

## AN OFFICER OF WORTH COMMANDERY #19

TO BE AN OFFICER OF WORTH COMMANDERY #19 SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A DISTINCT HONOR. THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF WORTH ARE WITHOUT PARALLEL IN TEXAS AND MOST OTHER PARTS OF THE U.S., INDEED, IN THE ENTIRE WORLD OF THE COMMANDERY. ALTHOUGH OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS DECLINED DRASTICALLY (NOT TOO LONG AGO IT STOOD AT 5000), WE ARE STILL ONE OF THE LARGEST COMMANDERIES IN THE WORLD! WE ENJOY ONE OF THE FINEST PHYSICAL PLANTS FOR PORTRAYING THE BEAUTIFUL PAGEANTRY OF THE COMMANDERY ORDERS. BE **PROUD** OF WHAT YOU HAVE AND FILL YOUR OBLIGATION TO THE VERY BEST OF YOUR ABILITY. WHEN THE COMMANDERY IS AT WORK, PUT YOUR TOTAL HEART AND SOUL INTO WHAT YOU ARE DOING. LEAVE THE OUTER WORLD OUTSIDE AND IMMERSE YOURSELF TOTALLY IN THE WORK. WE ARE TRYING TO IMPRESS UPON OUR CANDIDATES THE MEANING OF CHRIST, WHILE GIVING THEM A BACKGROUND WHICH PERMITS THEM TO RELATE THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS OF THE BIBLE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PART IN THE CEREMONIES, BE ATTENTIVE AND QUIET SO THE CANDIDATE RECEIVES THE PROPER MESSAGE.

WORTH COMMANDERY HAS CERTAIN 'DUTIES' WHICH ITS OFFICERS ARE EXPECTED TO PERFORM.....

FIRST, LEARN YOUR PART IN THE OPENING, CLOSING AND THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE! THIS INCLUDES NOT ONLY THE SPOKEN PARTS, BUT ALSO THE MOVEMENTS. THIS IS A SEMI-MILITARISTIC ORGANIZATION, BUT FULL 'MILITARY SNAP' MOVEMENTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED—JUST BE PRECISE AND DECISIVE IN WHAT YOU DO. INCIDENTALLY, IF YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF A UNIT AND THERE IS A 'DRESSING MOVEMENT', TURN YOUR HEAD AND LOOK AT YOUR LINE TO ASSURE IT IS STRAIGHT.

READ THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE LECTURE IN THE MANUAL AND GET THE 'FLAVOR' OF THOSE CEREMONIES. ONLY BY UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATING WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO PORTRAY CAN YOU DO THE JOB WHICH THE CANDIDATE—AND THE COMMANDERY—DESERVES.

THE ANNUAL INSPECTION BY A GRAND COMMANDERY OFFICER SHOULD NOT BE LOOKED UPON AS A BURDEN, BUT AS A CHALLENGE. YOUR GOAL SHOULD BE TO BRING THE AWARDS TO WORTH AND KEEP THEM THERE.

IF YOU HAVE A TAPE RECORDER USE IT! OPEN THE MANUAL AND RECORD AS MUCH OF THE WORK AS YOU NEED TO IN ORDER TO LEARN WHAT YOU ARE TO DO. THE ORAL 'GIVE AND TAKE' OF THE BLUE LODGE IS A POWERFUL MEMORY TOOL AND YOUR RECORDING CAN SERVE THE SAME PURPOSE. WHEN YOU CAN SPEAK YOUR PART WHILE PLAYING THE TAPE AND NOT HEAR IT, YOU HAVE THE PART MEMORIZED. BUT, PLEASE, DON'T JUST MEMORIZE IT—LEARN WHAT IT SAYS SO YOU CAN GIVE IT THE PROPER EMPHASIS.

SECOND, ATTEND THE MEETINGS! WE DON'T MEET THAT OFTEN AND THIS SHOULD BE A BURDEN TO ANYONE. YOUR COMMANDERY NEEDS EVERY ONE OF ITS OFFICERS. IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND A MEETING, TRY TO LET THE COMMANDER (OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WILL ATTEND) KNOW IN ADVANCE. REMEMBER, YOUR ABSENCE LEAVES A HOLE SOMEWHERE.

THIRD, CERTAIN OFFICERS ARE 'IN CHARGE' OF THE VARIOUS ORDERS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY HAVE TO PERFORM ANY PART OF THAT ORDER, BUT THAT THEY HAVE TO SEE THAT ALL PARTS ARE ASSIGNED AND THAT THE MEN WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DO THE WORK. I SUGGEST THAT A LIST OF ALL THOSE WHO CAN DO THE VARIOUS PARTS BE KEPT, AND THE WORK ROTATED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO KEEP EVERYONE INTERESTED. REMEMBER THAT MOST MEN WANT TO FEEL NEEDED AND YOUR ASKING THEM TO DO SOMETHING IS THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT. A FORM LETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO THE ASSIGNED PARTICIPANTS AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE WORK, REMINDING THEM OF THE TIME AND DATE OF THE UPCOMING WORK AND ASKING THEM TO CALL IF THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FILL THEIR PART. THE LETTER WILL BE SENT BY THE RECORDER, BUT ONLY AT THE REQUEST OF THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.

WE SHOULD HAVE A STAGE CREW, BUT IT IS STILL THE DUTY OF THE ASSIGNED OFFICER TO SEE THAT THINGS ARE SET UP IN ORDER AND ON TIME.

THE **STANDARD BEARER** IS IN CHARGE OF THE ORDER OF THE RED CROSS. HIS 'ASSISTANT' IS THE **SWORD BEARER**. (THE WARDER HAS ENOUGH TO DO TO LEARN THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE!)

THE **SENIOR WARDEN** IS IN CHARGE OF THE ORDER OF MALTA. HIS 'ASSISTANT' IS THE **JUNIOR WARDEN**.

THE **CAPTAIN GENERAL** IS IN CHARGE OF THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE. HE HAS NO 'ASSISTANT'. BY ROTE, IF HE IS UNABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS, THE **GENERALISSIMO** OR THE **COMMANDER** TAKES OVER. MORE THAN THIS, HE IS THE **OVERALL ASYLUM MANAGER**—"TO SEE THAT THE ASYLUM IS IN SUITABLE ARRAY..."

LEARN YOUR PARTS, LEARN THE SWORD WORK, LEARN THE FLOOR WORK, AND BE QUIET AND ATTENTIVE AT ALL TIMES.

THERE ARE PLACES IN THE RED CROSS FOR 'FUN' AND THESE PLACES SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AND PERFORMED ACCORDINGLY. THE 'FUN' ENDS THERE, HOWEVER. THE ORDER OF MALTA AND THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE ARE TOTALLY SERIOUS IN NATURE. THEY ARE NOT MEANT TO BE, NOR SHOULD THEY BE SOMBER, HOWEVER.

**UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING PORTRAYED AND GOVERN YOUR ACTIONS TO GUARANTEE THE RESULT.**