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+Greetings and Welcome + Another great month for Texas Templary!

October 5 – Update – In July, at the DeMolay Conclave, I had the great pleasure of meeting with Sir Knights Tom Turner, PGC; Allan Branson, PC; Ken Bushong, Commander; and Max Lantz, Generalissimo; all from Burnet Commandery #113, to discuss and prepare for the October 5 DeMolay/Templar Field Day, which will occur on Saturday, October 5, 2013... This event will honor the two living Past Grand Masters of DeMolay International from Texas, and all of the Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas, and will take place in a full scale castle in Burnet, Texas; The day will begin at 8am with the DeMolay Initiatory Degree/DeMolay Degree and 4th Section; lunch will follow, then back to the castle, for the Order of the Temple, featuring a special conferral team... I hope that you have made your reservation because SEATING IS VERY LIMITED and only those with reservations will be allowed to participate! I hope to see you there, it will be a great day!!! See the Grand Commandery website for registration.

“Damn the Torpedoes” – No one ever said that building membership would be easy. It is a task that while difficult, together we can accomplish great things! Sir Knight Louis Hopkins, the Membership Committee Chairman, has been very diligent in collecting and preparing articles and stories from different Commanderies around the state, about what they are doing to enhance their membership numbers and promoting participation; He then sends the information to all of the Recorders in our jurisdiction! There are many great stories and ideas that we can all use to help us accomplish the daunting task of membership replenishment, but they all focus around a central figure that must **TAKE ACTION** and that central figure is **YOU!** Last month, I mentioned that sometimes it only requires one action to stimulate a great movement or a successful project... In the battle of Mobile Bay, Aug 5, 1864, one ship of a small fleet was sunk after hitting an underwater mine (then called “torpedoes”), many of the others ships began to withdraw, fearing the same fate; however, the Commander of the fleet, Brother David Farragut, sounded the now famous charge “Damn The Torpedoes, Go Ahead, Full Speed!”, inspiring the fleet to move forward into the battle. The result was the capture of the second largest Port on the Gulf Coast! It is this type of a singular action that we need from **YOU**, to lead and inspire others to follow and build upon the foundation of Texas Templar Masonry that we all enjoy!

What’s In It For Me? – Recently, a great question was posed to me about our Texas Templary and what do we as Templars, do to deserve the time of our Masonic Brethren? The point further stated that it is not that Masons don’t know we exist, but rather why would they want to join our ranks? Point taken! The Masonic experience, particularly the Templar facet of it, is an individual experience, meaning different things to different people; I will be the first to say that Templary is not for everyone, but, it is very special to many Masons, including me. I was very fortunate to begin my Masonry as a DeMolay, which has a direct connection to the Knights Templar. Despite all of the great accomplishments of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation; Despite the regimented ritual and tactics required to open and close the Commandery and perform the Order of the Temple; Despite Templary being modeled after the Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon and their complete devotion to the task at hand; Despite the cumbersome, hot, and somewhat expensive uniforms that we use in the humid and hot Texas environment; Despite the hundreds of thousands of dollars given as educational scholarships to Texas students; It is the members of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas, that make it worth my time and effort to be an active member of this great organization. As far as I know, not a single member of my family was a Freemason, or a member of any of its appendant bodies, but because a high school classmate/friend invited me to a Rush Party at Reagan Chapter, Order of DeMolay, I was introduced to a whole different world of friends and a way of life; This eventually evolved into what I now know as Freemasonry, and the introduction to many friends, who are closer to me than many of my own family members, and I wouldn’t trade any of them, for anything! The idea of what our Fraternity has

to offer you, is up to you; If you are looking for a networking group to enhance your business or your resume, you should probably look to the Rotary Club, or the LIONS Club; We are an organization that its members are developed from the inward out, not the outward in, and that is what makes us more special than any other organization! We are friends, we are Brethren, and we are family, and that is what’s in it for me, and I truly hope that that’s what’s in it for you!

Texas Grand Assembly, International Order of Rainbow for Girls// Texas DeMolay Association

– I mentioned to you previously, that I was invited to represent you, the Grand Commandery, at the annual meeting of the Texas Grand Assembly, Int’l Order of Rainbow for Girls, and they are enjoying another successful year under the very capable leadership of JoAnn Weaver, Supreme Deputy, and Cheryl Haston, Grand Worthy Advisor; And to the annual Texas DeMolay Conclave, and acting as Grand Commander of the Texas Knights Templar, and a Senior DeMolay, it was a very special event for me, knowing the direct connection between the two organizations. It was a pleasure to see Brother Joey McAteer installed as State Master Councillor and to see the progress made by Weldon Clampitte, as Executive Officer, and I know that Texas DeMolay will be in good hands for another great year!... I mention these two Masonic Youth organizations to you for these reasons: 1.) The Masonic Youth and their leaders need our support; 2.) They are our successors, and need our guidance; 3.) We can all benefit from the lessons they teach; 4.) If invited, they provide GREAT programs! Let’s show our youth the support (both time and money), they richly deserve! Invite them to visit your Commandery soon!

Annual Visitations/Inspections – As Grand Commander, I wish you all the BEST OF LUCK with your annual visitation by your assigned Grand Officer/District Representative; I know that this is a very anxious time for the officers of your Commandery, but I am confident that you will do fine... I do ask that all Commanderies in Texas utilize a ‘live’ candidate; Normally, it brings out the best performance in all of us, because you are focusing your maximum effort toward him, rather the Inspecting Officer; And, your new Sir Knight adds to our total membership (something I know we are all working toward)!

“Second Star To The Right, And Straight On ‘Till Morning!” - Where Are We Headed? This is a very common question that should be asked of our leadership regularly... The aforementioned direction was given by Peter Pan (Play and Novel by J.M. Barrie), to locate his home “Never Land”, the place where ‘growing up’ was not encouraged and the goal was to have fun! We too, must have a goal or a vision of a goal in order to know where we are to focus our attention and effort, and without one, we are a sailing ship without sails and a keel, drifting in no particular direction. Since April 2013, my goal was/is to keep us focused on the need for new membership, to be active and visible in our Blue Lodges, and to believe in and enjoy our Templar Masonry! You too, must have a goal(s) in order to be effective and to show stability. Besides attracting new members, I would also encourage you to also look toward your membership that have gone by the way-side (The Lost Boys), not being active, or may have gone suspended; Contact them and attempt to RE-ACTIVATE them: 1.) Invite them back to participate (take a small part in your upcoming Inspection); 2.) Give them an opportunity of being responsible for a program at your Commandery, from outside your Commandery (another organization, Masonic or not), or from within (review of a particular Statute/Regulation, or the history of your Commandery, or the history of one of your earliest Commanders, etc...); 3.) If suspended, offer them a special rate to rejoin your ‘active’ ranks (waive all past dues, except the past per capita owed and the current years dues), the economic situations have been/are tough, and there are some Sir Knights that just need a chance to ‘catch-up’ and recuperate... **YOU** may be that chance, exercise your chivalry!

AGAPE – You don’t see this word very often, because we typically don’t use it in our everyday vocabulary or in our daily lives. The Prelate, in the Order of the Temple, refers to a “Child-Like Trust”, meaning ‘without reservation’, or preconceived notion... This trust also reminds me of Jenna Sue and Emmy Lou, our two Jack Russell Terriers, when we come home and they meet us, tails wagging and always cheerfully barking their greetings to us, knowing that they have done well, protecting our home, and now expecting to be awarded the daily treat! I attempt to utilize trust in everyone, until they give me reason not to afford it, and I would encourage you to do the same, particularly within the ranks of our fellow Sir Knights... The chivalry we extend to each other, is many times how we are judged by our peers and if we are to attract positive attention to our efforts, it must begin with us! Enjoy your Templary and “Let Your Light So Shine....”!