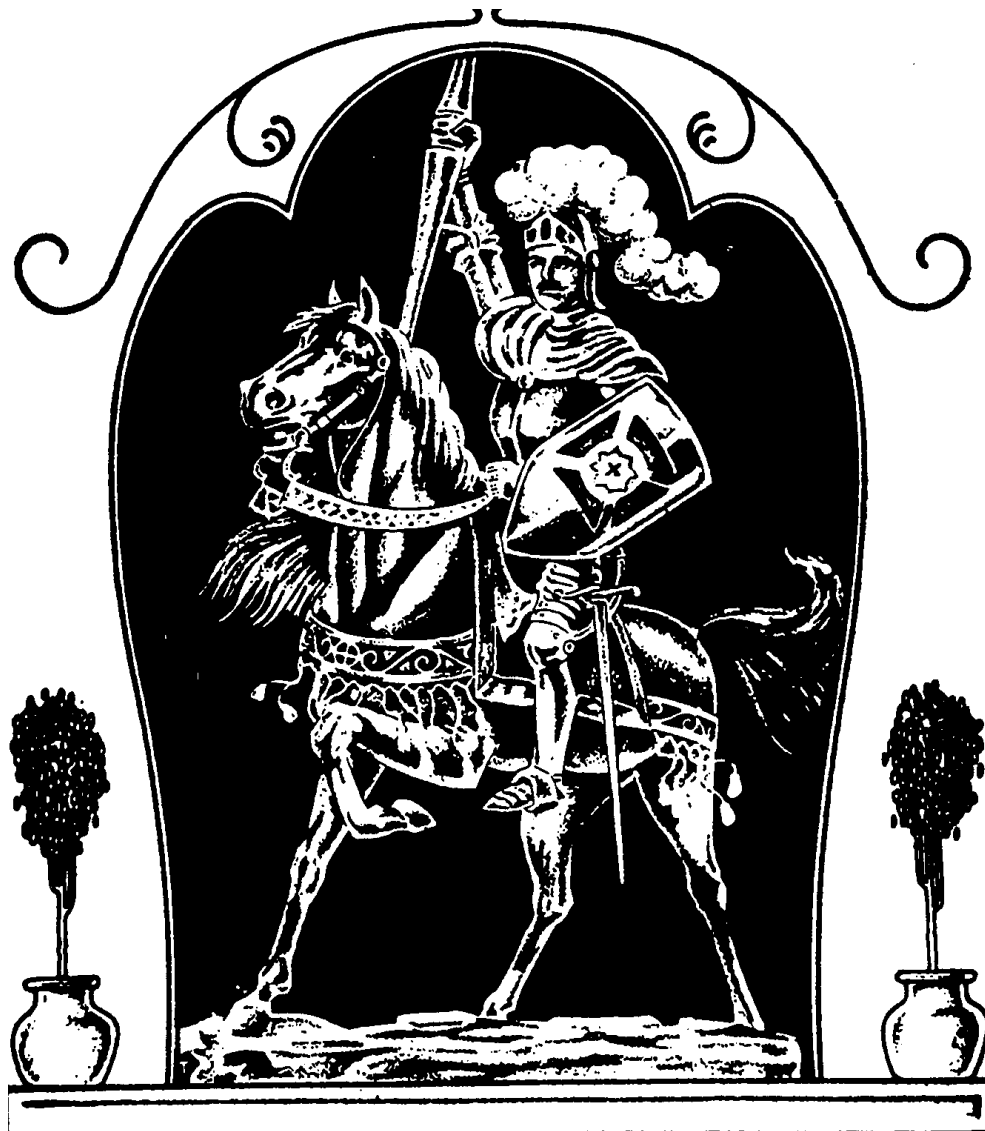


Statutes and Regulations
of the
*Grand Commandery Knights Templar
of Texas*



Statutes and Regulations
of the
*Grand Commandery Knights Templar
of Texas*

Adopted by the Grand Commandery at the Stated Conclave held in Houston, Texas in 2012 as a Complete Revision.

Revised and updated with legislation enacted at the Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas 2013, 2014,2015,2016,2017,2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022.

Previous Complete Revision - 1992

REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF STATUTES

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY K. T. OF TEXAS:

We, your Ad Hoc Committee on Revision of Statutes, have compiled with the action of the 158th Annual Conclave held in Amarillo, in April 2011, at which a resolution was passed directing that our Statutes and Regulations be completely revised, and further directing the incoming Grand Commander to appoint an Ad Hoc committee to assist in this task. At the close of that 158th Conclave, newly Installed Grand Commander Paul E. Wunsche appointed said Ad Hoc committee, consisting of PGC Michael H. Shively, Chairman, Reese L. Harrison, F. I.(Skip) Smith, G. Clay Smith, PGC Thomas W. Snyder. This Committee Originally Appointed by Right Eminent Doc F. Dixon and Continued by Right Eminent David Melear worked very hard throughout the Templar Year to produce and distribute a draft of the proposed revised Statutes and distribute them to each Grand Officer, Past Grand Officer, and to each Commandery. Comments and suggestions were received and noted, with changes as necessary, and the final draft was submitted to the 159th Annual Conclave in Houston, Texas, in April 2012, Where it Was Officially Adopted. All changes in the Statutes passed at that Conclave were also to be incorporated in the adopted revision in its first distribution.

It was a great privilege and a distinct honor to have been charged with such a task, and we are pleased to present the completed work in this first total revision and printing of our Statutes since 1992. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the above named members of the Ad Hoc Committee, who performed the detailed and sometimes tiresome work, as well as to the members of this and other committees who assisted in this undertaking.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL H. SHIVELY, Chairman
REESE L. HARRISON
F. I. (SKIP) SMITH
G. CLAY SMITH
THOMAS W. SNYDER

ORDER OF PROMULGATION

RED OAK, TEXAS APRIL 23, 2012

This is to certify that the following Code of Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, was duly and constitutionally adopted by a unanimous vote of this Grand Commandery at its 159th Stated Annual Grand Conclave held In Houston, Texas, on the 23rd day of April, A. D. 2012, and became effective and in full force on said day and date.

In testimony whereof, witness my hand and seal, this the 23rd day of April, A. D. 2012, A. O. 914.

JERRY N. KIRBY
Grand Recorder

DIVISION I

I. Masonic Calendar

II. Charter of the Grand Commandery

Paramount Law Governing the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of Texas and Its
Constituent Commanderies

MASONIC CALENDAR

RULES FOR DETERMINING THE ANCIENT DATES TO BE AFFIXED TO MASONIC DOCUMENTS

1. The Common, or Current, Era Uses: *Anno Domini* (Year of Our Lord), abbreviated to A: .D: . To illustrate, this is written for the year 1991, as A: .D: .1991.

2. Ancient Craft, or Symbolic Masonry Uses: *Anno Lucis* (Year of Light) abbreviated to A: .L: ., formed by adding 4000 to the current era. To illustrate, this is written A: .L: .5991 (being 1991 plus 4000).

3. Capitular, or Royal Arch Masonry Uses: *Anno Inventionis* (Year of the Discovery), abbreviated to A: .I: . or A: .Inv: ., formed by adding 530 years to the current era. To illustrate, this is written A: .I: . or A: .Inv: .2521 (being 1991 plus 530). In some jurisdictions Royal Arch Masons use also the Ancient Craft date, combining the two, thus: A: .I: .5991, A: .I: .2521.

4. Cryptic, or Council Masonry (Royal and Select Masters) Uses: *Anno Depositionis* (Year of the Deposit) abbreviated to A: .Dep: ., found by adding 1000 years to the Current Era. To illustrate, this is written A: .Dep: .2991 (being 1991 plus 1000).

5. Chivalric Masonry (Knights Templar) Uses: *Anno Ordinis* (Year of the Order) abbreviated to A: .O: ., found by subtracting 1118 years from the Current Era. To illustrate, this is written A: .O: .873 (being 1991 minus 1118).

6. Order of High Priesthood Uses: *Anno Benefacio* (Year of the Blessing) abbreviated to A: .Beo: ., found by adding 1913 years to the Current Era. To illustrate, this is written: A: .Beo: .3904 (being 1991 plus 1913).

7. Scottish Rite Masonry Uses: *Anno Hundi* (Year of the World) abbreviated to A: .M: ., found by adding 3760 years to the Current Era from January to August, both inclusive. From September to August, both inclusive, add another year. To illustrate, this is written from January, any month to August, inclusive: A: .M: .5751 (being 1991 Plus 3760). After September, add another year.

CHARTER OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TEXAS

STATE OF TEXAS,)
County of Bexar.)

WHEREAS, at the Stated Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, held in the City of San Antonio, in Bexar County, Texas, on to-wit: the 1st day of May, A.D. 1924, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas accepts the provisions of Article 1214 to 1224, inclusive, of the Revised Statutes of Texas, 1911, with such and all amendments thereafter or which may be hereafter made, and incorporates this Grand Body thereunder; and that any three or more of the Officers of the Grand Commandery shall be and are authorized to take all steps necessary to carry out this resolution and procure Charter.

WHEREFORE, By virtue of said resolution, the officers and members of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas do hereby agree to become a body corporate under the said above referred to law, being a part of Chapter II, Title 21, Revised Statutes of Texas, and do now and hereby declare as follows:

I.

The name of this corporation shall be "THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TEXAS."

II.

The said Grand Commandery and this corporation is formed for charitable and benevolent purposes, and to disseminate the teachings, principles and tenets of the Order of Knights Templar; and shall have all of the rights, privileges and benefits under said above referred to laws, and any and all other general laws of the State of Texas applicable thereto, now in force or which may be hereafter enacted, with authority and power to hold, contract for, purchase, or otherwise acquire real and personal property, specially including devises and bequests, and to act as Trustee when and if so requested or directed in connection with any Templar or Masonic matter, with authority to borrow money, and to that end to mortgage or encumber any or all of its property as security therefor, if so desired; but always subject to the constitution, by-laws, resolutions and edicts of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America and of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas.

The Subordinate Commanderies, Knights Templar of Texas, now working under and holding charters from and under the said The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, or that may hereafter be instituted or given and granted charter or charters, are hereby incorporated and become bodies corporate under and in the name and number given them respectively in the charters heretofore Issued to them, or that may hereafter be issued, and which shall also apply with like force and effect to Commanderies acting under dispensation, but the Grand Commandery shall not be liable for the debts or liabilities of the Subordinate Commanderies, nor shall any Subordinate Commandery be liable for the debts or liabilities of any other Subordinate Commandery.

All such Subordinate Commanderies, whether chartered or acting under dispensation, shall have all the rights, benefits and privileges hereby granted to the said The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, which are not inconsistent herewith, but must and shall always be wholly subject to the constitution, by-laws, resolutions and edicts of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, as well as the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America.

III.

The business of said 'The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas' shall be transacted, carried on and conducted in the county of the residence of the Grand Recorder, being now in Harris County, Texas, and also at such place or places in the State of Texas as may be provided by resolutions, by-laws or edicts of said Grand Commandery, or by direction of the Grand Commander having authority so to do. The business of the Subordinate Commanderies shall be transacted at the place designated in their respective charters or warrants.

IV.

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall have perpetual existence, and perpetual succession of officers and members, but the existence and tenure of Subordinate Commanderies shall be dependent always upon the action of the Grand Commandery having authority in the premises, the said Subordinate Commanderies being always subject and amenable to the constitution, by-laws, resolutions and edicts of the Grand Commandery, and the Grand Commander, when and where authorized.

V.

Neither The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas nor its Subordinate Commanderies shall have any capital stock, but they may own and hold property, as herein provided, and all of the properties held and owned by The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, and each and all of the Subordinate Commanderies, shall ipso facto, without transfer or other evidence of conveyance, vest respectively in the corporation and subsidiaries now and hereby created according to present respective ownership, immediately upon the issuance of this Charter.

The present estimated value of the goods, chattels, land, rights, moneys and credits of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas is in excess of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00), and most of the Subordinate Commanderies own some property of varying value.

VI.

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas and the Subordinate Commanderies shall consist of such officers and members as may be provided from time to time by the constitution, by-laws, resolutions and edicts of either or both the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America or the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, or the by-laws of Subordinate Commanderies; the Trustees or Directors of this body corporate for the purposes of this Charter shall be and consist until otherwise provided by The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, of the then Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, and Grand Recorder of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, and the Trustees or Directors of the respective Subordinate Commanderies, for the purposes of this Charter, shall be and consist, until otherwise provided by the Grand Commandery, of the then Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General, but the officers of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, and of the Subordinate Commanderies shall not be in any wise changed or affected, either as to their title or duties, by the procuring and issuing of Charter hereunder, but they shall be regulated and governed as at present or as may be hereafter provided by the constitution by-laws, resolutions and edicts of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of Texas, or the by-laws of the Subordinate Commanderies when and as applicable only to such Subordinate Commanderies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the present Officers of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, as indicated opposite our signatures, have hereunto subscribed our names, at the City of San Antonio, Texas, on this, the 1st day of May, A. D. 1924.

H. B. Robertson,
Grand Commander,
Dallas, Texas

Charles L. Alderman
Deputy Grand Commander,
Big Spring, Texas

William G. Bell,
Grand Generalissimo
Austin, Texas

Frank H. Sparrow,
Grand Capt. Gen.,
Fort Worth, Texas

J. C. Kidd
Grand Recorder
Houston, Texas

STATE OF TEXAS)
County of Bexar)

Before me, Harry W. Hamilton a Notary Public, in and for Bexar County, Texas, on this day personally came and appeared H. B. Robertson, Charles L. Alderman, William G. Bell, Frank H. Sparrow and John C. Kidd, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the above and foregoing instrument, and severally acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of office, at San Antonio, Texas, this the 1st day of May, A. D. 1924.

(Seal)

Harry W. Hamilton,
Notary Public, Bexar County, Texas.

ENDORSED:

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, this 5th day of May A.D. 1924.

S. L. Staples,
Secretary of State.

CERTIFICATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS,)
Department of State.)

I, S. L. Staples, Secretary of State of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of

**CHARTER OF
THE GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TEXAS**

with the endorsement thereon as now appears of record in the Department.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused to be impressed thereon the Seal of State at my office in the City of Austin, this 6th day of May, A. D. 1924.

(Signed) S. L. Staples
Secretary of State

DIVISION II

**STATUTES AND REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TEXAS
and**

**Statutes and Regulations for the Government
of its
Constituent Commanderies**

DIVISION II

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STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TEXAS

Enacted for Government of This Grand Commandery
and its Constituent Commanderies

GRAND COMMANDERY SECTION

CHAPTER DEFINITIONS*

Art. 1. (G 87). Definitions *

As used in the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America and these Statutes:

"Healing" means re-obligating the Knight Templar and correcting what has been done amiss at his creation.

"Permanent Members" of the Grand Commandery are properly affiliated Past Commanders.

"Representative Members" of the Grand Commandery are those Knights Templar who, by virtue of the offices which they hold at the time, are entitled to seats in the Grand Commandery.

"Insignia of Rank" means the Emblem prescribed by Section 241, Grand Encampment Statutes, to denote the rank of the officer or member using or wearing the same.

* (NOTE: The letter "G" and figures in parenthesis following the number of any Article refers to that section of the Constitution or Statutes of the Grand Encampment.)

"Jewels of Office" means the emblem prescribed to be worn by any officer, to designate the office held by him. It is to be worn by an officer only during his incumbency.

"Adjourn". The Grand Encampment and Grand Commanderies do not "Close"; they "Adjourn".

"Close". Constituent Commanderies "Close"; they do not "call off" or "adjourn", but they may close to meet on a day certain, to finish business that is pending.

"Conclave". Commanderies hold "Conclaves", not "meetings".

"Open". Commanderies "Open". Grand Commanderies and the Grand Encampment "Convene".

"Notice", means a written notice.

"Sojourner", means one who is eligible to petition for the Orders of Knighthood who presents his petition to a Commandery having no territorial Jurisdiction of the Petitioner.

CHAPTER 2

TITLE – ALLEGIANCE - POWERS

Art. 2. Title.

The style and title of this Grand Commandery is its corporate name, set forth in its Charter, namely:

"**THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TEXAS**", which title shall be used in all legal documents, and in all official transactions of this Grand Commandery.

Art. 3. Allegiance.

This Grand Commandery acknowledges allegiance to, and recognizes as supreme, the Grand Jurisdiction and powers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United State of America, as same are defined in its Constitution and Statutes, and further recognizes such Constitution and Statutes as paramount to the legislative powers of this Grand Commandery on all subjects legislated upon by the Grand Encampment or that may hereafter be acted upon.

Art. 4. Powers.

The Supreme legislative, judicial and executive power over the Orders of Christian Knighthood in the State of Texas, is vested in the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, subject only to such supervision and control as may be vested in the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, by its Constitution, Statutes and Rituals.

CHAPTER 3

DELEGATED POWERS, DUTIES AND JURISDICTION OF THIS GRAND COMMANDERY

as delegated by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Art. 5. (G 40, G 41) Grand Commandery Powers.

This Grand Commandery has the following powers and prerogatives in addition to those delegated to it by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

(a) (G 127) Cannot Enlarge or Restrict Membership.

The membership of this Grand Commandery cannot be enlarged or restricted from that prescribed by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

(b) (G 130) May Provide Committees.

It may provide for the appointment of such committees as may be necessary for the transaction of its business, or for the good of the Order, and may prescribe their duties.

(c) (G 131) It may enact a uniform Code of By-Laws for the government of its Constituent Commanderies, but all By-Laws of such Constituent Commanderies must be approved by the Grand Commandery providing, however, that the Grand Commander may approve By-Laws or Amendment thereof adopted during the recess of the Grand Commandery, which action shall be subject to review at the next succeeding Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

(d) (G 132) Prescribe Reception Ceremonies.

It may prescribe the ceremony for the Reception of its Officers by its Constituent Commanderies.

(e) (G 133) Fix Time for Payment of Dues.

It may fix the time at which members of its Constituent Commanderies shall pay annual dues. It may also prescribe the penalty for non-payment, and fix the terms for restoration, but no member shall be deprived of his rights and privileges without due notice and an opportunity to be heard.

(f) (G 134) Fix Minimum Fees.

It may fix the minimum fee for the Orders, but in no case shall it be less than Forty Dollars, which shall be paid before the Order of the Red Cross is conferred.

(g) (G 136) Nominations.

It may determine whether nominations may be made at election of its officers, and at elections of officers by its Constituent Commanderies. (1991)

H. Support Youth Organizations.

The Grand Commandery of Texas shall express a policy of actively promoting, encouraging and supporting the youth organizations of the Order of Demolay and the Order of Rainbow for Girls

Art. 6. Jurisdiction.

This Grand Commandery shall have jurisdiction and control over all Constituent Commanderies, and over all Companions of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, Knights of Malta, and Knights Templar, within the limits of the State of Texas.

CHAPTER 4

GRAND COMMANDERY --- MEMBERSHIP

Art. 7. (G 35, G 43, G 45) Consists of.

The Grand Commandery of the State of Texas shall consist of the following members:

(1) All incumbent Grand Officers.

(2) All Past Grand Officers, except Past Grand Prelates, so long as they remain members of a Commandery under this Grand Commandery.

(3) The Commander, the Generalissimo and the Captain General of each Constituent Commandery of this Grand Commandery.

(4) All Past Commanders of the Constituent Commanderies of this Jurisdiction, so long as they remain members of a Commandery in this Jurisdiction.

(5) Such Past Commanders as - may have demitted from another Jurisdiction and who shall have been elected to membership by this Grand Commandery, so long as they remain members of Commanderies under this Jurisdiction.

(6) Any distinguished Knight Templar of another Grand Commandery under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, may be elected an honorary member, which will not confer the right to vote or hold office.

7) The elective officers of this Grand Commandery and the Commander, the Generalissimo and the Captain General, of Constituent Commanderies, and no others, may be represented in annual conclave by proxy; provided the said proxy is a member of the same Commandery as his principal, and provided further, that no Sir Knight can cast more than one (1) vote per Sir Knight, including any proxies that Sir Knight possesses and/or is entitled to possess.

Art. 8. (G 128). Membership Rights Forfeited.

A member of this Grand Commandery forfeits all rights of membership by being unaffiliated with a Commandery during such period of unaffiliation.

Art. 9. (G 129). When Not Forfeited.

A member of this Grand Commandery does not forfeit any of the rights of membership by moving out of the Jurisdiction, provided he maintains membership in a Commandery within this Jurisdiction.

Art. 10. Past Commanders from Other Jurisdictions.

A Past Commander demitting from another Jurisdiction and affiliating with a Commandery in this Jurisdiction, does not thereby become a member of this Grand Commandery, but he may be elected to membership therein by this Grand Commandery, and thus becoming a member shall retain the rank he held before his move, so long as he remains affiliated with a Commandery in this Jurisdiction.

Art. 11. Representatives of Grand Commanderies.

The tenure of office of the several Grand Representatives representing this Grand Commandery may be declared terminated upon the option of the Grand Commander of this Grand Commandery. No one shall be eligible to appointment as Grand Representative of this Grand Commandery who is, at the time of his appointment, the Representative of any other Grand Commandery, and the acceptance of any appointment of this kind shall vacate his office as Representative of this Grand Commandery.

Art. 12. Cannot Represent Two Grand Commanderies.

The Officers of this Grand Commandery are directed not to recommend any Sir Knight for appointment as Grand Representative of any Grand Commandery who holds such an appointment near this Grand Commandery from any other Grand Commandery.

Art. 13. Representatives Not Exchanged, When.

This Grand Commandery shall not exchange Representatives with Knights Templar organizations outside of the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLAVES OF THIS GRAND COMMANDERY

For "Conduct of, and Voting" see Constitution, Sections 38, 39, 40.

For "Requirements of" see Constitution, Sections 36, 37.

For "Quorum" see Constitution, Section 37.

Art. 14. Conclaves of the Grand Commandery.

This Grand Commandery shall hold a stated Conclave convening annually on the Friday proceeding the third Monday in April, or at such other time as may be decided by it, at such place as may be directed. In fixing the date of stated annual Conclaves due regard shall be had for the anniversaries of patriotic holidays and celebrations, and if possible, such date shall be fixed so as not to conflict therewith. (Revised 2018)

Art. 15. Changing the date or place of Grand Commandery conclave.

In case of emergency rendering it necessary to change the date or place of convocation of any conclave of this Grand Commandery,

Power is hereby vested in the Grand Commander, with the sanction and approval of the next five ranking officers of this Grand Commandery, or a majority of them, to issue a general order addressed to the Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, members of Committees, and each constituent Commandery, changing the date or place of conclave, or both, of the Grand Commandery for the succeeding conclave, only, to a date or place, or both, agreed upon by the six ranking officers of the line, or a majority of them. Not less than five full days' notice shall be given the Grand Officers and members of the Grand Commandery of any such change.

Art. 16. Religious Service of the Grand Commandery.

This Grand Commandery shall hold its religious services on the Sunday preceding the Annual Grand Conclave, except in extreme emergencies.

Art. 17. (G 37). Quorum.

No business shall be transacted at any Conclave of this Grand Commandery unless there be a quorum present. A quorum shall consist of not less than nine members entitled to vote therein, including an officer authorized to convene same, and the presence of representatives hailing from not less than three Constituent Commanderies.

Art. 18. Order of Business.

At each Annual Conclave after this Grand Commandery has been called to order, and it is ascertained that a quorum is present, the Order of Business shall be:

- (1) The roll of Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, and Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions accredited to this Grand Commandery shall be called by the Grand Recorder.
- (2) Distinguished visitors shall be received and introduced.
- (3) Welcome Addresses and Responses shall be in order.
- (4) Official Reception of Grand Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions.
- (5) The Grand Commander shall appoint the Committees.
- (6) The Grand Commander shall present his Report of Official Acts.
- (7) The Reports of other Grand Officers shall be received.
- (8) Any unapproved minutes of previous Conclaves shall be read.
- (9) Report of Committee on Credentials, which is in order at any time called for by the Grand Commander.
- (10) Report of Standing Committees.
- (11) Report of Special Committees.
- (12) Unfinished Business.
- (13) New Business.
- (14) Election of Officers.
- (15) Installation of Officers.

Resolutions shall be in order at any time the Grand Commander consents to permit them to be received. All questions shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast, except when otherwise provided by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, or the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

Art. 19. Rules Not Exclusive.

The Rules of Order are not exclusive and this Grand Commandery, after it has completed the business ready for presentation, may proceed to the consideration of any other business ready for disposition; or it may, by a majority vote, suspend the Order of Business, and proceed to the consideration of such other business as it may desire.

Art. 20. Cannot Speak Twice, Unless.

No member shall be allowed to speak, unless to explain, more than once on the same subject, unless by special permission of the Grand Commander.

Art. 21. Grand Commander May Terminate Debate.

The Grand Commander may terminate the debate upon any subject by rising and putting the question before this Grand Commandery for a vote thereon.

Art. 22. Points of Order.

All points of order shall be decided by the Grand Commander, from which no appeal shall be allowed.

Art. 23. Resolutions Must Be Reduced to Writing.

All resolutions, or original propositions, shall be reduced to writing and must be read aloud at the Grand Recorder's desk and referred to the proper committee for consideration and report thereon before the same shall be in order for consideration, unless otherwise ordered by this Grand Commandery. Every incidental motion must be seconded before it is submitted for a vote by the Grand Commander.

Art. 24. Motions in Order, Precedence of.

When a resolution or proposition is ready for consideration no motion shall be in order but to adopt; to lay on the table; to postpone; to refer to a committee; to amend; to divide; to refer to Constituent Commanderies; which motions shall have precedence in the order stated. A motion to lay on the table is not debatable.

Art. 25. Motion to Divide.

A motion to amend, "by striking out and inserting", shall not be divided unless the motion is negatived; then a motion to "strike out" may be made.

Art. 26. Motion to Reconsider.

When any question is decided, the same matter shall not be again considered or acted on during that Conclave unless on a motion to reconsider, which can only be made by a member who voted with the majority.

Art. 27. Special Conclaves.

Special Conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander; and it shall be his duty, upon the request of a majority of the Commanderies, directed to him in writing, to call a Special Conclave. No business shall be transacted at a Special Conclave of this Grand Commandery except that specified by the Grand Commander in the original notice of Summons, or set out in said request.

Art. 28. (G 121). Reading of Journal.

After the formal convening of this Grand Commandery in Conclave, the proceedings of the preceding Conclave and any intervening Conclaves should be read. Any one or more of such readings may be dispensed with by order of the Grand Commandery.

Art. 29. Financial Aid to Host Commandery.

The host Commandery or Commanderies, or a general committee representing them, in the city where a Grand Annual Conclave is held, shall be entitled to a financial subsidy from this Grand Commandery to aid in defraying the expense of hosting such Conclave. This subsidy, along with revenue from sale of banquet tickets and donations from area Commanderies and individuals, will be utilized in paying for rent of suitable meeting places for all functions during the Conclave, cost of liability insurance coverage, banquets, programs, entertainment, and other related expenses that are occasioned by hosting said Annual Conclave. A registration fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) shall be charged for attending the Grand Conclave. Each sir knight shall pay only one registration fee. The money from said fee shall be used to offset the expenses of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas and not the host Commandery. The amount of this subsidy shall be set from time to time by action of this Grand Commandery upon recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Auditing and included in the Annual Budget. As

soon as possible after the Annual Conclave, a complete report of revenue and expenses shall be furnished to the Grand Recorder and to the Finance and Auditing Committee by the local Commandery or Committee.

CHAPTER 6

COMMITTEES OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY

Art. 30. Committees appointed by the Grand Commander

The following committees shall be appointed by the Grand Commander, each to consist of the number of members as indicated:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| (1) On Credentials | (5 members) |
| (2) On Dispensations and Charters | (5 members) |
| (3) On Reports of Grand Officers | (5 members) |
| (4) On Place of Next Grand Conclave | (5 members) |
| (5) On Finance and Auditing | (5 members) |
| (6) On Templar Jurisprudence | (5 members) |
| (7) On Grievances | (5 members) |
| (8) On Foreign Correspondence | (5 members) |
| (9) On Printing (one member shall be the Grand Recorder) | (3 members) |
| (10) On Necrology | (5 members) |
| (11) On Triennial Conclave (Art. 48) | (3 members) |
| (12) On Templar Instruction | (10 members) |
| (13) On Educational Foundation (Art. 50) | (5 members) |
| (14) On Purposes and Policies | (5 members) |
| (15) On Patriotic and Civil Activities | (10 members) |
| (16) On Public Relations and Special Projects | (10 members) |
| (17) On Field Drill (Art. 56) | (variable) |
| (18) On Knights Templar Eye Foundation | (12 members) |

(19)	On Membership (Article 58)	(10 members)
(20)	On Holy Land Pilgrimage (Article 59)	(5 members)
(21)	On By-Laws	(5 members)
(22)	On History	(10 members)
(23)	On Audit (Article 59 A)	(5 members)
(24)	Templar Law and Review and Implementation	(5 members)

The Committees on Finance and Auditing, Templar Jurisprudence, Educational Foundation, Purposes and Policies, Holy Land Pilgrimage and By-Laws shall be composed of five members each, one member being appointed by the incoming Grand Commander each year for a term of five years. (2005) after a member has served on a committee for a full term, he should not succeed himself on that committee for a period of at least one year.

The Committee on Public Relations and Special Projects shall be composed of ten members, two members being appointed by the incoming Grand Commander each year for a term of five years, and so structured that it would always include one member from each Templar District and one member at large.

The Committee on Templar Law Review and Implementation shall consist of five Sir Knights preferably familiar with Templar Law, it shall be their duty at the end of each Grand Conclave to see that any and all changes to the Statutes and Regulations be in proper verbiage and placed into the Statutes and Regulations within three weeks of Grand Conclave.

In addition, this Committee shall keep the Statutes and Regulations up to date following each Triennial of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America..

It shall also be the duty of this Committee to work together with the Grand Recorder and Internet Committee to ensure that the Statutes on the Website stay updated.

To each committee may be referred any appropriate matter arising during recess or during the Annual Grand Conclave for reporting at the Annual Grand Conclave or the next Annual Grand Conclave.

Art. 31. Special Committees.

Special committees may be appointed at any time by the Grand Commander to examine, consider and report upon any matter submitted to them by this Grand Commandery, or by the Grand Commander.

Art. 32. Committee Vacancies.

Vacancies occurring during the recess of this Grand Commandery, or arising from non-attendance at the Grand Conclave, may be filled by appointment by the Grand Commander.

Art. 33. Grand Commander May Remove.

The Grand Commander may remove the member of any committee for good cause, and appoint a successor thereof.

CHAPTER 7

DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

Art. 34. Committee on Credentials

The Committee on Credentials may meet the day preceding the Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery to receive and examine such credentials as may be presented by the Sir Knights, and report thereon when called for by the Grand Commander. No officer of a Constituent Commandery shall be reported, or be entitled to a seat, unless the dues of his Commandery shall have been paid and the Returns filed in the Grand Recorder's office.

Art. 35. Committee on Dispensations and Charters

The Committee on Dispensations and Charters shall examine, consider, and report on such matters as may be referred to it by this Grand Commandery, the Grand Commander, or the Committee on Reports of Grand Officers. It shall be its special duty to examine and report upon all petitions for charters for new Commanderies. It shall examine the records, work and returns of Commanderies Under Dispensation and report to this Grand Commandery the character and merits of same, with such recommendations as the work, records and returns may justify.

Art. 36. Committee on Reports of Grand Officers

The Annual reports of the Grand Commander and other Grand Officers, except as otherwise provided by the Statutes of this Grand Commandery, shall be referred to the "Committee on Reports of Grand Officers", which committee, shall, with the approval of the Grand Commander, refer such portions thereof to other appropriate committees for examination, consideration and report thereon. Said committee may retain such portions thereof for examination and report as it may deem desirable, except those subjects falling under the jurisdiction and powers of other committees of this Grand Commandery. Said committee shall examine, consider and report on any other matters referred to it by this Grand Commandery, or by the Grand Commander.

Art. 37. Committee on Place of Next Grand Conclave

It shall be the duty of the "Committee on Place of Next Grand Conclave" to examine, consider and report its recommendation on invitations presented to this Grand Commandery inviting it to hold its next Grand Conclave at any particular place. If no acceptable invitations are presented to this Grand Commandery, it shall be the duty of the said committee to recommend a suitable place of meeting.

Art. 38 (G 41f). Committee on Finance and Auditing

The Committee on Finance and Auditing shall when authorized by the Grand Commander, employ a competent and well qualified Certified Public Accountant to audit the books. It shall be the duty of said committee to examine the Annual Reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder and make report thereon. It shall examine the Returns of Commanderies in the hands of the Grand Recorder, and shall report on the correctness of same and shall report the names of all Commanderies failing to make its returns, or in default on the payment of its annual dues and fees, including the amount owing by each Said Committee shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander. The Fiscal Year of this Grand Commandery will be from January 1 through December 31 each calendar year.

Art. 39. All Resolutions Appropriating Money

All resolutions appropriating money from any of the funds of this Grand Commandery, or affecting its finances, shall be sent to the Grand Recorder at least sixty days before the opening of the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery and by him promptly distributed to the members of the Finance and Auditing Committee for examination, consideration and report thereon before same shall be acted upon, and a copy sent to the Grand Officers and each Constituent Commandery for study. No appropriation shall be approved or recommended by said committee in excess of the funds on hand and anticipated revenues or the Grand Commandery. By unanimous consent of this Grand Commandery such a resolution may be introduced at any session of the Grand Commandery.

Art. 40. Benevolent Fund.

Ten percent (10%) of the gross receipts from fees and dues received from the Grand Recorder's office, together with interest on the Investment or Reserve Account, shall be set aside annually in a special fund to be known as the Knights -Templar benevolent Fund of the Grand Commandery to be Used for such benevolent purposes as this Grand Commandery may direct at each Annual Grand Conclave, due consideration being given first to our own institutions, and the Finance Committee Is instructed to include in its annual budget the 10% allocation.

Art. 41. Retirement Fund.

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Art. 42. (G 97). Committee on Templar Jurisprudence

All resolutions proposing amendments to the Statutes of this Grand Commandery shall be first referred to the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence for examination, consideration and report thereon before same shall be acted upon. Provided, this regulation shall not apply to resolutions reported by a committee of this Grand Commandery on a subject regularly submitted to it by the Grand Commander or by this Grand Commandery. If such resolution is adopted the subject shall be referred to the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence for the sole purpose of framing the law in proper language and correct numbering of the article to be amended.

Said committee shall consider all decisions upon questions of Templar Laws and usage reported by the Grand Commander and such other matters as may be referred to it by this Grand Commandery or by the Grand Commander, and its conclusions shall be reported to this Grand Commandery. Said committee, when requested by the Grand Commander, shall give opinions on the legislative, Judicial and executive powers and functions and duties of this Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies and on the prerogatives, powers and duties of the officers and members thereof.

Art. 43. Committee on By-Laws

All By-Laws and amendments thereto of constituent Commanderies shall be referred to the Committee on By-Laws by the Grand Commander upon receipt thereof for examination, consideration and report thereon at such time as the Grand Commander may request, or by the time of the convening of this Grand Commandery in Annual Conclave.

Art. 44 (G 111). Committee on Grievances

The Committee on Grievances shall investigate all grievances submitted to it and report its conclusions and recommendations. Said committee shall examine, consider and report its findings and recommendations on all appeals taken to this Grand Commandery from Constituent Commanderies. If it determines that a trial is needed or in order, they will proceed by following the procedure and guidelines asused in the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Art. 45. Committee on Fraternal Relations

The Committee on Fraternal Relations shall examine, consider and report on all matters submitted to it by this Grand Commandery or by the Grand Commander; on all applications of other Grand Jurisdictions to establish Fraternal relations; on all charges against other Grand Jurisdictions for invasion of jurisdiction or for any violation of Templar Laws affecting this Grand Jurisdiction; to examine and review the proceedings of other Grand Jurisdictions with which this Grand Commandery is in fraternal relations and make report thereof. By action of the 134th Annual Conclave in Lubbock, Texas, in 1987, an expense allowance of \$250.00 per year shall be available to this committee to help cover the cost of postage and other expenses associated with their duties. (2005)

Art. 46. Committee on Printing

The Committee on Printing, of which the Grand Recorder shall be Chairman, shall contract:

- (a) For the printing of the Annual Proceedings.
- (b) For the printing of all forms used by this Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies.
- (c) For the printing of the reports of the Grand Officers and the Committee on Educational Foundation.

(d) For the printing of all Bulletins and General Orders issued by the Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder.

Said committee shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by this Grand Commandery or by the Grand Commander.

Art. 47. Committee on Necrology

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Necrology to prepare and submit to this Grand Commandery at each Annual Conclave, an appropriate eulogy upon the Masonic history and services of deceased members of this and other Grand Jurisdictions, and suitable resolutions concerning deceased members of Constituent Commanderies. Said committee shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by this Grand Commandery or by the Grand Commander. If the Sir Knight appointed to serve this Grand Commandery as its Grand Prelate is not a Past Commander of a constituent Commandery, he may, by virtue of his appointment as Grand Prelate, be qualified to serve and may be appointed to serve as a member and/or the chairman of this Committee. (2005)

Art. 48. Committee on Triennial Conclave

The Committee on Triennial Conclave shall be composed of the anticipated Grand Commander at the time of Triennial Conclave, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder. They shall have charge of all necessary arrangements for the official headquarters of this Grand Commandery at each Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, and to pay the expenses incident thereto from the Triennial Fund.

This committee shall recommend to this Grand Commandery for its consideration the amount to be allowed to each drill team for assistance to attend the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, for the purpose of participating in the Field Drill Competition, Parade and Divine Services.

In order to be eligible for assistance from the Grand Commandery, the drill teams assisted shall have participated in the Field Drill Competitions and Devotional Services at two of the three Grand Commandery Conclaves between the Triennial Conclaves.

Said committee upon request, shall make all necessary hotel reservations for the members of the Grand Encampment attending from this Grand Jurisdiction. When requested, it shall be the duty of said committee to assist the Grand Commander in providing for the reception and entertainment of the Grand Officers of the Grand Encampment, and distinguished visitors from other Grand Jurisdictions, when in attendance upon the Conclaves of this Grand Commandery.

Said committee shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Grand Commandery or by the Grand Commander.

Art. 49. Committee on Templar Instruction

The Committee on Templar Instruction shall be composed of ten members to serve for a term of one year. One member shall be selected from each of the nine districts, the tenth member to be selected at large to serve as chairman. It shall be the duty of said committee:

- (a) To arrange for and have supervision of competition in the Ritual and Asylum Ceremonies at the Annual Conclave under the direction of the Grand Officers.
- (b) The chairman, with the approval of the committee, to appoint additional well qualified Sir Knights, if necessary, to assist in the competitions held at the Annual Conclaves of the Grand Commandery.
- (c) To give instruction in the Ritualistic work and the Asylum Ceremonies to Constituent Commanderies in the district in which the member resides, when directed to do so by the Grand Commander.
- (d) To make any changes in the manual of Asylum Ceremonies necessary to clarify and explain the movements contained therein.

Educational Foundation Committee

Art. 50. (G 104). Organization and Powers.

The Educational Foundation Committee shall work with and under the plans of the Grand Encampment Educational Foundation. Said committee shall each year designate its own Chairman. The Secretary and

Treasurer of this committee shall be the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery respectively, and shall be responsible for all funds and receivables appertaining thereto.

All costs and expenses in connection with and incidental to the handling of the Educational Fund, including costs of printing, shall be paid out of and from said Educational Fund, as may be directed by the Educational Foundation Committee, including such expenses as may be necessary and incidental thereto, which may be paid without special direction of the said committee.

Art. 51. Duties.

The Educational Foundation Committee shall be subject to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, and the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and is authorized to make such rules and regulations it may deem advisable governing the making of loans, eligibility of applicants, collection of loans and the general administration of the funds entrusted to it, and shall make annual report of all its transactions to this Grand Commandery. Said committee, following the adjournment of each Stated Grand Conclave, shall,

Select and designate some bank or trust company doing business in this State as depository of and for the cash funds of the Educational Foundation, and which said depository shall be required to give good and sufficient bond for the repayment and return of such deposits, in terms, form and amount and with sureties as required and approved by said committee, or to deposit with said committee negotiable bonds, and/or other collateral of such character and in such amount as required by and acceptable to and approved by said committee; or

Said committee shall require such moneys to be deposited in banks or trust companies which are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and in such event the amount of deposit to be carried and maintained in any one such bank or trust company shall not exceed ten per cent over and above the amount covered and protected by such insurance; the foregoing requirements shall not apply to the "Contingent Fund", or account which is carried to meet and out of which to pay current expenses, however, such account may not at any time exceed \$2,000.00.

Art. 52. (G 104). Under Supervision.

The Educational Foundation Committee shall work in harmony with, and be subject to, the general supervision of the Committee on the Educational Foundation of the Grand Encampment.

Art. 53. Committee on Purposes and Policies

The Committee on Purposes and Policies shall examine, consider and report on all matters submitted to it by this Grand Commandery or by the Grand Commander affecting the policies and general purposes of this Grand Commandery in relation to observance of holy days, public appearances of Commanderies, social activities, works of charity and benevolence and kindred subjects. It may make reports and recommendations on its own Initiative on subjects designated to promote the progress and efficiency of Constituent Commanderies and the general welfare of this Grand Commandery.

Art. 54. Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities

Each Grand Commander shall appoint a committee of ten members, one member from each of the nine districts and one member at large to serve as Chairman, to be known as the "Patriotic and Civic Activities Committee", whose duty it shall be to work in conjunction with and under the supervision of the Grand Encampment Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities in fostering and supervising Patriotic and Good Citizenship Activities on the part of this Grand Commandery and each Constituent Commandery in this Grand Commandery, whether in Peace or in War, for the purpose of promoting the civic responsibility of Templary as an Organization, and collectively demonstrating the Patriotic Principles of Templary. Said Committee shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by this Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

An allowance of \$200 shall be made annually to purchase a plaque to be presented at the Grand Commandery Conclave each year by the Patriotic and Civic Activities Committee for exemplary service in these activities .

Art. 55. Committee on Public Relations and Special Projects

The committee shall consist of 10 Sir Knights and will be a term committee and be so structured that two members would be appointed annually by the grand commander. The committee shall consist of a member from each Templar District and one at large. Each member may serve a five-year term.

An allowance of up to \$1,500.00 per year may be made available to the committee to cover its expenses, if so directed by the grand commander and approved by the finance committee, and for the committees use in the promotion of Templar Masonry. The chairman of the committee shall be responsible to the Grand Commandery for maintaining records of how the budget is spent and accounting for all monies spent. (1991)

Art. 56. Committee on Field Drill

The Committee on Field Drill shall consist of a Chairman, appointed by the Grand Commander for a term of one year, and the Grand Commander shall appoint from each Constituent Commandery having a Field Drill Team entered in annual competition, one Sir Knight who is qualified in Field Drill, to serve for a term of one year.

It shall be the duty of said committee:

(1) To arrange for and have supervision of the Field Drill competition at the Annual Conclave under the direction of the Grand Officers.

(2) To arrange and print the schedule and appoint Judges qualified in Field Drill Regulations for the annual competition.

(3) To arrange for and conduct such meetings for the Captains with the Committee as may be deemed necessary.

(4) To issue such rulings or interpretations pertaining to the Field Drill Regulations as may be requested by the Captains or Judges.

(5) To develop rules for proper dress and equipment to be used during the field drill competition utilizing:

(A) Any similar rules promulgated by the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America;

(B) Any existing rules or regulations promulgated by this grand commandery;

(C) The advice and knowledge of the grand officers.

(D) The advice and knowledge of other Sir Knights of Texas as may be appropriate

Art. 57. Committee on Knights Templar Eye Foundation

There shall be a committee appointed by the Grand Commander composed of one member from each Templar District and three additional members selected at large, one of these at-large members to serve as the Committee Chairman. The Chairman shall be responsible that each Constituent Commandery appoints active and dedicated Knights to serve on the two local Committees of "Publicity and Processing Applicants", and "Committee on Wills, Bequests, Contributions, Life Sponsorships and Patron Sponsorships".

The nine members from the various Templar Districts shall be titled District Chairmen and will work closely with each Constituent Commandery in his respective district. The District Chairman will work with both local committees in his district and cooperate with the Committee Chairman.

The Committee Chairman will serve as Liaison Officer between this committee and the Officers of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Committee of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U. S. A.

Art. 58. Committee on Membership

The Committee on Membership shall be composed of at least ten members appointed by the Grand Commander to serve for a term of one year. One or more members shall be selected from each of the nine Districts, the tenth member to be selected at large to serve as chairman. It shall be the duty of said Committee:

- (1) To act in an advisory and coordinating capacity in promoting a membership committee in each Constituent Commandery and to suggest and recommend that it functions and carries out the objectives of the committee.
- (2) To see that the names and addresses of the members of these committees are sent to the committee chairman and the District member.

Art. 59. Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage

A committee of five Sir Knights and their respective successors from year to year shall be known as the "Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage". The makeup of said committee shall be as given in Art. 30, paragraph 2, with the Grand Commander naming the chairman.

The duties of this committee shall be:

1. To implement procedures for selection of delegates.
2. To adopt guidelines for fund-raising projects, subject to approval of the Grand Commander.
3. To publicize the program..
4. To establish an Endowment Fund for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Program with a goal of \$40,000. All funds shall be deposited with the Grand Treasurer and he will be responsible for the investment thereof. Proceeds that may be used by Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee will be the income generated by the investment, and will be disbursed by the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer, on recommendation of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee.
5. That all revenue created through GoodSearch.com be deposited into the Endowment Fund for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Program.

This Committee shall review the finances held by the Grand Treasurer and decide how much and when the amount accrued in the general fund shall be transferred to the endowment fund.

Contributions of \$1000 or more will be given a plaque, or other suitable award, describing them as holy land pilgrimage "angels."

Annually, or as directed by the Grand Commander or the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee shall turn over all financial records of both the endowment fund and the general fund to the Finance Committee for their review, approval, and inclusion in the Grand Commandery Proceedings.

An allowance of up to \$250.00 per year may be made available to the committee for its operations, if so directed by the Grand Commander and approved by the Finance Committee. (1990)

Art. 59a. Committee on Audit

The Committee on Audit shall examine the Annual Report of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder and make a report thereon. When authorized by the Grand Commander, the Committee may employ a competent and well-qualified Certified Public Accountant to audit and or review the books. The Committee shall examine the returns of Commanderies in the hands of the Grand Recorder, and shall report on the correctness of same and shall report the names of all Commanderies failing to make its returns, or in default on the payment of its annual dues and fees, including the amount owing by each. The Committee shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander. (2019)

CHAPTER 8

OFFICERS --- GRAND COMMANDERY

Art. 60. (G 43). The Officers

of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall be those enumerated in the Constitution, each of whom, excepting the Grand Prelate, shall be elected.

Art. 61. Election.

This Grand Commandery at each Annual Conclave shall elect Its Officers as the last order of business of that Conclave, and shall install them as soon thereafter as may be convenient. In case of failure to elect and install, the old Officers will hold over until their successors are elected and installed.

Art. 62. Nominations.

Nominations may be made at an election for Officers in this Grand Commandery. In making nominations it is permitted only to name the candidate with his present Commandery membership and the rank he now holds.

Art. 63. More Than One Nominated.

When more than one name is in nomination, the election shall be by written ballot. When only one name is in nomination, the election may be by acclamation.

Art. 64. Majority Vote Elects.

A majority vote of all ballots cast is necessary to an election, and blanks are not votes or considered as such.

Art. 65. (G 139). Eligibility.

No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in this Grand Commandery, except that of Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at the time a member thereof. Any present or Past Commander in good standing shall be eligible to election to any office in this Grand Commandery. No Knight Templar shall be eligible to serve as an elected Grand Officer of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas unless he is a citizen of the United States of America.

Art. 66. (G 44). Term of Office.

Grand Officers shall hold office for one year or until their successors shall have been duly elected or appointed and installed, unless installed in another office.

Art. 67. (G 233). Resignation of Grand Officer.

Any Officer of this Grand Commandery may resign his office by filing a written resignation with the Grand Recorder, save that the resignation of the Grand Recorder shall be filed with the Grand Commander.

Art. 68. (G 234). Filling Vacancies.

A vacancy in any office of this Grand Commandery created by resignation shall be filled as prescribed in Sections 49 and 50 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment as to the offices therein mentioned; as to all other offices, by appointment by the Grand Commander.

Art. 69. (G 235). Retention of Rank.

One who has filled by installation and term of service, the office of Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo or Grand Captain General in this Grand Commandery shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him in this Grand Commandery, with the word "Past" immediately preceding and qualifying the official title. Past rank is limited to the officers named in this Article.

Art. 70. (G 236). Rank after Resignation.

A member resigning from any of the offices enumerated in the preceding Article shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him in which he has served a full term, and shall not retain the title of the office occupied by him at the time of his resignation.

Art. 71. (G 55). Precedence of Rank.

The precedence of rank of the officers of this Grand Commandery shall be that as prescribed in the Constitution. In all public parades of this Grand Commandery and in all social and official functions, the order of precedence shall be observed.

When the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment or his duly authorized representative officially visit this Grand Commandery and take part in a public parade, or attend any social function, he shall have the place of honor at the right of the Grand Commander. All other officers of the Grand Encampment shall take precedence of rank ahead of all Officers of this Grand Commandery except the Grand Commander.

Art. 72 (G 2) Members of Grand Encampment.

All past Grand Commanders, and the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General are members of the Grand Encampment by virtue of the provisions of Its Constitution.

The Officers herein named, or their proxies and All past Grand Commanders this Grand Commandery who shall attend the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment shall be reimbursed the registration fee and mileage round-trip as set by the Finance Committee and shall receive no per diem for attending any session of the triennial; such payment be made by the Grand Treasurer on warrants drawn by the Grand Recorder.

No such Representative shall be reimbursed unless he actually attends said Triennial Conclave. Provided further, no such Representative shall draw such reimbursement if he receives mileage and per diem from the Grand Encampment as an Officer or Committeeman thereof.

All Elected Grand Commandery Officers Who Are Not Considered Members of the Grand Encampment shall receive the same allowance provided Drill Team Members who attend the Triennial Conclave of Grand Encampment if they attend the business session of the Grand Encampment. Attendance of these additional Grand Commandery Officers, at their option.

QUALIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONCLAVES

Art. 73. (G 88). Grand Encampment Regulations Concerning.

No representative member shall be entitled to a seat in the Grand Encampment or be permitted to participate in its proceedings unless all dues, charges and assessments against the Grand Commandery which he represents shall have been paid, unless the Grand Encampment permits participation.

Art. 74. (G 89). Non-Affiliation Forfeits Membership.

A member of the Grand Encampment forfeits all rights of membership by being non-affiliated with a Commandery during such period of non-affiliation.

CHAPTER 9

INSTALLATION --- GRAND OFFICERS

Art. 75. (G 141). Who May Install.

The Officers of the Grand Commandery may be installed by either of the first four Officers of the Grand Encampment, by a Past Grand Master, by the Grand Commander, or by a Past Grand Commander. If none such are present, then by the oldest Past Commander (by service) who may be present.

Art. 76. No Proxies Allowed.

The Officers of this Grand Commandery to be installed cannot be represented by proxy.

Art. 77. Re-elected Officers Not Necessary to Install.

It is not necessary for a reelected Officer to be installed, as he holds over by virtue of his former election and Installation until his successor is installed.

Art. 78. (G 142). Installation of Absent Officers.

Any Officer of this Grand Commandery who cannot be present at the regular installation may be installed by taking the oath of office in any Commandery, or in cases of emergency, before a Past Commander. The Recorder of the Commandery in which such installation shall take place or the Past Commander administering the vow shall forthwith certify the fact to the Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder.

CHAPTER 10

GENERAL DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS

Art. 79. (G 47, G 48, G 50). The Duties of the Officers

of the Grand Commandery shall be such as appertain to their respective stations, conforming as nearly as possible to those of the corresponding Officers of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Commandery may require other service and the Grand Commander may assign to his subordinate Officers duties conforming to Templar law and usage. In addition to these general duties, certain specific ones are hereinafter set for specific officers.

CHAPTER 11

GRAND COMMANDER

Art. 80. (G 48). Powers and Duties.

The Grand Commander shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to those delegated to him by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, but the enumeration thereof shall not be deemed a limitation upon his general powers and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery not inconsistent or in conflict therewith:

- (a) To see that the bonds of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, or any other officer or committee entrusted with the duty of handling any of the funds of this Grand Commandery are renewed annually, and that the bonds with the seal of his office are delivered to his successor in office.
- (b) To send a copy of all letters pertaining to the activities of the Grand Commandery to the Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo and Grand Recorder.
- (c) To send a copy, within sixty days of rendition, of all decisions and rulings to the Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee.
- (d) See that a program is prepared and distributed to the constituent Commanderies, Grand Commandery Officers and Past Grand Commanders in due time, but not less than thirty days before the date set for the Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery.
- (e) To grant Dispensation to Constituent Commanderies to change the date, time, and location of their Stated Conclave to accommodate holidays and special situations that he may deem appropriate, upon the written request of the Commandery, based upon an affirmative vote at a previous Stated Conclave, and provided that due and timely notice be furnished the membership of the change.

Art. 81. Shall Make Annual Report.

The Grand Commander shall make an annual report of his official acts to this Grand Commandery for its examination and action thereon; said report shall be prepared and submitted to the Committee on Printing on or before March 1st of each year. The Committee on Printing shall have this report printed, at the expense of the Grand Commandery, and distributed to the Chairmen of the various committees not less

than two weeks prior to the opening of the Annual Conclave, and an adequate number supplied for distribution to members of the Grand Commandery present at the Annual Conclave.

Art. 82. Jewel Presented.

This Grand Commandery shall present to each Grand Commander upon his retirement from office, a Past Grand Commander's Jewel of the design adopted April 1923, and an illustration of which is set forth in Chapter 63 of these Statutes and Regulations.

Said Jewel is to be engraved "Property of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas" on the reverse side. This Jewel is to remain in the custody of the Past Grand Commander to whom it is presented during his lifetime and at his death to be returned promptly to the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas. This Article became effective with the Jewel of 1979-1980. (See illustration in Chapter 63 "Jewels and Emblems)

CHAPTER 12

DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER, GRAND GENERALISSIMO AND GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL

Art. 83. (G 49, G 50, G 53). Succession and Duties

Succession shall be as prescribed by the provisions of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment. At all other times they shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

CHAPTER 13

GRAND TREASURER

Art. 84. Duties.

The Grand Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys, securities and property of the Grand Commandery, other than such as pertains to the office of the Grand Recorder. He shall receive all moneys from the Grand Recorder, receipting to him for the same, and shall pay out the same only on orders of the Grand Commandery or Grand Commander, upon vouchers registered and approved by the Grand Recorder.

The Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder may disperse funds of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, according to the previous budget adopted, in the amount of 1/12 per month until a new budget is adopted at the Annual Conclave of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas.

The Grand Treasurer shall turn over his books and records for audit annually or whenever directed to do so by this Grand Commandery, the Grand Commander, or the Committee on Finance and Auditing.

Art. 85. Bond.

The Grand Treasurer shall, within ten days after the close of each Annual Conclave, furnish bond in the sum of two hundred-fifty thousand (\$250,000.00) dollars, duly executed by some reputable Guaranty Company authorized to do business in Texas. Said bond shall be filed with the Grand Commander and remain in his custody. The premium on said bond is to be paid by the Grand Commandery.

Art. 86. Bonds or Security Depository.

The Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer, and Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Auditing, following the adjournment of each Stated Grand Conclave, shall,

(a) Select and designate some bank or trust company, doing business in this State, as depository of and for the cash funds of the Grand Commandery, and which said depository shall be required to give good and sufficient bond for the repayment and return of such deposits, in terms, form and amount and with sureties as required and approved by them, or to deposit with the Grand Treasurer negotiable bonds, and/or other collateral of such character and in such amount as required by and acceptable to and approved by them; or

(b) Require such moneys to be deposited in banks or trust companies which are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and in such event the amount of deposit to be carried and maintained in

any one such bank or trust company shall not exceed ten per cent over and above the amount covered and protected by such said insurance; the foregoing requirements shall not apply to the current expense account, in whatsoever name carried, from and out of which the Grand Treasurer is authorized and/or directed to pay current expenses, not however at any time to exceed \$5,000.00.

Art. 87. Annual Report.

The Grand Treasurer shall make an annual report to this Grand Commandery of the transactions of his office, and render an account of all moneys received and paid out, accompanied by vouchers for his disbursements.

He shall deliver all books and records, and pay over to his successor any balance remaining in his hands. For his services the Grand Treasurer shall receive as compensation such sum as may be appropriated annually.

CHAPTER 14

GRAND RECORDER

Art. 88. (G 52). The duties of the Grand Recorder

in addition to those required by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, shall be:

(a) To transmit annually to each Grand Encampment Officer copies of all the Printed Proceedings and of the Laws adopted by this Grand Commandery. (G. E. Standing Resolution)

(b) To forward to the official Reviewer of the Grand Encampment, within thirty (30) days after the close of the Annual Conclave, or other Conclave, an abstract or summary of the proceedings of such Conclave, outlining all actions and events which will be of interest for publication in the next issue of the Grand Encampment Review. (G. E. Standing Resolution)

(c) Ascertain and report to this Grand Commandery on an annual basis, the filing of the appropriate 990 Forms with the IRS, for all Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Texas.

Art. 89. The Grand Recorder shall issue

Under order of this Grand Commandery or Grand Commander, Dispensations, Charters, General Orders of the Grand Commander, and all papers requiring the seal of the Grand Commandery to be attached, and such other blanks and papers as may be required by the Grand Commandery.

Art. 90. The Grand Recorder shall be the Custodian

of all Records, Books and other property of the Grand Commandery, except such as are by the Grand Commander placed in charge of the Grand Treasurer or other designated officer, and deliver same to his successor.

Art. 91. The Grand Recorder shall receive

From Constituent Commanderies all dues and fees paid by them to this Grand Commandery and pay same over to the Grand Treasurer within one month after date of receipt, and shall make vouchers for all amounts due by the Grand Commandery, for payment by the Grand Treasurer.

In handling the affairs of different groups that have funds administered by the Grand Commandery Office, the administration of these funds incurs a cost to the Grand Commandery Office. A prorated amount of these funds and the income that comes into those funds, shall be charged for administrative purposes to help pay the cost of postage, reports and things of this nature in the Grand Recorder's and Grand Treasurer's Office.

The distribution of this assessment shall be on the same basis by which income is distributed to the various funds.

Art. 92. The Grand Recorder shall,

Within ten days after the close of each Annual Conclave, furnish bond in the sum of ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars, duly executed by some reputable Guaranty Company authorized to do business in Texas. Said bond shall be filed with the Grand Commander and remain in his custody, the premium on said Bond to be paid by the Grand Commandery.

Art. 93. The Grand Recorder shall receive a salary

of not less than twenty-four hundred (\$2,400.00) dollars per annum, payable monthly, on vouchers drawn on the Grand Treasurer, at the end of each month.

Art. 94. The Grand Recorder shall have charge of the seal

of this Grand Commandery, and shall, under such seal, attest all papers requiring the same.

Art. 95. The Grand Recorder shall keep a record

of all proceedings of the Grand Commandery. He shall cause same to be printed annually and copies to be transmitted, not later than the first day of October, to the Grand Officers and Past Grand Commanders of this Grand Commandery, and to the several Constituent Commanderies of this Jurisdiction, and a copy to be sent to each Sir Knight appointed a Grand Representative of Texas near any other Grand Jurisdiction.

Art. 96. The Grand Recorder shall employ

a competent Knight Templar stenographer, whenever possible, preferably a court reporter, to take and transcribe the necessary proceedings of the Annual Conclaves of this Grand Commandery, and the Finance Committee shall include in their budget an estimated amount sufficient to cover this expense, any surplus of the amount remaining to be returned to the general fund.

Art. 97. Render an Account of Receipts.

The Grand Recorder shall report to the Grand Commandery the condition of the Order and render an account of his receipts and payments, and shall submit his Books and Records for auditing annually or whenever directed by this Grand Commandery, the Grand Commander, or the Committee on Finance and Auditing.

Art. 98. Warrants, How Signed.

No funds shall be paid out of the treasury of this Grand Commandery except upon warrants signed by the Grand Treasurer and registered and approved by the Grand Recorder. In the event either of these two Officers should die or become incapacitated from any cause or remove from the Jurisdiction, the Grand Commander may act for that Officer in approving such warrants.

Art. 99. Shall File Committee Reports.

The Grand Recorder shall file in a safe place and keep the reports of all committees not less than five (5) years after being printed in the Grand Commandery proceedings.

Art. 100. Prepare Forms for Annual Returns.

The Grand Recorder shall prepare a synopsis, embodying all the instructions requisite to enable the officers of Constituent Commanderies to make accurate returns to this Grand Commandery. Said synopsis shall be printed on each blank form for returns sent out. He shall also prepare the blank forms so as to elicit such statistical and other information required for the records of his office and for this Grand Commandery.

Art. 101. Standard Receipt for Dues.

The official receipt for dues shall be that issued by the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America. The receipt for dues shall have the signature of the recorder of said Commandery and may also carry the seal of said Commandery.

Art. 102. Inspect Returns.

The Grand Recorder shall inspect the Annual Reports, the filing status of IRS Form 990 and Returns from Constituent Commanderies, and if he finds errors therein or no filing report of IRS Form 990, he shall return such reports to the respective Recorders with instruction to correct same and return to him before the Grand Conclave of this Grand Commandery. The Grand Recorder shall report to the Grand Commandery any Commandery that has not filed their IRS Form 990 at Grand Conclave.

Art. 103. Shall Notify of Failure to Make Returns.

Immediately after January 15 of each year, the Grand Recorder shall notify each Constituent Commandery which has failed to send in its Returns, or to pay its annual dues and fees on or before said date that such Commandery is subject to Knightly discipline, and if such Commandery fails to make such Returns and make the payments in default on or before the Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery, said Commandery shall incur the additional penalty of being denied the right of representation therein.

Art. 104. Petitions, Resolutions Sent to.

All petitions, reports, appeals, returns, resolutions and other communications to this Grand Commandery are to be sent or delivered to the Grand Recorder and he shall endorse thereon the date of receipt thereof, and present same to this Grand Commandery; or transmit to the Chairman of the Committee on Grand Officers' Reports such items as may appropriately come under the supervision of said Committee.

Art. 105. Superintend Printing.

The Grand Recorder shall superintend the printing of the Printed Proceedings of this Grand Commandery and other documents that may be ordered to be printed, after contract shall have been awarded by the Committee on Printing. After the Proceedings of the Annual Conclave have been completed and set up in type and before the printing and binding of said volume, a galley proof of such proceedings shall be sent to the outgoing Grand Commander who shall within not exceeding twenty (20) days review same and call attention to any omissions, corrections or errors which may be found therein and report same to the Grand Recorder for correction before the proceedings are printed. The correct mailing address of each committee member shall be printed in the proceedings, which shall be furnished to the Grand Recorder in time to avoid any delay in printing.

Art. 106. Print Proceedings.

The Grand Recorder shall have printed in the Printed Proceedings of this Grand Commandery all matters authorized by the Statutes and Resolutions of this Grand Commandery.

The Grand Recorder will send a copy of the proceedings together with:

- (1) a list of commanders and recorders of the constituent commanderies
- (2) a list of Grand Commandery Officers
- (3) a list of Grand Commandery Committees

To each Constituent Commandery, All past Grand Commanders, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary/Recorder of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Council Royal and Select Masters.

CHAPTER 15

GRAND VISITATION FOR INSPECTION AND INSTRUCTION

Art. 107. Commanderies Visited.

Each Constituent Commandery in this Jurisdiction shall be visited by the Grand Commander, or his duly authorized representative, at least once during each year for the purpose of inspection and instruction in the Ritual and Asylum Ceremonies.

Art. 108. Districts.

This Grand Jurisdiction shall be divided into nine Districts, the boundaries to be fixed by the Grand Commander, from time to time, as he may decide, and may be formed without regard to the number of Commanderies situated therein, but should be as compact as possible in order to facilitate the annual visitation. The Grand Commander shall assign one of the Grand Officers to each of these Districts, who shall act as the representative of the Grand Commander in official visitations to the Commanderies in each such District.

Art. 109. Visitations.

It shall be the duty of any Grand Officer assigned to a District to make visitations annually to such Commanderies as are situated therein; to review their work in asylum ceremonies and their proficiency in the Ritual. He shall also inspect the books and records of any such Commandery and shall make report thereof to the Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder in writing. Said report shall contain such statistical and other information as the Grand Commander shall require.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder to provide printed or electronic forms, approved by the Grand Commander, to the Commanderies and to the visiting Grand Officers on which said reports shall be made, supplying copies of each such form for each Commandery in each District. One copy of each completed form shall be promptly mailed to the Grand Commander, one to the Grand Recorder, one shall be retained by the District Grand Officer, and one retained by the Recorder of the Commandery visited.

Art. 110. Joint Conclaves.

For the purpose of promoting closer fraternal relations between contiguous Commanderies, and economizing the time and expense of annual visitations, it shall be permissible for two or more Commanderies to hold joint Conclaves for such visitation and inspection, when consented to by the Commander of each Commandery wishing to participate in such joint Conclave, and the joint Conclave is requested or approved by the District Grand Officer, and authorized by the Grand Commander. Such joint Conclave shall meet with the Commandery of the District mutually agreed upon by the Commander participating. The Commanderies visiting such joint Conclave shall produce their books and records at the place where the Conclave is to be held for the purpose of inspection, and after the Commandery acting as host shall have been opened, the officers of the visiting Commanderies shall demonstrate their proficiency in the same manner as if visited separately.

Such a joint Conclave may be treated as a Special Conclave of each of the Commanderies participating therein and a full record thereof shall be written into the minutes of each such Commandery.

Any expense incurred by such Joint Conclave shall be paid by the participating Commanderies and prorated among them on such basis as may be mutually agreed upon.

Art. 111. Members Notified.

It shall be the duty of the Commander of each Commandery so visited to cause the members of his Commandery to be notified to attend said visitation.

Art. 112. Special Instruction Provided for.

The Grand Commander is authorized and empowered, when in his judgment the interests of the Order require it, to appoint a suitable Sir Knight to visit such Commanderies as he may from time to time find in need of a visit for the purpose of instruction and report to him the expenses of such a visit, or visits, itemizing such expenses sufficiently to justify this amount, the sufficiency thereof to be determined by the Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery, the amount of such expenses to be paid by this Grand Commandery.

Art. 113. Schools of Instruction.

Schools of Instruction are to be held in the several Districts at a time that may be selected by the Grand Commander, the Grand Officer or other duly authorized representative of the Grand Commander assigned to such District.

At such schools of instruction it shall be the duty of all the officers of each Commandery situated in such District to attend at the time and place designated by the Grand Commander or his representative, and to participate in the work of such school. It shall be the duty of the Grand Officer or other representative of the Grand Commander assigned to such school of instruction to make a full report thereof to the Grand Commander, and such other comment and information as may be deemed pertinent to such school. No dispensation shall be required authorizing the officers of visiting Commanderies to attend such meeting.

All such Schools of Instruction shall be held in the Asylum of a Commandery designated by the Grand Commander or his duly authorized representatives. Expenses incurred by the officers of any Commandery in attending such School of Instruction may be borne by their respective Commanderies.

Art. 114. Expenses Paid.

The expenses incurred by the Grand Commander (unless otherwise provided for by specific appropriation or budgeted), the Grand Officer assigned to a District, or any other representative of the Grand Commandery in making annual visitations or in conducting schools of instruction, or attending emergency meetings of the Grand Officers when requested to do so by the Grand Commander or the Deputy Grand Commander when attending any of the Texas York Rite Conferences, shall be paid by this Grand Commandery

The Grand Recorder is authorized and instructed to draw vouchers covering expenses under Grand Commandery rule, and receipt of statement from the District Grand Officer, or from a duly authorized representative of the Grand Commandery and approved by the Grand Commander. Such expenses shall be calculated at a rate per mile from the officer's residence to the place of visitation, as set forth by the finance committee of this Grand Commandery, going and returning by the usual and most practical route, which shall cover all expenses authorized for such trip upon the presentation of properly documented expenses to the Grand Recorder's Office.

Art. 115. Special Representative.

In the event any Grand Officer assigned to a District, for any sufficient reason satisfactory to the Grand Commander, be unable to make the official visitations or to conduct the School of Instruction provided for in this Chapter, it shall be his duty to promptly notify the Grand Commander, who shall thereupon appoint another well qualified representative to perform such duty. (Revised 2000)

Art. 116. Report of Debt

It shall be the duty of the Grand Officer or other representative of the Grand Commander assigned to make the annual visitations and inspection, to include in his report the amount of indebtedness owing by each Commandery visited, and the cash balance on hand in the general fund.

Art. 117. Other Duties May Be Assigned.

Each Grand Officer or other representative assigned to a District for purposes of Visitation, Inspection, or School of Instruction shall perform such other duties in reference to any of the Constituent Commanderies therein as may be directed by the Grand Commander.

CHAPTER 16

GRAND COMMANDERY REVENUES

For "Returns of Commanderies" see Art. 202 & 203

Art.118. Sources of.

A. DUES AND FEES.

Each Constituent Commandery shall pay to the Grand Recorder the following fees and dues:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. For Charter or Dispensation for a New Commandery | \$110.00 |
| 2. For each duplicate Charter | 5.00 |
| 3. For each Order of the Red Cross conferred | 10.00 |
| 4. For each Order of Malta conferred | 10.00 |
| 5. For each Knight Templar dubbed | 10.00 |
| 6. For annual dues for each Knight Templar borne on the rolls of the Commandery (plus Grand Encampment assessment) | 15.00 |

The items specified in Subdivisions 3, 4, 5, and 6 hereof shall be paid at the time of making the annual returns to this Grand Commandery.

B. PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall establish a Permanent Endowment Fund to assist in defraying the costs of hosting a Grand Conclave and supporting the Youth Organizations of Texas, the Holy Land Pilgrimage and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

The monies from the first five years (May 1, 2009 – April 30, 2014) shall be placed in a safe, long-term investment fund recommended by the Finance Committee.

After the first five years, the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall have use of the funds from the interest from the prior year alone (not to exceed 75% of the total interest) to be used for the following budgeted items:

1. Pay not less than 50% of the allowance designated to host a Grand Conclave
2. Gift each youth organization not less than \$1000.00 per year to be presented by the Grand Commander or his representative at their Annual State Meeting
3. Equal donations shall be made to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, not to exceed \$500.00 each.
4. Any such other item as voted on by this Grand Commandery, all of the above shall be contingent on funds available from this Fund.
5. That all revenue created through Amazon.com be deposited into the Permanent Endowment Fund.

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall offer, for a donation, a badge. This badge shall resemble the lower portion of the Grand Officer/Past Grand Officer Jewel, to be 1 1/4 or 2 1/2 inches in diameter with a red or white center. The donation for the badge shall be \$250.00 each.

At least once a year, the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall offer a diamond chip to be set in the badge for a donation of \$150.00 per diamond. A donation totaling \$3,250.00 shall purchase a complete badge encircled with 20 diamonds. The first 100 sir knights to purchase a full badge shall receive a specially colored badge, which shall designate them as one of the Charter Donors. After these badges are purchased, no further special designation shall be made.

This program shall be open to other persons, organizations, or groups in addition to the Sir Knights of Texas (example: wives, widows, family members, Social Order of the Beauceant, Order of the Eastern Star, Other Masonic Bodies, etc.) who may purchase only the 1 1/4 inch badge, unless it is to be presented to a Knight Templar.

C. Penny a Day

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall create, support, and maintain a "Penny a Day" program resembling that of the Grand Lodge of Texas, AF& AM. The monies generated by this program to be used to support the everyday operating expenses of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas.

CHAPTER 17

SEAL

Art. 119. Seal of this Grand Commandery.

The Seal of this Grand Commandery, as reproduced herein, is the model adopted and used by the Grand Commandery of Texas.

CHAPTER 18

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 120. Constitution, Etc., Paramount.

The Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America shall be construed as paramount to the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and all laws, edicts, rules and regulations inconsistent with any of the provisions thereof or in conflict therewith shall be null and void.

Art. 121. Construed Liberally.

To fulfill their purposes the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery shall be construed liberally, and the singular number may include the plural and plural number may include the singular.

Art. 122. Edicts.

Each resolution adopted by this Grand Commandery and each decision of the Grand Commander, or the Deputy Grand Commander while acting as the Grand Commander, construing the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, which, after having been reported and referred to the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence for examination and report thereon, is approved by this Grand Commandery, shall thereafter have the force and effect of an Edict of this Grand Commandery until it is modified, amended or set aside by subsequent action of this Grand Commandery or by the Grand Encampment, in which event, the resolution or decision as modified or amended shall have the force and effect of an Edict.

Art. 123. Amendment to Statutes and Regulations of Grand Commandery.

The Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery may be amended, added to, changed or repealed by a resolution in writing, stating distinctly the amendment, addition, change or repeal proposed. Such resolution shall be referred to the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence for its examination, consideration and report thereon. Upon such report it shall be, submitted for a vote thereon. A majority of the members present and voting in favor thereof, the amendment or amendments shall be declared

adopted, provided that no such amendment shall be declared adopted which shall be adjudged by the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence to be in conflict with any of the provisions of the Constitution, Statutes, Regulations or Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

Art. 124. Requirements of Amendments, How Effected

Any Resolution amending the laws of this Grand Commandery shall be sent to the Grand Recorder at least sixty (60) days before the opening of the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery and by him promptly distributed to the members of the Jurisprudence Committee for examination, consideration and report thereon before same shall be acted upon, and a copy sent to the Grand Officers and each Constituent Commandery for study.

By unanimous consent of this Grand Commandery such a resolution may be introduced at any session of the Grand Commandery.

Art. 125. Supersedes Former Code.

This Revised Code, Statutes and Regulations shall supersede the Code of Statutes and Regulations of April 1 1992, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2009 and 2011 and all revisions and amendments thereof and additions thereto, and shall become effective and be in force from and after its adoption, provided that nothing herein shall be construed as releasing any Knight Templar from any duty, obligation or penalty incurred under former codes or from liability to trial and punishment for any Templar offense committed prior to the adoption of this Revised Code.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

CONSTITUENT COMMANDERY SECTION

CHAPTER 19

COMMANDERIES --- GENERAL POWERS AND DEFINITIONS

Art. 126. Powers Conferred.

A Commandery has all the power conferred upon it by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment and by the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and its own By-laws where same have been approved by this Grand Commandery. Commanderies also have certain executive legislative and judicial powers of a local nature, which may be defined as follows:

(1) Executive.

The executive power, which relates to the direction and performance of its work, under the direction of the Commander, who is the superior executive officer of the Commandery.

(2) Legislative.

The legislative power, which embraces all matters of legislation relating to the internal affairs of the Commandery which are not regulated by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment; and by the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery; and which are not in conflict or inconsistent therewith. The legislative power of the Commandery extends to the adoption of By-laws for its own government, under such restrictions and regulations as are provided in said Constitution, Statutes and Regulations aforesaid.

(3) Judicial.

The judicial powers of a Commandery embrace the exercise of discipline over, and the settlement of difficulties between all of its own members, and all Companions of the Illustrious Council of the Red Cross, Knights of Malta, or Knights Templar, within its jurisdiction under the regulations provided by the Disciplinary Codes of the Grand Encampment or of this Grand Commandery, subject always to review upon appeal.

Art. 127. May Acquire Real Estate.

A Commandery may acquire and hold such real estate as may be necessary to the convenient dispatch of its business and may acquire or hold such property separately from, or conjointly with, other regular Masonic bodies.

Art. 128. Pass Upon Qualifications.

A Commandery has the exclusive right to pass upon the character and qualifications of all applicants for the Orders of Knighthood, and to elect candidates and to confer the Orders of Knighthood upon them subject to the restrictions imposed by the Constitution, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment and of the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

Art. 129. Appointment of Committees.

A Commandery may provide for the appointment of such committees as may be necessary for the transaction of its business or for the good of the Order and prescribe their duties.

Art. 130. Duties of Commanderies.

It shall be the duty of each Commandery:

- (1) To annually elect, appoint and install officers.
- (2) To provide a safe and suitable place for its Conclaves.
- (3) To keep a full and proper record of all its transactions.
- (4) To make full returns thereof annually to this Grand Commandery.
- (5) To pay its annual dues and fees promptly to this Grand Commandery as required by the Statutes.
- (6) To adopt and maintain a Code of by-laws that shall at all times conform to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment and to the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.
- (7) To practice charity, dispense hospitality, maintain Knightly Courtesy, and support and defend the Christian religion.
- (8) To punctually observe the festival days of Easter, Ascension and Christmas with appropriate rites and ceremonies, and hold at least one Patriotic Observance.
- (9) To assess and collect from its members such dues as a majority may fix in accordance with its By-laws.

Art. 131. Jurisdiction Waived for Festival Observance.

Upon invitation of a Commandery to join with it in Christmas Observance, Easter or Ascension Day Services, any Commandery in this jurisdiction may enter the jurisdiction of another Commandery for such purpose without securing a Dispensation from the Grand Commander.

Art. 132. (G 214). Appearance in Public.

Reserved

Art. 133. (G 215). Grand Commander Decides.

Reserved

CHAPTER 20

COMMANDERIES UNDER DISPENSATION

Art. 134. (G 150). Petitioners.

A Petition for a Dispensation for a new Commandery may be signed by any Knight Templar residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the proposed new Commandery. Petitioners who are members of a Commandery need not demit, but may secure from the Recorder of their respective Commanderies Certificates of Good Standing under the Seal of the Commandery showing that the member has paid dues for at least three months beyond the date of the certificate. The Certificates of Good Standing of the Petitioners or their Demits shall be filed with the Petition. After action upon the Petition by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery, the Certificates and Demits shall be filed with the Grand Recorder whether such action has been favorable or unfavorable. If the action is favorable, the Grand Recorder shall report the same to the Commandery issuing the Certificates of Good Standing. If the action is unfavorable, all Demits which accompany the Petition shall be returned to the Petitioners to whom they were issued, and all Certificates of Good Standing shall be canceled and returned to the Commanderies which issued them.

Art. 135. Lodge, Chapter and Council Not Prerequisite.

The presence of a Lodge, Chapter and Council as a prerequisite to the granting of a dispensation or charter for a Commandery is not necessary.

Art. 136. Recommendations for.

Commanderies acting on petitions for new Commanderies shall certify, in regard to same, that said petition was received at a Stated Conclave, that it had lain over one month before being acted upon, and that it was balloted upon at a Stated Conclave. Said certificate shall state the number of members present, the number of votes cast for, and the number cast against said petition, the distance to the place where the new Commandery is to be located, and that the facts as stated in the petition are true.

Art. 137. Status of Petitioners.

After a Dispensation to form a new Commandery is granted, the membership of the Petitioners in their own Commandery remains in abeyance Unless the petitioners request dual membership in both Commanderies. If such request is not made They become Active Members of the Commandery under Dispensation, and are not required to pay dues to their own Commanderies while members of the Commandery under Dispensation. If a Charter is refused, the Petitioners resume membership in their own Commanderies.

Art. 138 (G 152). Member May Sever Connection of.

Any Petitioner for a Dispensation for a new Commandery may sever his connection with such new Commandery at any time before a Charter is granted by notice to the Grand Recorder and the new Commandery, and his Certificate of Good Standing or Demit shall be returned and his former status resumed.

Art. 139 (G 153). When a Dispensation for a new Commandery has been refused,

the matter can be revived only by a new Petition.

Art. 140. Issuance of dispensation, Reported.

In issuing Dispensation for a New Commandery, the act shall be reported to the Grand Recorder, who will provide the Commandery with copies of the Constitution, Statutes and Proceedings, and such other printed matter as has been authorized to be furnished to the chartered Commanderies. Rituals will be furnished at cost.

Art. 141. (G 154). Commencement of Work.

A Commandery under Dispensation requires no formal proceedings in order to commence work. The members assemble and proceed as if the Commandery were regularly constituted.

Art. 142. (G 155). Powers.

A Commandery under Dispensation cannot enact By-laws, but it may prescribe such Rules as are necessary for its government. It cannot be represented in this Grand Commandery.

Art. 143. (G 156). Except as otherwise provided

A Commandery under Dispensation has the same rights and powers as a Chartered Commandery.

Art. 144. (G 157). Term of Office.

The Officers of a Commandery under Dispensation hold office during the continuance of the Dispensation unless removed by the Grand Commander.

Art. 145. (G 158). Officers May Resign.

Any Officer of a Commandery under Dispensation may resign with the consent of the Grand Commander.

Art. 146. (G 159). Status of Initiates.

Knights Templar created in a Commandery under Dispensation bear the same relation to that Commandery and to other Knights Templar as is borne by those created in Chartered Commanderies.

Art. 147. (G 160). Uncompleted Work.

Petitions presented to a Commandery under Dispensation and not balloted on may be considered and acted on by the Commandery after it is constituted under Charter.

Art. 148. (G 161). Status of Petitioners and Knights Templar Created If Commandery Becomes Extinct

When a Commandery under Dispensation ceases to exist, the petitioners for the Dispensation and the Knights Templar created therein or received by affiliation are entitled to a certificate from the Grand Recorder showing that they are nonaffiliated Knights Templar, which shall have the effect of a demit.

Art. 149. No Charter Issued Direct.

The Grand Commandery will, in no case, issue a Charter direct, but may grant a Dispensation, and no Charter will be granted to a Commandery unless it has worked under Dispensation at least six months.

Art. 150. Must Apply for Charter.

At the next Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery, after receiving its Dispensation, such Commandery U.D. shall make its returns of work and pay all fees and dues owing. It shall petition for a Charter at the next Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery, after having worked for not less than six months under Dispensation. If a Charter shall be refused by this Grand Commandery, the Dispensation shall terminate and the Commandery shall be immediately dissolved, unless a new Dispensation is granted by order of this Grand Commandery.

Upon the dissolution of a Commandery U.D. as herein provided, the Recorder shall turn over to the Grand Recorder all books, rituals, records and property of every kind, including cash on hand belonging to such Commandery. The Grand Recorder shall pay all debts owing by such Commandery if the funds and properties turned over are sufficient, otherwise the amount received shall be prorated among the creditors of such Commandery.

Art. 150 A. Texas Holding Commandery No. 200

Texas Holding Commandery No. 200 is established for the purpose of retaining Sir Knights who were members of a Constituent Commandery which demised. Membership in this Holding Commandery shall only be obtained by affiliation. Texas Holding Commandery No, 200 may create Sir Knights The Grand Commander shall appoint the officers of Texas Holding Commandery No. 200, except that the offices of Recorder and Treasurer shall be held by the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer respectively, and the elected Grand Commandery Officers shall be officio members of the Texas Holding Commandery No. 200, without payment of dues or assessments. All other members of Texas Holding Commandery No. 200 shall be subject to the payment of all dues and assessments levied by the Grand Encampment, Grand Commandery, and Commandery and shall be subject to discipline as otherwise provided by law. Texas Holding Commandery No, 200 shall not be required to have a suitable Asylum, to meet quarterly, or to create new Sir Knights .as normally required by Section 176. The Commander of Texas Holding Commandery No. 200 does not obtain the rank of Past Commander by virtue of such service

Art. 151. Fee for Dispensation.

Each petition for a dispensation for a new Commandery shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred and ten (\$110.00) dollars. No additional fee shall be charged for Charter.

CHAPTER 21 CHARTERED COMMANDERIES

Art. 152. Petitions for Charter.

All petitions for Charters by Commanderies working under Dispensation, together with its report and returns of work, shall be referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters for its examination, report and recommendation thereon, before being voted on by this Grand Commandery.

Art. 153. Commandery Recommendation Unnecessary

When a Commandery has recommended the granting of a Dispensation for a new Commandery, it shall not be necessary to renew the recommendation in order that a Charter be issued to such Commandery.

Art. 154. Custodian of Charter.

The Commander is the legal custodian of the Charter of his Commandery.

Art. 155. (G 219). Lost Charter.

If a Charter of a Commandery should be lost, mutilated or destroyed, the Grand Commander, upon satisfactory proof, shall direct the Grand Recorder to issue an attested copy thereof under Seal.

Art. 156. (G 218). Must Be Present.

The Dispensation or Charter of a Commandery must always be present in the Asylum at the opening and throughout a Conclave.

Art. 157. (G 227). Mounted Commandery.

A Commandery requires no Dispensation or permission to change to a Mounted Commandery.

Art. 158. (G 124). Rank.

The Commanderies rank according to the dates of their Charters.

CHAPTER 22 CONSTITUTING CHARTERED COMMANDERIES

Art. 159. How Constituted.

Chartered Commanderies shall be Constituted according to the forms and ceremonies provided by the Grand Encampment and the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

Art. 160. (G 162). No Commandery shall be constituted until

It is provided with a suitable Asylum properly furnished.

Art. 161. (G 163). A Commandery cannot be constituted without a Charter

Art. 162. (G 164). Officers of a Commandery shall not be named in a Charter,

But shall be elected and installed when the Commandery is constituted.

Art. 163. (G 165).Until the Commandery is constituted,

The Officers thereof are not Members of the Grand Commandery and cannot vote therein.

Art. 164. (G 166).A Commandery can be constituted

Only by the Grand Commander, or such Officer appointed by him as a proxy.
Nine members must be present.

Art. 165. (G 167).The Officer constituting the Commandery

Shall make report thereof to the Grand Commander.

CHAPTER 23

BY-LAWS

Art. 166. (G 168). Commanderies Must Enact.

When a Commandery has been constituted, it shall enact By-laws for its government and the transaction of its business, not in conflict with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment and the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

All By-laws and Regulations contravening or in conflict therewith shall be null and void.

Art. 167. (G 131). By-laws Submitted for Approval.

All By-laws of Constituent Commanderies, except as provided in Articles 168 and 177, must be submitted to and approved by this Grand Commandery, providing however, that the Grand Commander may, upon the advice and recommendation of the chairman of the Committee on By-laws, approve By-laws or amendments thereof adopted during the recess of this Grand Commandery, which action shall be reported to and be subject to review at the next stated Conclave of this Grand Commandery. (See Art. 43)

Art. 168. Amendments to By-laws, How Made.

When the By-laws of a Commandery prescribe the mode by which alteration and amendments thereof may be made, these rules must be observed, if not in conflict with the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery or of the Grand Encampment.

Commanderies may change the number of Conclaves to be held each month and the dates thereof, and the amounts to be paid as dues, reporting same to the Grand Recorder.

CHAPTER 24

SEAL

Art. 169. Commanderies to Have Seals.

Each Commandery must, within six months after being Constituted, provide itself with an appropriate Seal for the authentication of all official documents issued by it, and no document purporting to emanate from such Commandery shall be entitled to credit unless so authenticated.

Art. 170. (G 228). Seal Affixed.

The presiding officer of a Commandery has a right to order its seal affixed to any certificate or other document which he can legally issue in the name of the Commandery.

CHAPTER 25

CONCLAVES OF COMMANDERIES

Art. 171. (G 87). "Open" and "Closed" Defined.

Commanderies "open" and do not 'convene'. Commanderies "close", they do not "call off" or "adjourn", but they may close to meet on a day certain to finish business that is pending, or in case there is work to be done in another Order, business may be suspended and a Council or Priory opened for work.

Art. 172. Opening of the Commandery.

At all Conclaves, Stated or Special, the Commandery must be opened on the Order of the Temple, and the regular business transacted if a Stated Conclave; and the business specified in the notice if a Special Conclave. No business except the conferring of the Order shall be transacted in a Council of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross or in a Priory of Knights of Malta.

Art. 173. Opening and Closing on Other Orders.

Opening and closing the Commandery on the Order of the Temple neither opens nor closes any other Order. A Council of the Red Cross or a Priory of the Knights of Malta must be opened and closed on its own Order. After the work has been completed in a Council or Priory or both of them, business may be resumed in the Commandery, as directed by the Ritual.

Art. 174. Past Commander May Preside, When.

In the Absence of the Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General from a Stated Conclave of a Commandery, the Junior Past Commander, in point of service present, may preside.

Art. 175. Quorum.

A quorum of a Commandery shall consist of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an officer authorized to open the same.

A quorum for conducting business in a Commandery constituted by the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, can be less than nine but not less than five. One of the number must include an Officer authorized to open the same. Nine Sir Knights constitute a Commandery and are required to establish a Commandery, or the confer the Orders of Knighthood. If there are not nine or more Sir Knights present, the Short Form Opening in the 2019 Ritual shall be used.

Art. 176. Absence of Quorum.

In the absence of a quorum, no business can be transacted, but a quorum being present, the vote of a less number is valid.

Art. 177. May Change Date of Conclaves.

A Commandery may, in its By-laws, change the date of its Conclaves from one day to another and from one Conclave quarterly to as many Conclaves as it may desire without submitting such change to the Grand Commandery for approval, but must promptly notify the Grand Recorder of any such change.

Art. 178. Read Minutes.

The minutes of every Conclave shall be read, corrected and approved not later than the next Stated Conclave, unless dispensed with by order of the Commandery, provided, however, that no minutes shall be dispensed with for a period longer than two (2) subsequent Stated Conclaves.

Art. 179. Minutes Authenticated.

The minutes of all Conclaves shall be authenticated by the signature of the Commander and attested by the Recorder.

Art. 180. Minutes Show All Present, Except.

In the minutes of the Commandery shall be recorded all officers, members and visitors present at each Conclave, but if a register is maintained for members and visitors and all such are required to register at each Conclave, then the minutes may only record the names of the officers present, and the number of members and visitors present.

Art. 181. Power to Require Attendance.

Commanderies are authorized to make such regulations as may be necessary to require the attendance of their members at Conclaves.

The Commander is vested with power to cause summons to be issued to all resident members for such purpose when he may deem it expedient, and on extraordinary occasions, or upon order of the Grand Commander or his duly authorized representative, he may cause summons to issue to the entire membership.

Art. 182. (G 229). Summons.

A Summons issued by the Commander shall be attested by the Recorder under the Seal of the Commandery.

Art. 183. (G 230). Personally served.

A Summons may be personally served on the Knight Templar to whom it is addressed, or it may be left at his place of residence or business, or mailed to him at his usual address.

Art. 184. Seal Must Be Affixed.

It is necessary that the Seal, and not a facsimile, should be affixed to a Summons, but not to a notice.

Art. 185. Motions--Order of Vote.

The following motions shall be in order upon pending business, and shall have precedence in the order named:

- (1) To adopt.
- (2) To lay on the table (not debatable).
- (3) To refer to a standing committee.
- (4) To refer to a special committee.
- (5) To postpone indefinitely.
- (6) To postpone to a day certain.
- (7) To make a special order for a fixed time.
- (8) To amend.
- (9) To substitute.
- (10) To divide.
- (11) To strike out.

- (a) All questions of order shall be decided by the presiding officer, from which no appeal shall be allowed.
- (b) When a question is decided, the same subject shall not be acted upon again at the same Conclave, except upon a motion to reconsider, which must be made by a member who voted with the majority.
- (c) All debate is closed by the Commander arising from his seat, and when silence is obtained, he shall put the question to vote to decide the point at issue.
- (d) All questions shall be determined by a majority vote, unless otherwise expressly provided by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment or by the Statutes of this Grand Commandery. In case the votes are equally divided, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote. A member can have but one vote in a Commandery. The presiding officer votes only in case of a tie.

Art. 186. Appeal--How Perfected.

An appeal is perfected by giving notice of such appeal in open Commandery at the same or next subsequent Conclave, to which the proceedings appealed from were had, and by filing with the Grand Recorder before the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery a complete record and minutes of the Commandery, together with a complete and full statement of all the facts necessary to determine the issue, and attested by the Recorder under the Seal of the Commandery.

Art. 187. (G 65 a). Stated Conclaves at Least Quarterly.

Stated Conclaves of a Commandery shall be held at least quarterly at such place as may be specified in the Dispensation or Charter, or otherwise provided for by the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

The order of business may be as follows:

- (1) The reading of all unapproved minutes and action thereon.
- (2) Reports of officers and standing committees.
- (3) Reports of special committees and action thereon.
- (4) Reading petitions and reference to committees.
- (5) Unfinished business.
- (6) New business.

Art. 188. (G 65 b). Special Conclaves.

Special Conclaves of a Commandery may be called by the Commander or may be set by action of the Commandery. They may be held for the conferring of Orders, for Visitation and Inspection, for Schools of Instruction, or for such business as may be prescribed by law, at the place of Stated Conclaves, provided that such Conclaves for the purpose of conferring the Orders, Inspection, or School of Instruction may be

held any place within its jurisdiction. The notice or summons for all Special Conclaves shall specify the business to be transacted, and none other shall be considered at such Conclave.

Art. 189. (G 176). Failure to Hold Conclaves.

A Commandery that fails to hold a Conclave for twelve consecutive months, or to Knight a single candidate within such period, shall be placed on probation for the period of one year, and if thereafter it fails to hold a Conclave for the next twelve consecutive months or to Knight a single candidate within such period, its Charter may be arrested.

Art. 190. Reprimand.

When a Commandery is reprimanded by the Grand Commander or by the Grand Commandery, under the provisions of Article 189, each member of the Commandery so reprimanded shall be summoned to be present at a Stated or Special Conclave designated; at which Stated or Special Conclave the Commander of said Commandery shall read the reprimand to the assembled Commandery.

Art. 191. (G 176). Failure--Penalty.

Repealed at Grand Conclave 2018 due to possible conflict with Article 189.

Art. 192. Place of Holding Conclaves.

A Commandery can hold its Conclave only in the place designated in its Dispensation or Charter, except it may hold Special Conclaves for the conferring of the Orders, for Visitation and Inspection, for Schools of Instruction, and for religious observances, at any place within its Jurisdiction.

Art. 193. (G 216). Meeting on Sunday.

No Commandery or Grand Commandery shall hold a Conclave or perform any Templar work on Sunday, except for the purpose of conducting funerals, attending religious services, or conducting practice or tactical or other drills for instruction.

CHAPTER 25A

Rescinded 2010

CHAPTER 26

VISITATIONS

Art. 194. (G 223). Examination of Visitors.

If he is not otherwise properly vouched for, a Visitor must be examined by a committee of one or more members and the committee must report that it is convinced that the Visitor is a member in good standing of a recognized Commandery or Priory of Knights Templar, before the Visitor may be admitted to the Asylum.

Art. 195. (G 224). Objection to.

If a member objects, no member of another Commandery can be admitted into an Asylum unless he visits in an official capacity. The objection may be made openly in the Commandery or privately to the Commander, and in neither case can the objector be required to disclose the reason for his objection.

CHAPTER 27
DRILL REGULATIONS AND MANUAL OF THE ASYLUM

Art. 196. Drill and Manual.

The Knights Templar Drill Regulations, and Manual of the Asylum, as prepared under the supervision of the Committee on Templar Instruction, are hereby adopted for the use of this Grand Commandery and the Constituent Commanderies thereof in the Asylum, except that in the ceremonies of Opening and Closing, the regulations prescribed by the Rituals of the Grand Encampment shall govern. Drill regulations prescribed by the Grand Encampment control in Field Movements.

Art. 197. Conclaves for Drills and Instruction.

It shall be the duty of the Commanders of Commanderies to hold Conclaves for Drills and Instruction at least four times each year. Said Conclaves shall be opened with full ceremony, and with rehearsal of duties as adopted by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. If a Conclave for Drill and Rehearsal is held on the same date as a Stated Conclave, the Stated Conclave shall be conducted and Commandery closed, then the Special Conclave for Drill and Rehearsal shall be opened with full ceremonies and conducted using the Drill Regulations and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies prepared and adopted by the Grand Commandery K.T. of Texas. The Recorder of the Commandery shall report the date of, the attendance at, and the record of the Drill and Orders Rehearsal; and such reports shall be included in the Annual Returns of the Commandery. The drill exercises at these Special Conclaves shall include the formation of the lines for reception, rehearsal and cuts, formation of the Triangle, and sword manual and marching as laid down in the Manual of Drill Regulations and Asylum Ceremonies of the Grand Commandery. In addition, instruction in and rehearsal of the conferral of at least one of the Orders of Templary shall be conducted at each such Special Conclave, using the Ritual of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. in conjunction with the Manual of Asylum Ceremonies of this jurisdiction; and where the Ritual and Manual differ, the Manual of this Jurisdiction shall control.

If special assistance is requested by a Commandery, a member of the Committee on Templar Instruction for the District in which the Commandery is situated shall attend, on mutually satisfactory dates, at least one Special Conclave for Drill and/or Rehearsal held by the Commandery and shall assist the Commandery, its officers and its instructors in conducting the Drill and/or Rehearsal of the Orders. Expenses in the amount of the nearest actual mileage traveled by such Committee member from his home Commandery to one Special Conclave at each Commandery within the District and return shall be paid to such member by this Grand Commandery at the rate of twenty (0.20) cents per mile, and such mileage paid shall constitute the total sum payable to such Committee member for such travel and attendance at such Special Conclave at each Commandery.

The Special Conclaves for Drill and Instruction shall be in addition to and independent of the Schools of Instruction held by the Grand Officers in each such District.

Art. 198. Drill Teams May Combine.

Two or more Commanderies may join efforts and form a drill team for the purpose of drill and competition, providing they obtain the consent of the Field Drill Committee, who will issue regulations and procedures for carrying out such combination. Any expense money received shall be prorated between these Commanderies according to the number of Sir Knights in the team from each Commandery.

Art. 199. Drill Teams, Financial Assistance.

All Commanderies entering Drill Teams in competition and complying with other rules shall receive the following assistance toward paying their expenses, to wit:

Drill Teams located in the entertaining city shall receive: Class "A", \$100.00; Class "B", \$65.00; Class "C", \$50.00; Class "D", \$40.00.

Drill Teams located within 100 miles shall receive: Class "A", \$682.00; Class "B", \$462.00; Class "C", \$330.00; Class "D", \$154.00.

Drill Teams located more than 100 miles away shall receive: Class "A", \$1,023.00; Class "B", \$693.00; Class "C", \$495.00; Class "D", \$231.00.

Service Award for Drill Teams

A. the Five and 10 Year Medal shall be replaced with a bar to be attached to drill team efficiency metal for multiples of five years to be awarded by the Grand Commandery to Those Knights Templar who have achieved these plateaus.

1. 5 year red.
2. 10 year silver.
3. 15 year green
4. 20 year blue.
5. 25 year gold
6. 30 year purple.
7. Over 30 years gold.

B. The Grand Recorder shall purchase a supply of these bars to be distributed to Constituent Commandery Drill Teams at the same time they receive their drill bars.

Triennial assistance;

A system of points agreed upon at the beginning of a triennial period by the Drill Team Captains and the Committee on Field Drill shall be utilized to determine the representative of this Grand Commandery for all classes of field drill competition at the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment. If a drill team declines to privilege of attending said compensation shall be provided to the team having the next most points.

Drill Team Assistance Shall Be Determined by the Committee on Finance after it has received a recommendation from the Committee on Field Drill.

No member of a drill team may draw an allowance for a drill team and also receive other compensation for travel to the Triennial Conclave from this Grand Commandery.

Art. 200. Asylum Tactics Teams, Financial Assistance and Service Awards.

Each Commandery, participating in the Asylum competition, located more than 100 miles from the Grand Commandery Conclave shall receive the sum of \$100.00, and those Commanderies located less than 100 miles from the Grand Commandery Conclave shall receive the sum of \$50.00.

Service Award for Ritual Teams

A. A Ritual Bar to be given to each Sir Knight who participates on a Ritual Team to be made of metal. It is suggested that these bars to be approximately 1 ½ inch in length and 1/4 inch in width. Each bar would have an eyelet on the top and bottom of each bar to facilitate the addition of future bars.

B. These bars shall be awarded in the following classifications:

1. Blue - to each member of the first-place team.
2. Red - to each member of the second place team.
3. White - to each member of the third-place team.
3. Gold - to each member of the remaining teams.
4. Green - to each member of the Committee on Templar Instruction in recognition of their service to the Grand Commandery of Texas.

C. These bars shall be suspended from a top bar with a pen back which will attach to the uniform. The top bar will state "ritual". From the bottom or last bar will be suspended a medallion with the emblem of the Grand Commandery of Texas.

D. A Sir Knight who competes for the first time on a Ritual Team be presented with the top bar and bottom medallion for his participation.

E. Those Sir Knights who have participated in a Ritual Competition in past years be allowed to purchase a top bar and bottom medallion, as well as bars, for any team on which they participated in the past.

CHAPTER 28

RETURNS OF COMMANDERIES

Art. 201. Returns, When Made.

For the purposes as hereinafter set forth, the Templar year in Texas shall be coincident with the Calendar year, viz: January 1 to December 31, both inclusive.

The several Commanderies shall make annual returns to the Grand Commandery . they shall contain such information as the Grand Recorder shall require, in such form as the Grand Recorder shall prescribe.

Art. 202. Grand Commandery Fees and Dues.

Each Commandery shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Commandery at the time of making its annual returns the sum of ten dollars for each Red Cross, ten dollars for each Malta, and ten dollars for each Knight Templar dubbed and created during the Templar year and the further sum of fifteen dollars and such additional tax as may be assessed by the Grand Encampment from time to time, for each Knight Templar borne upon the rolls of the Commandery on December 31st, each year. Likewise, said Commandery shall pay the annual dues on each Knight Templar allowed to remain on its rolls as a member during the year and suspending him for nonpayment of dues at any Conclave held during the month of December of any year.

Art. 203. Duty of Recorder.

It shall be the duty of the Recorder of each Commandery in this jurisdiction to send to the Grand Recorder before the fifteenth day of January succeeding his election the Annual Returns of his Commandery, together with proof of filing of Form 990 for the previous year to this Grand Commandery. He shall also transmit with said returns the dues and fees owing to this Grand Commandery.

Art. 204. Duty of Recorder - Fifty Year Membership Report.

It shall be the duty of the Recorder of each Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction to send to the Grand Recorder not later than November 15 of the calendar year the name and address of each Sir Knight who will attain fifty years of membership in good standing during the following calendar year.

Art. 205. Penalty for Failure to Make Returns.

A Commandery failing to make returns as required by the preceding Articles, shall be subject to being declared ineligible for any awards presented by the Grand Commandery of Texas and Knightly Discipline.

CHAPTER 29

REMOVAL OF COMMANDERIES

Art. 206. Removal of Commandery.

A Commandery may be removed from one town or city and established in another locality only by authority of this Grand Commandery.

Whenever three or more members of a Commandery shall sign a written declaration that they deem it for the best interests of Templary or the Commandery to remove it to another town or city in adjacent territory and shall present a resolution to that effect the Commander at a Stated Conclave, the Commander shall

cause same to be read in open Commandery and recorded in the minutes thereof. The resolution shall lay over to the next Stated Conclave for action. It shall be the duty of the Recorder to give written notice to each member of the proposal to remove the Commandery and of the date when action shall be taken on the resolution. If a majority of the members present vote in favor of the removal it shall be reported to the Grand Recorder promptly with a certified copy of the resolution and of the minutes showing the result of the ballot thereon. If this Grand Commandery approves the action of the Commandery, it shall become effective from the date of such approval.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Recorder to promptly certify to the Commandery the action of this Grand Commandery on said resolution.

When a Commandery has been authorized to remove to another town or city by this Grand Commandery as herein provided, it may thereafter move to its new location without further formality or requirement and resume its activities.

Art. 207. Suitable Asylum Shall Be Provided.

This Grand Commandery shall not authorize the removal of a Commandery from one town or city to another until it is satisfied that the Commandery has arranged for an Asylum adapted or suitable for the requirements of such Commandery.

Art. 208. (G 217). Asylum--Removal of.

A Constituent Commandery with the approval of the Grand Commander, may remove its Asylum from one building to another in the same municipality by a vote of a majority of its members present at a Stated Conclave after due notice of the proposed change.

CHAPTER 30

CONSOLIDATION OF COMMANDERIES

Art. 209. (G 169). Procedure.

The Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery may investigate and may determine to initiate proceedings to consolidate two or more Commanderies if in their judgment it should be undertaken. He shall cause a conference to be held by him with the Eminent Commanders of the Commanderies involved. Two or more Commanderies having concurrent jurisdiction or stationed in adjoining jurisdictions may be consolidated into one Commandery, provided that the proposition for such consolidation shall be presented at a Stated Conclave of each Commandery, and which proposition shall be acted upon at a subsequent Stated Conclave. Notice thereof shall be mailed to all Members of each Commandery involved at least ten days prior to such Conclave.

A consolidation shall not be effected unless at least two-thirds of the Members present at each Commandery vote in favor of the proposition. Two or more Commanderies having thus decided to consolidate, may unite under the Charter of one of said Commanderies, retaining the Officers thereof, or they may elect new Officers by a proper Dispensation. The Charter or Charters surrendered must be deposited with the Grand Recorder.

The title of all property and effects of the merged or consolidated Commanderies shall, upon such merger and consolidation, ipso facto vest in and be and become the property of the Commandery whose Charter is retained and continued, and the consolidated or continued Commandery shall be liable for all indebtedness of the several Commanderies merged or consolidated.

A full report of the proceedings of the respective Commanderies, showing the vote favorable to, and adverse to, merger or consolidation, shall be promptly made and forwarded by the respective Recorders, duly certified, to the Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery if in session. Upon approval by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery, as the case may be, the Commanderies interested in the merger or consolidation shall be promptly advised. The merger or consolidation shall be effective, full and complete, and all members of the Commanderies merged or consolidated shall immediately and

thereupon be and become members of the consolidated Commandery whose Charter is retained and continued.

All Past Commanders in good standing and the Commander of the Commandery surrendering its Charter shall become Affiliated Past Commanders of the consolidated Commandery whose Charter is retained and continued.

CHAPTER 31

SURRENDER OR ARREST OF CHARTER

Art. 210. (G 171). Surrender of.

The Charter of a Commandery may be surrendered by a two-thirds vote of its members present at any Stated Conclave, provided that a written resolution proposing such surrender shall have been read and filed with the Recorder at the Stated Conclave next immediately preceding, and that at least twenty-one days notice of such proposal shall have been given to each member of the Commandery.

If two-thirds of the members present vote for the proposition, the vote thereon shall be entered of record and a brief statement of the reasons for such surrender of Charter shall be entered in the minutes, and the Commandery shall cease its labors. The Commander and the Recorder shall immediately make out a complete list of the assets and liabilities of the Commandery; also a list of members whose dues are fully paid to date of surrender of the Charter, and the names and addresses of all members in arrears for dues, together with the amount owing by each, and shall cause same to be entered on the minutes thereof.

Complete copies of all the proceedings had thereon shall be promptly transmitted to the Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder. If the Grand Commander approves the action of the Commandery, all its effects, including its Charter, records rituals, property and funds, shall be surrendered to the Grand Recorder.

Such approvals shall be reported to this Grand Commandery for its final action. If the Grand Commandery refuses to confirm the proceedings, the Commandery shall resume its functions until the next Conclave of this Grand Commandery, when further consideration may be given to the subject.

Art. 211. (G 173). Effect.

The forfeiture or surrender of the Charter of a Commandery does not affect the good standing of the members thereof.

Art. 212. (G 172). Charter Cannot Be Used Again.

A Charter surrendered or arrested cannot be used to form a new Commandery, nor can it be restored by this Grand Commandery.

CHAPTER 32

DEMISED COMMANDERIES

Art. 213. Definition.

The term "demised" shall apply to Commanderies whose Charters have been revoked by final action of this Grand Commandery.

Art. 214. Status of Members

A member of a Commandery which has ceased to exist from any cause other than having consolidated with another Commandery, is not liable for dues to such Commandery after the same has demised as that term is defined by law.

The Grand Commandery has the right to collect from the members of such extinct Commandery all dues chargeable against them at the time it demised, and to discipline those who refuse or neglect to pay same.

When such Commandery is demised, its members may join another Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction, regardless of his domicile therein, upon petition accompanied by a certificate of the Grand Recorder attesting that his standing was good when said Commandery demised, or that he has subsequently paid all dues owing by him to such Commandery and has thereby restored himself to good standing as a non-affiliate.

The status of members of a Commandery whose Charter has been revoked by final action of this Grand Commandery shall be that of nonaffiliated Knights Templar.

The funds and other property of such extinct Commandery becomes the property of the Grand Commandery.

Art. 215. Duty of Commander of Demised Commandery.

It is the duty of the presiding officer, at the date of the demising of a Commandery, to see that the Charter, Seal, funds, records, rituals and other books and papers, and unless otherwise directed, the paraphernalia, are sent to the office of the Grand Recorder, and the Recorder of the demised Commandery shall send with them a certified list of all members in good standing at the date of demise, with statement of dues owing by each one.

Art. 216. Revoked Charters.

When the Charter of a Commandery has been revoked for any cause by final action of this Grand Commandery, it shall not be revived again and the Commandery shall stand demised.

Art. 217. (G 174). Member of Extinct Commanderies.

When the Charter of a Commandery shall have been surrendered or revoked, any former member of such Commandery who had been previously suspended because of having been suspended in Lodge, Chapter or Council for nonpayment of dues, upon payment to the Grand Recorder of any dues owing to his Commandery and his reinstatements as a member in good standing of his Lodge, Chapter and Council (and still so being in Lodge, Chapter and Council) may be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing, to be issued by the Grand Recorder under Seal of the Grand Commandery, which shall have the effect of a Demit, provided however, as a prerequisite to the issuance of such Certificate, the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder must be thoroughly satisfied after careful inquiry and investigation that such member is of good repute and high character, and deserving and trustworthy.

Art. 218. Renewal of Charter.

When the Charter of a Commandery has been revoked for any reason, it shall not be restored. This Grand Commandery at a subsequent Annual Conclave may grant a new Charter upon the petition of not less than nine of the former members upon the following conditions:

Each petitioner shall furnish certificates duly attested by the proper officer and attached to the petition for a new Charter as follows:

- (1) A certificate of his Lodge membership, showing that all dues in arrears have been paid and certifying that he is in good standing and with no charges pending against him.
- (2) A certificate showing that he is a member in good standing in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and a Council of Royal and Select Masters, with all dues in arrears paid and no charges against him.
- (3) A certificate from the Grand Recorder of this Grand Commandery showing that he was a member of the Commandery at the time of its demise, and that all dues owing by him have been paid and no charges were pending against him. If the Grand Recorder is unable, from the records in his office, to certify the

names of such petitioners or any of them as members of such demised Commandery, then certificates from other Knights Templar who can attest the fact may be furnished.

4) A certificate of the petitioner showing that he has not since the demise affiliated with another Commandery, or in lieu thereof his Certificate of Demit from the Commandery.

In case this Grand Commandery grants the new Charter, only such petitioners shall be Charter Members thereof, other former members must petition for membership by affiliation as in case of petition to any other Commandery.

CHAPTER 33

OFFICERS OF A COMMANDERY

Art. 219. (G 6). Officers and Members.

The officers and members of a constituent Commandery shall be those enumerated in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer and Recorder shall each be elected, and the remaining officers shall be elected or appointed as provided by the by-laws of the Commandery.

If only one name is placed in nomination for any elective office, upon proper motion adopted, the election may be made by acclamation. A majority vote of all members present and voting is necessary to an election.

Art. 220. (G 139). Eligibility.

Any Knight Templar in good standing is eligible to any office in the Commandery of which he is a member. No Sir Knight can hold Two Elected Offices in a Commandery, or Commanderies, at the same time.

Art. 221. (G 66). Quorum.

No election for officers shall be held unless there are present at least nine members of the Commandery, nor shall any Sir Knight be declared elected to any office unless he shall receive a majority of all votes cast. Blank ballots are not votes and cannot be considered as such. Members of another Commandery cannot be counted in making a legal quorum for the election of officers.

Art. 222. Nominations.

Nominations may be made for elective officers in the Commandery but shall be limited to Proposing the name and the office to which the member is nominated.

Art. 223. Annual Elections.

Commanderies must hold their annual election of officers at their last Stated Conclave before the end of November of each year, provided that if such election for any reason be not held, same may, under a dispensation from the Grand Commander, be held at any Stated or Special Conclave called for that purpose on or before December 31st following. Otherwise, the old officers shall hold over.

Art. 224. Suspension from Office.

The Grand Commander may, for good cause shown, after investigation suspend any officer of a Commandery from his office, who may become subject to charges for an offense against the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, or of the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery or the By-laws of his Commandery, or for failure or willful neglect to perform the duties of his office; but such suspension shall be from office only, and shall not continue beyond the term of his office, or the close of

the following Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery, unless otherwise provided by this Grand Commandery. All such suspensions shall be reported by the Grand Commander with full details to this Grand Commandery for review and action thereon.

Art. 225. Suspension of Commander.

In case of the suspension from office of the Commander, the Grand Commander may cause him to be summoned before this Grand Commandery to answer the charges brought against him.

Art. 226. Vacancies Arising from Suspension.

In any case where any officer is suspended from his office, the office shall be filled, pro tempore at each Conclave, until the reinstatement of such officer, or until the next election of officers by the Commandery if such election is held before the Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery following such suspension. In case of the suspension of the three principal officers of a Commandery, the Grand Commander is authorized to grant a Dispensation to fill such vacancies, pro tempore, until such officers are reinstated or until the next election of officers by the Commandery.

Art. 227. Resignation of Officers.

Any officer of a Commandery may resign his office by filing a written resignation with the Recorder, save that the resignation of the Recorder shall be filed with the Commander, provided that the resignation shall not be effective until accepted by the Commandery.

Art. 228. (G 234). Vacancy, How Filled.

A vacancy in any office in a Commandery shall be filled as prescribed in Section 72 and 76 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

Art. 229. (G 235). Retention of Rank.

One who has filled by installation and term of service, the office of Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo or Grand Captain General in a Grand Commandery; or Commander in a Commandery; shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him in the Grand Commandery and Commandery, with the word "Past" immediately preceding and qualifying the official title. Past rank is limited to the offices named in this Article, provided that an officer who is installed and thereafter dies during his term of office shall be entitled to be considered as having filled his term of office. (This provision is retroactive to 1964.)

Art. 230. (G 236). Officer Resigning.

A member resigning from any of the offices enumerated in the preceding section shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him in which he has served a full term, and shall not retain the title of the office occupied by him at the time of his resignation.

Art. 231. (G 237). Commanders U. D.

The Commander of a Commandery Under Dispensation does not become a Past Commander when such Commandery is Chartered or the Dispensation is terminated.

Art. 232. (G 237a). Honorary Titles

Honorary titles may be conferred upon Sir Knights who have rendered long, outstanding and distinguished service in the cause of Templary in conformity with the provisions hereof. No titles of office, whether active or honorary, shall be conferred by this Grand Commandery, or any Constituent Commandery except the title of active officers named in, or authorized by, the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, or honorary titles as authorized in this Article. This Grand Commandery and each Constituent Commandery shall have the right, in conformity to the provisions of this Article, to confer honorary titles as follows:

(a) This Grand Commandery may confer the honorary titles of Honorary Past Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer Emeritus, Grand Recorder Emeritus, and Grand Prelate Emeritus upon written approval of the Grand Master;

(b) Constituent Commanderies may confer the honorary titles of Honorary Past Commander, Treasurer Emeritus, Recorder Emeritus, and Prelate Emeritus upon written approval of the Grand Commander of this jurisdiction.

(c) The holder of such honorary title shall have no right, by virtue of such honorary title, to exercise any of the functions or powers of the office as to which he holds an honorary title, nor shall he by virtue of such honorary title wear the jewel of the office to which such title pertains. The holder of such honorary title, however, shall be privileged to wear the uniform and shoulder straps of the office to which such honorary title applies, and there may be conferred upon him a jewel and shoulder straps appropriate to his honorary title, provided that such jewel and shoulder straps must bear a specific notation that the title which it represents is honorary only.

(d) Such honorary titles shall not be conferred upon any Sir Knight other than a member of the respective Commandery or Grand Commandery by which the honorary title is conferred.

(e) The precedence of rank for holders of such honorary titles shall be in the order of seniority appropriate to the office for which the honorary title is applicable, except that

(1) The holder of the title of a past officer by virtue of service shall take precedence over the holder of an honorary title, and provided further

(2) In this Grand Commandery the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, and all Past Grand Commanders shall take precedence over all holders of honorary titles, and

(3) In any Constituent Commandery the Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, and all Past Commanders shall take precedence over all holders of honorary titles.

CHAPTER 34

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Art. 233. Installation, When.

All officers required to be installed must be installed as soon after their election as practicable and not later than January 15. Uniforms are required for all Officers.

Art. 234. Dispensation to Install.

Should any elected officer become incapacitated or for any justifiable reason be unable to be installed prior to January 15 following election, the Grand Commander may, at his discretion, issue a Special Dispensation to install said officer at a future date as soon as practicable.

Art. 235. Refusal to be Installed.

Should any elected officer of the Commandery refuse to be installed therein, the Grand Commander may issue a Dispensation authorizing an election to fill such vacancy, in case the Sir Knight filling said office for the preceding year has been elected to, and been installed into another office in the Commandery.

Art. 236. Installation in Person.

Elected officers of a Commandery must be installed in person. Appointed officers may be installed by proxy.

Art. 237. (G 146). Reelected Officers Not Installed.

It is not necessary for a reelected Officer to be installed, as he holds over by virtue of his former election and installation until his successor is installed.

Art. 238. (G 143). Who May Install.

The officers of a Constituent Commandery may be installed by the Commander or by any Past Commander of any Commandery.

Art. 239. (G 144). What Must Be Present.

A. Before the Installing Officer administers the Vow of Office in a Constituent Commandery, he shall see that the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Manual of Asylum Tactics and Ritual, and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery are in the possession of the incoming Commander or properly accounted for.

B. Copies of the Grand Commandery Statutes and Regulations, Manual of Asylum Tactics and Ritual of the Grand Encampment, 1979 Edition, shall be furnished to the Commander to be used during his year and to be passed to his successor.

Art. 240. Vow of Office.

Officers of every Commandery, before entering upon the exercise of the duties of their respective offices, will take the following vow, viz:

"I (A. B.), do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America; the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of this Jurisdiction; and the By-laws of this Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been chosen, to the best of my ability".

Art. 241. (G 145). Public Installation.

A Constituent Commandery may hold a public installation in its own Asylum, but not elsewhere without a Dispensation from the Grand Commander.

All officers of the Constituent Commanderies shall be installed into office in a formal ceremony for such purpose. Such installation may be conducted at a Public Ceremony. The incoming Eminent Commander, as soon as elected, shall be charged with the responsibility of making suitable arrangements therefor, and for the appointment of the Installing Officer, Marshal and Prelate for such ceremony.

Art. 242. Roster of New Officers.

After the officers of a Commandery are installed it shall be the duty of the Recorder to transmit a complete list of the officers, with their addresses, promptly to the Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder within thirty (30) days.

CHAPTER 35

COMMANDER--POWER AND DUTIES

Art. 243. Powers of the Commander.

The Commander shall have the power:

- (1) To preside at all Conclaves of his Commandery.
- (2) To appoint all officers of the Commandery whose election is not provided for in the Statutes or By-laws of the Commandery.
- (3) To appoint all committees.
- (4) To fill any vacancy in office, pro tempore, for the period of the Conclave.
- (5) To cause to be issued all summonses and notices which may be required.
- (6) To require all members of his Commandery present to vote upon all questions coming before the Commandery.
- (7) To discharge all executive functions of his Commandery.
- (8) To represent his Commandery, together with the Generalissimo and Captain General, in this Grand Commandery.
- (9) To exercise such other powers as may be granted by the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment; Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery; the By-laws of his Commandery; and such other duties which by custom and usage pertain to his office.
- (10) To exercise general supervision and control over the business affairs of the Commandery. (Revised 2000)

Art. 244. Duties of the Commander.

It shall be the duty of the Commander:

- (1) To open his Commandery in Stated Conclave at the time and place prescribed in the By-laws.
- (2) To see that all the officers of his Commandery faithfully perform the duties of their respective offices.
- (3) To suffer no violation of the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals Of the Grand Encampment, the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery or the By-laws of his own Commandery upon any plea of convenience or expediency, nor shall he deviate therefrom In any case without a Dispensation from the Grand Commander.
- (4) To prudently use the power of issuing summonses but to see that disobedience of a summons is followed by prompt discipline unless a proper excuse is rendered to the Commandery and he be excused therefrom.
- (5) To see that the regular returns are made annually to this Grand Commandery, and that the Grand Commandery fees and dues are promptly paid at the time prescribed by the Statutes and Regulations.
- (6) To cause all necessary notices to be issued in the prescribed manner and form.
- (7) To cause all general and special orders or other official communications received from the Grand Commander or from this Grand Commandery to be read aloud in the Commandery and noted in the minutes at the Stated Conclave following their receipt.
- (8) To see that the ritualistic work of the several Orders conforms to the work as prescribed by the Rituals of the Grand Encampment and to allow no innovations therein.
- (9) To perform such other duties as may be required by the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery and the By-laws of his Commandery.

Art. 245. Committee on Charity.

The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General shall constitute a standing Committee on Charity. The Commander and one other of said committee may act at any time, or in the absence of the Commander, the Generalissimo and Captain General may act.

It shall be their duty to examine all claimants for assistance, and in case of an emergency, and if necessary, they may order a warrant drawn on the Treasurer for such relief as may be reasonable and within the financial resources of the Commandery available for such purposes; reporting the facts in each case to the Commandery at its next Stated Conclave thereafter.

Art. 246. Other Committees.

The Commander may appoint special committees to aid in carrying on the work of the Commandery, or any activities of the Commandery under the direction of the Commander.

CHAPTER 36

GENERALISSIMO AND CAPTAIN GENERAL

Art. 247. Duties.

It shall be the duty of the Generalissimo and Captain General to assist the Commander in the discharge of the duties of his office, when requested, and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to them. In the temporary absence of the Commander, the duties of his office shall be discharged by the Generalissimo, and in the absence of both by the Captain General.

Art. 248. Special Conclaves.

Neither the Generalissimo nor the Captain General can call a Special Conclave of the Commandery while the Commander is within the territorial jurisdiction of the Commandery and is able to authorize a call.

Art. 249. Powers.

When either the Generalissimo or the Captain General is presiding in the absence of the Commander, he may exercise all the powers of a Commander.

CHAPTER 37

TREASURER

Art. 250. Receipt and Deposit of Funds.

The Treasurer shall render a formal receipt to the Recorder for all monies received, accounting for same annually and at such other times as the Commandery may require. All funds of the Commandery shall be deposited by the Treasurer in the name of the Commandery and shall be paid out only upon the orders of the Commandery, or the Commander, on warrants registered and approved by the Recorder and countersigned by the Commander.

No warrant shall be drawn upon the Treasury except pursuant to an appropriation duly made by the Commander, except funds for an emergent charitable purpose may be withdrawn when approved by a majority of the Committee on Charity, and warrants to pay the annual dues and fees due this Grand Commandery may be drawn and paid when ordered by the Commander.

Art. 251. Bonds for Treasurers and Recorders.

The Treasurer and Recorder of each Commandery shall be bonded under a good and sufficient bond, in a sum not less than the annual amount of money averaged over the preceding three years, passing through the hands of the respective officer, with corporate surety or ample and solvent personal sureties (not less than two), or shall be bonded by the Grand Commandery of Texas as hereinafter provided, to fully protect the Commandery against loss. It shall be the duty of the Commander to see that such bonding is properly

affected and that the bonds are filed with him promptly, after each such officer assumes his office. It shall also be incumbent on the Commander to report to the Grand Commander on or before February 1st, the compliance or noncompliance with this Article 251, and if not complied with the Grand Commander shall take the matter up with the Commandery, and if such bonding is not properly effected on or before March 1, the Grand Commander shall declare the office or offices vacant, and order an election, after proper notice as may be directed by the Grand Commander, to fill any vacancy or vacancies. The power and authority here given the Grand Commander shall be continuous and continuing to the end requiring that the Treasurer and Recorder be properly bonded.

If any Commandery so elects, its Treasurer and Recorder shall be bonded by the Grand Commandery of Texas in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) each, at a cost of ten dollars (\$10.00) annually, such cost to be borne by the Commandery until such time as the Commandery shall have paid the sum of Fifty dollars (\$50.00), at which time the Commandery shall become a perpetual member of the plan. Any Commandery shall be allowed to purchase additional bonding units in increments of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to the extent necessary to conform to the provisions of this Article 252. Such additional increments are to be paid for at the same rate and in the same manner as that stipulated for the First one thousand dollars of coverage; provided however, that no Commandery shall become a perpetual member as to any additional increment purchased until the cost to the Commandery attributable to that increment shall have amounted to fifty dollars (\$50.00). If any Commandery so elects, the fifty dollar requirement for perpetual membership may be paid in full on the first thousand dollar coverage or on any additional increment at the time of purchase or any renewal thereof.

The Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder shall deposit all funds received from this bonding service as directed by the Finance Committee.

The bonding responsibility of the Grand Commandery for the period prior to and covered by each annual audit of the books of the Treasurer and the Recorder required under Article 253 of these Statutes and Regulations shall cease at the time of acceptance and approval by the Commandery of the report called for in that Article.

Art. 252. Audit of Books of Treasurer and Recorder Required.

It shall be the duty of the Commander as soon after installation as convenient, to appoint a Committee of three (3) qualified members, or a certified public account, whose duty it shall be to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Recorder for the year just ended, and make prompt report thereof, utilizing the minimum audit report form or it equivalent to the Commandery, said report being read in open Commandery at a Stated Conclave and recorded in full in the minutes thereof, no later than the March Stated Meeting.

Art. 253. Report of Audit of Treasurer's Books.

The report of audit of the Treasurer's books and accounts shall include an itemized statement of all monies received by him from all sources during the past year; the amounts paid out; the balance remaining in his hands on the 31st day of December preceding, together with a List of all other assets and liabilities.

Art. 254. Report of Audit of Recorder's Books.

The report of the audit of the Recorder's books and accounts shall include an itemized statement of all monies and other assets received by him during the year ending December 31st preceding, and the amounts thereof delivered to the Treasurer, including the dates of such payments; the amount of money remaining in his hands on the 31st day of December preceding; and that he holds proper receipts for all monies paid to the Treasurer.

CHAPTER 38

RECORDER

Art. 255. (G 74). Duties.

The duties of the Recorder of a Constituent Commander, in addition to those required by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, shall be:

(1) To report annually, on or before JANUARY 15TH, to the Grand Recorder the roll of officers and such other information as may be prescribed by this Grand Commandery, and with said report remit the dues and fees due to this Grand Commandery; to transmit promptly to the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder copies of all By-laws and Resolutions adopted by the Commandery.

(2) To fill out forms furnished for the purpose, and promptly to transmit to the Grand Commander or his representative, information required in connection with the Annual Visitation and Inspection of the Commandery.

(3) To send to the Grand Recorder not later than November 15 of the calendar year the name and address of each Sir Knight who will attain fifty years of membership in good standing during the following calendar year.

(4) The Recorder in conjunction with Treasurer shall be required to file all such forms and documents with all Government Bodies such as, but not limited to, form 990s.

Art. 256. Compensation.

The Recorder shall receive such compensation for his services as may be appropriated by the Commandery.

CHAPTER 39

OTHER OFFICER

Art. 257. Duties.

It shall be the duty of each of the other officers of the Commandery to perform such duties as are prescribed by the Ritual; by the By-laws of the Commandery, and such as are traditionally associated with his office.

It shall be the special duty of the Sentinel to have general charge of the rooms, furniture, paraphernalia and equipment of the Commandery not otherwise specified. He shall put the Asylum in suitable array for the Conclaves of the Commandery. The Sentinel shall receive such compensation for his services as maybe appropriated by the Commandery.

CHAPTER 40

MEMBERS OF A COMMANDERY

Art. 258 (G 200). Who Are Members.

Those to whom a Charter is issued and those who receive the Orders in a Commandery are ipso facto Members thereof except where the Orders have been conferred for and by request of another Commandery.

Art. 259. Status of Members of the Red Cross and Priory.

Initiates of a Council of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, or Priory of the Knights of Malta, are members of such bodies and entitled to visit same, but they are not members of the Commandery and cannot visit in same, or demit, and are not entitled to a Templar funeral,

Art. 260. Duties of Members.

It shall be the duties of members of a Commandery to attend the Conclaves of the Commandery; to perform such duties as the Commandery or the Commander may assign to them; to promptly pay their dues; to ever be reverential toward God, obedient to the laws of our country as well as the Constitution, Statues and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and the By-laws of their Commandery; to practice charity and cultivate the strongest possible ties of fraternal devotion and Knightly courtesy among the Sir Knights of the Commandery; to support, defend and practice the Christian faith; observe the moral law, and generously support the beneficial and charitable undertakings of the Commandery.

It shall be the special duty of all members of, a Commandery to attend the Conclave call for the observance of Easter, Ascension Day and Christmas ceremonies, and also a Patriotic Observance.

Art. 261. Honorary Members.

A Commandery by unanimous ballot, after due reference to a committee and ballot taken at a subsequent Stated Conclave, may elect as an Honorary Member a member of another Commandery, but such election does not confer the right to vote, nor does it create any liability for dues.

CHAPTER 41

DEMIT

Art. 262 (G 192). Member Entitled to Demit.

Upon written request being approved it shall be the duty of the Recorder to enter same upon the minutes and issue to such member a Demit.

Art. 263. Demit Lost.

If any Knight Templar shall lose his certificate of demission, or the same shall be destroyed, the Recorder of the Commandery shall, upon request and satisfactory proof of such loss or destruction, furnish him another certificate with the original date and the fact of re-issuance noted on the Demit and entered upon the minutes.

Art. 264. Member with Charges on Appeal Cannot Demit.

A member of a Commandery who has been tried on charges, and whose case is pending on appeal to this Grand Commandery, shall not be entitled to a Demit until the case is finally disposed of and the penalty, if any, has been fully satisfied.

Art. 265. Others Not Entitled to Demit.

A member who has only received the Order of the Red Cross or Knight of Malta, or both, is not entitled to a Demit. Only a member who has received the Order of Knight Templar shall be entitled thereto.

CHAPTER 42

SUSPENSION OF MEMBER

Art. 266. (G 201). Non-affiliation in Lodge, Chapter, or Council.

Voluntary non-affiliation in a Lodge, Chapter or Council for six months shall deprive a Knight Templar of his membership in the Commandery.

Art. 267. " Voluntary Non-affiliation" Defined.

The term voluntary Non-affiliation" as used in Art. 267 shall be construed so as to apply to any Knight Templar who has voluntarily ceased to be a member of his Lodge, his Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, or his Council of Royal and Select Masters, and has not within the preceding six months applied for membership in his former or some other Lodge, Chapter or Council, as the case may be.

ART. 268. (G 202). Suspension from Lodge, Chapter, or Council, Effect.

When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled from his Lodge, Chapter, or Council for any reason, he shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may be, from his Commandery.

Art. 269. Judgment Conclusive.

When the suspension or expulsion is made or confirmed by the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, or Grand Council, as the case may be, the Commandery cannot go behind the record or adjudicate upon the question of jurisdiction.

Art. 270. (G 204). Suspension or Expulsion for Unknighly Conduct.

Acquittal by a Lodge, or Acquittal, suspension or expulsion by a Chapter or Council, of unmasonic conduct does not deprive a Commandery of the right to try a member thereof for the same or other offenses committed either before, during, or after his trial in the Lodge, Chapter or Council.

Art. 271. (G 205). Effect of Suspension or Expulsion.

Suspension or expulsion of a Knight Templar by the Grand Encampment, a Grand Commandery, or a Commandery deprives him of membership in the Commandery and all rights and privileges of Knighthood so long as the judgment remains in force.

Art. 272. (G 207). Suspension for Non-payment of Dues.

The Commander shall supervise and determine whether it is advisable to remit the dues of a delinquent member because of illness, infirmity, or financial inability, and shall recommend to his Commandery the remission of dues when he deems the same justified. If the Commander does not see fit to recommend the remission of dues of a delinquent member, he shall appoint a committee of at least two members to make a personal call, if possible, upon such delinquent member with reference thereto. The report of such committee shall be reviewed by the Commander and shall be reported to the Commandery. The process of suspension shall be undertaken only after the foregoing preliminary requirements have been met.

Thereupon, the Commander shall see to it that the Recorder send either a certified or registered letter to the delinquent member at his last known address, giving official notice of intention to suspend such member, including the date and hour when the suspension proceedings will be brought before the Commandery for action. At the time when such suspension proceedings are brought before the Commandery, the Commander shall first inform the Commandery of all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding such delinquent member and shall exhibit the return receipt of the certified or registered letter to the delinquent member, or the unclaimed certified or registered letter, before any action shall be taken by the Commandery.

Art. 273. (G 208). Vote on Suspension.

When a member of a Commandery is summoned to show cause why he should not be suspended for nonpayment of dues and fails to appear, the Commander cannot declare him suspended until the Commandery has so voted.

Art. 274. Dues Shall Not Accrue During Suspension.

Dues shall not accrue during the suspension of members, hence Commanderies shall not be required to pay dues to this Grand Commandery on such members for the period during which they remain suspended.

CHAPTER 43

RESTORATION TO MEMBERSHIP

Art. 275. (G 203). Restoration After Suspension.

When a member of a Commandery has been suspended or expelled from his Commandery solely because of his suspension or expulsion from his Lodge, Chapter, or Council, restoration in such Lodge, Chapter and Council shall entitle him to restoration in his Commandery, provided written petition for same shall be presented at a Stated Conclave prior to the one at which such restoration is to be voted upon. Vote shall be by ballot, and if the vote for restoration is a majority, he shall be restored to membership in his Commandery.

Art. 276. (G 206) Restoration to Membership.

When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled for unknighly conduct, he may be restored to membership on petition only if the ballot is unanimous.

Art. 277. (G 203). Automatic Reinstatement.

A member of a Commandery who has been suspended by his Commandery solely for nonpayment of dues, may automatically reinstate himself to both good standing in the Order and membership in the Commandery suspending him by the payment within two years from the date of his Suspension of the amount in arrears at said date or as may be reduced, and a mandatory \$10.00 reinstatement fee. After the expiration of two years from that date of suspension, he may only be reinstated to good standing in the Order and membership in the Commandery which suspended him by the payment of the amount due for which he was suspended, or as may be reduced, a mandatory \$10.00 reinstatement fee and upon the majority vote of the Commandery, upon written application for such reinstatement presented at a Stated Conclave. The application may be acted upon at the same Conclave at which presented. The vote shall be by ballot as in the case of application for affiliation.

Art. 278. Restoration of Member of Demised Commandery.

When a Sir Knight is suspended for nonpayment or was in arrears for his dues and his Commandery subsequently demises, he may restore himself to good standing as a nonaffiliated Knight Templar within two year's from the date of such suspension or the demise of his Commandery by paying to the Grand Recorder ten dollars (\$10.00). The Grand Recorder will thereupon issue to him a Certificate of Good Standing as a non affiliate which may be used for all purposes in lieu of a Demit.

This privilege shall not apply to members suspended from a Commandery for unknighly conduct, as such restoration can be granted only by petition to this Grand Commandery.

Art. 279. Restoration After Two Years.

When a Knight Templar was in arrears for his dues or suspended by his Commandery for the nonpayment of his dues, and his Commandery subsequently demises and he fails to reinstate himself to good standing as a non-affiliate within two years as provided in Article 277, he may, after submitting satisfactory evidence that he is a member in good standing in a Lodge, Chapter and Council, and by paying to the Grand Recorder ten dollars(\$10.00), secure a certificate from him attesting that he is a nonaffiliated Knight Templar, which may be used for all purposes in lieu of a Demit.

CHAPTER 44

AFFILIATION

Art. 280. (G 191). Petition for.

A Knight Templar desiring to affiliate with a Commandery must file a Petition for Membership, together with a Demit or its equivalent, which shall be retained by the Commandery petitioned if the Petitioner is elected to membership; if rejected, the Demit, or its equivalent, shall be returned to the Petitioner.

Art. 281. (G 191a). Foreign - Petition for.

A Knight Templar created in a recognized foreign Sovereign Jurisdiction, desiring to affiliate with a Commandery under the jurisdiction of Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A., must file a petition for membership together with a Demit or its equivalent from such foreign Jurisdiction. Alternatively, such Knight Templar created in a foreign Jurisdiction may petition for dual membership in a Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, providing his petition is accompanied by official evidence of membership in good standing in a Preceptory or Commandery under such foreign Jurisdiction; provided further, that the laws of the foreign Jurisdiction Must permit such dual membership.

Art. 282. Petition, Requisites of.

A petition for affiliation must state the name, age, and domicile of the applicant, and must be accompanied by his Demit from the Commandery of which he was last a member, or a Certificate of Good Standing as provided for in Art. 285. It shall also be accompanied by certificates of present good standing in the Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter, and Council of Royal and Select Masters, in which he holds membership. The absence of a Demit from a Commandery must be satisfactorily explained, otherwise a petition shall not be acted upon. Every such petition shall be signed by two members of the Commandery, who shall vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the petitioner and recommend favorable action.

Art. 283. Ballot.

A petition for affiliation can only be received or balloted upon at a Stated Conclave unless otherwise authorized by Dispensation from the Grand Commander.

Art. 284. (G 194). Continuous Affiliation.

If a member wishes to change his membership and be continuously affiliated, he may file his petition with the Commandery in which he desires membership and with it a Certificate of Good Standing from the Recorder of his Commandery under the Seal thereof showing that his dues have been paid three months in advance, along with a written application to his Commandery for a Demit. If he is elected to membership in the Commandery petitioned, the Recorder thereof shall immediately forward said Application for a Demit to the Commandery to which it is addressed, and when the Demit is received, it shall be filed with the Petition, and the Sir Knight's name shall be entered as a member of the Commandery petitioned as of even date with the Demit. If the Petitioner is rejected, the Certificate of Good Standing and Application shall be returned to him.

Art. 285. (G 193). Affiliation in Lodge. Chapter and Council Necessary.

Affiliation in Lodge, Chapter, and Council is necessary to qualify a petitioner for membership.

Art. 286. Forfeiture of Membership

A member of a Commandery forfeits all rights of membership by being unaffiliated with a Commandery during such period of non-affiliation.

Art. 287. Fee for Affiliation.

An affiliation fee shall be collected for a member, should he be elected, which is strictly for the purpose for becoming a Life Sponsor of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Only members of the Commandery petitioned shall vote on a petition of affiliation.

Art. 288. Petition Rejected, How.

A Petition for Affiliation can be rejected only by casting a black ball. A protest against affiliation shall not be entertained. One or more black balls rejects the petitioner, but for no definite period. He may present a new petition to the same or any other Commandery in this Jurisdiction at any time.

Art. 289. (G 190). Plural Membership.

A Knight Templar may be admitted to membership in any Commandery regardless of his residence. He may become a member of other Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction by making application for plural membership, and may hold an elected office in more than one Commandery at the same time. He may not serve as Commander of more than one Commandery at the same time. A petition for such membership must be accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing, issued by a Commandery of which the petitioner is a member. A Knight Templar belonging to a Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction may affiliate with a Commandery in another Grand Jurisdiction as a Plural member, if the Laws of that Grand Commandery so provide. A Knight Templar, belonging to a Commandery in another Grand Jurisdiction may affiliate with Commanderies In this Grand Jurisdiction as a Plural member, if the Laws of that Grand Commandery so provide.

Art. 290. Visitation Before Affiliation.

A candidate for affiliation must have visited the Commandery petitioned, or be vouched for by one who has sat with him in open Commandery, or by a Committee of Examination appointed in open Commandery, before being balloted upon.

CHAPTER 45

TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF COMMANDERIES

Art. 291. Territorial Jurisdiction of Commanderies.

All Commanderies in this State shall have concurrent jurisdiction over all territory in the State of Texas.
(Revised - 1999)

Art. 292. Petitioner Residing Outside of City or Town Having a Commandery.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 293. Initiated Petitioner Removing.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 294. Jurisdiction of Suspended Commanderies.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 295. Jurisdiction of Demised Commanderies.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 296. Jurisdiction of Commanderies Moving.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 297. Jurisdiction of Consolidated Commanderies.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 298. Invasion of Jurisdiction.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 299. Proration of Fees.

Repealed – 1999

CHAPTER 46

WAIVER OF JURISDICTION

Art. 300. Waiver Required.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 301. (G 82). Waiver of Jurisdiction on Sojourner.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 302. (G 148). Petitioning Elsewhere.

Repealed – 1999

Art. 303. (G 149). Commandery Notified.

Repealed – 1999

CHAPTER 47

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ORDERS

Art. 304. (G 177). Qualifications of Petitioners, Anyone,

(a) Who is a Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason, and Royal and Select Master affiliated in the Lodge, Chapter and Council, or who is an affiliated Master Mason, and who has petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Capitular Degrees and a Council of Royal and Select Masters for the Cryptic Degrees, provided however, that none of the Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred upon said petitioner until he shall have received the Royal Arch Degree and the Select Masters Degree; and

(b) Who is a firm believer in the Christian Religion; and

(c) Who is physically able to conform to the ceremonies or the Order, or whose physical inability to so conform shall have been waived by dispensation of the Grand Commander; and

(d) Who, immediately prior to the date of his petition, has resided for at least one year within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery within which is located the Constituent Commandery petitioned, or who is a member of the U.S. Active Armed Forces, the U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, or the National Aeronautical Space Agency of the United States of America, or who is an

approved beneficiary of the Home for Aged Masons who, notwithstanding other provisions of these Statutes and Regulations to the contrary, shall be eligible to petition any Commandery in the State of Texas for the Orders of Knighthood or for affiliation. (Revised – 1999)

CHAPTER 48

FEES AND DUES

Art. 305. Fees.

Each petition for the Orders of the Red Cross, Malta, and Temple shall be accompanied by a minimum fee of not less than Forty (\$40.00) Dollars for the Orders, with the exception of petitions received from approved beneficiaries of the Home for Aged Masons, which shall be accompanied by a fee equal to the minimum fee required by the Grand Encampment. Each petitioner for the Orders, affiliation, and/or reinstatement shall, if elected, also pay all fees to become a Life Sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF), as shall be established and adopted by the KTEF Trustees, for each Commandery he petitions.

Art. 306. (G 81). Fees Cannot Be Remitted.

No part of the fee for the Orders can be remitted, directly or indirectly.

Art. 307. (G 84). Dues and Assessments.

A Commandery may fix the annual dues of its members at such sums as it may order by its by-laws, in no case to be less than \$20.00 per year. No Commandery shall have the power to levy assessments, other than regular dues, against its members. (Revised 2001)

Art. 308. Assessments Authorized.

A majority vote may determine the propriety of an assessment and the amount thereof; that a member of a Commandery may appeal to the provided, Grand Commandery if he feels aggrieved by such assessment, and claims that it is for an illegal purpose or is excessive.

Art. 309. Commanderies May Fix Amount of Dues.

Commanderies may amend their By-laws from time to time fixing the amount of the annual dues of their members at such sums as the majority present and voting may determine. Payment thereof may be required in advance, or at the end of stated periods, either monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually as may be determined by a majority vote of the members present.

Art. 310. (G 199). Red Cross and Malta Members.

Until the three Orders of Knighthood have been conferred upon an applicant, he is not possessed of the necessary qualifications for membership, and is therefore not subject to the payment of dues, but he is subject to discipline by the Commandery for Masonic offenses.

Art. 311. Remission of Dues of Disabled or Indigent.

When a Constituent Commandery remits the dues of any member because of his total or serious disabilities, physical or mental, or because of his indigence and consequent inability to pay his dues, such Constituent Commandery shall be exempt from the payment of the annual per capita dues assessed by and owing to this Grand Commandery on such member whose dues are remitted; provided however, that in no event and under no circumstances shall more than ten per cent of the total Membership of any Commandery be excluded or relieved from the payment of the annual per capita dues owing this Grand Commandery by such Constituent Commandery in any one year, and provided further, such Constituent Commandery shall not be exempt from the payment of the annual per capita dues assessed by and owing to the Grand Encampment on such members whose dues are remitted.

Art. 311 A. Endowed Membership.

Members of this Grand Commandery may purchase endowed memberships for an amount set by this Grand Commandery. Life memberships are not valid except that no Life Membership heretofore issued shall be invalidated.

1. Any member who is in good standing in a Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction whose dues are paid up to date may purchase an Endowed Membership and, subject to the provisions hereof, shall thereby be relieved from further payment of dues.

2. The purchase price for endowed membership shall be fixed annually by the Endowed Commandery as may be determined by majority vote of the members present, provided to such purchase price shall be a multiple of \$100 being the par value of an endowed membership unit and shall be not less than \$1000. (10 endowment units) the vote to fix the purchase price for endowed membership shall be had at the time provided by article 223 and the change in the purchase price shall be effective January 1 the following calendar year.

3. The Grand Recorder shall place all moneys so received in a separate fund to be entitled, "Endowed Membership Fund". Such fund shall be invested and reinvested from time to time under the supervision of the Finance and Auditing Committee of this Grand Commandery.

4. After deducting an annual administration fee not to exceed five percent (5%) of the annual distribution paid to the Endowed Commanderies, the remaining income from the Fund shall be distributed annually on the first day of February, among those Commanderies which hold memberships in the Fund in proportion to the memberships in the Fund credited to the respective Commanderies; provided that no Endowed Membership shall participate in any such distribution until February 1, of the second calendar year after the year of deposit of the membership fee with the Grand Recorder.

After deducting an annual administrative fee not to exceed 5% of the annual distribution paid to the endowed commanderies. The remaining income from the fund shall be distributed annually on the first day of February among those commandery's which hold memberships in the fund in proportion to their membership in the fund credited to the respective commandery; provided that no endowed membership shall participate in any such distribution until February 1 of the second calendar year after the year of deposit of the membership fee with the Grand Recorder.

5. The Grand Recorder shall issue to each purchaser of an Endowed Membership an appropriate Certificate of Membership, signed by the Grand Commander and attested by the Grand Recorder.

6. If the holder of an Endowed Membership transfers to another Commandery in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction, the fee paid for such Endowed Membership shall remain to the credit of such Commandery in the Endowed Membership Fund.

7. Commanderies are hereafter prohibited from selling Endowed Memberships in any manner other than that prescribed in this Article; however, those Commanderies now having Endowed Membership programs in existence may continue them only to the extent necessary to administer those memberships which were in effect at the time of the adoption of this addition to the law. Any Commandery, by vote, may purchase with its funds an Endowed Membership for a member thereof, paying the fee stated in "2" of this article.

8. When two or more Commanderies consolidate, all money in the Endowed Membership Fund to the credit of the Commandery or Commanderies which lose their identity shall be transferred to the credit of the Commandery with which it or they were consolidated.

9. Upon dissolution or demise of any Commandery, holders of Endowed Membership Certificates affiliating with another Commandery shall have such memberships transferred to that Commandery. Any income accruing from the Fund remaining to the credit of any such demised Commandery shall at the end of each year be added to the principal of the Fund.

10. Holders of Endowed Membership Certificates are subject to all of the laws, rules and regulations of the Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Texas, and the

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas, and loss of membership by suspension or expulsion from any Lodge, Chapter or Council shall automatically abrogate his Endowed Membership and any claim by such member to any portion of any fee paid for such membership. The Commandery of which he was last a member shall continue to receive the income from such membership.

11. Upon the death of a holder of an Endowed Membership Certificate, the Commandery of which he was a member shall continue to receive the income from the Endowed Membership.

12. Anyone may purchase an endowed membership for, or in honor of, a member of a Texas Commandery, or as a memorial for a Deceased Member of a Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction who was in good standing at the time of his death.

13. The Grand Recorder shall determine the number of endowment units previously purchased by constituent commandery by referencing the record of endowed memberships purchased and dividing each membership purchase price by \$100.

Art. 311 B. Exemptions.

Any member of a Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction who shall be admitted as a beneficiary of the Home for Aged Masons maintained by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, after being approved by the Board of Directors thereof, and any approved beneficiary of said Home who shall hereafter become a member of any Commandery in the State, shall thereafter be exempt from Grand Commandery and local Commandery dues so long as he remains a beneficiary of said Home. Any Commandery that hereafter elects as approved beneficiary of the Home to membership shall be responsible for payment of any and all assessments required by the Grand Encampment because of this membership.

His name shall be reported by the Recorder of the Commandery of which said beneficiary is a member, in the Annual Returns with a notation of his exemption under this Article of the Statutes.

Any member of a Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction who has been a member in good standing for a period of fifty years, or more, shall be exempt from payment of Grand Commandery dues. This does not exempt him, or the Commandery, from payment of the Grand Encampment per capita or assessment. Constituent Commanderies may or may not exempt these members from Commandery dues.

CHAPTER 49

PETITION FOR THE ORDERS

Art. 312. (G 178). Contents of Petition.

Every petition for the Order of Knighthood shall declare the Lodge in which the petitioner received the degrees, the Lodge in which he is affiliated, the Chapter in which he received or is to receive the Chapter degrees and also the Chapter in which he is or will be affiliated. It shall also declare the Council in which he received or is to receive the Council degrees and also the Council in which he is or will be affiliated. It shall also give his full name, date of birth, residence and occupation and shall state whether he has or has not been rejected by any Commandery and the facts as to his residence, showing qualification as required by Article 305. The petitioner shall declare that he is a firm believer in the Christian religion, that he has read the petition, and that he has personally signed the same. The petition must be signed by two members of the Commandery petitioned who shall vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the petitioner and recommend favorable action.

Art. 313. (G 179). Petition Signed.

No Petition signed by more than one Petitioner shall be received.

Art. 314. (G 180). Petition Referred to Committee, When.

A Petition, whether for Orders or Membership, shall be referred to a committee of three members of the Commandery, only when requested to do so by a member in good standing in the Commandery acting upon the petition. If a committee is empowered to investigate the petitioner, it shall consist of members who shall know or personally interview the petitioner. The fact of the report being made, and not its character, shall be entered on the minutes of the Commandery.

Art. 315. (G 181). Withdrawal of Petition.

A Petition may be withdrawn by the Petitioner at any time before ballot, and also when it shall appear that the Commandery has no jurisdiction over the Petitioner.

Art. 316. Petitions Not Acted On By Commandery U.D.

Petitions presented to a Commandery Under Dispensation and not balloted on, may be considered and acted upon by the Commandery after it shall have been duly Constituted under Charter.

CHAPTER 50

BALLOT

Art. 317. (G 182). Unfavorable Report.

An unfavorable report from the Committee does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot.

Art. 318. (G 80) (G 65b). Balloting Upon Petitions.

Petitions for membership may be received and balloted upon at the Stated or Special Conclave at which said petition or petitions are read in the Commandery, without dispensation from the Grand Commander.

Art. 319. (G 183). All Required to Vote.

Every member present when a ballot on a Petition is taken is required to vote unless excused by the Commander or Commandery before the balloting has commenced.

Art. 320. (G 184). Secrecy.

The ballot upon a Petition for the Orders or for Membership must be secret and unanimous. The reason for casting a black ball cannot be disclosed or inquired into.

Art. 321. (G 185). Balloting on Two or more petitions.

Balloting on two or more petitions, whether for the Orders or membership, and regularly presented, may be balloted upon at one time.

If such ballot is unanimous, each petitioner should be declared elected. In the event of the appearance of one or more black balls in such group ballot, there must be a ballot upon each petition separately. A Commander may order one additional re-ballot before the results of a ballot upon any separate petition has been announced and before any member of the Commandery has left the Asylum.

Art. 322. (G 186). Filing of Petition After Rejection.

A rejected Petitioner for the Orders, if still residing within the jurisdiction of the Commandery petitioned, may again petition after the expiration of Six Months, but shall not petition any other Commandery until the expiration of Three Years after such rejection unless the consent of the Commandery by which he was rejected is given by unanimous ballot.

CHAPTER 51

OBJECTIONS TO CANDIDATE

Art. 323. (G 187). Objections to Conferring Orders Upon Candidates After Ballot.

A Member in good standing of a Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction, whether or not present when the ballot was taken, may object to the conferring of the Order of the Red Cross upon an elected Candidate, and cannot be required to disclose his reason therefor. The objection may be made either in open Commandery or to the Commander, and is equivalent to rejection by ballot, and the Orders shall not be conferred. The fact that objection was made, and not the name of the objector, shall be entered on the minutes, but such objection may be withdrawn before it has been so entered.

Art. 324. Objection Before Ballot.

Objection may also be made to conferring the Orders on a candidate before any ballot is taken, by any member in good standing of any Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction who is unable to attend the Conclave at which a ballot is to be taken upon the petition. The objection shall be communicated to the Commandery either verbally or in writing and shall have the same effect as an objection lodged after a ballot. The same procedure shall also apply in all respects thereto.

Art. 325. (G 188). Objection Ineffective After Red Cross, Unless.

Except as provided in Art. 328, any Companion of the Order of the Red Cross is entitled to receive the remaining Orders unless found unworthy after trial on charges duly preferred in this or in a prerequisite body. No member of a Commandery, whether or not present when the ballot was taken, shall prevent or delay the conferring of the remaining Order or Orders by a mere objection.

Art. 326. (G 189). Objector Must File Charges, When.

Any member of a Commandery who seeks to prevent or delay the conferring of the remaining Order or Orders on any elected Candidate who shall have been constituted a Companion of the Order of the Red Cross shall be required to prefer written Charges against him, which shall be filed with the Recorder of the Commandery, and the Candidate shall be entitled to receive a copy of such Charges and to be heard in person and by counsel if the counsel is a Knight Templar. The remaining Orders cannot be conferred until such charges have been disposed of, either by withdrawal or determination according to the Disciplinary Rules of the Grand Encampment. Only the fact that charges have been preferred, and not the name of the objector or the nature of the charges, shall be entered on the minutes. Before the commencement of the hearing and on the request of the complainant, such charges may be withdrawn by majority vote of the Commandery.

Art. 327. (G 195). Election Voided by Failure to Receive Orders

Failure of a candidate to present himself for the Orders within twelve months after receiving his first written notice to appear for the conferring of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross voids his election, and the disposition of any fees paid or any deposit made may be returned.

One Constituted a Companion of the Order of the Red Cross who fails to appear to receive the remaining Orders within One Year after having received the Order of the Red Cross shall not be entitled to receive such remaining Orders unless by a favorable, secret and unanimous ballot of the Commandery.

Upon ballot, if such Companion is rejected, the Commandery shall return to him the fees for the remaining Orders. In fixing the amount to be returned to such petitioner, the following valuation shall be used: Red Cross, two-fifths; Malta, one-fifth; Temple, two fifths of the total fees charged.

CHAPTER 52

RITUAL

Art. 328. (G 231). Ritual.

The Rituals, as promulgated by the Grand Encampment, cannot be altered or abridged except by the action of the Grand Encampment.

Art. 329. (G 232). Supervision of Ritual.

The Rituals of the Red Cross, Knight of Malta and Knight Templar are under the sole supervision and control of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America and may be published and issued by it alone. It is unlawful for any Commandery or member thereof to use any others than those authorized by the Grand Encampment and issued by it, or to write, print, publish, issue, or cause to be written, printed, published, issued or used, any other Ritual in connection with said Orders or any one of them.

CHAPTER 53

HEALING

Art. 330. (G 196). Who Has Power.

The Grand Master of the Grand Encampment or the Grand Commander in whose jurisdiction an irregularly created Knight Templar resides has the power to heal him, and may authorize a Commandery or a Commander to do so.

Art. 331. (G 197). Clandestine Cannot Be Healed.

One Knighted in a clandestine manner or in a spurious Commandery cannot be healed.

Art. 332. How Healed.

When it shall be brought to the attention of the Grand Commander that a Knight Templar has been irregularly created within this jurisdiction, and this irregularity is such as may be healed under the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment, then the Grand Commander shall have the power to order the Commandery under whose jurisdiction the irregularly made Templar may be, to heal him by re-obligating him at a Stated Conclave thereof.

CHAPTER 54

COURTESY ORDERS

Art. 333. (G 221). Conferring Orders for Another Commandery.

A Commandery may confer the Orders upon a Candidate elected by another Commandery to receive them, at the request of such other Commandery.

Art. 334. Procedure.

A Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction may request any Commandery in such jurisdiction to confer any or all of the Orders upon a candidate elected by it, as an act of courtesy. All such requests to and from Commanderies situated in different Grand Jurisdictions shall be transmitted through the Grand Commanders of the respective Grand Commanderies. After consent to confer the Orders as a courtesy has been arranged by the Grand Commander, all further correspondence in relation thereto may be conducted between the Records of the two Commanderies, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Commander. The Candidate receiving the Orders becomes a member of the Commandery electing him.

Art. 335. (G 210). Correspondence between Commanderies of different Grand Commanderies

Correspondence between Commanderies of different Grand Commanderies must be conducted through their respective Grand Commanders, except in cases of petitions for Waiver of Jurisdiction.

Art. 336. (G 211). Correspondence between a Subordinate Commandery and a Constituent Commandery

Correspondence between a Subordinate Commandery and a Constituent Commandery must be conducted through the Grand Master and the respective Grand Commander.

Art. 337. (G 212). Complaints and correspondence must be addressed in the first instance to the Commander,

Complaints and correspondence must be addressed in the first instance to the Commander, through him to the Grand Commander, and if proper, through him to the Grand Master. A member of the Grand Encampment may communicate directly with the Grand Master, and a Past Grand Commander and all Officers of a Grand Commandery may communicate directly with the Grand Commander. If the proper Officer refuses or neglects to forward communications as herein provided, the complainant may transmit the same directly to the superior Officer.

CHAPTER 55

FUNERAL SERVICE

Art. 338. (G 220). Funeral Service.

Only a Knight Templar in Good Standing is entitled to Templar funeral honors, but a Commandery may grant them to, or withhold them from, an unaffiliated Knight Templar. The funeral service adopted by the Grand Encampment shall be followed. (Div IV, Sec IV)

CHAPTER 56

AWARDS

Art. 339. (G 237b). The Knights Templar Cross of Honor.

The Grand Encampment created and established a meritorious award to be known as the "Knights Templar Cross of Honor" which may be awarded by the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America to deserving Sir Knights of Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies on the following conditions and stipulations:

(a) The award shall consist of a bronze or gold medal in the form of a Cross selected by the Grand Master or a committee he shall have appointed to develop this emblem. The Cross shall be suspended by a black and white ribbon from a bar bearing the inscription "Knights Templar Cross of Honor". On the reverse side of the Cross shall be inscribed the name of the recipient. A suitable certificate of award issued by the

Grand Encampment and signed by the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder bearing the Seal of the Grand Encampment thereon shall accompany the jewel and shall set forth the citation.

(b) A nomination for the award shall be made by the Commandery of which the nominee is a member, by a motion adopted by the Commandery and must be submitted in writing and approved by the Grand Commander of the respective State and must give his name, address, Masonic rank, name of his Commandery and particulars outlining the nature of his meritorious service, thus justifying the nomination.

(c) The award shall be made only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the Order, far beyond the call of duty, and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member. No present or past elected Grand Officer of a Grand Commandery shall be eligible for the award.

(d) Only one nomination may be made from a Grand Commandery membership of 5,000 or less, plus one additional nomination may be made by a Grand Commandery for each additional 5,000 of its members, or major fraction thereof, during any one year. Only one nomination may be made from the total of the Subordinate Commanderies during one year. (Revised by Grand Encampment – 2000)

(e) In deciding the awards, precedents shall be entirely ignored, and each case shall be decided on its own unusual merits.

(f) No posthumous awards shall be made.

(g) Whereas this jewel is to be given by the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America after nomination by Grand Commanders of the Constituent Grand Bodies, it shall be the responsibility of the Grand Encampment to provide the jewels and certificates of award without cost to the recipients.

Art. 340. J. C. Kidd Plaque.

The J. C. Kidd Plaques are awarded annually at the Awards Banquet by the Grand Commandery to the Constituent Commanderies having the highest grade in the Asylum Tactics in each Templar District during the Annual Visitations and Inspections. Originally awarded as Banners, they were given to the Grand Commandery of Texas at the Annual Conclave in Temple, Texas, in April 1937, by Grand Treasurer Austin E. Clarkson, Past Commander of Ruthven Commandery No. 2. The award was named in memory of Sir Knight J. C. Kidd, who served as Grand Commander in 1908-09.

At the Annual Conclave held in Tyler, Texas, in April 1959, the Grand Commandery voted to replace the Banners with special Bronze Plaques, emblazoned with a Cross and Crown at the top, and a bronze plate with the proper identification inscribed below, to be presented in the same manner as the J. C. Kidd Banners for efficiency in the Asylum Tactics. Commanderies utilizing the alternate tactics adopted at the One Hundred Sixty First Grand Conclave shall be eligible for this award only if all Commanderies in the District utilize the alternate tactics. These plaques are traveling awards, retained by the winner only for the Templar Year, and are returned to Grand Commandery for presentation again annually. A Beauceant Streamer shall be additionally awarded with the award name and date earned ascribed on it as a permanent award to be displayed on the winning Commandery's Beauceant.

Art. 341. Fred M. Gilbough Plaque.

The Fred M. Gilbough Plaques are awarded annually at the Awards Banquet by the Grand Commandery to the Constituent Commanderies having the highest grade in the Asylum Ritual in each Templar District during the Annual Visitations and Inspections. These, too, were originally awarded as Banners given to the Grand Commandery of Texas at the Annual Conclave in Fort Worth, Texas, in April 1951, by Past Grand Commander R. B. Cowden. This award was named in memory of Sir Knight Fred M. Gilbough, who served as Grand Commander in 1901-02.

At the Annual Conclave held in Tyler, Texas, in April 1959, the Grand Commandery voted to replace the Banners with special Bronze Plaques, emblazoned with a Cross and Crown at the top, and a bronze plate with the proper identification inscribed below, to be presented in the same manner as the Fred M. Gilbough Banners for efficiency in the Asylum Ritual. These plaques are traveling awards, retained by the winner only for the Templar Year, and are returned to Grand Commandery for presentation

again annually. A Beauceant Streamer shall be additionally+ awarded with the award name and date earned ascribed on it as a permanent award to be displayed on the winning Commandery's Beauceant.

Art. 341 A. Knights Preceptor

The Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor which originated in New Jersey is selected as the ritual for an Organization of Past Commanders for the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas.

This organization is not affiliated in any way or regulated by the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, but may have its annual meeting during the Conclave of this Grand Commandery if it so chooses and obtains permission from the Local Committee.

No pins or other paraphernalia indicating membership in this organization should be worn on a Templar Uniform.

Art. 342. The Cross and Crown Award.

The Cross and Crown Award Form, Requirements, and Plaque Design shall be a permanent award which may be awarded annually to Constituent Commanderies by the Grand Commandery for exemplary involvement in Commandery Activities, Involvement in Community and Civic Affairs and Public Relations.

The Cross and Crown Award in the form of a quality plaque purchased by the Grand Commandery for an amount not to exceed \$40.00, may be awarded annually by the Grand Commandery to those Constituent Commanderies who are outstanding in their community, and have demonstrated their zeal for Templar Masonry by exemplary involvement in community and civic affairs and public relations. Commanderies who qualify will have demonstrated themselves to be pacesetters, the leading Commanderies in the State who are setting examples for others to follow.

The selection process of a recipient Commandery is based upon a point system earned in 57 different requirements and divided into three categories as follows:

Category One - Commandery Internal Improvement

Category Two - Commandery External Improvement

Category Three - Civic and Community Involvement

Points are assigned to the various requirements within each category and a total of 500 points during the year are necessary to qualify. After attaining the necessary points, the proper form must be filled out and filed with the District member of the Public Relations and Special Projects Committee no later than February 1 who will verify them and forward within two weeks the application to the Chairman of the Public Relations and Special Projects Committee. In verifying the completion of the requirements, the member of the Public Relations Committee may be assisted by the Grand Commandery Officer assigned to the Commandery's District. Copies of the requirements and details of the Award shall be available from the Grand Recorder and on the Grand Commandery Web Site.

(Revised - 2002)

Art. 343. Excalibur Award.

The Excalibur Award along with its forms requirements and designs is a Permanent Award of this Grand Commandery and may be awarded once annually by each Constituent Commandery to a Sir Knight who has displayed unselfish and exemplary dedication to his Commandery and Templar Masonry through Commandery activities, community involvement, and/or civic affairs. This award shall be fourfold, consisting of a suitable certificate, a lapel pin, the Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), and the award itself which consist of a Knights Templar Sword in a Stone on top of a wooden base. The Award shall be purchased by the Grand Commandery and then sold to Constituent Commanderies at

cost, as each Award is approved for presentation by the Grand Commandery. The Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery may not present the Excalibur Award on its own. This is a local Commandery award only.

The pins will be made available for sale at a cost of five dollars (\$5.00), and the Meritorious Service Medal at a cost of one hundred dollars (\$100). The Grand Commandery of Texas will warehouse an appropriate number of pins and MSMs, making them available for sale upon request by recipients or by Commanderies in conjunction with the presentation of the Award., Price of Award: \$145.00 (includes Lapel pin and Meritorious Service Medal)

Selection of recipients shall be by a Commandery committee of three (3) or five (5) Past Commanders appointed by the Commander. The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General are not eligible to receive the award, nor is any Past Commander until three years have elapsed since his term as Commander. No Grand Commandery Officer is eligible while in office, and Past Grand Commanders are not eligible until five years after completing their term as Grand Commander. Only one Excalibur Award may be presented by a Commandery during any one Templar Year, and if awarded, must be presented at an Open Meeting of the Commandery called for that purpose.

Other details concerning the Award, its requirements, certificates, and selection procedure may be obtained from the Grand Recorder or on the Grand Commandery Web Site.

Art. 344. Commandery Merit Award.

A Distinguished Service Medal may be awarded to either or both the Commander and/or the Recorder, if either fulfills the duties prescribed for each such officer, provided the Commandery during the current year has qualified to receive a Certificate of Merit. The failure of a Commander to qualify shall not disqualify a Recorder to receive the award if he qualifies, and vice versa, but neither can receive one if the Commandery has not qualified.

A Commandery will qualify for a Certificate of Merit if it fulfills the following requirements:

(1) Shall be able to open and close according to the prescribed Asylum Tactics and confer the Order of the Temple with a minimum grade of 750 on the day of Its Annual Visitation and Inspection.

(2) Shall hold not less than six Stated Conclaves and four Special Conclaves for drill in Asylum tactics during the year.

(3) Shall observe the Christmas, Easter, Ascension, and Patriotic Services with appropriate ceremonies.

(4) The membership of the Commandery to show a net gain for the year, excluding deaths.

A. A Commandery may also qualify for a certificate of merit by one or a combination of any of the following:

1. Knightings.
2. Reinstatements
3. Affiliations of Sojourning Sir Knights.

B. A minimum of 10 of any of the above or combination thereof, qualify a Commandery for its certificate of merit, regardless of the number of deaths, suspensions, or demits.

(5) The Commandery to make its annual reports, file IRS Form 990 with the IRS in a timely manner and pay its dues and fees to this Grand Commandery within the time required by our Statutes and Regulations.

(6) In the event of a merger of two Commanderies, only the record of the surviving Commandery needs to be considered in determining a possible net gain for said surviving Commandery

Commanderies accomplishing all of the above shall be eligible to receive a Certificate of Merit, which is essential before a Commander or a Recorder can qualify for their Distinguished Service Medal.

Art. 345. Commander's Distinguished Service Medal.

A Distinguished Service Medal may be awarded to the Commander of a Commandery which has qualified for its Certificate of Merit, provided he fulfills all the duties prescribed for his office including the following:

- (1) Attend all Stated and Special Conclaves of his Commandery during the year, sickness and absence from the city alone excusing him.
- (2) Shall visit one or more Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in his area at least once during the year, and if opportunity is offered, to extend to them fraternal greetings and good wishes from his Commandery.
- (3) Shall visit one or more Councils of Royal and Select Masters in his area at least once during the year.
- (4) Shall visit one or more Blue Lodges in his area during the year.
- (5) Shall attend a District School of Instruction during the year.
- (6) Shall attend the Business Sessions of the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery during his year of tenure, sickness alone excusing him.
- (7) Shall encourage social functions for the families of Sir Knights, Patriotic and Educational programs in the Commandery as far as practicable; provide active committees on reclamation of demitted and suspended members; to visit and look after the sick, the needy and aged members, or their widows and orphans as far as the circumstances of the Commandery will permit.
- (8) Shall see that adequate bonds required of the Treasurer and Recorder (Article 252) are executed and are in force.
- (9) See that the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Recorder are audited in compliance with Arts 253, 254 and 255.
- (10) Shall confer the Order of the Temple or other Orders at the Annual Visitation of the Grand Representative of the Grand Commander and such other Orders that may be required by the Grand Commandery. (Generalissimo may give the Remaining Attributes.)

The Commander's Distinguished Service Medal awarded for compliance with all of the above conditions shall have a shield of half white and half black, but for those Commanders whose Commanderies show an actual net gain in membership for the year considering all factors including deaths, the shield of the medal shall be all white to denote the special achievement.

ART. 346. RECORDER'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

A Distinguished Service Medal may be awarded to the Recorder of a Commandery which has qualified for its Certificate of Merit, provided he fulfills all the duties prescribed for his office including the following:

- (1) Must keep adequate set of minutes and records of his Office.
- (2) Must attend all Conclaves held by his Commandery during the year, sickness or absence from the city alone excusing him.

- (3) Must make out and transmit the Annual Report and dues to the Grand Recorder by February 1st (Article 202, 203, and 204).
- (4) Must read aloud to the Commandery all General Orders and General Circulars received from the Grand Commander or Grand Recorder, note same in the Minutes, and detach and PROMPTLY return all receipts therefor.
- (5) Promptly fill out and return to the Visiting Officer of his District all forms and reports required and facilitate the checking of books and records at inspections.
- (6) Reply with promptness to all communications from the Grand Officers and furnish the information requested.
- (7) Use all diligence in notifying the members of their delinquent dues and make due and courteous efforts to collect same.
- (8) Pay to the Treasurer with promptness all funds that should be delivered to him.
- (9) Report to the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder the names and addresses of the Officers elected and installed immediately after installation.
- (10) Cooperate with the Commander in the achievement of his program.
- (11) Send to the Grand Recorder not later than November 15 of the calendar year, the name and address of each Sir Knight who will attain fifty years of membership in good standing during the following calendar year.
- (12) Shall attend a District School of Instruction during the year.
- (13) Shall attend the business session of the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery during his year of tenure, sickness alone excusing him.

Art. 357. Dale Miller Award

The Dale Miller Award may be awarded to a Commandery in each Templar District that was the most impressive, solely in the opinion of the District Grand Officer, during the solemn ceremonies of conferring the Order of the Temple during the annual inspection.

To qualify for the award, the current Commander of that Commandery must confer the Order and a new member must be Knighted during the conferral. If no Commandery in the District meets both the foregoing threshold requirements, the award should not be given. Likewise, if no Commandery meeting the threshold requirements does an impressive job during the conferral, the award should not be given.

The award should consist of a framed certificate in the same style and wording as used during the trial period. The graphic on the certificate to be at the discretion of the Grand Commander. The cost of preparing and framing the certificate shall be the responsibility of this Grand Commandery.

DIVISION III

I. Grand Standard, Beauceant & Flag	CHAP 57
II. Uniforms	CHAP 58 & 59
III. Fatigue Dress	CHAP 60
IV. Insignia of Rank & Shoulder Straps	CHAP 61
V. Prelate's Ceremonial Robes	CHAP 62
VI. Jewels and Emblem	CHAP 63

CHAPTER 57

GRAND STANDARD, BEAUCEANT AND FLAG

Art. 347. (G 238). Grand Standard.

The Grand Standard is of white woolen or silk material, five feet in height and three feet in width, made tripartite at the bottom, fastened at the top to the cross bar by nine rings; in the center of the Field a blood red Passion Cross over which is the motto, "In Hoc Signo Vincas"; and under "Non Nobis Domine, Non Nobis Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam". The cross is to be three Feet in height and the upright bar to be six inches in width. On top of the staff a gilded globe or ball four inches in diameter, surmounted by the Cross of Salem, twelve inches in height the Cross to be crimson, edged with gold.

Art. 348. (G 239). Beauceant.(BEAUSEANT)

The Beauceant of the Order shall be of silk, in two stripes of equal width running horizontally, the upper stripe black and the lower stripe white - six feet fly and three feet six inches on the staff; swallow tailed one-third its length. The edges of the flag shall be plain, without fringe. The name of the Commandery shall be placed upon its upper stripe and its location on the lower stripe, the lettering being in contra colorsto the field. The staff shall be nine feet in length, including the crosshead, which shall be of gold or gilt metal, consisting of a ball surmounted by the Cross of Salem. Cords and tassels composed of strands of black and white silk in equal proportions shall be attached to the base of the crosshead.

Art. 349. (G 240). United States Flag.

All Commanderies in the United States of America, including its Territories and Dependencies, shall display a silk regulation Flag of the United States in their respective Asylums, to be placed on the dais at the extreme right.

The official salute and courtesies to the flag of the United States of America within the asylum of a Commandery of Knight Templar and also in Public shall be the following salutes and procedures:

1. At the command "DRAW, SWORDS" all Knights armed with a sword will comply. (Page 11, Paragraph 19)*
2. At the command "PRESENT, SWORDS"
 - A. Knights with swords will present swords.(Page 13, Paragraph 20)
 - B. Knights in Templar uniform without sword will hand salute. (Page 7, Paragraph 5)*
 - C. Knights in fatigue uniform or civilian clothes will also hand salute. (Page 7, Paragraph 5)*
 - D. The Prelate, if in robes, will place his right hand over his heart.
3. At the command "CARRY, SWORDS"
 - A. Knights standing at present will execute carry swords. (Page 13, Paragraph 21)*
 - B. Knights standing at hand salute will drop hand smartly by the side. (Page 7, Paragraph 5)*
 - C. Prelate, in robes, will drop hand to side.

Art. 350. Texas Flag.

All Commanderies in Texas shall display a Texas Flag in their respective Asylums, to be placed on the dais at extreme left. The Salute to the Texas Flag shall immediately follow the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

CHAPTER 58

UNIFORMS

Art. 351. (G 41i & G 62). Uniforms.

The purchase of Knights Templar uniform by a petitioner for the Orders in this Grand Jurisdiction is optional with the petitioner.

(a) The Order of Knights Templar is declared to be a uniformed Order and the Wearing with the Templar uniform of any article of clothing, head covering or footwear, other than that specified by the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery and that necessary for protection from the weather, is strictly prohibited.

(b) Each and every officer of a Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction is required to possess a dress uniform prior to his installation.

(c) Each Constituent Commandery shall maintain a unit, or units, equipped with full Templar Uniforms as prescribed in Chapter XIX of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment, or as prescribed by this Grand Commandery, to be worn at full form openings, and the conferring of the Order of the Temple. Such unit or units shall at all times be composed of at least six active members who shall be available for Asylum escort, triangle guard duty, Commandery drill team and such additional requirements as the Commandery may from time to time determine.

(d) In lieu of the regulation uniform, a Constituent Commandery may provide and use the cap and mantle as their official uniform. The regulation uniform or cap and mantle may be worn for all Templar occasions, provided, however, that, when appearing in public, the entire Commandery **shall be** dressed in the same uniform, that is, all either in a regulation uniform **or** in the cap and mantle uniform. The cap and mantle uniform is authorized for use and is as prescribed in Article 354.

Art. 352. Used Uniforms.

It shall be deemed a compliance with Art. 351 if any member provides himself with a regulation uniform conforming to the specifications set forth in the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, but such uniform is not required to be new if one formerly used should be procured and is in good condition.

Art. 353. Specifications for Texas Templar Full Dress Uniform.

(a) Black double breasted coat,

Cut on lines conforming to the Officers Uniform of the U.S. Navy; the coat to have two lower side welt pockets with no flaps and one welt pocket on left breast; to be one half lined with deep yoke made of good quality material, with two inside pockets; material to be ten-ounce black tropical worsted with no, one or two vents at the bottom which shall be open . Coat to have six four-hole black bone buttons (7/8 inch in diameter) on Front and three four-hole black bone sleeve buttons (5/8 inch in diameter) on each sleeve. (See Figure #1)

(b) **Trousers**

To be cut on U.S. Navy pattern, zipper fly. Plain button, no cuffs, of same material as coat.

(c) **Chapeau or Black Military Dress Cap**

(1) **Chapeau For Sir Knights:**

A regulation black beaver chapeau, gossamer body trimmed with black silk velvet binding; front and rear peaks to extend not less than three and three quarters inches and not more than four and one quarter inches from the head; sides of the chapeau to be beveled so that each chapeau is one inch narrower on top than at the head two eyelet ventilators on each side near the top and one cork ventilator on front inside, lining to be of black satin. There shall be one white plume twenty-two inches long and not less than six and one-half inches wide; two black under-Plumes so arranged as to show at edges; the end of the white plume extending not more than three and one half inches beyond the rear peak of the chapeau. There shall be a rosette on the left side, oval in shape, five inches in height by four inches in width composed of thirty-three satin points in a single fold, on top or which so as to display said points to the distance or one-half inch from the edge, is laid one row or quilled satin ribbons in folds or three-eighths of an inch in width and on top of this is laid an oval, black silk velvet rosette height by two and seven-eighths inches in width surrounded by one row of silver jaceron cord, thus displaying the quilled satin ribbon around the edges or said velvet rosette to a distance of three-eighths of an inch. On the velvet oval there shall be a Passion Cross, the upright arm three inches, the transverse arm two inches, of bright red velvet bordered by No. 26 silver bullion embroidery one-quarter of an inch wide, leaving the velvet exposed in the center to the width of five-sixteenths of an inch. Cross is to be without rays. (See Figure #2)

(2) Chapeau for Commanders and Past Commanders:

The chapeau shall be as described above for Sir Knights except that it shall be trimmed with a gold plated wire lace one and three-eighths inches wide of vellum pattern No. 1962 diagonally across each side of each peak, and on the upper side of the front peak there shall be a gold plated tassel of half round shape with bright bullions and dull head, the velvet rosette to be surrounded by one row of gilt jaceron cord. The cross on left side of chapeau is to be the same as for Sir Knights except to be bordered with gilt or gold bullion No. 26 and at a point of intersection of arms to have alternate rays of No. 26 and No. 27 gilt or gold bullion.

(3) Chapeau for Grand Commandery Officers:

The chapeau shall be the same as described for the Commanders and Past Commanders except that the rosette shall be circular in shape five inches in diameter and the velvet rosette shall be three and five-eighths inches in diameter, on which shall be a Templar Cross of bright red silk velvet bordered by a single row of No. 26 gilt or gold bullion embroidery one-quarter inch in width. In the center at the point of intersection shall be one red stone set, said cross to be three inches square including embroidery. (See Figure #3)

(4) Chapeau for Past Grand Commanders:

The same as for Grand Commandery Officers except that the cross shall be of purple silk velvet and a purple stone set.

(FIGURES FOR TEXAS TEMPLAR FULL DRESS-UNIFORM)



Figure 2, Sir Knight Chapeau



Figure 2 Past Commander Chapeau



Figure 3 Grand Commandery Officer Chapeau

Military Style Black Dress Cap:

1. For Sir Knights and Officers Below the Rank of Commander:

The cap to be the U. S. Army regulation Military style of black broadcloth, crown -to measure ten inches from front to rear and nine and one-quarter inches from side to side, based on size seven. The crown to measure one-eighth of an inch larger or smaller for every size above or below size seven. To be stiffened in front by interlining of haircloth, sewed between the quarters and lining. Crown to be stiffened with inside, removable metal band. To have two black japanned eyelets on each side in crown two inches apart and one eyelet in front center one and three-eighths inches from top of crown. Band to be one and three-quarters inches in width between welts and covered with black ribbed velour from welt to welt. Cap lined with black sateen and perforated russet leather sweatband. Visor of plain black patent leather, cut to slope at an angle of 45 degrees when attached, and lined with green hatter's leather. Front strap of double effect, plain black patent leather one-half inch in width with simulated stitch one-sixteenth of an inch from each edge, fastened at each end with black enameled metal buttons. Appropriate insignia to be attached in front eyelet.

2. For Commander, Past Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers and Past Grand Commanders:

Same as above except band to be of gilt or gold wire lace; front strap to be replaced by a double looped cord one-quarter of an inch wide, of gold, held in place at the ends by two small gold buttons bearing the device of cross and crown. Appropriate insignia to be attached in front eyelet. For Past Grand Commanders same as above except visor of plain black patent leather, cut to slope at an angle of 45 degrees when attached, and lined with green hatter's leather with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns.



(d) Shirt

To be white turndown collar with no buttons.

(e) Tie

To be black four-in-hand.

(f) Gloves

For full and fatigue dress

For Officers and Sir Knights: to be of buff color and lisle thread, undressed kid, or leather.

(g) Black shoes or black Wellington (Roper) or black cowboy boots, and black hose; the trousers to be worn on the outside of the boot at all times.

(h) Belt

(1) For all Sir Knights Below the rank of Commander:

The belt shall be of black grain leather one and three-quarters inches wide, mounted with a lace woven of silver-plated wire and black silk one and five-eighths inches wide, in colors in parallel stripes, four of silver and three of black, the black stripes to be of equal width and silver stripes to be five thirty-seconds of an

inch wide. The belt is to clasp with a silver-plated belt buckle of pattern hereinafter described and to have three slings of black grain leather on which to hang the sword, each seven-eighths of an inch wide, two short and one long, upon which shall be mounted a lace of the same material as that of the belt, three-fourths of an inch wide consisting of two stripes of silver, each five thirty seconds of an inch wide and one of black. The slings are to be suspended by silver plated clasps from a leather strap fastened to the inside of the belt, each sling to have lengthening buckles and heavy silver-plated swivels at the lower ends. On the second sling at the lower edge of the belt is to be placed a silver-plated rigid sword hook. An alternate sword sling may be of silver chain instead of the above- described black grain Leather.

The belt may be replaced by a sling or other support device to be worn under the uniform coat with the two silver short sling swivels hanging just below the hem of the coat.

(2) For Commanders, Past Commanders, and Grand Officers:

Same as for Sir Knights except that all mounting, including belt buckle, shall be gold plated and gold wire shall be substituted for silver in the lace. An alternate sword sling may be of gold chain instead of the above described black grain leather or silver cross guard for Sir Knights.

The belt may be replaced by a sling or other support device to be worn under the uniform coat with the two gold short sling swivels hanging just below the hem of the coat.

(3) For Past Grand Commanders:

Same as for Grand Officers except lace shall be purple and gold.



(4) Belt Buckle

To be rectangular in shape, two by three inches, of hard metal with one-eighths inch polished raised beveled edge without ornamentation except the face stippled in vermicelli pattern, dull finish. In the center of the buckle a Texas Star one and one-half inches in diameter, and in the center of the star a Passion Cross of hard red enamel, the upright arm to be one-half inch in length and the cross arm three-eighths of an Inch. Within the points of the star the letters T-E-X-A-S, beginning with "T" in the upper point; over the star in semi-circle shall be the motto "In Hoc Signo Vinces" in block letters in relief, with polished face and black enameled letters; the buckle to be attached to the belt with a French fastener and the return end to be held in place by a sliding loop of the same material as belt one-half inch in width. The belt shall be devoid of any jeweled ornamentation of any kind whatever and no name or inscription shall be placed thereon other than that prescribed above; provided however, that officers of the Grand Commandery may substitute a Templar Cross for the Passion Cross, and Past Grand Commanders with Templar Cross in Purple.



(i) **Sword**

The Standard Grand Encampment Sword, Chapeau and Belt as prescribed for Subordinate Commanderies shall be allowed for use by sir knights and officers. All swords to be without chain from pommel to cross guard.

Texas Style Sword

If a Sir Knight chooses to purchase a Texas style sword its specifications shall be :

(1) **Sir Knights:**

To be of length according to Sir Knight, inclusive of scabbard; helmet head (Knight with visor closed), cross guard with special Texas guard mount, with imitation ivory grip with inlaid Passion Cross one inch high, transverse arm three-quarters inch long, arms one-quarter inch wide. Wide blade. Design as per cut hereafter shown.

(2) **For Commanders, Past Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Past Grand Commanders:**

Same as for Sir Knights except all metal to be gilt or gold plate, and with white grip to be ornamented in front with the monogram of the owner, on the opposite side a Passion Cross with rays; provided that Grand Officers may have the Templar Cross etched in red and Past Grand Commander in Purple, instead of the Passion Cross if they so desire, and the monogram to be within a wreath.

(3) All swords to be without chains from pommel to cross-guard. Owners name to be etched on blade. Scabbard to be exact design as shown in cut, nickel plated, except Commanders, Past Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers and Past Grand Commanders to be gilt or gold plated in place of nickel. In changing sword and scabbard from nickel to gold, all mountings which are removable shall be taken off and all nickel removed from both sword and scabbard before being gold plated, or a strongly reinforced brass scabbard, gold plated, may be used instead at the option of the Officer having the same done.



(j) **Insignia for coat:**

(1) **For Sir Knights:**

To be one inch silver or silver plated Passion Crosses, one to be worn on each lapel; all insignia to be pin through with clutch back. Top of cross to be one and one-quarter inches from top of lapel and outer edge of cross to be five-eighths inch from the edge of the lapel. Cross to lie parallel to outer edge of lapel. (See Fig.)

(2) **For Commanders and Past Commanders:**

Insignia to be same size as above, but to be gilt or gold plated in place of silver, and Cross to have rays. May be either metal snap-on style or gold bullion. (See Figure)

(3) **For Grand Commandery Officers:**

Same as above except Templar Cross instead of Passion Cross. Color of cross to be dark red. (See Figure)

(4) For Past Grand Commanders:

Same as above except Templar Cross to be of Royal Purple.



k. Apron - G - 260

It is permissible for Officers and members of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas to wear an apron with Templar Uniforms as follows: A. Traditional Apron. A Traditional Templar Apron shall conform substantially in design to the images below. It shall be trimmed in gold for Sir Knights of the rank of Commander or Past Commander and above, and in silver for Sir Knights below the rank of Commander. A Traditional Templar Apron may only be worn in an Asylum or other private setting where only Knights Templar are present.

Contemporary Apron.

A Contemporary Templar Apron shall conform substantially in design to the image below. It shall be trimmed in gold for Sir Knights of the rank of Commander or Past Commander and above, and in silver for Sir Knights below the rank of Commander. A Contemporary Templar Apron may be worn in both private and public settings. It is permissible to manufacture an apron so that it is reversible with the Traditional Apron on one side and the Contemporary Apron on the other.

If a Sir Knight appears in uniform in a tyled, Masonic Lodge, he shall wear such apron as is in accord with local Masonic custom or approved by the presiding officer.



Art. 354. Design and material for the Cap and Mantle Templar Uniform:

The following is herein designated as proper design of the caps and mantles (ceremonial robes) now permitted as an alternative to the Uniform in the Opening and Closing of the Commandery and in the conferral of the Order of the Temple:

A. TEMPLAR MANTLE:

In general, the mantle shall be of the style worn by Medieval Templars and by members of the Sovereign Great Pories. It shall consist of white material, with hood, reaching to approximately twelve inches from the floor and ornamented as follows:

1. For members of the Order below the rank of Commander:

The mantle shall be of white; the hood to be lined with silky white material; the Passion Cross in bright red, nine inches in height, on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with white cords with white tassels.

2. For Commanders and Past Commanders:

The mantle shall have a single red ribbon, one inch wide, stitched one-half inch from the outer edge; the hood to be lined with a similar red material; the Passion Cross in red with gold rays, nine inches in height, on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with red cords with red tassels.

3. For Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers entitled to permanent rank:

The mantle shall have the ribbon of a Past Commander and an additional red ribbon one-half inch wide, stitched one-half inch from said ribbon; the Templar Cross in red, nine inches in height, on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with red cords and tassels.

4. For the Grand Commander:

The mantle shall have a single red ribbon, two inches wide, stitched one inch from the outer edge; the hood lined in red with a similar material; the Templar Cross in red, nine inches in height on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with red cords and red tassels.

5. For Past Grand Commanders:

The mantle shall have a single purple ribbon, one and one-half inches wide, stitched three-quarters of an inch from the outer edge; the hood lined in purple with similar material; and the Templar Cross in purple material on the left breast, nine inches in height; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with purple cords and red tassels.

B. TEMPLAR CAP:

The Templar cap shall follow the design and specifications of the style worn by the Sovereign Great Pories, three inches in depth and very slightly flared at the top.

1. For all members of the Order below the rank of Past Grand Commander:

The cap shall be of bright red velvet (or silk) and the cross displayed on the front of the cap shall be appropriate to rank -- red Passion Cross for members below the rank of Commander; red Passion Cross with gold rays for Commanders and Past Commanders; and red Templar Cross for all Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers entitled to permanent rank.

2. For Past Grand Commanders:

The cap shall be of purple velvet (or silk) with purple Templar Cross.

3. For all Ranks:

The Cross shall be two inches high.

C. COMMANDERY BADGE:

The distinctive badge of a Constituent Commandery may be worn on the right breast of the mantle. The badge will be no less than five inches or more than eight inches high. The badge of the Commandery shall be superimposed upon the Malta Cross, or the Malta Cross shall be incorporated within the Commandery badge. The design shall be approved by the Grand Commandery.

D. TEMPLAR JEWELS

No other ornamentation or Templar jewels or recognitions shall be worn on the mantle.

E. SWORD AND SCABBARD:

The sword and scabbard shall conform to the Regulations of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas or those of the Grand Encampment.

F. SWORD SLING:

The sword shall be suspended, when required to be worn, on a sling to be worn over the right shoulder, of black leather one and one-half inches wide, of tailored or adjustable length according to the height of the Sir Knight, to terminate in two straps with snaps to fasten to the two upper rings of the scabbard.

(FIGURES FOR TEXAS TEMPLAR CAP AND MANTLE-UNIFORM)



Cap and Mantle Uniforms

CHAPTER 59

DRILL TEAM UNIFORMS

Art. 355. The uniforms to be used by Field Drill teams

of the Grand Commandery of Texas shall comply with Article 353 with the following exceptions:

- (1) The belts accepted for use by Drill Teams shall be one of the following:
 - (a) The belt as described in Article 353 (h), or
 - (b) The belt may be replaced by a sling or other support device to be worn under the uniform coat with the two short sling swivels hanging just below the hem of the coat.

CHAPTER 60

FATIGUE DRESS

Art. 356. Requirements of a Fatigue Uniform:

A Fatigue Uniform shall be the same as that described in Art. 353, with the following exceptions:

1. A Pershing-Style Cap shall replace the Chapeau.
2. Sword and belt are not to be worn.
3. Such fatigue uniforms as previously adopted shall be continued for those Knights owning such uniforms.

Art. 357. Insignia for Fatigue Uniforms:

1. For Coats.

The same as described in Art. 353.

2. For Caps.

One two-inch metal Passion Cross superimposed with French hard red enamel.

3. For Commanders and Past Commanders.

Same as above, except cross to be gilt or gold in place of silver, and Cross to have rays. May be either metal snap-on style, or gold bullion.

4. For Grand Commandery Officers.

Same as above, substituting Red Templar Cross for Passion Cross, the cross to be two inches square, set with red stone at intersection.

5. For Past Grand Commanders.

Same as for Grand Commandery Officers, except use purple cross and purple stone set.

Art. 358. Fatigue Caps, Texas Regulation:

1. For Sir Knights and Officers Below the Rank of Commander:

The cap to be the U. S. Army regulation Military style of black broadcloth, crown -to measure ten inches from front to rear and nine and one-quarter inches from side to side, based on size seven. The crown to measure one-eighth of an inch larger or smaller for every size above or below size seven. To be stiffened in front by interlining of haircloth, sewed between the quarters and lining. Crown to be stiffened with inside, removable metal band. To have two black japanned eyelets on each side in crown two inches apart and one eyelet in front center one and three-eighths inches from top of crown. Bank to be one and three-quarters inches in width between welts and covered with black ribbed velour from welt to welt. Cap lined with black sateen and perforated russet leather sweatband. Visor of plain black patent leather, cut to slope at an angle of 45 degrees when attached, and lined with green hatter's leather. Front strap of double effect, plain black patent leather one-half inch in width with simulated stitch one-sixteenth of an inch from each edge, fastened at each end with black enameled metal buttons. Appropriate insignia to be attached in front eyelet.

2. For Commander, Past Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers and Past Grand Commanders:

Same as above except band to be of gilt or gold wire lace; front strap to be replaced by a double looped cord one-quarter of an inch wide, of gold, held in place at the ends by two small gold buttons bearing the device of cross and crown. Appropriate insignia to be attached in front eyelet. For Past Grand Commanders same as above except visor of plain black patent leather, cut to slope at an angle of 45 degrees when attached, and lined with green hatter's leather with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns

Art. 358A. Summer Uniforms:

A. **Trousers:** (Same as prescribed in Article 353 (B.)

B. **Shirt:** White shirt, short sleeve, military style with shoulder epaulets with two flap pockets, on each breast.

C. **Tie:** Same as prescribed in Article 353 (E). Black tie optional at discretion of the senior officer present.

D. **Sword belt and sword:** Same as prescribed in Article 353 (H) and (I). No slings to be used. Sword and belt optional at the discretion of the senior officer present.

E. **Shoes or boots:** Same as prescribed in Article 353 (G)

F. **Name badge:** The name badge shall be black in color, one half inch wide by two and one half inches long with the full name of the wearer in white letters to be worn centered over the wearer's left pocket.

G. **Malta Jewel:** A Malta pin of current design shall be worn entered over the wearer's left pocket.

H. **Shoulder insignia:** For Grand Commandery Officers a red Templar cross surrounded by a gold line one inch square to be worn in the center of each epaulet. For Past Grand Commanders the same as Grand Officers except the color shall be purple. For Past Commanders, a metal bar three quarters inch by one and a half inch of red color surrounded by a gold line with a passion cross with rays emitting to be worn in the center of each epaulet. For Commanders, generalissimos and Captain General a metal bar three quarters inch by one half inches of green color surrounded by a silver line with the appropriate emblem of their rank to be worn in the center of each epaulet.

I. **Collar insignia:** For Grand and Past Grand Commander Officers shall be one half inch gold cut out letters with the abbreviation of Texas to be worn on the wearer's left collar and one half inch gold Knights Templar or KT cut out letters on the right collar. The collar insignia for the Commanders or Past Commanders shall be one half inch Gold TX for Texas as above on the left collar and one half inch gold cut out of the Commandery number on the right collar. The collar insignia for Sir Knights below the rank of Commander are the same as Commander. These insignias are to be worn centered on the collar and parallel with the top edge and set back three quarters on an inch from the leading edge of the collar.

J. **Cap:** For Past Grand Commanders, a naval style garrison cap with a white cover, black band and black visor with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns, two inch square metal purple Templar Cross, fixed to the front of the black band and a gold chin strap attached with gold screws. For Grand Commanders, the same as above, except the templar cross shall be red. For Grand Commandery Officers, same as the Grand Commander, except the visor shall be plain black. For Commanders and Past Commanders, same as Grand Officers except with a one and three-eighths by two inch red metal Passion cross trimmed in gold with rays. For all other Sir Knights, the same as Commander and Past Commander, except with a red metal passion cross trimmed in silver.

K. The Grand Commander of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas may set the dates for the wearing of the Summer Uniform.

CHAPTER 61

INSIGNIA OF RANK AND SHOULDER STRAPS

Art. 359. Insignia of Rank Defined.

"Insignia of Rank" is declared to be the emblem authorized to be placed upon shoulder straps permitted to be worn by the Officers and Past Officers of this Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies.

Art. 360. (G 241). Insignia of Rank.

The emblem to be used or worn on the uniforms of the various Officers and Members of this Grand Commandery and Constituent Commanderies to denote the rank of such person in the Order shall be as follows:

- (a) For Past Grand Commanders and the Officers of the Grand Commandery, The Templar Cross, which is the Cross Patee' with straight lines.
- (b) For Past Commanders, Commanders, Generalissimos and Captains General of Constituent Commanderies, the shoulder straps hereinafter described and specified.
- (c) For Members of Constituent Commanderies, the red Passion Cross.

Art. 361. (G 243). Shoulder Straps (Grand Commandery).

The Shoulder Straps of Officers and Past Officers of this Grand Commandery shall be as follows:

- (a) For the Officers of this Grand Commandery, during their incumbency in office:

Bright red silk velvet, two inches wide by four inches long, with one row of either gilt or real gold bullion embroidery, three-eighths of an inch wide; the Templar Cross, one inch square, of either gilt or real gold bullion embroidered in the center of the strap.

- (b) For Past Grand Commanders:

The same as for Officers of a Grand Commandery except that the color of the Shoulder Strap shall be royal purple.

- (c) For Past Deputy Grand Commanders. Past Grand Generalissimos and Past Grand Captains General:

The same as for Grand Commandery officers, except with the initials of the office respectively, to be embroidered in old English characters, of Silver bullion, on the lower end of the strap.

Art. 362. (G 244). Shoulder Straps (Constituent Commanderies).

The Shoulder Straps of Officers and Past Officers of Constituent Commanderies shall be as follows:

- (a) For Commanders:

Emerald green silk velvet, one and three-fourths inches wide by four inches long, bordered with one row of embroidery, of gilt or real gold bullion, three-eighths of an inch wide, the Passion Cross, with a halo embroidered of silver bullion, in the center; Cross to be one and one-half inches in height, cross arm to be in proportion to height of Cross.

- (b) For Past Commanders:

The same as for Commanders, except that the color of the Shoulder Strap shall be bright red.

(c) For Generalissimos (while in office):

The same as for Commanders, except that the Square surmounted with the Paschal Lamb shall be used instead of the Passion Cross.

(d) For Captains General (while in office):

The same as for Commanders, except that the Level, surmounted with the Cock, shall be used instead of the Passion Cross.

(e) For Prelates (while in office):

The same as for Commanders except that the triple triangle with small Passion Cross in the center shall be used instead of the Passion Cross.

(f) For Prelates (retired after six years in office):

The same as for Past Commanders except the triple triangle with small Passion Cross in the center shall be used instead of the Passion Cross.

(g) Other Officers (while in office):

To wear the jewel appropriate to their respective Offices, except the Prelate, who when in the Asylum shall wear the appropriate Robes of Office, as prescribed in the Regulations, provided that a Prelate may wear his robes of office outside an Asylum when attending either a Funeral or a Religious Service.

Art. 363. (G 245). Wearing of Templar Cross by Past Grand Officers Limited.

Only such Past Grand Officers of this Grand Commandery as are named in sub-sections (b) and (c) of Art. 361 are entitled to wear the Templar Cross.

Art. 364. (G 246). Officers to Wear Insignia of Rank.

All Officers shall wear on their Uniforms the Insignia of Rank, and on their Templar dress coats the Shoulder Straps, to denote the rank attained or office held, and no member shall wear the emblems described in Art. 360 or the Shoulder Straps described in Arts. 361, 362, inclusive, unless he shall have attained the rank or shall hold the office which the wearing of such emblems or Shoulder Straps denotes.

Art. 365. Wearing Insignia Other Than Templar.

The wearing of any insignia belonging to any other than a regularly recognized Templar Body, at the same time wearing the Templar Uniform and insignia, or while attending Conclaves or Assemblies of any Body of Templars, or on public occasions when appearing in Uniform, is strictly prohibited.

Art. 366. Red Cross Uniform.

The Templar Uniform with the Perishing Cap, covered with a black silk Cover showing the Red Cross of the Order instead of Passion Cross, sword, and white gloves, constitute the uniform of a Companion of the Red Cross. The Sovereign Master shall wear the royal robes and Crown, and the High Priest his full robes, etc. (See Ritual.)

Art. 367. Fatigue Uniform Optional.

It shall be optional with the individual Sir Knight whether he shall provide himself with Fatigue Dress.

Art. 368. Specifications.

The Regulations for Belt and Sword shall be as set forth in these Statutes, provided that Sir Knights equipped with Belt and Sword conforming to Regulations in force prior to 1935 are not required to change unless they desire to do so, but may continue such equipment.

CHAPTER 62

PRELATE'S AND CEREMONIAL ROBES

Art. 369. (G 253). Prelate's Robe.

The Regulation Robe of the Prelate of this Grand Commandery, and of Constituent Commanderies shall consist of underrobe, mantle or overrobe, stole and biretta, as follows:

(a) Underrobe.

Shall be made of white material, lined with white; and a yoke with straight standing collar, to button behind. The sleeves shall be fashioned with a band at the wrist and puffed or fashioned like a bishop's sleeve. It shall have no ornamentation.

(b) Mantle or Overrobe.

Shall be made of black material, lined with black; with flowing sleeves, and with a hood at the back, made of black material, lined with white, and trimmed around the edge, with a black girdle by means of which the mantle is to fasten in front. Ornamentation shall be as follows:

(1) For Prelate of Grand Commandery:

A Templar Cross six inches square; Cross to be of bright red material embroidered with gilt bullion; the bullion to be edged on the inside and outside with gilt jaceron.

(2) For Prelates of Constituent Commanderies:

A Passion Cross seven inches in height, with cross arm in proportion; Cross to be of bright red material embroidered with silver bullion; the bullion to be edged on the inside and outside with silver jaceron.

(c) Stole.

Shall be of white material, lined with white; to be a single pendant shape, forty inches long and four inches wide at the top, where it fastens to a circular collar; the bottom to be nine inches square, then tapered to the top; across the bottom to have bullion fringe, two and one-half inches deep; in the center of the lower square to have a five-inch Cross; four inches from the top to have a three-inch Cross; and midway between the upper Cross and the lower Cross, to have four-inch Cross.

(1) For Prelate of Grand Commandery:

The Crosses shall be Templar Crosses of bright red material with raised edges around the Crosses of gilt bullion; the bullion to be edged on the outside with gilt jaceron. The edges of the stole to be trimmed with gilt lace and the fringe to be of gilt.

(2) For Prelates of Constituent Commanderies:

The Crosses shall be Passion Crosses of bright red material, embroidered with silver bullion and edged on the outside with silver jaceron. Crosses to be with rays. The edges of the stole to be trimmed with silver lace and fringe to be of silver.

(d) **Biretta.**

Shall be of black material with black tassel; on the front shall be the Prelate's Jewel of Office, a triple triangle, in gilt bullion for the Prelate of this Grand Commandery, and in silver bullion for Prelates of Constituent Commanderies.

Art. 370. (G 254). When Worn.

The Prelate shall wear his Robes of Office while officiating in the conferring of the Orders and may wear them outside the Asylum when attending a Templar funeral or a Templar religious service. At all other times he shall wear the regulation Knight Templar Uniform of this Grand Jurisdiction and the Jewel of his Office.

Art. 371. (G 255). Red Cross and Knight of Malta.

The Ceremonial Robes, dress and equipment of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and of a Knight of Malta and Order of the Temple shall be as prescribed by Ritual.

CHAPTER 63

JEWELS OF OFFICE AND EMBLEMS OF THE ORDER

Art. 372. (G 256). Officers to Wear Jewels of Office.

All Officers of this Grand Commandery, and of the Constituent Commanderies shall wear the Jewel of their respective office during incumbency in office.

MALTA JEWEL

The Malta Jewel to be worn on a Knight Templar Uniform shall be an eight pointed Malta Cross painted white bordered in gold, in the center of the cross will be a gold medallion with an eagle with wings spread and a banner superimposed over his breast. The words " E Pluribus Unum" around the edge. The cross shall be suspended on a black grosgrain ribbon and may have bars listing the name, number and location of a Commandery, an attachment device shall be affixed to the back of the top bar.

The design of the Cross of Malta to be worn as a lapel pin on a summer uniform, suit or other garment, is a 5/8 White Maltese Cross in gold, with the representation of a shield of the United States superimposed on the center. This pin cannot be worn on a regulation uniform on which only the Maltese Cross can be worn as a Malta Jewel.

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT BADGE

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall offer, for a donation, a Permanent Endowment Badge. This Badge shall resemble the lower portion of the Grand Officer/Past Grand Officer Jewel, to be 1 1/4 or 21/2 inches in diameter with a red or white center. The donation for the Badge shall be \$250.00 each.

This Badge may be worn by the Sir Knight purchasing the same as a part of his Templar Uniform. It may be worn on the left side of the uniform above the pocket and above the name tag and veterans ribbon if so worn.

At least once a year, The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall offer a diamond chip to be set in the badge for a donation of \$150.00 per diamond. A donation totaling \$3,250.00 shall purchase a complete badge encircled with 20 diamonds. The first 100 Sir Knights to purchase a full badge shall receive a specially colored badge, which shall designate them as one of the Charter Donors. After these badges are purchased, no further special designation shall be made.

The Permanent Endowment Fund Medal may be worn on All Texas Templar Uniforms except the cap and mantle

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas shall provide funding derived from the Permanent Endowment Fund to purchase and maintain a supply of Permanent Endowment Fund Medals not to exceed \$4000.00.

VETERANS SERVICE RIBBON

To celebrate their dedication and sacrifice the wearing of the Military Service Ribbon as an authorized ribbon on the Texas Templar Uniform is authorized. The ribbon may be worn by any honorably discharge or active member of the Uniformed Armed Services, Reserve ,or National Guard of the United States of America ,including the Merchant Marine and shall be placed above and centered on the left breast pocket of the Knights Templar Uniform or summer uniform shirt.

YORK RITE LEADERSHIP RIBBON

Shall be similar in size and design as the Military Service Ribbon. It will have four vertical colored stripes - Blue, Red, Purple, White in that order from the wearers left to right, thus placing the White Stripe closest to the center of the coat. It shall be worn above the left breast pocket, and if the wearer also wears the Military Service Bar, it shall be in line with said Military Service Bar.

Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Award

The Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Award is a Grand Encampment award available to every Commandery of the Grand Encampment as an award to a worthy Sir Knight. It is not a Grand Encampment Service Award and no approval of the Grand Encampment is required. This award is purely optional to each Commandery. Only one such award should be given each calendar year by each Commandery.

Art. 373. (G 257). Only Templar Jewels to be Worn.

Only Templar Jewels are to be worn on the Templar Uniform. Jewel of Office, Meritorious Jewels, Badge of Commanderies, Malta and Red Cross Jewel may be worn on the left breast, placed in the order named, from wearer's right to left and on a Line with the Third button of the coat.

Art. 374. Jewels -- Custody of.

The Jewel belonging to each station shall, after the installation of the several Officers of the Grand Commandery, be left in charge of the respective Officers filling said stations during the incumbency of said Officers, to be kept by each of them during the Templar year, to be properly accounted for and delivered by each to the proper custodian at the end of his term of office.

Art. 375. (G 262) The Emblem on the Jewels of Office

The Emblem on the Jewels of Office of this Grand Commandery, and Constituent Commanderies, shall be as follows:

Grand Commander and Commanders:

The Passion Cross upon Sun Rays, nine rays between each arm of the Cross, illustrated for detail. hereinafter set forth in this Chapter. The Jewel shall be of yellow gold or gold plate.

Deputy Grand Commander:

The Passion Cross, without Rays, illustrated for detail

Grand Generalissimo and Generalissimos:

The Square surmounted by the Paschal Lamb, illustrated for detail

Grand Captain General and Captains General:

The Level surmounted by the Cock, illustrated for detail

Grand Senior Warden and Senior Wardens:

A hollow Square with a Mailed Arm and Hand grasping the Sword of Justice, illustrated for detail

Grand Junior Warden and Junior Wardens:

The Eagle, wings spread, holding in its talons a Flaming Sword, illustrated for detail

Grand Prelate and Prelates:

A Triple Triangle, with a red Passion Cross in the center of each Triangle, illustrated for detail

Grand Treasurer and Treasurers:

Two Crossed Keys, illustrated for detail

Grand Recorder and Recorders:

Two Crossed Quill Pens, illustrated for detail

Grand Standard Bearer and Standard Bearers:

A Masonic Plumb surmounted by the Banner of the Order, illustrated for detail.

Grand Sword Bearer and Sword Bearers:

A Triangle with two Crossed Swords, illustrated for detail

Grand Warder and Warders:

A hollow Square with Crossed Swords and a Trumpet, illustrated for detail

Grand Sentinel and Sentinels:

A hollow Square with a Sword, illustrated for detail .

Guards of Constituent Commanderies:

A hollow Square with a Battle-axe, illustrated for detail



Commander



Generalissimo



Captain General



Senior Warden



Junior Warden



Prelate



Treasurer



Recorder



Standard Bearer



Sword Bearer



Warder



Sentinel



Guard

DIVISION IV

- I. Installation Service for Officers of a Commandery
- II. Sample By-Laws for a Constituent Commandery
- III. Sample Forms
- IV. Commandery Funeral Service
- V. Knight Templar Memorial Service
- VI. 50 Year Service Award

Installation Services for Officers of a Commandery

The following ceremony is primarily intended for installation of the officers of a newly constituted Commandery, but with easily understood alterations, it may be used for any installation.

If the full ceremony is to be used, an altar should be placed in front of the Grand Commander and on it the open Bible, Square, Compasses, Crossed Swords, Jewels, Charter, the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and the By-Laws of the Commandery. If the ceremony is shortened, a table placed conveniently, may be substituted for the altar and on it the official jewels placed. If the Commandery has banners they should be displayed in the East.

The Grand Officers, or appointees, will fill the stations. The Commandery is opened in regular form and election held. The officers chosen retire with the Grand Marshal to the anteroom and form in line with the Commander-elect at the head, swords at carry. (Installation may be public, in which event a recess should be taken until installation is complete when work should be resumed.)

The Grand Marshal gives an alarm.

Grand Warder: Right Eminent Grand Commander, there is an alarm at the door of the Asylum.

Grand Commander: Eminent Grand Warder, attend to the alarm. (Done)

Grand Warder: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Grand Marshal with the newly chosen officers desires to enter.

Grand Commander: Admit them. **Commandery, Attention!**

Grand Warder: (at door of the Asylum) Grand Marshal and newly chosen officers, you will enter. (Done)

(The Grand Marshal escorts the officers chosen, who enter forming a line across the center of the Asylum, facing East, the right resting on the South. Chairs may be provided for the line.)

Grand Marshal: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present to you for installation the duly chosen officers of this Commandery. **Officers Chosen, Present, Swords!**

Grand Commander: **Officers Chosen, Carry, Swords! Order, Swords!** Sir Knights, before engaging in this important ceremony, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. **Sir Knights, Un-cover!** Eminent Grand Prelate, lead our devotions.

(The Grand Prelate offers a prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in which all join.)

Grand Commander: **Sir Knights, Re-cover! Officers Chosen, Carry, Swords! Return, Swords!** Sir Knights, you behold before you those who have been chosen as officers of this Commandery. We believe

them to be tried and true, worthy and well qualified, zealous in the service of Templary and true exemplars of the great tenets of the Order, but if any one of you knows any reason why they or any one of them should not be installed, let him now speak out or forever hold his peace. Hearing no objection, we will proceed with the installation. Sir Knights not in line, **Be Seated!**

Officers chosen, before investing you with the honors and responsibilities of your respective stations, it becomes my duty to administer to you the vow of office. Do you severally consent to take upon yourselves that vow? (They assent)

Eminent Grand Marshal, place the officers chosen in proper position to take upon themselves the vow of office.

Grand Marshal: Officers chosen, count twos. (done) Numbers one, Draw, Swords! Drop point of sword to the left, grasp hilt with left hand; numbers two, grasp blade with left hand; place your right hand upon your left breast.

(Alternative - The following may be used to place the officers chosen in proper position:

Grand Marshal: Officers chosen, count twos. (done) Numbers one, Draw, Swords! Point swords to left; Numbers two, grasp blade with right hand; Un-cover!)

Right Eminent Grand Commander, the officers chosen are in proper position.

Grand Commander: Commandery, Attention! Draw, Swords! Present, Swords! Officers chosen, you will say, "I", pronounce your names in full, and repeat after me:

"I (A. B.), do promise and vow that, I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of this Jurisdiction, and the By-Laws of this Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office in which I am about to be installed to the best of my ability.
"

Sir Knights not in line, Carry, Swords! Return, Swords! Be seated!

Grand Marshal: Officers chosen, drop right hand to side! Numbers two, relinquish blade; Numbers one, grasp hilt with right hand; Carry, Swords! Return Swords. Be seated!

(Alternative - The following should be used when the alternative method of placing in position is employed.

Grand Marshal: Officers chosen, re-cover! Numbers two, relinquish sword blade, numbers one, Carry, Swords! Return Swords! Be seated.

Grand Commander: Eminent Grand Marshal, present the Commander-elect.

Grand Marshal: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I have the honor to present Sir Knight....., who has been elected to the office of Commander. I find him well skilled in our sublime mysteries and observant of the noble precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt that he will discharge the important duties of his office with fidelity.

Grand Commander: Sir Knight as you have been elected to the honorable and important station of Commander of this Commandery, it is with genuine pleasure that I enter upon the duty of installing you in that exalted office. As head of a Christian institution you are charged with important duties and responsibilities. It is confidently anticipated that your fidelity to these trusts will reflect honor upon yourself and credit upon your Commandery.

It now becomes my duty to propound to you certain questions to which your unequivocal answers are required:

I. Do you solemnly promise, upon your honor as a Knight Templar, that you will endeavor to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your brethren who have attained this magnanimous Order?

- II. That you will never suffer your Commandery to be opened unless there be present at least nine regular Knights of the Order?
- III. That you will not confer the Orders upon anyone who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition nor upon anyone who has not attained a reasonable proficiency in Masonry?
- IV. That you will seriously endeavor to promote the general good of the Order and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instruction, particularly from the Grand Officers?
- V. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies and behave in open Commandery with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your brethren?
- VI. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Commandery that does not work under a constitutional Dispensation or Charter?
- VII. That you will not admit any visitor into your Commandery unless he has been knighted in a lawful Commandery?
- VIII. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the Grand Officers, particularly those relating to the several lectures and charges, and will resign your station to them when any visit your Commandery?
- IX. That you will support and maintain the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery under whose authority you act?
- X. That you will bind your successor in office to the observance of these rules?

Do you confirm all these promises and do you agree to observe them faithfully? (Assents)

Sir Knight, I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Passion Cross surmounted by rays of light. The rays of light are symbols that suggest to you the humility, love and pure benevolence that emanate like rays from the religion of the blessed Emanuel, and which should ever characterize the members of this Christian Order.

I present you the Charter of your Commandery. Receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purposes than those expressed in it. It is your duty to safely transmit it to your successor.

I also commit to your keeping the Holy Bible, the Great Light of Masons of every degree. It confirms our belief in the existence of the Eternal Jehovah, the one only living and true God, the Creator and Judge of all things in heaven and earth.

The Crossed Swords resting upon the Holy Bible remind us that we should be "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might", that we should "put on the whole armor of God", to be able to wrestle successfully with "principalities, powers and spiritual wickedness in high Places". I also present to you the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Texas, and the by-laws of Commandery No..... You should familiarize yourself with them that you may rule your Commandery with justice and moderation.

And now, Sir Knight, I induct you into the Chair of your Commandery. (Done) I offer you my sincere congratulations on your accession to this honorable station. It will be your special duty to preserve inviolate the laws of the Order, to dispense justice, reward merit, and expound the sublime principles of universal benevolence. You will inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality and govern your Commandery with justice and moderation. And finally, my frater, may the illustrious lives of the heroes of past ages, whose matchless valor has shed undying lustre over the name of Knight Templar, encourage and animate you to the faithful performance of every duty.

Grand Marshal: *Commandery, Attention! Draw Swords! Present Swords!*

Grand Commander: Sir Knights, behold your Commander. Bear ever in mind that the prosperity of your Commandery will as much depend on your support and obedience as on the assiduity, fidelity and wisdom of your Commander. Be ye, therefore, diligent and faithful in the performance of your respective duties.

Grand Marshal: *Sir Knights, Carry, Swords Return Swords! Be seated!*

Grand Commander: Eminent Grand Marshal, present the officers chosen, in order of rank.

(The Grand Marshal then presents each officer, according to rank, introducing him by his title and designating the office which he is to fill. The Grand Commander will receive him with fitting words, charging him to be faithful to his trust. He will also invest him with the official jewel and direct the Marshal to conduct him to his station. No particular form is prescribed but the following charges are suggested as appropriate:)

Charge to the Generalissimo

Sir Knight....., you have been elected Generalissimo of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Square surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. The Square is to remind you that friendship and love should forever govern Freemasons and particularly Knights Templar. Your station is on the right of your Commander. You are to assist him in the discharge of his various duties and in his absence to preside. I charge you, therefore, to familiarize yourself with the duties of your office that you may adequately discharge them. Be faithful to the Knights with whom you are associated, put them often in remembrance of those things which tend to their everlasting peace. Finally, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine", ever remembering the promise, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life".

Charge to the Captain General

Sir Knight....., you have been elected Captain General of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Level surmounted by a Cock. As the undaunted courage and valor of the Cock stimulate him to conquer his enemy and fight to the last extremity, so should you be stimulated in the discharge of every duty. Your station is on the left of the Commander. Your duty among other things is to see that due preparation is made for the various conclaves of the Commandery and that the Asylum is prepared for the dispatch of business. You are also to receive and communicate to the lines all orders issued by the Commander. You are to assist in council and, in the absence of the Commander and Generalissimo, to preside over the Commandery. I exhort you that with fidelity you perform every duty; and "Whatsoever ye do, do heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men; continue in prayer", ever bearing in mind the promise, "Be not weary in well doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not".

Charge to the Senior Warden

Sir Knight....., you have been elected Senior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a mailed arm and hand grasping the Sword of Justice. It is to remind you that as the children of Israel marched in a hollow square in their journey through the wilderness in order to guard and protect the Ark of the Covenant, so should you be vigilant in guarding every avenue from innovation and error. Let the Sword of Justice, therefore, be ever drawn to guard the Constitution of the Order. Your station is at the southwest angle of the Triangle and upon the right of the first Division. You will attend pilgrim warriors, comfort and support pilgrim penitents, and after due trial, introduce them into the Asylum. Let it be your constant care that the warrior be not deterred from duty nor the penitent molested on his journey. Finally, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven".

Charge to the Junior Warden

Sir Knight....., you have been elected Junior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is an Eagle with wings spread holding in its talons a Flaming Sword. It suggests to you the performance of your duties with Justice and valor, having an eagle eye on the prosperity of the Order. Your station is at the northwest angle of the Triangle, and on the left of the third division. Your duty is to attend weary pilgrims traveling from afar, conduct them on their journey, plead their cause, and in due time recommend them to the Commander. Impress upon them the motto of our Order: "In Hoc Signo Vincens" and that although the path of life may be thorny, crooked, adverse and forlorn, yet by faith and fidelity, courage and constancy, patience and perseverance, they may gain

admission into the Asylum above, there to carry on the high labors begun here below. Finally, "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord", that you may be a shining light in the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Charge to the Prelate

Sir Knight....., you have been chosen Prelate of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triple Triangle with a Red Passion Cross in the center of each triangle. It is also an emblem of Deity. Your station is on the right of the Generalissimo. Your duty is to officiate at the altar and offer up prayers to Deity. Your jewel is to remind you of the importance of the trust reposed in you. May "He, who is able, abundantly furnish you for every good work, preserve you from failing into error, improve and strengthen, establish and perfect you", and finally greet you with "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord".

Charge to the Treasurer

Sir Knight....., you have been elected Treasurer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is Two Crossed Keys. Your station is in front and on the right of the Generalissimo. The qualities which recommend a Treasurer are accuracy and Fidelity accuracy in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements fidelity in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Commandery that may be placed in his hands, and rendering a just account of the same whenever called upon for that purpose. I am sure that your attachment to the Commandery and your earnest solicitude for a good name, which is better than riches, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

Charge to the Recorder

Sir Knight....., you have been elected Recorder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is Two Crossed Quill Pens. Your station is on the left of the Captain General. The essential qualities of a Recorder are promptitude in issuing notifications and orders of his superior officers; punctuality in attending the conclaves of the Commandery; correctness in recording the proceedings; judgment in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be committed to writing; integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands, and fidelity in paying the same over to the Treasurer. The possession of these qualities, I presume, has led to your selection for this important office. I doubt not that you will discharge it duties with benefit to the Commandery and honor to yourself.

Charge to the Standard Bearer

Sir Knight....., you have been chosen Standard Bearer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Masonic Plumb surmounted by the Banner of the Order. Your station is in the West and in the center of the second division. Your duty is to display, support and protect the Banner of our Order, which I now confide to your keeping. You will remember that it is our rallying point in time of danger. When unfurled in a just and virtuous cause, you will defend it as long as life endures.

Charge to the Sword Bearer

Sir Knight....., you have been chosen Sword Bearer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triangle with Crossed Swords. Your station is on the right of the Standard Bearer and on the right of the second division. Your duty is to assist in protecting the Banner of our Order.

Charge to the Warder

Sir Knight....., you have been chosen Warder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with Crossed Swords and a Trumpet thereon. Your station is on the left of the Standard Bearer and upon the left of the second division. Your duty is to sound the Assembly, announce the approach and departure of the Commander, post the Sentinel, and see that the Asylum is duly guarded. I charge you to be punctual in your attendance, and tireless in the discharge of your important duties. Though yours is among the lower offices in the Commandery, it is by no means the least important.

Charge to the Three Guards

Sir Knights, you have been chosen Guards. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a Battle-axe thereon. You will, therefore, be vigilant, challenge with spirit, examine with caution, admonish with candor, relieve cheerfully, protect with fidelity and fight valiantly.

Charge to the Sentinel

Sir Knight..... , you have been chosen Sentinel of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a Sword thereon. I present you this sword, badge of your office. The Sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him to effectively guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers and to suffer none to pass or repass but such as are qualified. It morally serves as a constant admonition to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions, thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word, or deed. As applications of visitors for admission into the Commandery are generally made to the Sentinel, your station will often present you to the observation of strangers. It is therefore essential that he, who holds this office should be a frater temperate, affable and discreet, of good morals, steady habits and strict discipline. I am sure that a due regard for the honor and reputation of this institution will ever impel you to perform with fidelity the trust reposed in you.

(The presiding officer then delivers the following:)

Charge of the Commandery

Sir Knights, to manage and conduct the affairs of a Commandery of Knights Templar with that promptitude, integrity and skill which the Institution demands, requires the exercise of all the abilities of its officers and members. The officers should remember that the moral and religious duties and precepts which they from time to time should forcibly impress upon the minds of others, should by no means be neglected by themselves; that the most effectual way to insure success is to let precept and performance go hand in hand. I urge you to look well to the East, to the West, to the North and to the South; to see that the entrances are strictly guarded, to the end that you allow none to pass the threshold of your Asylum save the worthy, and at the same time that you suffer no one to be guilty of disorderly conduct among you without admonition and reproof, to the end that this valiant and magnanimous Order shall forever flourish. And now, Sir Knights, "Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sake I now say, Peace be within thee"!

Eminent Grand Marshal, proclaim the installation of the officers of this Commandery.

Grand Marshal: *Commandery, Attention! Draw Swords! Present Swords!*

Official Proclamation

Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! Valiant Knights of the Temple! In the name of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Texas (or, of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America), I proclaim that the officers of Commandery No. Knights Templar, have been duly installed in their respective stations. This proclamation is made to the North (one blast on trumpet); to the South (one blast); to the East (one blast); and to the West (grand flourish on trumpet). Let all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

Sir Knights: *Carry Swords! Return Swords! Be Seated!*

(The Commander may, if he desires, address the fraters. The choir may then chant the "Te Deum Laudamus" or render some other appropriate musical selection. The Grand Officers may then retire with proper escort and the Commandery will proceed to the regular order of business, resuming labor if the installation has been public.)

Installation Service for Officers of a Texas Commandery may be downloaded from <https://yorkritetexas.org/> - Information - Education & Resources

SAMPLE BY-LAWS

BY-LAWS

_____ COMMANDERY NO. _____

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

_____, TEXAS

CHARTERED BY THE GRAND COMMANDERY

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

A.D. _____

A.O. _____

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND NUMBER**

Section 1.

The name and number of this Commandery shall be " _____
COMMANDERY No. _____, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR".

**ARTICLE II
CONCLAVES**

Section 1.

The Stated Conclaves of this Commandery shall be held on the _____ of each month at
_____ P.M. (or A.M.)

Section 2.

Special Conclaves may be called by the Commandery or by the Commander.

Section 3.

No business shall be transacted at a Special Conclave except that specified in the original notice or summons.

Section 4.

When the Order of the Temple is to be conferred, the Officers shall appear in full dress uniform. All other Sir Knights are requested to appear in full dress uniform, if possible. At all other Conclaves the dress shall be optional unless otherwise specified by the Commander.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1.

The Officers of this Commandery shall be a Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, SeniorWarden, Junior Warden, Prelate, Treasurer, Recorder, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, Warder, Sentinel. Guards are not required, but may be appointed by the Commander-elect.

Section 2.

The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected by ballot at the Stated Conclave in November of each year.

Section 3.

The other officers may be elected or appointed. The Guards shall be appointed by the Commander-elect at the Stated Conclave in November of each year.

Section 4.

All officers shall be installed as soon after election and appointment as practicable, but not later than January 15 of the year following. They shall hold and discharge the duties of their respective offices until their successors have been duly elected or appointed, and installed.

Section 5.

The duties of the officers shall be such as are prescribed by the Constitution, Statutes, and Rituals, of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America, by the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas, and as the traditions of the Order have established, together with such other duties as may be prescribed in these By-Laws.

Section 6.

It is the special duty of the Commander to see that all the officers properly discharge the duties of the offices to which elected or appointed.

Section 7.

It shall be the duty of the Commander, together with the Generalissimo, Captain General, and Recorder to attend all Conclaves of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas.

Section 8.

The Officers of this Commandery shall serve without pay, except as provided in this and other Sections of these By-Laws.

Funds for the reasonable expenses of transportation, lodging, meals and fees for special events in connection with the attendance at the Grand Commandery Conclaves by the Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, and Recorder may be furnished by the Commandery, subject to prior annual approval by the Commandery.

Section 9.

In the event of the absence, death or disability of the first three officers of this Commandery, the Junior Past Commander able to serve shall act as Commander pending Issuance of a Dispensation and a special election to fill such vacancies and any others which may result therefrom.

Section 10.

The Treasurer shall have charge of all moneys, notes and securities belonging to the Commandery, which he shall deliver to his successor in office when duly installed, or as may be designated by the Commandery. He shall make annual reports to the Commandery of all moneys received and paid out by him. He shall pay all warrants authorized by the Commandery and shall submit his books for audit when so requested by the Commandery. He shall give satisfactory bond in a sum not less than the amount, and under the terms, specified in the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas. He may be exempt from the payment of dues during his term of office.

Section 11.

The Recorder shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Commandery; collect all revenue and pay same to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor; keep a register of all members, showing their Lodge, Chapter and Council membership, dues owing and collected, and such other records as pertain to the history of the member. He shall make an annual report to the Commandery and annual or other reports to the Grand Recorder as may be required by the Statutes. He shall give satisfactory bond in a sum not less than the amount, and under the terms, specified in the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas. He shall issue all notices and summons as directed by the Commander or Commandery and shall submit his books for audit when so ordered. Compensation for his services shall be set by the vote of the Commandery at the same meeting at which officers for the ensuing year are elected. In addition to any compensation so set, he may also be exempt from the payment of dues during his tenure of office.

Section 12.

It shall be the duty of the Sentinel to attend all Conclaves of the Commandery, to serve summons and to perform all other duties pertaining to his office. He shall, under direction of the Captain General, have charge of all paraphernalia and equipment belonging to the Commandery and shall see that it is kept in good condition and is available for use when required in the transaction of the business of the Commandery. Compensation for his services, if any, shall be set by the vote of the Commandery at the same meeting at which officers for the ensuing year are elected. In addition to any compensation so set, he may also be exempt from the payment of dues during his tenure of office.

ARTICLE IV COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. (Finance and Audit Committee)

The Commander, as soon as practicable after installation, shall appoint a Finance and Audit Committee of three members whose duty it shall be to examine all books and accounts of the Commandery for the year just ending, and to make a prompt report thereof to the Commandery, said report being read in open Commandery at a Stated Conclave and recorded in full in the minutes thereof, no later than the February

stated meeting. It shall be their duty also, in collaboration with the Commander, Recorder, and Treasurer, to prepare a budget for the operation of the Commandery for the year in which they serve.

It shall also be the duty of the Finance and Audit Committee to arrange for the audit of the records of the Recorder and Treasurer for the preceding year. This audit may be performed by the Finance Committee or they may arrange for an audit to be performed by any Public Accountant or Certified Public Accountant licensed by the proper authority of the State of Texas. The audit report shall be submitted to the Commandery no later than the March Stated Conclave.

Section 2. (Sickness and Distress Committee)

The Commander, as soon as practicable after installation, shall appoint a committee of three members on Sickness and Distress, whose duty it shall be to visit sick and distressed Sir Knights and to report thereon to the Commandery, with whatever recommendations for relief they may deem to be warranted.

Section 3. (Committee on Charity)

The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General shall constitute a standing Committee on Charity. The Commander and one other of said committee may act at any time, or in the absence of the Commander, the Generalissimo and Captain General may act. They shall examine all claimants for assistance, and in case of an emergency if necessary, they may approve such relief as may be reasonable and within the financial resources of the Commandery available for such purposes; reporting the facts in each Case to the Commandery at its next Stated Conclave thereafter.

Section 4. (Other Committees)

The Commandery, or the Commander, may name and appoint such other committees as may be necessary for the transaction of business or for the good of the Order and prescribe their duties.

ARTICLE V PETITIONS, FEES AND DUES

Section 1.

Every petition for the Orders or for membership shall be signed in full by the applicant, recommended by at least two members of this Commandery, and presented at a Stated or Special Conclave. Said petition, whether for the Orders or membership, shall be referred to a Committee of three members of the Commandery only when requested to do so by a member in good standing in the Commandery acting upon the petition. If a Committee is empowered to investigate the petitioner, it shall consist of members who shall know or personally interview the petitioner. The fact of the report being made, and not its character, shall be entered on the minutes of the Commandery.

Balloting on the petition may be conducted at the meeting in which it is read, provided no committee has been requested, or if a committee that has been requested and appointed has made its report at said meeting. If a committee report has not been received, ballot upon such petition will hold over until the next meeting. All balloting on petitions shall be in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 50 of the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas.

Section 2.

The fees for the orders shall be DOLLARS, and in all cases must accompany the petition. No fee shall be charged for affiliation.

Section 3.

The annual dues of this Commandery shall beDOLLARS, payable in advance. All members, except those specifically exempted by rulings of the Grand Commandery or by these by-laws, shall be required to pay dues as above.

Section 4.

Any member failing to pay dues may be suspended for non-payment, such suspension being performed in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 42 of the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas.

Section 5.

No life memberships shall be granted by this Commandery. Members of other Commanderies may be elected to Honorary Membership, but shall not be entitled to a vote, nor does it create any liability for dues.

Section 6.

A member, under suspension for non-payment of dues or for non-affiliation In Lodge, Chapter or Council, may be reinstated by complying with the provisions of Chapter 43 of the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas.

Section 7.

A member of this Commandery in good standing may purchase an Endowed Membership and, subject to the provisions thereof, shall be relieved from further payment of dues. The purchase price and terms of said Endowed Membership shall be as set forth In Article 311a in Chapter 48 of the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas.

(Revised 2001)

**ARTICLE VI
DRILLS**

Section 1.

The Commander shall call at least four Special Conclaves during the year for drill in the tactics, ritual, etc., or as many such Conclaves as are required by the Grand Commandery. These Special Conclaves shall be opened with full ceremony and rehearsal of duties as adopted by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

**ARTICLE VII
RULES OF ORDER**

Section 1.

The Following May Be the Order of Business for Stated Conclave's:

1. Reading all unapproved Minutes and action there on.
2. Reading and Referring of Petitions.
3. Report of Committees on Petitions.
4. Balloting on Candidates and Members.
5. Report of Special Committees.

- 6. Reported Standing Committees.
- 7. Unfinished Business.
- 8. New Business.

Section 2.

Members who wish to speak, shall rise and properly address the Commander, shall observe knightly courtesy and decorum in all discussions, and shall not speak more than twice on the same subject without permission, and then only for the purpose of explanation.

**ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

Section 1.

Amendments to these By-Laws, shall be presented in writing and read at a Stated Conclave, and final action shall not be taken thereon until the next Stated Conclave, at which time they may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Section 2.

Such amendments do not become operative until approved by the Grand Commander and the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Commandery, except that amendments fixing the time or date of Stated Conclaves and the amount of dues become operative upon certification of such changes to the Grand Recorder.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing By-Laws were legally adopted byCommandery No..... K.T., at its Stated Conclave held in , Texas, on theday of, A.D., A.O.

Commander

Attest:

Recorder

Chairman., Committee on By-Laws

**Forms for Constituent Commanderies and Grand Officers may be downloaded from the
Commandery page of texasyorkrite.org**

Standard Receipt for Dues

The Standard Receipt for Dues shall be that provided by the Grand Encampment of the United States of America.

Cross and Crown Award Requirements

Cross and Crown Award Requirements:

CATEGORY ONE (Commandery Internal Improvement)

1. Have an open installation of officers [5 points]
2. Have open meetings with interesting programs during the year. (NOT to include installation of officers.) [5 points per meeting]
3. Knighting new Sir Knights for your Commandery [5 points per Knight]
4. Actual candidate at Inspection [25 points]
5. Sponsor a widow's nights. (NOT to be held in conjunction with any other special meeting.) [15 points]
6. Conduct a Memorial Service for deceased Sir Knights (NOT to be held in conjunction with any other special meeting.) [10 points]
7. Serve meals at each stated conclave during the year and invite wives to join the Sir Knights at the meal [5 points]
8. Recognize, at each stated meeting, the Sir Knights who have celebrated their birthdays and/or the anniversary of their knightings [5 points]
9. Have the annual returns in to the Grand Recorder on time. [5 points]
10. Complete all obligatory observances, i.e. Easter, Ascension, Patriotic and Christmas. (Observances must be held on separate dates.) [5 points]
11. All installed officers must show proficiency and participate in their respective stations during the ritualistic opening and closing ceremonies during the Annual Inspection. [10 points]
12. All installed officers must show proficiency and participate in their respective stations during the conferring of the Order of the Temple during the Annual Inspection. [20 points]
13. Commandery contributes \$50.00 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. (NOT to include individual Sir Knights contributions.) [10 points]
14. All currently installed officers are Life Sponsors of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. [10 points]
15. All currently installed officers, with the exceptions of the Treasurer, Recorder, Prelate and Sentinel, must be Sir Knights who have not previously served as Commander of the Commandery making this application. [10 points]
16. All elected officers attend stated conclave. (not available if completing number 17) [5 points per meeting]
17. All installed officers attend stated conclave. [10 points per member]
18. Present an Excalibur Award to a deserving Sir Knight. [10 points]
19. Members (excluding officers) in attendance at stated conclave. [10 points per member]
20. Recipients of Grand Encampment Membership Award. [5 points per member]
21. File appropriate IRS Form 990 with the IRS in timely manner. (25 points)

CATEGORY TWO (Commandery External Improvement)

1. The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Instructor and at least six (6) other currently installed Commandery Officers must attend a District School of Instruction. [10 points]
2. All installed officers and Instructor attend District School of Instruction. [25 points]
3. Publish a news letter or bulletin, not less than quarterly and send it to all members. [15 points]
4. Attend a Blue Lodge with a program to promote York Rite Masonry in general and Templar Masonry in particular in your district at least twice during the Templar year. [5 points]
5. Visit other Commanderies in your area with at least six (6) installed officers on each trip. [10 points each visit]
6. Participate in the Gift of Life Program with one or more lodges in your district. (Commandery must be advertised as a participating sponsor.) [10 points each program]
7. Publicize your Commandery's activities on a regular basis in the local news media. [10 points]

8. Make flag presentations at open functions in other bodies affiliated with the Masonic Fraternity. [5 points each]
9. Compete in Field Drill competition at Grand Commandery. [10 points]
10. Compete in Field Drill competition at Grand Encampment. [20 points]
11. Sponsor a Ritualistic competition Team and participate in competition at the Annual Grand Conclave. [10 points]
12. Have a "net growth" in membership for the Templar Year, over and above deaths. [50 points]
13. Confer, or demonstrate the ability to confer, the Order of the Red Cross with not less than ten (10) members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 14.) [10 points]
14. Confer, or demonstrate the ability to confer, the Order of the Red Cross with all members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 13.) [15 points]
15. Confer, or demonstrate the ability to confer, the Order of Malta with not less than ten (10) members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 16.) [10 points]
16. Confer, or demonstrate the ability to confer, the Order of Malta with all members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 15.) [15 points]
17. When invited, assist other Commanderies in the conferral of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple.) [1 point per station]
18. Have no suspensions for NPD or demits during the Templar Year. [25 points]
19. Create and maintain a web site on the Internet with the Commandery's name and Knight Templar emblem, providing Knight Templar and/or Commandery information to the public for at least six (6) months. [25 points]
20. Support or assist local Beauceant Assembly or Masonic Youth organization with activities (dinners, fundraisers, financial, etc.). [15 points]

CATEGORY THREE (Civic & Community Involvement)

1. As a Commandery support a local Public Library by contributing one hundred (\$100.00) or more dollars or more than ten (10) books. [25 points]
2. As a Commandery, sponsor a fund raising project for purchasing unbudgeted items for school (public or private), public libraries, fire departments, police departments, emergency corps, etc. [25 points]
3. As a Commandery, participate in a community improvement project, such as a clean-up campaign, for your community. [25 points]
4. As a Commandery, collect and distribute food, clothing, and/or toys for the needy in your community. [25 points]
5. As a Commandery, join the "Adopt-a-Highway Program" in your area. [25 points]
6. As a Commandery, sponsor or assist in a fix-up or building campaign, i.e. habitat-for-Humanity, in your community. [25 points]
7. As a Commandery, take part in a presentation of the American Flag at a local government or civic function. [25 points]
8. As a Commandery, take part in presenting the American Flag at local high school athletic games. [25 points per game]
9. As a Commandery, sponsor or raise money for a minister to participate in the "Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage." [75 points]
10. Sponsor a Knights Templar booth at a local fair or community celebration. Commandery's name and Knight Templar emblem must be prominently displayed. (Sign should be of commercial quality). [50 points]
11. Sponsor a Knights Templar float or have the Commandery's Drill Team march in a local parade. (Commandery name and Knights Templar emblem must be prominently displayed on the float or the Commandery's Grand Banner and Beauceant must be displayed, and Knights must be in full uniform if the parade theme permits.) [50 points]
12. Cause the Commandery to appear on television as a group for its participation in a civic or community project. [50 points]
13. Cause the Commandery's picture to appear in a local newspaper for its participation in a civic or community project. [50 points]

14. Cause the Commandery to appear on television as a group for its participation in a Commandery project. [25 points]
15. Cause the Commandery's picture to appear in a local newspaper for its participation in a Commandery project. [25 points]
16. Cause the Commandery's name to be mentioned on the radio for its participation in either a civic or community project. [25 points]
17. Prior approval by the Public Relations & Special Projects/Patriotic & Civic Committee required for Public Relations projects not listed. [Not to exceed 25 points per occasion]

REVISED FUNERAL SERVICE AVAILABLE ON GRAND ENCAMPMENT WEB SITE

FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE ORDERS OF MASONIC KNIGHTHOOD

Adopted by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America in Its 38th Triennial Conclave held in the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 23-26, 1931.

(With revisions made at the 42nd Triennial Conclave held in the city of Chicago, May 24, 1943.)

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

- (1) Every Knight Templar who was in regular standing at the time of his death is entitled to be buried with the funeral honors of Knighthood. An unaffiliated Knight Templar is not entitled of right to such honors but a Commandery may grant them to him without breach of Knightly duty.
- (2) Upon notice of the death of a Sir Knight entitled to funeral honors and upon his previous request or the request of his family, it is the duty of the Commander to convene his Commandery for the purpose of attending the ceremonies.
- (3) The Sir Knights will wear the Templar Dress Uniform, their sword hilts being suitably draped in mourning. In inclement weather the Templar Fatigue Uniform, with or without swords, may be worn and uncovering may be omitted. If the Standard Guard be present with the Colors, the latter shall be furled and draped in mourning.
- (4) A small Templar Cross should be placed on the casket. The chapeau and sword in scabbard, and if the frater was an Officer, his jewel trimmed with crepe, shall also be placed there.
- (5) To receive and escort the remains to the place designated for the service, the Commandery will march in the usual order of Parades, preferably in charge of the Captain General, with the Commander and staff, including the Prelate wearing his Robes of Office, and the Honor Guard marching at the head. On arrival, the line will be formed opposite and facing the hearse. The Commander will pass to the front into the home or funeral parlor and report for duty. The Honor Guard (six Sir Knights under command of one of their number) will precede the casket and later march at the side of the hearse. As the casket appears the Captain General will command: 1. Present, 2. SWORDS. He will then face front and assume the position of "Salute Swords". When the casket has been placed in the hearse, he will resume the "Carry", face about and command: 1. Carry, 2. SWORDS. He will then form column of threes and proceed to the front of the column, behind the Police escort and musicians if they are present. The Commander and staff will follow the Commandery and precede the hearse. The Sir Knights will march at "Reverse Swords" and the Commander and Staff at "Secure Swords".
- (6) As the procession arrives at the place designated to hold the service, the Commandery will resume "Carry Swords", form a line as before, facing the place where the hearse will be halted, and execute the "Present Swords" as the casket is being removed and placed upon the carriage. They will then "Return Swords" and march in a column of files into the Chapel, Asylum, or burial place, uncovering at the door if it is a Church and remaining so while within the church, preferably remaining at the south side of the bier and retaining their formation so as to be able to leave in the same formation. The Commander and Staff, who have followed the column, will take position at the head of the bier or in the Fast, and the Wardens at the foot of the bier.

The casket is brought in and placed upon the bier, the Guard of Honor, at "Carry Swords", being on either side. The family and friends are seated on the north side of the bier. When all is in readiness the Honor Guard will form the arch of steel over the casket.

(7) No fixed rules are possible, as changing conditions are the governing factors. If the service is to be wholly at the cemetery, the "bier" will become the "grave". No provisions are made for seating the participants in this Ceremony but this can be done by the Captain General, in which event, he will bring the Commandery to "Attention" before the reading of Scripture lessons or Prayer.

(8) Preferably the larger part of the funeral service is rendered at the house of the deceased, at a church, or at some place of public assembly, but the entire rites may be given at the grave.

The service will be conducted according to the following ritual.

(Note: The Guard of Honor may be used at the house or at the public place of assembly and if used will "Cross Swords" over the casket at the beginning of the service.)

All being in readiness the choir may render an appropriate selection.

RITUAL

EMINENT COMMANDER: Sir Knights, in the solemn ceremonies of our Order, we have often been reminded of the great truth that we are born to die. The mournful funeral knell has betokened that another spirit has winged its flight to a new state of existence. An alarm has come to the door of our Asylum, the messenger is Death; and none presumes to say to the direful presence, "Who dares approach?"

A Pilgrim Warrior has been summoned, "and there is no discharge in that war". A burning taper in the life of our Commandery has been extinguished and none save the High and Holy One can relight it.

The earthly remains of our beloved frater lie mute before us and the light of the eye and breathing of the lips in their language of fraternal greeting have ceased for us forever on this side of the grave. His sword, vowed to be drawn only in the cause of truth, Justice and liberty, reposes in its scabbard and our arms can no more shield him from wrong or oppression.

(If the Guard of Honor is used at the house or at the public place of assembly, its members will here, execute "Carry Swords" and "Order Swords" at a signal from the Commander, but they remain standing at the sides of the casket.)

It is meant, at such a time, that we should be silent, and let the words of the Infinite and Undying speak, that we may gather consolation from His revelation, impress upon our minds lessons from His wisdom and learn the meekness of preparation for the last great change which must come upon us all.

Let us be reverently attentive while the Prelate reads to us a lesson from the Holy Scriptures.

CAPTAIN GENERAL: 1. Un 2. COVER.

(The following passages of Scripture or some portion thereof should then be read.)

PRELATE:

"Lord, Thou has been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever Thou hadst formed the earth or the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me . . . Bless His Holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction. Who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him, for He knoweth our frame. He remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass. As a flower of the field so he

flourisheth, for the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting, upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant and to those that remember His commandments to do them."

"The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirits that we are children of God, and if children of God, then heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him that we may be also glorified with Him. For I reckon that the sufferings of this time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us. If God be for us, who is against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him really give us all things. And who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angel nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

"But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the first fruits of them that are asleep. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For, as in Adam, all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

"For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law, but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ'. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

"Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever."

PRELATE: makes the following prayer, or an extemporaneous one if preferred:

"Lord of Light in this trying hour of calamity and sorrow, we humbly lift our hearts to Thee. Give us, we pray, that light which cometh down from above. Thou has mercifully said in Thy Holy Word that the bruised reed Thou wouldst not break. Remember In mercy, O Lord these bereaved ones now before Thee. Be Thou at this hour, the Father of the fatherless, and the widow's God. Administer to them the consolation which they so sorely need. Cause us to look away from this sad scene of mortality to the life which lies beyond the grave. Lead us by Thy grace and spirit, to turn our attention to those things which make for our everlasting peace, and fix our thoughts more devotedly on Thee, the only sure refuge in time of need. And at last, when our earthly pilgrimage shall be ended, when the silver cord shall be loosed and golden bowl be broken, wilt Thou, O Father, be indeed Emmanuel ... God with us. May the lamp of Thy love dispel the gloom of the dark valley, and we be enabled by the commendation of Thy Son to gain admission into the blessed Asylum above. Amen."

CAPTAIN GENERAL: 1. Re COVER. 2, Be SEATED.

(CHOIR renders appropriate music if desired.)

PRELATE: Sir Knights, there is one sacred spot upon the earth where the footsteps of our march are unheeded; our trumpets quicken no pulse and incite no fear; the rustling of our banners and the gleam of

our swords awaken no emotion. It is the silent city of the dead, to which another of our number is now to be borne, (or if in the cemetery), where we now stand. Awe rests upon every heart, and the stern warrior's eyes are bedewed with tears which never shame his manhood.

The Sir Knight was our brother. With him we have walked the pilgrimage of life and kept watch and ward in its vicissitudes and trials. He is now beyond earthly praise or censure, but we remember him in scenes which the world witnessed not, where fraternal feeling was genuine and undisguised.

His virtues linger in our memory and the recollection of his finer qualities is a consolation in this hour.

(JUNIOR WARDEN steps forward, removes sword from scabbard and presents the sword, hilt foremost over his left arm, to the Eminent Commander.)

EMINENT COMMANDER: Our departed frater was taught that the sword in the hands of a true and courteous Knight is endowed with three excellent qualities: "Its hilt with justice impartial; its blade with fortitude undaunted, and its point with mercy unrestrained". He could never grasp it without being reminded of the attributes it symbolized. To this lesson, with its deep significance, we trust he gave wise heed. An inspired and heartening hope leads us to the comforting belief that he met the trying hour of dissolution with fortitude undaunted, and waking in the dawn of the new day, received justice tempered with that mercy unrestrained which is the glorious attribute of the Son of God, and entering through the gates into the City has been admitted, to the blessed companionship of just men made perfect in the realms of light and life eternal.

(COMMANDER replaces sword in scabbard on casket.)

(SENIOR WARDEN steps forward and presents a cross to the Prelate.)

PRELATE: This symbol of the Christian's faith, hope, and trust, we again place above the breast of our frater. (done) Though the Cross may, at times in the history of the world, have been the badge of oppression and wrong; yet its real significance has ever remained in the heart of the Christian warrior. If an inspired apostle was not ashamed of the Cross, neither should we be; if he gloried in its promise of salvation so ought we to rejoice in it as the inspiring symbol of our faith in the life beyond the grave. May this faith have been an anchor to the soul of our departed frater ... may it have created in him a serene confidence in the life everlasting, a present realization of the life beyond.

Our frater was one of our mystic band, bound by fraternal ties and pledges to the noble duties, of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and binding up the wounds of the afflicted,

(or)

Our frater was one of our mystic band, bound by fraternal ties and pledges to the noble duties, of protecting innocence, relieving distress, and binding up the wounds of the afflicted.

To his friends and relatives we tender our heartfelt sympathy and affirm our faith that He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb looks down with infinite compassion upon the widow and the fatherless in their hour of desolation, and that the same benevolent Savior who wept tears of sympathy over the grave at Bethany, will support and comfort all those who put their trust and faith in Him.

(If the ceremony has been held in the home, chapel, or Asylum, the procession will now be formed as indicated above and proceed to the cemetery. After arriving at the grave, the lines are formed as herein before described, and the officers and Guard of Honor at "Order Swords", stationed as there provided. The Junior Warden then removes the sword and chapeau from the casket which will then be lowered into the grave.)

PRELATE: Let us pray.

CAPTAIN GENERAL: 1. Un 2. COVER (or if seated, 1. Commandery 2. ATTENTION 3. Un 4. COVER.)

PRELATE: "Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Author of life and light, inspire our hearts with wisdom from on high, that we may glorify Thee in all our ways. May we have Thy divine assistance, O most

merciful God, to take to heart this lesson of mortality and to labor unceasingly to redeem our misspent time. In the discharge of the important duties Thou hast assigned us may we be guided by faith and humility, courage and constancy, to the end that we may accomplish our allotted pilgrimage acceptably in Thy sight. And when our career on earth is finished, may we enter into that abundant life which Thou has assured us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, awaits Thy faithful servants In the blessed Asylum above.'

(Or the following prayer may be used)

"Almighty and Ever living God, our heavenly Father, our Supreme Grand Master, as we leave our Frater in Thy tender care, wilt Thou draw very near to those who were nearest and dearest to him, and graciously comfort and support them In their bereavement. And wilt Thou help us all to realize more and more clearly that with each passing day we ourselves are all advancing toward the day of our own final transformation. And, O our heavenly Father, wilt Thou enable each and all of us as Thy followers, to use the remaining time that may be allotted to us in supporting and upholding the almighty force and Importance of Truth, by practicing in our daily lives out of the Commandery those high, moral and Christian virtues that are inculcated in it. We ask in the name of the blessed Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, the Great Captain of our salvation, Who hath taught us all to say:"

(COMMANDERY:) "Our Father, which are In heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory for ever. Amen."

*Taps are sounded or chanted. (If chanted use words printed following finish of service.)

BENEDICTION

PRELATE: "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be and abide with us all evermore. Amen."

CAPTAIN GENERAL: 1. Re 2. COVER.

(The services concluded, the Commandery is formed in a column by the Captain General and marched to the entrance of the cemetery in silence, or at the tap of the drum.)

*(Tune: "Taps")

"Frater, good-night,
Must thou go
When the day and the night
Need thee so?
All is well,
Speedeth all to their rest."

KNIGHT TEMPLAR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Prepared by the Committee on Religious Activities of the Grand Encampment and effective the 27th day of May 1965, A.O. 847, by General Order No. 7 of the Most Eminent Grand Master.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

The General Regulations for this service are the same as those stated for the Funeral Service and are not repeated here, but the same shall apply.

(NOTE: This Memorial Service may be used when the regular Funeral Service is not used, and may be conducted at the funeral home on the evening before the funeral.)

RITUAL

COMMANDER: We are gathered here in Christian sympathy to pay our last tribute of love and affection to the memory of Sir Knight knighted in Commandery No

Sir Knight..... (use first name) knew, as do all Sir Knights, that in the solemn ceremonies of our Christian Order, we have often been reminded of the truth that we are born to die. The earthly temple of our beloved Sir Knight lies before us, and the light of the eye and his expressions of fraternal greeting have ceased for us on this earth. His sword, vowed to be drawn only the cause of truth, justice and liberty, reposes in its scabbard, and our arms can no more shield or protect him. But as he rests in sleep and we bow our heads in sympathetic sorrow with those whose heart-ties have been thus broken; let us like the martyrs of old, proclaim with jubilation our triumphant faith, Christ's resurrection is not a fantasy or a dream, it is a reality! It is meet at such a time as this that we should hear again the gracious words of comfort, consolation and hope found in God's Sacred Revelation. Let us be reverently attentive while the Prelate reads us a lesson from the Holy Scriptures.

CAPTAIN GENERAL (OR COMMANDER): 1. Un 2. COVER.

PRELATE: "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even Thou hadst formed the earth or the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou are God."

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Saint Paul testified: "And who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God; and if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

PRELATE: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our loving Heavenly Father, we humbly lift our hearts to Thee. Remember in loving mercy these bereaved ones now before Thee. Be Thou at this hour the comforting Father of all who mourn. Administer unto them the consolation they so sorely need. Cause us to look above this scene of mortality to the life which lies in Thy immortality. Lead us, by Thy grace and spirit, to seek those things which make for our everlasting peace, and fix our thoughts more devotedly on Thee, the only sure refuge in time of need; and at last when our earthly pilgrimage shall have ended, when the silver cord shall be indeed Emmanuel - God with us, may the lamp of Thy love dispel the gloom of the dark valley, and may we be enabled by our faith in Thy Son to gain admission into the blessed temple above. We pray in His name. Amen.

CAPTAIN GENERAL (OR COMMANDER): 1. Re 2. COVER.

(The Junior Warden hands the sword to the Commander.)

COMMANDER: Our departed Sir Knight was taught that the sword, in the hands of a true and courteous Knight, was endowed with three excellent qualities; its hilt with justice impartial; its blade with fortitude undaunted and its point with mercy unrestrained. He could never grasp it without being reminded of the attributes it symbolized, and to these attributes with their deep significance we renew our pledge. An inspired and heartening hope leads us to the comforting belief that he met the trying hour with fortitude undaunted, and waking in the dawn of a new day has received Justice, tempered with mercy unrestrained, which is the glorious attribute of the Son of God, and entering through the gates into the City, has been admitted to the blessed companionship of just men, made perfect in the realms of light and life eternal.

(The Commander returns the sword to the Junior Warden who replaces it in its scabbard. The Commander then hands the Cross to the Prelate.)

PRELATE: The Cross, that emblem so beloved by the Christian World, is beautifully described by these words:

"In the Cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time,
All the light of sacred story,
Gathers round its head sublime."

This symbol of the Christian's hope and trust, we again place upon the breast of our Sir Knight. Handed down to us through the ages, it will always remain the symbol of our faith and the mark of a Christian Knight. It calls to mind Gethsemane and Golgotha, but as Christian Knights we look at the Cross of our Lord through the open tomb. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us a triumphant Cross. The Apostleglorified in its truth, so ought we to rejoice in it as a conquering symbol, that death has been vanquished. May this hope expressed by the Cross have been the anchor to the soul of our Sir Knight, the token to admit him to the peaceful haven, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

To his mourning friends and loved ones who are most heart-stricken by the loss they have sustained, we tender our sincere sympathy. May your faith in our Heavenly Father bring you peace and hope. He, who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, looks down with infinite compassion upon these bereaved ones in their hour of desolation, and the same benevolent Savior who wept over the grave at Bethany, will enfold within the arms of His bounteous love all those who put their trust in Him.

We are aware that man's life on earth, at its longest, is but a footprint upon the sands of time. In his anguish, Job asked a question that is as old as death itself: "If a man die, shall he live again?" It is a question that is found in every sob of sorrow. It is a question that is really a prayer.

Into the ancient world with its questions came Christ's Resurrection, declaring that life is mightier than death, and love can never lose its own. "Christ appeared in the splendor of the stars at Christmas and reappeared in the beauty of the lilies of Easter that we might know the truth of everlasting life." Therefore, in answer to Job's question: "if a man die, shall he live again?", the great Captain of our Salvation answers: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Before our Lord entered into the tomb, all the footprints of humanity pointed toward the grave. But Christ, the great Savior of men, set His face in the other direction, away from the tomb, and now those who are His shall follow Him.

Forasmuch as the spirit of our departed Sir Knight has entered into the life immortal, we remember his knightly qualities and commend his spirit unto God. We can confidently leave him in the hands of an Eternal Father who has done all things well. Delivered from the limitations of this life, his spirit lives and abides in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ; whose life is the judgment of our works and whose resurrection is the pledge of our Immortality. Sir Knight..... , farewell, and may the sunshine of Heaven beam bright on thy waking.

Let us pray.

(Pause and give the Commander time to order "Uncover")

Almighty God, Thou whose mercies cannot be numbered, accept our prayers on behalf of Thy servant departed, and fulfill his life in the land of light and joy, and in the fellowship of Thy Saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear us as we unite in the prayer of our Lord.

"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as It is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine Is the Kingdom, and the power, and the Glory forever. Amen."

"Now the laborer's task is o'er,
Now the battle day is past.
Now upon the farther shore,
Lands the voyager at last."
"There the tears of earth are dried,

There its hidden things are clear.
There the work of life is tried,
By a juster judge than here."
"Father, In Thy gracious keeping,
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping."

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and evermore. Amen."

Presentation of the Grand Commandery 50 Year Service Award

Commander: Sir Knights (Guests, Ladies, Etc.), we are assembled to pay a tribute of respect and esteem to a Distinguished Sir Knight(s), Member(s) of _____ Commandery No. From time immemorial, Freemasonry has taught a proper reverence and veneration for age. This is particularly true when years of age stand united with years of service, and when an honor is conferred upon any recipient(s) who is (are) both worthy and esteemed. Age has always been the crowning glory of man because it affords an opportunity to reflect upon the past. From the experience of the past, the present receives its most useful counsel and guidance. It is to age that we look for wisdom, and it is upon wisdom that Freemasonry builds each and every laudable enterprise.

It is, therefore, a source of great pride and pleasure that _____ Commandery No. ____ has within its midst such (a) beloved member(s) who, for fifty years, has (have) been a Knight Templar.

Freemasonry specifically calls upon us, prior to any commendable undertaking, to beseech the aid of God. It is in keeping with this custom that we now call upon our Prelate for the invocation. (Have all rise)

Prelate: (May deliver an extemporaneous prayer, or use the following):

Almighty Father God, the Great Captain of our Salvation, we thank Thee for the life (lives) of this (these) Sir Knights on this special occasion. Thou hast seen fit to protect them through fifty years of membership in our beloved Order. We are thankful for the service and example they have given to this Order. We ask

Thee to continue to look upon him (them) as he (they) continue(s) to serve Thee in physical life and in spirit. Amen.

(Have guests be seated)

Commander: Sir Knight Recorder, you will read the high points in the life (lives) of this (these) Sir Knight(s).

Recorder: (Reads as much of history as may seem appropriate)

Commander: Sir Knights Senior Warden, you will escort our honored Sir Knight(s) and his (their) families to the altar. It is with pleasure that I present Sir Knight _____ who, on behalf of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, will make the presentation.

OR

Commander: Sir Knights Senior Warden, you will escort our honored Sir Knight(s) and his (their) families to the altar. It is with great pleasure that I am permitted to make this honored presentation on behalf of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas.

Grand Officer or Past Grand Commander or Commander: Sir Knight(s) it is with a great deal of pleasure that we welcome you into our Asylum. It was in this, or a similar Asylum, that you began your career Templar Masonry. As a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, you were impressed with the Almighty Force and the importance of truth. When you were made a Knight of Malta, you were instructed to be zealous and vigilant for the Honor of Knighthood. And when you were Knighted a Knight of the valiant and magnanimous Order of the Temple, you were taught to have faith in God and humility in your actions. These lessons were well taken, for you have exemplified their meaning throughout your life (lives). For half a century you have given of your time and substance to our Orders.

By virtue of the authority in me vested, for and on behalf of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, it is now my pleasure to present to you this Grand Commandery Fifty Year Service Award. It is a visible token of their love and appreciation for your service to this Order. May you always wear it in health and happiness, with prosperity to yourself and honor to the Order. We congratulate you upon receiving this high and distinguished honor.

(Presenting Officer may call upon wife (wives) or a family member to pin award on the Sir Knight(s).

Grand Officer, Past Grand Commander or Commander: Sir Knight Senior Warden, you will seat our honored Sir Knight(s) and their family (families).

(This would close the formal portion of the ceremony.)

Grand Officer, Past Grand Commander or Commander: At this point it is appropriate that those who have been influenced by you throughout the years be recognized for whatever testimonial they care to offer. (Hand pick several in advance for serious or light events.)

The Presenting Officer should then call upon the recipient(s) for any comments he (They) may like to make

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