



Summary Annual Report

Montana *Knights of Columbus*, Districts #7 and #14

Submission for 120th Annual *Knight of Columbus* MT State Convention

April 18-20,2024 Hamilton, MT

Report Covering Fraternal Year: 2023-2024

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

COMPONENTS of REPORTING DISTRICT

Key staff within assigned councils consist of the following key staff leadership and Brother Knights:

Council #1493, GF

William **Tempel**, GK
George **Kupka**, FS

Council # 1508, Lewistown

Melville **Jackson**, GK
Scott **Kirsch**, FS

Council # 2860, Cut Bank

Conrad/Valier/ Shelby
Paul **Jones**, GK
John **Heinley**, FS

Council # 3911, Ft Benton

Tim **Riddle**, GK
Kenneth **Engellant**, FS

Council # 6200, Choteau

Augusta/Bynum/Dutton/ Fairfield/Power
Jon **Redland**, GK
David **Hartman**, FS

Council # 7726, Geyser/Belt

John **Casselli**, GK
Robert **Williams**, FS

Council # 9395, Great Falls

Royce **Shipley**, GK
John **Moonan**, FS

BACKGROUND

During this 2023-24 reporting fraternal year, my jurisdictional duties doubled with the appointment of District #7, consisting of an additional three councils, bring my regional area of responsibility to a total of seven councils. It is truly remarkable to note that the council involvement and event participations at my assigned councils have recovered from the effects and struggles of an extremely difficult two year pandemic period, Restored were projects, programs and events, personal contact meetings, including business meetings, planned events, where people would gather in a social setting/group and travel for *Knights of Columbus* business.

Remarkably, all quarterly initiatives for membership growth offered by Supreme were achieved by a solid and active council in my assigned districts as well.

Noteworthy were the increase and implementation of in person-Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity ceremonials completed on a recurring basis.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Half of the councils in my jurisdiction participated and completed a remarkable “**Coats for Kids**” winter coats give-away project that eventually resulted and expanded to a locally formed “**Coats for Kids - Folks in Need**” (Council 9395 project slogan) give-away event set a giveaway record this year, due mainly to the abundance of adult winter jackets obtained from Supreme.

Moreover, additional projects such as “**Food for Families**” food collection and donation drives, “**Leave No Neighbor Behind**” assistance and hands-on help projects completed, newly implemented **ASAP** fundraising events benefiting pregnancy centers, food collection and distribution projects under the “**Helping Hands**” community oriented projects were conducted successfully.

Programs and projects such as the “**Keep Christ in Christmas**” poster contest, **Soccer Challenge** and the **Free Throw Championship**, all youth-focused programs were also winners and successfully completed. In addition, **Adoration Devotions** and **Spiritual Reflection, Bible Study** groups, **Consecration to the Holy Family, Into the Breach/Cor**, “**Public Square Rosary Crusade**” and **Family Rosary** sessions were all completed successfully.

EXCEPTIONAL NEW MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS

At the time of the preparation of this report, four of the seven councils assigned under the jurisdiction of this District achieved their quota/goals for new member growth by at least 50 percent.

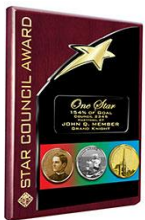
Shout-out to the two councils in my districts nearing the qualification mandates necessary for the **Star Council Award** for this reporting period.

Truly remarkable is the achievement of a sole council once again this reporting period that exceeded their quota/goal and achieving a gain of 229% new member growth

HONORABLE MENTION A single council, aforementioned also earned their fourth **Double Star Council Award in 2023**, making it their **10th consecutive Star Council Award** .

INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL AWARD

Selected by Supreme Council as winner for the **2022-2023 Fraternal Year...**



Star Council Award

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

- **Council # 9395, Great Falls**



Founders' Award

Recognizes excellence in council's membership growth.

- **Council #1493, Great Falls**
- **Council #1508, Lewistown**

"Knights of Columbus is an organized way to express love of neighbor in acts of charity."

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight

CONCLUSION

Despite the challenges and obstacles impacting increasing membership efforts, charitable events are being completed at an all-time high record.

Moreover, Council Knights in my districts are unquestionably driven and strengthened by the ***Holy Spirit*** in achieving their charitable call to service, as demonstrated by their attitudes and attributes.

In addition, their ability to overcome and adjust is evident by their accomplishments and exceptional achievements during challenging reporting period.

In conclusion, I truly feel Blessed and fortunate to have completed a third year in this challenging and rewarding position as District Deputy.

My sincere thanks to my Brothers Order wide and Blessings to all. VIVAT JESUS!

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Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvester "Sly" Barros
District Deputy Supreme Knight

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