

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma



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Jon B. Greene
Grand Recorder

May 21, 2021

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 2, SERIES 2021-2022

To: The Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma,
The Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma,
and all Officers and Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Oklahoma and to
Whomever it May Concern

This General Order consists of the opening of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Oklahoma.

This General Order shall be read at the head of the lines in each Constituent Commandery at the first Stated Conclave after its receipt and the action noted by the Recorder in the minutes with a copy attached thereto.

On April 21, 2021, M.:W.: Robert G. Davis, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma issued Decision No. 6, which states *"It has been more than a year since our brother Masons across Oklahoma have enjoyed the liberty to meet and fellowship, confer Degrees, hold friend's nights, dine together, and undertake fundraising projects important not only to their lodges, but also the communities they serve.*

During that time, we have experienced a global anxiety about the coronavirus pandemic, concern for our family members, brothers, and friends who contracted it, and caution in our behaviors in almost every aspect of our life.

But we have also learned what we need to know to manage our lives in spite of it. We know it is a virus that is infectious. It can spread quickly. It feeds on groups. And, like influenza, it will never go away. We know it is a single strain virus that can be controlled by manufactured antibodies. Vaccines provide individual immunity, and are now readily available to any person who desires to receive them. We also know that booster vaccines are being developed to maintain immunity and control over the virus in the future.

It is estimated that 70% of our members have now received the vaccine. Health authorities have also informed us that those who have received the vaccine are no longer required to wear masks or socially distance themselves from others.

Every Lodge in Oklahoma is now in a position to return to its normal lodge practices and activities.

Therefore, Pursuant to Section 202A.3, giving the Grand Master the authority to do what he deems necessary for the welfare of the Craft: it is my decision that Oklahoma Lodges can now return to pre-COVID19 lodge practices and activities, using reasonable judgment in regard to attendance, meals, fundraising activities, district meetings, or public participation. For those who have not been vaccinated, social distancing is still recommended. Masks may still be worn by those who prefer to wear them; and lodges will be tolerant of the wishes of their individual members and guests in this regard. The Worshipful Master still has the authority to govern his lodge when exceptions may necessitate a decision to return to more restricted practices. All previous decisions issued this year pertaining to COVID19 restrictions have been lifted until further notice."

With M.: W.: Davis' Decision No. 6 and per the provisions defined in Grand Encampment General Order No. 14, "Reopening Templary 2021", it is my order that all Constituent Commanderies under the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma be placed in "Phase 2" status of the Grand Encampment General Order No. 14. It is also my order

"Every Christian Mason should be A Knight Templar"

that Constituent Commanderies under the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma may hold “hybrid online Conclaves” for those who do not feel safe in attending our Conclaves. Telephonic or webcast devices may only be used during the actual business portion of the Conclave. No opening or closing ritual shall be performed and no Orders will be conferred while any such telephonic or webcast devices are streaming or broadcasting.

This General Order will be revisited, and potentially revised, as Covid-19 conditions change. Depending on the current state of the pandemic in the various hospital regions across Oklahoma, as well as other Federal, State, Local, and Masonic factors.

Grand Encampment General Order No. 14

Phase 2

Federal Recommendations:

- No restrictions on the number of people, as long as Federal, State, and Local restrictions are satisfied;
- Large venues can operate under limited, physical distancing protocols;
- No Travel restrictions;
- Vulnerable persons may resume social interactions but should observe precautionary measures

1. Stated or Special Conclaves:

- All In-person conclaves (stated or special) may resume;
- Social distancing and PPE are not required, but are highly recommended, especially for those individuals who consider themselves to be “vulnerable”;
- Meals or snacks may be served either before or after conclaves;
- Lady’s programs are permitted and encouraged to resume;
- Any lady who considers herself to be “vulnerable” should observe social distancing and PPE protocols;
- No restrictions on arrival or departure times

2. District, regional or state-wide activities:

- Meetings may resume, including meals and lady’s programs;
- Any Sir Knight or lady who considers themselves to be “vulnerable” should continue to follow Social Distancing and PPE protocols

3. Drill Team meetings and practices:

- All drill team meetings and practices may resume.;
- Grand Commandery Conclaves, Re-consecrations, York Rite Festivals, Receptions, Parades, Commandery in-person Religious Observances, Posting of Colors, Casket Honor Guards, Military Balls, social events, and any similar related activities may resume;
- Any Sir Knight or lady who considers themselves to be “vulnerable” should continue to follow Social Distancing and PPE protocols

4. Travel:

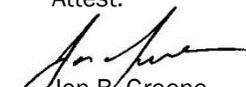
- All travel for Commandery purposes may resume with no restrictions.

5. Ritual work:

- Ritual work associated with the conferral of any of the Commandery orders on candidates may resume;
- Some modifications to procedures will no doubt have to be observed. Further recommendations will be provided at a later date;
- Any Sir Knight who considers himself to be “vulnerable” should continue to observe Social Distancing and PPE protocols


Robert R. Rolseth
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Attest:


Jon B. Greene
Grand Recorder