

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia

October 23, 2021

Minutes of the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave Proceedings:

The Grand Commandery was reconvened at 0900 on October 23, 2021 at the All Souls Episcopal Church, 2300 Cathedral Ave NW, Washington, DC for the purpose of a semi-annual status of the Grand Commandery, review and approval of the annual budget for the 2022 Chivalric Year and for the election of the Grand Line Officers for the 2022 Chivalric Year, as well as any other business that may come before the Grand Commandery.

Sir Knight Elijah C. Mills – Acting Prelate, offered up the morning Prayer.

SK Robb C. Mitchell, REGC – led the gathered Sir Knights in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

The Grand Commander offered his opening remarks after which the assembled Sir Knights began the day's agenda. [**Note:** *The agenda is appended for inclusion in the minutes as a record of the proceedings.*]

Credentials:

The Eminent Grand Junior Warden presented the credentials validation for those Sir Knights in attendance, indicating there were 16 Sir Knights present – 15 Sir Knights possessing voting rights and 1 Sir Knight not eligible to vote. The Sir Knights present included each of the Commanders of the three constituent Commanderies, as well as 7 elected Grand Line Officers. The remaining Sir Knights present, (8) were Past Commanders and/or dais Officers of the three Commanderies.

The Conclave began with a call for updates from the various Grand Commandery Committee Chairs present. The following Committee Chair reports were received:

Membership Committee: Douglas N. Cohen, VEDGC, Chair

His report centered on the Grand Commandery efforts to put forth an aggressive recruiting effort to acquire new Sir Knights. The candidate pipeline from Chapter thru Commandery is working and it is anticipated that by the end of January, we will Knight as many as 14 new Sir Knights. The Grand Encampment's program was briefly discussed, and the Chair indicated he would be reaching out to each of the Commanderies and their Membership Chair in order to complete the Grand Encampment's tasking and membership objectives.

Templar Jurisprudence: John V. O'Hara, REPGC, Chair

The Jurisprudence Committee has had no specific Committee actions to report thus far this year.

Correspondence/Knight Templar Magazine/York Rite Cooperation: Gerald W. Peeters, REPGC, Chair

The Committee has diligently continued to provide timely submission of the Knight Templar magazine insert which is now much more streamlined a process. The Sir Knights present were informed that the KT Magazine is now accessible online but without the local insert, and that any issue is available from the online archive and through the app. The Committee has received no significant correspondence other than routine transmissions from the Grand Encampment which is immediately shared with the Grand Line and Commandery Officers. The Committee continues to work closely with the Grand Chapter and Grand Council to coordinate and organize the annual Grand Sessions held on the third Friday and Saturday in March each year.

Finance / Knight Templar Eye Foundation: Kevin S. Matthews, REPGC, Chair

Sir Knight Gerald W. Peeters, REPGC, presented the Finance/Eye Foundation report, representing Sir Knight Matthews who was absent from the conclave. The Finance Committee has not met thus far this year, and because of that, a discussion will be included during the Budget Review. The Grand Commandery fared well during the last Eye Foundation Campaign and a plaque for their performance was presented to the Commander, Columbia Commandery No. 2 for achieving 100% Life Sponsorship participation by the Sir Knights of that Commandery. All three Commanderies of the DC Grand Jurisdiction have achieved and maintain 100% Life Sponsorship participation. The District of Columbia ranked 6th overall in per capita contributions thanks to the efforts of our Eye Foundation Representative, Sir Knight Roger E. Cundiff.

Education Foundation: John V. O'Hara, REPGC, Chair

The report of the Education Foundation was presented by the Committee's Secretary/Treasurer, Sir Knight Gerald W. Peeters, REPGC. SK Peeters conveyed the Committee's 2021 Scholarship Awards were presented to three outstanding recipients, whose scholastic and academic achievements were most outstanding. The Committee awarded three \$2500 scholarships to: Ms Cordelia Driesenstok; Ms Cynthia Van; and Mr. Kyriakos Mossaidis. All of whom were most deserving.

Ethics: Annas F. Kamara, Grand Generalissimo, Chair

The chairman reported that while his Committee has not yet met during this year, he was encouraged to report that he has received no reports of any unethical behavior or activity by any of the Commanderies or Sir Knights. His desire is that that trend continues for the remainder of the Chivalric year and his Committee is not required to rendered and recommendations for action to the Grand Commander.

The following Committee Chairs were absent from the proceedings and therefore no updates or reports were received:

Ritualistic Work / Asylum Tactics / Religious Services / Uniforms and Patriotic Activities

Mark A. Wright, PEC, Chair

Awards Kevin S. Matthews, REPGC, Chair

Holy Land Pilgrimage Marcel J. Desroches, Jr., REPGC, Chair

Following the Committee Reports, the Treasurer presented his review of the current budget and the proposed budget for the 2022 Chivalric Year. The Grand Recorder was recognized for comments: Given that the Finance Committee has not yet met to review the Grand Commanderies fiscal position, and in

view of the limited resources available to the Grand Commandery for expenditure, it was moved that the per capita dues to the Commanderies be increased by \$5.00, from the current \$25.00 per member, to \$30.00 per member. Discussion ensued and because of the limited income available to the Grand Commandery, the motion was amended to increase the per capita by \$10.00 instead of just a \$5.00 increase. The question on the amendment was called, and the Grand Commandery voting Sir Knights unanimously agreed to increase the per capita dues by \$10.00 resulting in the new per capita fee to be \$35.00 per Knight. The question was then called for the motion to increase the per capita dues and it too was unanimously accepted by the Sir Knights present.

A review of the proposed budget ensued and after a few questions regarding some specific line items, the 2022 Chivalric Year budget of \$10,100.00 was unanimously approved by the voting members.

In view of the fact that the noon lunch hour was approaching and that the ordered lunch items had to be retrieved by two of our Sir Knights, the Grand Commander opened the floor to some general discussion items. The first item to be discussed was the Grand Commandery's web page and that of the individual Commanderies. It was proposed that maybe we could include photographs of the presiding and dais Officers so that visitors could see who the leadership Officers are and be able to recognize them not only in Conclave but in other Masonic bodies/settings. The Grand Recorder is going to contact the webmaster to find out what requirements might be necessary in order to include photographs of the Grand and individual Commandery Officers.

Following a brief respite to enjoy lunch, the Grand Commandery reconvened to complete the work and the agenda.

Having no "Old Business" to discuss, the Assistant Grand Recorder presented some statistics associated with the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia, focusing on how our members are disbursed by the reported age, and where we live geographically both within and outside of the Grand Jurisdiction; the lack of complete information available on each member in MMS (i.e., Date of Birth); and the list of those Sir Knights whom we have not seen for some time and are curious as to whether or not they may still be alive. The Recorders vowed to attempt to clean up the missing information on their respective members and ascertain if those who we have not seen for a time are still with us.

Following the Asst Grand Recorder's presentation, the Grand Commander addressed some of the more significant items from the 68th Triennial in Minneapolis. The following issues were presented and discussed so that all of those present who were unable to attend were aware of those items which have been controversial since August and which may have impact on the Grand Commandery:

- a. Attestation of Faith
- b. GM's Decision to dismiss the Deputy Grand Master
- c. Special / Auxilliary Commandery
- d. What is a "Holding" Commandery
- e. Templar Apron
- f. Membership Tools and initiatives

Following the "New Business" discussions, the Grand Commander, in accordance with our Constitution, proceeded to the Election of the Grand Line Officers for the 2022 Chivalric Year.

It was regularly moved and seconded that Sir Knight Douglas N. Cohen, VEDGC, be elected as Grand Commander, and that the remaining elected Grand Line Officers advance to the next station – specially, Sir Knight Annas F. Kamara, advance to the station of Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Knight Eloi P. Kpamegan advance to the station of Grand Generalissimo; Sir Knight Elijah C. Mills, advance to the station of Grand Captain General, and that the current Grand Recorder (SK Gerald W. Peeters) and Grand Treasurer (SK Craig R. Lasher) be re-elected to their respective stations. That motion passed by unanimous consent. Two remaining stations were then open to be filled by nomination and election – the Stations of Grand Senior and Junior Warden.

The Grand Commander called for nominations for Grand Senior Warden. Only one nomination was received for the station of the Grand Senior Warden – Sir Knight Raymon W. Bacchus. Hearing no other nominations, the Grand Commander closed the nominations and called for the vote. Sir Knight Bacchus was unanimously elected to serve as the Grand Senior Warden.

The Grand Commander then called for nominations for the Grand Junior Warden. Four nominations for Grand Junior Warden were received. Nominated Sir Knights were:

Nicholas J. Sampogna, PEC
Carter L. Diggs, Jr., PEC
Michael J. Erickson, PEC
Victor E. Sack, PEC

After the first secret ballot was cast and counted, none of the nominees received the required majority of the votes cast to be elected. The two nominees receiving the most votes on the first ballot were then moved to a second secret ballot. Sir Knights Nicholas J. Sampogna and Carter L. Diggs, were considered on a second secret ballot. The results of that ballot resulted in a majority vote being cast for Sir Knight Carter L. Diggs who was duly elected as the Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Commandery of DC for the 2022 Chivalric Year.

Therefore, the following Sir Knights have been duly elected by the Grand Commandery to serve in the 2022 Chivalric Year:

Douglas N. Cohen	Grand Commander Elect
Annas F. Kamara	Deputy Grand Commander Elect
Eloi P. Kpamegan	Grand Generalissimo Elect
Elijah C. Mills	Grand Captain General Elect
Raymon W. Bacchus	Grand Senior Warden Elect
Carter L. Diggs, Jr.	Grand Junior Warden Elect

So as not to exceed our committed timeline for the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave, the Grand Commander reviewed the upcoming calendar of events to include participating with the Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia as he completes his year and Lodge Visitations, noting the upcoming Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons on November 13th, 2021 as well as our schedule for the conferral of the Templar Orders in December and completing in January 2022. He further noted that the Grand Visitation of the Grand Commandery would occur on March 7th at Columbia Commandery and Naval Lodge Hall where he will receive the annual reports from the Commanders and the Commanderies prior to our Grand Conclave to be held on Friday afternoon, March 18th, 2022 at Singleton Lodge Hall, Washington, DC.

The Grand Commander then called on the acting Grand Prelate, Sir Knight Elijah C. Mills, to offer up our devotions after which he adjourned the Semi-Annual proceedings of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia at 1425 on Saturday, October 23rd, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald W. Peeters, REPGC, KCT
Grand Recorder



**Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
Of the District of Columbia**

Semi-Annual Grand Conclave and Communication
Saturday October 23, 2021

Agenda

Opening

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Prayer/Devotions | Grand Prelate / Designate |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance | (TBD) |
| 3. Welcome Comments | Grand Commander |

Business Meeting / General Discussion

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Grand Commandery Credentials | Grand Senior Warden |
| 2. 2021-22 Budget Review/Approval | Grand Treasurer |
| 3. Commandery Commander's Reports | Grand Commander |
| 4. Grand Commandery Committee Reports | Grand Commander |
| a. Membership / Leadership / Awards | Doug Cohen, VEDGC, Chair |
| b. Templar Jurisprudence / By-Laws / Grievances / Charters and Dispensations | John V. O'Hara, REPGC, Chair |
| c. Ritualistic Work / Asylum Tactics / Religious Services / Uniforms and Patriotic Activities | Mark A. Wright, PEC, Chair |
| d. Correspondence / Knight Templar Magazine / York Rite Cooperation | Gerald W. Peeters, REPGC, Chair |
| e. Finance / Knight Templar Eye foundation | Kevin S. Matthews, REPGC, Chair |
| i. Grand Rep to the KTEF | Roger E. Cundiff |
| f. Education Foundation | John V. O'Hara, REPGC, Chair |
| g. Awards | Kevin S. Matthews, REPGC, Chair |
| h. Ethics | Annas F. Kamara, VEDGC, Chair |
| i. Holy Land Pilgrimage | Marcel J. Desroches, Jr., REPGC, Chair |

Lunch

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2. Old Business | Asst Grand Recorder |
| 3. New Business | Grand Recorder / |
| a. Attestation of Faith | Grand Commander |
| b. GM's Decision | |

- c. Special / Auxilliary Commandery
 - d. What is a “Holding” Commandery
 - e. Templar Apron
 - f. Membership Tools and initiatives
-
- 4. Election of Grand Commandery Line Officers
 - a. Credential Verification
 - b. Elections
 - 5. Sir Knight Comments / Suggestions
 - 6. Upcoming Events / York Rite Sessions
 - a. **Christmas Libation Service** Dec 2nd – Hosted by Potomac Commandery
 - b. **Order of the Red Cross** Dec 8th - Hosted by Washington Commandery
 - c. **Order of Malta / Mediterranean Pass** Jan 10th - Hosted by Columbia Commandery
 - d. **Order of the Temple / Festive Board** January 29th – Hosted by Grand TBD
 - e. **Grand Visitation** March 9th, 2022 – Columbia Commandery No. 2
 - f. **Grand Conclave** March 18th, 2022 – Singleton Masonic Hall
 - 7. Closing Comments / Adjourn

Grand Recorder / Assistant

Grand Senior Warden

Grand Commander/Rec.

Sir Knights

Grand Recorder

Grand Commander