

**Thomas W. Snyder**  
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### **To the Sir Knights of Texas:**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign began October 1, 2007 and continues through April 30, 2008. This voluntary campaign is especially significant this year in that it takes the Eye Foundation into its next 50 years of service to humanity. This Charity was founded in 1956 by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America for the purpose of providing service for the prevention of blindness. All Sir Knights, wherever disbursed, can take heart that thousands of applicants have been given another opportunity to enjoy the "Gift of Sight".

The major emphasis of this campaign is (a) to achieve a significant increase in donations over that received during the previous campaign, (b) to recognize those Sir Knights, Commanderies, and Grand Commanderies that make an outstanding effort on behalf of the campaign, and (c) to encourage 100% participation on the part of all Knights Templar. If you have not already, please consider becoming a Life Member of the Eye Foundation by making a one-time donation of \$30.

### **Mission of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.**

The mission of the Eye Foundation is to provide assistance to those who face loss of sight due to the need for surgical treatment without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex or national origin provided they are unable to pay or receive adequate assistance from current government agencies or similar sources and to provide funds for research in curing diseases of the eye. This includes the correction of strabismus (cross-eyes) in children up to the age of 16 years. Such persons are provided with the cost of treatment, surgery and hospitalization in a place of their own choosing and by physicians of their own choice, if they are unable to pay and cannot receive adequate assistance from Medicare, Social Services, State Aid or similar tax-supported agencies. However, each applicant must be a citizen of the United States of America.

Since 1956, the Eye Foundation has provided over \$102 million on approved cases, and applications have been received from 82,000 people.

Research Grants totaling in excess of \$9.7 million have been awarded to researchers working in the fields of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Genetics. As you make your New Year's resolutions, please consider making a donation to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Through the week ending December 7, 2007, Texas ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in total contributions to the Eye Foundation (\$5,011.49) and 26<sup>th</sup> in per-capita contribution (\$0.47 per member), as compared to the 44 other Grand Commanderies.

Linda and I invite you and your lady to the 155<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave April 18 to 21, 2008, held in Farmers Branch, TX. Room reservations must be made no later than March 10, 2008. The registration form is available online at <http://www.texasYorkrite.org/grcommandery.htm>. We look forward to seeing you there.

In His Service,

Thomas W. Snyder  
Grand Commander

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>January 12</b>          | <b>Midlothian Centennial Festival</b><br>Midlothian Chapter and Council<br>1414 N. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Midlothian, TX 76062  |
| <b>January 12</b>          | <b>Park Place York Rite Bodies One-Day Festival</b><br>6820 Tipperay<br>Houston, TX 77207<br>7:00am to 6:00pm  |
| <b>January 18 &amp; 19</b> | <b>Dallas York Rite Bodies Festival</b><br>507 South Harwood<br>Dallas, TX<br>January 18 - - Meal at 6pm and Degrees at 7pm<br>January 19 - - Breakfast at 6:30am and Degree at 8am<br>Contact: Lloyd Chance at 214-651-6070 |
| <b>February 16</b>         | <b>San Jacinto Chapter No. 7 RAM &amp; Huntsville Council No. 12 R&amp;SM</b><br>1030 12 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Huntsville, TX 77340<br>Begins at 8:00am ~ Courtesy Candidates Welcome                                      |