

# THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF OKLAHOMA

## **CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION**

This is to certify that the within Constitution, Laws and Regulations of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma is a true and correct copy of the original, duly adopted by The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma at its annual Conclave held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 2 and 3, 1939, as modified and amended to, and including April 13, 2012.

### **Original Committee:**

Kenneth D. Buckley, Past Grand Commander  
James C. Taylor, Past Department Commander  
Elwood M. "Ike" Isaacs, Grand Treasurer

Updated and changed as of April 25, 2015 by Elwood M. Isaacs.  
Updated and changed as of April 23, 2016 by Gary A. Davis.  
Updated and changed as of April 29, 2017 by Gary A. Davis  
Updated and changed as of April 28, 2018 by Gary A. Davis  
Updated and changed as of May 6, 2019 by Gary A. Davis  
Updated and amended as of April 24, 2021 by Jon B. Greene (Added Index)  
Updated and amended as of April 23, 2022 by Jon B. Greene  
Updated and amended as of April 29, 2023 by Jon B. Greene

Attest:

Jon B. Greene, Grand Recorder  
May 18, 2023

# THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF OKLAHOMA

## CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, deriving all powers, rights, privileges and duties from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, acknowledges our allegiance to that body and pledges obedience to the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals. For our government, under the rights and privileges granted by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, we adopt all those portions of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America as promulgated in 1934 as are applicable to Grand Commanderies, together with any amendments or additions which have been or may hereafter be made, reserving to ourselves all of those rights conferred under the said Constitution and Statutes.

### ARTICLE I

#### Section 1. Name.

The name of this body is and shall be "The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma.

### ARTICLE II

#### Section 1. Jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery comprises the State of Oklahoma within which territory it is the supreme authority in Templary, subject only to the constitution, Statues, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

### ARTICLE III

#### Section 1. Membership.

The membership in this Grand Commandery shall be limited to those prescribed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America as applicable to Grand Commanderies.

#### Section 2. Honorary

Grand Commanders or Past Grand Commanders of other Grand Jurisdictions may be elected to Honorary Membership upon a majority vote of voting members present. Honorary Members shall have no right to vote.

#### Section 3. Voting Proxies.

There shall be no proxies recognized except those **granted** by the Commander, Generalissimo or Captain General **and held by a member of the same Commandery who is not otherwise entitled to vote at a regular or special Conclave of this Grand Commandery.**

### ARTICLE IV

#### Section 1. Officers.

The officers of this Grand Commandery shall be:

- A Grand Commander
- A Deputy Grand Commander
- A Grand Generalissimo
- A Grand Captain General
- A Grand Senior Warden
- A Grand Junior Warden
- A Grand Prelate
- A Grand Treasurer
- A Grand Recorder
- A Grand Standard Bearer

A Grand Sword Bearer  
A Grand Warder, and  
A Grand Sentinel

All of whom, except for the Grand Prelate, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Warder, and Grand Sentinel shall be elected at the annual Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery, except as provided by Section 2.

The Grand Commander, after his election, and before he is installed, shall appoint the following:

A Grand Prelate, A Grand Standard Bearer, A Grand Sword Bearer, A Grand Warder, and A Grand Sentinel.

These changes shall take effect as the Grand Sentinel elected and installed in 2017 passes each of the offices that have been changed from elected to appointed.

## **Section 2.**

If for any reason the Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery should be postponed more than thirty days after the date fixed by law, the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall automatically advance one station and be installed therein.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Section 1. Conclaves.**

This Grand Commandery shall hold a Stated Conclave annually, and Special Conclaves may be convened as provided in Section 2.

### **Section 2. Special Conclaves.**

Special Conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander, and he shall call such Conclaves upon the written request of a majority of the Constituent Commanderies. No business shall be transacted at such Conclave except that specified by the Grand Commander or set out in the request.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Section 1. Quorum.**

A quorum shall consist of not less than nine members entitled to vote, including an officer authorized to convene the same, provided three or more Commanderies are present.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Section 1. Seal.**

The seal of this Grand Commandery shall be two concentric circles, the outer shaded. Between the circles shall be the words, "Grand Commandery Knights Templar Oklahoma". In the center of the inner circle shall be the words, "Seal", above it the word, "organized", and below it the date, "February 10, 1896."

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Section 1. Amendment and Repeal.**

This Constitution may be amended at a Stated Conclave upon concurrence of three-fourths of the members present, provided that such proposed amendment has been introduced, in writing, at a previous Stated Conclave and has been referred, at the Conclave at which it was introduced, to the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence.

All Constitutional provisions heretofore enacted, and all approved decisions of Grand Commanders in conflict herewith, are repealed.

# THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF OKLAHOMA

## LAWS AND REGULATIONS

### ARTICLE I

#### ANNUAL CONCLAVE

The Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery shall be convened on the Saturday after the fourth Friday in April for the transaction of its regular business, at a place to be selected at the previous Annual Conclave. In case of an emergency or for good cause, the Grand Commander may, by General Order, change either the place or the time of meeting, provided, however, that notice of such change shall be given to each Constituent Commandery and all members of this Grand Commandery at least thirty days prior to the date of the Stated Conclave. In no case shall the date be advanced or postponed more than thirty days from the established date. (Updated 4/23/2022)

#### Section 1. Virtual

In the event of extraordinary circumstances, a Grand Commandery may conduct a Grand Conclave by electronic means. A virtual meeting shall be held by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Grand Commandery, and the Grand Conclave shall be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 37 through 39 of the Constitution. No ritual shall be performed, and no Orders shall be conferred during any such virtual Conclave. To hold a virtual Grand Conclave, it shall be necessary to obtain a dispensation or order so to do from the Grand Master to authorize the holding of such Conclaves upon such other direction as he may require." (Added 4/23/2022)

### ARTICLE II

#### Section 1. Election and Installation.

Election and Installation of all Officers shall be held annually at the Stated Conclave.

#### Section 2. Nominations.

Nominations may be made at an election for officers in this Grand Commandery. In making nominations it is permitted only to name the candidate, with his present Commandery membership and the office, if any, which he holds in the Grand Commandery.

#### Section 3. Election by Ballot

When more than one name is in nomination, the election shall be by ballot. When only one name is in nomination, the election may be by acclamation.

#### Section 4. Majority Vote

A majority vote of all ballots cast is necessary to an election, and blanks are not votes and cannot be considered as such.

### ARTICLE III COMMITTEES

#### Section 1. How Designated.

Committees shall be designated as Standing Committees and Special Committees.

#### Section 2. Shall be Appointed

All Committees shall be appointed by the Grand Commander, who shall be an ex-officio member of each Committee. Committees shall, unless otherwise provided, consist of three members and serve from the close of one Stated Conclave to the close of the next unless otherwise specifically provided; and if a vacancy occurs in a Committee, the Grand Commander shall fill that vacancy by appointment for the unexpired term. If a vacancy occurs for the Grand Commandery Masonic Charity Foundation Director, the Grand Commander will appoint a member to serve until the next Stated Conclave, at which time nominations and election will be held to elect a member to serve as a director of the corporation the remainder of the unexpired term.

The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence shall consist of a minimum of five Past Grand Commanders. The Grand Commander will designate a Chairman to conduct the proceedings and a Recorder to prepare the report of the proceedings. The Committee on Educational Foundation shall consist of five members and the Committees on Necrology and Masonic Charity Foundation shall consist of one member, the Committee on Knights Templar Eye Foundation shall consist of a Chairman and the current Grand Commandery Officers, and all other Committees shall consist of three members.

Each Committee shall report in writing to the Grand Commandery at its Stated Conclave on all matters and things which are within the duties herein assigned or which have been especially referred to it. The Grand Commander may, during the recess of the Grand Commandery, refer to a Committee any matter for an opinion or report.

## **ARTICLE IV STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Shall Consist of.**

Standing Committees shall consist of the following Committees:

- On Credentials
- On Finance
- On Templar Jurisprudence
- On Work and Tactics
- On Triennial Matters
- On General Matters
- On Necrology
- On Masonic Charity Foundation
- On York Rite Coordination
- On Knights Templar Eye Foundation
- On Membership

### **Section 2. Duties**

The duties of the Standing Committees shall be as follows:

#### **a) The Committee on Credentials**

Shall examine the credentials of all persons claiming a seat or a vote in this Grand Commandery, and no Commandery shall be entitled to representation at the Annual Conclave unless such Commandery has made its Annual Returns and paid in full its Fees and Per Capita Tax. It shall report to the Grand Commander before this Grand Commandery is convened, whether or not a constitutional number of Constituent Commanderies is represented.

#### **b) The Committee on Finance**

Shall report on all matters and things relating to the monies, properties, bonds, stocks, and other investments, as well as all matters and things relating to the revenues and expenditures of this Grand Commandery. It shall verify the accounts of all officers, committees, and members of this Grand Commandery who are entrusted with the administration or care of any of the monies, properties, bonds, stocks, or other investments. It shall verify all surety bonds, and see that they are in proper form, and see that their conditions are complied with, that they are in sufficient amount, and that they run to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma.

It shall prepare and submit to this Grand Commandery a schedule of its recommended expenditures for the year following each Stated Conclave. Recommended expenditures shall be limited by the words, "or so much thereof as is necessary." No appropriation from the Funds of this Grand Commandery shall be without reference to the Committee on Finance.

At least two members of the previous committee should be re-appointed by each Grand Commander.

#### **c) The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence**

Shall consider all reported acts of the Grand Officers, and of Constituent Commanderies and the officers thereof, and on all other matters and things which involve a construction of the Constitution, Laws, and Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, or the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. The committee shall examine all resolutions referred to it for clear, precise, and acceptable Templar and Masonic usage. If necessary,

the committee shall re-write the resolution into proper form, without changing the intent of the resolution for the Grand Commandery to consider for adoption or rejection. The committee shall recommend the place for the resolution in the Laws.

**d) The Committee on Work and Tactics**

Shall consider and report all matters and things relating to Asylum Ceremonies and Field Drills, and Competitions therein; also on all matters relating to the interpretation of the Rituals, Manuals, and Drill Regulations; the formation of Drill Corps, and Rules and Regulations Governing them; Inspectors of Constituent Commanderies; and the regulation uniform of this Grand Commandery. It shall prescribe, with the approval of the Grand Commander or of this Grand Commandery, Rules and Regulations governing the Inspection of Constituent Commanderies, competitions in Asylum Ceremonies and Field Drills, and it shall award all prizes for proficiency. Such Rules and Regulations shall, when approved by the Grand Commander or this Grand Commandery, have the effect of Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery and be in force after such approval.

**e) The Committee on Triennial Matters.**

Shall consist of three members of the Grand Encampment to be appointed at the first Conclave of the Grand Commandery after each Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, and to serve until after the next Triennial Conclave. It shall be the duty of this committee to make such arrangements for the comfort and convenience of Sir Knights of this Grand Jurisdiction who attend the Conclaves of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to it from time to time.

**f) The Committee on General Matters**

Shall consider and report on all matters and things relating to Charters, Letters of Dispensation, Appeals, Grievances, Returns of Constituent Commanderies, and such other matters and things as may be referred to it from time to time.

**g) The Committee on Necrology**

Shall prepare a memorial to the Templar dead of this and other Grand Jurisdictions.

**h) The Committee on Masonic Charity Foundation**

Shall represent the Grand Commandery on the Masonic Charity Foundation who shall be elected for a term of three years.

**i) The Committee on York Rite Coordination**

Shall research, plan and recommend to the Grand Commander programs for the advancement of the York Rite in Oklahoma; to coordinate promotional material; to plan area and state-wide festivals; provide a continuing file of personnel for the conferral of the Orders, and such other duties as may be delegated by the Grand Commander. The committee shall hold a minimum of three meetings annually; the first meeting to be held will include the selection of a Chairman, Vice-chairman and a Secretary. A written report of each meeting shall be furnished to the Grand Commander for study.

It is recommended that the Grand Commander appoint the committee to consist of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General. The committee shall serve concurrently with similar committees from the Grand Chapter and Grand Council.

**j) The Committee on Knights Templar Eye Foundation**

Shall promote the Knights Templar Eye Foundation by continuing to educate each constituent Commandery of its purposes, accomplishments, and fund raising efforts.

**k) The Committee on Membership.**

The Committee on Membership for the state of Oklahoma shall be comprised of eight members and shall consist of one chairman for each of seven identified geographic regions of the state and a state chairman. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee in developing and overseeing an ongoing program for the recruitment and retention of members from their respective regions and the entire jurisdiction.

## **ARTICLE V SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Shall Consist of.**

Special Committees shall consist of the following Committees:

- a)** On Education Foundation
- b)** On Printing
- c)** On Holy Land Pilgrimage

and such other committees as may from time to time are necessary.

### **Section 2. Duties.**

The duties of Special Committees shall be as follows:

#### **a) The Committee on Educational Foundation**

Shall consist of qualified Sir Knights, the membership of which shall be appointed by the Grand Commander as required by the Regulations and Standard Practice of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. The Grand Recorder shall serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee for the Division of Oklahoma but shall not be a member of the Committee.

To this Committee shall be entrusted the administration and care of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, Division of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma; and in the administration and care thereof it shall be governed by the Regulations and Standard Practice of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America. It may employ an assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer and such other persons as are necessary for the proper administration and care of the Educational Foundation. The Secretary Treasurer or his assistant shall collect all revenues or other amounts due the Educational Foundation and shall deposit same in an approved depository as often as they amount to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or more.

The Grand Commander shall at each conclave make appointments of such vacancies as may take place on the committee; if the appointment is made because of expiration of the term of office of the committee member, the appointment shall be for the period of five years; if the vacancy for which the appointment is being made is for any other reason, the appointment shall be for the unexpired portion of the term of the member for whom replacement is being made.

#### **b) The Committee on Printing**

Shall consist of the Grand Commander, the Junior Past Grand Commander, and the Grand Recorder, which committee shall have charge of printing the Annual Proceedings and other matters of the Grand Commandery required to be printed and to transmit annually to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment one copy of all the Proceedings and the Laws adopted by the Grand Commandery, this copy may be submitted electronically in commonly used digital format. (updated 4/23/2022)

#### **c) The Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee**

Shall consist of three members who shall be charged and entrusted to study and recommend to the Dais Officers of the Grand Commandery, ways and means to send ordained Christian Ministers, gratis, to the Holy Land for the purpose of furthering their education and to assist in re-inspiring them in their dedication to their ministry. The committee shall recommend Ministers to be considered for the trip to the Holy Land. The Dais Officers shall first approve the method of selecting the Ministers and the ways and means for financing the project before the committee puts its program into effect. The number of ministers to be sent each year shall be determined by the Dais Officers based upon the funds available each year for this project.

Monies to finance this project shall be solicited on a voluntary basis and/or by such means and projects as may be approved by the Dais Officers of the Grand Commandery, said funds to be turned over to the Grand Treasurer, who shall hold such funds in an escrow account until such time as he shall be authorized to release them by order of the Grand Commander with the approval of the other Dais Officers.

It shall be the duty of this committee to keep an accurate record of all monies received by them and to report the same to the Grand Commandery at the Annual Conclave, showing an account of all receipts and disbursements.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Section 1. Grand Representatives:**

The exchange of representatives between this Grand Commandery and other Grand Commanderies of the United States is hereby authorized. The commissions of representatives are to be made in the name of the Grand Commander and attested to by the Grand Recorder after recommendation of their respective Grand Commanders.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Section 1. Official Bond.**

All bonds required by these Statutes shall have as surety a corporate surety company authorized to do business in the State of Oklahoma

### **Section 2.**

The Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Secretary of the Educational Committee, or such other officer when so designated by the Grand Commandery or Grand Commander, shall immediately upon taking office and before receiving any funds or property, furnish a bond to the Grand Commandery in such an amount and in such form as may be required by the Finance Committee, and approved by the Grand Commandery or Grand Commander. (Note: See Article XIX, Section 11, for provisions for schedule Bond.)

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Section 1. Appropriation of Funds.**

All proposals contemplating an appropriation from the Grand Commandery must either emanate from or be referred to the Finance Committee; provided that if the Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery should be postponed for more than thirty days after the date fixed by law, the Grand Commander shall by General Order make an emergency appropriation, not to exceed the amounts and for the same purposes as fixed by the Grand Commandery at its last Stated Conclave, which appropriation shall be expended on a monthly basis as to salaries and allowances, and shall cease on the convening of the Grand Commandery.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Section 1. Jewels.**

Each Grand Commander, after his successor has been elected, shall be presented with a Past Grand Commander's Jewel in design like those heretofore furnished.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Section 1. Appeals**

During a Conclave, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery from a decision of the Grand Commander save on points of order. At all other times, the decisions of the Grand Commander shall have full force and effect, but they must be reviewed by the Grand Commandery at its next Stated Conclave. If such decisions involve the construction of the Laws of the Grand Encampment or of the Laws of the Grand Commandery, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Section 1. Dispensations.**

The Grand Commander may issue dispensations to a Constituent Commandery on the application of the Commandery or its Commander, but this section is not intended to limit the Grand Commander in his prerogative to issue dispensations.

## **ARTICLE XII**



### **Section 1. Public Parades.**

The Grand Commandery will accept no invitation to join with any other organization in a parade during its Conclaves.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **Section 1. Appearance in Uniform.**

Every officer and every Sir Knight must appear in Full Dress Uniform at the opening of the Annual Conclave and of each Constituent Conclave unless he is excused there from by the Grand Commander or by the Commandery.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **Section 1. Voting**

Every member present, either in the Grand Commandery or any Constituent Commandery, when a vote or ballot is had, is required to vote unless he is excused by the Presiding Officer for cause shown before the voting or balloting commences.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **Section 1. New Commanderies.**

- a) Dispensations or Charters for the formation of a new Commandery may be granted only upon application of twenty or more Knights Templar, at least fifteen of whom must be actual residents within the corporate limits of the city or town where the proposed Commandery is to be located and provided further that there is located in such city or town a regularly chartered Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.
- b) There must be a fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) accompanying an application for dispensation to form a new Commandery, which shall include the fee for a Charter when issued.

### **Section 2. Dispensation to form a new Commandery.**

A dispensation to form a new Commandery may be issued by the Grand Commander only upon recommendation of the Commandery nearest the location of the proposed new Commandery, provided, however, if the nearest Commandery is located in a city where there is more than one Commandery, two of the Commanderies located in such city must recommend such petition.

### **Section 3. May Grand a Dispensation or Charter**

The Grand Commandery may grant a dispensation or Charter for a new Commandery on an application made direct to the Grand Commandery without the recommendation of the nearest Commandery or Commanderies.

#### **Section 4.**

- a) No new Commandery shall be instituted or constituted until it has provided itself with a suitable Asylum and all the proper paraphernalia necessary to confer the Orders.
- b) As soon as convenient after the Grand Commandery shall have granted a Charter to a Commandery, the Grand Commander, or his personal representative, shall convene the Knights, constitute the new Commandery and open a Conclave, after which an election of officers shall be held. Immediately after the election, the officers chosen shall be installed.
- c) He shall require the Recorder to forward forthwith to the Grand Recorder a roster of the elected officers with full details of the proceedings.
- d) It shall be the duty of the installing officer in delivering rituals to the newly installed officers to observe all the requirements of these statutes relative to preservation of rituals.

## **ARTICLE XVI REVENUES**

### **Section 1. Fee for Dispensation and Charter**

The fee for a letter of Dispensation and Charter to form a new Commandery of Knights Templar, or for either or both, shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

- a) For each dispensation for any other purpose a fee of \$10.00 must accompany the request. (2011)

## **Section 2. Fee For A Certificate of Good Standing To A Suspended Knight Whose Constituent Commandery Whose Charter Is Surrendered Or Revoked**

A suspended member of a Constituent Commandery whose charter is surrendered or revoked shall upon the payment of \$5.00 be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Recorder, which certificate shall have the effect of a demit. A member in good standing of a Commandery whose charter is surrendered or revoked shall be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Recorder free of charge.

## **Section 3. Order Fees.**

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma shall provide an online electronic database at no charge to the Constituent Commandery. The Constituent Commandery Recorder shall maintain the online electronic database. He shall contact the Grand Recorder if he has any problems with the database. The Grand Recorder will invoice the Constituent Commandery for all Orders, five dollars (\$5.00) for each Order of the Red Cross, five dollars (\$5.00) for each Order of Malta, and ten dollars (\$10.00) for each Order of the Temple conferred, after each Festival. The Grand Recorder will invoice the Constituent Commandery for per capita fees by January 15th. In addition, the Grand Recorder will provide each Constituent Commandery Recorder with a Financial Review and Award Forms. The Financial Review form will be signed by the Financial Review Committee of the Constituent Commandery, showing their findings on the financial condition of said Commandery as shown by the books of the Recorder and Treasurer. This certificate shall become a part of the report to the Grand Recorder, and failure to have said books reviewed and certificates signed will subject the Commandery to the same penalty as a failure to remit Degree and per capita funds to the Grand Recorder. (Amended 4/29/23)

## **Section 4.**

### **a) Per Capita Tax**

Each Constituent Commandery shall pay to the Grand Commandery, at the time of filing its Annual Returns, a per capita tax of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each Knight Templar in the database on 30th December, plus any assessment for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Knights Templar Magazine and the per capita tax of the Grand Encampment. Sir Knights who are or become Life Sponsors, Associate Patrons or Patrons of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation shall be exempt from the assessment for such fund as provided by the regulations governing that Foundation. (Amended 4/23/16)

### **b) Reinstatement Fee**

For each member suspended or expelled the Grand Commandery shall charge their constituent Commandery a fee of ten (\$10.00) to reinstate them. This fee shall be paid on the quarterly report will be invoiced by the Grand Recorder following the reinstatement. This fee will become effective January 1, 2016. (Amended 4/29/23)

### **c) DeMolay Contribution**

There shall be an assessment in the amount of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per member for each name borne on the rolls, except those members who purchased a perpetual membership prior to April 9, 2005, as an annual contribution to the DeMolay, which donation is tax deductible to the member, for the use and promotion of the DeMolay.

### **d) Right to Remit Dues**

Commanderies shall have the right to remit the **dues** of deserving Sir Knights who are unable to meet the obligations of paying dues, after a committee, appointed by the Commander, shall have made full investigation and reported such inability; provided, however, that no Commandery shall be entitled to credit or remission of dues of more than ten per cent (10%) of the membership thereof. Commanderies will be required to pay the per capita tax and assessments of the Grand Encampment for these remitted members on the annual report. (Amended 3/27/09)

### **e) Penalty for failure to file Annual Returns**

Should any Commandery fail to file with the Grand Recorder its annual returns by January fifteenth (15th) of each year, the Grand Recorder shall send by registered mail to the Commander and Recorder a notice of such failure and a request for the filing of the returns on or before January 31st. If the returns are not filed by that date, the Grand Commander may remove from office the Commander and Recorder of such delinquent Commandery.

## **Section 5. Special Levy**

The Grand Commandery may levy special assessments upon the membership of Constituent Commanderies for specific purposes and prescribe the amounts and manner in which such assessments shall be paid.

## **ARTICLE XVII FIXED EXPENSE**

### **Section 1. Grand Commander's Expense**

The Grand Commander is authorized to draw warrants upon the Grand Treasurer for the necessary expenses in connection with the duties of his office, provided that the total of such warrants shall not exceed the amount appropriated by the Grand Commandery.

### **Section 2. Grand Recorder's Salary**

The salary of the Grand Recorder shall be such as recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery annually.

### **Section 3. Grand Recorder's Office Expense**

The expense of the Grand Recorder's office for printing, postage, telephone, office rent, etc., shall be determined and appropriated at each Stated Conclave.

### **Section 4. Triennial Fund**

- a) The Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer shall accumulate the Triennial Fund in an amount equal to seventy-five (\$0.75) cents per member on the rolls of the Grand Commandery as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year in the Triennial fund. These accumulated figures will be included in the annual budget for the Triennial year. This fund will be used to pay the expenses of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General to attend the Triennial Convocation of the Grand Encampment. For each of the three said officers, the maximum sum allowed will be one-third of the accumulated Triennial Fund. (Amended 4/29/23)
- b) Any balance remaining in the fund shall be distributed equally among the Past Grand Commanders in actual attendance at the Triennial Conclave; provided that none shall receive an amount in excess of the largest amount to a Dais Office, nor more than he would receive if computed on the same basis as the Dais Officers.
- c) Any balance remaining in the Fund at the close of the Triennial Conclave shall be returned to the General Fund of the Grand Commandery. Administration of the fund shall be vested in the Triennial Committee.

## **ARTICLE XVIII RITUALS**

### **Section 1. Officer Rituals**

Each Constituent Commandery shall have a minimum of eleven copies of the Ritual of the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple, and these shall be assigned to specific officers of the Commandery and the Commandery held strictly accountable for the same.

#### **a) Lost Rituals**

Each Constituent Commandery shall pay to the Grand Recorder the current price for each ritual assigned to it which is lost or not accounted for at the annual inspection; said sum would be refunded on the presentation of said ritual on or before the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery.

#### **b) Additional**

Additional rituals, besides the eleven now assigned, may be issued to Constituent Commandery upon the payment to the Grand Commandery of the current price of each ritual. It shall be the responsibility of the Constituent Commandery to maintain their record of such rituals, on such forms that may be prescribed by the Grand Commandery.

#### **c) Numerical Record Log**

Each Commandery shall maintain a numerical record of all rituals issued to the Commandery by this Grand Jurisdiction and shall report same on the annual returns made to this Grand Commandery. The control and ownership of all such rituals shall be vested in the Grand Commandery.

#### **d) Replacement if Destroyed by Fire**

Rituals destroyed by fire may be replaced without charge when the fact of such destruction is properly certified to the Grand Recorder, over the seal of the Commandery and the signature of the Commander and attested to by the Recorder. (4/29/2017)

### **Section 2. The Manual of Knights Templar Asylum Ceremonies**

The Manual of Knights Templar Asylum Ceremonies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, heretofore adopted, or as it may hereafter be amended by this Grand Commandery, shall govern all

Constituent Commanderies in all matters and things relating to Asylum Ceremonies, except in so far as it may conflict with the Constitution, Statutes, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

### **Section 3. Drill Regulations**

The Drill Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America and the ceremonies relating to Constitution of a new Commandery, Installation of Officers, either in a Constituent Commandery or this Grand Commandery, and the Funeral Service of the Orders of Christian Knighthood, are adopted for the use of this Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies.

## **ARTICLE XIX CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES**

### **Section 1. A Constituent Commandery Consists Of.**

A Constituent Commandery consists of the following Knights Templar, who will remain active members until such membership shall have been terminated by death, demission, expulsion, or suspension:

- a) All those to whom a Charter has been issued.
- b) All Knights Templar who shall have been elected to membership therein.
- c) All those who have received the Order of the Temple therein, except where the Orders have been conferred for and at the request of another Commandery.
- d) All those who shall, at the request of the Commandery, have received the Order of the Temple in another Commandery.
- e) All those Perpetual Members who are no longer active due to death, suspension, expulsion or transferred out of state.

### **Section 2. Officers**

- a) The Officers of a Commandery are:

- A Commander,
- A Generalissimo,
- A Captain General,
- A Senior Warden,
- A Junior Warden,
- A Prelate,
- A Treasurer,
- A Recorder,
- A Standard Bearer,
- A Sword Bearer,
- A Warder,
- A Sentinel and Three Guards.

- b) The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected, and the remaining officers shall be appointed by the Commander elect. A Commandery may provide through its By-Laws that the office of Treasurer and Recorder be consolidated, and a Sir Knight be elected, installed and serve in each such office at one and the same time. The duties of the Sir Knight holding such office shall be as provided by Templar Law.
- c) No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in a Commandery unless he shall be at the time a member thereof in good standing.

### **Section 3. Elections.**

The elective Officers of each Constituent Commandery shall be elected annually on the first Stated Conclave in December, unless by written dispensation, the Grand Commander may allow the date to be changed, provided that all members are notified at least ten days in advance.

Nominations may be made for elective offices in the Commandery but shall be limited to proposing the name and the office to which the member is nominated. When more than one name is in nomination, the election shall be by ballot. When only one name is in nomination, the election may be by acclamation. A majority vote of all ballots cast is necessary to an election, and blanks are not votes and cannot be considered as such.

The Recorder of each Commandery shall within ten days after the election of officers furnish the Grand Recorder with the names and addresses of each elective officer.

#### **Section 4. Installation of Officers**

The Officers so elected shall be installed at a Stated or Special Conclave on or before the 20th day of January following, unless by written dispensation of the Grand Commander a later date shall be permitted. Officers must be installed in person.

#### **Section 5. Duties of Officers**

The duties of the Officers of a Commandery shall be such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations or as may be assigned to them, and as set forth in Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery Laws.

#### **Section 6. Commander**

The Commander shall appoint a member of their Commandery as Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation whose duties are to handle all efforts relative to treatment cases and fund raising for his area and Commandery. The Chairman shall also be the contact and link between the Constituent Commandery and Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for the Grand Commandery. The name, address, and phone number of each Chairman shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder by the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January. The Commander may appoint such Committees as may from time to time be deemed advisable and shall be ex-officio a member of each committee.

#### **Section 7. Treasurer**

It is the duty of the Treasurer:

- a) To take charge of all funds of the Commandery.
- b) To deposit all such funds in the bank or other financial institutions designated by the Commandery or by the Trustees of his Commandery, under such conditions as the Commandery or the Trustees may impose.
- c) To pay out funds of the Commandery only upon warrants signed by the Commander and attested by the Recorder.
- d) To render to the Commandery annually, or to the Commander at any time, upon receipt of a written request therefore signed by the Commander and the Recorder, a true and correct detailed account of all receipts and disbursements, from whom received and to whom paid, with vouchers for all disbursements.
- e) To submit his books and accounts for inspection and audit at any time to the Commander and annually to the Auditing Committee.
- f) To promptly deliver to his successor in office all funds, records, and other property of the Commandery in his possession. A failure to do so shall constitute an offense against Templary, a violation of his Vow of Office and a Breach of his Bond.

#### **Section 8. Recorder**

It is the duty of the Recorder:

- a) To perform all such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Statutes, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery and the By-Laws of his Commandery.
- b) To collect all dues and assessments and to issue receipts therefor.
- c) To receive, duly file and safely keep all papers and documents of the Commandery.
- d) To issue no warrants upon the Treasurer except in payment of bills approved and ordered paid by the Commandery or in accordance with a Resolution duly passed by the Commandery.

#### **Section 9. Trustees**

A Commandery may provide in its By-Laws for the powers and duties to be performed by its Board of Trustees, the same to be subject to the approval of the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery.

#### **Section 10. Succession of Officers**

In case of death, disability, removal, or incapacity of any of the elective Officers of a Commandery, his or their place shall be filled in a manner provided by the Grand Encampment Laws. In the case of appointive Officers, his or their places shall be filled by appointment of the Commander.

#### **Section 11. Bond**

The Grand Recorder, on approval of the Grand Commander, shall secure a Schedule Surety Bond, issued by a Corporate Surety Company authorized to do business in Oklahoma, covering Treasurers, Recorders or

Treasurers/Recorders, of any and all Constituent Commanderies for coverage under the Surety Bond in such an amount as may meet the minimum requirements, or larger coverage as may be necessary for said Commandery. The Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Educational Foundation Committee, Division of Oklahoma, shall be bonded in such amounts as may be determined by the Finance Committee. The premium on such bond shall be paid annually by the Constituent Commanderies, the Grand Commandery and the Educational Foundation according to their respective coverage's. The premium of the Constituent Commanderies shall be due and payable to the Grand Recorder with the Annual Returns. Any officer failing to comply with these provisions for a period of thirty days shall be subject to suspension from office.

## **Section 12. Powers**

The powers of a Constituent Commandery shall consist of the following:

**a) Confer Orders**

To confer the Order of the Red Cross, Knight of Malta and Order of the Temple in the manner and form provided by the Rituals of the Order.

**b) Accept Petitions**

To accept petitions for affiliation and membership and to ballot on the same; and to grant demits or certificates of good standing.

**c) Adopt By-Laws**

To adopt By Laws for their government, subject to the approval of the Grand Commandery or Grand Commander. Written notice of any proposed By Law change shall be given to the membership of such Commandery. The Grand Commander shall be notified in writing of any By Law change within fifteen days, and such change will not be in effect until written approval is received from the Grand Commander.

**d) Levy Dues and Assessments**

To levy dues and assessments.

**e) Expend Funds**

To expend funds.

**f) Discipline Members**

To discipline its members.

**g) Conduct Business**

To carry on all business and affairs usually appertaining to a Commandery in accordance with the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations of the Grand Encampment and of the Grand Commandery.

## **Section 13. Jurisdiction**

**a)** A Commandery may waive jurisdiction over any person who desires to petition elsewhere, and 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.

**b)** Plural memberships may be obtained by any Knight Templar in the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma and may be in separate jurisdictions if the law of both jurisdictions so provide. A petition for Plural Membership must be accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Commandery of which the petitioner is a member.

A Plural Member shall be subject to all dues and assessments of the Commanderies of which he is a member and shall have all the rights and privileges of full membership in all, except he can hold an elective office in only one Commandery. When a Plural Member is suspended for non-payment of dues or expelled from a Commandery for any other reason, he shall be automatically suspended or expelled from his other Commanderies.

## **Section 14. Conclaves**

**a)** All business of a Commandery must be transacted in a Conclave of Knights Templar duly opened in its Asylum.

**b)** The Conclaves of Commanderies shall be:

**1)** Stated Conclaves which shall be held at least monthly on a fixed weekday at such hour and place as may be specified in the Charter or in the By-Laws; provided, that such meetings may be suspended for the summer months.

**2)** Special Conclaves, which may be called by the Commander or set by action of the Commandery, shall be for such business only as may be prescribed by law and at the place for Stated Conclaves.

**c)** A Stated Conclave may not be adjourned or postponed to a subsequent date.

- d) No Commandery shall hold a Conclave on Sunday except for the purpose of attending Funerals or Divine Worship.
- e) A quorum of a Commandery consists of five members entitled to vote therein, including an officer authorized to open the same. (amended May 2, 2020)
- f) The rules of order prescribed for the Grand Commandery shall govern its Constituent Commanderies so far as applicable.
- g) Virtual – In the event of extraordinary circumstances, a Commandery may conduct a Stated or Special Conclave virtually. Such virtual Conclaves may be for the transaction of business only. A virtual Conclave shall be held by means of video teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Commandery, and the Conclave shall be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 65 and 66 of the Constitution. No ritual shall be performed, and no Orders shall be conferred during any such virtual Conclave.  
In the absence of a General Order authorizing the holding of a virtual Conclave, it shall be necessary to obtain a dispensation from the Grand Master for Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander for Constituent Commanderies, upon such additional conditions as he may determine.”  
-Mandate that one of the following officers: OIC, VEDGC, G.C., or a Specified Designated Representative assigned by the Grand Commander be present at said virtual meeting. (Added 4/23/2022)

### **Section 15. Rituals**

It shall be the duty of each and every Officer of a Commandery to strictly observe the Ritual as promulgated by the Grand Encampment without additions made thereto or subtractions there from. It shall be unlawful for any Officer within this jurisdiction to, in any wise, alter or vary from said Ritual.

Every Officer when he retires from office shall deliver to the Recorder the Rituals entrusted to him. Thereafter, the Recorder shall issue said Rituals to the respective successors in office.

### **Section 16. Petitions**

- a) Petitions for the Orders of Knighthood must be presented in writing, signed by the applicant in person, giving his full name, age, residence and occupation. The applicant must be a Royal Arch Mason in good standing or a Master Mason in good standing who has petitioned a Chapter or Royal Arch Masons for the Capitular degrees and a Council of Cryptic Masons for the Cryptic degrees, a firm believer in the Christian religion, and be vouched for by two Sir Knights in good standing who are members of the Commandery receiving the petition. The petition must be referred to a committee of three members of the Commandery for investigation and may be received and balloted upon at the Stated or Special Conclave at which said petition or petitions are read in Commandery without dispensation from the Grand Commander. None of the Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred upon a petitioner until he shall have received the Select Master degree.
- b) The committee appointed on a petition for the Orders shall report its findings as to whether the prayer of the petitioner shall be granted before a ballot shall be had on said petition.
- c) The character of the report of a Committee of Inquiry upon an application, whether favorable or unfavorable, must not be recorded. The record must only show that the committee reported.
- d) After the report of the Committee to the Commandery, the Commander may at his discretion postpone the ballot thereon until the next Stated Conclave, the announcement of such postponement to be entered on the record, but there should be no further postponement except by unanimous consent of the Commandery.
- e) A secret ballot must be taken upon each petition.
- f) If the examination of the ballot discloses one black ball, the Commander may order one re-ballot. If two or more blackballs have been cast, no re-ballot may be taken.
- g) A petition may be withdrawn at any time before being balloted upon.
- h) A rejected candidate shall not be entitled to other information save that he is rejected, and any Sir Knight who may communicate to him any information as to who was present, or who advocated or who opposed his admission shall, upon conviction, be expelled from the Order. Any visiting Sir Knight violating this statute shall be forever excluded from the Commanderies of this Jurisdiction and his Commandery notified of his unknighly conduct. This statute shall be read at every Conclave when a rejection occurs.
- i) A rejected petitioner, if still residing within the jurisdiction of the Commandery petitioned, may again petition after the expiration of six months, but shall not petition any other Commandery until the expiration of three years after such rejection unless the consent of the Commandery- by which he was rejected is given by unanimous ballot.

- j) 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 the 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 demit. If he is elected to membership in the Commandery petitioned, the Recorder thereof shall immediately forward said application for a demit to the Commandery to which it is addressed, and when the demit is received, it shall be filed with the petition, and the Sir Knight's name shall be entered as a member of the Commandery petitioned as of even date with the demit. If the petitioner is rejected, the Certificate of Good Standing and Application shall be returned to him.

### **Section 17. Qualifications of Petitioners**

Anyone is eligible to petition for the Orders of Knighthood who;

- a) Is a Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason and Select Master affiliated in Lodge, Chapter, and Council, or who is a Master Mason and has petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Capitular degrees and a Council of Cryptic 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 Degree; and
- b) Is a believer in the Christian religion; and
- c) Is physically able to conform to the ceremonies the Order; and
- d) Has resided within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery for at least one year and within the jurisdiction of the Constituent Commandery petitioned at least six months prior to the date of the petition; or, if the petitioner be in the active Army, Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the National Aeronautical Space Agency of the United States of America and who has been stationed within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery for at least six months prior to the presentation of his petition. (ammended 4/23/2022)

### **Section 18. Fees For The Orders**

- a) No Commandery may confer the Orders for less than fifty (\$50.00) dollars.
- b) Not less than one-fourth of the fee shall accompany the petition; the remainder of the fee shall be paid before the Order of Red Cross is conferred.
- c) No portion of the fee shall be remitted directly or indirectly.

### **Section 19. Dues and Assessments**

- a) The minimum dues for each constituent Commandery shall be the per capita tax of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Oklahoma and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, International plus any and all assessments of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Oklahoma, plus an additional amount to cover the cost of operating the constituent Commandery. (Amended 2008)
- b) All dues shall be payable in advance on the first day of January each year and the Recorder shall not issue a dues card until the member shall exhibit documentary evidence showing that he is a member in good standing of a Symbolic Lodge, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and a Council of Cryptic Masons. (Amended 2008)
- c) The dues of a member and any assessment may be remitted by vote of the Commandery if in its judgment the member is unable to pay.
- d) Dues cards shall be issued by the Grand Encampment. (Amended 4/23/2016)

### **Section 20. Life Membership**

Any Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction may provide in its By-Laws for the granting of Life Membership subject to the following limitations:

- a) Upon payment of a fixed sum not less than \$75.00 by any Sir Knight in good standing in the Constituent Commandery.
- b) The maintenance by the constituent Commandery of a separate permanent Trust Account in the name of the Treasurer as the Trustee from the Commandery into which account all such payments shall be made.
- c) The investment of such funds in sound bonds or stocks such as Government Bonds or Building and Loan Certificates or similar securities.
- d) The income only from such investments shall be transferred to the general funds of the constituent Commandery or before January 10th of each year.



- e) Each Constituent Commandery shall make an annual report to the Grand Recorder, as a part of its annual returns, the exact condition of such funds in the form prescribed by this Grand Commandery.
- f) Any Sir Knight who purchases such a Life Membership shall pay to the constituent Commandery in addition, any special assessments now levied or hereafter levied by either the Grand Commandery or the Grand Encampment.
- g) Such Life Membership shall be subject to termination by the Constituent Commandery for failure to maintain membership in prerequisite bodies or upon suspension or expulsion from the Commandery for cause under the Disciplinary Rules as prescribed by the Grand Encampment. Should the membership be terminated, as provided above, the income from the payment shall be retained in the Trust Fund. Upon restoration to full membership, the original status of the contributor shall be resumed.
- h) The sum paid for such Life Membership is irrevocable to the Trust Fund and cannot be returned to the purchaser.
- i) By-Laws of constituent Commanderies heretofore existing shall be promptly amended to provide for these limitations and be approved by the Grand Commander. Life Memberships heretofore granted under by-laws previously adopted shall be transferred to the Trust Account of each Commandery
- j) No new Life Membership program may be instituted by a constituent Commandery after January 1, 1987.

### **Section 21. Perpetual Memberships**

A Knight Templar may obtain a Perpetual Membership in his Commandery as outlined in the Standing Resolution adopted by the Grand Commandery at the 1986 Annual Conclave.

### **Section 22. Non-Payment of Dues**

- a) No member of a Constituent Commandery shall be suspended for non-payment of dues until after due notice has been given to such member to appear at the time that it is proposed to act upon the matter and an opportunity given him to be heard.
- b) If a member shall have been in arrears of dues for a period of six months, he may be summoned to appear at a Stated Conclave of the Commandery to show cause why he has not paid said dues, at which time whether he appears or not, the Commandery may act at its discretion by remitting said dues, giving further time, or suspending the member without further notice. (Amended 4/23/2016)
- c) When a member has been suspended or expelled from his Commandery solely because of his suspension or expulsion from his Lodge, Chapter or Council, restoration in such Lodge, Chapter or Council shall entitle him to restoration in his Commandery on written application thereof and a majority vote at a stated Conclave.
- d) When a member has been suspended from his Commandery solely because of non-payment of dues to the Commandery, he may be restored to membership on written application therefore and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave and payment of such part of his dues in arrears as the Commandery may require.
- e) If such dues are paid with a view to reinstatement, they shall be refunded to the delinquent member if the Commandery refuses to reinstate him.
- f) No dues shall be charged during suspension.
- g) Membership in the Lodge, Chapter and Council being a prerequisite to membership in a Commandery, when a member of the Commandery has been suspended or expelled from his Lodge, Chapter or Council for any reason, he shall, after opportunity for hearing with respect to the facts 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.
- h) A suspended, demitted, or expelled member is without any rights or privileges of a Knight Templar.
- i) Notice or summons, as above provided, may be given by personal service on the member, or by registered letter sent by the Recorder to the member's last known place of address.

### **Section 23. Opening**

All Constituent Commanderies in this jurisdiction shall be opened in Full Form unless in extreme cases. A Commandery may at either Stated or Special Conclaves held for the transaction of business only, consider and transact business jointly with Chapters and Councils domiciled in the same location. At such Conclaves, following prayer, the Commander may declare the Commandery open for the transaction of business. (Grand Encampment 1970)

### **Section 24. Orders**

The Orders in the Commandery shall be conferred in the following order:

Order of the Red Cross

Order of Malta

Order of the Temple

None of these shall be communicated. The Order of the Red Cross and/or the Order of Malta may be conferred in either Full or Short Form.

### **Section 25. Attendance**

It is required that each Constituent Commandery have the roll of the Sir Knights called at each and every Conclave or a record kept of those in attendance.

### **Section 26. Statutes And Proceedings To Be Kept**

It shall be the duty of the Commander of each Commandery to see that there shall be always kept in the Asylum and ready for easy reference at each conclave a copy of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment and a copy of the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

### **Section 27. United States Flag**

All Commanderies in this jurisdiction shall at all times display a regulation silk United States Flag in their respective Asylums, to be placed on the dais at the right of the Commander.

### **Section 28. Appearance In Public**

- a. No Commandery shall appear in public except in full dress uniform except when the entire Commandery is dressed in like manner - either in Regulation Uniform, Cap and Mantle, or Summer Uniform.  
(4/29/2017)
- b. Reserved. (Updated 4/23/2022)

### **Section 29. Seal**

Every Constituent Commandery shall have a seal engraved with its name and number, and such device as each Commandery may determine for itself. An impression of every seal shall be lodged with the Grand Recorder and by him copied into a book kept for that purpose. No document from any Commandery shall be received and acted upon unless the seal of such Commandery appears thereon.

### **Section 30 Summons**

A notice to appear at the Asylum of the Commandery at a certain time signed by the Commander and attested by the Recorder, with the seal of the Commandery affixed, is the only legal summons. It shall be served personally on the Sir Knight or sent to him by the Recorder, addressed to his last known place of address, and every Sir Knight so summoned shall promptly and strictly obey the same, unless excused by the Commander; should he fail to do so without proper excuse, charges shall be preferred against him.

### **Section 31. Removal**

No Commandery shall change its name or be removed from the place of its location without first obtaining the consent of the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery.

### **Section 32. Appeals**

Appeals from Commander's Decision. No appeals shall lie to a Commandery from a decision of the Commander. When the decision involves the construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes or Rituals of the Grand Commandery, or the By-Laws of the Commandery, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commander, or to the Grand Commandery, by a Commandery, but pending the decision of the appeal, such ruling of the Commander shall be in full force and effect.

### **Section 33. Discipline**

In the conduct of all trials and all proceedings incident thereto, the Disciplinary Rules adopted by the Grand Encampment shall be observed. No discipline shall be made public.

### **Section 34. Prohibition**

No wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages shall be served at any inspection, banquet or other entertainment by any Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction, and any Commandery violating the letter or spirit of this section shall be guilty of insubordination, and be punished therefore as provided by the laws of the Grand Encampment.

## **ARTICLE XX UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

### **Section 1. Uniform**

From and after this date the following shall be the Templar uniform for Officers and Sir Knights of this Jurisdiction, except as herein otherwise provided. No Sir Knight who has already provided himself with a uniform appropriate to his rank, as heretofore ordered, shall be required to procure another. The purchase of a Templar uniform shall be optional with the petitioner.

### **Section 2. Fatigue Uniform**

The fatigue uniform of a Knight Templar in this Grand Jurisdiction shall consist of a black regulation coat, black trousers, black shoes, Malta jewel, insignia, white shirt, soft collar, black four-in-hand necktie, and black cap. (4/29/2017)

### **Section 3. Full Dress Uniform**

All officers of the Grand Commandery and all officers of a Constituent Commandery, together with all Sir Knights participating in any Asylum ceremony, or field drill corps contest, shall wear the Full Dress Uniform as hereinafter prescribed.

### **Section 4. Cap and Mantle**

The Cap and Mantle may be used by Constituent Commanderies in this jurisdiction on an optional basis, as prescribed by the Grand Encampment, as an official uniform. However, all officers and members of that Commandery participating in the Opening, the conferral of the Order of the Temple, and the Closing, with the exception of the Prelate, must wear the same type of uniform.

### **Section 5. Cap and Mantle: How Worn**

Gloves to be worn with the Cap and Mantle shall be white. The Malta Jewel prescribed for use with the uniform or Malta lapel pin as prescribed by the Grand Encampment shall be worn on the shirt pocket or left front of the shirt beneath the Mantle. Also beneath the Mantle, be it prescribed that black shoes, socks, trousers and tie shall be worn with a white shirt. The scabbard and sword suspended from a shoulder belt shall be worn under the Mantle.

### **Section 6. Full Dress Uniform**

#### **For Officers of the Grand Commandery:**

Black regulation coat; black trousers; black shoes; plain black socks; Malta jewel; Insignia; white shirt, soft collar; black four-in-hand necktie; sword; belt; shoulder straps; chapeau; buff gloves.

#### **For Past Commanders and Commanders:**

Black regulation coat; black trousers; black shoes; plain black socks; Malta Jewel; Insignia; white shirt, soft collar; black four-in-hand necktie; sword; belt; shoulder straps; chapeau; buff gloves.

#### **For Generalissimos and Captain General:**

The same as that hereinafter provided for Sir Knights, except they will wear shoulder straps.

#### **For All Other Officers and Sir Knights:**

Black regulation coat; black trousers; black shoes; plain black socks; Malta jewel; Insignia; white shirt, soft collar; black four-in-hand necktie; sword; belt; chapeau; buff gloves.

### **Section 7. Regulation Coat**

A three-button, double breasted, semi-form fitting sack coat, with peak lapels, two buttons to button, top buttons to be offset from regular line of lower buttons similar to the officers uniform of the U.S. Navy, two lower set-in pockets to have flaps and a 3/4-inch welt pocket on the left breast without flap, one inside breast pocket on the right side. Length of coat to be 28 1/2 inches for a man 5 feet 8 inches tall, graded up and down proportionately. The coat is to be made of tropical worsted, black serge or black broadcloth. Government Navy Regulation N. O. Shade, quarter lined. Buttons are to be black composition

Knights Templar buttons with a cross and crown in the center and the motto of the Order in a circle around the outside edge. Two rows of three buttons each on the front of the coat and two buttons on each sleeve at the cuff. Insignia is to be as hereinafter described.

- a) A three button double-breasted uniform with all three buttons fastening (commonly known as the Navy CPO uniform) may be used as an official Knights Templar uniform with the addition of official Knights Templar buttons.

## **Section 8. Trousers**

The trousers are to be of the same material as the coat, standard military cut without stripes, pleats, cuffs or ornamentation of any kind whatsoever.

## **Section 9. Chapeau**

### **For Grand Officers:**

A military chapeau, trimmed with black silk velvet binding, and with two black and one white ostrich plumes 6 inches wide, 22 inches long. Front and rear peaks of chapeau to extend four and one-fourth inches from head; side of chapeau to be beveled, being one inch smaller at the top than at the head; diagonally across the peaks, both front and back, a band of gold-plated wire lace, fifteen lignes wide, of vallum pattern (No. 1962); in front a gilt or gold-plated tassel, half round in shape, with bright bullions and dull head; on the left side a rosette, oval in shape, five inches in height by four inches in width, composed of not less than thirty-three satin points, in single fold, on top of which, so as to display said points to the distance of one-half an inch from the edge, is laid one row of quilled black satin ribbon, in folds of from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch in width, and on top of this is laid an oval black silk velvet rosette, three and one-fourth inches in height by two and five-eighths inches in width, thus displaying the quilled satin ribbon around the edges of said velvet rosette to a distance of from three-eighths to one-half an inch. On the velvet oval shall be a Templar cross of red silk velvet, bordered by a single row of No. 26 gilt or gold bullion embroidery one-fourth of an inch in width. In the center, at the point of intersection, one red stone set. Said cross to be two and one-half inches square, including embroidery. No other trimming or ornamentation on rosette or velvet oval permitted.

### **For Past Grand Commanders:**

Same as prescribed for Grand Officers, except that the Templar cross on the rosette shall have purple velvet center and purple stone set. The chapeau may have vines and berries in gold on a black or purple velvet background worn diagonally across the peaks, both front and back. (Amended 4/23/2016)

### **For Past Commanders and Commanders:**

The same as that above described for Grand Officers, except that in place of the Templar cross on the rosette there shall be a passion cross, the upright arm three inches, the transverse arm two inches of red silk velvet bordered by No. 26 gilt or gold bullion embroidery one-fourth of an inch wide, leaving the velvet exposed in the center to the width of five-eighths of an inch. Said cross to have at the points of intersection alternate rays of No. 26 and No. 27 gilt or gold bullion embroidery in solid pattern. Twisted No. 26 and No. 27 gilt or gold bullion to be run diagonally from the inside to the outside of the embroidered edge of the cross at edge of its twelve corners or angles.

### **For Officers and Members below the Rank of Commander:**

The same as that above described for Grand Officers, except there shall be no tassel or side lace of any kind whatsoever, and on the rosette shall be a red silk velvet passion cross border with No. 26 silver-plated bullion embroidery, of the same size and dimensions as that prescribed for Past Commanders and Commanders, except that said cross shall have no rays. Twisted No. 26 and No. 27 silver-plated bullion to be run diagonally from the inside to the outside of the embroidered edge of the cross at each of its twelve corners or angles.

In lieu of the velvet crosses specified, enameled crosses as hereinafter specified of the design and color appropriate to the rank made for attachment by the snap-on or clutch type may be substituted.

## **Section 10. Belt**

The belt shall be of black grain leather or leatherette, one and three-quarter inches wide. The belt shall be equipped with three slings of plain black leather or leatherette on which to hang the sword. These slings shall be seven-eighths inch wide, two short, and one long. The slings are to be suspended by clasps or other suitable means of attachment to the inside of the belt. Each sling is to have lengthening buckles and heavy metal swivels at the lower ends.

## **Section 11. Belt Buckle**

To be rectangular in shape, two by three inches, of hard metal with one-eighth inch polished raised beveled edge, without ornamentation whatsoever except the face stippled in vermicelli pattern, dull finish; passion cross of red, hard enamel, perpendicular arm one and one-fourth inches, transverse arm seven-eighths of an inch;

said cross to be without rays and in center of plate, over which shall be displayed, in semi-circle, the words, "In hoc signo vinces" in black letters in relief with polished face; the plate is to be attached to the belt with a French fastener, and the return end to be held in place by sliding loop of black leather one-half inch in width. The plate shall be devoid of any jeweled ornamentation of any kind whatsoever and no name or inscription shall be placed thereon other than that above prescribed; provided, however, that Commanders and Past Commanders shall wear the passion cross, as above described, except with rays around the intersection of the arms of the cross; and Officers of the Grand Commandery shall substitute for the bright red enamel passion cross in the center of the plate a Templar cross in bright red hard enamel, one and one-half inches square. Past Grand Commanders will wear the Templar cross in royal purple hard enamel.

## **Section 12. Sword**

The sword shall have a white metal scabbard, suspended by three white metal rings, two at the upper mount and one at the middle mount; a straight cross guard; a white ivory handle; a helmet heard.

There shall be no chain from pommel to cross guard, nor shall the guard be other than a straight, solid pattern, devoid of either curving ends or shield-shaped device in the center. The blade shall not exceed twenty-two millimeters in width. All scabbards should be devoid of elaborate ornamentation and must contain no emblem other than recognized emblems of the Order. Whenever the term "ivory handle" is used in above descriptions the use of either genuine ivory or imitation ivory will comply with above specifications.

For Commanders, Past Commanders, Officers, and permanent members of the Grand Commandery, all metal on sword and scabbard shall be gold-plated.

## **Section 13. Insignia**

The following insignia shall be worn on the coat. This insignia shall be of metal with French hard enamel of the colors hereinafter specified:

For Sir Knights and all Officers of the Constituent Commanderies below the rank of Commander, there shall be worn on each sleeve a bright red passion cross with silver border. The passion cross is to be one inch in height. They shall be worn with the foot of the cross one inch above end of the sleeve. There shall also be worn on both lapels of the coat a similar passion cross of the same size and design. Crosses are to be worn with the upright leg vertical in all cases.

For Commanders and Past Commanders, bright red passion cross with gold borders and rays and same size as above specified shall be worn on the cuffs and coat lapels.

For Grand Commandery Officers the insignia for the cuffs and lapels shall be a bright red Templar Cross with gold border and set with a red stone at the intersection. For Past Grand Commanders, the insignia for the cuffs and lapels shall be a royal purple Templar Cross with gold border and a purple stone set at the intersection. This Templar Cross shall be one inch in height.

In lieu of the insignia specified for the chapeau, a metal cross two inches in height of the proper design may be substituted; the color and design in such case will conform to the color and design as above specified for sleeves and coat lapels. All insignia to be of clutch type.

## **Section 14. Gloves**

Gloves are to be buff color, lisle thread, undressed kid or leather.

## **Section 15. Malta Jewel**

The Malta Jewel shall be as prescribed by the Grand Encampment and shall be suspended by a black silk ribbon attached to the supporting bar and pin. The supporting bar shall be a plain rectangular bar, black enameled with gold edging and on the bar shall be the word "Oklahoma." Constituent Commanderies may suspend an additional bar directly below the supporting bar on which the name of the Constituent Commandery shall appear. The Jewel shall be worn over the left breast with center of the supporting bar in the center of the pocket opening and the bottom of the supporting bar on the level with the bottom of the pocket well.

- a) Any jewel classified as a Templar jewel by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA may be worn on the regulation Templar uniform in this Grand Jurisdiction. The wearer of jewels should adhere to the "Rules of Interpretation" as set forth on 11 July 1980 and proper military bearing should

always be exercised in the placement of jewels upon the uniform. Templar jewels may include, but are not limited to: jewels of office, drill badges, and service awards or ribbons.”

### **Section 16. Shoulder straps**

Shall be as prescribed by the Grand Encampment.

### **Section 17. Officers Fatigue Dress**

For Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Past Commanders, Commanders, Generalissimos and Captains General:

Black regulation coat; black trousers; black shoes; plain black socks; Malta Jewel, insignia; white shirt, soft collar; black four-in-hand necktie; shoulder straps; black cap.

### **Section 18. Cap**

Cap to be of black material of the same kind as the coat and trousers. The cap is to be U.S. Navy officer's regulation style with the appropriate insignia. For Sir Knights below the rank of Grand Commander, the cap shall be trimmed with black braid 18 ligne. For the Grand Commander and Past Grand Commanders the band shall be of gold laurel leaf design, black velvet background.

The front strap shall be doubled round cord, silver bullion for Sir Knights below the rank of Commander, gold bullion for Commanders and Past Commanders.

Metal buttons with the Templar insignia and motto shall be at each end of the front strap, finished to match the cord.

### **Section 19. Summer Uniform**

For all Sir Knights:

Short sleeve shirt (white), black trousers; black waist belt; black shoes; plain black socks; insignia; nameplate; tie bar; black four-in-hand necktie; sword; belt; and white cap.

- a) A Commandery will either make use of the Summer Uniform, the Cap and Mantle, or the Regulation Uniform, but may not appear attired as a unit using a combination of uniforms.
- b) The Summer Uniform may be worn from the period beginning with May 1 and ending October 31. (updated 4/23/2022)

### **Section 20. Summer Uniform Shirt**

The Summer Uniform Shirt shall be a white short-sleeve shirt, soft collar, of a military style with two breast pockets and epaulets. (added 4/23/2022)

### **Section 21. Summer Uniform Waist Belt**

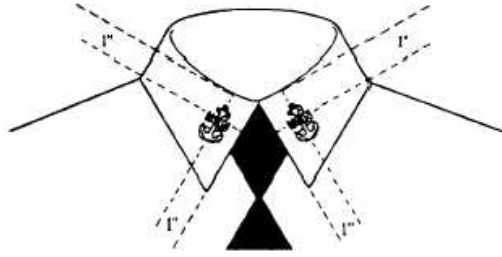
The Summer Uniform Waist Belt shall be of black webbing, 1-1/4 inch wide, fitted with a gold clip for Eminent Commanders and above, silver for all other Sir Knights. The buckle shall be of the military style and gold for Eminent Commanders and above, silver for all other Sir Knights. Wear the buckle so that the belt clip end touches the left side of the buckle.

- a) When appearing with a sword, the sword may either be suspended from the regulation sword belt or a sling attached to the waist belt. (added 4/23/2022)

### **Section 22. Summer Uniform Insignia, Tie Bar, and Nameplate**

Insignia for the summer uniform shall include the Commandery orders bar, appropriate collar devices, appropriate rank devices, and other badges as described. (added 4/23/2022)

- a) The Commandery Orders bar is to be worn centered 1/4 inch above the left breast pocket.
  - 1) The Veteran's Service bar and the "Leadership" bar may also be worn. These bars should be worn centered 1/4 inch above the Commandery Orders bar.
- b) Collar devices are to be brass, reading "K.T." and "O.K." The "K.T." shall be worn on the wearer's left and the "O.K." on the right.
  - 1) Position the collar device parallel to the forward edge of the collar. Center it at a point 1 inch from the forward edge and 1 inch down from the top.



- c) Rank devices in enamel, as described by the Grand Encampment, shall be worn centered on the shirt epaulettes.
  - 1) Embroidered rank devices may be worn on either white or black rank slides that slide onto the epaulettes.
- d) Badges awarded by the Grand Encampment may be worn on the summer uniform.
  - 1) The Knights Templar Cross of Honor and Knight Commander of the Temple shall be worn suspended from the neck on their appropriate ribands.
  - 2) Committee badges and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Crusader Cross badge shall be worn centered on the right breast pocket, below the pocket flap.
- e) The tie bar shall be of an appropriate Templar design and gold in color for Eminent Commanders and above, silver for all other Sir Knights.
- f) The nameplate shall be worn centered 1/4 inch above the right breast pocket.

### **Section 23. Summer Uniform Cap**

The cap is to be a white U.S. Navy officer's regulation style cap with the appropriate insignia. For the Grand Commander and Past Grand Commanders, the visor is embroidered with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns. The front strap shall be silver bullion for Sir Knights below the rank of Commander, gold bullion for Commanders and Past Commanders. Metal buttons with the Templar insignia and motto shall be at each end of the front strap, finished to match the front strap. (added 4/23/2022)

## **ARTICLE XXI**

### **Section 1. AMENDMENTS**

The Laws and Regulations may be amended at any Stated Conclave of this Grand Commandery upon a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided amendments shall be submitted to the Grand Recorder not less than sixty (60) days in advance of an Annual Conclave. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to said Conclave the Grand Recorder shall forward a copy of such proposed amendments to the Constituent Commanderies to each of the members of committees which may be affected thereby, and to the Jurisprudence Committee. These resolutions shall then be presented in writing in the Pre-Print and distributed to all members present following the opening of the Annual Conclave. Any resolution presented without such prior submission shall lay over for action at a subsequent Annual Conclave; except that such prior notice may be waived by unanimous consent of the members present at said Annual Conclave.

### **Section 2. Rules, Laws, Regulations and Decisions in Conflict**

All rules, laws, and regulations heretofore enacted and all approved decisions of Grand Commanders in conflict herewith are repealed.

### **Section 3. When in effect**

These Laws and Regulations and any amendment thereto shall be in force and effect on and after their adoption by this Grand Commandery. The Grand Recorder shall within fifteen days thereafter notify each Constituent Commandery of such adoption or amendment.

## **STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

### **DeMolay**

Be it resolved that this Grand Commandery encourage and promote the general welfare of the Order of DeMolay and authorize the Commanderies under its jurisdiction to sponsor and support all DeMolay activities, and for each Commandery to appoint a Committee of not less than three Knights Templar to carry out these purposes. This Committee, to be appointed yearly, is to be known as the Commandery DeMolay Committee.

Be it further resolved that this Grand Commandery direct the Grand Commander and his successors in office to appoint a Special Committee of not less than five Knights Templar to counsel with and assist the committees of the Constituent Commanderies, and to counsel and cooperate with the DeMolay Executive Officer in this Jurisdiction. Said continuing Special Committee shall be known as the Grand Commandery Committee.

### **DISPLAY OF THE HOLY BIBLE**

The Holy Bible shall hereafter be displayed at all Conclaves of the Grand Commandery or the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma, on a stand, pedestal or small altar not exceeding 30 inches in height in front of the Prelate's station on the floor of the Asylum to be left (South) of the United States Flag; it shall be placed with the top to the East, opened to the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter, XXVIII with a small wooden cross displayed on the right and the Square and Compass on the left thereon.

It is to be opened by the Grand Prelate or Prelate, immediately after the Conclave is declared convened or opened, and closed by the Grand Prelate or Prelate when the Conclave is declared adjourned or closed.

The altar shall be covered with a white cloth cover, on the front of which a red Passion Cross shall be embroidered.

### **ANNUAL CONCLAVE EXPENSE**

The Finance Committee shall at each Annual Conclave appropriate a sum, not to exceed two-hundred dollars (\$200.00), to the Host Commandery for the expense of the next Annual Conclave.

The Grand Commandery shall reimburse the host for banquet tickets, ladies luncheon, and/or sponsored tour tickets, and a maximum of two nights lodging for the presiding Grand Master of the Grand Encampment or his Representative, the Department Commander of the South Central Department of the Grand Encampment and their ladies. (Amended 4/25/15)

No other expense will be allowed for the Annual Conclave unless approved by the Grand Commander and the Jurisprudence Committee.

### **PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Any member in good standing and possessing a current Dues Card in a Constituent Commandery may become a Perpetual Member in that Commandery pursuant to the provisions of this section.
- b) The member desiring a Perpetual Membership shall apply to the Recorder of his Commandery for such membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Commandery and shall tender therewith a minimum sum of fifteen (15) times the annual dues of his Commandery as prescribed in Section 19 of Article XIX of the Constitution. The Commandery Recorder shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same together with the full fee due, to the Grand Recorder. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Recorder certifies he received the application.
- c) The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the Certification of the Commandery Recorder. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Recorder. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the Perpetual Membership Fee is predicated. If the Grand Recorder determines that the minimum fee tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, the Grand Recorder shall have the power to correct the application and the Commandery Recorder computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the Constituent Commandery Recorder. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Recorder shall return the application and fee to the Constituent Commandery Recorder for correction and resubmittal. A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Membership application and a certificate of Perpetual Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Commandery by the Grand Recorder. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Recorder to use computerized records.



- d)** After the Perpetual Membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Recorder to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for perpetual membership as of the date of the application.
- e)** After the applicant's Perpetual Membership has been accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in the Constitution and Laws. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted Perpetual Membership accounts. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Commandery basis listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Commandery dues and Grand Commandery per capita and any assessments in effect at that time. These amounts shall establish the ratio for all future distribution of the interest earned annually on a person's investment. The funds shall be accounted for separately by the Grand Treasurer from all other Grand Commandery funds. The funds shall be audited annually as required in the Constitution and Law.
- f)** A Perpetual Member shall owe no further dues to the Commandery of which he is a perpetual member. An annual dues card shall be issued by the Commandery Recorder who shall denote Perpetual Membership thereon.
- g)** The Grand Recorder shall at the time of the annual interest distribution submit a statement to the Commandery for an amount covering the proportionate per capita and assessments in effect at the time the Sir Knight joined the plan. The per capita billing statement shall list each member showing the principal balance, the per capita and assessments in effect at the time the Perpetual Member was certified, the amount of interest earned and the division being paid to the Commandery and Grand Commandery. The Commandery shall, during his lifetime and thereafter, pay the Grand Commandery the amount designated by the Grand Recorder's per capita statement.
- h)** The obtaining of a perpetual membership in one Commandery by a plural member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Commandery to which he belongs; Plural Perpetual Memberships are permitted.
- i)** A Perpetual Member may affiliate with a Constituent Commandery. If the affiliation is within this Grand Jurisdiction the entire perpetual membership fee he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Commandery to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction the entire perpetual membership fee shall remain with the Commandery of which he was a perpetual member.
- j)** Any certificate of good standing issued under the Constitution and Laws to a perpetual member shall have endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member, and the amount of the perpetual membership fee shall be transferred to the Constituent Commandery in Oklahoma with which he affiliates.
- k)** If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled, or withdraws and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state, his perpetual membership shall be deemed to be also restored.
- l)** If a Commandery consolidates, surrenders its Charter or has its Charter arrested, the funds credited to that Commandery in the perpetual membership fund shall follow the Sir Knight according to the relevant sections of the Constitution and Laws dealing with consolidations, surrendering and arrest of Charters.
  - 1)** When a member holds perpetual memberships in two Commanderies, and these Commanderies consolidate, his perpetual memberships will be combined in one perpetual membership in the surviving Commandery. The Grand Treasurer will combine the perpetual membership funds transferred in with the original funds and will treat the account the same as if additional funds had been added. The distribution of the Dividend and Interest earned will be based on the ratio of the surviving Commandery and in accordance with paragraph (e).
- m)** A Memorial Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Sir Knight of an Oklahoma Commandery by following the same procedures as outlined in this section using the dues, per capita and any assessments in effect on the date of the Sir Knight's death. But in the event the dues, per capita and assessments be less than \$10.00, interest derived there from shall be in accordance with sub-section (g).
- n)** A Sir Knight at any future time may add any amount to his perpetual membership investment through his Commandery Recorder.
- o)** Applications for Perpetual Memberships shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Commandery, and the Grand Recorder shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.
- p)** Where a Perpetual Sir Knight has not been heard from for more than seven years, the Commander shall direct the Recorder to report the name of such missing Sir Knight to the Grand Commandery on the monthly report form as being deceased. The name shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased perpetual membership, but this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid to the Commandery and Grand Commandery for that perpetual member as set forth in sub-section (g).

- q) When a perpetual member is transferred to the rolls of the deceased, or becomes suspended, expelled, or withdraws, a new ratio will be arrived at by subtracting the Grand Encampment per capita, the contribution made to Knight Templar Eye Foundation Inc., and any other special assessments.

The formulas to be used are:  $\frac{B+C}{A}$  and  $\frac{B}{A}$

When "A" equals the Total Dues, and "B" equals the total per capita and assessments to the Grand Commandery, and "C" equals total per capita to the Grand Encampment and assessments.

"B" plus "C" over A gives the percentage on a living member paid to the Grand Commandery on the annual report; the balance is paid to the constituent Commanderies.

"B" over "A" gives the percentage on a deceased, suspended, expelled or withdrawn member paid to the Grand Commandery on the annual report; the balance is paid to the constituent Commanderies

- r) There shall be no cost to the Constituent Commandery for administration of this program by the Grand Commandery.

### **PAST COMMANDERS ASSOCIATION**

The Past Commanders Association shall be established as the sponsoring organization for a Display Drill Team to perform in parades, field days, etc., subject to the Laws of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma, but not in Competitive Drills.

### **COMMANDERY IDENTIFICATION ON MANTLE**

A uniform badge shall be worn on the right front of the mantle as provided in Article XX, Section 4, of the Laws and regulations. The badge shall be a gold satin crown with a red satin cross inserted, laying on a velvet Maltese Cross which is six inches across with the word "Oklahoma", below, all stitched with black thread.

### **PAST GRAND COMMANDER'S JEWEL**

Each Past Grand Commander and his wife (or other representative) shall be asked to sign an agreement that the Past Grand Commander Jewel presented to him is the property of The Grand Commandery of Oklahoma and will be returned to The Grand Commandery of Oklahoma on the demise of the Past Grand Commander, provided that such jewel may be held by the Grand Recorder's office for the possible presentation to a future Past Grand Commander of the family's choice.

### **AUTHORIZED NAME BADGE**

Pursuant to the permissive legislation adopted by the Grand Encampment at the 59th Triennial Conclave, the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma shall be permitted to wear a name badge on the right side of the uniform blouse at the level of the left pocket. This badge shall be black with white lettering and be one inch in height. The Knight's name shall be engraved on the top line and his Commandery on the bottom line. No titles or emblems shall be engraved on this badge.

# OKLAHOMA GRAND YORK RITE INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

To vote to approve on April 28, 2023

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## I PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Investment Policy Statement (the "Policy") governs the investment of charitable assets in the Investment Portfolios (the "Portfolios") held by the Grand York Rite Bodies of Oklahoma. The Policy is set forth by the Grand York Rite of Oklahoma as a working guideline and is designed to:

- Describe the goals and objectives of the Portfolios.
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of parties involved with the Portfolios.
- Describe the investment structure utilized by the Portfolios.
- Provide a framework for selection and ongoing monitoring of investments.

## II THE PORTFOLIOS

All the investments held by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Oklahoma, and the Grand Commandery of Knight Templar of Oklahoma. A portfolio may have several accounts, i.e. General Fund, Perpetual Membership Fund, Membership Development Fund, etc., within each portfolio.

The asset allocation target of the total portfolio shall be an Exhibit(s) to this Policy.

## III INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

Return Objective: Since the charitable assets will operate in perpetuity performance measurement of the charitable funds will be based on total return. Total return is a measure of the total gain of the Endowment and makes no distinction between capital appreciation (or depreciation), realized gains (or realized losses), and interest/dividends. To avoid loss of purchasing power the Portfolios must grow in real (inflation adjusted) terms in excess of spending.

Risk Tolerance: The Portfolios have the ability to sustain short term market volatility given the perpetual nature of the underlying funds.

Investment Horizon: The Perpetual Accounts are expected to operate in perpetuity and serve as a permanent source of funds for the Grand and Local York Rite Bodies. Recognizing that the needs for payout are long-term and that investment competence must be measured over a meaningful period of time, the Investment Committee does not expect to be reactive to short-term market developments. In making investment strategy decisions for the Endowment, the focus shall be on a long-term investment time horizon that encompasses a complete market cycle (approximately five years).

Liquidity: Near-term liquidity needs are determined by distribution requirements.

Performance of the Portfolios will be evaluated using the following objectives:

Objective	Benchmark	Description
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<b>Relative</b>	Blended index	A time-weighted return compared to a blended index, which will be constructed based on the actual allocation of the Portfolios over time. The intent of this objective is to seek competitive investment performance versus relevant capital market measures.
<b>Absolute</b>	Consumer price index spending rate	+ A real return (net of inflation). The intent of this objective is to increase over time the principal value of assets as measured in real, inflation-adjusted terms.
<b>Comparative</b>	Peer universe median	The comparative performance objective is to achieve a total rate of return that exceeds the median return of a peer universe of similar type and size funds.

#### **IV SPENDING POLICY**

There shall be an interest bearing account known as the General Fund to invest monies for a short term or until needed by the Grand Secretary or Grand Recorder for the operation of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, or Grand Commandery. In addition, the Perpetual Accounts are expected to operate in perpetuity and serve as a permanent source of funds for the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery of Oklahoma and Local York Rite Bodies. The dividends and interest earned in the preceding year will be paid out in proportion to the Grand Bodies and the local York Rite Bodies based on the Perpetual Members Spreadsheet.

#### **V RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Grand Treasurer**  
The Grand Treasurer will review the investment accounts monthly.  
The Grand Treasurer shall be responsible for the investments of the Grand York Bodies. He shall seek advice from the Investment Advisory Committee as to the placement of the funds. The funds can be mixed to enhance return and a standard fund accounting practice be employed to account for each account's value in the investment mix.
- **Investment Advisory Committee**  
The Investment Advisory Committee shall consist of three members. The Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master, and Grand Commander will each appoint one member to the Investment Advisory Committee. At their first meeting, they will select who will serve one, two or three year terms. All following appointments will be for a three year term or to complete a vacated term. Investment Advisory Board members may be reappointed.
- **Grand Secretary/Grand Recorder**  
The Secretary/Recorder will transfer all excess funds in the operating account to the Grand Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund Investment Account. All funds received by the Grand Secretary/Recorder which are designated will be transferred to the Grand Treasurer for deposit into the appropriate investment account.

## **VI INVESTMENT SELECTION AND MONITORING**

The Grand Treasurer and the Investment Advisory Committee recognizes that investment results should be evaluated over a complete market cycle (generally five years) for purposes of investment option selection and monitoring. Performance guidelines are described in Exhibit C. While fund performance is an important component of investment option evaluation, the Grand Treasurer and the Investment Advisory Committee may also consider other criteria, including but not limited to investment philosophy, organizational structure, financial condition, assets under management, team experience and capability, volatility appropriate for the investment strategy, fees and any advice provided by an investment advisor.

Each quarter, the Grand Treasurer will review investments utilized by the Portfolios for changes to the non-performance criteria described in this section and against the performance guidelines described in Exhibit B and will discuss with the Investment Advisory Committee. Although the Grand Treasurer does not expect to react to short-term developments in investment markets, the Grand Treasurer may act on interim judgments if there are changes to any of the evaluated criteria that are deemed worthy of action. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Investment Advisory Committee and Grand Treasurer reserves the right to revise or terminate investments in whole or in part, at any time, for any reason.

### **Watch List Policy**

A number of factors may contribute to a manager's over- or under-performance at any given time such as - market dynamics, investment skill, and/or pure chance. Given this uncertainty, it is unwise to mandate termination purely for lagging performance at any specific point. The following represent quantitative guidelines to be used, in addition to the non-performance criteria described above, in making a recommendation to the Investment Advisory Committee with regards to placing a traditional asset class manager on the Watch List:

**Test 1:** If the manager's rolling, three-year return (net of fees) falls below the rolling, three-year benchmark return for three (3) consecutive quarters.

**Test 2:** If the manager's rolling, three-year return (net of fees) for three (3) consecutive quarters ranks in the bottom quartile of the Consultant's peer group universe.

## EXHIBIT A

### Allocation of Assets for General Fund Type Accounts – Effective April 28, 2023

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The target asset allocation for the Portfolios is determined by the Grand York Rite Bodies of Oklahoma to facilitate the achievement of the Portfolios' investment objectives within the established risk parameters.

	Minimum (%)	Target (%)	Maximum (%)
<b>Growth Investments</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>72</b>
U.S. Equity	20	33	55
Non-U.S. Equity	14	20	24
<b>Diversifying Investments</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>
Real Estate	0	7	15
Marketable Alternatives	0	15	22
<b>Risk Mitigation</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>
Fixed Income	5	19	25
Treasury Infl-Protect Secs (TIPS)	0	3	6
Long-Term Treasurys	0	3	6
Cash Equivalents	0	0	10

#### Rebalancing

The Grand Treasurer, on an ongoing basis and in accordance with market fluctuations and based on the recommendations of the investment advisor, will rebalance the Portfolios so they remain within the range of targeted asset allocations.

A rebalancing procedure as deemed appropriate by the Finance Committee, based on the recommendation by the investment advisor, will be implemented, at least annually, or when significant cash flows occur to maintain the allocation of assets within the appropriate ranges.

Formal asset allocation studies may be conducted at least every two years, with annual evaluations of the validity of the adopted asset allocation. Changes to the asset allocation may be implemented over a prudent period of time at the discretion of the Grand Treasurer with the assistance of the Investment Advisory Committee taking into consideration both the sources and uses of assets being reallocated.

## EXHIBIT B

### Allocation of Assets for Perpetual & Endowment Accounts – Effective April 28, 2023

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The target asset allocation for the Portfolios is determined by the Grand York Rite Bodies of Oklahoma to facilitate the achievement of the Portfolios' investment objectives within the established risk parameters.

	Minimum (%)	Target (%)	Maximum (%)
<b>Growth Investments</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>66</b>
U.S. Equity	15	27	35
Non-U.S. Equity	10	15	24
<b>Diversifying Investments</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>30</b>
Real Estate	0	3	15
Marketable Alternatives	5	10	20
<b>Risk Mitigation</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>60</b>
U.S. Fixed Income	5	39	59
Treasury Infl-Protect Secs (TIPS)	0	3	11
Long-Term Treasurys	0	3	11
Cash Equivalents	0	0	15

#### Rebalancing

The Grand Treasurer, on an ongoing basis and in accordance with market fluctuations and based on the recommendations of the investment advisor, will rebalance the Portfolios so they remain within the range of targeted asset allocations.

A rebalancing procedure as deemed appropriate by the Finance Committee, based on the recommendation by the investment advisor, will be implemented, at least annually, or when significant cash flows occur to maintain the allocation of assets within the appropriate ranges.

Formal asset allocation studies may be conducted at least every two years, with annual evaluations of the validity of the adopted asset allocation. Changes to the asset allocation may be implemented over a prudent period of time at the discretion of the Grand Treasurer with the assistance of the Investment Advisory Committee taking into consideration both the sources and uses of assets being reallocated.

## EXHIBIT C

### Performance Guidelines and Investments

Set forth below are the standards for measuring the performance of the various types of investments that may be utilized by the Portfolios. The current target allocations are described in Exhibit A & Exhibit B.

Performance objectives are evaluated net of fees over a market cycle, which is typically a five-year rolling period.

#### *Actively Managed Funds*

1. Total return to exceed the benchmark
2. Rank above median in a universe of peers (if suitable peer group is available)

#### *Passively Managed (Index) Funds*

1. Total return comparable to the benchmark (with reasonable allowance for fees)
2. Minimal tracking error relative to the benchmark

Benchmark		Description
<b>Growth Investments</b>		
<b>U.S. Large Cap Equity</b>	Russell 1000, S&P 500 or other comparable index with appropriate capitalization and style	Large cap U.S. equity funds invest in domestic stocks of varying characteristics—primarily in companies with large capitalizations—across value, core and growth styles.
<b>U.S. Small/Mid Cap Equity</b>	Russell 2000, Russell 2500, Russell Midcap or other comparable index with appropriate capitalization and style	Small cap U.S. equity funds invest in domestic stocks of varying characteristics—primarily in companies with small-to-mid capitalizations—across value, core and growth styles.
<b>Non-U.S. Equity</b>	MSCI ACW ex-U.S., MSCI EAFE or other comparable index with appropriate region, capitalization and style	Non-U.S. equity funds invest in foreign stocks of varying characteristics, primarily across large, mid and small capitalizations, value core and growth styles and developed, emerging and frontier regions.
<b>Private Markets</b>	Peer, absolute (e.g. CPI + 5%) or other comparable index*  *Private markets are often measured by an internal rate of return (IRR) benchmark versus a standard time-weighted return (TWR) benchmark.	Private market strategies are intended to provide additional diversification and return potential within an investment portfolio and may feature a low correlation to traditional asset classes. Private markets alternatives encompass a wide range of different strategies (e.g. private equity, private debt and opportunistic real estate). These strategies are typically transacted through a partnership structure and are characterized by illiquidity, infrequent valuations and capital contributions and distributions that are determined by the manager within the stated life of the fund.

**Benchmark**

**Description**



Diversifying Investments		
<b>Real Estate</b>	NCREIF Open-End Diversified Core Equity, MSCI US REIT, Wilshire Real Estate Securities or other comparable index	Real estate funds may invest in public real estate companies, REITs, private real estate or private real estate debt. Common property types include office buildings, retail centers, industrial parks, apartment complexes and hotels.
<b>Marketable Alternatives</b>	Peer, blended with a similar allocation, absolute (e.g. CPI + 5%) or other comparable index	Marketable alternative strategies are intended to provide additional diversification within an investment portfolio and typically feature a low beta and/or low correlation to traditional asset classes. Marketable alternatives encompass a wide range of different strategies (e.g. tactical asset allocation, preferred securities, tactical trading and hedge funds) and may employ moderate amounts of leverage as well as the ability to hold short positions in securities.
<b>Risk Mitigation</b>		
<b>Intermediate Fixed Income</b>	Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate or other comparable index	A fixed income fund invests in a variety of sectors of the bond market, including corporate and government debt instruments, typically within the U.S. Managers may allocate a portion of assets to “plus” sector fixed income, including high yield and non-U.S. bonds.
<b>Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (“TIPS”)</b>	Bloomberg Barclays US TIPS or other comparable index	TIPS funds seek to provide inflation protection and income consistent with Treasury inflation-protected bonds.
<b>Long-Term US Treasuries</b>	Bloomberg Barclays US Long- Term Treasuries or other comparable index	Invests primarily in long term US government debt instruments.
<b>Cash Equivalents</b>	ICE BofA 91 Days T-Bills or other comparable index	A money market fund typically seeks to achieve a return commensurate with the very short-term nature of the investments, with minimal risk and a high degree of security and liquidity.

**Holyland Pilgrimage Endowment Fund**

(Added 4/25/15)

A Permanent Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment is established as a separate, segregated account with the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma for the purpose of creating an investment pool of funds whose earnings would be used solely for the benefit of the Oklahoma Holy Land Pilgrimage program. In the event that the Holy Land Pilgrimage program is discontinued by the Grand Encampment, then the endowment is to be transferred as an endowment to the Education Fund of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma.

Donors who contribute no less than \$1,000.00, which may be paid \$100.00 per year over 10 years, will be recognized with a certificate of participation upon completion of the full amount. In addition, Sir Knights will receive a lapel pin and meritorious jewel which may be worn on the uniform upon completion of the \$1,000.00 commitment.

This commitment may be withdrawn by any donor when unforeseen circumstances require, however, funds paid into the endowment will be refunded.

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