



THE ADVOCATE...

AUGUST 2018

FEATURE ARTICLES: PRAESIDIUM – SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM
 COUNCIL ADVOCATES - ACCESS TO OFFICER'S DESKTOP
 REFERENCE WEBSITE
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 NEW! INDEX (OF PAST NEWSLETTERS)

Welcome to **THE ADVOCATE**....dedicated to all Council Advocates but to be shared with the Council Executive, and all District Deputies. You may share this with all the members in your Council but it relates strictly to your responsibilities in the Council. I will endeavour to keep every missive short but they are designed to inform and educate you, Worthy Advocates, on the rules and laws of our Order. Remember...it is your responsibility to ensure that your Council knows and follows our Charter, Constitution, and Laws and Rules.

Please refer to the *INDEX* section ... it lists past articles in the month they were published which are all available on our State website.

PRAESIDIUM ... SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE

In my last newsletter I mentioned, erroneously, that every Council must not only have a Youth Director but that member must also take the Praesidium Course.

My error was not about taking the course but that the Youth Director position no longer exists. It is replaced with the Family Director Officer role and Community Director Officer role.

Ironically only "one" (yes...1) Council emailed me pointing out my error.

Brothers, Form 185 is critical to ensure verification of the Council Executive and especially for communication with executive members from State and Supreme. Please ensure Form 185 is completed in full and sent to Membership Records at Supreme and a copy is sent to our State Office in Red Deer.

Both the Family Director Officer role and the Community Director Officer role require members to do the Praesidium training and undergo a background check. Once they have been officially appointed to the roles they will receive an invitation via email to take

the Praesidium course and have 30 days to complete their requirements. If they are not compliant within the 30 days of notification, they are subject to removal from those roles and they will need to be reappointed by the Grand Knight or Financial Secretary by submitting an updated Form 365

The Grand Knight must also take the Praesidium course as it is also one of the qualifications to achieve Star Council. He will automatically receive an invitation by email to take the course (if the Form 185 was sent in). There is no need to contact Supreme to take the course.

I had a situation where the Grand Knight contacted me indicating he was not permitted to take the course. I confirmed this with the Youth Protection Policy group only to find out the Council did not submit their Form 185. Consequently they were unable to confirm his position on the Council's Executive and could not email him the invitation to take the Praesidium course.

The Council Advocate must ensure that the Form 185 is not only completed and sent in but that the Grand Knight, the Family Director and Community Director also take the course. Otherwise if no one does and the Council hosts an event and something goes wrong...then the Council is on their own and legally fully liable. Supreme will not help!

COUNCIL ADVOCATES - ACCESS TO OFFICER'S DESKTOP REFERENCE WEBSITE

One of my objectives was to have all the Council Advocates be granted access to the Officer's Desktop Reference web pages on the Supreme website. ...Well Success !

Here is the procedure:

Contact Customer Service at Supreme to request access to the Officers Desk Reference. One of the Customer Service Representatives will initiate the process and submit a request for this access. The Customer Service Representative will also verify you the Council Advocate and are on the Form 185 submitted by your Council. They may be reached at 1-800-380-9995 and are available to provide assistance Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00am and 7:30pm EST.

You may also reach them via e-mail at info@kofc.org.

If you encounter difficulties and will not be granted access, then let me know and I will assist in obtaining access.

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Council Executive Responsibility

The Council's Executive is responsible for the day-to-day business of the Council. It is at their Executive meetings that they may make decisions in the best interest of the Council. Unless a certain item they are discussing is in their By-Laws stating that their members must vote on the matter then the Executive committee makes the decision and only has to inform the members of their decision at their monthly meeting.

Your feedback is invaluable. If anyone has any questions or comments drop me a line. Also, if there is a topic you wish covered in future newsletters just send a note to SA2017@kofc.ab.ca

Thank you ...and God Bless.

Vivat Jesus
Sir Knight John Onyskiw
State Advocate

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