



Summary Annual Report

Montana *Knights of Columbus*, District #14

Submission for 2020 MT *Knight of Columbus* State Convention

Fraternal Year: 2019-2020

Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Officers, Worthy Supreme Representative, Worthy Past State Deputy, Worthy Delegates and Brother Knights.

BACKGROUND

Realizing the need to provide better support to several large districts in Montana, councils within the existing twelve districts were re-aligned and two additional districts were added, resulting in the establishment of District #14 on July 1st, 2019. In turn, I was selected by Worthy State Deputy Allen Cormany as the newly formed council's District Deputy, an unexpected event in my life as a Knight.

The makeup of District #14 currently consists of the following councils with noted leadership:

#1508, Lewistown	Paul Tucek, GK	Scott Kirsch, FS
# 3911, Fort Benton	Tim Riddle, GK	Kenneth Engellant, FS
# 7726, Geyser/Belt	Paul Heikkila, GK	Robert Williams, FS
# 9395, Great Falls	Billy Ross, GK	Dean Erickson, FS

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Despite struggles with an ever-aging membership and in some cases a diminishing population growth within its city's residence and parishioners, these active councils performed to the best of their abilities while supporting their priests, serving their parishes, protecting their families and helping those in their communities. An array of activities, programs and projects completed by these councils in District #14 consisted of, and not limited to...

Conducting fundraising events with monies collected used towards the purchase of church entry signage, Sacramental gifts and Mass booklets and to support *Special Olympics Montana*, *Catholic Charities, Inc* world-wide charitable projects, Memorials for Unborn Children, Catholic educational scholarships, Catholic schools, seminarians through *RSVP Program*, *Food for Families* food donations, Disaster Preparedness relief efforts, *Ultrasound Initiative*, "Coats for Kids", domestic church kiosk booklets, rosary program, *Christian Refugee Relief*, "Leave No Neighbor Behind" initiatives, crisis pregnancy center support, "Helping Hands" support of monetary donation to benefit the re-building efforts of *St Mary's Catholic Church*, completely destroyed by fire.

Actively supported and participated in "Marches for Life" activities, blood donation drives, "Fish Fries", repairs of parish property projects, elderly/widow care projects, "Leave No Neighbor Behind" humanitarian relief campaign, the *Episcopal Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend Austin Anthony Vetter* ceremony, numerous ceremonial details while serving as members in the Assembly's Color Corps

Continuation of: PERFORMANCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completed projects and activities such as “*Coats for Kids*”, “*Keep Christ in Christmas*” poster contest, *Soccer Challenge* and the *Free Throw Championship*, all youth-focused programs, “*Habitat for Humanity*”, Veterans Military/VAVS support/visitation, Adoration Devotions and Spiritual Reflection, Bible study groups, *Consecration to the Holy Family*, “*Public Square Rosary Crusade*”, Family Rosary sessions, Spiritual Retreat with Most Reverend Michael Warfel, Bishop of Great Falls-Billings presiding.

COUNCIL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Announced by the Supreme Council as winner of the **2018-2019 Fraternal Year...**



Father McGivney Award

Recognizes excellence in your council's membership growth.

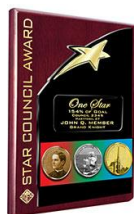
Council #1508, Lewistown ... Paul Tucek, GK & Scott Kirsch, FS

Council # 7726, Geyser/Belt ... Paul Heikkila, GK & Robert Williams, FS

Founders' Award

Recognizes excellence in council's promotion of Knight's top-rated & exclusive insurance products

Council # 7726, Geyser/Belt ... Paul Heikkila, GK & Robert Williams, FS



Star Council Award

Recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and service program activities and the council qualified for the *Father McGivney*, *Founder's*, and *Columbian Awards* as well

Council # 9395, Great Falls ... Billy Ross, GK & Dean Erickson, FS

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT

All four councils assigned under District #14 were instrumental in the Montana State Knights of Columbus earning the *Supreme Knight's Circle of Honor Award* which recognizes those jurisdictions that led the Order through excellent 100% membership growth.

Worthy State Deputy Allen Cormany accepted this prestigious award presented by Supreme Carl Anderson at the Supreme Knight's Award Session at the 137th Supreme Convention in Minneapolis, MN on August 8th, 2019. A significant achievement for all of Montana Knights to be extremely proud of.

CONCLUSION

Many of District #14 council's annual programs, projects and events planned to be conducted were cancelled because of the (COVID-19) coronavirus situation which struck mankind world-wide beginning in early March of 2020.

As a result of this life-threatening virus, the Supreme Council cancelled all personal contact meetings, including business meetings, all planned events, where people would gather and all travel for Knights of Columbus business as a precautionary measure to protect the health of Brother Knights and others.

This proved to be a period that deepened our commitment to the very principles which define us: charity, unity and fraternity. We as council members were faced with opportunities during this time of threats to our health and very existence that permitted us to live out these principles in service to our brother Knights, our families and our communities.

During these stressful and uncertain times, councils within District #14 answered the call to support our Brothers with assistance in various ways, such as:

- Making food home deliveries and conducting wellness checks on the elderly
- Providing demand response rides for parishioners in need of medical appointment transportation because a lack of public transit
- Supporting our parishes and priests when called upon to make the Easter celebrations as spiritual as possible. Duplicated then individually laminated the "*Prayer for Protection in the Time of Pandemic*" prayer cards from Supreme and delivered them to local parish for distribution to parishioners- a welcomed contribution acknowledged by the parish priest/staff.
- Helping our local community with donated food collections for the needy; feeding the hungry by assisting with donations of food to local food distribution centers, parish pantries and church soup kitchens.
- Donating blood to blood banks and monies to Brothers in need locally and to the "*Leave No Neighbor Behind Fund*" campaign through *Columbus Charities, Inc.*

Nevertheless, this time of difficulty has proven to be a moment when our Knights have stepped into the breach and showed ourselves to be disciples of Jesus Christ and men at the service of others.

Unquestionably, Council leadership came through with a commendable number of new members being initiated by attending and completing the first-ever, Supreme conducted combined degrees

Therefore, I consider myself truly Blessed and at the same time honored and privileged to have been selected to serve in the position of District Deputy for District #14. Furthermore, my sincere thanks to my Brothers responsible for their endorsement resulting in my advancement to this challenging, rewarding and respected position as District Deputy. VIVAT JESUS !

Exemplification, conducted via on-line and by virtual means.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sylvester "Sly" Barros, PGK
District Deputy/14

Men By Birth...
Catholic In Faith...
Knights By Choice.

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