

**CONSTITUTION  
AND  
REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
GRAND COMMANDERY  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Adopted January 19, 1948  
Amended May 10, 1975  
Amended March 18, 1989  
Amended March 19, 1993  
Amended 25 September 2010  
Amended 16 March 2019  
Amended 16 March 2020



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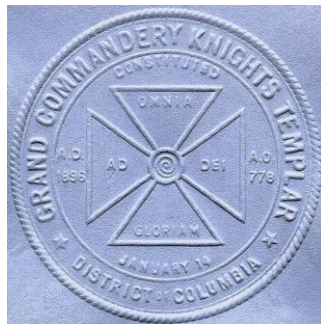
**PREAMBLE**

This Grand Commandery shall be governed by the Constitution, Statutes, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and by the following Constitution and Regulations.

Approved under my hand and the seal of the Grand Commandery, 16 March 2020.

*Kevin S. Matthews*

Kevin S. Matthews  
Grand Commander



## **CONSTITUTION**

### **NAME**

Sec. 1. This body shall be designated and known as 'The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia', by virtue of a charter granted by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, from which it derives all its powers and privileges, and to whose Constitution, Statues and Rituals, implicit respect and obedience shall ever be paid by its Officers and members.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Sec. 2. The members of this Grand Commandery shall be those specified in Section 35 of the Grand Encampment Constitution.

### **CONCLAVES**

Sec. 3. (a) The Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery shall be held on the third Saturday or Friday immediately preceding the third Saturday at such time and place in the District of Columbia as may be designated by the Grand Commander, or elsewhere within the Washington Metropolitan Area.

(b) The Semi-Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery shall be held six months after the Annual Conclave, within 30 days on either side of the date, on a Saturday. For the purpose of reviewing and updating Grand Commandery procedures.

(c) The Grand Visitation of the Grand Commander to the constituent Commanderies shall be held not more than 90 days prior to the Annual Grand Conclave. This Visitation shall consist of the Inspection of the Sir Knights, Inspection of the Recorders and Treasurers Books, receive each Commanders' Reports, and may include Installation of Officers for the forthcoming year.

Sec. 4. Special Conclaves of the Grand Commandery may be called by the Grand Commander in accordance with Section 36 (b) of the Grand Encampment Constitution.

### **CONDUCT OF CONCLAVES AND VOTING THEREIN**

Sec. 5. Each member present in person or by proxy shall be entitled to vote in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the Grand Encampment Constitution.

Sec. 6. The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each Constituent Commandery may be represented and vote by proxy, said proxy being at the time of service a member of the same Commandery as his principal and producing a properly authenticated certificate of his appointment; provided, that such proxy does not become a member of the Grand Commandery by virtue of his designated authority.

## **POWERS AND DUTIES**

Sec. 7. This Grand Commandery shall have the powers and duties enumerated in Section 41 of the Grand Encampment Constitution.

Sec. 8. The Officers of this Grand Commandery shall be:

- (a) The Grand Commander
- The Deputy Grand Commander
- The Grand Generalissimo
- The Grand Captain General
- The Grand Senior Warden
- The Grand Junior Warden
- The Grand Treasurer
- The Grand Recorder

all of whom shall be elected at the Annual Conclave, and

- (b) The Grand Prelate
- The Grand Standard Bearer
- The Grand Sword Bearer
- The Grand Warder
- The Grand Sentinel

to be appointed by the Grand Commander at the Annual Conclave, or as soon as possible after his election.

## **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **THE GRAND COMMANDER**

Sec. 9. The Grand Commander shall have the specific powers and duties enumerated in Section 48 of the Grand Encampment Constitution.

Sec. 10. It shall be the duty of the Grand Commander, attended by the other Officers of the Grand Commandery to make a visitation to each Constituent Commandery at its stated Conclave in February of each year.

### **THE DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER**

Sec. 11. The Deputy Grand Commander shall have the specific powers and duties as enumerated in Section 49 of the Grand Encampment Constitution.

### **THE GRAND GENERALISSIMO AND THE GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL**

Sec. 12. The Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall have the specific powers and duties as enumerated in Section 50 of the Grand Encampment Constitution.

## **ATTENDANCE AT GRAND ENCAMPMENT SESSIONS**

Sec. 13. (a) It shall be the duty of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Recorder, the Grand Generalissimo, and the

Grand Captain General, in person or by proxy, to attend all Conclaves of the Grand Encampment

(b) It shall be the duty of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Recorder, the Grand Generalissimo, and the Grand Captain General, in person, to attend all Grand Encampment Mid-Atlantic Departmental Conferences.

### **THE GRAND TREASURER**

Sec. 14. The Grand Treasurer shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution and Statues of the Grand Encampment, and in addition the following:

- (a) He shall invest, from time to time, upon recommendation of the Committee on Finance, in such manner as the Grand Commandery may direct, all moneys which may come to his hands belonging to the Grand Commandery.
- (b) He shall render to the Grand Commandery, at its Annual Conclave, a true account of his transactions, together with an account of all moneys received and the earnings thereof accrued from investments, and the amounts disbursed by him during the Templar year, and shall, not later than five days preceding each Annual Conclave, submit his books for inspection by the Committee on Finance. He shall transmit a summary of his accounts to the Grand Commander by the first day in March of each year. He shall not pay any money except upon authority of the Grand Commandery and upon the warrant or order of the Grand Commander, attested by the Grand Recorder.
- (c) He shall examine the books of the Treasurer of each Commandery and report to the Grand Commander, at the annual visitation, the financial condition of the Commandery for the year ending December 31.
- (d) He shall receive for his services, an annual salary, payable at the end of the Templar year, the amount of which shall, from time to time, be determined by the Grand Commandery, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Finance.
- (e) The Grand Treasurer, the Grand Recorder, and the Finance Committee shall set up a chart of accounts, with elements of expense and income, whereby all income items and all expense items will be identified and categorized. They will use the ledger generated by these elements to build a Grand Commandery calendar-year Budget. This Grand Commandery calendar-year Budget will be presented and approved at the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave for the forth coming year, and be reviewed at the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave.

### **THE GRAND RECORDER**

Sec. 15. The Grand Recorder shall perform such duties as are prescribed by

Section 52 of the Grand Encampment Constitution, and, in addition, the following:

- (a) He shall, at least ten days prior to the date thereof, issue a notice to each member of the Grand Commandery of all the regular and Special Conclaves; in the notice for Special Conclaves, he shall specify the business to be brought before the Grand Commandery; and he shall issue all summonses directed by the Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery.
- (b) He shall keep correct minutes of the transactions of the Grand Commandery, edit all material to be included in the printed proceedings, and, upon approval of the edition by the Grand Commander, cause the same to be printed.
- (c) He shall collect and receive and promptly pay to the Grand Treasurer all the revenue of the Grand Commandery. He shall, not later than five days preceding the Annual Conclave, submit his books for Inspection by the Committee on Finance.
- (d) He shall examine the books of the Recorder of each Commandery for the year ending December 31, and report to the Grand Commander, at the annual visitation, the number of members Knighted, affiliated and reinstated; the number lost by death, dismissal and suspension; the number on the roll at the end of the year.
- (e) He shall receive for his services an annual salary, payable quarterly, the amount of which from time to time be determined by the Grand Commandery, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Finance.
- (f) The Grand Treasurer Is hereby designated as custodian of all Past Grand Commander's jewels in his possession. He shall issue a Past Grand Commander Jewel to each new Past Grand Commander and register said Jewel within the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery. The Grand Treasurer will conduct an annual inventory of all Past Grand Commander Jewels in his possession. This inventory will be presented at the Annual Conclave. The Grand Treasurer will have each new Past Grand Commander sign a receipt for the Past Grand Commander's Jewel. This receipt will be presented to the PGC's beneficiary for return of the PGC's Jewel to this Grand Commandery.
- (g) The Grand Recorder, the Grand Treasurer, and the Finance Committee shall set up a chart of accounts, with elements of expense and income, whereby all income items and all expense items will be identified and categorized. They will use the ledger generated by these elements to build a Grand Commandery calendar-year Budget. This Grand Commandery calendar-year Budget will be presented and approved at the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave for the forth coming year and be reviewed at the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave.

### **Qualifications of Grand Officers**

Sec. 16. All elected Grand Commandery Officers must be a Past Commander of a DC Commandery. All appointed Grand Commandery Officers must be a Past or Current Commander of a DC Commandery.

(a) The Grand Commandery Officers shall be elected to a progressive line from a nomination slate beginning at the Junior Warden's station. However, the Grand Commander shall retain the option to accept nominations from the floor for any individual Grand Officer station in the event that one or more Grand Officers choose not to accept their nomination.

### **THE REMAINING OFFICERS**

Sec. 17. The duties of the other Officers of the Grand Commandery are such as are appropriate to their respective stations, and such as may be assigned to them by the Grand Commander or by the Grand Commandery.

### **REVENUES AND FINANCES**

Sec. 18. The fee for a Charter for a Constituent Commandery shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$ 100.00).

Sec. 19. There shall be paid to the Grand Commandery in annual dues from each Commandery the Sum of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each Sir Knight returned as a member thereof. This Sum must be reviewed prior to the Annual Grand Conclave by the Committee on Finance for appropriateness.

### **PETITIONS**

Sec. 19A. Petitions for the Orders and for membership may be received and balloted upon at the Stated or Special Conclave at which they are read in the Commandery, without dispensation from the Grand Commander.

### **CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES**

Sec. 20. The Constituent Commanderies of this Jurisdiction shall be governed by Section 57 to 84, inclusive of the Grand Encampment Constitution. A quorum consists of nine (9) Sir Knights, five (5) of whom shall be members of the Commandery entitled to vote, including an Officer qualified to preside.

### **AMENDMENTS**

Sec. 21. The Grand Commandery, upon concurrence of three-fourths of its members present at any Special or Stated Conclave, may revise, amend



or alter this Constitution, and by a two-thirds votes of its members present, may revise, amend or alter the Regulations; provided however, that a written copy of the motion so as to revise, amend or alter shall be signed by at least three members of the Grand Commandery and shall be filed with the Grand Recorder at least one month before the Conclave at which such motion is to be considered, and a copy thereof shall be inserted in the notice of the Conclave issued by the Grand Recorder; provided that, the proposed amendment may be modified in any manner by the Grand Commandery while it is under consideration.

#### **REPEALING CLAUSE**

Sec. 22. All constitutional provisions and amendments heretofore approved and not included in this Constitution are hereby repealed.

#### **TRUSTEES**

Sec. 23. There shall be three (3) Trustees, one of whom shall be elected by ballot at each Annual Conclave for a term of three (3) years.

(a) They shall have custody of the securities in such depository as designed by the Grand Commandery, collect interest due on the same, and pay it over to the Grand Recorder, make a report in writing at each Annual Conclave of the securities under their custody.

(b) They shall have custody of the valuable property as designated by the Grand Commandery make a report in writing at each Annual Conclave of the property under their custody.

(Sections 24 – 40 reserved for possible future use.)

## **REGULATIONS**

### **APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Sec. 41. The appointed officers of the Grand Commandery shall be:

The Inspector General  
The Assistant Inspector General  
The Instructor General of the Work  
The Assistant Instructor General of the Work  
The Grand Quartermaster/Armorer

all of whom shall be appointed by the Grand Commander and shall serve until the close of the next Annual Conclave, or at the pleasure of the Grand Commander.

### **DUTIES OF APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Sec. 42. The Inspector General shall attend the inspections of the Constituent Commanderies, examine uniforms and see that they conform to the regulations of the Grand Commandery, note the military proficiency and bearing of the several Commanderies, make a record of the number present at each inspection, and the number present on all occasions. When after examination, in his opinion, said Officers are proficient, he shall issue certificates of proficiency in the sword manual and tactics to the Commanders-elect, Generalissimo-elect and Captain General-elect. He shall submit a report of his official acts and observations to the Grand Commandery at the Annual Conclave. It shall be the responsibility of the Inspector General to formally inspect each constituent Commandery once per quarter and report the results to the Grand Commander for his disposition.

Sec. 43. The Assistant Inspector General shall assist the Inspector General in the performance of his duties.

Sec. 44. The Instructor General of the Work shall conduct such schools of instruction as he, with the concurrence of the Grand Commander, may decide is necessary for the instruction of the Officers of the various Commanderies in the ritualistic and floor work of the several Orders as determined by the Grand Encampment and this Grand Commandery; inspect the ritualistic work of the Orders including the full Form Opening by the Officers of the Commanderies; pass upon the ritualistic proficiency of the Commanders-elect, Generalissimos-elect, and the Captain Generals-elect as qualification for advancement. When, after examination, in his opinion said Officers are proficient, he shall issue certificates of proficiency in the ritual to the Commanders-elect, Generalissimo-elect and Captain General-elect and report on his official acts and observations at the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

Sec. 45. The Assistant Instructor General of the Work shall assist the Instructor General of the Work In the performance of his duties.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Sec. 46. The Standing Committees of the Grand Commandery shall be:

- *Templar Jurisprudence / By-Laws / Grievances / Charters and Dispensations*
- *Ritualistic Work / Asylum Tactics / Religious Services / Uniforms and Patriotic Activities*
- *Correspondence / Knight Templar Magazine / York Rite Cooperation*
- *Membership / Leadership*
- *Awards*
- *Finance / Knight Templar Eye Foundation*
- *Education Foundation*
- *Ethics*
- *Holy Land Pilgrimage*

Sec. 47. The Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Grand Commander and shall serve until the close of the Annual Conclave, or at the pleasure of the Grand Commander.

### **DUTIES OF COMMITTEES**

Sec. 48. The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence shall consist of three members. It shall consider all decisions upon questions of Templar law and usage reported by the Grand Commander and such other matters as may be referred to it by him or the Grand Commandery, and its conclusions and recommendations shall be reported to the Grand Commandery. It shall advise upon all questions of Templar law and report upon all proposed amendments of the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and all proposed amendments of the bylaws of the Constituent Commanderies.

Sec. 49. The Committee on Finance shall consist of three members. It shall audit the books, accounts and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Recorder, the Education Foundation Committee, and of such other committees, Officers and members of the Grand Commandery, and shall report its findings and submit its recommendations at the Annual Conclave. It shall recommend the amount of the bonds to be given by the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Recorder, and such other members of the Grand Commandery as it may deem advisable, and shall pass upon the sufficiency of the sureties given. It shall report on

any proposed investment of funds of the Grand Commandery and no appropriation of funds for investment shall be made until the proposal therefore has been referred to the Committee on Finance and its report thereon made. It shall have authority in an emergency to invest or reinvest the funds of the Grand Commandery if its failure to do so would be detrimental to the interests of the Grand Commandery. It shall also submit to the Grand Commandery at the Annual Conclave a proposed budget of operating expenses for the ensuing Templar year. Along with the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder the Finance Committee has further responsibilities as prescribed in 14(e) and 15(f).

- Sec. 50. The Committee on Charters and Dispensations shall consist of three members. It shall carefully examine all Commanderies working under dispensation and all groups requesting charters as Commanderies and report to the Grand Commandery its observations and recommendations.
- Sec. 51. The Committee on Grievances shall consist of three members. It shall examine into all cases of grievances and appeal referred to it by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander and report thereon as early as possible.
- Sec. 52. The Committee on Correspondence shall consist of three members. It shall examine all the correspondence of the Grand Commandery referred to it and report thereon.
- Sec. 53. The Committee on Religious Service shall consist of three members. It shall arrange and be in charge of all religious services conducted by the Grand Commandery.
- Sec. 54. The Committee on Educational Foundation shall consist of five members. It shall administer the funds of the Educational Foundations of the Grand Encampment which are in the care and custody of the Grand Commandery in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the Educational Foundation Committee of the Grand Encampment. The Committee shall also submit a detailed report of its acts, financial transactions and condition at the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.
- Sec. 55. The Committee on Uniforms shall consist of three members. It shall consider all proposed amendments to the Regulations pertaining to specifications for uniforms and report thereon to the Grand Commandery.
- Sec. 56. The Committee on the York Rite Cooperation shall consist of the four (4) Dais Officers, the Grand Recorder, and the Grand Treasurer. It

shall represent this Grand Commandery on the Joint Committee on York Rite Cooperation.

Sec. 57. The Committee on Ritualistic Work and Asylum Tactics shall consist of three members. It shall be charged with the duty of investigating changes recommended in asylum tactics, may on its own initiative recommend such changes, and shall submit its recommendations of any proposed changes of asylum tactics to the Grand Commandery at its Annual Conclave. It shall be charged with such other duties in connection with ritual and tactics as may be delegated to it by the Grand Commander.

Sec. 57-A. The Committee on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation shall consist of four members. It shall foster and publicize the work of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

### **RITUALS**

Sec. 58. The rituals of the Grand Encampment shall be issued by the Grand Recorder as follows:

- One copy to the Grand Commander
- One copy to the Deputy Grand Commander
- One copy to the Grand Generalissimo
- One copy to the Grand Captain General
- One copy to the Grand Recorder
- One copy (full text) to the Instructor General
- Ten copies to the Recorder of each Constituent Commandery, who shall issue them to the Commandery Officers.

The Officers named shall carefully preserve the same and return them at the end of their terms to the Grand Recorder, who shall Issue them In like manner to their successors. A penalty of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) shall be imposed under the law of the Grand Encampment for the loss of the ritual.

### **AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Sec. 58-An Affiliate membership may be held:

- (a) In Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery.
- (b) In Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of any other Grand Commandery whose laws so provide.
- (c) Affiliation Fees may be set by the Constituent Commanderies, but must include Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for Life Membership in the KTEF.

### **FISCAL YEAR**

Sec. 59. The fiscal year shall be:

- (a) For the Grand Commandery from 01 January to 31 December.  
Books are reconciled and reports issued by 31 January.
- (b) For Constituent Commanderies from 01 January to 31 December.  
Books are reconciled and reports issued by 15 January.

### **CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES**

Sec. 60. The Constituent Commanderies of this jurisdiction shall be governed by Chapters 6 to 15 inclusive, of the Statues of the Grand Encampment. Constituent Commanderies will hold a minimum of 4 Stated Meetings per Chivalric year, exclusive of meetings where the Orders are conferred.

### **MINIMUM FEE FOR THE ORDERS**

Sec. 61. A Commandery shall confer the Orders for a sum no less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for Life Membership in the KTEF, for a sum no less than \$130.00, and such fee shall accompany the petition. For each Petition, the Grand Commandery will receive a Fee of \$10.00.

### **QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS**

Sec. 62. The Commander-elect, the Generalissimo-elect and the Captain General-elect of each Constituent Commandery, shall qualify in ~~the~~ ritualistic work, floor work, sword manual, and have the required Uniform as specified by the 'DC Grand Commandery Uniform Regulation' for their prospective offices prior to Grand Visitation, to be eligible for the Installation there at. If any of these Officers-elect shall fail to qualify for Installation within one month after the annual Grand Visitation and Installation of the Officers In the Commandery, the Grand Commander in his discretion may declare the office vacant and order a special election in the Commandery to fill said vacancy. The person so elected shall qualify for installation thereafter as herein before provided.

### **ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Sec. 63. Each Commandery shall hold its annual election of Officers at a Special or Stated Conclave in January or at a Special or Stated or Stated Conclave in February prior to the Grand Visitation in February. The Officers chosen shall be installed by the Grand Commander or such person as shall be deputized by him, before the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery; provided however, that whenever from unavoidable causes, a Commandery is prevented from installing any of its Officers within the time prescribed, the Grand Commander may issue a dispensation for installing such Officers at another time.

Sec. 64. The Commander of each Commandery, immediately after the Installation of Officers, shall appoint a committee on inspection of

uniforms presented to it and to insist that said uniforms comply strictly in every particular with the Regulations of the Grand Commandery relating thereto; and it shall be the duty of every Sir Knight providing himself with a uniform to submit the same to said committee for inspection and approval. After each uniform has been approved by the committee, a certificate showing that fact shall be filed with the Recorder.

Sec. 65. Uniform Regulation for the DC KT **Full Dress Uniform**, published separately.

Sec. 66. Uniform Regulation for the DC KT **Summer Uniform**, published separately.

Sec. 67. RECINDED

Sec. 67A. DC KT Informal Uniform

Sec. 68. RECINDED

#### **STANDING RESOLUTION**

It is the sense of this Grand Commandery that it shall be within the discretion of each Grand Commander to designate by General Orders some day during his term, for the holding of an Annual Inspection and Drill, the time and place for said event to be determined by the Grand Commander. (Adopted May 9, 1905)

**Appendix: Comprising Sections from the Grand Encampment “Combined Constitution, Statutes and Decisions Document” referenced in this document.**

**Section 35.** The members of a Grand Commandery are and shall be:

- (a) All its Past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past Grand Generalissimos and Past Grand Captains General, so long as they shall remain members of its Constituent Commanderies.
- (b) The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each of its Constituent Commanderies. "
- (c) Each Past Commander of its Constituent Commanderies and all such Past Commanders from other Jurisdictions or who have demitted from such other Jurisdictions or who have become dual members, and have been elected to membership by the Grand Commandery so long as they remain members of its Constituent Commanderies.
- (d) All Knights Templar of other Grand Commanderies who have been elected honorary members. Such membership shall not confer the right to vote.

**Section 36.** The Conclaves of a Grand Commandery shall be:

- (a) Stated; which shall be held at least once each year.
- (b) Special; which may be called by the Grand Commander, and he shall call such conclave upon the written request of a majority of the Commanderies. No business shall be transacted at such conclaves save that specified by the Grand Commander or set out in the request.

**Section 38.** Each member of the Grand Commandery present in person or by proxy, if proxies are lawful, shall be entitled to one vote, except that the presiding officer shall vote only in case of a tie, when he shall decide the issue. Unless otherwise provided by Grand Encampment Law, all questions submitted shall be decided by a majority vote of those present.

**Section 41.** Each Grand Commandery has the following powers and prerogatives, but the enumeration shall not be construed as a limitation thereof:

- (a) It shall review at its Annual conclave all reports of its officers and may review the proceedings of its Constituent Commanderies.
- (b) It may adopt such Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations as are not inconsistent with the Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Encampment and as it may deem necessary for the good of the Order.
- (c) It shall within its Jurisdiction have exclusive power, with or without the consent of existing Commanderies, to form new Commanderies and to fix the fee therefore. The fee shall not be less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and shall be paid in advance.
- (d) It may prescribe Regulations for the government of its Constituent Commanderies, and may revoke any Charter. It may approve or order the relocation or consolidation of any of its Constituent Commanderies. It shall consider at each annual conclave the conditions as to the proper and adequate location of Constituent Commanderies as related to residential and Masonic membership changes.
- (e) It may require its several Constituent Commanderies to pay such portion as it may deem proper of the sums received by them for conferring the Orders, and in addition such sum annually from each member of such Commanderies as it may deem necessary for the support of the Grand Commandery.



- (f) It shall examine the accounts of its Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, supervise the state and condition of its finances and adopt such measures in relation thereto as it may deem necessary to increase, secure and preserve the same and to insure the utmost punctuality on the part of every accounting officer in the safe-keeping and delivery of the funds and property of the Grand Commandery.
- (g) It may fix the territorial limits of its Constituent Commanderies and settle all controversies that may arise among them.
- (h) It shall, on or before July 1st of each year pay to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment such an amount as may be prescribed by the Grand Encampment as dues for each member of its Constituent Commanderies, as shown by the returns of such Grand Commandery as of December 31st. (amended 2009)
- (i) It may require each member of its Constituent Commanderies to be provided with a Templar Uniform, and to that end it may prescribe such Uniform and change the same from time to time; provided that any Uniform so prescribed shall conform substantially to the traditions and practices of Templary relating to the Uniform of a Knight Templar, as now in general use, and that any Uniform so prescribed shall include a chapeau with plume, substantially conforming to either the military type of chapeau with black or white plume heretofore and now in general use, or substantially conforming to the type of chapeau, including plume, as heretofore and now used by Constituent Commanderies which have used the Uniform of a mounted Commandery, as authorized in Section 227 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. In lieu of the chapeau, a Grand Commandery may adopt a Military Style Naval Dress Cap of the following description. For Past Grand Commanders: Military Style Naval Dress Cap with white top, black band, and black visor with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns, metal purple Templar Cross 2 ¼ inches square, fixed to the front of the black band and a gold chin strap attached with gold buttons. For Grand Commander: Same as above except red Templar Cross. For Grand Commandery officers: Same as above except plain black visor. For Commanders and Past Commanders: Same as above except with a 1 3/8 x 2-inch red metal Passion Cross trimmed in gold with rays. For all other Sir Knights: Same as above except using a red metal Passion Cross trimmed in silver with a silver chin strap attached with silver buttons. In lieu of the regulation Templar uniform, a Constituent Commandery may, if their Grand Commandery approves, adopt the use of the Cap and mantle as their official uniform. These can be worn for all Templar occasions, provided that when appearing in public, the entire Commandery MUST be dressed in like manner – either in Uniform or all in Cap and mantle. The Cap and Mantle is prescribed as follows:
- A. **TEMPLAR MANTLE:** In general, the mantle shall be of the style worn by medieval Templars and by members of the Sovereign Great Priorities. 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 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 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 red 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 with 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 with purple tassels.
- B. **TEMPLAR CAP:** The Templar cap shall follow the design and specifications of the style worn by the Sovereign Great Priorities, three inches in depth and very slightly flared at the top.
1. *For 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 shall 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 Committee on Jewels and Uniforms. No other ornamentation or Templar jewels or recognitions shall be worn on the mantle.
- D. **SWORD AND SCABBARD:** The sword and scabbard shall conform to the regulations of the Grand Encampment.
- E. **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 to fasten to the two upper rings of the scabbard. (1940, p 257-315) ( 1952, p 572-581) (1988 Pages 198-199)(2003 Pages 91-94)
- (j) It may provide for dual membership within its jurisdiction or in connection with other Grand Commanderies whose laws so provide.

**Section 48.** The Grand Commander shall have the following specific powers and duties but the enumeration shall not be deemed a limitation thereof:

- (a) To maintain a watchful supervision over all the Commanderies in his jurisdiction and to see that the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery are duly and promptly observed.
- (b) To appoint all Committees and all Officers not made elective, and to fill all vacancies, such appointees to serve during his pleasure or until their successors have been elected or appointed and installed.
- (c) To grant during any recess of the Grand Commandery Dispensations for the formation of new Commanderies. No Dispensation shall issue unless the following requirements are met:
  1. A petition by nine or more duly qualified Knights Templar.
  2. The consent and recommendation of the nearest Commandery in that Jurisdiction, provided that if the new Commandery is to be located in a city having more than one Commandery, two of such Commanderies must consent and recommend and provided further that if the Commanderies in such city have Concurrent Jurisdiction, then all the Commanderies therein stationed must consent and recommend. A Dispensation when issued shall be in force until the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery.
- (d) During any recess of the Grand Commandery to arrest the Charter or Dispensation of a Commandery, or to place a Commandery under probation under such conditions as he shall determine until the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. Also to suspend from his office any Officer of the Grand or of a Constituent Commandery, but in no case shall such suspension affect the standing in the Order of such Officer or his membership in the Commandery. The Grand Commander shall report his action in full to the next Conclave of the Grand Commandery for its final action.
- (e) To visit and preside in any Commandery within his Jurisdiction and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the Order may require, always adhering to the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment and the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.
- (f) To grant Dispensations to Constituent Commanderies:
  1. To hold Special Conclaves for the conferring of the Orders at places within their Jurisdictions other than those named in their Charters, and
  2. To permit them to receive petitions and ballot thereon at the same Conclave or at Special Conclaves, after such notice as he may deem proper.
  3. In the event the Asylum of the Commandery has been destroyed or damaged to such an extent as to render it unfit for occupancy, to hold Stated Conclaves at a place within its Jurisdiction other than that named in the Charter, for the purpose of temporarily or permanently removing the Asylum of the Commandery, pursuant to the provisions of Section 217 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. (1952 p 542)
  4. For the purpose of changing the date, time and location for a Stated Conclave, as otherwise provided in the By-Laws of a Constituent Commandery, to accommodate holidays and special situations that he may deem appropriate upon the written request of the Constituent Commandery, based upon an affirmative vote at a previous Stated Conclave, and provided only that due and timely notice be provided the membership of the change. (1991 pages 67-69)

- (g) To appoint Past Grand Commanders, Officers of the Grand Commandery or Past Commanders of Constituent Commanderies to represent the Grand Commandery within sister jurisdictions, such appointee to be known as “Grand Representative” and to serve at the pleasure of the Grand Commander or until a successor is appointed. (1937, p 357)
- (h) To conduct official visitations for the purpose of inspection or evaluation of each Constituent Commandery in his jurisdiction, either personally or by his personal representative, and to report the same together with any recommendations he may have at the next conclave of the Grand Commandery.

**Section 49.** The Deputy Grand Commander in the event of the absence of the Grand Commander or his inability to perform the duties of his office shall act as Grand Commander. In the event of the death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent disability of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander shall succeed to the office and be regularly installed. At all other times he shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand: Commandery or the Grand Commander. (1940, p 338)

**Section 50.** In case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall perform the duties of their respective superiors. In case of the advancement, death, permanent removal from the Jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of office, or the permanent disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall severally succeed to the office of such superiors and be installed therein. (1940, p 338)

**Section 52.** It is the duty of the Grand Recorder:

- (a) To communicate annually to the Grand Master, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, and to the Grand Recorders of each of the other Grand Commanderies, the Roll of Officers of the Grand Commandery and such other matters as may give information on the condition of the order in the Jurisdiction or may conduce to the general good of the Order.
- (b) To forward to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, on or before the First Day of July of each year, the Annual Returns and Dues of the Grand Commandery.
- (c) To transmit annually to the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment copies of all the Printed proceedings and of the Laws adopted by the Grand Commandery.
- (d) To have charge of the Seal of the Grand Commandery, and attest all papers requiring the same.
- (e) To send promptly to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment two copies of announcement and Notice of Death of members of the Grand Encampment which may occur within his Jurisdiction, giving the date of birth and of death, together with the character of his official and other service.
- (f) To perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.

**Section 57.** A Knight Templar is a Mason upon whom the Orders of Red Cross, Knight of Malta and Knight Templar have been conferred by any organization recognized by the Grand Encampment as having authority to confer the same.

**Section 58.** A Commandery consists of at least three Knights Templar, hailing from three separate Commanderies, and acting under a lawful Warrant, or of nine or more Knights Templar acting under a lawful Dispensation or Charter.

**Section 59.** A Commandery has the exclusive right to receive Petitions from those within its Territorial Jurisdiction possessing the necessary qualifications, to elect petitioners by unanimous vote only, and to confer the Orders upon them.

**Section 60.** Before a Commandery can be formed or opened, there are the following prerequisites:

- (a)
  - 1. At least three Knights Templar hailing from at least three separate Commanderies, or
  - 2. At least nine Knights Templar residing in the proposed Territorial Jurisdiction.
  
- (b) A lawful Warrant, which is:
  - 1. A Dispensation from the Grand Master, or a Dispensation or Charter from the Grand Encampment in a country, state or geographical region where there is no Grand Commandery, or
  - 2. A Dispensation from the Grand Commandery, or a Dispensation or Charter from the Grand Commandery if the proposed location is in a country, state or geographical region where there is a Grand Commandery.

**Section 61.** Commanderies under the Immediate Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment are styled "Subordinate." Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of any Grand Commandery are styled "Constituent."

**Section 62.**

- (a) The Order of Knights Templar is declared to be a Uniformed Order.
- (b) The purchase of a uniform by a candidate shall be optional, unless the Grand Commandery holding Jurisdiction shall, under the provisions of Section 41 (i), require each member of its Constituent Commanderies to be provided with a Templar uniform.
- (c) Each and every officer of any Constituent or Subordinate Commandery shall be required to possess a dress uniform prior to his installation, and retain possession during his incumbency in office."
- (d) Each Constituent or Subordinate 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 that prescribed by the several Grand Commanderies, 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.
- (e) In lieu of the regulation Templar uniform, a Constituent Commandery may provide and use Ceremonial Robes conforming to and consistent with the historical traditions and practices of Templary. These Ceremonial Robes are to be used only in the Asylum for the conferring of the Order of the Temple and/or for the opening and closing of a Commandery of Knights

Templar and their design and material shall be approved by the Grand Commandery under which it is Chartered. (1940, p 257-315)

**Section 63.** Upon the formation of a Grand Commandery, all Commanderies within its Territorial Jurisdiction must enroll under such Grand Commandery, and shall respect and obey the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations thereof. .

**Section 64.** A Commandery, whether Subordinate or Constituent, consists of:

A Commander,  
A Generalissimo,  
A Captain General,  
A Senior Warden,  
A Junior Warden,  
A Prelate,  
A Treasurer,  
A Recorder,  
A Standard Bearer,  
A Sword Bearer,  
A Warder,  
A Sentinel,

Three Guards, and such other Knights Templar as maybe members thereof; The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected, and the remaining Officers shall be elected, or appointed by the Commander, as may be provided by law. Any Commandery may, by its By-Laws provide that the offices of its Treasurer and Recorder may be consolidated into the one office of Recorder and when so combined the Recorder shall assume and perform the duties of the Treasurer, as set forth in Section 73. Be it further provided that the permission of the Grand Encampment be obtained in the case of the Subordinate Commandery, and the permission of its Grand Commandery be obtained in the case of a Constituent Commandery.

**Section 65.** The Conclaves of Commanderies shall be:

- (a) Stated; which shall be held at least Quarterly at such Place as may be specified in the Dispensation or Charter or otherwise provided for by Law, and at such time as may be designated.
- (b) Special; which may be called by the Commander or set by action of the Commandery. They shall be held for the conferring of Orders or for such business as may be prescribed by law, and at the Place for Stated Conclaves, provided that the Grand Master for Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander for Constituent Commanderies, may authorize the holding of such Conclaves {for the conferring of the Orders) at. a Place other than that specified in the Charter or Dispensation. The notice or summons for all Special Conclaves shall specify the business to be transacted, and none other shall be considered at such Conclave.
- (c) A Commandery may, at. Stated or Special Conclaves held for the transaction of business only, consider and transact business jointly with Chapters and Councils domiciled at the same location. At such Conclaves, members of Chapters and councils who are not Knights Templar may be admitted; provided, that in the event of an objection by a Knight Templar to

balloting on petitions for the Orders by all present, such petitions shall be considered only by members of the Commandery. At such Conclaves, following prayer, the Commander may declare the Commandery open for the transaction of business.

**Section 66.** A quorum of a Commandery consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the same.

**Section 67.** It is the duty of the Commander, the Generalissimo and the Captain General of Subordinate Commanderies within the continental limits of the United States to attend the conclaves of the Grand Encampment, and the duties of such officers of Constituent Commanderies to attend the conclaves of their respective Grand Commanderies. The Grand Master, in the case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander, in the case of Constituent Commanderies, shall have power and authority to take such action as he or it may deem appropriate to enforce the provisions of this section. The Grand Master shall report any such action at the next conclave of The Grand Encampment.

**Section 68.** No appeal shall lie to the Commandery from a decision of the Commander. When the decision involves the construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, or the By-Laws of the Commandery, an appeal may be taken *to* the Grand Commandery by a Constituent Commandery, or to the Grand Encampment by a Subordinate Commandery, but pending the decision of the appeal, such ruling of the Commander shall be in full force and effect.

**Section 69.** Officers of Commanderies shall hold office and discharge the duties thereof for the term for which they are elected or appointed and until their successors are duly installed.

**Section 70.** Each Officer of a Commandery, before entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office, shall take the following vow, viz: "I, (A.B.), do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of this Jurisdiction, and the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations 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."

**Section 71.** It is the duty of the Commander:

- (a) Of a Constituent Commandery, to see that the Officers and Members of his Commandery duly observe the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Commandery, the Constitution, Rules, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment.
- (b) Of Subordinate Commanderies, to see that the Officers and Members of his Commandery duly observe the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Commandery, and the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

**Section 72.** In case of the temporary absence, disability, removal, or mental or physical incapacity of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall act as Commander. In case of like

disability of both Commander and Generalissimo, the Captain General shall act. In case of the death, permanent removal from the Jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent mental or physical disability of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of like disability of the Generalissimo or his advancement as above provided, the Captain General shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of the like disability of the Captain General, or his advancement as above provided, the office shall be vacant and the Grand Master in case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander in case of Constituent Commanderies, shall issue a Dispensation for an election to fill the vacancy and any other that may occur in consequence thereof. In case of like disability of all three officers, a Dispensation may issue for a special election to fill the vacancies and any others which may result there from, pending which the Junior Past Commander able to serve shall act as Commander. The Grand Master in case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander in case of Constituent Commanderies, may vary this procedure for reasons he may deem sufficient, and may issue a Dispensation to fill any vacancy. (1940, p 338)

**Section 73.** It is the duty of the Treasurer:

- (a) Of a Constituent Commandery to perform such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Commandery.
- (b) Of a Subordinate Commandery to perform such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution, Statutes., Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment and the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of his Commandery.

**Section 74.** It is the duty of the Recorder:

- (a) To give Notice of all Conclaves; Notice of Special Conclaves shall state the business to be transacted.
- (b) To issue Summons when directed by the Commander or the Commandery.
- (c) To record correctly all transactions of the Commandery.
- (d) To collect all dues and assessments and other moneys due to the Commandery, and promptly turn over the same to the Treasurer.
- (e) To have in charge the Seal of the Commandery and affix it to all papers requiring the same.
- (f) Of a Constituent Commandery, to report annually to the Grand Recorder the Roll of Officers and such other information as may be prescribed by the Grand Commandery, and with said report remit the dues and fees due to the Grand Commandery, to transmit promptly to the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder copies of all By-Laws and Resolutions adopted by the Commandery.
- (g) To submit his books for examination when required by the Commandery, and as to a Constituent Commandery when required by the Grand Commander, and as to a Subordinate Commandery when required by the Grand Master.
- (h) Of a Subordinate Commandery, to report annually on or before April First to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment the Roll of Officers and members and such other information as may be prescribed by the Grand Encampment, and with said report remit the dues, fees and assessments due to the Grand Encampment.



**Section 75.** Recorders and Treasurers of Commanderies shall give bond for the faithful performance of their duties under such regulations as the Grand Commandery may enact for Constituent Commanderies and the Grand Encampment for Subordinate Commanderies.

**Section 76.** Subject to the provisions of Section 72, the Grand Master for Subordinate Commanderies and the Grand Commander for Constituent Commanderies, may authorize a Special Election to fill vacancies in Commandery offices.

**Section 77.**

The honorary title of the Commander is “Eminent,” and the official title is “Commander.”

The honorary title of all officers and individual members of the Order is “Sir Knight.”

The honorary title shall be used in addressing or referring to an officer, and when so used shall immediately precede the official title, e.g.: “Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Captain General, Sir Knight Warder,” etc.

The title of each and every Knight Templar, when addressed or referred to by either or both his Christian and surnames is “Sir Knight,” without any prefix thereto, and “Sir Knights” is the title to be applied to any assemblage of Knights Templar.

**Section 78.** The precedence of rank shall be as follows:

The Commander,

The Generalissimo,

The Captain General,

The Past Commanders according to seniority of service,

The Senior Warden,

The Junior Warden,

The Prelate,

The Treasurer,

The Recorder,

The Standard Bearer,

The Sword Bearer,

The Warder, and

The Guards and Sentinel.

**Section 79.** The Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred only upon candidates who possess the qualifications for membership fixed by the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. Such qualifications, when defined, shall not be changed by Grand Commanderies or Commanderies; provided, that any Grand Commandery may, by proper enactment and, by at least a two-thirds vote, require the Cryptic Degrees as prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood in its Constituent Commanderies.

**Section 80.** Except as provided in Section 23(j)2 and Section 48(f)2, Petitions for Orders or for membership shall be acted upon at Stated Conclaves only. No Petition may be balloted on in less than two weeks from presentation to the Commandery, provided that the Grand Master in case of a Subordinate Commandery, and the Grand Commander in case of a Constituent Commandery, may by Dispensation authorize the presentation of and ballot upon such Petition at the same Conclave; after such notice as he may deem proper. (1952, p 570-571) A Grand Commandery

may provide a by-law that the Petitions for the Orders or for membership may be received and balloted on at the Stated or Special Conclave at which such Petition or Petitions are read in the Commandery, without Dispensation from the Grand Commander.

**Section 81.** No Commandery may confer the Orders for a less fee than Forty Dollars (\$40.00). The fee may not be remitted directly or indirectly. Provided, however, at the request of a subordinate Commandery outside of the United States, the Grand Master may set the amount of the conferral fee for said Commandery so making the request. (1988 Pages 216 – 217)

**Section 82.** No Commandery may confer the Orders, or anyone of them, upon any Sojourner unless the consent of the Commandery having territorial Jurisdiction is first obtained, provided, however, that it shall be lawful for any Commandery to receive the Petition of and confer the Orders upon any person belonging to the Active Army, Navy, Air Force, U. S. Public Health Service, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the National Aeronautical Space Agency of the United States of America who shall have been stationed within its Territorial Jurisdiction for at least Six Months prior to the presentation of his Petition. In the event of a violation of this Section the Commandery offending shall pay to the Commandery having territorial Jurisdiction the fees received for such admission and be subject to such other penalties as may be provided by law.

**Section 83.** The orders shall be conferred in the following succession: Red Cross, Knight of Malta and Knight Templar. The Order of the Red Cross, and/or the order of Malta may be conferred either in full form or in short form.

**Section 84.** A Commandery has the right to levy and collect such annual dues and per capita assessments as it may deem necessary to defray its expenses.

**Chapters 6 through 15**, comprising Sections 147 through 237, are too long to be included here. Refer to the” Combined Constitution, Statutes and Decisions Document [.pdf]” Revised June 27, 2010, found on the Grand Encampment web site <http://www.knightstemplar.org/> .