

LAWS AND REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
GRAND COMMANDERY  
OF  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
OF THE  
STATE OF MISSOURI



REVISED MAY 18, 2007  
Updated June 9, 2018

The Grand Commandery Laws and Regulations Revision Committee of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri has reviewed the current Laws and Regulations and recommends the additions, deletions, and grammatical corrections described, but more specifically the correction of section numbering and inclusion of action dates.

The pages which follow contain the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri as amended up to and including the May 19, 2006 Annual Conclave and are hereby promulgated as the Law of this Jurisdiction.

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Attest: Kevin B. Sample, REHPGC,  
Grand Recorder

Marvin L. Frost,  
Right Eminent Grand Commander, 2006-2007

**ARTICLE I**  
***The Grand Commandery***

**Section 1. *Title.*** The title of this body is “The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri.”

**Section 2. *Jurisdiction.*** Its jurisdiction shall be the territorial limits of the State of Missouri.

**Section 3. *Of Whom Composed.*** The Grand Commandery consists of the following members:

- 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 Prelate
- The Grand Treasurer
- The Grand Recorder
- The Grand Standard Bearer
- The Grand Sword Bearer
- The Grand Warder
- The Grand Sentinel

of whom the following shall be elected by ballot:

- The Grand Commander
- The Deputy Grand Commander
- The Grand Generalissimo
- The Grand Captain General
- The Grand Senior Warden
- The Grand Junior Warden
- The Grand Standard Bearer
- The Grand Sword Bearer
- The Grand Warder

who shall constitute the successive elective line, and

- The Grand Treasurer
- The Grand Recorder.

A majority of the votes shall elect, and such elected officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors are installed.

The following officers shall be appointed:

- The Grand Prelate
- The Grand Sentinel

and they shall serve one year under the Grand Commander making the appointment.

*(Amended 5/15/81)*

- B. Past Grand Commanders,
- Past Deputy Grand Commanders,
- Past Grand Generalissimos, and
- Past Grand Captains General of this Grand Commandery (so long as they remain members of Commanderies under this Grand Commandery).

C. All Past Commanders of Commanderies, who are members of commanderies of this jurisdiction. A Past Commander from another jurisdiction residing in this jurisdiction, and a member therein, may be elected to membership in this Grand Commandery by a majority vote of the members present at an annual conclave, such membership to continue so long as he is a member of a commandery in this jurisdiction. (*Amended 5/15/81*)

D. The Commander, the Generalissimo and the Captain General of each commandery under the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery.

**Section 4. Titles.** 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, 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.

**Section 5. Retention of Rank.**

A. One who has filled by installation and term of service, the office of Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo or Grand Captain General in the Grand Commandery, or Commander in a commandery, shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him in the Grand Commandery, or commandery, with the word, “Past” immediately preceding and qualifying the official title. Past rank is limited to the officers named in this section.

B. A member resigning from any of the offices enumerated in the preceding Section shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him, provided he shall have served the full term for which he may have been elected.

**Section 6. Who May Vote.** In all the proceedings of the Grand Commandery each member thereof present in person or by proxy shall be entitled to one vote and no more, except that the presiding officer shall vote only in case of a tie.

**Section 7. Proxies.** The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of any chartered commandery, and no other, may appear and vote by proxy, said proxy shall be at the time of service a member of the same commandery as his principal, and shall produce a properly authenticated certificate of his appointment.

**Section 8. Membership.** The membership of the Grand Commandery cannot be enlarged or restricted from that prescribed by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

**Section 9. Effect of Non-affiliation.** A member of the Grand Commandery forfeits all the rights of such membership by being voluntarily unaffiliated, during such period of non-affiliation.

**Section 10. Eligibility to Office.** No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in this Grand Commandery except Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at the time a present or past commander, and also a member of some commandery working under this Grand Commandery.

**Section 11. Change of Residence.** A member of the Grand Commandery does not forfeit any of the rights of such membership by removing out of the jurisdiction, provided he maintains affiliation in a commandery within the jurisdiction.

**Section 12. Annual Conclave.** *(Amended 6/11/93, 5/17/97, Repealed 5/14/10)*

**Section 13. Change of Time and Place Due to Emergency.** In case of an emergency, epidemic, or other occasion or circumstance making it advisable or expedient, the Grand Commander, with the written consent of the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo, the Grand Captain General, or any two such officers, may change the place and/or time of holding the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

**Section 14. Special Conclaves.** Special conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander, and it shall be his duty, upon the request of a majority of the commanderies directed to him in writing, to call a special conclave. No business shall be transacted at a special conclave other than that specified in the notice of the conclave. *(Amended 5/17/97)*

**Section 15. Quorum.**

**A.** A quorum of the Grand Commandery consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an officer authorized to convene the same, provided three or more commanderies are represented.

**B.** In the absence of a quorum, no business can be transacted; but a quorum being present, the vote of a less number is valid.

**Section 16. Powers and Duties.** The 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 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 for the charter, which shall not be less than One Hundred Dollars which shall be paid in advance.

**D.** It may prescribe Regulations for the government of its constituent commanderies and may revoke any charter or dispensation.

**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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 at its annual conclave next before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**I. 1.** It may prescribe a uniform and change it from time to time. If it fails to so prescribe, the uniform shall be that prescribed by the Grand Encampment for members of the subordinate commanderies. The possession of a uniform by the members of constituent commanderies shall not be required, but shall be at the option of each member.

**2.** The Commander of any Subordinate Commandery shall be awarded an Honor Commandery Jewel, as designed by the Honor Commandery Award Committee, upon successful

completion of the requirements so designating his Commandery an Honor Commandery. The Jewel is designated as meritorious to reward the Commander for his service, diligence, effort and the work he has expended in guiding his Commandery toward meeting those requirements and, shall be presented along with the Honor Commandery Certificate. The Jewel shall be worn on the left breast of the uniform as specifically authorized and directed by Section 257 of the By-laws of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. The cost of the jewel shall be borne by the Grand Commandery. Such Jewel shall also be made available for purchase by any Past Commander, whose Commandery in prior years, qualified as an Honor Commandery. *(Adopted 5/17/03)*

**3.** Any Sir Knight who achieves fifty (50) years of membership in good standing, as certified by the Grand Recorder, shall be awarded a Veteran's Jewel. Said Jewel is designated as meritorious to reward the Sir Knight for his loyalty, devotion and service to his Commandery. The Jewel shall be worn on the left breast of the uniform as specifically authorized and directed by Section 257 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. The cost of the jewel shall be borne by the Grand Commandery. *(Adopted 5/15/04)*

**J.** It shall consider and do all matters and things appertaining to the good, well-being, and perpetuation of Templar Masonry.

**Section 17. Majority of Votes to Determine.** At every conclave, unless otherwise expressly provided for by the constitution, laws and edicts of the Grand Encampment, and the laws and regulations of this Grand Commandery, all questions shall be determined by a majority vote. 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.

**Section 18. Appeals.** During a conclave the Grand Commandery determines the validity of a decision by 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 its next annual conclave. If such decisions involve the interpretation of the laws of the Grand Encampment or of the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery. *(Amended 5/17/97)*

**Section 19. Appeal to the Grand Encampment.** An appeal may be taken to the Grand Encampment from any decision or action of a Grand Commandery, on questions arising as to the interpretation or effect of the constitution, statutes or rituals of the Grand Encampment. *(Amended 5/17/97)*

**Section 20. Uniforms.** The members of the Grand Commandery should be equipped in full Templar uniform during the opening ceremonies of the Grand Commandery.

## **ARTICLE II**

### ***The Grand Officers***

**Section 21. Election of Officers.** Election of Officers of the Grand Commandery shall be held at each Annual Conclave, at an hour to be announced in the official notice.

**Section 22. Installation of Officers.** The elective or appointive officers of the Grand Commandery shall be installed at the Annual Conclave, except in the event that an officer cannot be present, in which instance he shall be installed in the asylum of a constituent commandery at the direction of the Grand Commander, and the recorder of that commandery shall forthwith certify the fact to the Grand Recorder.

**Section 23. Ceremony of Installation.** The officers of the Grand Commandery shall be

installed according to the ceremonies prescribed by the Grand Encampment. The installing officer shall be at least a Past Commander.

**Section 24. *Installation by Commission.*** *(Repealed 5/17/97)*

**Section 25. *Tenure of Office.*** The several grand officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be duly elected (or appointed) and installed.

**Section 26. *Resignation.*** Any officer of the Grand Commandery, or of a constituent commandery may resign his office by filing a written resignation with the respective Grand Recorder or Recorder, save that the resignation of the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery shall be filed with the Grand Commander; and of the Recorder of a commandery with the commander, provided that the resignation of an officer of a constituent commandery shall not be effective until accepted by the commandery.

**Section 27. *The Grand Commander.*** 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 this 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 made elective, and to fill all vacancies, such appointees to serve during his pleasure or until their successors have been appointed/elected 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, then all the commanderies therein stationed must recommend and consent. 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 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 the jurisdiction and to give 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 to hold special conclaves for the conferring of the Orders at places within their jurisdiction other than those named in their charters.

**G.** Attend all conclaves of the Grand Encampment and to see that the Grand Recorder promptly discharges the duties enjoined by the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.

**H.** Appoint and commission representatives of the Grand Commandery near the other Grand Commanderies and receive and accredit representatives from such other Grand Commanderies, who must be permanent members of the Grand Commandery. When the

representative of any Grand Commandery near the Grand Commandery of Missouri fails for two successive years to attend the conclave of this Grand Commandery without giving a satisfactory explanation to the Grand Commander, he shall notify the Grand Commander of the jurisdiction concerned.

**I.** The decisions of the Grand Commander are binding on his constituents.

**J.** The decision of the Grand Commander which the Grand Commandery refuses to approve is of no binding force after such refusal.

**K.** Have power to issue and enforce all dispensations authorized by the law of the Grand Commandery, and generally to perform such duties as the nature of his station or the ceremonies and rituals of the institution may require.

**L.** At each annual conclave present a written report of his official acts during the recess of the Grand Commandery, and of the condition of the order within the jurisdiction, together with such recommendations as he may deem conducive to its prosperity and advancement.

**M.** Appoint an auditor, who shall immediately prior to the annual conclave examine and audit the accounts and vouchers of the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer and certify the facts as found, to the Grand Commandery. The Grand Commander shall perform such other duties as the nature of his station may require, or the ceremonies of the Grand Commandery may require.

**N.** For defraying the incidental expenses of administering the affairs and duties of his office the Grand Commander shall receive an amount not to exceed the sum fixed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery.

**O.** The Grand Commander shall, on retiring from office, receive a Past Grand Commander's jewel, shoulder straps, chapeau rosette and purple Templar crosses.

**P.** The Grand Commander may, for good cause shown, or from his own personal knowledge, order and cause to be filed and tried in any commandery having jurisdiction, charges against any individual Templar, under the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and in the event of an acquittal or a decision not in accordance with the law and the evidence, in the opinion of the Grand Commander, may appeal the case to the Grand Commandery for a final decision.

**Q.** In the event of disability of either the Grand Treasurer or Grand Recorder, he will direct the Finance Committee (*see Sec. 36(d)*) to retain a qualified auditor not previously involved who shall expeditiously perform a complete audit of all pertinent records. (*Adopted 5/17/97*)

**Section 28. *The Deputy Grand Commander.***

**A.** 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 death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery or 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 to him by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

**B.** It is his duty to attend all conclaves of the Grand Encampment.

**Section 29. *The Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General***

**A.** In case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General shall perform the duties of their respective superiors. In case of the advancement, death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction, or permanent disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General shall severally succeed to the office of such superiors and be installed therein.



**B.** It is their duty to attend all conclaves of the Grand Encampment.

**C.** *(Repealed 6/10/16)*

**Section 30. Grand Treasurer.**

**A.** The Grand Treasurer shall receive from the Grand Recorder all funds and securities of the Grand Commandery and deposit same in the name of the Grand Commandery in some bank or trust company, to be approved by the Grand Commander and Chairman of the Committee on Finance. He shall attend the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, and when required, meet the Grand Officers and Committees with his books and all necessary documents relating to his office, make a full report at the Annual Conclave; pay all warrants and at the commencement of his term of office, each year, execute and file with the Grand Commander, his official bond with some reliable company, as surety thereon, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00); to be renewed as to the amount of the surety, when required by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery; the cost of said bond to be paid by the Grand Commandery. Such bond to be conditioned that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office, account for all money or property of the Grand Commandery that may come into his hands; produce on demand of the Grand Commandery or Grand Commander or his successor in office the same, together with all books, papers, vouchers, securities, jewels, etc., belonging to the Grand Commandery. He shall take duplicate receipts for same, one of which shall be delivered to the Grand Recorder.

All securities and bonds in which the funds of this Grand Commandery may be invested shall be deposited in a safety deposit vault selected by the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, access to which can be had by the Grand Treasurer, or in case of his death or incapacity, by the Grand Recorder, in the presence of another person to be designated by the Grand Commander.

**B.** He shall receive as compensation for his services an amount to be fixed annually by the Grand Commandery upon recommendation of the Finance Committee.

**Section 31. The Grand Recorder.** It is the duty of the Grand Recorder to:

**A.** 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.** 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.** Transmit annually to the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment copies of all the printed proceedings and of the Laws and Regulations adopted by the Grand Commandery.

**D.** Have charge of the seal of the Grand Commandery, and attest all papers requiring the same.

**E.** 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.** Attend all conclaves of the Grand Commandery, keep a true record of its proceedings proper to be written, and make annual publication, either in print or electronic media, and proper distribution thereof. *(Amended 5/15/15)*

**G.** Shall append a list of the living Past Grand Commanders in the Annual Proceedings

following the list of installed officers.

**H.** Receive all moneys due the Grand Commandery and pay the same over promptly to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor.

**I.** Submit at each annual conclave a detailed report in writing of all monies received by him on account of the Grand Commandery, and of all business appertaining to his office, together with such statistics and general information concerning the commanderies as may be proper for the information and action of the Grand Commandery.

**J.** Annually execute an official bond with some reliable company as surety thereon, to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, to be approved by the Grand Commander, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties, in the penalty of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00); the premium of such bond to be paid by the Grand Commandery.

**K.** Arrange annually on pages by themselves, all amended rules and regulations, and new resolutions that are in force, and furnish the same to each commandery, Grand and Past Grand Officer.

**L.** Furnish each Commandery with an annual report and per capita bill, based on information from the Grand Encampment Masonic Membership System, the records of the Grand Recorder, and the individual Commanderies. The annual report and per capita bill prepared by the Grand Recorder for each Commandery shall be for the period January 1 through December 31 of each year. *(Amended 6/9/17)*

**M.** Deliver to his successor in office all books and other property of the Grand Commandery in his possession.

**N.** Perform such other duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander, and such as are traditionally appropriate to his station.

**O.** Receive as compensation for his services an amount to be fixed annually by the Grand Commandery upon recommendation of the Finance Committee.

**P.** The dues cards for all Commanderies in the jurisdiction shall be furnished by the Grand Encampment based on the membership information in the Grand Encampment Masonic Membership System. The Grand Recorder, on request and until the current supply is expended, will provide a Commandery with up to two (2) pages of dues cards which may be used by a Commandery as temporary dues cards for new members only. The dues cards shall be furnished to the Commanderies at actual cost, including postage. *(Amended 6/9/17)*

**Q.** To execute or sign contracts in the name of or on behalf of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Missouri with a duration of more than one (1) year, or more, or any contract obligating the Grand Commandery to expend one thousand (\$1,000.00) in the aggregate, shall require the written approval by a majority of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General, and Grand Treasurer. *(Added 6/9/17)*

**Section 32. *The Remaining Officers.*** The duties of the remaining officers, as well as those above specified, shall be such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations.

**Section 33. *When a Past Grand Commander Assumes the Duties of Grand Commander.*** In the event of the absence, death or disability of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General, the junior Past Grand Commander present according to seniority of services (if not incapacitated,) and if incapacitated the next ranking Past Grand Commander, shall assume the office and discharge the duties of the Grand Commander.

**ARTICLE III**  
***Committees***

**Section 34. *Committees.***

**A.** The following standing committees, except the Triennial Committee and the Finance and Accounts Committee, shall consist of three members each. The Templar Jurisprudence Committee and Finance and Accounts Committee each shall consist of five members. One member of the Finance and Accounts Committee shall be the Deputy Grand Commander who will serve during the term of his office. *(Amended 6/10/16)*

1. Credentials.
2. Templar Jurisprudence.
3. Finance and Accounts.
4. Returns of Commanderies.
5. Report on Grand Commander's Address.
6. Hospitaler.
7. Triennial.
8. Time and Place of Annual Conclave.

The Grand Commander shall, after his installation, appoint and announce the chairman of each of said committees.

**B.** By virtue of the fact that the terms of office (three years or four years) of the membership of the following Committees are staggered, viz: (1) Credentials, each year the Grand Commander shall appoint one member who shall serve for a period of three years, and (3) Finance and Accounts, each year the Grand Commander shall appoint one member who shall serve for a period of four years in addition to the Deputy Grand Commander who shall serve a term of one year, and each year the Grand Commander shall designate the chairman of each of said committees. *(Amended 5/17/03)*

**C.** Educational Foundation. To comply with the regulations of the Grand Encampment there shall be a committee of five to be known as the Educational Foundation Committee. The members of the Committee shall serve five-year terms of which one will expire each year, one member to be appointed each year at a time of the Annual Conclave by the incoming Grand Commander. The Grand Commander serving will make appointments to fill any vacancies for the unexpired portion of the term, and replace any member of the Committee for cause, reporting his action to the Grand Commandery. The Committee shall meet annually after the close of the Annual Conclave, under the direction of the Grand Commander, to elect a chairman. The Grand Recorder shall serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee but shall not be a member of the Committee. The Committee may name such other officers and employees, not members of the Committee, as it may deem necessary for the successful administration of the funds. *(Amended 5/16/81)*

**D.** Investment Committee consisting of three members, one of whom shall be the Grand Treasurer, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Finance and Accounts Committee, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Grand Commander, with the stipulation that the member so appointed shall be one possessed of a background in financial matters. The duties of this Committee shall be the control and management of the funds of this Grand Commandery in such wise as, in its judgment, is prudent and adheres to sound business principles.

**Section 35. *Accountability for Funds.***

**A.** Every committee or officer of the Grand Commandery charged with the expenditure

of any funds appropriated by the Grand Commandery, shall make a full and complete report of the appropriation, and amount expended, and the balance, if any, remaining in the hands of the officer or committee, shall be turned back to the Grand Recorder and by him lapsed into the general fund. No appropriation shall be continued beyond the current year except by re-appropriation. The Triennial Fund shall be exempted from this provision and any unexpended funds shall be returned to the Triennial Endowment Fund.

**B.** All funds received by any Grand Commandery Committee or individual on behalf of a Constituent Commandery, the Grand Commandery, or its charitable works shall include a signed tabulation sheet documenting the contribution by date, amount, from what source, and its disbursement directive. This shall then be forwarded to the Grand Recorder. All checks shall be made payable to the Grand Commandery of Missouri, with a notation in the memo field of its designated destination. The Grand Recorder shall record the receipt thereof and forward the same to the Grand Treasurer for deposit and disbursement as the source of the funds directs or requires. (*Amended 5/19/81, Amended 5/16/06, Amended 5/15/09*)

**Section 36. Duties of Standing Committees.**

**A. *The Committee on Credentials*** shall examine the credentials of the members of the Grand Commandery, and report a list of the officers, members and representatives present. (*Amended 5/17/97*)

**B. *The Committee on Report on Grand Commander's Address***, the chairman of which shall be a Past Grand Commander, shall report a distribution of the Address of the Grand Commander to the other committees, together with all the accompanying documents.

**C. *The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence*** shall consider the decisions made by the Grand Commander, and all the questions of laws referred to it, and report its findings for the action of the Grand Commandery. All proposed amendments or additions to the laws and regulations of the Grand Commandery or any proposed amendments to the laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, or any other matter which may properly come before this committee, must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee and in proper form, at least ninety (90) days prior to the Grand Commandery's Annual Conclave. The Jurisprudence Committee will provide the Grand Recorder a copy of all proposals for Amendments to be voted upon for forwarding for receipt by the constituent Commanderies not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Grand Conclave. No changes or additions shall be made to the said laws and regulations until the same have been considered and reported upon by this committee. The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence shall, from time to time, either at its own volition or upon the prompting of others, review the Rules and Regulations paying particular attention to the omission of words or phrases, lack of capitalization, doubled wording, misspelling or other obvious error. On making such observations, the Committee shall notify the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander and Grand Generalissimo of its findings. On review, the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander and Grand Generalissimo may order that a correction(s) be made so long as the original intent or meaning of the Section (s) is not affected by the change. The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence shall note the occurrence (s) in its annual report to the Grand Commandery and if no objection appears, such changes shall automatically be made without benefit of the presentation of a formal resolution. (*Amended 5/14/76, 5/17/97, 5/15/09, 5/16/14, 6/9/17*)

**D. *The Committee on Finance and Accounts*** shall be authorized to examine the books, accounts and financial statements of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, and report upon the same. It shall also report upon all matters touching the finances of the Grand Commandery;

and no appropriation shall be made without having been considered and reported upon by this committee. *(Amended 5/14/76)*

**E. *The Committee on Returns of Commanderies*** shall examine the returns made by the commanderies, and report such errors, omissions, or irregularities, if any, as they may discover, and make such recommendations as may be pertinent. *(Amended 5/17/97)*

**F. *The Hospitaller Committee*** shall consist of three Grand Commandery members appointed by the Grand Commander. They shall formulate such Christmas and Easter Observances as they shall deem best for the various commanderies. They shall also propose and superintend such social services as are deemed proper and justified and are not incompatible with the teachings of Templary. They shall also consider and suggest plans for the best interests of Templar membership, particularly the proper and legitimate increase of such and the reclamation of dimitted and suspended members. *(Amended 6/9/17)*

**G. *The Triennial Committee*** shall consist of two Past Grand Commanders and a Grand Officer who in due course will be eligible to attend the next triennial conclave as a representative of this Grand Commandery, to be appointed at the annual conclave following the triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States and who shall serve for three years. The committee shall have charge of hotel reservations, entertainments and arrangements for the Grand Commandery at the Grand Encampment and shall submit an itemized report of receipts and expenditures.

**H. *The Committee on Time and Place***. This Committee shall consist of three Grand Commandery members appointed by the Grand Commander who will be empowered by this Grand Commandery:

1. to establish the dates of the Annual Conclaves of this Grand Jurisdiction, keeping in mind that such dates may not conflict with the dates of the Annual Conclaves of Grand Jurisdictions of the South Central Department of the Grand Encampment;
2. to investigate, locate and designate the headquarters facility and geographic location for the Grand Conclaves of the Grand Commandery;
3. to solicit, receive and analyze bids for services as noted in item number 4;
4. to negotiate room rates, complimentary amenities, hospitality suites, meeting room locations (size, layout and design, furniture, appurtenances and accessories), dressing room locations, specialty services, cost of meals (breakfast, lunches, dinners, banquets as needed), and the use and rental of associated electronic equipment and media as required;
5. *(Repealed 6/9/17)*
6. *(Repealed 6/9/17)* and,
7. to closely coordinate all efforts, discussions, visits, written communications and planning with representatives approved and designated for these purposes by the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of this jurisdiction. *(Amended 5/14/10)*

**Section 37. *Special Committees***. The Grand Commander shall appoint other committees necessary or authorized by the Grand Commandery for the transaction of business.

**Section 38. *Reports in Writing***. The reports of all committees shall be submitted in writing and signed and read to the Grand Commandery, unless the reading thereof be waived by unanimous consent.

**Section 39. *Committees on Review***. The Grand Commander shall after installation, appoint one Knight as a Committee on Review, who shall make his report at the next annual conclave, not to exceed one hundred pages of the proceedings. His compensation for expense shall not

exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per annum.

#### **ARTICLE IV** ***Revenue and Compensation***

**Section 40. *Revenue of the Grand Commandery.*** The revenue of the Grand Commandery shall be derived from the following sources:

**A.** For each Dispensation to form and open a new Commandery there shall be paid the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), which must accompany the petition.

**B.** For each Charter there shall be paid the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00).

**C.** Each Commandery, whether Chartered or under Dispensation, shall pay ten dollars (\$10.00) for each Order of the Temple conferred. (*Amended 5/14/76*)

**D.** Each Chartered Commandery shall pay the sum of thirteen dollars and fifty cents (\$13.50) plus Grand Encampment per capita, for each name borne on its books on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, who has received the Order of the Temple. (*Amended 5/19/78, 5/15/81, 5/18/84, 4/28/89, 5/7/94, 5/17/03, 5/18/07*)

**E.** Each Chartered Commandery shall pay one dollar (\$1.00) for each name borne on the books on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

**F.** Each Chartered Commandery shall assess and pay \$0.10 (ten cents) for each member name borne on the books on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, with the exception of members whose dues have been remitted, who are endowed, or who have been a Knight Templar in good standing for 50 years or more, to provide for a fund to be used to assist the development and training of future leaders within the Grand Commandery and constituent commanderies by supporting attendance at the Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery leadership training programs as may be available within the South Central Department of the Grand Encampment or its successor area that includes Missouri. (*Adopted 5/17/13*)

#### **Section 41. *Financing***

**A.** (*Amended 5/19/01, Repealed 5/7/94, Repealed again 5/19/06*)

**B.** (*Amended 5/19/78, 5/17/97, Repealed 5/19/06*)

**C. *Grand Commandery General Fund Endowment.*** That an endowment fund be established in the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri to make available at any future time a partial source of funds which may be used for general fund purposes. The right is reserved to amend, modify or repeal any or all parts of this section for any reason. (*Adopted 5/19/06*)

#### **ARTICLE V** ***New Commanderies***

**Section 42. *Commanderies must have a Dispensation or Charter.*** Every Commandery shall have a dispensation from the Grand Commander, or a Dispensation or Charter from this Grand Commandery, and no commandery shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation or Charter. But the Grand Commandery will, in no case, issue a Charter direct, but may grant a Dispensation to form a commandery, and the commandery receiving a dispensation direct from the Grand Commandery shall serve under such Dispensation until the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery. The application to the Grand Commandery to form a new commandery and all accompanying papers shall be filed with the Grand Recorder at least thirty 30 days prior

to the annual conclave.

A Dispensation to form a new commandery should not be granted except upon the petition of at least nine (9) Knights Templar in good standing, and residing within the corporate limits of the city or town where such new commandery is to be stationed.

**Section 43. *Requisites for a new Commandery.*** Before a commandery can be formed or opened, there are the following prerequisites:

**A.** At least three (3) Knights Templar hailing from at least three (3) separate commanderies; or

**B.** At least nine (9) Knights Templar residing in the proposed territorial jurisdiction.

**C.** A lawful warrant, which is: A Dispensation from the Grand Commander, or a Dispensation or Charter from the Grand Commandery.

**Section 44. *Dispensation, time limit.*** A Dispensation, when issued, shall be in force until the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery. Should consent and recommendation be refused in any case, a renewed request for Dispensation shall not be made during the same Templar year. A consent and recommendation shall become null and void after six (6) months from the date it is granted.

**Section 45. *Must be Qualified.*** No Dispensation shall be issued until the Grand Commander is satisfied that the proposed officers are skilled and well qualified to confer the Orders and that the interest of the Order will be subserved by the formation of such new commandery; but it shall not be set to work until required members are properly uniformed and the necessary paraphernalia is procured. (*Amended 5/17/97*)

**Section 46. *Petitioners.*** A petition for a Dispensation for a new commandery may be signed by any Knight Templar residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the proposed commandery. Petitioners who are members of a commandery need not dimit, but may secure from the Recorder of their respective commanderies Certificates of Good Standing under the seal of the commandery showing that the member has paid dues for at least three (3) months beyond the date of the certificate. The Certificates of Good Standing of the petitioners or their dimitts shall be filed with the petition. After action upon the petition by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery, the certificates and dimitts shall be filed with the Grand Recorder whether such action has been favorable or unfavorable. If the action is favorable, the Grand Recorder shall report the same to the commandery(ies) issuing the Certificates of Good Standing. If the action is unfavorable all Dimitts which accompanied the Petition and all Certificates of Good Standing shall be cancelled and returned to the Commandery(ies) which issued them.

**Section 47. *Status of Petitioners.*** After a Dispensation to form a new commandery is granted, the membership of the petitioners in their own commanderies remains in abeyance, they become active members of the commandery under dispensation, and are not required to pay dues to their own commanderies while members of the commandery under dispensation. If a charter is refused, the petitioners resume membership in their former commanderies.

**Section 48. *Petitioner for Dispensation Status of.*** Any petitioner for a dispensation for a new commandery may sever his connection with such new commandery at any time before a charter is granted by notice to the Grand Recorder and the new commandery, and his Certificate of Good Standing or Demit shall be returned, and his former status resumed.

**Section 49. *Dispensation, Revival of Petition.*** When a dispensation for a new commandery has been refused, the matter can be revived only by a new petition.

**Section 50. *Signer May Withdraw.*** Any signer for a petition for a dispensation for a new commandery, may dissolve his connection with such new commandery before a charter has been

granted.

**Section 51. *Commanderies Notified.*** When a dispensation issues for the formation of a new commandery, the Grand Recorder shall send the several commanderies a list of their members who have signed the petition for the new commandery.

**Section 52. *Dispensations – When Not to be Issued.*** *(Repealed 5/16/14)*

**Section 53. *Commandery U. D. Commence Work.*** A commandery under dispensation requires no formal proceedings in order to commence work. The members assemble and proceed as if regularly constituted.

**Section 54. *Commandery U. D. Commence Officers.*** The offices of Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of a commandery under dispensation shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Commander. The officers of a commandery under dispensation shall hold office during the continuance of the dispensation, but the Grand Commander has the power to relieve an officer and appoint another.

**Section 55. *Who May Resign.*** Any officer of a commandery under dispensation may resign with the consent of the Grand Commander.

**Section 56. *Status Under Dispensation.*** Knights created in a commandery under dispensation are members thereof, and bear the same relation to that commandery, and to other Templars, as is borne by those Knighted in chartered commanderies.

**Section 57. *Commanderies, Who are Members?*** Those to whom a charter is issued, and those who receive the Orders in a commandery, are ipso facto members thereof, whether such commandery be chartered or under dispensation, except where the Orders have been conferred for and by request of another commandery.

**Section 58. *Charter Refused.*** If the dispensation should be withdrawn, or a charter refused, the Knights who petitioned therefor resume their membership in their former commanderies without petition or other ceremony. Each of those knighted will be entitled to receive Certificates of Good Standing from the Grand Recorder.

**Section 59. *Former Affiliation Terminated.*** When a charter is granted and the commandery constituted, the Recorder of the new commandery must certify the fact to each commandery to which any of the charter members belonged, and this will terminate former affiliation.

**Section 60. *Do Not Pay Dues.*** Commanderies under dispensation do not pay Grand Commandery dues on their members, but pay fees on Orders conferred the same as chartered commanderies.

**Section 61. *Must Forward Returns, etc.*** Every commandery under dispensation shall, thirty (30) days before the annual conclave of the Grand Commandery, forward to the Grand Recorder its letter of dispensation, books of records, a copy of the latest IRS Form 990 or a copy of the acceptance of the electronic submission of a Form 990N, and a copy of its proposed by-laws. *(Amended 6/9/17)*

**Section 62. *Charters Granted at Annual Conclave.*** Charters shall be granted only by vote of the Grand Commandery at its annual conclave.

**Section 63. *Officers not Named in Charter.*** The officers of a new commandery should not be named in its charter. It cannot elect officers or have them installed until it has been constituted.

**Section 64. *How Constituted.*** A commandery shall be constituted by the Grand Commander or his duly appointed proxy, after it has been duly chartered; nine members must be present.

**Section 65. *Must be Properly Provided.*** No commandery shall be constituted until it has a



suitable and properly furnished asylum and paraphernalia.

**Section 66. *Report to be Made – When Constituted.*** When constituted, a report thereof should be made to the Grand Commander by the officer constituting same.

**Section 67. *Rights and Powers.*** A commandery under dispensation has the same rights and powers as a chartered commandery, except that it cannot be constituted, elect and install its officers, enact by-laws, or be represented in the Grand Commandery; but it may provide by resolution the time for holding regular conclaves, the amount of fees to be paid for the Orders, and such other rules and regulations as may be necessary for its government, not in conflict with the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

## **ARTICLE VI** ***Chartered Commanderies***

**Section 68. *Charter Members.*** The petitioners for dispensation become charter members when a charter is granted unless they have severed their connection with the Commandery Under Dispensation as herein before provided, or their names are omitted from the charter by action of the Grand Commandery; provided, however, that no such petitioner shall be a charter member unless he shall have paid all of his dues to the commandery to which he last belonged.

**Section 69. *Must Have Charter.*** A commandery cannot be constituted without a duly executed charter.

**Section 70. *Of Whom Composed.*** A commandery consists of the following officers:

- Commander
- Generalissimo
- Captain General
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Prelate
- Treasurer
- Recorder
- Standard Bearer
- Sword Bearer
- Warder
- Sentinel and three (3) Guards,

and such Knights Templar as may be members thereof. Any commandery may prescribe in its By-Laws for the appointment of all officers below the station of Captain General, with the exception of Treasurer and Recorder.

**Section 71. *Titles.***

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

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

**C.** 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.

**D.** 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.

**E.** The Commander of a commandery under dispensation does not become a Past Commander when such commandery is chartered.

**Section 72. *By-Laws.*** Every commandery chartered by this Grand Commandery shall adopt by-laws for its government, which shall conform to the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Encampment and the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery. Each commandery shall, in its by-laws, fix the time of its stated conclaves, fees for the Orders, the annual dues of members, the time for the election of officers, and such other provisions as may be deemed necessary for its government, and must be approved as provided in Section 74.

**Section 73. *May Alter or Amend.*** A commandery has the right to alter or amend its by-laws in the manner provided in such by-laws.

**Section 74. *Must be Approved.*** By-laws and amendments thereto must be approved by the Grand Commandery. The Grand Commander may approve by-laws or amendments thereto during the recess, subject to approval by the Grand Commandery.

**Section 75. *Elections.*** All elections must be by paper ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. *Amended 5/11/79, 5/17/97)*

**Section 76. *Failure to Elect.*** In case of a failure to elect the officers at the time specified in the by-laws, the Commander shall fix the date for the election of officers and notify the resident members of such election.

**Section 77. *Nominations.*** No nominations shall be made at an election in any Templar body.

**Section 78. *Elective and Appointive.*** The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected by paper ballot. The remaining officers shall be elected, or appointed by the Commander, as may be provided by the by-laws. *(Amended 5/12/79)*

**Section 79. *Tenure of Office.*** All officers are appointed annually and shall hold and discharge the duties of their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed and installed.

**Section 80. *Succession in Office.*** In the event of the absence, death or disability of the first three (3) officers of a commandery, the Junior Past Commander shall assume the office and discharge the duties of Commander.

**Section 81. *Charter must be Present.*** The dispensation or charter of a commandery must always be present at the opening and throughout the conclave. If the charter of a commandery should be lost, mutilated or destroyed, the Grand Commander, upon satisfactory proof, shall direct the Grand Recorder to issue an attested copy thereof, under seal, for which a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid. *(Amended 5/17/97)*

**Section 82. *Seal.*** Every chartered commandery must have a seal and all official papers issued by the commandery must be attested by the impression of the same.

**Section 83. *Conclaves.*** 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 in its by-laws, provided, that any commandery may provide in its by-laws for the omission of any conclaves in the months of July and August. *(Amended 5/17/97)*

**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 Commander may authorize the holding of such conclaves (for the conferring of the Orders) at a place other than that specified in the dispensation or charter. The notice or summons for all special conclaves shall specify the

business to be transacted, and none other shall be considered at such conclave.

**Section 84. *Quorum.*** A quorum of a commandery consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the same.

**Section 85. *Sunday.*** No conclave shall be held on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, for any purpose other than for the burial of the Knightly dead, performing escort to a Lodge engaged in funeral services or to attend religious services.

**Section 86. *Not to Appear in Public.*** Commanderies shall not appear in public without a dispensation except on funeral occasions or to attend religious services, or to attend upon the invitation, meetings or sponsored activities of other Masonic or Masonic-related bodies.

**Section 87. *Fees and Uniforms.*** No commandery may confer the Orders for less than fifty (\$50.00) dollars, which may not be remitted or abated, directly or indirectly.

No commandery shall on any pretext whatsoever refund or remit, in any way whatsoever, directly or indirectly, any portion of the fees paid. Provided, that in cities and towns where there are two (2) or more commanderies, no one of them shall be permitted to change its fees to a sum less than the lowest fixed by any of the commanderies in said city or town; and, provided furthermore, that a new commandery established in a city or town where there are two (2) or more commanderies, shall not fix its fees at a less sum than the lowest already fixed in such jurisdiction.

The uniform of a Knight Templar is that which may be fixed from time to time by the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, subject only to the limitations fixed by the Grand Encampment. The possession of such uniform shall be optional with the novitiate, but required of all officers. (*Amended 5/14/76, 5/17/97*)

**Section 88. *No Exemption.*** Exemption shall not be made from the payment of fees or dues, in favor of any person, business or profession; and this law shall not be evaded under any circumstances by the return of all or any part of said sums as donations, loans or otherwise.

**Section 89. *Incorporation.*** No commandery in this jurisdiction shall become incorporated.

**Section 90. *Appeals from Commander's Decision.*** No appeal shall lie to the commandery from a decision of the commander. When a decision involves the interpretation or effect of the Constitution, Statutes or Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, or by-laws of the commandery, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commandery by a constituent commandery, but pending the decision of the appeal, such ruling of the Commander shall be in full force and effect. (*Amended 5/17/97*)

**Section 91. *Proper Occasion, How Determined.*** The determination of a proper occasion for the public appearance of a commandery belongs to the Grand Commander.

**Section 92. *Place of Meeting.*** A commandery may hold its conclaves only in the place designated in its dispensation or charter. (*N.B. See Section 83.*)

**Section 93. *Removals, How Effected.*** A commandery may remove its Asylum from one location to another in the same city or town by a vote of a majority of its members present at a stated conclave, and after due notice of the proposed change. The Asylum shall have first been inspected and approved by someone specially deputed by the Grand Commander.

**Section 94. *Removals, Temporary.*** If the regular Asylum of a commandery from any cause is unsuited, unfit, or an improper place for holding the conclave, the Grand Commander may authorize them to be held elsewhere in the same town.

**Section 95. *Removal to Another City.*** A commandery desiring to remove from one town or city to another must first determine to do so by majority vote after notice as provided in Section 93, and must obtain the consent of all commanderies whose territory may be encroached upon by

such removal, and in addition thereto the permission of the Grand Commander.

**Section 96. Consolidation.** Two (2) or more commanderies in the vicinity of each other may be consolidated into one commandery; provided that a proposition for such consolidation shall be presented at a stated conclave of each interested commandery respectively, which proposition shall not be acted upon until a subsequent stated conclave, of which written notice shall be mailed to all members at least ten (10) days prior to such conclave when such consolidation may be effected. A consolidation shall not be effected unless at least two thirds of the members present at each commandery vote in favor of the proposition. Two (2) or more commanderies having thus decided to consolidate, may unite under the charter of one of the said commanderies, retaining the officers thereof, or they may elect new officers by a proper dispensation. The charters surrendered must be deposited with the Grand Recorder.

The title to all the property and effects of consolidated commanderies shall, upon such consolidation, vest in the consolidated commandery, and the consolidated commandery shall be liable for all of indebtedness of the several commanderies thus consolidated.

All members of the commanderies consolidated shall, immediately upon consolidation, become members of the consolidated commandery. (*Amended 5/15/81, 5/17/97*)

**Section 97. Dual Membership.**

**A.** A Knight Templar may hold active multiple membership in two or more commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri, or active Dual memberships may be held in commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Missouri and another active membership held in commanderies in another Grand Commandery jurisdiction if the laws of that Grand Commandery provide for Dual membership.

A member cannot be a dais officer in more than one commandery at the same time. (*Amended 5/18/85, 5/17/97*)

**B. Procedure for Obtaining Dual Membership.** When a Knight Templar decides that he wishes to become a “Dual member” by becoming a member of another commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction or another Grand Jurisdiction which allows multiple membership, in addition to the one of which he is presently a member:

1. He must provide the Recorder of his commandery with an Application for a Certificate of Good Standing for the Purpose of Becoming a Multiple Member;
2. The Recorder of his commandery will provide the Grand Recorder with a copy of the Application and a copy of the completed Certificate;
3. The Grand Recorder will forward a copy of each of those forms to the commandery in which the Templar intends to become a dual member if that commandery is in another Grand Jurisdiction, he will forward it to the Grand Recorder of that Jurisdiction;
4. The Recorder of the commandery to which the forms are sent will provide the Templar with a copy of the form Petition for Affiliation for Multiple Membership;
5. If the Templar is elected as a dual member, the Recorder of that commandery will forward the Notice of Election to dual Membership to his Grand Recorder;
6. The Grand Recorder will forward a copy to the Recorder of the commandery of “original” membership, which completes this action.

**C. In the case of Suspension of Expulsion.** If a Templar who is a dual member is suspended or expelled for any reason:

1. The Recorder of the commandery which suspended/expelled him shall expeditiously notify his Grand Recorder by sending to him the completed form Notice of

Suspension or Expulsion;

2. The Grand Recorder shall forward a copy to the Recorder of each commandery concerned or to the Grand Recorder of the other Grand Jurisdiction, as applicable.

**D. Reinstatement.** When a Templar who is a dual member has been reinstated:

1. The Recorder of the reinstating commandery shall expeditiously notify his Grand Recorder using the form Reinstatement of Dual Member;

2. The Grand Recorder shall forward a copy to the Recorder of each commandery concerned or to the Grand Recorder of the other Grand Jurisdiction, as applicable.

**E. Withdrawal.** If a Templar who is a Dual member wishes to withdraw his Dual membership from a commandery which is not his commandery of “original” membership:

1. He shall complete the form Certificate of Withdrawal and give it to the Recorder of the commandery concerned;

2. The Recorder of the commandery from which he is withdrawing shall forward a copy of the Certificate of Withdrawal to the Grand Recorder;

3. The Grand Recorder shall forward a copy to the Recorder of each commandery concerned or to the Grand Recorder of the other Grand Jurisdiction, as applicable.

**F. Dimission.** If a Templar who is a Dual member wishes to terminate his membership in the commandery of “original” membership, he may do so without changing his standing as a member in the commanderies of his Dual membership. He shall not be entitled to reimbursement of the unearned portion of annual dues. He must now select a commandery of Dual membership to become his commandery of “original” or “parent” membership.

1. He must furnish the Recorder of his commandery of “original” membership with the completed form, Request for Dimit;

2. If the Templar has paid his dues for the current year and is not under charges nor indebted in any official capacity, the commandery shall issue the dimit which the Recorder shall forward to the Grand Recorder;

3. The Grand Recorder shall provide a copy of the Dimit to the Recorder of each commandery concerned (or to the Grand Recorder of the other Grand Jurisdiction, as applicable).

**G. Annual Report.** (*Repealed 6/8/17*)

**Section 98. Honorary Membership.** A Commandery may elect as an Honorary Member a member of another commandery, providing the election to honorary membership shall be by unanimous ballot, after due reference to a committee, and ballot to be had at some subsequent stated conclave.

Honorary Membership does not confer the right to vote, grant any rank or standing in the commandery, or create any liability for dues. It is merely complimentary.

**Section 99. Life Membership.** A commandery may adopt a by-law providing that members who are and shall remain in affiliation in lodge and chapter, upon the payment of at least one hundred dollars, in cash, may become life members and thereafter be exempt from the payment of annual dues. Constituent commanderies shall place and keep the life membership fees in a special reserve fund and expend only the interest therefrom during the lifetime of the life members.

A commandery may, if found necessary, recall the life membership and place such members again on the roll of paying members, in which event payment of the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be refunded, less amount chargeable for dues during the period of life membership. No commandery shall, directly or indirectly, bestow life membership upon any officer of the commandery by reason or his official service.

**Section 100. *Surrender of Charter.*** The charter of a commandery may be surrendered by a two-thirds vote of its members present at any stated conclave; provided that a written resolution proposing such surrender shall have been read and filed with the Recorder, at the stated conclave immediately preceding, and that at least twenty-one (21) days' notice of such proposal shall have been given to each member of the commandery. *Amended 5/15/81, 5/17/97)*

**Section 101. *Status of Members of Extinct Commanderies.*** When the charter of a commandery shall have been surrendered or arrested, the members thereof in good standing shall, upon payment of their dues to the Grand Commandery, be entitled to a certificate of good standing from the Grand Recorder which shall have the effect of a dimit.

**Section 102. *Charter Restored.*** A charter surrendered or arrested cannot be used to form a new commandery, but may be restored to not less than nine (9) of the former members in good standing, who are unaffiliated, by a vote of the Grand Commandery. In this case it is not proper to constitute the commandery again.

**Section 103. *Extinct Commandery – Dues.*** A member of a commandery that has ceased to exist from any cause other than having been consolidated with another commandery is not liable for dues to such commandery after the same has ceased to exist. The Grand Commandery has the right to collect from the members of such 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.

**Section 104. *Not Affected by Surrender of Charter.*** The forfeiture or surrender of the charter of a commandery does not, of itself, affect the good standing of the members.

**Section 105. *Members of Extinct Commandery.*** When a commandery has ceased to exist, any member thereof may join another commandery upon petition and certificate from the Grand Recorder that his standing therein was good when said commandery ceased to exist, and that all dues or other liabilities have been paid.

**Section 106. *Funds of Extinct Commandery.*** The funds and property of an extinct commandery become the property of the Grand Commandery, which may make such disposition thereof as it deems proper.

**Section 107. *Knights, Other Jurisdictions.***

**A.** A Knight Templar created in another jurisdiction must be a Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason in good standing, and the Order of the Red Cross conferred or communicated before he can be admitted to the asylum.

**B.** In case a Knight Templar created in a jurisdiction which does not recognize the Order of the Red Cross as a necessary prerequisite for the Order of the Temple applies for permission to visit any commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, such Knight Templar cannot be allowed to visit until the Order of the Red Cross has been communicated to him. Such Order may be communicated by the Commander or a Past Commander of the commandery proposed to be visited.

**Section 108. *Illegal Commanderies.*** All commanderies or pretended commanderies are spurious unless held under a dispensation or charter as prescribed by the laws of the Grand Encampment or those of a recognized Grand Commandery, and all communication with such bodies and all recognition and intercourse with the members as Knights Templar is forbidden.

**Section 109. *Rank of Commanderies.*** Commanderies take rank according to the date of their several organizations, unless they voluntarily waive their proper rank.

**Section 110. *Who in Command.*** 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 111. Correspondence.**

A. Correspondence between the commanderies of different Grand Commanderies must be conducted through their respective Grand Commanders.

B. Correspondence between a commandery under the immediate jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment and a commandery of a Grand Commandery must be through the Grand Master and the Grand Commander.

**Section 112. Complaints.** Complaints and all 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 latter has any jurisdiction in the case; but members of the Grand Encampment may communicate directly with the Grand Master and a Past Grand Commander, and all officers of a Grand Commandery may communicate directly with the Grand Commander. In case the proper officer refuses or neglects to forward communications as herein provided, the complainant may transmit the same directly to the superior officer.

**Section 113. Legal Summons.** A notice published in a newspaper is not a legal summons; it must be by personal service, or by notice left at the residence or place of business of the person summoned, or deposited in the post office directed to his usual or last known address.

**Section 114. Seal Necessary.** The seal, and not a facsimile, should be affixed to a summons, but not to a notice.

**Section 115. Summons by Commander.** A summons may be issued by the Commander, and attested by the Recorder.

**Section 116. Summons must be Obeyed.** Every Knight shall promptly and strictly obey the summons of his Commander.

**Section 117. Annual Returns.** On or before December 31 each year, Commandery Recorders will submit to the Grand Recorder a complete list of remissions for their Commandery to include the member's full name and type of remission in accordance with **Section 171.**

**Members May Not be Exempted.** On or before February 1 each year the Grand Recorder will provide a Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS) statistical report for the previous reporting year along with a per capita bill for the calculated fees due the Grand Commandery. The bill will include appropriate fees and credits. Fees shall consist of Knighting Fees, Per Capita and any outstanding balances from the previous year's return. Credits shall consist of approved Remissions and Endowed Memberships as verified by the Grand Recorder, along with any overpayments from the previous year's return. A Financial Report Form and an Annual Audit Committee Report Form (see **Section 119. Annual Audit of Commanderies.**) will also be included as part of the Annual Return. Each Commandery shall forward to the Grand Recorder on or before March 1<sup>st</sup> in each year all forms and a check or money order for the per capita payment, based on the annual statistical report and per capita bill provided by the Grand Recorder, and due from said Commandery, and a copy of the latest IRS Form 990 or a copy of the acceptance of the electronic submission of a Form 990N. The fiscal year of the Grand Commandery shall end May 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, and all accounts shall be closed on that date. A commandery failing to file a complete return as provided herein and to forward per capita payment by March 1<sup>st</sup> subjects itself to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00). Any Commandery that does not submit a complete annual return to the Grand Recorder's office not later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery shall forfeit all rights and privileges to representation and voting at the Annual Conclave. (*Amended 5/17/03, 5/19/06, 6/9/17, 6/9/18*)

**Section 118. Annual Report.** (*Repealed 6/9/17*)

**Section 119. Annual Audit of Commanderies.** Each commandery under the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery shall on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March of each year make, on standard forms furnished by the Grand Recorder, a financial report and an audit of the books, finances and property of the commandery and transmit by mail a copy of same to the Grand Recorder.

*(Repealed 6/9/17, Restored 6/9/18)*

**Section 120. Dues and Assessments.** A commandery has the right to levy and collect such annual dues as may be needed to pay the expenses of the body.

**Section 121. Visitors Must be Examined.** A visitor must be examined in all the preceding degrees, as well as in the Orders, in so far as he is not properly vouched for.

**Section 122. Visitors.** A commandery shall not admit a visitor who shall be unable to establish by documentary evidence and examination, or by personal voucher, that he hails from some regular commandery in this jurisdiction or within the jurisdiction of a commandery recognized by the Grand Commandery of Missouri. Documentary evidence shall be the receipt for dues for the current year, bearing the seal of the commandery and the signature of the Recorder of the commandery, together with the signature of the Grand Recorder and the seal of the jurisdiction from which such visitor may hail; or a diploma duly authenticated by the signature of the Grand Recorder of the jurisdiction, together with the seal thereof. All of which designate a commandery under the jurisdiction of a Grand Commandery recognized by the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States. And such documentary evidence shall bear date not more than twelve months past.

No visiting Knight Templar can be admitted to an Asylum if any member objects, unless he visits in an official capacity. An objection may be made openly or privately to the Commander and in no case shall the objector be required to disclose the reason for his objection.

## ARTICLE VII

### *Officers*

**Section 123. Who May Preside.** In the absence of the Commander, the Generalissimo, and in the absence of both, the Captain General, and in the absence of all three, the Junior Past Commander, shall preside.

**Section 124. Seniority of Service.** The seniority of service is not affected by the commandery in which the title was acquired, but the Past Commander must be a member of the commandery in which he officiates, except in cases otherwise provided for.

**Section 125. Rank.** The first three officers of a commandery, when present, outrank Past Officers, but a Past Commander who is a member of the commandery, may preside in their absence, regardless of the commandery in which he acquired the rank.

#### **Section 126.**

**A. Powers of Past Commander When Presiding.** A Past Commander, when presiding in the absence of the Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General, may confer the Orders, and has all the powers for the time being of the Commander.

**B. Who May Confer Orders.** Any Knight in good standing, when requested by the Commander, may confer Orders. When so presiding to confer Orders, such Knights shall be invested with all the power, for the time being, of the Commander of the commandery in which he is officiating.

**Section 127. Succession to Office of Commander, Etc.** 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, 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 his advancement as above, the Captain General shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of the like disability of the Grand Captain General or his advancement as above, the office shall be vacant and the Grand Commander shall issue a Dispensation for an election to fill the vacancy, and any other that may occur in consequence thereof; or the most Junior Past Commander able to serve may fill out the unexpired term of the Captain General. In case of like disability of all three officers, a dispensation may issue for a special election to fill the vacancies and any other which may result therefrom, pending which the Junior Past Commander able to serve shall act as Commander.

The Grand Commander may vary this procedure for reasons he may deem sufficient, and may issue a dispensation to fill any vacancy. (*Amended 5/17/97*)

**Section 128. *Special Election.*** If a vacancy shall occur in any of the offices, except when there is a right of succession, the Grand Commander may authorize a special election to fill such vacancy upon written request to that effect by the commandery.

**Section 129. *Vacancy in Appointive Office.*** When a vacancy occurs in one of the appointive offices, the commanding officer shall, by appointment, fill the vacancy.

**Section 130. *Installation, Failure to Appear for.*** If any officer duly elected or appointed shall, without reasonable excuse, neglect to attend at the time fixed for installation, his election or appointment may be declared void by a vote of the commandery, which elected him, or by the officer who appointed him, and the office filled without dispensation.

**Section 131. *Installation, How Conducted.*** The Officers of a commandery may be installed by any Past Commander. The ceremony used in such cases shall be that proscribed by the Grand Encampment in the "Forms for Installation".

**Section 132. *Prerequisites to Installation.***

A. Before the installing officer shall administer the vow of office in a commandery, he shall see that the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery and the Rituals are in possession of the incoming Commander or properly accounted for.

B. No officer may be installed by proxy.

**Section 133. *Officer Re-elected not Installed.*** A re-elected officer need not be installed, as he holds over, by virtue of his former election and installation, until his successor is installed.

**Section 134. *Public Installation.*** A commandery may hold a public installation in its own Asylum, but not elsewhere, without a special Dispensation from the Grand Commander.

**Section 135. *Duties of Commander.***

A. The Commander is specially charged to see that the By-Laws and Regulations of his commandery are duly observed, as well as the Constitution, Laws, Rituals and Rules of the Grand Encampment, and the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery; that accurate records are kept and just accounts rendered; that the annual report is promptly reviewed, and that the annual per capita payment is promptly paid. It is his duty, together with the Generalissimo and Captain General, to attend all conclaves of the Grand Commandery. (*Amended 6/9/17*)

A Commandery that is not represented at an Annual Conclave by at least one of the above officers, or his proxy, shall be placed on probation until the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, if it fails to have representation at the second Annual Conclave, its Charter may be arrested.

**B.** Each Commander-elect of the Commanderies of this jurisdiction shall immediately after his election and prior to his installation as Commander, secure and have his Templar regalia changed to conform to the statutory requirements for the uniform of a Commander.

**Section 136. Duties of Treasurer.**

**A.** The Treasurer shall receive from the Recorder all moneys collected by him on account of the commandery, and receipt to him for the same; deposit all money in the name of the commandery; have possession and custody of all funds and other securities belonging to the commandery; and, pay out such sums of money as may be ordered by the commandery, on warrants drawn by the Recorder and countersigned by the Commander.

**B.** Keep a true and correct record of all receipts and disbursements in a book provided for that purpose, and shall at the end of his term of office show clearly the exact state of the treasury.

**C.** On demand of the Commander or any duly authorized committee, submit all books, papers and records for examination.

**D.** At the expiration of his term of office he shall deliver to his successor all books, papers, vouchers, moneys and other property of the commandery which may be in his custody.

**Section 137. Duties of Recorder.**

**A.** The Recorder shall issue all summons when directed by the Commander or Commandery, and notices to attend the stated and special conclaves, and in the notices for special conclaves he shall, under the direction of the Commander, state the particular business to be transacted.

**B.** Keep correct minutes of all the transactions of the commandery.

**C.** Collect and receive all dues or assessments and revenues of the commandery, and shall promptly pay the same over to the Treasurer.

**D.** Have charge of the seal of the commandery, and affix it to all papers requiring the same.

**E.** Receive the annual report and per capita bill from the Grand Recorder and promptly send the annual per capita payment to the Grand Commandery. He shall also regularly transmit to the Grand Commander and Recorder of the Grand Commandery copies of all the By-Laws and Regulations adopted by the commandery. *(Amended 6/9/17)*

**F.** Submit his books to an examination whenever required to do so by his commandery or by the Grand Commandery.

**G.** Will cause to be written and provided to each Sir Knight on its rolls, including those whose dues have been remitted and those that are endowed, an annual dues notice on which are written line items for the suggested voluntary contributions for the charities that we support. Such line items should include, but may not necessarily be limited to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation with a suggested contribution of \$5.00; the Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund with a suggested contribution of \$3.65; and, the Charity Endowment Fund with a suggested contribution of \$5.00. The Grand Recorder will issue each Commandery a number of Holy Land Pilgrimage stickers to affix to the dues card of each Sir Knight that gives at least \$3.65 to the Holy Land Pilgrimage endowment fund. Constituent Commandery Recorders will affix such stickers to the Sir Knight's dues card and send it to the Sir Knight. Contributions collected are to be forwarded to the Grand Recorder, in a timely and efficient manner, the check written to the Grand Commandery of Missouri, with a notation in the memo field designating the charity as noted above for which it was collected. *(Amended 5/15/09)*

**Section 138. Bonds.** A commandery shall require the Treasurer and Recorder to give bonds

in an adequate amount for the faithful performance of their duties.

**Section 139. *Other Officers.*** The duties of the remaining officers are such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations or as may be more specifically set forth in regulations to that effect.

**Section 140. *Eligibility to Office.*** Any member, in good standing, is eligible to any office in his commandery.

## **ARTICLE VIII** ***Petitions for Orders and Membership***

**Section 141. *Qualification of Petitioner.*** Anyone may petition for the Orders of Knighthood,

**A.** who is a Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, and Royal and Select Master Mason, affiliated in lodge, chapter, and council, or who is a Master Mason, and who has petitioned a chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the capitular degrees and who has petitioned a council of Royal and Select Master Masons for the cryptic degrees, provided however, that none of the Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred upon said petitioner until he shall have received the Select Master Mason degree.

**B.** Every petition for the Orders of Knighthood shall declare the lodge in which the petitioner has received the degrees, and the chapter in which he has received or is to receive the degrees, and also the chapter in which he is or will be affiliated, and the council in which he has received or is to receive the degree, and also the council in which he is or will be affiliated, and shall give his full name, date of birth, residence and occupation, and shall state whether he has or has not been previously rejected by any commandery; and the facts as to his residence, showing qualification as required by subdivision (A) hereof. The petitioner shall declare that he is a firm believer in the Christian religion, that he has read the petition and that he has personally signed the same. Every petition must be signed by two members of the commandery, who shall vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the petitioner and recommend favorable action.

**Section 142. *Eligibility to Orders.*** The Orders of Knighthood shall not be conferred upon anyone who has not received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Arch Mason, Royal Master, and Select Master; nor upon anyone who is not an affiliated Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, and Royal and Select Master Mason.

**Section 143. *Physical Qualifications.*** A petitioner must be physically able to conform to the ceremonies of the Order.

**Section 144. *Order of Succession.*** 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 145. *No Power to Change Qualifications.*** No Grand Commander or Commander has the right to add to, take from or change the qualifications of candidates for the Orders of Knighthood and Membership in a commandery as prescribed by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

**Section 146. *Dimit or Certificate to Accompany Petition.*** A dimit or certificate of good standing must accompany a petition for affiliation and be retained by the commandery petitioned, if the petitioner be elected to membership. If rejected the dimit or certificate shall be returned to the petitioner.

**Section 147. *Certificate of Good Standing.*** 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 a Dimit. If he is elected to membership in the commandery petitioned, the Recorder thereof shall immediately forward said application for a dimit to the commandery to which it is addressed, and when the dimit is received, it shall be filed with the petition, and the Knight's name shall be entered as a member of the commandery petitioned as of even date with the dimit. If the petitioner is rejected, the Certificate of Good Standing and application shall be returned to him. If the Certificate of Good Standing is not acted upon within 90 days following the date of its issuance, it shall become void.

**Section 148.**

**A. *Petition for Membership.*** A petitioner for membership shall give the name and location of the commandery of which he was formerly a member and the Jurisdiction under which it works, and shall also be accompanied by a dimit or some other documentary evidence of the good standing of the applicant, and also his release from membership in his commandery: provided, that a Knight Templar desiring to change his affiliation in this jurisdiction may do so without formally dimitting. He shall give written notice of such intention, stating the commandery with which he desires to affiliate, to his own commandery, and shall procure from it a certificate that he is in good standing and not in arrears for dues, which certificate shall accompany the petition for affiliation in place of the now customary dimit. Said petition shall take the usual course, and the commandery receiving it shall certify the result of the ballot to the former commandery, which shall, if the petitioner be accepted, at once forward to the commandery selected a dimit or certificate of transfer, which shall terminate the former affiliation. The petitioner shall pay dues to the former commandery up to the date of issuance of said dimit or certificate of transfer, and to the commandery selected, from the same date. If the petitioner is rejected by the commandery with which he desires to affiliate, he remains a member of his original commandery.

**B. *Petition Must be Signed.*** No petition can be received which is signed by more than one applicant, and unless signed by the applicant in person, giving his full name, date and place of birth, residence and occupation.

**Section 149. *Petitioner to be Recommended.*** Each petitioner must be recommended by two members of the commandery who shall vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the applicant.

**Section 150. *Affiliation in Lodge, Chapter and Council.*** Affiliation in lodge, chapter, and council is necessary to qualify a petitioner for membership.

**Section 151. *Membership.*** A Knight Templar may be admitted to membership in any commandery regardless of his residence.

**Section 152. *Affiliation in Lodge, Chapter and Council.*** Affiliation in lodge, chapter and council is essential to membership in a commandery to the extent that voluntary non-affiliation in lodge, chapter or council, for six months, shall deprive a Knight Templar of his membership in the commandery, without due notice and hearing, provided: that this section shall not be applicable to those members of a commandery who were not members of a council at the close of the Annual Conclave of 1966, and who do not thereafter become a member of a council.  
(Amended 5/17/97)

**Section 153. *Petition Must be Referred.*** No ballot can be had on a petition for the Orders or

membership until after it has been referred to a committee of three members of the commandery, only when requested to do so by a member in good standing, and that committee has reported. (Amended 5/17/97)

**Section 154. *Petition Withdrawn.*** A petition may be withdrawn when there has been a favorable report by the committee and also when it shall appear that the commandery has no jurisdiction over the petitioner.

**Section 155. *Report Not to be Recorded.*** The report on a petition must be in writing, and only the fact of the report being made, and not its character, whether favorable or unfavorable, shall be entered on the minutes.

**Section 156. *Unfavorable Report.*** An unfavorable report does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot.

**Section 157. *Petitions.*** 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. Any one or all of the Orders may be conferred in proper sequence upon any or all candidates on the same day of their election to receive the same.

**Section 158. *Petitions under Dispensation.*** Petitions presented to a commandery under dispensation and not balloted on, may be considered and acted upon by the commandery after it shall have been duly constituted under Charter.

**Section 159. *Rejections.*** The petition of one who has been rejected cannot be renewed until the expiration of at least six months after such rejection, if still residing in the jurisdiction of the commandery petitioned. If the petitioner applies to any other commandery, his petition cannot be acted on at any time within three years after his rejection without the consent, by unanimous ballot, of the commandery by which he was rejected.

**Section 160. *Renewal of Application for Membership.*** When a Knight Templar is rejected for affiliation, he may apply at any subsequent stated conclave by a new petition, in regular form, and a committee of investigation must be appointed, only if requested by a member in good standing, and the application shall in all respects be treated as though he had not previously petitioned the commandery; or he may make application to any other commandery. (Amended 5/17/97)

**Section 161. *Ballot must be Secret.*** The ballot upon a petition for the Orders or for membership must be unanimous and secret. The reason for casting a black ball cannot be disclosed or inquired into.

**Section 162. *All must Vote.*** Every member present when a ballot on a petition is taken, is required to vote, unless excused by the Commander or commandery before the balloting has commenced. A favorable ballot covers all the orders.

**Section 163. *Re-ballot.*** A Commander may order one re-ballot before the result of the ballot has been announced, and before any member of the commandery has left the Asylum.

**Section 164. *Election Voided by Failure to Receive Orders.*** Failure of a candidate to present himself for 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 and the disposition of any fees paid or any deposits made shall be determined according to the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.

A companion of the Order of the Red Cross or Order of Malta who fails to receive the remaining Order(s) within one year after having received the Order of the Red Cross or Order of Malta, shall not be entitled to receive the remaining Order(s) until he shall have petitioned for

advancement and been elected by a favorable, secret and unanimous ballot.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### ***Objections to Conferring Orders Upon Candidates After Ballot***

**Section 165. *Member May Object.*** A member of a commandery in good standing, whether or not present when the ballot was taken, may object to the conferring of the Order of the Red Cross upon an elected candidate, and cannot be required to disclose his reason therefor. The objection may be made either in open commandery or to the Commander, and is equivalent to rejection by ballot, and the Orders shall not be conferred. The fact that objection was made, and not the name of the objector shall be entered on the minutes, but such objection may be withdrawn before it has been so entered.

**Section 166. *Objection May Not Delay Orders.*** Except as provided in Section 164 any Companion of the Order of the Red Cross is entitled to receive the remaining Orders unless found unworthy after trial on charges duly preferred. No member of a commandery, whether or not present when the ballot was taken, shall prevent or delay the conferring of the remaining Order or Orders by a mere objection.

**Section 167. *Objector Must Prefer Charges.*** Any member of a commandery who seeks to prevent or delay the conferring of the remaining Order or Orders on any elected candidate who shall have been constituted a Companion of the Order of the Red Cross shall be required to prefer written charges against him, which shall be filed with the Recorder of the commandery, and the candidate shall be entitled to receive a copy of such charges and to be heard in person and by the counsel if the counsel is a Knight Templar. The remaining Orders cannot be conferred until such charges have been disposed of, either by withdrawal or determination according to the Disciplinary Rules of the Grand Encampment. Only the fact that charges have been preferred, and not the name of the objector or the nature of the charges, shall be entered on the minutes. Before the commencement of the hearing and on the request of the complainant, such charges may be withdrawn by vote of the commandery.

## **ARTICLE X**

### ***Restoration***

#### **Section 168. *Restoration.***

**A.** When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled for un-knightly conduct he may be restored to good standing and to membership on petition, if the ballot shall be unanimous.

**B.** Membership in lodge, chapter and council being prerequisite to membership in a commandery, when a member of a commandery has been suspended or expelled from his lodge, chapter or council for any reason, he shall, after opportunity for a hearing with respect to the fact of such suspension or expulsion only, be suspended or expelled, as the case may be, from his commandery, upon notice to him of not less than ten days that such action will be taken.

**C.** When a member of a commandery has been suspended or expelled from his commandery, solely because of his suspension or expulsion from his lodge, chapter or council, or because of voluntary non-affiliation in lodge, chapter, or council, for six months, his restoration in such lodge, chapter, or council shall entitle him to restoration in his commandery, on his written application, by majority vote, provided notice of application for same shall be

presented at a stated conclave prior to the one at which such restoration is to be had.

**D.** The suspension or expulsion of a Knight Templar by the Grand Encampment, by the Grand Commandery, or by a commandery, deprives him of membership in the commandery, and all his rights and privileges of Knighthood, so long as the judgment remains in force.

**E.** When the suspension or expulsion is made or confirmed by the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, or Grand Council, as the case may be, the commandery cannot go behind the record or adjudicate upon the question of jurisdiction.

**F.** Acquittal, suspension or expulsion by lodge, chapter, or council, does not deprive his commandery of the right to try him for the same or other offenses committed either before or after his trial in lodge, chapter or council.

**G.** In the event that the suspension or expulsion is by the lodge, chapter, or council, a certificate from the lodge, chapter, or council, of its action, should be filed with the Recorder of the commandery and entered on the minutes.

**H.** If a certificate of the facts cannot be obtained from the Secretary of the lodge, chapter, or council, they may be proved by oral testimony.

**Section 169. *How Restored.*** When a Knight Templar, after suspension and restoration to good standing, applies for membership, he must do so by petition, setting forth that he had been a member of a commandery, naming the commandery, been suspended, and restored to good standing; such petition (if in the same commandery) need not lie over, but may be acted upon at once.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### ***Dues***

**Section 170. *Amount, How Determined.*** The annual dues of members of a commandery shall not be less than ten dollars (\$10.00) plus Grand Commandery per capita and fees.  
(Amended 6/9/18)

**Section 171. *Members May Not be Exempted.*** A commandery may not exempt a member from all yearly dues by electing him an honorary member, nor as compensation for services rendered: provided, the dues of any member of a commandery may be remitted, in whole or in part, for inability to pay, upon proper application in person or in writing, or upon a statement made by a Knight justifying such action.

When the dues of any member of a Constituent Commandery shall have been remitted for the reasons set out above, the per capita tax due the Grand Commandery on such member shall be reduced to the amount due the Grand Encampment, provided that a member is exempt from payment of dues, who has been a Knight Templar in good standing for 50 years or more.

(Adopted 5/14/76, Amended 5/17/97, 5/15/09)

**Section 172. *When Liable For.*** Until the three Orders of Knighthood have been conferred upon an applicant, he is not possessed of the necessary qualifications for membership, and is not therefore subject to the payment of dues. But he is subject to discipline by the commandery for Masonic offenses.

**Section 173. *Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues.*** No Knight may be suspended for non-payment of dues by the commandery until after due notice to the delinquent to appear at the time it is proposed to act upon his case, and opportunity given him to be heard.

**Section 174. *Summons and Hearing Necessary.*** When members of a commandery are summoned to show cause why they should not be suspended for non-payment of dues and do not

appear, the Commander cannot declare them suspended until the commandery has so voted.  
(Amended 5/14/76)

**Section 175. *Remission After Suspension.*** A commandery may remit the dues of a member suspended for non-payment thereof, and such remission shall have the same effect as payment thereof would have.

**Section 176. *Non-Payment of Dues.*** Commandery dues are payable in advance on the first day of January in each year and become delinquent on the first day of July following. Whenever a member shall fail to pay his dues at the time when the same become delinquent the Recorder shall notify him of such delinquency by delivering to him, or causing to be delivered by a Knight, a bill for such indebtedness, or by mailing the same in a sealed envelope addressed to him at his present or last known place of residence. Should the delinquent refuse or fail to pay his dues within twenty days after the issuance of such notice, it shall be the duty of the Recorder to notify the Commander of such failure, who shall, at the next stated conclave of the commandery, order a notice to be given the delinquent by the Recorder, requiring him to appear at a specified subsequent stated conclave, to show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payments of dues.

Such notice shall be served by the Recorder by delivering, or causing to be delivered by a Knight, to the delinquent a copy of the same, or by mailing it to him in a sealed envelope addressed to him at his present or last known place of residence at least ten days prior to the time he is to appear.

Should the delinquent fail to appear, his dues still remain unpaid, or the same be not remitted for good cause, or the time of payment extended, by a majority vote of the members present, the Commander, upon proof of notice and the fact of arrearage, shall put the question: "Shall Sir \_\_\_\_\_ be suspended for non-payment of his dues?" which shall be determined by a paper ballot or vote of the commandery; and if a majority of those present vote "yes", the Commander shall declare the Knight suspended until his dues are paid. The delinquents may be balloted on or voted on by the commandery individually or collectively.

**Section 177. *Effect of Payment Before Ballot.*** Payment of dues before the ballot is taken, shall stop proceedings. 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 therefor and a two-thirds vote at a stated conclave, and payment of dues for the present year, or he may be automatically restored to membership on payment of delinquent dues before the end of the fiscal year of the Commandery. The Recorder shall notify the Sir Knight of the action taken by the Commandery, and this optional provision for restoration to membership.  
(Amended 5/7/94)

**Section 178. *May Renew Petition.*** A Knight Templar who has been suspended for non-payment of dues, and whose application for reinstatement has been rejected, may renew his application at any subsequent stated conclave of the commandery.

**Section 179. *Committee on Petition for Reinstatement.*** The commandery shall appoint a committee to inquire into the character and conduct of the petitioner for reinstatement who has been suspended for non-payment of dues.

**Section 180. *Objection to Petition cannot be Entertained.*** Neither the Commander nor the commandery can refuse to entertain the petition for restoration of a Knight Templar who has been suspended for non-payment of dues.



## **ARTICLE XII**

### ***Dimits and Certificates of Good Standing***

**Section 181. *How Granted.*** A member of a commandery is entitled to a dimit without a vote of the commandery upon request, in writing, signed by the member desiring it, presented in open commandery: provided, his dues shall have been paid and he is not otherwise indebted to the commandery, and no charges are pending against him. And this severs the membership, whether a certificate issues or not as provided in Sections 146 and 147.

**Section 182. *Dimit Belongs to Commandery.*** The dimit of a petitioner who is elected a member of a commandery belongs to the commandery and must remain in its custody, and the date of his affiliation must be endorsed thereon.

**Section 183. *Affiliation, Dimit.*** A member who desires to transfer his membership to another commandery may do so without first terminating his membership in his own commandery. He shall give written notice to his commandery of his intention to affiliate with some other commandery, stating the name, location, and number of the commandery with which he desires to affiliate; if his dues are paid at least three months in advance, and if he is not under charges, and not otherwise indebted to his commandery, his commandery shall grant him a Certificate of Good Standing, which shall be delivered to him, but addressed to the commandery selected for affiliation. This certificate shall constitute and be documentary evidence as provided in Section 122 and shall accompany the petition for affiliation. Said petition shall take the usual course of petitions for affiliation, and the commandery receiving it shall, within ten days after the ballot is taken, certify the result thereof to the commandery from which the certificate came. If the petitioner is elected, his own commandery shall at once forward to the commandery selected for affiliation his dimit, or certificate of transfer, which shall terminate his membership in the commandery which issued the certificate. The member transferring his membership shall pay dues to the commandery from which he is transferred to the date of said dimit, or certificate of transfer. Should the ballot in the commandery for affiliation be unfavorable, his membership shall remain in the commandery which issued the certificate. If the Certificate of Good Standing herein provided for is not used within three months from the date thereof, it shall become null and void and of no effect.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### ***Jurisdictions***

**Section 184. *Concurrent Jurisdiction.*** The jurisdiction of all commanderies in this State, whether chartered or under dispensation over petitioners for the Orders shall be concurrent.

**Section 185. *Eligibility of Petitioners.*** A petitioner shall not be eligible to petition for the Orders until he shall have resided in this State or jurisdiction one year next before he petitions except as provided in Section 190.

**Section 186. *Penal Jurisdiction.*** Any commandery in this State has penal jurisdiction over all Knights Templar, affiliated or non-affiliated, for violation of moral or Templar law.

#### **Section 187.**

**A. *Conferring Orders by Request.*** A Commandery may confer the Orders upon a Candidate elected by another Commandery to receive them, at the request of such other Commandery.

A Commandery making the request should instruct the Recorder to make the request,

under the Seal of the Commandery, and certify that the Candidate has been elected to receive the Orders or has received the preceding Order or Orders.

**B.** When a commandery confers the Orders at the request of another commandery, the fees belong to the requesting commandery, unless it shall see fit to relinquish them; and the Knight so created belongs to the requesting commandery.

**Section 188. *Removal of Candidate.*** When a person petitions for the Orders and his petition has been received and referred to a committee of investigation, the commandery has obtained lawful jurisdiction of the same; and the subsequent removal of the candidate does not deprive the commandery of its jurisdiction.

**Section 189. *Jurisdiction of Petitioner.*** A commandery cannot waive jurisdiction over one whose petition has been received and referred to a committee.

**Section 190. *Sojourners.*** No commandery may confer the Orders, or any one 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 Regular Armed Forces of the United States 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 191. *Petitioner from Another Jurisdiction.*** Waiver of Jurisdiction. No commandery in this jurisdiction shall receive a petition of an applicant for the Orders, who resides in another jurisdiction, without the consent of the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery within whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides, except a Commandery may accept a petition without waiver if it is the Commandery whose asylum is located nearest to the petitioner's place of residence, irrespective of Grand Commandery boundaries.

No commandery of this jurisdiction shall, at the request of a commandery of another jurisdiction, waive jurisdiction over an applicant for the Orders who resides in this jurisdiction, but all such requests shall be forwarded to the Grand Commander, who may, upon a proper investigation, grant such waiver if he is of the opinion that the interests of Templar Masonry will be advanced thereby.

#### **ARTICLE XIV** ***Non-Affiliation***

**Section 192. *Non-Affiliate.*** A Knight Templar becomes a non-affiliate whenever he dimits from his commandery, or ceases to be a member thereof by suspension, or expulsion.

**Section 193. *Voluntary.*** Hereafter, voluntary non-affiliation in Lodge, Chapter or Council for six months shall deprive a Knight Templar of his membership in the commandery, without due notice and hearing. (*Amended 5/17/97*)

**Section 194. *Unaffiliated Knights Templar.*** All voluntary unaffiliated Knights Templar who have remained such for six months shall be excluded from the Asylum and all processions and gatherings of the Order.

**Section 195. *Standing Affected by Lodge, Chapter and Council.*** A member of a commandery is affected by his standing in his lodge, chapter, and council, and forfeits all rights of membership by being unaffiliated during such period of non-affiliation, subject to the provisions of Article X.

**ARTICLE XV**  
***Miscellaneous***

**Section 196. *Objection of a Member Excludes.*** No visiting Knight Templar can be admitted to an Asylum if one of the members objects, unless he visits in an official capacity. The objection may be made openly or privately to the Commander and in neither case can the objector be required to disclose his reasons for his objection.

**Section 197. *Commander may Exclude a Knight Templar, When.*** The Commander has a right, and it is his duty, to exclude from the commandery a Knight who, by his perverseness or contumacy, may interfere with the proper working of the commandery, or disturb its harmony.

**Section 198. *Offenses Committed before Application.*** A Knight cannot be tried for offenses committed before he applied for the Orders. If, however, he purposely withheld from the commandery or the committee of investigation matters that would have resulted in his rejection if known at the time of his election, then he has received the Orders through fraud and imposition, for which offense he may be subjected to discipline.

**Section 199. *May be Suspended by Grand Commander.*** A commander, or the officer acting as such, in his own State, or out of it with his commandery, may be suspended by the Grand Commander; and this suspension continues until revoked by the Grand Commandery, or reversed by trial. But suspension from office does not affect his membership in his commandery.

**Section 200. *Healing.***

**A.** Healing consists of re-obligating the Knight Templar and correcting what has been done amiss at his creation.

**B.** The Grand Commandery in whose jurisdiction a Knight Templar was irregularly created, has power to heal him, or may authorize the Grand Master or Grand Commander so to do, and this power may be delegated to a commandery or Commander.

**C.** One Knighted in a clandestine manner or in a spurious commandery cannot be healed.

**Section 201. *Information.*** Knights Templar desiring information relative to any point in law or usage of Templar Masonry should apply to their Commander, the Commander, if necessary, shall apply to his Grand Commander, and the Grand Commander, in turn, to the Grand Master.

**Section 202. *Title of Past Officers.***

**A.** One who has filled by installation and a term of service the office of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo or Grand Captain General, in the Grand Commandery, or Commander in a commandery, shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him in Grand Commandery and commandery, with the word "Past" immediately preceding and qualifying the official title. Past rank is limited to the offices named in this Section.

**B. *Honorary Titles.***

**1.** Any Sir Knight considered qualified to meet the qualifications of Section 237(a) of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America may be considered for a proposal as an Honorary Past Grand Commander.

**2.** The Grand Commander shall obtain written approval of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment before proposing that the Sir Knight be so honored with that title.

**3.** The Grand Commander at an Annual Conclave may approve the title by a vote of 2/3 of those present and eligible to vote.

4. Any Sir Knight so honored will be entitled to wear the shoulder straps of a Past Grand Commander. The shoulder straps shall be engraved with the letter "HPGC" on each of them in gold to designate his honor.

5. The honoree shall also be entitled to wear the jewel of a Past Grand Commander with the words "Honorary Past Grand Commander" engraved on the back. (*Amended 5/14/04*)

6. The honoree shall assume the cost for purchase of the shoulder boards and the jewel.

**Section 203. Standards.** The Grand Standard is of white woolen or silk material, five feet in height and three feet in width, made tripartite at the bottom, 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 signo vinces"; and under "Non Nobis Domini, non Nobis sed Nomini Tuo da Gloriam". The cross to be three feet high, and the upright and bar to be six inches wide. On the top of the staff, a gilded globe of 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 edges 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 field. The staff shall be nine feet in length, including the cross-head, 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 portions shall be attached to the base of the cross-head.

**Section 204. Flag, Display of.** All commanderies under the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery shall display in their respective asylums on the dais at the extreme right, the American Flag of silk, which shall be the Regulation Flag of the United States.

**Section 205. Triennial Fund.** There shall be appropriated annually twenty-five cents per member for each Sir Knight on the rolls of the Grand Commandery on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December of the preceding year, to be set apart as a Triennial Fund. The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, Grand Recorder, Past Grand Commanders and all Missouri Grand Commandery Registered Delegates in attendance shall be eligible to receive money from this fund, the amount of payment to be determined by the Triennial Committee from the amount of money on hand. (*Amended 5/19/06, 6/10/16*)

The Committee of Finance and Accounts shall include in its appropriations at each annual conclave the sum so set apart as provided in the preceding paragraph to the credit of the Triennial Fund.

**Section 206. The Triennial Fund.** This fund shall be a permanent fund and shall be reported separately in each report by the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer. It is expressly provided, however, that no Triennial Committee shall expend at any Triennial Conclave, an amount greater than that accruing in the fund during the Triennial period for which the committee is appointed, without first being authorized (by the Grand Commandery) at an annual conclave, to make the additional expenditure.

**Section 207. Tactics.** The tactics as published by the Grand Commandery are declared to be the official tactics of the Grand Commandery.

## ARTICLE XVI

### *Uniform*

**Section 208. *What is Prescribed.*** The uniform of Knights Templar, Knights of Malta, and Companions of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross is that which is prescribed by the Grand Commandery and published in the tactics, proceedings and rituals.

**Section 209. *Shoulder Straps.*** The wearing of Shoulder Straps, with their respective emblems thereon, is limited to the Officers and Past Officers, as prescribed by the tactics.

**Section 210. *Jewel of the Past Grand Commander.*** The Jewel of a Past Grand Commander shall consist of an eight-pointed blazing star, upon which rests the Templar Cross surrounded by a laurel wreath. The star shall be in rays and slightly convex, 950 fineness of silver and two and three-fourths inches in diameter. The Templar Cross shall be one and one-sixteenth inches wide, of 14-karat gold, enameled in purple and outlined in gold, with an amethyst in the center.

The wreath shall be of green gold. Above the Cross on the upper point of the Star shall be ribbon or scroll of gold bearing the word "MISSOURI" in black enamel.

On the back of the Star shall be engraved the name of the Past Grand Commander, date of service, and the name of the Grand Commandery.

## ARTICLE XVII

### *Burial*

**Section 211. *Ritual.*** When a Knight Templar is buried by his commandery, the burial ceremony approved by the Grand Encampment must be observed.

**Section 212. *Right of.*** An unaffiliated Knight Templar or one not in good standing is not entitled to the honors of Knightly burial.

**Section 213. *Escort Duty.*** A commandery may perform escort duty at the burial of a Knight Templar by his Lodge when so requested; but it is not proper for a commandery, as escort, to attend the funeral of anyone who is not buried with Masonic ceremonies.

## ARTICLE XVIII

### *Change of Laws and Regulations (Amended 5/15/09)*

**Section 214. *By Adding Section.*** Any additional sections not conflicting with the provisions of these Laws and Regulations, may be proposed in writing, if concurred in by two-thirds of the votes present, shall become a part of these Laws and Regulations. *(Amended 6/9/18)*

**Section 215. *Grand Encampment Laws.*** Any law or regulation of this Grand Commandery, found at any time to be in conflict with the Constitution or Statutes of the Grand Encampment, shall be amended to conform, and the necessary amendment may be presented and adopted at any annual conclave of the Grand Commandery without previous notice.

**Section 216. *By Alteration or Repeal.*** Any alteration or proposition not in conflict with Section 36(c) to repeal any of the foregoing Laws and Regulations shall be reduced to writing, read, and, if approved by the majority of the members present, shall become a part of the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery. *(Amended 5/15/04)*

**Section 217. *By Revision.*** If, at any session of the Grand Commandery, it may be deemed necessary to revise these Laws and Regulations, a committee shall be appointed for that purpose, who shall report at the next annual conclave, when such revised code, if completed may be

adopted, in whole or in part, amended or rejected, as the Grand Commandery may determine, by a two-thirds vote of those present.

**Section 218. *Repeal.*** All laws, parts of Laws and Resolutions heretofore enacted and not embodied in this code are hereby repealed.

## **ARTICLE XIX** ***Disciplinary Rules***

**Section 219. *Trials.*** All trials in the Grand Commandery or in a commandery shall be conducted in accordance with the “Disciplinary Rules,” enacted and promulgated by the Grand Encampment, viz: See pages 93 to 107, inclusive, Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, 1987 edition. (*Amended 5/17/97*)

## **ARTICLE XX** ***Instruction, Inspection, and Regional Activities***

**Section 220. *Instruction, Inspection, and Regional Activities.*** For the purpose of convenience in Instruction and Inspection, the constituent commanderies comprising the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, shall be divided into such Regions as the Grand Commander may from time to time determine.

**Section 221. *Regional Officers. How designated.***

**A.** Immediately following the Annual Conclave, the Grand Commander shall designate a Regional Grand Commander to be in charge of a given region until the ensuing Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

**B.** The Grand Commander may also designate a Grand Commandery advancing line officer as an advisory Regional Officer to provide guidance and support to the Regional Grand Commander in the designated region. (*Amended 6/9/18*)

**Section 222. *Regional Officers. Duties.***

**A.** It shall be the duty of the Regional Grand Commander assigned to a region to represent the Grand Commander in the designated region.

**B.** (*Repealed 6/9/18*)

**Section 223. *Regional Conclave Expense.*** The Committee on Finance shall annually appropriate a sum sufficient to defray the expense of Regional Conclaves.

**Section 224. *Authority of Inspection Officer.*** The Officer shall have authority to inspect (including audits, rituals, and investments) each commandery in his Region. Inspection should be made between the time officers of constituent commanderies are installed and the conclave of the Grand Commandery; provided that if for reason satisfactory to the Grand Commander, the Inspecting Officer is unable to make the inspection, then the Grand Commander may designate a proxy, preferably a Grand or Past Grand Officer, to act for said Inspecting Officer.

On conclusion of the inspections the Inspecting Officer shall immediately prepare and forward to the Grand Commander a report upon the Region as a whole.

**Section 225.** No officer shall inspect the Commandery of which he is a member.

## **ARTICLE XXI**

### ***Rituals***

**Section 226. *Rituals.*** The rituals formulated and promulgated by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. covering the Rites, Ceremonies and secret work pertaining to the several Orders are the only ritual or other work to be used by a Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction, and shall be purchased from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. under such conditions as it may impose.

**A.** Each newly chartered Constituent Commandery shall be entitled, at no cost, to ten (10) rituals for its use. The Grand Recorder shall deliver the rituals to which the Commandery may be entitled, to the Commander thereof, taking his receipt for them. *(Amended 5/16/08)*

**B.** In addition to the ten rituals assigned to each Constituent Commandery, said Commandery or members thereof may purchase additional rituals from the Grand Recorder at a cost equal to the price charged by the Grand Encampment plus a Grand Commandery shipping and handling fee. Such purchase shall be made through the Recorders of Constituent Commanderies. *(Amended 5/16/08)*

**C.** In the event any commandery shall lose any ritual or rituals committed to its charge, such commandery shall purchase an additional ritual or rituals, as herein provided, so that said commandery shall at all times have a minimum of ten (10) rituals.

#### **Section 227. *Who are Entitled to.***

**A.** In addition to those specified in Section 226, each Grand Officer and each Past Grand Commander, together with such District or

Regional Officers and Instructors as may be approved by this Grand Commandery, shall be entitled to one copy of the Ritual.

**B.** Any Grand Officer, District or Regional Officer or Instructor ceasing to be such, and any Past Grand Commander becoming a non-affiliate or removing from the jurisdiction shall forfeit all rights to a ritual, and shall return the ritual to the custody of the Grand Commandery. In the event of the death of any of the foregoing, the Grand Recorder is authorized to call upon any Grand Officer to assist in the recovery of the ritual assigned to that officer.

**C.** In the event any Grand Officer, Past Grand Commander, District Officer, Regional Officer or Instructor shall lose any ritual assigned under these regulations he shall replace it by the purchase of a ritual as herein provided.

**Section 228. *Worn or Damaged Rituals Replaced.*** Worn or Damaged Rituals Replaced. *(Repealed 5/16/08).*

## **ARTICLE XXII**

### ***Endowment Fund***

**Section 229. *Grand Commandery Endowed Membership.*** Any Knight Templar in good standing in his Commandery within this grand jurisdiction whose dues are paid for the current year may purchase an endowed membership for the benefit of his Commandery hereinafter referred to as the endowed Commandery, and be thereby relieved from the further payment of dues in the endowed Commandery effective in 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar year after the fee is deposited with the Grand Recorder.

**A. *Purchase in Honor or Memory.*** Any Sir Knight, individual or group, organization or Commandery may purchase an endowed membership in honor of or in memory of any Knight

Templar, living or deceased, who is or was at the time of his death, a member in good standing of a Missouri Commandery within this jurisdiction or a member in good standing of a Commandery in any Grand Commandery within the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment. A Commandery may make such purchase only in honor or memory of one of its members and only after a favorable vote of the Commandery.

**B. *Purchase Price.*** The purchase price for an endowed membership shall be five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and shall be paid to the Grand Commandery.

**C. *Forwarding Fee to Grand Recorder.*** The fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) collected by a Commandery for endowed membership shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder no later than December 31st in order to qualify for distribution in the 2nd calendar year. Installments in multiples of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) may be made to the Grand Commandery. The endowed membership will become effective on the 1st of January of the second year after the final installment is made. Installment funds will be deposited into the Endowed Membership Account and become a part of that fund. No funds will be due the local Commandery until the second year after the individual membership is fully endowed. (*Amended 5/16/08*)

**D. *Investment of Funds.*** The Grand Recorder, the Grand Treasurer and Chairman of the Investment Committee will be responsible for investing the Funds in the Endowed Membership Fund. (*Amended 5/16/08*)

**E. *Distribution.*** The net income, minus per-capita, from such fund shall be distributed annually to the endowed Commanderies prior to January 1. This is provided that no income shall be distributed on any endowed membership until January 1, of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Recorder. The Grand Commandery shall be entitled to no more of the net income from the endowed membership than the aforesaid per-capita (less Grand Encampment per-capita), or 50% of the net income (less Grand Encampment per-capita), whichever is less. (*Amended 5/16/08*)

**F. *Certificate and Dues Card.*** The Grand Recorder shall issue to the member paying the required fee an endowed membership certificate under the seal of the Grand Commandery, signed by the Grand Commander and attested by the Grand Recorder. The Recorder of the endowed Commandery shall issue annually a regular dues card to the living members holding endowed membership at the same time other dues cards are issued.

**G. *Transfer.*** Upon transfer of membership to another constituent Commandery of this grand jurisdiction an endowment fund member may transfer this endowment to such Commandery as provided by law. Also, when two or more Commanderies consolidate, any endowed memberships held by either of such commanderies shall become the property of the surviving commandery. Upon the dissolution or demise to any endowed Commandery, the holder of the endowed Commandery membership, if living, may transfer the endowed membership to the Commandery with which he affiliates. If the endowed member is deceased and his Commandery ceases to exist, the endowed membership shall revert to the Grand Commandery Endowment Fund.

**H. *Transfer of Endowment.*** An endowment fund member who becomes a multiple member of another constituent Commandery of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, may transfer that endowment to the Commandery where he becomes a multiple member and resume paying dues to the Commandery of original endowment. Such transfer, shall be effective upon receipt by the Grand Recorder or written notification of such request. A multiple member will pay dues to the Commandery(ies) which does/does not receive



distribution.

**I. *Suspension or Expulsion.*** Holders of endowed membership certificates are subject to all provisions of the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri, and loss of membership due to suspension or expulsion shall automatically suspend such endowed membership certificate; such certificate in itself is not an avouchment of good standing in a Missouri Commandery. However, should a holder of said certificate be reinstated in his endowed Commandery his certificate will automatically be restored and his membership returned as before the suspension or expulsion. The Commandery which held the endowed membership at the time of suspension or expulsion, as provided herein, shall continue to receive the revenue earned from such endowed membership less such amount equal to the amount due the Grand Commandery, subject to the limitation set forth in Distribution. *(Amended 5/16/09)*

**J. *Continued Income.*** Following the death of an endowed member of a Missouri Commandery, 30% of the net income from that endowed membership shall be retained and added to the fund's principal to provide for growth of the fund. The remainder of the net income, minus per-capita (less Grand Encampment per-capita), shall be distributed to the endowed Commanderies. The Grand Commandery shall be entitled to no more of the remaining net income from the endowed membership than the aforesaid per capita (less Grand Encampment per-capita), or 50% of the remaining net income (less Grand Encampment per-capita), whichever is less. *(Adopted 5/20/00, Amended 5/16/08)*

**Section 230. *Charity Endowment Fund.*** A permanent endowment fund is hereby established to enable the Grand Commander to provide charitable donations on behalf of the Grand Commandery of Missouri, the interest of which will only be made available for distribution. Donations to and disbursements from this fund shall be as stipulated in ARTICLE VII, Officers, Section 137, Duties of Officers, Subsection G and ARTICLE III, Committees, Section 35, Accountability for Funds, Paragraph B, except that non-directed funds may be distributed as the Dais Officers and Charity Committee Chairman deem appropriate. The Grand Treasurer shall maintain an accurate account of all donations to and distributions from the fund and shall include a detailed accounting of same with the Grand Treasurer's annual report and upon request of the Grand Commander. *(Adopted 5/17/03, Amended 5/15/09)*

## **ARTICLE XXIII**

### ***Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS)***

**Section 231. *Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS).*** MMS will be the official digital repository of all membership records of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Missouri.

**Section 232. *Use of Data/Content.*** Anyone granted access will agree that the use of the data is only as intended by the MMS system. Each individual granted access to data holds a position of trust and must preserve the security and confidentiality of the information he/she uses or accesses. Users are required to abide by all applicable Federal and State guidelines and Masonic policies regarding confidentiality of data. Any individual with authorized access to data must not divulge this information outside except for approved Masonic business. You may not use or export or re-export any content or any copy or adaptation of such content, in violation of any applicable laws or regulations, including without limitation United States export laws and regulations.

**Section 233. Users Must.**

- A. Access data solely in order to perform his/her responsibilities.
- B. Not seek personal benefit or permit others to benefit personally or professionally from any data.
- C. Not permit unauthorized use of any information.
- D. Not enter, change, delete or add data to any record outside of the scope of his/her responsibilities.
- E. Not include or cause to be included in any record or report, a false, inaccurate or misleading entry known to the user as such.
- F. Not alter or delete or cause to be altered or deleted from any records, report or information system, a true and correct entry.
- G. Not release data other than what is required in completion of his/her responsibilities.
- H. Not exhibit or divulge the contents of any record or system information to any person unless it is necessary for the completion of their responsibilities.

**Section 234. Your Login and Password.** To protect the account information of our users, you are assigned a unique user name. These unique identifiers are disclosed only to you. You are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of your account and password and for restricting access to your computer, and you agree to and accept sole responsibility for any and all activities that occur under your account or password. You agree to notify the Grand Recorder immediately of any unauthorized use of your account or password, or any other breach of security. However, you may be held liable for losses incurred to the system or any other user of or visitor to the site due to someone else using your user login and password.

**Section 235. Commandery Responsibilities.**

A. Shall ensure the utilization of MMS to manage all membership records of the Commandery in a timely manner.

B. May designate one Information Technology (IT) Representative to assist with managing a commandery's membership records and will comply with **Section 236.**

**Commandery Recorder Responsibilities.**

C. Shall notify the Grand Recorder immediately of any changes to the office of Recorder or IT Representative in order that old accounts may be deactivated, and new accounts established.

**Section 236. Commandery Recorder Responsibilities.**

A. Shall take and be familiar with any training offered by the MMS Administrators and the Grand Recorder's office in order to be able to utilize all aspects of the MMS system.

B. Shall be responsible for maintaining all commandery membership records in MMS, making necessary changes within 30 days of their occurrence.

C. Shall annually, within 30 days of the installation of officers, update the list of officers of the Commandery.

D. Recorders and IT Representatives shall log into MMS no less than monthly to maintain access credentials and to make any approved membership changes.

E. Shall submit to the Grand Recorder a list of all remissions for the reporting year by December 31 each year. Remissions shall include member's full name and type of remission, i.e., Health/Other, or 50-Year Member. Failure to submit remissions list to Grand Recorder by the due date will negate any credits for remissions in the Annual Return calculations for the reporting year.

**Section 237. Grand Recorder Responsibilities.**

**A.** Shall manage and monitor all user accounts, coordinating with System Administrators for all activations and deactivations in a timely manner.

**B.** Shall annually, within 30 days of the installation of officers, update the list of grand officers of the Grand Commandery.

**C.** Shall report to the Grand Commander any deficiencies in utilization of MMS by any Commandery.

**D.** Shall run an Annual Statistical Report for each Commandery immediately following the close of the reporting year.

**E.** Shall generate a bill for each Commandery based on the Annual Statistical Report of each Commandery, and which shall include all applicable credits and debits, in accordance with **ARTICLE VI, Chartered Commanderies Section 117. Annual Reports and Per Capita Payment.**, presenting said bill to the Commandery Recorder no later than February 1.

**F.** Shall not allow any prior year corrections in a billing cycle due to the failure of any Commandery Recorder or IT Representative to manage and maintain their membership records.

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**Standing Resolution No. 1  
Adopted May 20, 1995**

**HONORARY PAST GRAND COMMANDER**

On page 202 of the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery dated May 20, 1995, the following wording can be found: With the consent of Sir Knight Blair C. Mayford, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Robert D. Jenkins, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, nominated E. Allen Kohler to be made an honorary Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Missouri because of his 18 years of faithful service as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery of Missouri. The Sir Knights in attendance unanimously approved the motion by a standing vote.

**Standing Resolution No. 2  
Adopted May 17, 1996**

**HONORARY PAST GRAND COMMANDER**

Specific wording was not documented in the 1996 Proceedings of the Grand Commandery; however, on page 265 of the 1997 Proceedings, it can be found that Sir Knights Vern Schneider and Ronald E. Wood, Jr. are listed as Honorary Past Grand Commanders, having been created in 1996.

**Standing Resolution No. 3  
Adopted May 15, 2004**

*Whereas*, the United Grand Commandery of Knights Templar F.&A.M. of Missouri, PHA has existed in the State of Missouri since 1859, having initially been chartered by The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, PHA, and does profess to adhere to Masonic principles and ideas similar to those of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri,

*And Whereas*, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri has existed in the State of Missouri since 1860,

*And Whereas*, each of the said Grand Commanderies desires to remain autonomous within its Jurisdiction and to operate hereafter as hereto with its own Grand Commander and other Grand Commandery Officers, Constitution, By-Laws, Ritual, Rules and Regulations, Subordinate/Constituent Commanderies and Membership,

*And Whereas*, both Grand Commanderies desire to fraternally recognize the other as a duly constituted Masonic Grand Commandery of Knights Templar,

*And Whereas*, this resolution will not become effective until approved by each Grand Commandery at their respective Annual Conclave,

*Now, Therefore Be It Resolved*, that it is mutually agreed that we will dwell together in Peace and Harmony; each Grand Commandery does hereafter extend Fraternal Recognition to the other as a duly constituted Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, and does, in the true spirit of Love, Peace, and Unity, hereby accord to the other rights of Visitation in Grand Commanderies and Subordinate/Constituent Commanderies, wheresoever assembled, subject always to the Rights, Powers, and Authority of the Right Eminent Grand Commander to preside over his Grand Commandery and the Eminent Commanders of the Subordinate/Constituent Commanderies to preside over their respective Grand Commandery and Commanderies.

**Standing Resolution No. 4  
Adopted May 19, 2006**

**HONORARY PAST GRAND COMMANDER**

Sir Knight Harold J. Richardson, REPGC, requested a moment from the Grand Commander to address the grand conclave. He moved that Sir Knight Kevin B. Sample be elevated to the rank of Honorary Past Grand Commander, and entitled to all the benefits of such. The motion was seconded by SK Lionel J. Goede, REPGC. Grand Commander Snavelly read the following communication:

Dear Sir Knight Snavelly, in accordance with section 237A of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, it is my pleasure to approve your request to confer the title of Honorary Past Grand Commander upon Sir Knight Kevin B. Sample. This action is contingent upon the permanent vote of your grand commandery. Sincerely and fraternally, Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer, Grand Master.

**Standing Resolution No. 5  
Adopted May 15, 2009**

*Whereas*, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri and its constituent Commanderies are based on patriotic and religious principles.

*And Whereas*, there is not any provision for the pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

*And Whereas*, there is not any stipulation as to the proper wording of the Pledge which is currently generally considered proper in more than one form by different segments of American society.

*Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That*, The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America shall be given after the officers receive the order to be seated at the conclusion of the Opening Drill. In the case that the opening drill is not performed it shall be done prior to any other business or ceremonies of the Commandery. In either case the Pledge of allegiance as worded above shall be considered a required part of the opening of any stated or special meeting of a Commandery under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Missouri.

**Standing Resolution No. 6  
Adopted May 15, 2009**

*Whereas*, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri and its officers and representatives have a need to know who the officers of the constituent Commanderies are and how to contact them on the occasion of their visits to said constituent Commanderies.

*And Whereas*, members and visiting members have need of the same information.

*And Whereas*, the information should be able to be determined as current.

*Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That*,

1. A listing of the current line officers of the constituent Commandery, elected and appointed to include telephone number, e-mail address, and mailing address
2. The date of election and appointment of the constituent Commandery
3. The date the officers of the constituent Commandery were installed

4. The name of the Regional Grand Commander including telephone number, e-mail address and mailing address

5. The name of the Grand Commandery line officer appointed to serve the constituent Commandery area including telephone number, e-mail address, and mailing address.

The listing shall be posted and maintained in a suitable location as to be easily read and available to the membership. It shall be the duty of the regional Grand Officer and the Regional Grand Commander to inspect the constituent Commanderies for which they are responsible to insure this order is carried out and report their findings to the Grand Commander.

**Standing Resolution No. 7  
Adopted May 17, 2013**

*Whereas*, there comes to the life of every Sir Knight a time to say, “It is time”; and

*Whereas*, our Sir Knight has distinguished himself throughout Freemasonry in general, but more especially internationally, nationally, and within the Great State of Missouri; and

*Whereas*, our Sir Knight has served this Grand Commandery with the utmost respect and dignity; and

*Whereas*, our Sir Knight has offered his expert opinion and counsel to the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence of this Grand Commandery and its Officers for many years; and

*Whereas*, his guidance and knowledge of our laws and regulations and those of the Grand Lodge of Missouri has, on numerous occasions, averted potentially grievous situations; and

*Whereas*, he has made the decision to relinquish his position on this Committee;

*Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That*, Sir Knight Stanton Thayer Brown, Past Commander, from this point forward, be received, honored, recognized, and acknowledged as a Member Emeritus of the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence and an ex-officio member of that Committee into perpetuity. From the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri for your service above and beyond the call of duty and your tireless labors for the Grand Commandery of Missouri.

**Standing Resolution No. 8  
Adopted May 17, 2013**

Motion was made from the floor and seconded that Sir Knight Edward L. Choate, Past Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Dakota, be made a member of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri. The motion was passed.

**Standing Resolution No. 9  
Adopted June 9, 2017**

*Whereas*, our Sir Knight has distinguished himself throughout Freemasonry in general and particularly in York Rite Freemasonry, and within the Great State of Missouri; and

*Whereas*, our Sir Knight has served this Grand Commandery with the utmost respect and dignity; and

*Whereas*, our Sir Knight has offered his expert opinion, counsel, and service as Chairman and as No.1 Judge to the Drill Competition Committee for many years; and

*Standing Resolutions*

**Whereas**, there comes to the life of every sir Knight a time to say, "It is time"; and

**Whereas**, he has made the decision to relinquish his position on this Committee:

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved**, that Sir Knight Jerry F. Ward, PGC, from this point forward, be honored, recognized and acknowledged as a Member Emeritus of the Drill Competition Committee and an ex-officio member of that Committee into perpetuity.

**Standing Resolution No. 10**

**Adopted June 9, 2017**

**Whereas**, pursuant to Article I, The Grand Commandery, Section 16, J., It shall consider and do all matters and things appertaining to the good, well-being, and perpetuation of Templar Masonry, and

**Whereas**, our Symbolic Lodges in the State of Missouri can submit for an award to be received at the Grand Lodge Session when they increase their membership by 5%, and

**Whereas**, it is appropriate and furthers the growth of Templar Masonry in Missouri in recognizing and honoring Commanderies that have increased their membership,

**Now Be It Resolved**, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri create Commandery Growth Awards to be presented at the annual Grand Conclave for Commanderies that have increased their membership by 5%, 10%, and 15% during the year. The award to be a printed Certificate to be signed by the Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder, and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri should also recognize by a similar Certificate the Commandery that has increased its membership by the largest percentage during the year.