

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas
Office of the Grand Commander
Carrollton, Texas
April 14, 2024

GENERAL ORDER NO. 1, SERIES 2024-2025

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 2024-2025 Templar year.

TEMPLAR DISTRICTS:

To better facilitate annual visitations, in accordance with Article 108, of the Statues and Regulations of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, the Templar Districts in Texas shall be assigned as follows:

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4
Dallas #6	Palestine #3	San Felipe de Austin #1	Corpus Christi #57
Indivisible Friends #13	Ascension #25	Ruthven #2	Hidalgo #94
DeMolay #20	Piney Woods #88	Beaumont #38	St. John #101
McKinney #34	East Texas #104	Kenedy #61	APOAS #116
Tancred #82	Southeast Texas #112	Port Arthur #73	Texas Holding #200
Taylor #85	Tejas, U.D.	Fort Bend #74	
A.C. Garrett #103		Houston #95	
		Park Place #106	
		Melrose #109	
DISTRICT 5	DISTRICT 6	DISTRICT 7	DISTRICT 8
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		
DISTRICT 9			
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: Gary E. Rock, Eminent Grand Generalissimo
- District No. 2: Judge R. Risley, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
- District No. 3: Gabriel A. Jagush, Eminent Grand Warder
- District No. 4: Ralph W. Royall, Eminent Grand Captain General
- District No. 5: Tommy F. Chapman, Eminent Grand Junior Warden
- District No. 6: Jason L. Lesikar, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
- District No. 7: Ricky D. Cox, Eminent Grand Senior Warden
- District No. 8: Hardy L. Nevill, Eminent Grand Sentinel
- District No. 9: Christopher L. Little, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer

DISTRICT CONCLAVES AND SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION:

The District Schools of Instruction will be held during the months of June, July, and August 2024, 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 2024. 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 165th Annual Grand Conclave (April 28th, 2014)**, but also to **confer the Order of the Temple in accordance with the 1979 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 (1987)**. 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.

172nd ANNUAL CONCLAVE:

The 172nd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas will be held in Grapevine, Texas, April 10-13, 2025, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Grapevine DFW Airport North. Information regarding the 172nd Annual Conclave will be made available on our website.

Registration will open at Noon on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in Grapevine. The business session of the Grand Commandery of Texas will be held on Friday, April 11, 2025, beginning at 8:30 am.

The Field Drill Competition will be at the same location and held on the morning of Saturday, April 12, 2025, 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 10, 2025.

The Ritualistic Competition will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, April 12, 2025. As we begin a new triennial in August 2024, and in keeping with tradition that we alternate between the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta each triennial, the Team Ritualistic Competition will be held in the Order of Malta. The parts for the competition will be Marshal, First Banner Guard, Second Banner Guard, Third Banner Guard, Fourth Banner Guard, and candidate.

In addition to the usual Team Ritualistic Competition, we will also have Individual Ritualistic Competitions in The Order of the Temple: a portion of the Commander's part of the libations, and the Obligation. 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 10, 2025.

The exact portion of the Orders for both the Team Ritualistic Competition and the Individual Ritualistic 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.

The Annual Banquet will be held on the evening of Saturday, April 12, 2025. The Annual Conclave will conclude on Sunday, April 13, 2025, with the Divine/Memorial Service at 8:30 am, followed by the Installation of the 2025-2026 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, 2025.

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,



Justin C. Bauer
Grand Commander

Attest:



Ronnie W. Wilson
Grand Recorder

