



THE ADVOCATE...

APRIL 2019

FEATURE ARTICLES: *PRAESIDIUM - SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM*
 FORUM
 INDEX (ARTICLES OF INTEREST IN PAST NEWSLETTERS)

Welcome to **THE ADVOCATE**...dedicated to all Council Advocates but to be shared with the Council Executive, and all District Deputies. Please do 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. Remember...it is your responsibility, Worthy Council Advocates, to ensure that you and your Council knows and follows our Charter, Constitution, Laws and Rules, and also your Council's By-Laws.

Please refer to the *INDEX* section ... it lists articles published in previous issues of this newsletter.

PRAESIDIUM - SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

The directive from Supreme on the Safe Environment Program is to ensure that brother Knights are trained to safeguard children and other vulnerable persons by recognizing the signs of possible abuse. This starts with every Council. All Council members holding the role of Grand Knight, Community Director, Family Director, and Program Director are required to take the Praesidium Course and become compliant within forty-five (45) days of email notification from Praesidium.

Additionally, the Community Director, Family Director, and Program Director must provide some personal information as they must also undergo a background check as part of their process to become compliant. In essence the Council also becomes compliant once all these members complete the Safe Environment Program requirements.

If either the Community Director, Family Director, and /or Program Director do not complete the course Supreme no longer recognizes them in their position. Should that occur then the Council must submit a new Form 185 indicating the replacement member(s) for the respective position(s). And then the member(s) would receive an invitation from Praesidium to take the Safe Environment Program Course.

I recently received calls from two different Councils inquiring if they could host an event. After explaining the event my only inquiry was if the Council was compliant. In both

cases they were not. I explained the liabilities the Council could incur if they proceeded without anyone present at the event who was compliant in the Safe Environment Program. Unless a Council is fully compliant they are not covered by Supreme's liability insurance. And Supreme will not provide any assistance should litigation be brought against the Council.

For more detail please refer to my July 2018 newsletter on **PRAESIDIUM...SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE**.

FORUM

Identity Theft

In continuing with my previous article on Identity Theft here is another area where you should be vigilant.

Phishing

This is a cybercrime in which a target or targets are contacted by email, telephone or text message by someone posing as a legitimate institution to lure individuals into providing sensitive data such as personally identifiable information, banking and credit card details, and passwords.

The information is then used to access important accounts and can result in **Identity Theft** and financial loss.

Generally, emails sent by a cybercriminals are masked so they appear to be sent by a business whose services are used by the recipient. A bank will not ask for personal information via email or suspend your account if you do not update your personal details within a certain period of time. Most banks and financial institutions also usually provide an account number or other personal details within the email, which ensures it's coming from a reliable source.

Here are a few ways to protect yourself

- Many websites require users to enter login information while their image is displayed. This type of system may be open to security attacks. One way to ensure security is to change your password regularly and never use the same password for multiple accounts. This was covered in the previous article.
- Banks, financial institutions, and the Federal and Provincial Governments use monitoring systems to prevent phishing. If you feel you have been a victim of a phishing scam report it to an industry group where legal action can be taken against these fraudulent websites.

- Change your browsing habits. If verification is required always contact the company personally before entering any details online.
- If there is a link in the email, hover over the URL (the web / internet address line) first. Secure websites that are valid have what is called a Secure Socket Layer – an SSL Certificate and begin with “https”. The last letter in “https” (the ‘s’) ensures it is a secure site.

Your feedback is invaluable. If anyone has any questions or comments on anything 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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