



# TERRITORIAL COURT CONNECTION

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

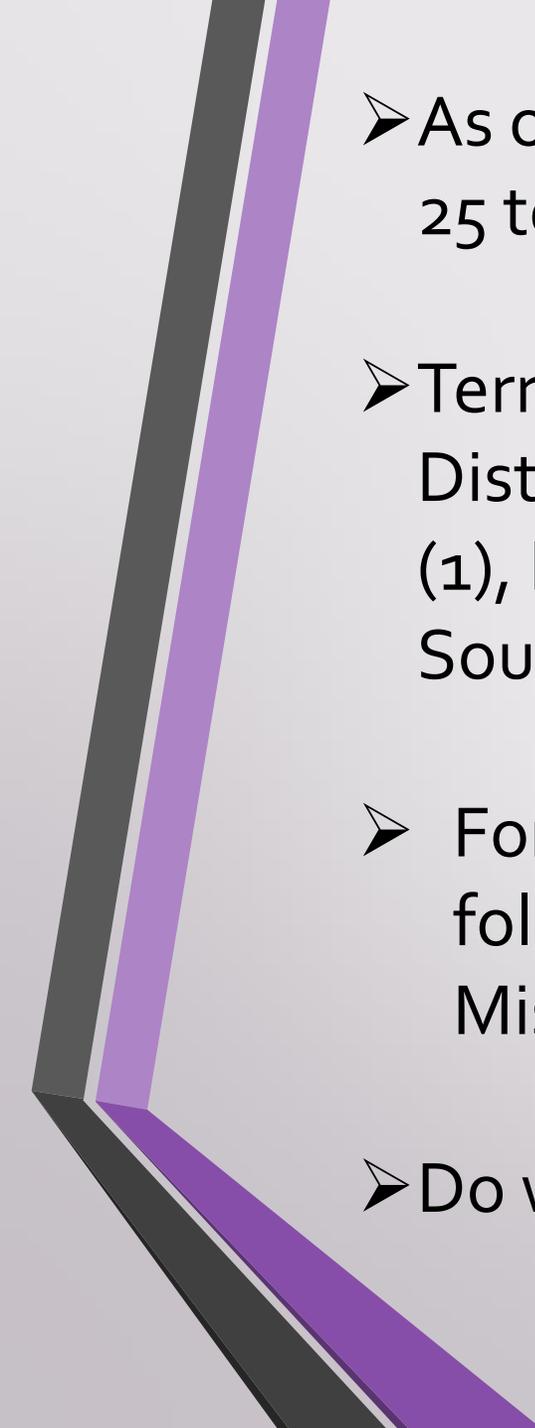
**State Officer Conference**

**July 15-18, 2021**

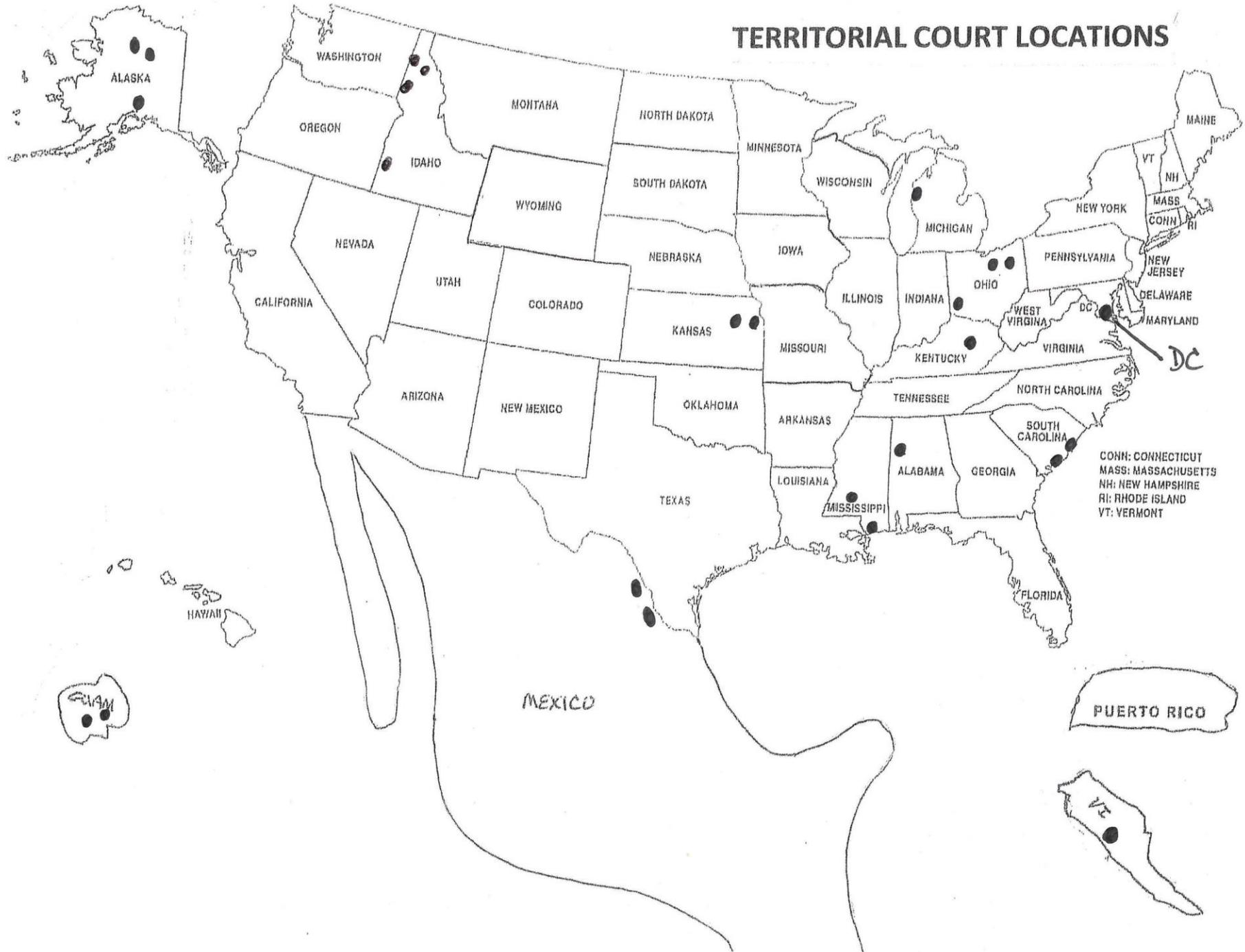
**Presented by Michele Bowman, National  
Director**

# What is a territorial court?

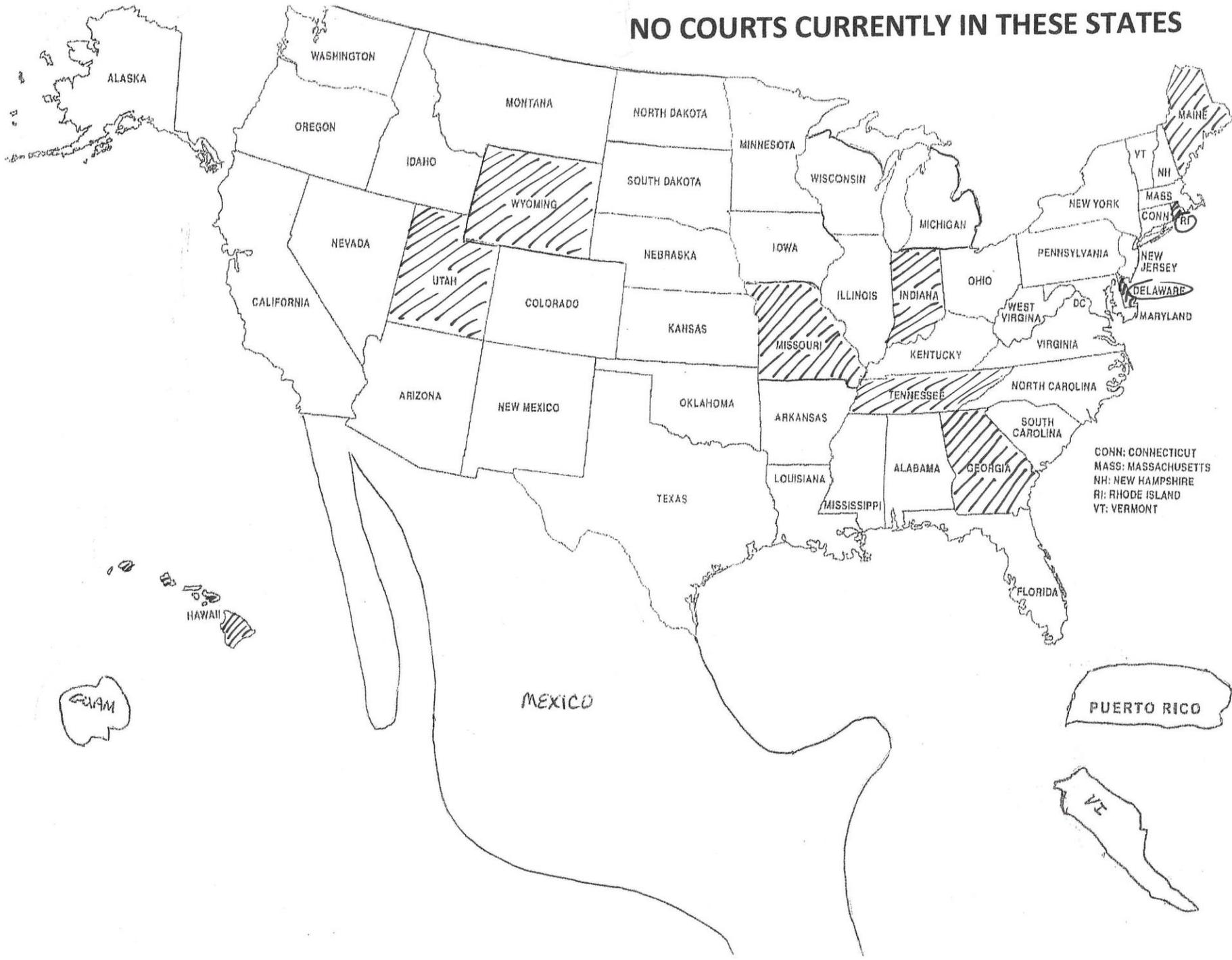
- A territorial court (TC) is a local court that is not part of a State Court.
- Bylaws Article IX, Sec 1-B, says that 5 or more local courts in good standing with a total membership of not less than 200 members may organize a State court with the approval of the National Board.
- By default, a TC is a local court in a state with less than five local courts or less than 200 members.

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- As of May 2021, there were thirteen territorial states with a total of 25 territorial courts. Change, however, is ongoing.
  - Territorial courts are located in Alabama(1 court) , Alaska (3 courts), District of Columbia ( 1 ), Guam (2), Idaho (4), Kansas (2), Kentucky (1), Mexico (2), Michigan (1), Mississippi ( 2), Ohio (3), South Carolina ( 2), Virgin Islands (1).
  - For your information: We currently have no CDA courts in the followings state: Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, Missouri, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming.
  - Do we have any territorial courts represented here this week?

# TERRITORIAL COURT LOCATIONS



# NO COURTS CURRENTLY IN THESE STATES



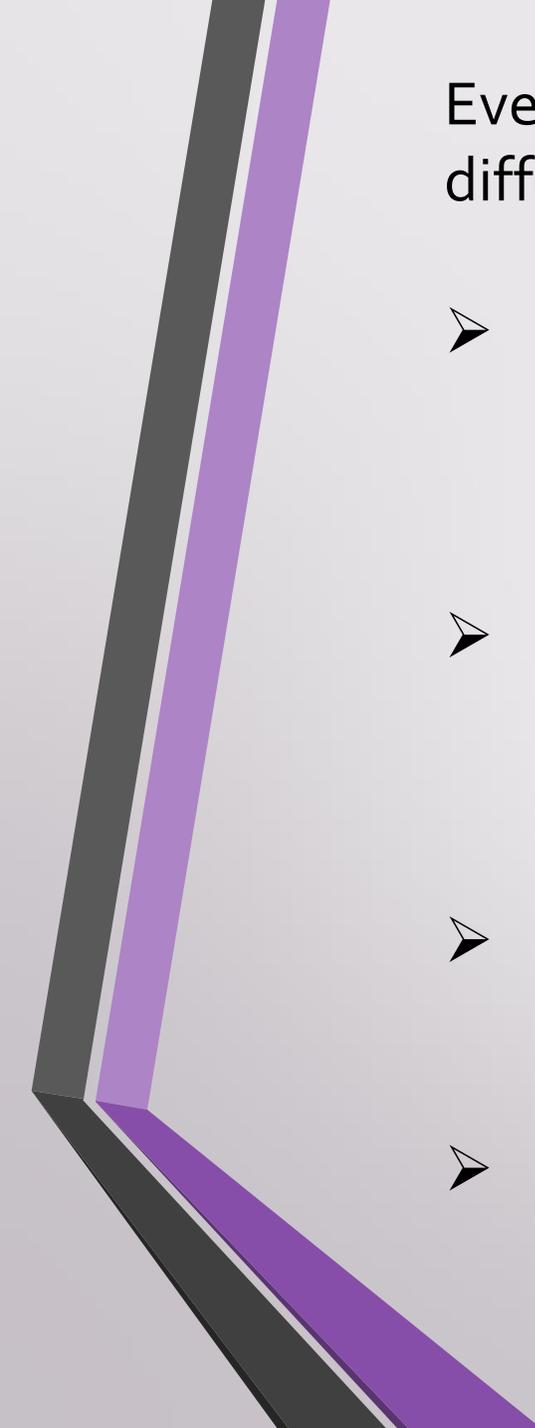
# The Argyle Sweater by Scott Hilburn





A few facts about territorial courts to consider.

- TCs follow guidelines for a local court but there is no State court. (no state dues)
- Big difference is the chain of command without a State Court.
- Without State officers or District deputies, TCs answer to our National Directors. National directors are assigned to specific states by our National Regent for a two-year term.
- These National Directors are the life-line and liaisons between the TC and National.



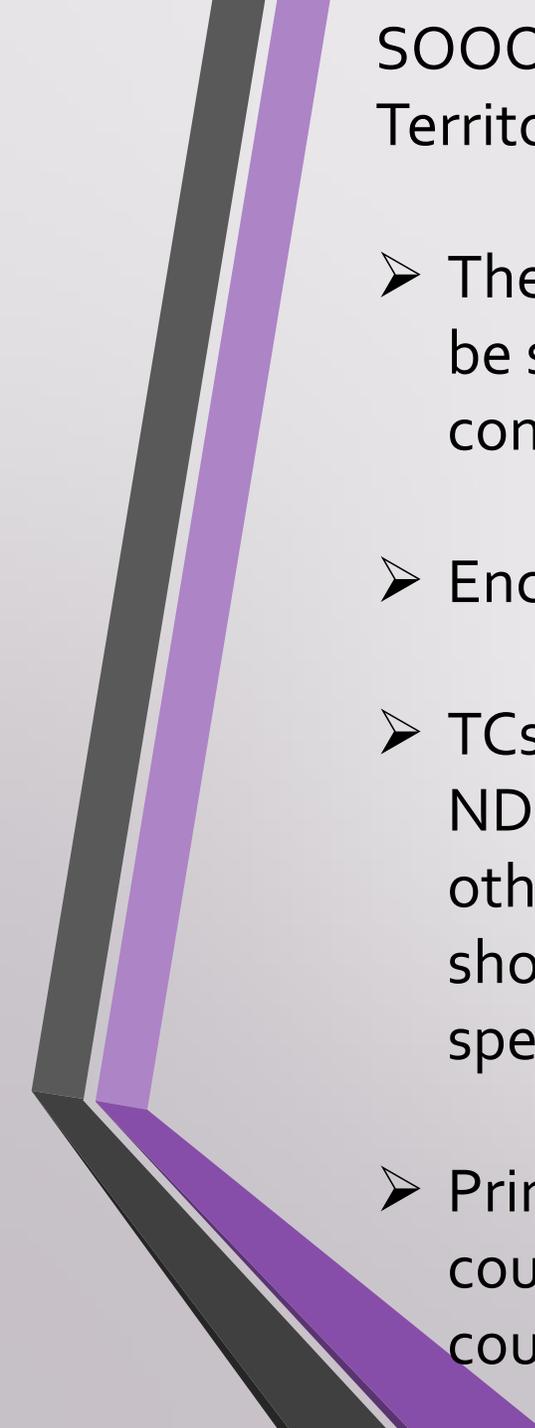
Even though TCs have the same structure as a local court, how are they different and what special considerations do they need?

- **COMMUNICATION:** Without a State board, most communication comes from National Directors and the National Board. Members do receive SHARE Magazine and Regents receive the Quarterly publication.
- **TRAINING:** National Directors check on these courts much like a State board looks over their courts. They try to guide and advise as needed and attend at least one meeting per year if possible.
- **STATE OFFICER WORKSHOP:** National pays registration for TC regents to attend but not transportation. This workshop is every two years.
- **NATIONAL CONVENTION:** Members are encouraged to attend. TCs get representation just like any local court.



Consider the advantages of a State Court.

- Knowledge and experience to organize new courts.
- A State board helps to connect and communicate with local courts.
- A State board can host a State convention which can bring members together to learn more about CDA, meet other members and pray and play as a sisterhood.
- The State Board is the liaison to National through an assigned National Director.



SOOO...I ASK YOU... Without a State Board, how can we all support these Territorial Courts to help them grow and feel more a part of the Order?

- The National Office and National Board as well as National Directors need to be sure these courts get all pertinent information. NDs should keep in contact and offer help as needed. Communication is key.
- Encourage them to attend State Officer training and National Convention.
- TCs within a state (if >1) should be encouraged to interact where practical. NDs should suggest this or the court regents could initiate. Are TCs aware of other courts in their states and where they are located? In general, courts should let other nearby courts know about their fundraisers, retreats, or special occasions.
- Primary examples would be Alaska (2 of 3 courts are close), South Carolina (2 courts are only 2 hours apart), Ohio ( 2 of 3 courts are close) and Mississippi (2 courts are not too far apart).

## Other suggestions to consider:

- Nearby states could consider inviting TCs to their State Conventions, workshops or retreats especially when courts are near borders. Sometimes courts may not mind traveling a bit if they have enough notice.
- How many State boards here today have invited a Territorial court to their conventions or other events?
- State Boards could call ( or email) a close Territorial Court once in awhile and offer a friendly hello, encouraging words or an uplifting message. Regent email addresses should be on the National website under State contacts which is updated periodically.

Let's all work together to support our territorial courts!

