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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

I hope that each of you enjoyed last month's message and I want to take this opportunity to thank Becky for submitting it. We all have **Whatifs** that are an important part of our life. We have all endured record-breaking heat this summer, and I'm sure you are also looking forward to the crisp, cool fall days ahead. I hope that each of you not only stayed cool, but that you remembered to call an older member and check on him. We all feel so good when we know that someone is thinking of us, and shows us that they CARE. Sir Knights, in this issue I want to address two important items - the first being membership. At the writing of this article, our membership in Texas is approximately 9200 and we currently have 70 Commanderies. I was honored to participate in two festivals in the month of August, one in Denton where we created 16 new Sir Knights, and another in Houston where we created 20 new Sir Knights. Several other festival participants will receive the Order of the Temple in their own asylum at a later date. I had a lot of FUN working in the Chapter and Council Degrees as well as the Commandery Orders. My hope is that our new Sir Knights had FUN and will return for our next meeting. The one thing that both festivals had in common was the candidate's desire to learn. You could see every candidate paying close attention as the degrees or orders were conferred. It now becomes our duty to teach these new Sir Knights the importance of being a Christian Mason and being a Knight Templar. We have an opportunity to teach them CHIVALRY and CARING, as well as the importance of FAMILY and FUN. Encourage our new Sir Knights to attend your next stated conclave or called practice. Let them know that they are needed, but don't overload them by asking them to learn a big part. Allow time for them to become a comfortable part of your Commandery conclaves, then, ask if they would like to participate in the ritual work or hold an office next year. I hope that your Commandery is working hard this year creating new Sir Knights. If you would like a Grand Officer or a Past Grand Commander to assist with membership programs in your area, please let us know and we will be honored to help. Remember, Grand Encampment offers a membership jewel to those

who are top-line signers on ten new petitions. After receiving the membership award, oak leaf clusters may be added for every time five more petitions are signed. Your Commandery may also wish to offer an incentive for membership. Be creative, and make bringing in new Sir Knight FUN! There is no question in my mind that Texas is the best Grand Commandery in the world. We are less than 600 members away from being the largest Grand Commandery in Grand Encampment, and I believe that if we all work together we can reach the top. It is going to take each one of us to make this happen. I therefore encourage you to emulate DeMolay in their membership program. They ask each member to bring in two new members - one to replace themselves and one to grow with. If each of us would bring in two members this year, Texas would be the largest Grand Commandery in the world! The second important item is a new venture for The Grand Commandery of Texas. Your Grand Commandery has entered into a relationship with the websites goodsearch.com and amazon.com. You will find these links on our website at texasYorkrite.org. Sir Knights, each time you use goodsearch.com, we receive money from the advertisers that will go to support the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. Through amazon.com the Grand Commandery will earn a percentage of each purchase up to 5%. The more we use these sites, the more money we will receive. We are very excited about the potential of these new programs. Please tell your coworkers, friends, and especially your FAMILY. As I close, I want to congratulate (Mrs. John A.) Mary Brogan from San Antonio Assembly No.159, who was installed as Supreme Worthy President of the Supreme Assembly Social Order of the Beauceant. Congratulations, Lady Mary! Texas is very proud of you. It was an honor to be part of our Masonic FAMILY as I attended Supreme Assembly. I love to show my Beauceant ladies how much I CARE!! I look forward to seeing you at the Texas Masonic Family Day and in Waco for Grand Chapter and Grand Council. These are also important parts of our FAMILY, and I'm sure I will be in for a little FUN as well. It is such an honor to represent each of you when I attend these functions, and I hope those in attendance will be impressed by the CHIVALRY and CARING that are part of every Knight Templar. Let us all strive to be the best example of Templary that a new Mason sees - before he submits his petition!

***In Christ's Name,
Paul E. Wunsche,
Right Eminent Grand Commander***