, State Deputy, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Opening Prayer:

Reverend Monsignor G. Warren Wall, State Chaplain gave the opening prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Steve Koach, District Master and IPSD, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

ROLL CALL - January 9, 2016
Alabama State Council
Knights of Columbus
Prattville, AL

		Present	Excused	Absent
State Deputy	Pete Parrish	✓		
State Chaplain	Monsignor Warren G Wall	✓		
Supreme Membership & Program Consultant	Dave Tebo	✓		
Immediate Past State Deputy & District Master	Steve Koach	✓		
State Secretary	Griffin Shreves	✓		
State Treasurer	Jason Esteve	✓		
State Advocate	Joe Flaherty	✓		
State Warden	Danny Garcia	✓		
Administrative Assistant	David Hester	✓		
General Agent Representative	Benjamin Borrelli	✓		
Membership Director	G. V. "Skip" Gentle PSD FVSM	✓		
Program Director	Bill Mores	✓		
District Deputy # 1	Jack Hahn	✓		
District Deputy # 2	Gary Gardner	✓		
District Deputy # 3	Les Wrobel	✓		

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		Present	Excused	Absent
District Deputy # 4	Ronnie Holmes	✓		
District Deputy # 5	Robert Rigsby	✓		
District Deputy # 6	Walter Vandergrift	✓		
District Deputy # 7	Jim Hughes	✓		
District Deputy # 8	Joe Ching	✓		
District Deputy # 9	Ike Williams		E	
District Deputy # 10	Juan Cepero	✓		
District Deputy # 11	Bob Kikta	✓		
District Deputy # 13	Tim Creamer	✓		
District Deputy # 14	Pete Allen		E	
District Deputy # 15	Pete Parrish - acting	✓		
District Deputy # 16	Lawrence Huffman	✓		
District Deputy # 17	Maurice Dupont PSD	✓		
District Deputy # 18	Larry Cannon	✓		
District Deputy # 19	Michael Heitzman	✓		
Culture of Life Director	Dave Birchmeier	✓		
Community Director	Shaun Miller			✗
Youth Director	John Blackburn			✗
Family Director	Carmen Talerico			✗
Church Director	Herman Weber		E	
Council Director	Pat Jackson		E	
Intellectual Disabilities Drive Chairman	Ron Belz	✓		
Ultrasound Initiative Chairman	Lee John Bruno		E	
Vocations Chairman	Joe Behr			✗
Round Table Chairman	Jack Boggan		E	
Special Olympics Chairman	Jerry Brecher			✗
Public Relations Chairman	Steve Griffin			✗
Council and Membership Retention	Bryant Collins PSD	✓		
Hispanic Council Coordinator	Joe Castillo			✗
New Council Development Chairman & Council Reactivation Chairman	Ray Carney PSD	✓		
Ceremonials Chairman	Bill Schultz	✓		
Insurance Field Agent	Perry Burden	✓		
Convention Programs	Dr. Bill Watkins	✓		

State Chaplain Remarks:

Monsignor Wall spoke on mercy. It is the Year of Mercy. He thanked everyone for their works as Knights.

State Deputy's Remarks:

SD Parrish welcomed everyone present. Thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting. He discussed the different venue and different format for the meeting. He stated the importance of the contributions from everyone. He showed the cross from Supreme being sold as a fundraiser for the persecuted Christians in the Middle East. He introduced the investment opportunities from Supreme Council. He again asked everyone to contribute to the meeting.

State Membership Director Skip Gentle presented DD Gary Gardner his winning membership incentive. It is a Knights of Columbus watch. He presented the Alabama Cross to the DD for the Jacksonville Council for their membership recruitment. Skip presented DD Jim Hughes a watch for his winning membership incentive in November. Skip presented DD Joe Ching a watch for his winning membership incentive in December. SD Pete Parrish presented a Supreme recognition for Council 14507 which made 250% of quota to their DD Joe Ching.

Video Presentation from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson introduced by Supreme Representative MPC Dave Tebo: It laid out our mission as Knights of Columbus. He spoke on the great history of the Knights. We have moved away from the home association model to a parish based model. We have shifted to more family involvement. The new initiative is named – Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parishes. The entire speech is located at the following website:

<http://www.kofc.org/un/common/video/bplayer.html?id=4653805265001> It is essential for us to work on these initiatives to provide support to our parishes and involve families in our parish works. We will be continuing to adjust our focus from home associations to parish activities. We need to integrate with parish ministries and minimize duplication of efforts. Councils will move to no longer sponsor Boy Scout troops. Councils should integrate efforts within their parish ministries.

Supreme Representative Membership & Program Consultant Dave Tebo Remarks: Main 3 areas of change are Home Associations, Boy Scouts, and Squires. Many changes are ahead and we need to follow Supreme's directives because they are well thought out. He feels very welcomed by the great state of Alabama.

State Convention Report: Les Wrobel gave a report on the upcoming convention. He stated the date for the next convention was the weekend of April 29th-30th & May 1st, 2016 in Huntsville at the Embassy Suites Hotel. There is a program to raise funds for the convention and the Priesthood Scholarship Fund. The package information is available on the website and the SD has sent out the information. Everyone makes their own hotel reservations. The registration forms are fairly simple to fill out. Need forms even for the free GK packages for planning purposes. The hotel costs include some perks which look to be very beneficial.

Insurance and Benefits Presentation: Benji Borrelli presented an incentive program for GA John Stice to raise money for the convention attendance. \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,000, and \$2,500 are different levels. The more raised covers more of your convention costs for free.

He gave the insurance presentation on the return of the new member annuity for \$100. Dave Tebo gave additional information on this new insurance product.

There was discussion on the need for insurance field agents throughout the state. We need to work in partnership with the insurance side. He described the workings of a fraternal benefits insurance association. He asked if everyone understood the insurance business. Please help sell the appointment.

Break

SD Brought Meeting Back to Order

Programs: Program Director Bill Mores related the awards program for the state. Encouraged letting our councils know about submitting reports. You cannot win if the council does not submit the forms. Each of the different program areas. Encouraging everyone to participate.

Campaign for Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities: Ron Belz stated funds are ahead of previous year's contributions but number of council participation is down. Glasses are presented for meeting various goals of the campaign. Forms are currently on the website in addition to being presented at this meeting. Excess Tootsie Rolls are requested at the 2016 April Convention for the Archbishop to throw at the Blessing of the Fleet.

Culture of Life: Dave Birchmeier asked for daily prayers for the Culture of Life. Each council needs a Culture of Life chairman. He encouraged councils to promote Natural Family Planning programs in all parishes. Ultrasound Initiatives

are ongoing. There are funds from previous initiative to go to the next initiative. Support all pro-life marches and efforts including legislative issues.

Food for Families: Bill Mores described this program. There was discussion on various food drives across the state and the ability for refunds from Supreme based on participation.

Church Activities: Chairman Herman Weber was not present. He had surgery the previous day so please pray for him.

Vocations: Chairman Joe Behr was not present but he does a good job to coordinate sponsorship of the seminarians.

Round Tables: Chairman Jack Boggan was not present and we have met our goal already for this year.

Health Services: If Councils hold or participate in Blood Drives these need to be reported to the Health Services Chairman.

Silver Rose: Skip stated the schedule has changed for this year. We will be handing off the Rose to Tennessee instead of Mississippi. There has been low interest in submitting requests. The schedule as far as locations within the state has been set due to the overall schedule the Rose will be in the state. Individual churches need to be filled in quickly.

Marian Icon: The schedule for the Marian Icon is being set so please submit requests to Skip if you want to host the Marian Icon.

Essay and Poster Contests: Both the Keep Christ in Christmas and Substance Abuse Awareness poster contests have deadlines to be met for submissions to Supreme.

Youth Activities: Soccer Challenge had no state participants even though there were some council competitions. Free Throw Championship is coming up in March 2016. Councils are encouraged to utilize using school physical education programs to put on the Free Throw Contests. There are District medals available for District winners.

Brief discussion on Special Olympics and Disaster Relief.

Question by DD Jack Hahn and answer by MPC Tebo on SP-7 form on filling out all lines for each program area even if the council does one program which fulfills the entire requirements. Just put the same activity on each line.

Discussion of form submission to Supreme.

Membership: G. V. "Skip" Gentle, PSD, FVSM, and Membership Director gave talk on membership. He started by saying the Star Council goal is important. Recruitment is vital to the Order. He showed charts of goals and progress. He discussed individual councils and the overall need of everyone to recruit. There was group discussion on the subject of membership recruitment.

Lunch Break

Comments: Joe Ching.....District Deputy #8 described activity of his councils.

Star Councils and Membership Goals: G. V. "Skip" Gentle, PSD, FVSM, Membership Director, spoke on the Knights of Columbus as evangelization. He described the incentives from Supreme to recruit. Use the DVD. Get the new member in and get them active. Positives and negatives were explained.

Membership and Council Retention: Bryant H. Collins, PSD, Council & Member Retention Chairman spoke on the importance of personal contact to the retention process. We currently have 4 suspended councils. Always ask for help. Help is readily available from State and Supreme.

Six Month Review: Pete Parrish, State Deputy laid out where we are on forms and audits of active councils. We need 45-50 new members each month until June 30 to meet our goal. New member \$100 annuity is available for insurance goals.

Membership Incentives: Skip Gentle, PSD, FVSM, Membership Director, went over the incentive premiums from Supreme for recruitment. There was a lengthy discussion on \$4.50 credit of per capita from Supreme for councils' which achieve Star Council status.

New Council Development and Council Reactivation: Ray Carney, PSD, New Council Development Chairman discussed the new council formed in Grove Hill, Alabama and the ongoing activity to form a new council at the University of Alabama. These two councils will meet our new council development quota. There are 4 current councils under suspension which could be reactivated. The District Deputies are encouraged to keep a close watch on their councils to help identify and remedy problem councils before it goes too far.

Hispanic Councils – SD Pete Parrish spoke on the Albertville council being the one Hispanic council in the state. He referenced the language barrier to creating and fostering Hispanic councils. Joe Castillo is our state coordinator

for Hispanic outreach. He should be contacted if needed. There are resources from Supreme for other ethnic groups such as Vietnamese.

State Action Plan: Pete Parrish, State Deputy asked for each council to achieve two significant programs in this last six months of this fraternal year. The rationale is this puts the council in front of the parishioners and potential members. Every council in the state needs to recruit 1 new member. He recommends utilizing the list of inactive member list. It is a very useful list of potential reactivations in his opinion. Every district should hold at least one First Degree Exemplification each month. We should always be recruiting.

State Chaplain Wall asked for the State Officers come up with a plan and also that MPC Tebo communicate to Supreme about creating a plan to present the message from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

Walter Vandergriff - District Deputy #6 – was asked for comments concerning his district. He stated they will be working to increase membership.

SD Pete Parrish explained his directive for each District Deputy to schedule a district meeting and relay the date to him. It would be distributed so as many as possible State Officers and Chairmen could attend.

Break

Fourth Degree Report: Steve Koach, District Master, stated there had been a 4th degree exemplification in Gulf Shores with 25 candidates with 14 coming from Florida. Only 6 came for Assembly 001 in Mobile. Another exemplification had been cancelled for lack of registration. The next exemplification is scheduled for February 20, 2016 at Our Lady of the Valley and the honoree would be Jack Boggan. The schedule also includes one on May 14th in Huntsville and one on June 11th in Fairhope. He described a possible activity for assemblies which is a Living Rosary. His assembly did this and the “Our Fathers” were done by Knights in regalia. Other Knights assisted the children with their parts. This is the year for the State Convention when the 4th degree meeting will be conducted. It will be held on Sunday, May 1. He asked for an Honor Guard to conduct Flag Ceremony at the State Convention in April.

Father McGivney Guild: IPSD Koach encouraged everyone to join the guild and to spread the word to non-Knights because it does not cost you any money and you do not have to be a Knight to be a member.

Priesthood Scholarship Fund: IPSD Koach recognized PSD Maurice Dupont as the State Deputy who had originally challenged every council to donate at least \$1,000 each year to the Priesthood Scholarship Fund. It is the time of the year to build up the amount to be presented to the Bishop and Archbishop at the convention so relay the message to the councils.

Awards from the Bienville Province: Family of the Year – Jay and Meyers
Bishop Ott award for Assembly of the Year to Our Lady of Guadalupe Assembly
3419 in Tuscaloosa

Civic awards to:

Assembly 3419 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

Assembly 2867 – Fort Payne

Assembly 3406 – Saint Jude's, Scottsboro

Assembly 004 – Father Jeremiah Treacy, Huntsville

Assembly 2420 – Father Patrick Murphy, Madison

Assembly 3302 – Saint John's, Enterprise

Assembly 3407 – Saint John Bosco, Leeds

Assembly 1432 – Joseph E. Binker, Daleville

Assembly 3238 – Saint John Vianney, Birmingham

Assembly 2574 – Father Michael J. McGivney, Montevallo

Assembly 2507 – Father James O'Reilly, Hoover

Assembly 2302 – Joseph G. Vath, Birmingham

Assembly 1288 – Monsignor Francis Wade, Birmingham

Ceremonials: Bill Schultz, Ceremonials Chairman discussed the process of scheduling ceremonials. Supreme requires a schedule because they will on the rare occasion send a representative to observe the degree for accuracy. 2nd Degree teams listed at Supreme are inaccurate and because a new degree is being implemented for the 2nd Degree it needs to be corrected. New materials will be distributed to the teams on record. The different degrees are being named. The 1st degree is the Admission Degree, the 2nd degree is going to be called the Formation Degree, the 3rd degree is the Knighthood Degree, and the 4th degree is the Patriotic Degree.

District Deputy Comments:

Jack HahnDistrict Deputy #1 He is a 4th DD with 3 or 4 possible Star Councils this year. Albertville and Oneonta are his troubled councils. He thanked the SD for the meeting format change. He enjoyed the ability to discuss items. He likes the incentives and the return of the \$100 new member annuity.

Gary Gardner.....District Deputy #2 He is on his 2nd year as DD and all of his councils are working hard for the Order. His district could possibly have 2 Star Councils.

Les WrobelDistrict Deputy #3 He is a 2nd year DD and has 4 councils in his district. One of his councils is in the process of incorporating the men's club from the church where they are based. He will need to push all of his councils to meet their goals. He likes the new Supreme Knight's initiatives. His councils

need and want more interaction with an Insurance Agent. Most likely he will only have one Star Council in his district.

Ronnie HolmesDistrict Deputy #4 He is a 4th year DD and is on target with all of his councils. He would like to see the State endorse the Ellen Edmonds program under the Culture of Life. It was recommended he talk with MPC Tebo on getting Supreme to help get this program more notoriety possibly as a national program.

Robert RigsbyDistrict Deputy #5 He is a 2nd year DD with 5 total councils but 1 is inactive. His district will have 2 or 3 Star Councils. He presented 2 anecdotes on why we should keep our rosters updated, work to keep our members involved, and make efforts to get members back involved with their councils.

Jim HughesDistrict Deputy #7 He has served as a DD for 4 years in broken service. His district has 3 councils and he believes at least one will be a Star Council. He likes the format change for the meeting.

Juan CeperoDistrict Deputy #10 He is a 2nd year DD and his councils are in good shape. He thinks 1, 2, or maybe even 3 of his councils could make Star council. He has already scheduled his District meeting with his councils.

Bob KiktaDistrict Deputy #11 He is a 2nd year DD with 6 councils in his district. One is doing very good and the rest are struggling.

Tim CreamerDistrict Deputy #13 He is in his 1st year as a DD and has been working with his councils to follow the procedures and protocols of the knights of Columbus. His district meeting is set. After being persuaded by the SD he thinks the Saint Ignatius council could make Star Council.

Pete ParrishDistrict Deputy #15 Acting He joked he has been serving as a DD for at least 6 years. He believes Bay Minette and Monroeville will make Star Council for 2 from this district.

Lawrence HuffmanDistrict Deputy #16 He is in his 2nd year as DD with 4 councils in his district. One of his councils is having a cultural issue with a priest at their church. It was discussed how other priests could be consulted to see if the problem could be addressed.

Maurice Dupont, PSDDistrict Deputy #17 He is serving one year as DD for this district and has a total of 4 years as a DD. He wants all the councils in this district to succeed. His main goals for the councils have been for them to catch up past due paperwork and to recruit at least one new member. He

wants them to all achieve the Columbian Award even if he must fill out the paperwork for them. They are each small churches with very limited potential members, but he recommends never give up on anyone. He also liked the idea of looking at the inactive insurance members for potential recruits.

Larry Cannon.....District Deputy #18 He is in his 1st year as DD and is learning what it takes to accomplish the job. He has 5 councils in his district and 1 will be getting their Star Council. He encourages them to look at the RCIA classes for new candidates. Jack Boggan was approached by the nuns from Saint Rose Academy to buy some furniture. A goal of \$10,000 was set and almost \$6,000 has been raised. If any other council would like to contribute it would be gladly accepted.

Michael HeitzmanDistrict Deputy #19 He is a 4th year DD with 3 very different councils making up his district. One will make Star Council. They all need help with the insurance program.

Supreme Representative: Supreme Representative David Tebo, PSD, Membership & Program Consultant recommended looking at your RCIA graduates for prospective members. He gave the suggestion to use your pastor for leads for new members. If you tell someone the priest suggested they would be good members then they are less likely to decline. District Deputies should go over recruiting techniques during regular council meetings. One recruiting drive suggestion is handing out prayer cards before Mass then a short speech including how multi-ministry friendly the Knights of Columbus are. He also recommended direct contact with members who have not been attending meetings or church. Accommodate candidates who cannot make regularly scheduled 1st degrees. The prayer cards are available from Knights Gear.

Past State Deputy Remarks:

G.V. "Skip" Gentle, Jr. remarked when he speaks on the Knights of Columbus at RCIA meetings, he tells them he is there to sell them "fire insurance". It gets their attention. He always carries a rosary. He stressed the 45 new member monthly goal. He also stressed the importance of daily prayer. He is running to be a delegate to the Supreme Convention.

Maurice Dupont stated he made his remarks during his earlier time.

Ray Carney said he was glad to be there and see everyone.

Steve Koach thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He will be running for delegate to the Supreme Convention.

State Officer Remarks:

Danny Garcia.....State Warden asked everyone to clean up around their area. He will be running for the office of State Advocate and as a delegate to the Supreme Convention.

Joe Flaherty.....State Advocate reminded everyone on the rifle raffle for the State Convention. Incentives for the winning tickets sellers will be announced. Resolutions need to be submitted. He will be running for the office of State Treasurer and as a delegate to the Supreme Convention.

Jason EsteveState Treasurer stated the per capita statements had been e-mailed to all the councils. No paper statements go out unless he specifically knows they are necessary. District Deputies are copied on the e-mails. He is notifying the DDs when payment is received from one of their councils. There was discussion on individual delinquent councils from the previous period. It is a small list and arrangements were made for getting the councils in questioned up to date. He announced he would be running for the office of State Secretary at the state convention.

Griffin Shreves.....State Secretary reminded everyone to pass on the information they had gained at the meeting. He explained his council's degree teams were doing the 1st and 2nd degree exemplifications on the 2nd Mondays of the odd months beginning with January, except January was moved to Tuesday due to the National Championship game. He asked the 4th year District Deputies to look for replacement suggestions within their districts. He looks forward to the future and will be seeking the office of State Deputy at the convention in April.

Pete Parrish.....State Deputy thanked everyone for the attendance and their continued hard work.

Closing Prayer:

Monsignor G. Warren Wall, State Chaplain, led the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned by State Deputy Pete Parrish.

Respectfully Submitted,

Griffin Shreves, State Secretary