

W. David Melear**R:E: Grand Commander**

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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

March is shaping up to be a busy month for our Commanderies; we have several festivals around the state, if you have prospective members, contact your Commandery and check to see if they are hosting a festival or if they know of a Commandery that will be hosting a festival in your area. There will also be York Rite Conferences on the following days:

3/12	Dallas	R.C. Buckner Chapter & Council	4912 S Buckner Blvd	9:00AM
3/12	Fort Worth	Southside-Poly Chapter & Council	7700 Crowley	1:00PM
3/19	Helotes	Helotes Chapter & Council	11740 FM 1560 South	9:00AM
3/26	Nederland	Port Neches Chapter & Council	1204 27th Street	9:00AM
4/09	Floydada	Floydada Chapter & Council	130 W. Mississippi St.	9:00AM
4/23	Houston	North Houston Chapter & Council	13106 Chrisman	9:00AM

Please make plans to attend one of these conferences.

Please remember to post your festivals and Commandery Orders on the Grand Commandery website: www.texasryorkrite.org. Remember Sir Knights, this is one way we can improve communication around the state, so please remember to take advantage of the Grand Commandery website.

Membership

Once again Sir Knights our membership numbers are looking great. We still need to keep up the hard work and increase our membership. I know it can be difficult at times to encourage new Master Masons to join the Commandery, but I do not remember anyone saying that Masonry was easy. If any of you have top lined 10 new members, please contact your Recorder and get their information and submit it to the Grand Encampment Office to receive your Grand Masters Membership Medal.

Festival

Houston Festival	03/12/2011	Contact Leonard Pierce for Details
Helotes Festival – Chapter and Council	03/12/2011	Contact Jin Higdon for Details
Brownwood - Commandery Orders	03/19/2011	Contact Jin Higdon for Details
Garland Festival - Chapter and Council	03/26/2011	Contact Jerry Lawson for Details
Tyler Festival	03/26/2011	Contact Richard Gaiser for Details
Ennis Festival - Chapter and Council	04/09/2011	

Please make plans to attend one of the festivals in your area.

New Electronic Forms

Sir Knight Recorders, if you have had the opportunity to use the new electronic forms, please let me know what you think about them. You District Grand Officer should have sent those to you around the first of January. If you have problems please contact me so we can make them work correctly on your computer.

Easter

Sir Knights, I know Easter falls in April this year, but many of our Commanderies will celebrate this wonderful event at different times throughout both March and April. Easter is the most important part of the Christian religion. I know by making this statement I will get plenty of e-mails saying that I am wrong and I will tell you that I have received plenty of those during my term as Grand Commander. But, without the resurrection, our religion would be like many other religions around the world. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead does, in fact, change everything--the past, the present, and the future. Easter affects our understanding of the past--of salvation history at work in the creation of the universe, at work on Easter morning, and at work in our own conversion to faith in Jesus Christ. The resurrection brings to our present, personal experience in the amazing creativity and vitality of resurrection life. And Jesus' resurrection gives us confident hope for the future. We will be raised from death ourselves to live eternally.

Sir Knights, if there was ever a question about what we as the Commandery stand for as an organization this might help to answer that questions. A Commandery of Knights Templar is a Christian-oriented fraternal organization based on that ancient organization founded in the 11th century. Today, we as Knights Templar display our courage and goodwill in different ways than the ancient Templars. Members of the Order today organize fund-raising activities for the support of Masonic-related charities, in addition to raising millions of dollars for other charitable purposes. This question has also been submitted to the Long-Range Planning Committee for further discussion.

Fraternally,
W. David Melear

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Right Eminent Grand Commander