



THE ADVOCATE...

AUGUST 2017

WORTHY ADVOCATES

Welcome to my 1st missive of **THE ADVOCATE** dedicated to all Council Advocates but shared with the Council Grand Knight and all District Deputies. You may share this with anyone in your Council but it relates strictly to your responsibilities in the Council. I will endeavour to keep every missive short but it is designed to inform and educate you Worthy Advocates on the rules and laws of our Order.

Remember...it is your responsibility to ensure that the Council Executive knows and follows these laws and rules.

My first missive focuses firstly your responsibilities, where this information is available, and two important matters.

... So let's get started...

Council Advocate Responsibilities

- Be the attorney of the Council.
- Be knowledgeable in the **Supreme** Charter Constitution and Laws of the Order.
- Be knowledgeable in the State and Council Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order.

Sources of Information

There are several sources of information for the responsibilities mention above:

- Supreme's Charter Constitution and Laws of the Order. This booklet is printed annually as there may be amendments to the contents...so request the latest version.
- Officer's Desktop Reference – this is a section on Supreme's website containing the Rules and Laws of the Order. It is packed with information.
- State By-Laws
- Council By-Laws
- Robert's Rules of Order – pick up the latest version & read it. It contains information on parliamentary procedures on how to conduct a meeting.

Now let's get on with what every Council Advocate should be aware of....

Praesidium

In 2016 the Knights of Columbus developed a comprehensive Safe Environment Program to ensure the safety and security of the children who participate in our Youth activities. ***In order to comply with this program the Grand Knight and Youth Director of each***

Council in our jurisdiction is required to complete safe environment training and undergo a background check conducted by Supreme. This training offered by Supreme is mandatory and is separate from any other safe environment training taken by groups outside our Order (such as parish council, the Diocese, or schools for example). Supreme only recognizes the Praesidium course offered by the Knights of Columbus. The certification is only valid for 2 years. So those who have taken the course and their two years are up then they must take it again but only if they are a Grand Knight or Youth Director in their Council. When they receive the invite from Supreme to do the course they will have 30 days to complete course.

If your Council plans to host an event for children then the following must occur:

- The Grand Knight and/or the Youth Director **MUST be present** during the entire function/event.
- The Grand Knight and/or the Youth Director attending the function/event **must have successfully completed the Praesidium course.**
- If an incident occurs then the Grand Knight or the Youth Director **must record** the incident **and send** to the Armatus Praesidium group.

If something happens and the Grand Knight and Youth Director have successfully completed the course then the Council will be supported and covered by Supreme. BUT if both the Grand Knight and Youth Director have NOT successfully completed the course and there is an incident then Supreme **WILL NOT** provide any help whatsoever. The Council is on their own and may expose themselves to criminal charges or be sued by a parent or someone else. Unfortunately there is such a case before the courts right now !

“Bottom line brothers... take the course now.”

Council By-Laws

When was the last time your Council reviewed their By-Laws?

Probably years, and more likely never !

First off... every Council must have a set of By-Laws – the laws and rules, approved by Supreme, that the Council abides by to conduct business.

Next, if there were additions or changes to any By-Laws over the years then these must be reflected in the By-Laws and sent to Supreme for their approval.

It is important for every Council to not only ensure the Council By-Laws are current and approved by Supreme but also that they are followed.

Supreme has published the By-Laws for the Order and made them available for access to all Councils. They may be found at the Officer’s Desktop Reference page found on Supremes’ website at www.kofc.org.

If anyone has any questions or comments I may be contacted at SA2017@kofc.ab.ca

Thank you for your attention...and God Bless.

Vivat Jesus
Sir Knight John Onyskiw
State Advocate