

BY-LAWS

_____ **COMMANDERY NO.** _____
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ARTICLE I

Designation and Conclaves

Section 1. This Commandery shall be known and designated as _____ Commandery No. _____, K.T.

Section 2. The Stated Conclaves shall be held in _____ at _____ on the _____ in each month at _____ o'clock p.m.; (Name and physical address of meeting place) Provided, However, That it may suspend its Conclaves during the month/s of _____. The last stated Conclave preceding St. John's Day in _____ of each year shall be the Annual Conclave.

(November or December)

Section 3. Special Conclaves may be called at the pleasure of the Eminent Commander.

ARTICLE II

Powers and Duties

Section 1. This Commandery shall have and exercise all the powers and duties prescribed and defined by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States; the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Commandery of South Carolina and such as are usually exercised and devolved upon Constituent Commanderies non repugnant of the aforesaid Constitution and Statutes.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1. The Officers of this Commandery shall consist of a Commander *(whose title is Eminent)*, a Generalissimo, a Captain-General, a Treasurer and a Recorder, who shall be elected annually, at the Annual Conclave, by written ballot, without nominations and must have a majority of all votes cast. The remaining Officers, consisting of Prelate, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, Warder, Sentinel and three Guards, shall be appointed by the Commander. All Officers shall be elected and installed on or before the 27th day of December, and assume their respective duties on said day.

Section 2. The duties of the Officers shall be such as the Constitution, Statutes, By-Laws and Regulations of the Grand Encampment, and the Customs of the Order have established.

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Section 3. The **Treasurer** shall receive from the Recorder, or otherwise, all moneys belonging to the Commandery, depositing the same in a bank, the account standing in the name of _____ Commandery No.____, by Treasurer, and not in the name of the Treasurer, either officially or individually; and account therefore at such times and in such manner, as by it may be prescribed. For the faithful performance of his duties he annually shall receive the sum of \$ _____ dollars per annum and give bond in some standard guaranty company for the sum of \$ _____ dollars, the Commandery paying the premium thereon.

Section 4. The **Recorder** shall keep an accurate record of all transactions of the Commandery, which shall be written including a list of Officers, Members and Visitors present, which shall be read, corrected and approved at each Conclave. He shall collect the revenue and pay it over to the Treasurer; shall keep correct accounts of the dues of Members; shall prepare and transmit the annual returns to the Grand Recorder; shall keep the seal of the Commandery, and affix it to all documents emanating there from requiring the seal, and shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Commandery, of Commander. For the faithful performance of his duties he annually shall receive \$ _____ dollars. He shall give bond in some standard guaranty company the sum of \$ _____ dollars, the Commandery paying the premium thereon.

Section 5. The Sentinel shall receive as compensation for his services \$ _____ dollars for his services.

ARTICLE IV

Fees, Dues and Membership

Section 1. The fees for CONFERRING THE SEVERAL Orders of Knighthood shall be \$ _____ dollars, to be paid as follows:

- Accompanying petition \$ _____
- On Receiving the Red Cross \$ _____
- On Receiving the Order of the Temple \$ _____

No Commandery shall confer the Orders of Knighthood for a less fee than Seventy-five Dollars.

Section 2. A Sir Knight who shall have demitted from any other Commandery may be admitted into this Commandery by petition and election. The fee for affiliation shall be \$ _____ dollars, which sum shall accompany the petition.

Section 3. The Commandery may, for good and sufficient reasons, to be shown upon the Minutes, elect Sir Knights of other Commanderys to Honorary Membership. Such election, however, does not confer the right to vote nor any rank or standing herein, but is merely complimentary.

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Section 4. The Annual Dues, for Members, except honorary, shall be:
\$ _____ dollars.

(NOTE: A Commandery may pass a By-Law remitting the dues of Ministers of the Gospel and others for good and sufficient reason.)

Section 5. Any Member of this Commandery in good standing may participate in the "Life Membership Fund", as prescribed in SECTION 40 and SECTION 42. No member can receive a Life Membership for any reason whatever, either meritorious service or long continuous service.

Section 6. The Commandery has the right to levy and collect such pro rate assessments as may be needed to pay the expenses and promote the prosperity of the body, but no assessment shall be made without due notice to all the members that such action is proposed.

Section 7. A Sir Knight being in arrears for more than one year's dues shall be given one month's notice by registered letter addressed to his last known place of residence to show cause the first Stated Conclave after the expiration of one month, why his name should not be stricken from the roll of members. If he attends and gives a satisfactory excuse, or notifies the Commandery to this effect, it may remit, grant further time or urge immediate payment, as it may deem proper. If he fails to obey the notice, or to show sufficient cause, he shall be dealt with as provided by the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Section 8. In addition to the above fees, there shall be levied upon each Sir Knight, unless he is a Life Sponsor, Associate Patron, or Patron Member, an annual per capita tax of one (\$1.00) dollar payable along with the above fees which shall be turned over the Grand Commandery and by it to the Grand Encampment for the use of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. **Amended 3/14/2011**

Section 9. Any increase in per capita to the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of South Carolina or the Grand Encampment shall be automatically added to the amount of dues paid by each dues paying member.

ARTICLE V

Demits

Section 1. A Demit shall be granted to any member upon written application, addressed to the Commandery, and presented at a Stated Conclave, provided he is not indebted to the Commandery and no charges are pending against him.

ARTICLE VI

Petitions

Section 1. Every petition for the Orders or for Membership shall be in writing, signed with the full name of the petitioner, and recommended by two members of the Commandery, stating the Lodge, Chapter and Council in which he

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received the degrees and also the Lodge, Chapter and Council in which he is then affiliated, and shall also state whether he has or has not been previously rejected by any Commandery, and that the petitioner is a firm believer in the Christian Religion.

Such Petition must be presented at a Stated Conclave, unless further time is granted, the Character of which report, whether favorable or unfavorable, shall not be recorded; whereupon the ballot shall be spread and a unanimous vote shall be necessary for his admission; but no ballot can be had except at a Stated Conclave, and until the expiration of at least two weeks from the date of presentation, unless by written dispensation of the Grand Commander.

Section 2. The Commander may order one re-ballot before the result of the ballot has been recorded, and before any member of the Commandery has left the Asylum; but only when good cause is shown.

Section 3. A petition may be withdrawn by the petitioner at any time before the ballot.

Section 4. 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.

Section 5. Failure of a candidate to present himself to 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.

Section 6. Every Officer must appear in his proper uniform at all Conclaves, unless he is excused therefrom for good cause shown, by the Eminent Commander.

Section 7. No Knight Templar shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of membership in the Commandery, or subject to payment of annual dues, until he has been made a Knight Templar which it shall be the duty of the Commander to confer within a reasonable time.

ARTICLE VII

Committees

Section 1. A Finance Committee consisting of three members shall be appointed by the Commander each year, at the Annual Conclave, which shall have a general supervision of the finances of the Commandery, making such reports and recommendations thereon as the Commandery or Commander may require. Additionally, this committee shall propose an annual budget to be brought before the membership to be voted upon for approval and implementation.

Amended 3/14/2011

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Section 2. An Audit Committee consisting of three members shall be appointed by the Commander each year, at the Annual Conclave, which shall examine and report upon the annual returns and books of the Treasurer and Recorder."

Amended 3/14/2011

ARTICLE VIII

Notice of Conclaves

Section 1. Whenever petitions for the Orders of or membership in are to be balloted on, if notices are sent out for such purpose containing the names of the petitioners, such notices shall be in sealed envelopes.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these By-Laws must be presented in writing at a Stated Conclave and laid over until the next Stated Conclave, when a vote of the Commandery shall be taken thereon, and a vote of two-thirds vote of the members present shall be necessary for their adoption:

Certificate of Adoption

This is to certify that the foregoing By-Laws were read at a stated Conclave of the Commandery held _____, and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the stated Conclave held on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

(Seal)

Eminent Commander

Approved _____

Attest:

Recorder

Approved _____

(Seal)

Grand Commander

Approved _____

Attest:

Grand Recorder

Approved _____