

2021 New Jersey State Council Convention Membership Report

Worthy Acting State Deputy/State Secretary and dear Brother Jim:

The New Jersey State Membership Team is to be thanked for their efforts this past trying year for assisting in the growth of our Order: Deputy Membership Director and Trenton Diocese Chairman Peter Donchak, Online Membership Coordinator Ken Genco; Camden Diocese Chairman George Tutwiler; Metuchen Diocese Chairman Edward Schilke; Newark Archdiocese Chairmen Joseph Kilroy and Neal McGarrity, Paterson Diocese Chairman Mike Vaclavicek. Round Table Chairman Christopher Tomasello, Retention Director John Malinowski, and Ethnic Development Chairman Peter Walentowicz.

The state has brought in 987 members in which 606 were brought in on-line. With this year we faced a difficult task with the Covid-19 pandemic where we saw limited face to face interactions. But I am proud to say that we were able to overcome this obstacle. The team utilized the on-line membership program and with the Supreme incentive of free on-line membership for one calendar year greatly assisted in the membership growth. As we continue to utilize this format for the future let us not thank the councils that thought outside of the box and brought in new members by their good works in the community and parish such as inviting possible new members to join then in their efforts of "Leave no Member Behind" programs such as food drives, and assisting their parishes with cleaning the church, parking lot attendance, ushers and more.

To say this was a virtual year would be an understatement. Many councils were able to overcome the obstacle of non-face to face meetings and held several degrees virtually and or showed the degree on video. We this year held two statewide virtual degrees in honor of the Beatification of Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney in October which brought in over 20 new members and the second degree held in March in honor of the late State Deputy Vincent Tavormina which brought in 31 new members and had over 40 new members advance into full Knighthood.

With the increasing opening of the state several councils held small in-person degrees and many were held in honor of Vinnie Tavormina. We ask that as you hold your in-person degrees and as allowed you continue to open them up to your fellow councils in the area as socially distance allows.

We also have several DDs who have achieved over 95 % of their membership goal for the year already.

Joseph O'Boyle DD#8 Newark with 104%
Deacon Steven Scott DD#22 Trenton with 101%
Jeffrey Sellner Trenton with 95%

As we are all sadden by the passing of State Deputy Vincent Tavormina this past January, we truly lost a Great Knight and friend. I would be remised if I did not thank the state officers for their support during the passing of Vinnie and the remaining fraternal year. Their guidance and wisdom is truly appreciated

and especially to Acting State Deputy and State Secretary Jim Stoeber for allowing Program Director Scott Williams and I to complete the year the way Vinnie wanted us too.

The state membership team continues to encourage all councils to approach membership growth using new tools and technology that are now available. If your council has a social media presence you should be using it to promote membership and programs. If not, you should reach out to your District Deputy and or State Membership team for help you with this.

If there is anything the State Membership team can do for you, please reach out to us.