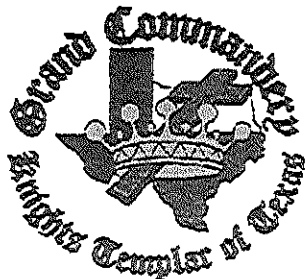


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TO THE SIR KNIGHTS OF TEXAS

This year, as the Grand Commandery of Texas is focusing on "Synergy", I found this illustration published in the Suez Scribbings in March 1998, that really illustrates "Synergy"; working together to accomplish what we cannot as individuals. The author is unknown.

Fact: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird following. By flying in a 'V' formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if the bird flew alone.

Lesson: Masons who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the trust of one another.

Fact: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson: If masons have as much sense as geese, they will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go and be willing to accept their help as well as give help to others.

Fact: When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. With people, as with geese, we are interdependent on each other.

Fact: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep their speed.

Lesson: Masons need to make sure the honking from behind is encouraging and not something else.

Fact: When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or try to catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If masons have as much sense as geese, they too will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as when we are strong.

Our Masonic fraternity can learn some valuable lessons from these examples. We can all work together to accomplish our aims, or we can work individually and accomplish much less. The task is great, and it will take all of us to keep Masonry prospering. My focus is on the Commandery, but it takes all our bodies to make it happen. It takes "Synergy", accomplishing together what we cannot individually.

Remember this Nursery Rhyme ?

Jack Sprat could eat no fat

His wife could eat no lean

So together they licked the platter clean !

NOW, that's Synergy

In his service,

A. Glen McCandless

Important Events

Texas Chapter #362 and Ft. Worth Chapter #58 will host a school of instruction on Saturday, August 5th, in the Chapter and Council Room on the third floor of the Ft. Worth Masonic Center, 1100 Henderson St. The instructor will be Right Excellent Companion Eldon Brooks. Breakfast will be at 7:00 A.M. with school starting at 8:00 A.M. If Lost call Jim Fester on his cell at 817-229-0333.

Texas Council # 321 and Ft. Worth Council # 42 will host a Council school of instruction on Saturday, Aug 19th, in the Chapter and Council room on the third floor of the Ft. Worth Masonic Center at 1100 Henderson St. The instructor will be Right Illustrious Companion Eldon Brooks. Breakfast will be at 7:00 A.M. with the school starting at 8:00 A.M. If lost call Jim Fester on his cell at 817-229-0333.

63rd Triennial Conclave
August 11th-----16th
Houston, Texas