

**The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas**  
**Office of the Grand Commander**  
**Nederland, Texas**  
**April 16, 2023**

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 1, SERIES 2023-2024**

Subject: District Appointments, District Conclaves, Schools of Instruction, Annual Visitation, Blanket Dispensations, Grand Commandery Committee Meetings, Drill and Ritual Competition, and the Annual Grand Conclave.

To: The Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Officers, and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of Texas.

Greetings, Sir Knights:

In accordance with the provisions of the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, the following conditions will be observed during the 2023-2024 Templar year.

**TEMPLAR DISTRICTS:**

In order to better facilitate annual visitations, in accordance with Article 108, of the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, the Templar Districts in Texas shall be reassigned as follows:

<b>DISTRICT 1</b>	<b>DISTRICT 2</b>	<b>DISTRICT 3</b>	<b>DISTRICT 4</b>
Dallas #6	Palestine #3	San Felipe de Austin #1	Corpus Christi #57
Indivisible Friends #13	Ascension #25	Ruthven #2	Hidalgo #94
DeMolay #20	Taylor #85	Beaumont #38	St. John #101
McKinney #34	Piney Woods #88	Kenedy #61	Texas Holding #200
Tancred #82	East Texas #104	Port Arthur #73	
A.C. Garrett #103	Southeast Texas #112	Fort Bend #74	
Terrell #115		Houston #95	
		Park Place #106	
		Melrose #109	
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>	<b>DISTRICT 6</b>	<b>DISTRICT 7</b>	<b>DISTRICT 8</b>
Ivanhoe #8	Cleburne #12	San Angelo #28	El Paso #18
Waco #10	Worth #19	Vernon #33	Amarillo #48
Bertrand de Guesclin #14	Denton #45	Wichita Falls #59	High Plains #53
Brenham #15	Weatherford #51	Stamford #75	Lubbock# 60
Temple #41	Southside #83		Borger #96
Lone Star #114	Stephenville #100		Midland #84
	Arlington #107		
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>			
Colorado #4			
San Antonio #7			

Brownwood #22			
San Marcos #56			
Llano #54			
Burnet #113			

### **DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS:**

I am proud to present the following Grand Officers, who will serve as the Personal Representatives of the Grand Commander in the following Districts:

- District No. 1: Jason L. Lesikar Royall, Eminent Grand Generalissimo
- District No. 2: Ralph W. Royall, Eminent Grand Senior Warden
- District No. 3: Christopher L. Little, Eminent Grand Warder
- District No. 4: Justin C. Bauer, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
- District No. 5: Ricky D. Cox, Eminent Grand Junior Warden
- District No. 6: Gary E. Rock, Eminent Grand Captain General
- District No. 7: Judge R. Risley, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
- District No. 8: Gabriel A. Jagush, Eminent Grand Sentinel
- District No. 9: Tommy F. Chapman, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer

### **DISTRICT CONCLAVES AND SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION:**

The District Schools of Instruction will be held during the months of June, July, and August 2023, on a date and time agreed upon by the Grand Officer assigned to the District and the host Commandery. The Grand Officers are to be respectful of Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Eastern Star installations when setting a date and time for the School. A formal or informal District Conclave should be held to discuss any upcoming events in the District, and to disseminate the most current information on our operations during pandemic restrictions.

The Grand Officer assigned to the District will notify the Commander and the Recorder of each Commandery in the District of the format, time and place of the School. Each Commandery, in the announcement of the School, will be reminded of **Article 113 of the Statutes and Regulations** that reads: *“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, and to participate in the work of such School.”*

### **ANNUAL INSPECTION AND OFFICIAL VISITATION:**

The District Grand Officers will schedule the dates of the Official Visitations to be made in September, October, and November of 2023. Commanderies are reminded that our **Statutes and Regulations require them**, as a condition of being a Commandery, not only to be able to **Open and Close the Commandery in full ritualistic form or the alternate nine man opening ritual as adopted at the 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Conclave (April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014)**, but also to **confer the Order of the Temple in accordance with the 2019 Ritual of The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, as amended by Knight Templar Drill Regulations and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas (2012)**. Although authorized by **Article 110 of the Statutes and Regulations**, while inspections may be

held in the same location on the same day, joint conclaves for the purpose of inspection will not be permitted, as each commandery is required to perform its own inspection.

All Commanderies are subject to the following scoring regulations for the J. C. Kidd and Fred M. Gilbough plaques. It should be noted that scoring for the Kidd and Gilbough are a separate item from passing inspection. There is no minimum score for passing inspection. A minimum score of 750 is only required to earn a service award.

### **Opening and Closing:**

- Only those Commanderies who perform the Traditional (18 man) Opening during Inspection can compete for the J.C. Kidd Plaque. However, if every Commandery in a District uses the Alternate 9 Man Opening for their Inspection, then every Commandery can compete for the J.C. Kidd Plaque.
- Ten (10) points will be deducted for each officer not filling his installed station at the Annual Inspection of the Commandery.
- Fifty (50) points will be awarded for each performing the Traditional (18 man) Opening.

### **Order of the Temple:**

- Ten (10) points will be deducted for each officer not filling his installed station at the Annual Inspection of the Commandery.
- Commanderies will receive a Twenty (20) point bonus for having an actual candidate at the Annual Inspection of the Commandery.
- If the installed Commander or Generalissimo of the Commandery being inspected does not give the Remaining Attributes, a twenty (20) point penalty will be deducted.

At the next Stated Conclave following receipt of this General Order, each Commander shall read aloud or cause to be read aloud **Chapter 56, Article 344, 345, and 346 of the Statutes and Regulations**, regarding Merit Awards and Service Medals, and the Recorder shall note this event in the minutes.

Commanders are reminded that **Article 111 of the Statutes and Regulations** requires that the Commander of each Commandery *“...cause the members of his Commandery to be notified to attend the visitation of the Grand Officer. All Sir Knights are strongly encouraged to visit other Commanderies, especially during the Official Visitation of the Grand Officer.”*

### **SALUTE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:**

Each Commandery shall give the Salute to the Texas Flag immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag at all stated and called Conclaves, as required in **Article 350 of the Statutes and Regulations**.

### **BLANKET DISPENSATIONS:**

**Where not prohibited by law, regulation, or edict, and provided current social distancing and public safety guidelines are strictly adhered to,** a Blanket Dispensation is granted for Sir Knights to appear in public in uniform at:

I. Community events such as parades, dedications, leveling cornerstones, and ceremonies in connection with Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and any dignified public function where Templar Masonry will be promoted.

II. Church services as a Commandery.

III. Flag presentation ceremonies for any Masonic-related organization or for public events to promote Masonry, the Eye Foundation, the Holy Land Pilgrimage, or the Educational Foundation.

### **171<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CONCLAVE:**

The 171<sup>st</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas will be held in League City, Texas, April 11-14, 2024, at South Shore Harbor Resort. Information regarding the 171<sup>st</sup> Annual Conclave will be made available on our website.

Registration will open at Noon on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at South Shore Harbor Resort. The business session of the Grand Commandery of Texas will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024, beginning at 8:30 am.

Field Drill Competition will be at the same location and held on the morning of Saturday, April 13, 2024, using the most recent revised drill manual for Class A, B, C, and D teams, which are available on the Grand Encampment website. Entries should be sent to the Chairman of the Field Drill Committee (see Bulletin #1) ahead of time; however, entries will be accepted for the competition up to the Drill Captains meeting time on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Ritualistic Competition will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, April 13, 2024, in the Order of the Red Cross. The parts for the competition will be: Sovereign Master, High Priest, Warder, Companion Conductor, Persian Guard, and candidate. The exact portion of the Order for competition will be presented and demonstrated to the Sir Knights by the Templar Instruction Committee on Thursday evening, April 11, 2024, following the committee meeting. In addition to the usual competition, we will also have Individual Competitions in both the Chamber of Reflection and the Prelate's Address, each from the Order of the Temple. Entries should be sent to the Chairman of the Templar Instruction Committee (See Bulletin #1) ahead of time; however, entries will be accepted for the competition up to the meeting time on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

The Annual Banquet will be held on the evening of Saturday, April 13, 2024. The Annual Conclave will conclude on Sunday, April 14, 2024, with the Divine/Memorial Service at 8:30 am, followed by the Installation of the 2024-2025 Grand Commandery officers.

### **COMMITTEES:**

The Chairman of each Committee shall notify the Grand Officers of all meetings of their Committee as soon as they are scheduled, at least two weeks in advance. If possible, it is requested that any such meeting be held on a Saturday or Sunday, to facilitate the attendance of the Grand Officers at the Committee's meeting. Committees will submit their preliminary reports in writing to the Grand Recorder by March 1, 2024.

The address, telephone numbers and email address of the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder can be found in Bulletin No. 1.

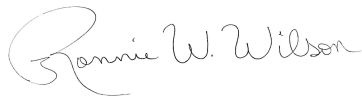
This General Order is to be read aloud at the next Stated Conclave following its receipt, and the action noted by the Recorder in the minutes with a copy attached thereto.

Fraternally,



T. Chance Chapman  
Grand Commander

Attest:



Ronnie W. Wilson  
Grand Recorder

