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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

This is September, the 9th month of the year, in which we observe and honor the working men and women of our great country. Labor Day is always celebrated on the first Monday in September. Congress passed a law on 28 June 1894 to create this National Holiday. There seems to be some controversy about who is the father of this event. It has been suggested that Peter McGuire, General Secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; proposed this holiday; others say no, it was Matthew McGuire, a machinist from Patterson, New Jersey, who proposed the holiday in 1882. Enjoy Labor Day on 7 September as we also celebrate the unofficial end of summer.

What is the state of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas? We currently have 67 active Commanderies and 3 Outpost Commanderies, while 2 of the 67 Commanderies are seeking Outpost Status.

Ask yourself these questions: How many Sir Knights does it take to open a Commandery? The answer is 9 Sir Knights that are eligible to vote in that Commandery. (Art. 175) But what about forming the lines for rehearsal and forming the triangle? The number to open now jumps to 17. Then how many additional Sir Knights come out to support and encourage these working Knights? Does your Commandery have any? Finally, how many Sir Knights not in line are prepared to work when elected and the appointed officers are absent because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances? Again, does your Commandery have any such Sir Knights?

These numbers may overwhelm a small Commandery, but what about the large Commanderies, say 300 to 500 members, who can-

not muster even minimal numbers required for opening.

What can we do about getting our members out? We may use telephone committees for local members or an email message or even a postcard to invite them to the stated or called conclave and to impress upon them how important they are to the success of their Commandery. Positive attitudes and hard work are the keys to success, while negative attitudes discourage success and are a precursor to failure.

The Official Visitations begin this month and will continue through November. The Grand Officers assigned to the several Templar Districts will represent the Grand Commander and the Grand Commandery of Texas. I know that this will be a special time for you, Sir Knights, to express through our Ritual your dedication to Templary. Sir Knights, I believe you will do your very best for your Commandery, whether that effort is in performing the work required of a line officer in opening and closing or as a member of the ritual team or in showing your personal support of those performing by simply being present. I also encourage you to have an actual candidate for your Inspection, because I am convinced that you can and do perform your very best when performing for a live petitioner.

In His Name,

Dock F. Dixon, Jr.

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York Rite Festival announcement: Fort Worth Masonic Temple – Sept 11-12 – Chapter Degrees begin @ 6:45PM on 11th; remaining Degrees and Orders begin @ 7:00AM on 12th. Meals served one hour before start. Festival in honor of **R:E: William L. Blanks, PGC**. Contact Larry Whitfield, (682) 557-6166; lwhitfield123@att.net.

Remember to submit Festival and other items of Templar interest/importance to the Texas Page Editor. His contact information is listed in the masthead. Send him anything you believe should be of note for and/or published to the Sir Knights of Texas. His deadline is the 25th of the month a full month prior to the issue in which it is requested to be published; for example, for the October issue, your submission must reach him by August 25th.