

# Texas Grand Commander's Message

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**District Schools of Instruction: In August:** 21st @ Ruthven #2 (Houston) (D3); 28th @ San Antonio #7 (D4). Schools commence at either 9 a.m. with registration and fellowship preceding. Check the Grand Commandery website for more specific information on times, contacts points and Asylum addresses, if needed.

**Chapter/Council School:** Texas #362/#321 & Ft. Worth #148/52 will host a School of Instruction on **August 14** at the Ft Worth Masonic Center, 1100 Henderson St., led by Companion Eldon Brooks; breakfast at 7:00 am, School at 8:00 am. Contact Jim Fester (817) 246-1962. All Companions invited to attend and learn.

**York Rite Festival:** McKinney YR Bodies: Chapter/Council Degrees on **Sat. Aug. 21**, Cdry Orders on **Sat. Aug 28**, each @ 9 am w/ brkfast @ 8, Contact Louis Hopkins ((972) 784-8691). **San Antonio YR Bodies:** Chapter/Council on **Wed. Sept. 1 & 8** (7 pm) and Cdry Orders on **Sat. Sept. 11** (9 am), Contact Jerry Nowotny ((210) 573-3829). **Tyler YR Bodies:** MM, PM, MEM on **Fri. Sept 24** (7 pm) and RAM, Council & Cdry on **Sat. Sept. 25** (7 am), Contact Jim Smith ((903) 845-3545). **Courtesy candidates welcome.**

**Temple Commandery #41** will celebrate its **100th Anniversary** on **August 17, 2004** (Tuesday) at the Masonic Center of Temple, 16 E. Central Ave. Doors open at 6:00 PM, dinner at 7:30; \$15.00 per plate. **Please RSVP if attending NLT July 31:** mail: P.O. Box 1387 Temple 7659-1387; phone: (254) 773-2348; or e-mail: [Yorkrite@vym.com](mailto:Yorkrite@vym.com). Dress: SKs: Uniform with Sword and Chapeaux; Ladies and guests: Sunday attire/coat & tie. Y'all come!

**Sesquicentennial Celebration:** Our Sesquicentennial will be celebrated in **San Antonio** on **March 5, 2005**. Put this date on your calendar now. More information about this significant Grand Commandery event will be forthcoming.

## To the Sir Knights of Texas:

I would like to recognize and thank the many Sir Knights who have agreed to accept a service role in the government of this Grand Commandery as members of the many committees through which our Grand Commandery functions each year. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul discusses the many diverse spiritual gifts that each of us have been given by our Supreme Grand Master and that the body of Christ, of which we all profess to be a part, is "made up of many parts; and though its parts are many, they form one body." 1 Cor. 12:12. Each of us has a gift that he can use in our fraternity to spread the Good News through our York Rite degrees and orders. Some service roles are taken for granted and we think they are mundane-just another duty to perform. An example might be the men who serve as offering collectors at our annual Memorial and Worship Services; but have you ever thought that they, too, were serving God in ensuring that the offering that is given and presented for use in God's service through the KT Eye Foundation are very much serving God with their talents, as ordinary,

simple and mundane as it appears to be. They are!

We have many men in each District who have agreed to take on many of our mundane and not so mundane service roles in our Grand Commandery. Some of these serve, for instance, on our Templar Instruction Committee. It is through them that we raise the bar or at least maintain the bar at an acceptable level to ensure that the lessons we attempt to teach and foster are uniform and instructive to the candidate in spreading the Gospel in the Order of the Temple.

Others serve as members of our By-Laws Committee where they apply their individual and collective knowledge in ensuring that each constituent Commandery is equipped to function in accordance with the Laws of this Grand Commandery. So also do the members of the Jurisprudence Committee serve, but their charge is to ensure that your Grand Officers, as well as the constituent Commandery officers, follow our Statutes and Laws, and also those of the Grand Encampment and the State of Texas. These special Sir Knights are particularly endowed with a penchant for reading and interpreting operational and legal guidelines. We cannot-or should not-disregard their counsel. Just as their "tongues" give us counsel, so we, as "ears" should hear it and employ it so that as one body we can more efficiently function legally in society.

Similarly, we cannot do without the yeoman service that is provided by each of the District Committeemen of the KT Eye Foundation and the chairmen in each individual Commandery. Without a doubt, the "good we do" would not be accomplished without the many dedicated Sir Knights who serve and represent each of us daily as they process applications, so that this, our principal philanthropy, remains an outstanding charity and public relations representative of The Knights Templar.

As I said, "the body is not made up of one part but of many," and we each have a special role in the formation of "our Body." 1 Cor. 12:14. Now [we] are the body of Christ, and each one of [us are] a part of it." 12:27. Just as God has appointed different persons to have different roles in His Church, so also has he given each of us different service talents to use in the administration of our Christian Body. We are all, as a body made better by the wonderful work that we individually and collectively perform in making this Christian Order one of which we can all be proud; one in which we can-as a Christian Body-say "we are proud to be Knights Templar because of what we all do!"

I thank each one of you who has accepted a position of service in The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas as well as in your constituent Commandery. Without you, we would not be The Body that we are and can be; in fact, we would not be able to function at all! **THANK YOU!**

Yours in the faith,

James N. (Jim) Higdon  
Grand Commander

**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@hbzlaw.com](mailto:jnh.kt@hbzlaw.com). **Check out your website at [www.texasyorkrite.org/grcommandery](http://www.texasyorkrite.org/grcommandery).**

**P.P.S.** I still have a few Commandery ties left. See the "ad" in the Knight Voices at the end of the magazine. JNH