

State Council of the District of Columbia
Report of District #1

Executive Summary

Viewed in totality, Fraternal Year 2019-20 was challenging for District #1. Inconsistent recruiting and programming efforts combined with poor communication resulted in substandard results in membership gain. With the exception of Council 224, it is not my belief that the shutdown of fraternal activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic changed the trajectory of respective council performances from likely to reaching Star Council to not attaining it.

Washington Council #224

Washington Council 224 has embarked on a successful fraternal year and was surely on track to reach Star Council in the absence of the shutdown of fraternal activities. Notwithstanding the new difficulties, Council leadership still believes that they are in position to recruit the final three members necessary to attain their membership quota. Meanwhile, they report that they have two insurance applications pending with a plan to attain one more before the end of the fraternal year. Prior to the fraternal shutdown, they had been having weekly membership drives at St. Anne's and quarterly drives at Holy Trinity. On the programming side, the Council developed an annual plan of action after individual meetings with the pastors of all parishes comprising their council. Adapting to the challenges of COVID-19, they converted their Holy Week Promotion event to an online format. They also donated \$1000 in emergency grants to parishes to ease the financial burden of the cessation of liturgies and supported the Global Wheelchair Initiative. Though it appears that the majority of actual leadership is conducted by officers other than the Grand Knight, there is a strong Officer Corps in place; hence, the Council is well-positioned for continued success next year.

Awards Progress								
		Month to Date			Year to Date			
	Quota	Gain	Loss	Net	Gain	Loss	Net	%
MBR	9	0	0	0	6	0	6	67
INS	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Keane Council #353

It is difficult to render a proper report on Council 353, as it has been impossible to connect with their Council leadership. However, a review their membership progress for the year is an indictment of insufficient recruitment activities. Through secondhand accounts, I am aware of difficulties they have had relating to a priest that impugned the Order from the pulpit, but through the same secondhand accounts it appears that this problem has been remedied. I am also aware of difficulties this council has had relating to an inactive Grand Knight, with subordinate

officers trying their best to pick up the slack. Entering next year, it will be necessary for the Council to elect appropriate leadership and immediately execute recruitment drives in order to ensure longevity.

Awards Progress								
		Month to Date			Year to Date			
	Quota	Gain	Loss	Net	Gain	Loss	Net	%
MBR	13	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
INS	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Potomac Council #433

2019-20 was a year of rebuilding for Council 433. Though it is the council home of the Supreme Knight and Deputy Supreme Knight, years of financial and membership mismanagement had led to scores of inactive members, causing a major financial toll on the treasury. Without sufficient funds, programming has suffered; without programming, it is difficult to sell men on the virtues of Columbian knighthood. Making matters worse, the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle already has countless pre-existing paid and volunteer liturgical and social ministries which eat away at potential traditional opportunities for Knights of Columbus activities.

It was with these pre-existing challenges at hand that the executive leadership of the Council resolved to fix the poor membership situation through improved communication and ultimately the suspension or resignation of members no longer interested in continuing active membership. Though I am disappointed that the dues assessment process was not initiated until so late in this fraternal year that the 60 day Intent to Retain process will bleed into next fraternal year, stymieing the chances of achieving Star Council next FY, it is nonetheless a necessary price to pay for this council to remain solvent.

Aside from fiscal issues, throughout this year recruitment and programming have largely been barren. There was one Delta Church Drive conducted during the Fall, but it was hamstrung by an unwillingness of the pastoral staff to allow for a pulpit announcement at any Mass, so it only netted one member. There was an intention to host another Delta Church Drive upon the arrival of the new Rector, but the COVID-19 shuttering of churches prevented this from coming to pass. As for programming, there has been an ongoing discussion about hosting a lecture on civility and dialogue, which was an idea from Archbishop Gregory. However, there has yet to be traction on setting a date or confirming a lecturer.

Into next year, it will be imperative for the Council leadership to shore up a new core of dues-paying, general body members that can be the seed for future growth. To achieve this, it will be necessary to not only have more recruitment opportunities but to also increase faith and service programming in order to answer the question, "Why join?"

Awards Progress								
		Month to Date			Year to Date			
	Quota	Gain	Loss	Net	Gain	Loss	Net	%
MBR	18	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
INS	6	0	0	0	0	2	-2	

Sacred Heart Council #16215

In the D.C. Knights Council dedicated to the service of the Vietnamese community at Sacred Heart Parish, no membership growth was achieved this year. It is difficult to state with certainty the reasons for the poor growth, as poor communication was the hallmark of my interactions with the Council throughout the fraternal year. Typically, communications to the Grand Knight and Financial Secretary would be unanswered; then, I would involve State Treasurer Nguyen, a member of the council, who then personally handled the issue at hand. It is certainly of concern that a senior member of the State Council, who no longer has an executive role in his subordinate council, would need to consistently be involved in order for standard tasks such as semiannual audits to be completed. Hence, a challenge for next year will be to cultivate independent leadership in the council. Furthermore, it is difficult to view the membership roster, which demonstrates member addresses disproportionately in Virginia and Maryland and not wonder if this council has an ongoing natural source of recruitment and viability.

Awards Progress								
		Month to Date			Year to Date			
	Quota	Gain	Loss	Net	Gain	Loss	Net	%
MBR	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
INS	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	

District #1 Recruitment Summary

Awards Progress								
		Month to Date			Year to Date			
	Quota	Gain	Loss	Net	Gain	Loss	Net	%
MBR	31	0	0	0	8	0	8	26
INS	12	0	0	0	0	2	-2	

Respectfully submitted,

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District Deputy #1