

New Council Development program for District Deputies

One of the best ways to hit your District membership goals is to look for opportunities to expand the order through the establishment of new councils. This avenue of membership growth actually goes back to the time of our founding. Shortly after the founding of the Order, Father Michael J. McGivney wrote a letter to every pastor in the Diocese of Hartford, which at the time encompassed all of Connecticut, and asked them to “exert your influence in the formation of a council in your parish.” This demonstrated that Father McGivney saw new councils as the best viable means of growth and expansion for the Order, and that new councils should be parish-orientated.

Today, we are still pursuing Father McGivney’s goal of one Knights of Columbus council in every parish, and as shown by the excellent record the Order has enjoyed over the past years, we are closer today than ever before. However, there is still a long way to go, and every state and district can contribute. Our Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, has stated that “we have nothing less than a moral obligation to offer every eligible Catholic man the opportunity and the privilege of membership in our Order.”

******* All of this sounds good, but the pandemic of Covid-19 has put a great road block in our way to gain new members and establish new councils. It may take all of us a little longer to get a new council going but it is not impossible. The use of the online degrees is the key to making this happen. Future members that have signed up for a new council can watch the degrees from the safety of their homes and become a charter member. This is important because different areas of the state have different phases they are currently in**

when it comes to people coming together for any type of meetings or gatherings. Obviously social distancing and the use of masks are vital.

****** One of the issues of the use of the online degrees is that if you want to witness the degree you need to submit a council number in the registration process. In order to by pass this you need to send perspective members the following link:**

<https://videos.kofc.org/exemplification>. If they put this link into their computer they can witness the degrees. It is important that they communicate to you by email or phone after they witness the degree. You will put this together and form your list for the charter class. Any questions please direct them directly to the Supreme Council to assist you.

******* This process was used by one of the DD's from Western and in a few weeks we will have a new council started in one of our largest parishes.**

New Council Development Guidelines

The development of new councils is primarily the responsibility of the district deputy, with the assistance of his state's new council development chairman and the insurance agent. The following procedures should be followed to help that development:

- STEP #1 – SURVEY YOUR AREA
- STEP #2 – CONTACT THE PASTOR
- STEP #3 – CONTACT THE STATE DEPUTY
- STEP #4 – CONTACT THE INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE
- STEP #5 – INITIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE
- STEP #6 – FORM A STEERING COMMITTEE

- STEP #7 – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
- STEP #8 – ADMISSION (FIRST) DEGREES
- STEP #9 – PLANS FOR INSTITUTION
- STEP #10 – APPLICATION FOR CHARTER
- STEP #11 – PRESENTATION OF CHARTER
- STEP #12 – FOLLOW-UP

*** While the steps to the formation of a new council are numerous and time consuming, the presentation of a new council charter can be one of the most rewarding accomplishments as a District Deputy. ****

NOTE:

For each step listed there will be instructions for each step along with the necessary forms that are needed for

- Notice of Intent to form a council
- Membership Documents
- Candidate Kits
- Notice of Institution
- Application for Charter