



**Knights of  
Columbus**

## Summary Annual Report

**Montana *Knights of Columbus*, District #14**

**Submission for 2021 MT *Knights of Columbus* State Convention**

**Fraternal Year: 2020-2021**

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

### **BACKGROUND**

It's been a great privilege and an exciting experience having served my second year as District Deputy for District #14, consisting of the following assigned councils in my jurisdiction and their elected top leadership:

#1508, Lewistown  
# 3911, Fort Benton  
# 7726, Geyser/Belt  
# 9395, Great Falls

Paul Tucek, GK  
Tim Riddle, GK  
Paul Heikkila, GK  
Richard Heffley, GK

Scott Kirsch, FS  
Kenneth Engellant, FS  
Robert Williams, FS  
Dean Erickson, FS

### **PERFORMANCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The 2020-2021 fraternal year has in fact presented a great deal of struggles, challenges and personal quandary to many as a result of the global wide COVID-19 pandemic facing all of mankind. Despite these trying and stressful times we faced, we continue to survive with the grace of our Lord and Savior.

In addition, our aging of our members, coupled with the challenges such as increasing council membership, revisions of programs and required annual report submissions definitely are factors for some to take an almost non-active attitude in their council activities. Road blocks obstructing their ability to function as active councils as prior years have been the restriction on holding in-person membership meetings, conducting annual programs and projects openly and without any major restrictions because of the restrictions in numbers in any one gathering and the required social distancing mandates, all which have hindered our abilities to perform as active councils in our works with the parish and our communities.

Moreover, all four councils in this district have operated within their capabilities while keeping with the established state and diocese directed safety and health precautions.

Despite their limitations due to difficult times, district councils successfully completed and supported the following programs and projects:

- ❖ *“March for Life”* peaceful marches and rally and *“Day of the Unborn Child”* observation events
- ❖ Catholic educational scholarships and Catholic schools financial support, *RSVP* Program
- ❖ *Food for Families* food collections, donations and deliveries locally and partnering with adjoining district
- ❖ *Building the Domestic Church’s Catholic Information Service (CIS)* church kiosks
- ❖ Rosary prayer services and Holy Hour
- ❖ Devotional Reflection programs such as *Eucharistic Adoration* sessions at three parishes
- ❖ *Christian Refugee Relief* financial donation and contribution
- ❖ *“Leave No Neighbor Behind”* initiatives through parish, member and community support
- ❖ *“Helping Hands”* renovation projects of parish-diocese owned properties



Continuation of: PERFORMANCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Additionally, the following projects and activities were also successfully completed by these councils during the year-long pandemic:

- ❖ “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest
- ❖ Soccer Challenge and the Free Throw Championship
- ❖ Bible study groups
- ❖ “Public Square Rosary Crusade”
- ❖ “Family/Knight of the Month/Year” recognition program
- ❖ Local fundraising events (take-out only)
- ❖ Novena for Life

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS- SUPREME COUNCIL LEVEL AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

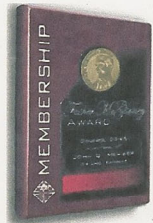
2019-2020 Fraternal Year recipients ...



**Columbian Award**

Recognizes excellence in your council's membership growth.

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



**Father McGivney Award**

Recognizes excellence in your council's membership growth.

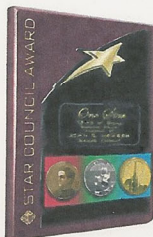
**Council #1508, Lewistown ... Paul Tucek, GK  
Scott Kirsch, FS**



**Founders' Award**

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

**Council #1508, Lewistown ... Paul Tucek, GK  
Scott Kirsch, 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 ... Richard Heffley, GK  
Dean Erickson, FS**



## CONCLUSION

Like the vast majority of the council within our Order's, projects and events planned were postponed and or re-scheduled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of this life-threatening virus, all in-person meetings, including business and membership meetings, events with large gathering of people such as parish socials and fundraising events and travel for Knights of Columbus business were cancelled/prohibited as a precautionary measure to protect the health of all.

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.

Noteworthy actions completed by individual councils within District #14 in response to the "Leave No Neighbor Behind" initiatives were answering the call to support our Brothers with assistance in various ways, such as:

- Preparing meals and making deliveries
- Conducting wellness checks on the elderly, homebound and shut-ins
- Providing transportation for parishioners and fellow Knights in need of medical appointment
- Supporting our parishes and priests when called upon
- Helping the hungry in their community with donated food collections
- Aid in feeding the hungry by assisting with donations of food to local food distribution centers, parish pantries and church soup kitchens.
- Monetary contributions in support of the *Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.* organization.

During 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. Council leadership came through despite their challenges and the limitations placed on them and their council.

In closing, my sincere thanks to my Brothers responsible for their unwavering efforts to achieve their charitable works to the best of their capabilities and look forward to a productive and healthier year to come. VIVAT JESUS!

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvester "Sly" Barros  
District Deputy/District #14

