

Texas Grand Commander's Message

Grand Commander's Message — January 2005

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York Rite Festivals: Houston: Chap/Coun/Cdry on Sat., **Dec. 11** (7 AM) at Holland Lodge Masonic Temple, 4911 Montrose — Contact Leonard O. Pierce ((713) 468-6116) or Tom Snedecor ((281) 333-3992); **Dallas:** Chap/Coun on Sat **Jan. 15** (AM); Cdry w/ Grand Officers conferring O/T on Sat. **Jan. 22** (8 AM) — Contact Loyd L. Chance ((214) 651-6070); **San Antonio:** Chap/Coun/Cdry on Sat. **Feb 26** (8 AM) — Contact Gerald Nowotny ((210) 573-3829). **Courtesy candidates welcome.**

Sesquicentennial Celebration in San Antonio on March 5, 2005. The festivities begin at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, Ave. E & 4th St., with cocktails (donations benefiting the South Texas SR Learning Center (6PM) and dinner (NY Strip with stuffed baked potato and other delicious condiments) (7PM), all for **\$30.00, correction from what was published last month.** Check the website in coming months for additional information about this significant event.

To the Sir Knights of Texas:

We have again entered into a new year and, as usual, make new resolutions to lose weight, improve our health, and, generally, be better all around. As Christian Knights, we our outlook and our approach to life is colored by our desire to serve and please God. My New Year's Resolution includes a commitment to improve my relationship with God.

Though we're working feverishly to get ready for our Sesquicentennial Grand Conclave, much of our fraternal order's work is ongoing. In this new calendar year, I urge you to not simply make a vague resolution to contact Sir Knights who have demitted or who have become suspended for non-payment of due, but to ACT upon your resolve and actually make the contact. Think of one person in particular and make it your goal to contact him. You may be surprised at the outcome of your contact; he may just be waiting for someone to care that he he's on the missing list. Your contact with him could be the catalyst he needs to reconnect with our Christian Order. It will not only help your Commandery and this Grand Commandery, but it will also make you and the Sir Knight you contacted feel good as well. As we all prepare for Christmas, I again encourage each of you to continue working on a **Zero Tolerance for NPDs and Demits.** They are already SKs, so they should be an easier sell on staying a SK and/or being reinstated than the effort in gaining a brand new SK.

We also need to work on our Masonic Brothers who have not finished their York Rite walk and do not know what they are missing in not having taken our beautiful Degrees and Orders. At Grand Lodge, we honored State Senator Jeff Wentworth, a Mason and a member of the San Antonio Scottish Rite Bodies, who is not a York Rite Mason. Since he is my Senator, I asked if he had registered for the Grand Lodge session at which he was being honored. He said "No," and after I suggested that he should be, he said he would register, and he did. While he was registering, I noticed that he did not have any York Rite cards and asked him to consider becoming a York Rite Mason at San Antonio's next Festival on February 26, and he readily agreed. Governor Dolph Briscoe was also honored at this year's Grand Lodge

Communication and I thought, "Why shouldn't he also be a York Rite Mason?" I asked Brother and Sir Knight David Counts to contact him on my behalf and propose the same question I did to Senator Wentworth. Surprising as it may seem, he, too, said "Yes" and will be a candidate for the Degrees and Orders on February 26 in San Antonio.

The only answer to an unasked question is "No." If you ask the question, the worst that will happen is that you might be told "No," but you might hear "Maybe" or even better, "Yes." Don't give up; keep asking. "If it is to be, it is up to you and me!" Remember, our Grand Master Fischer's revised Templar slogan is "**Every Christian Mason *Must Be* a Templar!**" We can only accomplish this if we ask each Christian Mason to join our Christian Order! Don't accept no for an answer!

As of the end of November, we had lost 371 to deaths, demits and suspensions, but have gained about 175. That, is great progress. We can't control the call of our Fraters by Our Lord to join Him, but we can control our losses to demits and NPDs, as noted above. Keep on truckin' Sir Knights. Thank you in advance for your hard work.

Sesquicentennial Grand Conclave: Although we have just begun 2005, we are rapidly approaching the conclusion this Grand Chivalric Year. April 15 is Tax Day, but, more pleasantly, it is the commencement of our Sesquicentennial Grand Conclave. Please consider this my personal invitation to you to attend. Your Recorder was issued at least five Hotel Registration Forms and five Conclave Registration and Credentials Forms in the packet of annual forms delivered by the District Grand Officer at the time of his inspection and you should be able to get one from him. If not, or if you have not received any information on the Grand Conclave or how to register to attend it, please visit the these web pages: www.texasorkrite.org/grcommandery.htm or www.albertpikedemolay.org/yorkrite, where you can find all of the forms and download the ones you need.

If at all possible, please pre-register regardless of whether you're attending a banquet or staying in the Conclave Hotel or are attending just a part of the Conclave. **Our Registration and Credentials Committee is handling all room reservations and assignments**, so be certain to **mail the Hotel Reservation Form to the address indicated at the bottom of the form**. You can also find a letter from our General Chairman, Harry J. "Moose" Moosegian, on the website that details all of the events that will occur during your *Fiesta San Antonio* stay. Of course, since San Antonio is celebrating many of our annual *Fiesta* events while you are in town, you may want to stay over and take some of them in. Our celebrated River Parade will occur on Monday night, following Installation, with **NIOSA** (Night in Old San Antonio) in La Villita (the original San Antonio village area) commencing on Tuesday evening and running through Friday night. There are dozens of opportunities to experience the unique city-wide celebration we call *Fiesta*.. The Hotel will honor our room rate for as long as you want to stay following the conclusion of our Sesquicentennial event, so take advantage!

Choir at Grand Conclave: I believe that worship is enhanced with music and even more enhanced with choral music. This year, we'll enhance our worship experience at our Grand Conclave Worship Service on April 17, 2005 with choral music. I have prevailed upon Phyllis Rogers (PSWP, SOOB) to serve as our Choir Director on this occasion and all we lack are folks like you to fill our choir. We will be singing 2-3 numbers that will be easy for all with a church choir background to quickly learn and perform--easy because I know that we will not have very much time to practice. I am confident, however that with your voices, we can fill the hall with great music.. If you and/or your family members would like to help and be part of this historical first, send your name, address, phone number and email address(if you have one) to **Mrs. Harry S. Rogers, 14416 Aldine-Westfield, Houston, Texas 77039 or call her at (281) 449-5660** or to me. We've selected the music and will send it to you in advance to "warm up on." **I look forward to making a joyful noise with you in our Grand**

Commandery Choir!

OUR UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST,

James N. (Jim) Higdon
Grand Commander

Visit your website at www.texasYorkrite.org/grcommandery.

P.S. Please contact me this year at one of the following: 10122 N. Manton Lane, San Antonio, Texas 78213-1948; O: (210) 349-9933; H: (210) 344-4309; F: (210) 349-9988; Email: jnh.kt@hhzlaw.com.