



**Knights of
Columbus®**

REPORT OF THE STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

District of Columbia State Council

123rd State Convention - April 2022

MEMBERSHIP GOALS

At the beginning of the Fraternal Year, there were **2,793 Knights** in the **District of Columbia**. The Supreme Council set an annual membership intake goal of 163, and an online membership intake goal of 50. As of the date of submission of this report (April 22, 2022), the jurisdiction had recruited ninety-two (92) Knights, constituting a net gain of eighty-seven (87). Of these recruits, seventy-five (75) counted towards the State's quota. The State Council has therefore achieved **46.01%** of its intake goal. Thirty-two (32) members have joined online, representing **65%** of the State's online growth goal.

Six (6) councils have **achieved or surpassed** their intake goal for the Fraternal Year.

- Washington Council #224
- Georgetown University Council #6375
- The Catholic University of America Council #9542
- Saint Cyprian Council #10008
- The George Washington University Council #13242
- Saint John Paul II Council #16773

Another **five (5) councils** have recruited **at least one** new member.

- Potomac Council #433
- Bishop Patrick J. Byrne Council #3877
- Saint Josaphat Council #7530
- Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle Council #11302
- Divine Mercy Council #17611

Special recognition is due to the State's **newest council**, which has been quite active vis-à-vis recruitment: Blessed Karl of Austria Council #17834.

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

Individual councils have implemented various recruitment strategies to attract new members, including holding Delta Church Drives. On the whole, however, growth efforts continue to be hampered by COVID-19 restrictions, which only started to relax in the first half of the Fraternal Year. Even then, in some parishes, pandemic protocols have prevented councils from returning to their normal course of activities. A handful of council were nevertheless successful with promoting in-person recruitment and online membership, as well as holding an exemplification of the combined degree.

Since the beginning of the second half of the Fraternal Year, at which time the undersigned State Membership Director assumed office, the State Council has executed **three** special growth/retention programs.

First, the State Council sponsored the “**2022 Spring Membership Initiative**,” which invited council leadership (1) to schedule a meeting with parish leadership, (2) schedule a service project, (3) advertise in the parish bulletin, and (4) announce the project from the pulpit and ask eligible men to join the Knights. This initiative was based on an assumption that men are inspired to join the Order when they see councils giving back to the community and making a real difference in the parish. In short, the initiative sought to promote the Knights as **servant leaders**. Councils were given template language for bulletin and pulpit announcements. The initiative met with limited success.

Second, the State Council sponsored an “**April College Council Growth Challenge**,” which sought to spur gains among the college councils. Specifically, the council that recruited the highest number of new members between March 25, 2022 and May 1, 2022 would receive an all-expenses-paid pizza party. As of the date of submission of this report, the initiative was on-going; two college councils had recruited new members.

Third, the State Council endeavored to compile a list of **graduating seniors** from the college councils who intended to stay within the region. That list would be used to connect those young men with parish-based councils with the goal of facilitating transfers. As of the date of submission of this report, the initiative was on-going.

CLOSING REMARKS

The State Council continues to promote **online membership**, especially in light of the waiver of online dues for the Fraternal Year. This has involved advertising. The **Online Membership Coordinator** and others continue to maintain email communication with online members and others, thereby informing them of state programs, upcoming degree exemplifications, and other items of interest.

With the close of the Fraternal Year close at hand, several councils are close to achieving their quota, and several are expected to do so. Plans are already afoot to develop a comprehensive membership and growth plan for Fraternal Year 2022–2023.

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Respectfully submitted,



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State Membership Director
District Deputy No. 1