

**W. David Melear**

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***Greetings to the Sir Knights of Texas:***

To the Sir Knights of Texas I would like to thank each of you for electing me to the office of Grand Commander. I look forward to performing the responsibilities of the office to which you have elected me. I promise each of you that I will try to perform the duties of this high office to the best of my ability and honor to the Grand Commandery of Texas. I would also like to congratulate Sir Knight Dock F. Dixon, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Texas, on having a great year. I have some big shoes to fill. It has been a pleasure to follow you in this line, and I look forward to many more years of working with you.

It seems like the last ten years have flown by at times, I was thirty years old when I was convinced to offer my name for consideration for the position of Grand Sentinel of the Grand Commandery of Texas. I still remember trying to explain to my wife Juanita that I was going to run for the position, you should have seen the look on her face, and neither of us could believe that I had agreed to run. Eight months later I was elected in Plano Texas in 2000, and it was one of the happiest days of my life. I still remember my father congratulating me with a hug and telling my how proud he was, and that he knew I would do a good job.

I would also like to congratulate our entire officer line for advancing, and welcome our new Grand Sentinel and new Grand Prelate

**Membership**

Sir Knights we have a lot of work to do this year, our main focus is going to be on membership. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization and we are going to set some ambitious goals this year. I plan to have a statewide membership drive and to reward each Sir Knight who top line signs a new petition. As the Templar year progresses, a monthly total kept for each Sir Knight who promotes growing our membership, not only by new petitions, but also encouraging those SK or Former SK who are currently demitted or suspended.

There will be five levels for which a Sir Knight can receive credit which are 5 points, 10 points, 20 points, 40 points and 60 points. Points can be earned by the following: top line signing a new petition 1 point or top line signing a reinstatement application 1/2 a point.

Each of the points will be awarded upon the member being knighted or reinstated and then properly reported to the Grand Commandery. As you earn the points, please contact your District membership committee member so they will be able to update your point balance. The Sir Knight earning the most points in each district will receive a special district winner award. Good luck to all Sir Knights and remember the Commandery is the Christian part of masonry...That is our biggest selling point. Sir Knights our membership target is 2000 new and reinstated members, I know this is a very lofty goal, but in this case it is better to set a goal that is almost too high than to set one that is too low. I believe that by working together we will be able to meet and surpass this goal.

My membership committee has been instructed to work will local Chapters to help organize complete festivals or just Commandery only conferrals in each of our nine districts. I will be glad to personally travel, when requested, to each district to confer the Order of the Temple. I would also at this time like to offer my services to any Commandery that will work with my schedule, to confer the Order of the Temple at their local festival. To me, as your Grand Commander, no greater privilege could be allowed than assisting every district and every Commandery possible in bringing new Sir Knights into this Christian Order that I am so proud to be a member of and the head of this year for the Great State of Texas.

Please plan on attending the York Rite Conferences here are the next two scheduled conferences.

05/15/2010 **York Rite Conference**  
Helotes Chapter & Council  
11740 FM 1560 S, Helotes, TX  
Registration: 8:00 AM  
Starts: 9:00 AM  
Joe O. Estlack  
210-885-8471

05/22/2010 **York Rite Conference**  
North Houston Chapter & Council  
13106 Chrisman, Houston, TX  
Registration: 8:00 AM  
Starts: 9:00 AM  
Paul E. Wunsche  
281-814-2614

Sir Knights once again I would like to thank each of you for the honor you have bestowed on me, and the trust you placed in me. I look forward to working with each of you this year. God Bless you, your family, and your Commandery.

*In His Name,*

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