

Summer Organizational Meeting Charge 2021

As Matt Pearl, Editor of the Tri-County News from my hometown in King City, Missouri said, “Have you ever watched a two-year-old put shoes on the wrong feet...for the 100th time? And when they’re on, why doesn’t it bother the child that the left foot is hitting the wrong part of the shoe, because it has been awkwardly fit on the right”?

I guess being oblivious to such things is one of the privileges of toddlerhood. In fact, in today’s world, it is the right of anyone to put the shoes on the wrong foot, right??

I guess that’s why I find some adults putting their shoes on the wrong side of an issue, in my view, to be a problem. They are quite satisfied and emphatic with their decision. Those in favor of Pro Choice are satisfied with their decision too, though I see the shoe on the wrong foot, they do not. It has always confounded me that something that makes all the sense in the world, is refuted by others as ill-founded and discriminatory to women, and even fathers, and disgracefully supported in some cases.

What about other positions that seem to be on the wrong foot?

Years ago, shoes were expected to be on the right or correct foot, and if they weren’t, they were expected to fix the situation. Like an open fly, fix it lest you be embarrassed. One left shoe, one right shoe, all going the same direction, no embarrassment. Nowadays, putting the shoe on the wrong foot is acceptable, even though the direction of that foot will never meet the other.

We as Knights (Catholics) know to put the shoes on the correct foot and go the same direction whether it be Pro-Life, Faith in Action, seminarian support, priestly support, helping the disabled. We as a council must have a Mission to follow that path. What is your council’s mission? What is your District’s Mission? Why would a man, want to join the Knights? Do they see something they like about the council/organization...shoes going the right direction? Do they see something they don’t like?

What about that man that seems to just fill a seat? His shoes are on the correct foot, maybe the shoes need someone to follow. You won’t know until you ask.

What can we do to help this man fulfill dreams and ideas he might have? Maybe he has different colored shoes, a different idea of how the shoes should look...a different Mission. Maybe we can learn from those different colored shoes while still going in the same direction.

And what difference does it make if the shoes are from a different store? The shoes are basically the same shape. You can look at it and tell it is a shoe. They have a right and left shoe that is going the same direction. They might not be Catholic shoes, but they are basically the same shape of a shoe.

As you know, my favorite program is the Tootsie Roll Program. Quite frequently we have members of other denominations help us out. Some are just shoes from a different store, but basically follow the same footsteps.

KCHelp reaches out to those that have badly worn shoes, to see to their needs and give them a cobbler when they most need it. Those worn shoes are all over the State, country and world. We have a lot of very good shoes to help them, and I want to see many outlets that provide that help and assistance.

LAMB is at the shoemaker or Cordwainer waiting for direction as to how those shoes are going to look. Who will put them on, where will they go? I am excited to try those shoes on.

How about pleading in front of Planned Parenthood, Ultrasound Initiative or March for Life? How many times have you seen other denominations, different shoes, supporting the cause of Pro Life? How many of those shoes have helped carry bare feet to safety...to life?

The Knights of Columbus is the largest fraternally Catholic Men's shoemaker in the world.

Recently, for what seemed like an eternity, a good majority of those shoes had to stay home and watch from the pandemic. Some were very limited in direction. There are shoes that are no longer with us, but in Spirit we feel, even rely on, their presence.

We as the right arm of the church have the support to make or repair more shoes, but we can't make more shoes, if we don't have shoemakers. We have the resources, the buildings, the material, the mold, the supplies, the intricate

machines, but the building, and all the equipment will stand empty without shoemakers.

There are those that protest the kind of shoes we make. They push us back and try to make us look like terrible, insensitive shoemakers. We know we make very good shoes, shoes that were designed by the Lord of shoemakers, yet seen as almost evil in some cases.

We must not incite violence, but drive that stake in the ground and say “NO MORE.” We are not moving any further. We are great shoemakers and you can’t shut our doors. No more do we need to feel we are insensitive or have the right to know our shoes are made by the best, instructed and fully following the Lord of shoemakers. We are proud to see the faces of those that put on our new shoes at no cost. Not even a thank you is needed. How can that be wrong?

Don’t be afraid to make mistakes when making or repairing shoes. Some are not going to be completed or just right, but if you keep trying, more shoes will be made of fine quality. Don’t be afraid to make a mistake.

There was a man who faced great failure in making his shoes.

- He lost his job.
- Was defeated for state legislature.
- Failed in business.
- Was engaged to the love of his life and lost her to a serious illness
- He had a nervous breakdown. The loss of the love of his life played no small part in this breakdown.
- He came back stronger as a result only to be defeated for Speaker of the State house.
- He was defeated for nomination for Congress
- Lost his renomination from his party
- Rejected to hold even a land officer position
- Later was defeated for U.S. Senate
- Defeated for nomination as Vice President
- Again defeated for U.S. Senate
- After 26 years of failure, he became one of the, if not the, greatest presidents to ever live...Abraham Lincoln.

Hard shoes to fill, but never impossible.

We are in dire need of new shoes. Different colors, different shapes, strings, no strings, all shoes are God's shoes. Your councils need more shoes to make more shoes. Don't be afraid...go find them.

FIRST 100 DAYS

1. Each Council active in two State sponsored programs or four Faith in Action (State sponsored programs are going to fit in Faith in Action) per district, and State MSR and/or Supreme 10784 filed.
2. Hold a Degree at least once per District per month and file a form 450. Make it a full District Degree and we'll talk about the 450 filing.
3. Visit each council at least twice
4. Every Council membership active in your district. I've removed most, if not all, of your troubled councils to District 38, so this should be pretty easy.
5. Council Division quotas 1st 100 Days (October 8th):
 - Division I & II 75% of quota (Provide a Pizza Party for all council members and family)
 - Division III 60% of quota (same as above)
 - Division IV 50% of quota (Same as above)
 - Division V 40% of quota (Same as above)
6. At least 75% of the councils in your district meet with priest. August is a slow month and usually a vacation month, so plan in July.
7. Each parish council in district holds a membership drive.
8. Top Recruiter 1st half of year (TBD).
9. Top Recruiter 2nd half of year (TBD)
10. Top Recruiter Full year, you/spouse will be seated on the Dias at the Convention Banquet, Dinner included (\$120 value).

If numbers 1-4 & 6-7 are completed in the first 100 Days, the DD will receive a special gift (TBD).

IF A NEW COUNCIL IS FORMED BY JANUARY 16TH IN YOUR DISTRICT, OR RESURRECTED, ALL CRITERIA ABOVE WILL BE MET FOR THE 1ST AND 2ND 100 DAYS, TWO GIFTS WILL BE AWARDED AND YOU/SPOUSE WILL BE SEATED ON THE DIAS AT THE CONVENTION BANQUET, DINNER INCLUDED (\$120 value).

The next 100 Days (October 9th - January 16th) will be announced October 1st.

If a council representative is traveling more than 50 miles one way to a Regional meeting, the State will pay \$.30/mile over 100 miles.

While I'm not trying to make light of the pandemic, I know it has become easy to blame the lack of activity on Covid 19. I've heard it all.

If anyone has a good reason to not be active in getting our State KofC up and running, I think it's me. As most of you know, I have been diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer. Many of you and all across this world have been praying for me. God has the answer to that prayer. One way or another, I am confident I will be granted new shoes whether in this life, or the other.

I was going to call it quits, until visiting with the other officers. I was reminded of the fact I am surrounded by a multitude of guys that will take care of me, give it their all, and have my back.

Barbara doesn't agree, but has left the decision up to me. I can't quit, and wouldn't be comfortable if I did. I can't sit still, though I would like to travel and see sites from the ground rather than decades at 35,000 feet.

I do not want a pity party, but when you hear excuses from councils why they're not active, you can remind them they have a State Deputy that isn't quitting, though has good reason too.

You District Deputies are my shoes on the ground. The State of Washington needs you.

Be safe and kind to each other. We have enough bad shoes to face in the world and we don't need them in our own house. Bad shoes lead to division and potential destruction.

Thank you for taking my call to be my District Deputies and I wish you Safe travels!!! Let's Go Get 'em.