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**TO THE SIR KNIGHTS OF TEXAS GREETINGS:**

**Happy New Year Sir Knights and welcome to 2017.**

This brings us to the close of a great year for Templary in Texas and the start of an even brighter future.

During 2016, we celebrated the Bicentennial of the Grand Encampment with many activities and look forward to the next Century of progress.

In October, I had the pleasure of issuing a dispensation to a group of Sir Knights to form a new Commandery at Terrell, Texas. We look forward to their work in our fraternity and wish them much success.

We want to welcome the new officers who have been installed to serve their Commanderies for 2017.

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**Eminent Commanders** : now is the time to start preparing a plan for success in 2017. Remember now is the time to appoint your committees. The Membership Committee is very important to your success and those guidelines are listed in General Order No. 1, from April. It is not too early to appoint your Retention and Restoration Committee. We must try to avoid those Demits and Suspensions at all costs.

Remember our motto to “**Retain, Restore and Recruit**”. This is a constant duty of our Commanderies. We hope you are beginning to prepare for your Inspections in 2017. **Please do not neglect to study the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta. It is imperative that we make a good impression on our new candidates and all three orders are important to their Masonic education.**

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**Recorders** you are an important part of the success of our Commanderies. January is a busy time for you as you complete your duties for 2016. **The Annual Report must be filed with our Grand Recorder by January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

You are also required to provide a copy of the acceptance for your 990N which was filed during 2016. If you have any questions, please contact our Grand Recorder.

In November the Texas Knights Templar Education Foundation met and approved 20 scholarships for deserving individuals for the Spring 2017 Semester. We congratulate them and wish them much success for their future. We hope you will encourage those in need of assistance to apply for a scholarship. **The deadline for the Fall 2017 Semester is June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

We hope you are making plans to attend the 164<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. Please see details below. More information is available on our website at [www.yorkritetexas.org](http://www.yorkritetexas.org)

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**164<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave**  
**Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas**

**April 20-23, 2017**

**South Shore Harbour Resort**

**2500 South Shore Blvd/ League City, Texas 77573**

**281-334-1000**

**Group Rate Code: GCTX2017**

**Tentative Schedule**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

**Registration and Committee Meetings**

**Friday, April 21, 2017**

**164<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave (Business Session)**

**Meeting of Texas Chapter – Knights Preceptors**

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

**Drill and Ritual Competitions**

**Pass-In-Review**

**K.Y.C.H. Meeting**

**Awards Banquet**

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

**Divine and Memorial Service**

**Installation of Grand Commandery Officers**

*Yours in Christ,*  
*John C. Elkinton*

*Grand Commander 2016-2017*