Meeting Minutes: 2026 District Deputies Kickoff Meeting

Date: July 18, 2026

Location: St. Joseph's Church, Prattville, Alabama

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1. Opening & Ceremonial Proceedings

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Pat Jackson, State Deputy.
- **Opening Prayer:** Led by Mike Schultz. Special intentions were requested for Brother Pierre Villain following a recent heart procedure.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by District Master Griffin Shreves.
- **Roll Call:** Conducted by Brian Lagasse, State Secretary

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2. Supreme Representative's Address (J.C. Reiher, PSD, RGD)

- **Two Lungs, One Body Philosophy:** Emphasized the balance between the fraternal side ("Culture of Invitation") and the insurance side ("Culture of Cooperation").
- **Per Capita Waiver Incentive:** Councils that refer a candidate to the General Agent who gets contracted and stays for six months will have their Supreme per capita waived for two periods.
- **The "Big Four" Priorities:**
    - **Forms 185 & 365:** Must be submitted early in July to ensure seamless communication and youth protection routing.
    - **Safe Environment Compliance:** Issued a challenge for **100% compliance across all councils by August 31st**. Non-compliant officers/directors who refuse training must be replaced.
    - **Pending Applications List:** Highlighted the need to actively follow up on online applicants who stalled during the email confirmation phase (leads under 6 months old are considered high priority).
    - **Partnerships:** Encouraged strong ties with field agents, the 4th Degree, diocesan events, and outside organizations.

- **Opportunities for Recruiting**
    - COR
    - Our Programs
    - Pending Applications List
    - Prospect tab
    - Market Penetration
    - Men's Conference
    - Parish Events

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3. State Deputy's Fraternal Year Review & Goals (Pat Jackson, State Deputy)

- **Jurisdiction Overview:** Alabama consists of 18 districts, 74 regular councils, 1 college council, and approximately 10,400 members.
- **Review of Last Fraternal Year:** Celebrated a record-breaking year hitting 135% of the membership goal, achieving 33 Star Councils, 12 Star Districts (including 2 All-Star Districts), and earning the Pinnacle Award.
- **Current Year Targets:**
    - **Membership Goal:** Adjusted down by 2% to **503 net new members**. Achieving 20% of this goal by the end of the first quarter triggers an additional 2.5% reduction.
    - **Star Goals:** Targeting a baseline of 13 Star Councils and 3 Holy Hours.
- **District Deputy role**
    - Provide guidance to Councils
    - Encourage the Councils
    - Be open and engaging
    - Provide example to the Council Officers
- **DD Expectations**
    - Lead
    - Teach
    - Mentor
    - Encourage
- **Required Meetings**
    - Organization Meeting
    - Mid-year meeting
    - State Convention
    - Webinars as posted
    - District Meetings (DD hosted meeting)

- **Expenses Reimbursement:** Reminded District Deputies to submit the online reimbursement form for localized travel mileage, meals during council visits, and approved hotel stays. Travel outside the district is not covered.
- **Form 944:** The District Deputy's annual report card on councils must be submitted honestly and early (deadline September 15th) to help identify councils needing extra support.
- **Why Councils missed obtaining Star**
    - 1728, SP-7, FBE, Safe Environment training
- **Form 11077, Member/Agent Meeting Report**
- **Overview of Council Forms**
- **Fraternal Leader Advisory**
- **You are not in this alone!**

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4. Membership & Online Intake Review (Emerson Healy, State Membership Director & Pete Parish, State Online Membership Director)

- **Proof of Concept Church Drives:** Emphasized moving away from "recruiting" terminology toward a "culture of invitation."
    - Supreme has released a new *Culture of Invitation Church Drive Kit* containing enrollment cards, prayer cards, and an instructional video by Brandon Chambers.
    - District Deputies are required to schedule a district meeting and coordinate POC drives locally before November/December.
    - **State Deputy Incentive:** For every 3 Star Districts achieved, names go into a drawing for a $50 prize. All-Star Districts get two entries.
- **Online Join Process vs. Candidate Tab:**
    - The preferred intake method is the online portal (kofc.org/join) utilizing local agent codes.
    - For every 10 E-members successfully transferred into a local council, the state receives a **reduction of 1** from its overall intake goal.

    - Deputies must actively monitor the prospect tab to ensure E-members are fully processed into local councils instead of being left in the generic state council bucket.

- **Star Council Changes:** The annual audit is now a strict requirement for Star Council status, though the frequency has been reduced to one comprehensive annual audit instead of two.

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5. Faith in Action Programs (Jeff Wolfe, State Program Director)

- **Overview of Organization and Programs (see slide deck)**
    - State Organization Chart with State Directors
    - Community Programs Lineup
    - Family Programs Lineup
    - Life Programs Lineup
    - Faith Programs Lineup
    - Overview of Council Directors

- **SP7 Form Revision:** The old point system is officially retired. The new SP7 features a simple "point, click, and submit" format broken into three primary requirements:
    - **Requirement 1:** A minimum $500 donation (or equivalent item value) toward recognized programs like ASAP, RSVP, Foods for Families (or 1,000 lbs of food), or Coats for Kids.
    - **Requirement 2:** Completion of 4 featured Faith in Action programs (1 per category: Faith, Family, Community, Life) that cannot overlap with Requirement 1.
    - **Requirement 3:** Completion of 3 localized activities or implementation of the Cor initiative.
- **Community Side Focus:** Highlighted the "Buy One, Get One" (BOGO) Coats for Kids campaign providing 48 jackets for the price of 24. Actions must be taken this month.

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6. Cor Initiative & Spiritual Formation (Mike Schultz, State EFF Director)

- **Definition of Cor:** Not a temporary program, but an ongoing relationship focused on vertical spiritual formation, horizontal fraternity, and prayer.

- **Resources:** Recommended utilizing Catholic Information Services, the *Formed* platform, and the new *Encountering the Poor* ministry resource.
- **Featured Study:** The *Into the Breach for the Family* video series (5 sessions, 12–13 minutes each) is highlighted as low-hanging fruit for parish deployment.
- **Joint Retreat:** Council 764 and Council 11672 (Huntsville) will conduct a joint 3-day "Retreat in a Box" utilizing the Kerygma framework the first weekend of November.

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7. Insurance & Agency Report (Cameron Ellis, General Agent)

- **Agency Standing:** The Alabama-Mississippi Agency is currently ranked **#6 in the entire order**.
- **Founders Award Clarification:** To qualify, new or associate members must participate in a legitimate, face-to-face, needs-based financial review with a field or general agent. Physical presence without a needs-based conversation does not qualify. Product purchase is encouraged but not required.
- **Member Onboarding:** Fraternal leaders are requested to briefly advise new members to expect an introductory insurance call so that the contact is anticipated and not perceived as a sales pitch.
- **Bilingual Recruitment:** Acknowledged the need for Spanish-speaking agents to support rapid growth in the Hispanic community. The agency is actively recruiting high-caliber, coachable bilingual individuals.

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8. Closing

- **District Deputy Installation:** The formal installation ceremony was conducted for the newly appointed District Deputies, who were invested with their respective jewels of office.
- **Closing Prayer:** Led by Deacon Rich Chenault
- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 by Pat Jackson, AL State Deputy

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