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Welcome to the “dog days of summer”! We have had record-breaking temperatures these past few months, and I hope everyone is staying cool! God has blessed Becky and me with His traveling grace this year, and we have been honored to represent The Grand Commandery of Texas in Oklahoma, Missouri, and California. Each of the Grand Conclaves we visited had one thing in common - a Field Drill or Ritual competition. Oklahoma no longer has Field Drill, and several Sir Knights noted that attendance has been affected, not only at Grand Conclave, but also at local Conclaves. One Sir Knight went so far as to say that the only reason he became a Templar was to be on a drill team, and how the loss has hurt his Commandery.

Missouri competes in Asylum Drill rather than Field Drill. They have a nine-man “C” team, which does not require full Templar uniforms, or a nine-man “B” team, which does require full Templar uniforms. One Commandery was able to field a twenty-one man “A” team. Becky and I were so impressed with the work as each Commandery performed the Opening Ceremony during the competition.

California is much like Texas, as far as Field Drill competition. It is clear, after watching their “B” and “C” teams perform the drill, Texas has strong competition for Triennial in 2012. I also witnessed the very first Ritual competition in California’s history. I am proud to say that both teams did well. One other Commandery observed the competition, and then announced that they would compete in 2012.

We in Texas are blessed to have so many Commanderies with either Drill teams or Ritual teams - or in many cases, both. I know that Melrose Commandery is as successful as it is today because of the dedicated Sir Knights of both our Drill and Ritual teams. Sir Knights, it only takes seven Sir Knights to form a “D” Drill team and six Sir Knights to form a Ritual team. The parts for the Ritual competition are on the website at www.texasorkrite.org, or you can contact Sir Knight Doye Suddoth, Chairman of Templar Instruction(see Bulletin #1). The Drill schedule from Grand Encampment is also available on the website. This is the drill we will use to compete in Alexandria, Virginia next August at Triennial.

If you have any questions regarding Field Drill contact Sir Knight Greg Shively, Chairman of Field Drill(see Bulletin #1). Sir Knights, as your Officers prepare for their annual inspections, please know that they can’t do it alone. Every Sir Knight in the Commandery is an important part of a successful inspection. Each of you can help by filling in the lines, forming the Triangle, being a Hermit or a Guard, or supporting from the sideline. I remember long ago (when I was a young officer) my Eminent Commander would call all the Officers, we would load the wagons, and visit as many Commandery inspections in our District as we could. In return, those Commanderies would be at our inspection. Sir Knights, there are times that to move forward we must move backward, and now is that time. We need to revisit some of the old traditions and return to the time when we visited other Commanderies, not only at inspections, but throughout the year. Remember, we are a FAMILY, and what helps one, helps all. Likewise, if we do not return CHIVALRY and CARING through cooperation, what hurts one, hurts all. Our Grand Commandery has recently suffered the losses of Sir Knight Loyd Chance, HPGC and Grand Recorder Emeritus, and Lady Marilyn Warren, wife of PGC Paul D. Warren. Please keep these families in your prayers. They are part of our larger Masonic FAMILY, and we all share in CARING for them in their time of sorrow.

For some FUN this month, I wish to recognize the newly installed Grand Worthy Advisor of the Grand Assembly of Texas, IORG, Miss Melanie Seymore from Melrose Assembly. I also congratulate the newly installed State Master Counselor of Texas DeMolay, Sir Knight (and my nephew) Wesley Wunsche from Reagan Chapter. Sir Knights, I ask that you continue to support the Youth groups of Texas, as they are our future. Becky and I had such FUN attending both Grand Assembly and State Conclave. It is a pleasure to experience the excitement and exuberance demonstrated by this branch of our FAMILY! Enjoy the last few days of summer vacation. Be sure to pick up a few school supplies and donate them to a needy family or a local school. Nothing says “CARING” to a kindergartner like a new box of crayons! Our “Grand” FAMILY will be coming together for our annual Mid-Year meeting this month, and we look forward to some fantastic plans for the future, as well as a little FUN! Keep FAMILY, FUN, CHIVALRY, and CARING a part of every August day!

In Christ,
Paul E. Wunsche
Grand Commander