

CONSTITUTION
and
STATUTES
of the
GRAND COMMANDERY
of
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
of
SOUTH CAROLINA

Updated
March 12, 2018

Corrected for Scrivener's Errors
3/21/2022

**THE CONSTITUTION of THE GRAND COMMANDERY,
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of SOUTH CAROLINA
GRAND COMMANDERY**

SECTION 1. This body shall be designated and known as the **GRAND COMMANDERY of KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF SOUTH CAROLINA**, and shall

have a seal bearing suitable devices and inscriptions which shall be affixed to all instruments issued by or under its authority.

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2. Its members are and shall be:

- A. All past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past Grand Generalissimos, and Past Grand Captain-Generals, 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 as may have demitted from other Jurisdictions 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 or hold office.

CONCLAVES

SECTION 3. The Conclaves of the Grand Commandery shall be:

- A. **Stated:** Which shall be held annually at such time and place as the Grand Commandery may by special resolution designate. Should the Grand Commandery fail to so designate, said power and authority to select place and fix time shall be vested in the Grand Commander.
- B. **Special:** Which may be called by the Grand Commander, and it shall be his duty, upon the request of a majority of the Commanderies, to him directed in writing, to call a Special Conclave. No business shall be transacted at a Special Conclave except that specified in the original notice or summons.

QUORUM

SECTION 4. A quorum of the Grand Commandery shall consist of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an officer authorized to convene the same, provided three or more Commanderies are represented.

SECTION 5. Each member present in person or by proxy 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 6. During a Conclave, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery from a decision of the Grand Commander save on points of order. At all other times, the decisions of the Grand Commander shall have full force and effect, but they must be reviewed by the Grand Commandery, at the next Annual Conclave. If such decisions involve the construction of the Laws of the Grand Encampment or the Laws of the Grand Commandery, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery.

POWERS AND DUTIES

SECTION 7. The Grand Commandery shall have 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 Laws 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 to form new Commanderies and to fix the fee thereof. The fee shall not be less than One Hundred Dollars and shall be paid in advance.
- D. It may prescribe Regulations for the government of its Constituent Commanderies and may revoke any Charter.
- 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 the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder, supervise the condition and handling of its finances, and adopt such measure 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 safekeeping, handling, and disposition of the funds and property of the Grand Commandery.

- G. It may fix 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 the Grand Commandery at its Annual Conclave next July 1st.
- I. It may require each member of its Constituent Commanderies to be provided with Templar Uniform which shall conform to that prescribed by the Grand Encampment for members of a Subordinate Commandery.

APPEAL TO THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

SECTION 8. An appeal may be taken to the Grand Encampment from any decision or action of the Grand Commandery, on questions arising as to the Construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes or Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

OFFICERS

SECTION 9. The Officers of the Grand Commandery shall be:
A Grand Commander,
A Deputy Grand Commander,
A Generalissimo,
A Grand Captain-General,
A Grand Senior Warden,
A Grand Junior Warden,
A Grand Prelate,
A Grand Treasurer,
A Grand Recorder,
A Grand Standard Bearer,
A Grand Sword Bearer,
A Grand Warder, and
A Grand Captain of the Guard

The first four of these, together with the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, shall be elected. The Grand Commander shall appoint all others, at the time of his installation.

TERM OF OFFICE

SECTION 10. Grand Officers shall hold office until their successors shall have been duly elected or appointed and installed.

ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE

SECTION 11. No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Commandery, except the Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at the time a member thereof and is currently serving or has served as an Eminent Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar of South Carolina. Amended 2008

VOW OF OFFICE

SECTION 12. Each Officer of the Grand Commandery, before entering upon the exercise of the duties of his office, shall take the following vow:

“I (*name*) 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, and the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been chosen to the best of my ability.”

GENERAL DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 13. The duties of the Officers of the Grand Commandery shall be such as appertain to their respective stations, conforming as nearly as may be to those of the corresponding Officers of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Commandery may require other services, and the Grand Commander may assign to his subordinate Officers duties conformable to Templar Law and Usage.

THE GRAND COMMANDER

SECTION 14. 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, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery are duly and promptly observed.
- B. To appoint all Committees and all Officers not elective, and to fill vacancies, such appointees to serve during his pleasure or until their successors have been elected and installed.
- C. To grant during any recess of the Grand Commandery Dispensation for the formation of new Commanderies. No Dispensations shall be issued 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

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 Constituent Commandery or 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 Commandery 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, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment and the Constitution, Laws 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 Jurisdiction other than those named in their Charter and
 - 2. To permit them to receive petitions and ballot thereon at the same Stated Conclave after such notice as he may deem proper.
- 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 Representatives" and to serve at the pleasure of the Grand Commander or until a successor is appointed.

THE DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER

SECTION 15. 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 other times, he shall perform such duties as may have assigned him by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

THE GRAND GENERALISSIMO AND GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL

SECTION 16. 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 superior.

In case of the advancement, death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performances 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.

THE GRAND TREASURER

SECTION 17. The Grand Treasurer shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment and the Laws of the Grand Commandery. He shall be bonded under the general surety bond provided by the Grand York Rite of SC. As compensation for his services, he shall receive such amount as may be recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery.

THE GRAND RECORDER

SECTION 18. 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 this 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 Printed Proceedings and 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 laws of the

Grand Commandery. He shall be bonded under the general surety bond provided by the Grand York Rite of SC. As compensation for his services, he shall receive such amount as may be recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery.

THE GRAND PRELATE

SECTION 19. The duties of the Grand Prelate shall have the following specific duties:

- A. To review annual mortality reports and prepare appropriate memorials.
- B. To prepare and conduct the Knights Templar Religious Service at the Annual Conclaves.
- C. To Chair the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee which shall consist of the Grand Chaplains of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council along with the Grand Recorder.

THE REMAINING OFFICERS

SECTION 20. The duties of the remaining Officers shall be such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations or assigned to them by the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, conforming as nearly as may be to those of the corresponding Officers of the Grand Encampment.

WHEN A PAST GRAND COMMANDER ASSUMES THE DUTIES OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

SECTION 21. In the event of absence, death or disability of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain-General, the ranking Past Grand Commander according to seniority of service if not incapacitated, and if incapacitated the next ranking Past Grand Commander, shall assume the office, and discharge the duties of the Grand Commander.

TITLES

SECTION 22. The honorary title of the Grand Commander is "Right Eminent," and his official title is "Grand Commander." The honorary title of the Deputy Grand Commander is "Very Eminent," and his official title is "Deputy Grand Commander." The honorary title of the remaining Officers of the Grand Commandery is "Eminent."

The honorary title shall be used when an Officer is addressed and shall immediately precede the official title thus: "Right Eminent Grand Commander, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, and Eminent

Grand Senior Warden.” When referring to an Officer, the honorary title shall immediately follow the name, thus: “Sir Knight John Doe, Right Eminent Grand Commander; Sir Knight James Brown, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Knight Peter Roe, Eminent Grand Senior Warden.” The official title shall be used by an Officer only when necessary to designate his rank or official station, thus: “I am Sir Knight John Jones, Grand Commander.”

PRECEDENCE OF RANK

SECTION 23. The precedence of rank shall be as follows:

The Grand Commander,
The Deputy Grand Commander,
The Grand Generalissimo,
The Grand Captain-General,
The Past Grand Commanders (according to seniority of Service),
The Grand Senior Warden,
The Grand Junior Warden,
The Grand Prelate,
The Grand Treasurer,
The Grand Recorder,
The Grand Standard Bearer,
The Grand Sword Bearer,
The Grand Warder,
The Grand Captain of the Guard

REPRESENTATION BY PROXY

SECTION 24. The Commander, the Generalissimo, and the Captain-General of each Commandery under the immediate jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery, may be represented and vote by proxy: Provided, that such proxy is a member of the same Commandery: that such proxy does not, by his delegated authority, become a member of the Grand Commandery; and, the Grand Recorder shall be notified of such proxy two weeks prior to the Annual Conclave.

The first three Officers of each Commandery under the immediate jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery, or as many of them as may be present in person, or by proxy, shall be entitled to one vote each in all the proceedings of the Grand Commandery.

COMMITTEES

SECTION 25. Following each Annual Conclave, the incoming Grand Commander shall appoint the following standing committees, to consist of

a least three members each, and to serve until their successors are appointed at the next Annual Conclave, viz.:

Audit

Composition: The audit Committee shall consist of three (3) members, one (1) member to be appointed annually by the Grand Commander. The Chairman will be designated by the Grand Commander each year following the Annual Conclave.

Term: The term of each appointed member shall be three (3) years, and: no appointed member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, except that the terms of the first, and only first members of the Committee appointed

under the provisions of this section when adopted shall be: one (1) member with initial term of one (1) year; one (1) member with two (2) years and (1) member with three (3) years.

Duties: To examine the books of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder and certify to the Grand Commandery the condition, state, and repository of all funds and investments.

Meetings: The Committee shall meet at the close of each fiscal year.

Finance

Composition: The finance Committee shall consist of three (3) members to be appointed annually by the Grand Commander. The Chairman will be designated by the Grand Commander each year following the Annual Conclave. By their positions the Grand Commander, The Deputy Grand Commander, The Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Recorder shall automatically be members of the Committee.

Term: The term of each appointed member shall be three (3) years, and: no appointed member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, except that the terms of the first, and only first members of the Committee appointed; under the provisions of this section when adopted shall be: one (1) member with initial term of one (1) year; one (1) member with two (2) years and (1) member with three (3) years.

Duties: To receive and consider all matters pertaining to finance referred to it by the Grand Commandery. To prepare and submit to the Grand Commandery at its annual conclave, a balanced budget setting forth all the expected revenues and expenditures necessary for the operation of all functions of The Grand Commandery for the ensuing budget year. Such budget, when adopted by the Grand Commandery shall govern all expenditures for the ensuing budget year. And, at the direction of the Grand Commander, perform all other duties pertaining to The Grand Commandery finances not specifically assigned by the constitution to the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder.

Jurisprudence Committee

Composition: The Jurisprudence Committee shall consist of all current Past Grand Commanders, The Deputy Grand Commander and no more. The Grand Generalissimo, The Grand Captain General, and The Grand Recorder shall be ex-officio members of this Committee with no vote. The Chairman shall be designated by the Grand Commander each year.

Duties: The committee shall have in its charge the responsibility to determine the validity of all changes and additions concerning Templar Law. The Committee shall, before the Annual Conclave review the Grand Commander's Address to ensure that his actions during his term of office are not contrary to Templar Law.

Special Committees

The Right Eminent Grand Commander shall appoint all other Committees as needed, which shall serve until their work is complete of the Grand Commander's term of Office ends. Reports from such Committees shall be made to the Right Eminent Grand Commander.

The Grand Commander shall, by the first week of February each year deliver his address to the Grand Recorder who shall refer to the appropriate committees for their consideration and report.

The Grand Commander shall, at least two weeks before the Annual Conclave, refer to the Committees on Jurisprudence, Doings of Grand Officers, Appeals and Grievances, Finance and Necrology, a copy of his address, or such portions thereof as he may deem proper, for their consideration and report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 26. Election of Grand Officers, if more than one candidate, must be by ballot and at such time during the Annual Conclave as the Grand Commandery may direct.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 27. 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 be present, then by the ranking Past Commander, by service, who may be present.

EXTINCT COMMANDERY

SECTION 28. A member of an extinct Commandery is not liable for dues after the Commandery becomes extinct. The Grand Commander has the right to collect from members of an extinct Commandery all dues chargeable against them at the time it became extinct, and to discipline

those who refuse or neglect to pay the same.

When a Commandery has ceased to exist, its members may join another Commandery, upon petition, and certificate from the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery, that his standing therein was good when said Commandery ceased to exist. The funds and property of an extinct Commandery shall become the property of the Grand Commandery, which may make such deposition thereof as it deems proper.

When a Commandery under Dispensation ceases to exist, it cannot be revived and the affiliated petitioners, as well as those Knighted therein, are entitled to a certificate from the Grand Recorder showing that they are nonaffiliated Knights Templar, which shall have the effect of a demit.

Whenever a Knight Templar, who had been erased by a Commandery which is now extinct, shall desire to become a member of another Commandery, the Grand Recorder, upon receipt of a sum of money equivalent to two years' annual dues, shall issue a certificate to such Knight Templar, which shall entitle him to apply for Membership in any Commandery.

DISCIPLINARY RULES

SECTION 29. In the conduct of all trials and all proceedings incident thereto, the Disciplinary Rules adopted by the Grand Encampment shall be observed.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PETITIONERS

SECTION 30. A Petitioner is eligible to receive the Orders of Knighthood:

- A. Who is a Master Mason, A Royal Arch Mason, and A Royal and Select Master, affiliated in a Lodge, a Chapter and a Council; or who is an affiliated Master Mason; and who has affiliated with, or has petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Capitular Degrees; and who has affiliated with, or has petitioned a Council of Royal and Select Masters for the Cryptic Degrees, provided however, that none of the Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred upon the said petitioner until he shall have received both the Royal Arch Degree and the Select Master's Degree; and
- B. Who is a firm believer in the Christian Religion; and
- C. Who is physically able to conform to the ceremonies of the Order; 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, and for at least six months within the Jurisdiction of such Commandery; or who is a sojourner at whom the Commandery having jurisdiction has waived such jurisdiction; or who is a member of the Armed Forces

of the United States and has resided within the jurisdiction of the Commandery petitioned for at least six months immediately prior to the date of his petition.

PETITION

SECTION 31.

- A. Petition for the Orders of Knighthood shall declare the Lodge in which petitioner received the degrees, the Lodge in which he is affiliated: The Chapter in which he received or is to receive the Capitular degrees, the Chapter of which he is or will be a member; The Council in which he received or is to receive the Cryptic degrees, the Council of which he is or will be a member. It shall also give petitioner's full name, date of birth, residence, and occupation, and shall state whether he has been rejected by any Commandery, and such facts as shall show his qualifications under Section 30 of this Constitution. The petitioner shall also declare his firm belief in the Christian Religion, and that he has read and personally signed the petition. At least two members of the Commandery petitioned shall sign the petition, as Vouching for the good character and Masonic standing of the petitioner and recommending favorable action thereon.
- B. Petitions for the Orders or for membership shall be acted upon at a Stated Conclave. 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.
- C. Petitions for degrees, once verified there has not been a rejection through the York Rite Information System may be received and balloted upon at the same Stated Conclave.
- D. No Petition maybe balloted on in less than two weeks from presentation to the Commandery. Provided, the Grand Commander may by dispensation authorize the presentation of and ballot upon such petition, at the same Conclave.
- E. A Petition whether for Orders or Membership shall be referred to a Committee of Three members of the Commandery, who shall report in writing as to whether the prayers of the Petitioner should be granted. No ballot thereon shall be had until a report has been made. Only the fact of the report being made, and not its character, shall be entered on the Minutes of the Commandery.

WITHDRAWAL OF PETITION

SECTION 32. A petition may be withdrawn by the petitioner at any

time before ballot.

BALLOT

SECTION 33.

- A. An unfavorable report from the committee does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot.
- B. Every member present when a ballot on a petition is taken is required to vote unless excused by the Commander or the Commandery before the balloting has commenced.
- C. The ballot upon a Petition for the Orders or for membership must be secret and unanimous. The reason for casting a blackball cannot be disclosed or inquired into.
- D. A Commander may order one re-ballot before the result of a ballot has been announced and before any member of the Commandery has left the Asylum.
- E. Membership in a Constituent Commandery cannot be terminated except by a ballot. This subdivision shall not be so construed as to require ballot on the granting of a Demit.
- F. A member suspended for non-payment of dues to the Commandery may be restored to membership on written application and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave upon payment of such arrears as the Commandery may require.

NON-AFFILIATED IN LODGE, CHAPTER OR COUNCIL

SECTION 34.

- A. Voluntary non-affiliation in a Lodge, Chapter or Council for six months shall deprive a Knight Templar of his membership in the Commandery after due notice and hearing.
- B. When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled from his Lodge, Chapter or Council for any reason, he shall after due notice and hearing, with respect to the fact of such suspension or expulsion only, be suspended or expelled from his Commandery.
- C. When a Knight Templar 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 or Council shall entitle him to restoration in his Commandery on written application thereof and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave. When he has been suspended from his Commandery solely because of non-payment of dues to the Commandery, he may be restored to membership on written application therefore and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave and payment of such part of his dues in arrears as the Commandery may require.

CONTINUOUS AFFILIATION

SECTION 35. 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 and shall file a written application to his Commandery for 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.

DEMIT

SECTION 36. A member, upon written request, presented in open Commandery, is entitled to a Demit without a vote of the Commandery; provided he is not indebted to the Commandery, and no charges are pending against him.

DUES

SECTION 37. Each Constituent Commandery may fix the dollar amount of Annual Dues, Ministers of God may be exempt should the Commandery elect so to do.

NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

SECTION 38.

No member shall be suspended for non-payment of dues until after due notice has been given to such member to appear at the time it is proposed to act upon the matter and an opportunity given him to be heard.

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

FEES FOR DEGREES OF THE ORDERS

SECTION 39. Each Constituent Commandery may fix the fee for Degrees of the Order, but in no case shall the sum paid for fees be less than Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00). (Ministers of God cannot be exempted.)

LIFE MEMBERS

SECTION 40.

A Commandery may provide that members, who are and shall, remain affiliated in the Lodge, Chapter and Council, upon payment of a fixed sum

of money, not less than ten times the Annual Dues, may become Life Members and thereafter exempt from the payment of Annual Dues. The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of South Carolina shall be a full participant in the Life Membership Program Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of South Carolina. The Grand Commandery shall conform to and abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the Life Membership Program.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 41. A Commandery by unanimous ballot, after due reference to a committee and ballot had 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.

ANNUAL RETURN FOR COMMANDERIES

SECTION 42.

- A. Each Constituent Commandery shall make an Annual Return to the Grand Commandery, by entering membership in the York Rite Information System by December 31st of each calendar year, and shall pay with such return the sum of (\$10.00) Ten Dollars for each Knight Templar created in such Commandery and the sum of Seventeen Dollars (\$18.00) plus any increases in per capita by the Grand Encampment for each member on its roll on the 31st day of December, except Ministers of God, if exempt by the Commandery.
- B. Each Commandery will be given credit on their Annual Return of one dollar (\$1.00) for Sir Knights who are Life Sponsors of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation and so noted in the York Rite Information system. The Grand Recorder shall add and collect as part of the fees and per capita of Constituent Commanderies ten per centum of the gross amount upon all such payments not received by the Grand Recorder's office before the first day of February following the close of the calendar year.

THE ORDER OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IS A UNIFORM ORDER

SECTION 43.

- A. The Order of Knights Templar is declared to be a "UNIFORM ORDER;" the uniform to be as prescribed as Grand Commandery or by the Grand Encampment should the Grand Commandery fail to prescribe such uniform. The Knights Templar Uniform is required only in the performance of duties outlined in Sections (B) and (C) below.
- B. Every Officer of a Commandery in South Carolina shall be required to

be in possession of a Dress Uniform prior to his installation.

- C. Each Commandery in this Jurisdiction shall maintain a Unit or Units equipped with full Templar Uniforms as prescribed by this Grand Commandery, to be worn at full form openings and in the conferring of the Order of the Temple. In conferring the Order of the Temple, the Officers, other than the Prelate, shall wear the Chapeau.

ASYLUM

SECTION 44. Each Commandery shall be provided with a suitable Asylum properly furnished and may, with the approval of the Grand Commander, remove its asylum from one building to another in the same municipality by a majority vote of its members present at a Stated Conclave, after due notice of the proposed change.

GRAND STANDARD, BEAUCEANT AND FLAG

SECTION 45. The Grand Standard and Beauceant shall be such as are prescribed by the Grand Encampment; All Commanderies shall display a silk regulation flag of the United States of America in their respective asylums to be placed on the dais at the extreme right.

RITUAL

SECTION 46. The Ritual as promulgated by the Grand Encampment cannot be altered or abridged except by action of the Grand Encampment.

HEALING

SECTION 47. The Grand Commandery 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. One Knighted in a clandestine manner or in a spurious Commandery cannot be healed.

FUNERAL SERVICE

SECTION 48. 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.

BY-LAWS

SECTION 49. The Grand Commandery 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; provided, however, that the Grand Commandery may

approve By-Laws or amendments thereof adopted during the recess of the Grand Commandery, which action shall be subject to review at the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

SPECIAL PROVISION

SECTION 50. On all questions on which this Constitution is silent, reference shall be had to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, or the Ahiman Rezon.

ADMENDMENTS

SECTION 51. This constitution may be revised, amended, or altered by a two- thirds vote of the members present, provided said changes have been reported upon by the Jurisprudence Committee and are not in conflict with the Constitution of Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

**The STATUES of
The GRAND COMMANDERY, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF SOUTH
CAROLINA**

ADJOURNMENT

SECTION 52. Grand Commandery does not "close" it "adjourns." Constituent Commanderies do not "adjourn," they "close." They do not "call off" but they may close to meet on a date certain, to finish business that is pending.

BY-LAWS

SECTION 53. The Grand Commandery may provide a uniform code of By-Laws, not in conflict with the Laws of the Grand Encampment, for the government of such Commanderies as may adopt or use it.

SECTION 54. By-Laws of a Commandery must be approved by the Grand Commandery; provided, however, That the Grand Commander may approve By-Laws or Amendments thereto adopted during recess, subject to review at the next annual Conclave of Grand Commandery.

SECTION 55. When the By-Laws of a Commandery prescribe the mode by which amendments may be made, such provision must be observed.

BURIAL

SECTION 56. 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 Grand Encampment funeral service shall be followed.

BALLOT

SECTION 57. Every member present at the taking of a ballot upon a petition is required to vote, unless excused by the commander before balloting has commenced.

SECTION 58. The ballot upon a petition for the Orders or for affiliation must be unanimous, and its secrecy must be strictly guarded, the reason for casting a black ball cannot be disclosed or inquired into.

SECTION 59. A Commander may, in the exercise of his judgment and discretion, order a second ballot, before the result of the ballot has been announced and before any member of the Commandery has left the

Asylum.

SECTION 60. No ballot can be had upon the petition until it has been referred for investigation, nor until the report of the committee has been made thereon.

SECTION 61. An unfavorable report from the investigation committee does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot.

COURTESY

SECTION 62. A Commandery may confer the Orders upon a candidate elected to receive them by another Commandery, at the request of such Commandery.

FEE

SECTION 62a. Each Commandery may fix for itself the fee for the Orders, but in no case shall it be less than Seventy-five (\$75.00) Dollars, which shall be paid in full before the Order of the Red Cross is conferred.

HEALING

SECTION 63. Healing consists in administering the vows of Knighthood to a Knight Templar and correcting what was done amiss in his creation.

SECTION 64. The Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander has the power to heal, in proper cases, Knights Templar who were irregularly created, or may delegate this power to a Commandery or to a Commander.

SECTION 65. One who has been Knighted in a clandestine way, or in a spurious Commandery, cannot be healed.

JURISDICTION

SECTION 66. A petitioner for the Orders of Knighthood must apply to the Commandery within whose territorial Jurisdiction he resides; he can apply elsewhere only by the written permission of the Commandery having jurisdiction.

OBJECTIONS

SECTION 67. A member in good standing of the Commandery, whether present when the ballot was taken or not, may object to the conferring of the Order of the Red Cross upon an elected candidate, and cannot be required to disclose his reason, therefore. When such objection is made, either in open Commandery or privately to the Commander, the Order

shall not be conferred. The fact of the objection and not the name of the objector shall be entered on the minutes and have the same force and effect as a rejection.

SECTION 68. An objection after ballot may be withdrawn by the objector before it has been entered upon the minutes.

SECTION 69. Any Companion of the Order of the Red Cross, or Knight of Malta, is entitled to receive the remaining Orders, unless found unworthy after trial on charges duly preferred. And no member of a Commandery, whether present when ballot was taken or not, shall prevent or delay the conferring of the remaining Orders by mere objection.

SECTION 70. Any Sir Knight, to prevent or delay the conferring of the remaining Orders on an elected Candidate, who has been duly constituted a Companion of the Red Cross or made a Knight Malta, shall be required to prefer written charges against him, and file them with the Recorder. The accused is entitled to be furnished with a copy of such charges, and to be heard in person and by counsel, provided, that such council shall be a Knight Templar in good standing.

SECTION 71. When charges are presented, the remaining Orders cannot be conferred, unless the charges are withdrawn, or the candidate acquitted. When charges are filed, that fact shall be entered on the minutes, but not the name of the objector, nor the nature of the charges. In case no objection is made, nor any charges presented, the Commander may, in his discretion, delay the conferring of either of the Orders for one Conclave only.

SECTION 72. Objections or charges against a candidate who has received one or more of the Orders may be heard from a visiting Knight Templar but shall not be considered by the Commandery except upon a majority vote to that effect, or where, in consequence thereof, objection shall be made, or charges filed in writing by a member of the Commandery, in the manner herein provided.

SECTION 73. Charges against a candidate may be withdrawn by the accuser, with the consent of the Commandery, before the commencement of a hearing thereon.

PETITIONS

SECTION 74. The report on a petition must be in writing, and the fact of such report, but not its character (whether favorable or otherwise) shall be entered in the minutes.

SECTION 75. Every petition for the Orders of Knighthood shall declare in what Lodge, Chapter and Council the petitioner received the prerequisite degrees, and name the Lodge, Chapter and Council in which he is then affiliated. It shall also give his full name, date of birth, place of residence, and occupation, and shall state in detail whether he has or has not been previously rejected by any Commandery of Knights Templar. The petitioner shall declare in writing his firm belief in the Christian Religion, and that he has fully read the petition, and that he signs it in his own hand.

SECTION 76. No petition can be received which is signed by more than one petitioner.

SECTION 77. Every petition must be signed by two members of the Commandery to which it is addressed, who shall vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the applicant and shall recommend his admission.

SECTION 78. Unless an elected candidate shall present himself within twelve months, after receiving notice of his election, his election to receive the Orders becomes void.

SECTION 79. A petition may be withdrawn by the petitioner at any time before the ballot.

QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION 80. A Knight Templar dubbed in a foreign Jurisdiction must have received all the three symbolic degrees and must have had all the Capitular Degrees conferred or communicated, as provided by the General Grand Chapter; and must have had all the Cryptic Degrees conferred or communicated, provided by the General Grand Council, and must have received the Orders of the Red Cross and of the Knight of Malta, before he can be admitted into the Asylum.

SECTION 81. A petitioner must be physically able to conform to the requirements of the Ceremonies of the Order.

REJECTIONS

SECTION 82. The petition of one who has been rejected cannot be renewed until the expiration of at least six months after the date of such rejection, if still residing in the territorial Jurisdiction of the petitioned Commandery. If petitioner applies to another Commandery, such petition cannot be acted on at any time within three years after rejection; without the unanimous ballot and consent of the rejecting Commandery.

REGULATIONS FOR COMMANDERIES

SECTION 83. APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC – Except for a funeral occasion, or to attend a religious service, Commanderies shall not make public appearances without the authority of a special dispensation.

SECTION 84. The determination of the question as to what a proper occasion for a Commandery is to appear in public is for the Grand Commander.

SECTION 85. When a Commandery appears in public, it should be in correct Templar Uniform. If some of the Sir Knights wish to attend, and find it inconvenient to wear the uniform, they should be appropriately clothed in citizens' dress, and should be formed in a separate group.

SECTION 86. ASYLUM – A Commandery may remove its Asylum from one building to another in the same place, by majority vote of its membership at a Stated Conclave, after due notice of the proposed change, unless it's By-Laws may contain some other provision.

SECTION 87. CHARTER – The Dispensation or Charter of a Commandery should always be present at the opening and throughout the Conclave of a Commandery.

SECTION 88. The Commander is the legal custodian of the Charter of his Commandery, and of the official bonds of the Treasurer and the Recorder.

SECTION 89. A Commandery cannot be constituted without a Charter.

SECTION 90. No Commandery shall surrender its Charter so long as there are nine of its members who are willing and able to work under its Charter.

SECTION 91. When the Charter of a Commandery shall have been surrendered, arrested, or revoked, the members thereof in good standing shall, upon payment of their dues to the Grand Commandery, be entitled to receive from the Grand Recorder a certificate of good standing which shall have the force and effect of a demit.

SECTION 92. A Charter surrendered or arrested cannot be used to form a new Commandery but may be restored to not less than nine of the former members in good standing in Lodge, Chapter, and Council, who are unaffiliated in any Commandery, by the Grand Commandery. In such case it is not necessary or proper to constitute the Commandery again.

SECTION 93. Forfeiture or surrender of a Commandery's Charter does not of itself affect the good standing of its individual members.

SECTION 94. Should the Charter of a Commandery be mutilated or destroyed, the Grand Commander, upon receipt of satisfactory proofs, shall cause a duly authenticated copy thereof to be issued, under the seal of the Grand Body, and correctly certified by the Grand Recorder.

SECTION 95. COMMITTEES - A Commandery may provide for such committees to be appointed as may be needed for the transaction of its business, or for the good of the Order, and may prescribe their duties.

SECTION 96. CONCLAVES – A Commandery can hold its Conclaves only in the place designated in its Dispensation or Charter.

SECTION 97. A Commandery's Stated Conclaves must be held at the time fixed by its By-Laws.

SECTION 98. DEMIT - A Knight Templar who is applying to his Commandery for a demit, by written request, presented in open Commandery, is entitled to have the same granted to him without the necessity for a vote, Provided, that all indebtedness to the Commandery shall have been paid, and no charges are pending against him. This Order for demit, announced in open Commandery, severs his membership therein, whether demit shall be issued or not.

SECTION 99. DUES – A Commandery may enact a By-Law fixing Annual Dues, and providing that members in arrears for one year shall be ineligible to office, and not entitled to vote. In no other way may a member

be disfranchised without due notice and trial.

SECTION 100. Erasure for non-payment of dues can be inflicted by a Commandery only after due notice to the delinquent to appear at a given time, at which time opportunity will be given him to be heard in his own defense.

SECTION 101. When members are summoned to show cause why they should not be erased from the roll for non-payment of dues, and do not appear, they cannot be declared erased until Commandery has so voted.

SECTION 102. The Grand Commandery may by statute fix the time for the payment of the annual dues, prescribe the penalty for non-payment, and fix the terms of restoration, but a Knight Templar shall not be deprived of his right to membership without due notice, and an opportunity to be heard in his own defense.

SECTION 103. ENTERING ANOTHER JURISDICTION – When a Commandery enters the jurisdiction of a Grand Commandery other than its own, it is under the immediate authority of its own Grand Commander.

SECTION 104. FAILURE TO MEET – A Commandery failing to meet for twelve consecutive months forfeits all its rights as a Commandery, and its Charter may be arrested.

SECTION 105. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – A Commandery by unanimous ballot, after due reference to a committee and a ballot had at subsequent Stated Conclave, may elect as an Honorary Member a Knight Templar of another Commandery, but such election does not confer the right to vote or create a liability for dues.

SECTION 106. INSTALLATION – The Officers of a Commandery may be installed by any permanent member of the Grand Encampment, by either of the first four Officers of the Grand Commandery, by the Commander, or by a Past Commander of Any Commandery. The ceremony used shall be that prescribed by the Grand Encampment.

SECTION 107 REQUISITES FOR INSTALLATION - Before the Installing Officer shall administer the vows of office in a Commandery, he shall see that the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Encampment, the

Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Commandery, and Rituals of the Order are in possession of the incoming Commander, or properly accounted for.

SECTION 108. PUBLIC INSTALLATION – A Commandery may hold a public installation in its own Asylum, but not elsewhere without a dispensation from the Grand Commander.

SECTION 109. TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION – Except as otherwise provided by statute or by special edict, defining the territorial limits of Commanderies, the Jurisdiction of each Commandery, whether chartered or under dispensation, shall extend in all directions half-way in a direct line to the next nearest Commandery, Provided, That such territorial jurisdiction shall not extend beyond the limits of the State, unless and until the Grand Commandery by special treaty with adjacent Grand Commanderies shall have provided otherwise.

SECTION 110. SAME - It is not lawful for a Commandery to confer the Orders upon anyone residing within the territory of another Commandery until it has obtained the permission of such Commandery.

SECTION 111. SOJOURNER - When a Petition for the Orders has been received from a Sojourner who has not attained the residence required within the jurisdiction of the Commandery to which he applies, such Commandery shall notify the Commandery in interest and may seek its consent that jurisdiction be exercised over the person of the petitioner. And it shall be competent in such case for a Commandery to waive jurisdiction in favor of the Commandery to which the petition has been addressed.

SECTION 112. LIFE MEMBERSHIP – A Commandery may adopt a By-Law providing that members who are and remain in affiliation with Lodge, Chapter and Council, may become life members, and thereafter exempt from payment of annual dues, upon the payment of a fixed sum of money in cash, Provided, that such fixed sum shall not be less than ten times the amount of the annual dues. Such Life Membership does not in any way exempt the Commandery from the payment of annual dues for such member to the Grand Commandery, also see SECTION 40.

SECTION 113. MEMBERSHIP – A Knight Templar may be admitted to membership in any Commandery regardless of his residence within this

jurisdiction. He may become a member of other Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction by making application for plural membership but cannot hold an office in more than one Commandery. A petition for such membership must be accompanied by a Dispensation from the Grand Commander and 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 Jurisdiction 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 Jurisdiction so provide. Provided, that said Knight Templar wishing to affiliate with Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction conform to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of South Carolina and, when a current member from another Grand Jurisdiction, conform to the qualifications as stated in SECTION 80 (Qualifications). Adopted 2007

SECTION 114. DEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP – Affiliation in a Lodge, a Chapter and a Council is necessary to qualify a petitioner for membership. Voluntary non- affiliation in a Lodge, Chapter or Council shall deprive a Knight Templar of his membership in the Commandery.

SECTION 115. A Knight Templar has the right to apply to any Commandery for affiliation, regardless of his place of residence.

SECTION 116. Until an applicant has been dubbed a Knight Templar, he does not possess the qualification for membership, and is not subject to dues. But he is amendable to the Commandery for his conduct, either as a Companion of the Red Cross or as a Knight of Malta.

SECTION 117. A member of a Commandery has the right to know all the transactions at the Conclave of his Commandery.

SECTION 118. Those to whom a Charter is issued, and those who receive the Orders of Knighthood in the Commandery so chartered, are ipso facto members of such Commandery, whether chartered or under dispensation. This does not include those upon whom the Orders have been conferred as a courtesy to another Commandery.

SECTION 119. MINUTES – At the close of every Conclave the minutes should be read, corrected, and approved; they should be entered on the

record before the next Stated Conclave, at which time the record should be read.

SECTION 120. PRESIDING – In the absence of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall preside; in the absence of both, the Captain-General shall assume the chair. If all three of the warrant officers are absent, the ranking Past Commander present shall preside.

SECTION 121. SUCCESSION TO OFFICE – 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 offices, or 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 of his advancement as above provided, the Captain-General shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of like disability of the Captain-General, or of his advancement as above provided, the Grand Commander may by dispensation authorize the filling of such vacancy, and any other which may result there from, pending which the ranking Past Commander able to serve shall act as Commander. The Grand Commander, for reasons which he deems sufficient, may vary this procedure, and may by dispensation authorize the filling of any vacancy in a Commandery.

SECTION 122. No Officer of a Commandery can resign after installation or demit during his term in office.

SECTION 123. The Commandery's presiding Officer has a right to affix the seal to any certificate or document which he can legally issue in the name of the Commandery.

SECTION 124. SUMMONS – A summons may be issued by the Commander and attested by the Recorder.

SECTION 125. SERVICE OF SUMMON – A summon must be served either by personal delivery to the person addressed, by a Knight Templar, or by being left at the residence or at the usual place of business and deliver there to any person found there, of age of discretion; or by being deposited in the post office, first class mail, directed to the addressee at his

usual address, or at his last known address.

SEAL IMPRESSED - A summon should be authenticated by the impression of the Commandery's Seal; a notice does not require the seal.

VISITORS

SECTION 126. In so far as he is not properly vouched for, a visitor must be examined in all necessary preceding degrees, as well as in the Orders of Knighthood.

SECTION 127. No visitor can be admitted to the Asylum if one of the members of the Commandery objects unless such visitor comes in official capacity. The objection may be made openly, or privately to the Commander, in neither case is the objector required to disclose his reason for objecting.

CORRESPONDENCE

SECTION 128. Correspondence between Commanderies located in the Jurisdiction of different Grand Commanderies shall be conducted through the Grand Commanders in interest.

SECTION 129. Correspondence between a Constituent Commandery and a Commandery subordinate to Grand Encampment shall be conducted through the Grand Commander and the Grand Master of Knight Templar.

SECTION 130. Complaints and correspondence must be addressed, in the first instance, to the Commander, and through him to the Grand Commander, and through him to the Grand Master, if the last named has any jurisdiction in the matter involved. Past Grand Commanders and Grand Officers may communicate directly with the Grand Commander. In case of refusal or neglect to forward communications, as herein provided, the complainant (or correspondent) may communicate directly with the Superior Officer.

DECISIONS

SECTION 131. The Decisions of the Grand Commander are binding until reversed by the Grand Commandery; the most recent decision on any given point in Templar Law is the controlling precedent.

DISCIPLINE

SECTION 132. The disciplinary rules following these statutes shall be observed in the conduct of trials, and in all incidents connected therewith.

ELECTIONS

SECTION 133. Election of Grand Officers must be as follows:

Must be by ballot,

No nominations shall be made of such elective Grand Officers except by unanimous consent, and

Nominations, except for Grand Prelate, shall be of current members who are serving or who have served as an Eminent Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar of South Carolina. Amended 2008

SECTION 134. Where only one name is in nomination for a given office, the presiding Officer may direct any member of the Grand Commandery to cast the unanimous ballot for such nominee.

SECTION 135. A majority of ballots cast is necessary for election; blank ballots are not votes and are not to be counted.

SECTION 136. Any member in good standing is eligible for election or appointment to any office in a Commandery, except where, as set forth in

Section 121, there is a right of succession.

EXTINCT COMMANDERY

SECTION 137. A Knight Templar is not liable for dues after his Commandery becomes extinct. The Grand Commander has the right to collect unpaid dues from the members of an extinct Commandery up to the date when it becomes extinct, and to discipline those who may fail; or refuse to pay.

SECTION 138. When a Commandery has ceased to exist, its members may join another Commandery, upon petition, accompanied by a certificate from the Grand Recorder, evidencing his good standing at the time his Commandery ceased to be.

SECTION 139. The funds and property of an extinct Commandery become the Property of the Grand Commandery, which may dispose of same in such way as it deems proper.

SECTION 140. When a Commandery under dispensation ceases to exist, it cannot be revived, and the unaffiliated petitioners, as well as those Knights Therein, are entitled to a Grand Recorder's certificate showing that they are unaffiliated Knights Templar, which certificate,

accompanying petition for affiliation, shall have the force and effort of a demit.

THE GRAND COMMANDERY

SECTION 141. COMMITTEES – (See Section 25 of the Constitution)

SECTION 142. INSTALLATION - Grand Commandery Officers may be installed by any of the first four officers of Grand Encampment, by a Past Grand Master, or by a Past Grand Commander. If no one of these is present and available, then such installation shall be done by the ranking Past Commander, by service, who may be present.

SECTION 143. MEMBERSHIP- (See Section 2 of the Constitution)

SECTION 144. AFFILIATION REQUISTE - Any member of Grand Commandery forfeits the rights and privileges of membership, so long as he is unaffiliated in a Commandery.

SECTION 145. REMOVAL TO ANOTHER STATE - A member of Grand Commandery does not forfeit his rights as a member by moving out of the Jurisdiction, so long as he continues to retain his active membership in one of our Commanderies.

SECTION 146. REPRESENTATIVES - This Grand Commandery does not exchange Representatives with Templar Organizations outside the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States: such foreign relations are for Grand Encampment only.

NEW COMMANDERIES

SECTION 147. BEGINNING WORK - A Commandery under Dispensation requires no formal procedure to commence work. The members assemble and proceed as if regularly constituted.

SECTION 148. UNDER DISPENSATION - A Commandery under Dispensation cannot be constituted until a Charter is granted by the Grand Body. It cannot enact a code of By-Laws but may by simple resolution prescribe rules that are needful for its operation. It is under the direct authority and supervision of the Grand Commander, and is not yet a Constituent Commandery, but are not members thereof, and have no voice therein.

SECTION 149. OFFICERS OF A NEW COMMANDERY - Officers are not to be named in the Charter, but when a Commandery is to be constituted, it shall elect its own Officers, and present them for installation at the time of Constitution.

SECTION 150. CONSTITUTION - A Commandery can be constituted only by the Grand Commander, or by his duly appointed representative, after the Charter has been granted, and when at least nine of its members are present.

SECTION 151. BY-LAWS - When a Commandery has been chartered and constituted, it shall enact a code of By-Laws for its government and for the transaction of its affairs, subject, however, to the Laws of Grand Encampment and of Grand Commandery.

SECTION 152. EFFECT OF CONSTITUTION - A Commandery under Dispensation remains such until it is constituted. Its Warrant Officers do not become representative members of the Grand Commandery after the Charter is awarded, but only after constitution. When a Commandery is constituted by a representative of the Grand Commander, such representative shall make prompt and full report to the Grand Commander.

SECTION 153. MEMBERSHIP - When and after Dispensation has been issued to form a new Commandery, the membership of those who petitioned therefore remains in abeyance to the Commanderies of which they had been members. They become active members of the Commandery under Dispensation. When its charter is granted, they continue to be members thereof, and ipso facto, cease to be members of their former Commanderies.

SECTION 154. POWERS OF COMMANDERY U. D. - Except as otherwise provided, Commanderies under dispensation have the same rights, powers, and privileges as chartered Commanderies.

SECTION 155. OFFICERS OF COMMANDERY U. D. - The Officers of Commandery U. D. are not installed, but are appointed by the Grand Commander, and are under his immediate supervision and authority. Any of them may resign with the consent of the Grand Commander, or by his authority any of them may be relieved of duty, and his successor may be

appointed.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 156. QUORUM - In all Templar Bodies, a quorum consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the body; and in a Grand Commandery, three or more Commanderies must be represented

SECTION 157. SAME - No business shall be transacted in the absence of a quorum; a quorum being present, the vote of a less number is valid.

SECTION 158. RANK - When by installation and a term of service one has filled the office of Commander, or of Grand Commander, he retains the rank appertaining to the office, and the title of the office, with the word "Past" prefixed thereto.

SECTION 159. THE SAME - Service as Commander of a Commandery under Dispensation does not give the rank of Past Commander.

SECTION 160. RITUAL - The Ritual promulgated by the Grand Encampment shall be strictly supported and maintained by this Grand Body and shall not be changed except by Grand Encampment.

SECTION 161. ENDING DEBATE - When the presiding Officer wishes the discussion to end, he rises, and that closes debate.

STANDARDS

SECTION 162. The Grand Standard is of White Woolen or Silk material, five feet in height and three feet in width, made tripartite at the bottom, and 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 Sign Vinces"; and under: Non Nobis, Domine, Non Nobis, Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam." The Cross shall be three high, and the upright bar six inches wide. On the 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.

The Beauseant 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 edge 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 colors to the fields. 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.

STANDING

SECTION 163. RESTORATION - A Knight Templar suspended or expelled may be restored to good standing or to membership, upon petition. A majority vote may restore to good standing as an unaffiliated Templar; only unanimous ballot can restore to membership. In all such cases the voting shall be by ballot only.

SECTION 164. DEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP - When a Knight Templar is suspended or expelled by his Lodge, Chapter or Council, at the end of such procedure he becomes automatically suspended or expelled by his Commandery. But such automatic suspension or expulsion for such unknighthly conduct awaits the conclusion of the proceedings in Lodge, Chapter or Council, in case of appeal or new trial. If he shall thereafter be restored to membership by Lodge, Chapter or Council, he may apply for restoration in his Commandery, in which case his petition shall peruse the regular course of reference, time and ballot.

But where active membership is lost in Lodge, Chapter or Council for non-payment of dues, Templar membership will not be forfeited thereby for a period of six months, therefore restoration in Lodge, Chapter or Council will restore him to membership in his Commandery.

SECTION 165. DISCIPLINE BY SUPERIOR BODY - The suspension or expulsion of a Knight Templar by Grand Encampment or by Grand Commandery, or by his Lodge, Chapter or Council, deprives him of membership in his Commandery, and from all the privileges of Knighthood, to which he may only be restored after such judgment is no longer in force, and by petition, investigation, time, and unanimous ballot.

SECTION 166. SAME-ACTION BY GRAND BODY - When suspension or expulsion has been made or affirmed by Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter or Grand Council; the Commandery will not be behind the record or adjudicate the question of jurisdiction but will take the judgment of such Grand Body at face value.

SECTION 167. PREVIOUS TRIAL IN OTHER BODY - Formal conviction or acquittal in Lodge, Chapter or Council is not a bar to trial by the

Commandery for the same or other offenses, committed either before or after the trial in Lodge, Chapter or Council.

SECTION 168. CERTIFICATE OF CONVICTION - Where a Knight Templar

is suspended or expelled by his Lodge, Chapter or Council, the Recorder shall endeavor at once to obtain certificate of such record from Lodge, Chapter or Council. At the end of the Lodge, Chapter or Council procedure, the certificate shall be entered of record, and if the conviction stands, the offending Knight shall stand, ipso facto, in the same relation to his Commandery.

SECTION 169. SECONDARY EVIDENCE - Where such a certificate cannot be obtained, oral testimony may be admitted.

THE UNIFORM

SECTION 170.

- A. The Standard Knight Templar Uniform in this Grand Jurisdiction consists of:
 - a. The Chapeau with plumes or Military style Naval Garrison Cap.
 - b. The short Black two or three-buttoned double-breasted coat with identifying initials SC be worn on the left breast with number.
(Amended 2015)
 - c. Black trousers, black shoes, black socks. White shirt with four-in-hand black tie.
 - d. Sword-belt with three slings.
 - e. Sword and Scabbard.
 - f. Tan gloves, either cotton or chamois, for all functions except religious services. White gloves, cotton for Church Services and funerals.
- B. Elected Grand Commandery Officers: wear Red Templar Cross replacing the Passion cross on the Shoulder boards, sleeves, and headgear. Appointed Grand Commandery Officers wear the appropriate emblems of their rank previous to Grand Commandery appointment. Past Eminent Commanders Wear Gold Cross in Rosette and gold braid on Chapeau, Red Shoulder Straps with Gold Passion Cross, and gold passion cross on sleeve.
 - a. Commandery Officers wear plain Chapeau with plumbs, silver cross in Rosette, green shoulder boards with identifying rank and silver cross on sleeve.
 - b. Knight Templar wears plain Chapeau with plumes and may wear

silver cross on sleeve. *(Amended 2015)*

C. The Summer Knight Templar Uniform in this Grand Jurisdiction consists of:

Note: This uniform may only be used for the period beginning with Memorial Day and continuing through Labor Day. A Commandery will either make use of this Summer Uniform, the Cap and Mantle, or the Standard Uniform when appearing in public, but may not appear attired as a group using a combination (no mixing of uniform).

1. Pants: Plain Black as prescribed in A-3.
2. Shirt: White shirt, short sleeve, of military style with shoulder epaulets and two flap pockets, one on each breast.
3. Tie: Black four-in-hand tie optional at the discretion of the Senior Officer present.
4. Sword Belt & Sword: As prescribed in A-4 and A-5. No slings to be used.
5. Shoes: As prescribed in A-3.
6. Name Badge: The name badge shall be of metal, gold color, 1½-inch wide by 2½ inch long, with the full name of the wearer in black letters to be worn centered above the wearer's right pocket.
7. Malta Jewel: A Malta Pin of current design, available from the Grand Encampment Office, shall be worn centered over the wearer's left pocket. (Option instead of pin: A metal ribbon bar, representing Commandery Jewels, to be worn centered over the wearer's left pocket. The metal bar shall contain three black panels, each surrounded with a silver line, each panel ½-inch high by one-inch wide. On the left panel shall be centered a miniature Red Cross Jewel, on the center panel shall be centered a miniature Malta Jewel, and on the right panel, shall be a Templar Cross with a Cross and Crown in the center.)
8. 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 except the color shall be purple. For Past Commanders, Commanders, Generalissimos, and Captains General: A metal bar, ¾-inch by 1 ½-inch of green or red color surrounded by a gold or silver line, as appropriate to the office, with appropriate emblems of their rank as currently prescribed to be worn centered on each epaulet. Essentially these are miniatures of currently prescribed shoulder straps in metal, and of similar configuration.
9. Collar Insignia (optional): For Grand or Past Grand

Commandery Officers, shall be ½-inch gold cut out letters with the abbreviation of the State as prescribed by the US Postal Service (no periods) to be worn on the wearer's left collar, and ½-inch gold "KT" cut out letters (without periods) on the right collar. For Commanders or Past Commanders, ½-inch gold State abbreviations as above on left collar with ½-inch cut out gold Commandery Number on right collar. Sir Knights below the rank of Commander are the same as for Commanders and Past Commanders, except the color shall be silver. These insignia to be worn centered on the collar and parallel with the top edge and set back ¾-inch from the leading edge of the collar.

10. Cap: For Past Grand Commanders: Military style Naval Garrison Cap with white top, black band, and black visor with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns, metal purple Templar Cross, 2¼-inch square, fixed to the front of the black band and a gold chin strap attached with gold buttons.
11. For Grand Commander: Same as above except metal red Templar Cross. For Grand Commandery Officers: Same as above except plain visor.
12. For Commanders and Past Commanders: Same as above except with a 1⅜-inch by 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 and a silver chin strap attached with silver buttons.

Shoulder Cords

Officers of this Grand Commandery are no longer able to wear the red neck cords to suspend the jewels of office.

Grand officers are to wear the jewels of their office upon a ribbon or similar device suspended on their left breast only.

Classifications of Rank will be differentiated by aiguillettes worn under the left arm from the left shoulder upon a black cloth- or felt-covered button sewn onto the neck-side of the shoulder boards. The right shoulder shall not be used for the display of any aiguillette except as listed below and under the written order of the Grand Commander.

Left Shoulder:

Past Grand Commanders: Purple braided aiguillette, purple cord of office around neck.

Grand Commanders: Gold braided aiguillette, Red Cord of office around

neck.

Grand Commandery Elected Officers: Gold braided aiguillette

Grand Commandery Appointed Officers: Silver braided aiguillette.

Commanders and Past Commanders: Red or Crimson braided aiguillette.

Commandery elected Officers: Hunter Green aiguillette, either braided or single.

Commandery appointed Officers: Single green aiguillette cord, not to be braided

Sir Knights: no aiguillette

Right Shoulder:

White: District Commanders during their term of appointment only

Light Blue: Instructional officers serving at the order of the Grand Commander during a term of appointment

Gold: a special Aide of the Grand Commander may be appointed and shall wear the aiguillette during the term of appointment only. No Grand Commander shall appoint more than a single Special Aide to serve at any one time.

Under no circumstances should any form of epaulette or aiguillette be worn outside of those specifically stated above.

VOTING

SECTION 171. No member can have more than one vote in his own right, in his own Commandery or in the Grand Commandery. The presiding Officer has no vote except in case of a tie when he shall have the casting vote.

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 172. These statutes may be revised or amended at any Annual Conclave, upon the concurrence of a two-third majority. Provided, however, that such revision or amendment shall have been reported upon by the committee on Templar Jurisprudence, and are not in conflict with the Constitution, or with the Laws of the Grand Encampment.

Definitions

“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.”

“HEALING”- means re-obligating the Knight Templar and correcting what has been done amiss at his creation.

“INSIGNIA OF RANK” – means the Emblem prescribed to denote the rank of the Officer or Member using or wearing the same.

“JEWEL 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.

“NOTICE”- means a written notice.

“OPEN”- Commanderies “Open.” Grand Commanderies and the Grand Encampment “Convene.”

“SOJOURNER”- means one who is eligible to petition for the Orders of Knighthood who presents his petition to a Commandery having no territorial jurisdiction over the Petitioner.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR A STATED CONCLAVE

The Suggested Order of Business at Stated Conclaves should be as follows:

Reading and confirming minutes of last Conclave.

(Written copies or read for confirmation)

Receiving and referring Petitions for degrees or membership.

Reports of Committees on Petitions.

Balloting.

Unfinished business.

New business.

Work

Reading preliminary minutes for correction.