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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

December ends our Commandery year, and it has been very successful! I would like to congratulate each Commandery on an outstanding year. To the new officers who are about to be installed, I would like to challenge each of you to work more diligently to continue the success of your Commanderies in the coming year. Congratulations to each of you upon obtaining your new offices, and I look forward to seeing each of you at our Grand Commandery session.

Membership

Now is the time to work your suspension list and try to save the members of your Commanderies that may be about to go suspended for nonpayment of dues. More importantly if they are unwilling to continue being Knights Templar, find out why they are unhappy with our organization and pass the information you receive to the Grand Commandery Membership Committee. This information may help to improve our organization for future members. Remember to plan your degree work or festivals for next year, and if you need help please contact your membership committee person or me and we will try to help any way we can to make sure you have a successful start to your Commandery year. Membership should be the primary goal of every Commandery in this state, **and I challenge each Commandery to have a 6% growth next year!!**

Long Range Planning Committee

Last month I announced the formation of the new Long Range Planning Committee for the Grand Commandery of Texas. We have selected ten Sir Knights to start this committee; one from each district with a committee chairman as an at large member. Their mission will be to create a mission statement for the Grand Commandery of Texas, a long range membership plan, and long range financial goals.

If any Sir Knight would like to make suggestions for tasks to be added to this committee's agenda please contact me with your suggestions. This committee may have members added from time to time to work on special projects for this Grand Commandery.

York Rite Information System

The Grand Encampment has a new membership database and all of our membership records are contained in the new system. One of the new features of this system is that you can change you own information. You can also change the way you receive the Knight Templar Magazine. You can select to receive it in this beautiful book format, or you can receive it online. If you know someone who has stopped receiving their monthly magazine, please have them check to see if they accidently checked to receive it online. You can access this new system on the Grand Encampment webpage.

Knight Templar Eye Foundation

Sir Knights, early this year the Grand Encampment changed the way we approve eye foundation cases to where we can only accept cases that are not approved through Medicaid. I was recently informed that there will be a new change starting at the first of the year. As of January 1st, 2011, the Knight Templar Eye Foundation will no longer be accepting new cases. This was a decision made by the Grand Encampment Knight Templar Eye Foundation Board of Directors. This decision was made because of the new universal health care program which will provide eye coverage for everyone. If you have any questions please direct them to the Grand Encampment.

Finally Sir Knights, I would like to encourage each of you to start contributing to the Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage fund. We would like to use this fund to help send ministers to the holy land. Please contact the chairman of the committee, Charles Campbell, for more details. His contact information can be found on the Grand Commandery website under committees.

If any of you are searching for that perfect Christmas present for a Sir Knight, please consider our Grand Commandery Endowment Funds Jewel. It makes a great present for any Sir Knight! I would like to wish each of you and your families a ***Very Merry Christmas!!***

W. David Melear
W. David Melear,
Right Eminent Grand Commander