

CONSTITUTION  
BY-LAWS  
STATUTES  
and  
STANDING RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE



GRAND COMMANDERY  
OF  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
OF MONTANA

REVISED  
2012

**CONSTITUTION**  
of the  
**GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**  
of the  
**STATE OF MONTANA**  
**TITLE**

**Article I.** The name and style of this Grand Commandery shall be: "The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Montana'".

**JURISDICTION**

**Article II.** The Jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery shall be the territory comprising the State of Montana, within which territory it is the superior authority in Templar Masonry, which consists of the Orders of the Red Cross, Knight of Malta, and Knight Templar; subject only to the provisions contained in the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United, States of America.

**OF WHOM COMPOSED**

**Article III.** Grand Commandery consists of the following members:

- (A) The Grand Commander
- The Deputy Grand Commander
- The Grand Generalissimo
- The Grand Captain General
- The Grand Senior Warden

The Grand Junior Warden  
The Grand Prelate  
The Grand Treasurer  
The Grand Recorder  
The Grand Standard Bearer  
The Grand Sword Bearer  
The Grand Warder; and  
The Grand Sentinel;

the first six of whom, and the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder, shall be elected; and the remaining ones be appointed by the Grand Commander.

- (B) All Past Grand Commanders  
All Past Deputy Grand Commanders  
All Past Grand Generalissimos; and,  
All Past Grand Captains General;

of this Grand Commandery, so long as they remain members of Commanderies under this Jurisdiction.

- (C) The Commander  
The Generalissimo, and  
The Captain General  
The Treasurer and Recorder, without proxy

of each Constituent Commandery under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery. The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General may be represented by proxy.

- (D) All Past Commanders of the Constituent Commanderies under the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery, and such Past Commanders as may have demitted from another jurisdiction and who shall have been elected to membership by this Grand Commandery, so long as they remain members of Constituent Commanderies under this jurisdiction.

- (E) Any distinguished Knight Templar of another Grand Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment may be elected an honorary member by a vote of two thirds of the members present, which shall not confer the right to vote.

## TITLES

**Article IV.** The honorary title of the Grand Commander is "Right Eminent" and his official title is "Grand Commander".

The honorary title of the Deputy Grand Commander is "Very Eminent" and his official title is Deputy Grand Commander".

The honorary title of the remaining Officers of this Grand Commandery is "Eminent".

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

## CONCLAVES

**Article V.** This Grand Commandery shall hold a Stated Conclave once in each year and at such time and place as it may at the preceding Annual Conclave designate and direct; or it may leave the time and place to be fixed by the Grand Commander.

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

Special Conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander; and it shall be his duty, upon request of a majority of the Constituent Commanderies, to him directed in writing, to call a Special Conclave. No business shall be transacted at a Special Conclave except that specified in the original notice or summons.

## POWERS AND DUTIES

**Article VI.** Each Grand Commandery has the following powers and prerogatives, but the enumeration herein shall not be construed as a limitation thereof:

- (a) It shall review at it's Annual Conclave all reports of it's Officers and may review the proceedings of it's Constituent Commanderies.
- (b) It may adopt such Statutes, Laws, Rules, and Regulations as are not inconsistent with the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Encampment, and as it may deem necessary for the good of the Order.
- (c) It shall within it's jurisdiction have exclusive power, with or without the consent of existing Constituent Commanderies, to form new Constituent Commanderies, and to fix the fee there for. The fee shall not be less than one Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and shall be paid in advance.
- (d) It may prescribe Regulations for the government of it's Constituent Commanderies, and may revoke any Charter. It may approve or order the relocation or consolidation of any of it's Constituent Commanderies. It shall consider at each Annual Conclave the conditions as to the proper and adequate location of Constituent Commanderies as related to residential and Masonic membership changes.
- (e) Any Grand Commandery may, by it's laws, provide for the appointment by it's Grand Commander, of administrative Officers for the performance of such administrative duties as may be prescribed by such laws. Such administrative Officers may be installed, may have rank, and may, after serving for a period of three years or more retire from office being entitled only to the honors of the office.

## CONDUCT OF CONCLAVES AND VOTING THEREIN

**Article VII.** Each member of the Grand Commandery present in person or by proxy shall be entitled to one vote, except that the presiding Officer shall vote only in case of a tie, when he shall decide the issue. Unless otherwise provided by Grand Encampment Law, all questions submitted shall be decided by a majority vote of those present.

**Article IIX.** 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 Annual Conclave. If such decisions involve the construction of the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or of the Constitution, Statutes, Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery.

This Grand Commandery may determine whether nominations may be made at elections of its Officers and at elections of Officers by its Constituent Commanderies.

When nominations are permitted and more than one name is in nomination, the election shall be by written ballot; if, only one name is in nomination, the election may be by acclamation.

A majority of all votes cast is necessary for election.

Any member in good standing is eligible to election to any office in the Commandery.

**Article IX.** Each Grand Commandery shall determine whether or not proxy representation shall be permitted, and if it shall be allowed, the Grand Commandery shall prescribe the rules governing the same.

## FINANCES

**Article X.** The revenues of this Grand Commandery shall be derived as follows:

For every dispensation to institute a new Commandery, to be paid by the petitioners to the Grand Recorder before the same can issue, \$100.00, and in addition thereto there shall be paid the Grand Recorder the sum of \$5.00.

For each Knight Templar created in a Constituent Commandery under this jurisdiction, the said Commandery

shall pay the sum of \$3.00.

For annual dues from each Constituent Commandery for each Knight Templar on its roll at the time the annual returns are made, no more than \$9.95; provided, however, of which annual dues, \$0.30 thereof shall be placed in the Triennial Fund; and in addition, from each Constituent Commandery, for each Knight Templar on the rolls at the time of the annual returns, including Life Members, but excluding those whose dues are remitted for inability to pay, and excluding "Life Sponsors", \$1.00 to be remitted to the Grand Encampment as the annual assessment for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Remission of Dues: A Commandery may remit all or any part of the dues of any of its members, provided the Grand Commandery dues shall be paid by each Commandery upon all of its membership, except in case of dues of a member or members which have been remitted by the Commandery because of inability to pay; but in such case the Commander and Recorder of such Commandery shall be required to verify that such dues are remitted and that the member or members are financially unable to pay the same.

And, such other sums of money, needful for the support of the Grand Commandery, as it may, from time to time, levy and assess upon the Constituent Commanderies or Knights under its jurisdiction.

**Article XI.** This Grand Commandery shall have power to assign the limits of jurisdiction of Commanderies within its own jurisdiction, and settle all controversies that may arise between them.

**Article XII.** This Grand Commandery shall consider and do all matters and things appertaining to the good, well being and perpetuation of Templar Masonry, but always subordinate to the Grand Encampment of the United States.

- (a) **It** shall, on or before July 1st of each year pay to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment such an amount as may be prescribed by the Grand Encampment as dues for each member of its Constituent Commanderies, as shown by the returns of such Grand Commandery at its Annual Conclave next before July 1st.
- (b) **It** may require each member of its Constituent Commanderies to be provided with a Templar Uniform, and to that end it may prescribe such Uniform and change the same from time to time; provided that any Uniform so prescribed shall conform substantially to the traditions and practices of Templary relating to the Uniform of a Knight Templar, as

now in general use, or substantially conforming to the type of Chapeau, including plums, as heretofore and now used by Constituent Commanderies which have used the Uniform of mounted Commandery as authorized in Section 227 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. In lieu of the regulation Templar Uniform, a Constituent Commandery, may provide and use ceremonial robes conforming to and consistent with the historical traditions and practices of Templary. These ceremonial robes are to be used only in the Asylum for the conferring of Order' of the Temple and/or for the opening and closing of a Commandery of Knights Templar and their design and material approved by the respective Grand Commandery having territorial jurisdiction. Provided, however, that nothing herein before contained shall be construed as in any way curtailing the right of those Sir Knights who heretofore originally purchased uniforms with caps instead of Chapeau, to continue to wear the same except in the conferring of the Order of the Temple.

- (c) It may provide for dual membership within its jurisdiction or in connection with other Grand Commanderies whose laws so provide.

#### **THE GRAND COMMANDER**

**Article XIII.** The Grand Commander shall have the following specific powers and duties but the enumeration shall not be deemed a limitation thereof:

The Grand Commander shall have a watchful supervision over all the Commanderies under his jurisdiction, and see that the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Statutes, Laws, Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery are duly and promptly observed.

**Article XIV.** He shall appoint all committees and all officers not made elective, and shall fill all vacancies which may occur in any of the elective offices, except Deputy Grand Commander and Grand Generalissimo, to serve during the pleasure of the Grand Commander, or until their successors shall have been elected and installed.

**Article XIV(A)** . The Grand Commander shall appoint the following standing committees: One of Templar Jurisprudence, consisting of three members; one on Appeals and Grievances, consisting of three members; a Committee on Correspondence; a Triennial Committee, consisting of three members; a Financial Committee, consisting of three members.



**Article XIV (B)** The Grand Commander should make every effort to coordinate with the Grand High Priest and Illustrious Grand Master in the appointment of the following committees: Finance, Jurisprudence, York Rite Coordination, Credentials, Unfinished Business, Membership, Triennial Committee and By-Laws.

**Article XIV(C)**. He may grant dispensations to Constituent Commanderies to hold special Conclaves for the conferring of the Orders at places within their jurisdiction other than those named in their Charters; and permit them to receive petitions and ballot thereon at the same stated Conclave after such notice as he may deem proper.

**Article XV.** He shall have the power and authority, during the recess of the Grand Commandery, to grant Letters of Dispensation, to nine or more petitioners residing within this jurisdiction, and possessing the constitutional qualifications, empowering them to form and open a Commandery. No dispensation shall be issued unless the following requirements are met:

1. A petition by nine or more qualified Knights Templar.
2. The consent and recommendation of the nearest Commandery in this jurisdiction, provided that if the New Commandery is to be located in a city having more than one Commandery, two such Commanderies must consent and recommend and provided further that if the Commanderies in such city have concurrent jurisdiction, then all the Commanderies in such city must consent and recommend. A Dispensation when issued shall be in force until the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

**Article XVI.** He shall issue no Letters of Dispensation for the formation a new Commandery save upon the recommendation of the Commandery in the same territorial jurisdiction, nearest the location of the new Commandery prayed for.

**Article XVII.** If the new Commandery is to be stationed in a city where there is more than one Commandery, two of those located in such city must recommend the petition.

**Article XVIII.** During the recess of the Grand Commandery he may suspend from the functions of his office any Officer of the Grand Commandery or of a Commandery, or arrest the Charter or Dispensation of a Commandery, but in neither case shall such suspension affect the standing in the Order of such Officer, or of his membership in the Commandery. He shall report his action in full to the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery for its final action.

**Article XIX.** He may visit and preside in any Constituent Commandery within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery, and give such instructions and directions as the good of the Order may require, always adhering to the Constitution, Laws and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

In the event the asylum of a Constituent Commandery has been destroyed or damaged to such an extent as to render it unfit for occupancy, he may grant permission to hold Stated Conclaves at a place within its jurisdiction other than that named in the Charter, for the purpose of temporarily or permanently removing the asylum of the Commandery, pursuant to the provisions of Section 218 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

**Article XX.** He may appoint Past Grand Commanders, Officers of the Grand Commandery or Past Commanders of Constituent Commanderies to represent the Grand Commandery within Sister Jurisdictions, such appointee to be known as a "Grand Representative", and to serve at the pleasure of the Grand Commander or until a successor is appointed.

**Article XXI.** He shall see that the Grand Recorder promptly discharges the duties enjoined by Article XXVI of these Statutes.

**Article XXII.** It is his duty to attend all Conclaves of this Grand Commandery.

#### **THE DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER**

**Article XXIII.** The Deputy Grand Commander, in the event of the absence of the Grand Commander or his inability to perform the duties of his office, shall act a Grand Commander. In the event of the death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent disability of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander shall succeed to the office and be regularly installed. At all other times he shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

#### **THE GRAND GENERALISSIMO AND GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL**

**Article XXIV.** In case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall perform the duties of their respective superiors.

In case of the advancement, death, permanent removal from the Jurisdiction precluding the performance of the

duties of office, or the permanent disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall severally succeed to the office of such superiors and be installed therein.

#### **THE GRAND TREASURER**

**Article XXV.** The Grand Treasurer shall pay all drafts on him ordered by the Grand Commandery. He shall render to the Grand Commandery at its Annual Conclave a true and perfect account of his doings in that respect, and an accounting of all moneys received and disbursed by him during the vacation. He shall also carefully preserve and render, from time to time, an inventory of all property belonging to the Grand Commandery entrusted to his keeping.

This Grand Commandery may, by its laws, provide that the Offices of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder may be consolidated into the one office of Grand Recorder, and when so combined the Grand Recorder shall assume and perform all the duties of the Grand Treasurer.

#### **THE GRAND RECORDER**

**Article XXVI.** The Grand Recorder shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the Laws of the Grand Commandery.

**Article XXVII.** He shall annually communicate to the Grand Master, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, and to the Grand Recorders of each of the other Grand Commanderies, the roll of officers of the Grand Commandery and such other matters as may give information as to the condition of the Order in the Jurisdiction, or may conduce to the general good of the Order.

**Article XXVIII.** He shall forward to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, on or before the first day of July of each year, the Annual Returns and Dues of the Grand Commandery.

**Article XXIX.** He shall transmit annually to the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment copies of all the printed proceedings and of the laws adopted by the Grand Commandery.

**Article XXX.** He shall have charge of the Seal of the Grand Commandery, and shall, under such seal, attest all papers requiring the same.

- (A) To send promptly to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment two copies of announcement and Notice of Death of members of the Grand Encampment which may occur within its jurisdiction,

giving the date of birth and of death, together with the character of his official and other service.

- (B) To perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Statutes Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.

#### **THE REMAINING OFFICERS**

**Article XXXI.** The duties of the remaining Officers, as well as those above specified, shall be such as are tradition• ally appropriate to their respective stations, or assigned to them by the Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery, and conforming as near as may be to those of the corresponding Officers of the Grand Encampment.

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

**Article XXXII.** In the event of the absence, death or disability of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General, the Junior Past Grand Commander according to service, if not incapacitated, and if incapacitated, the next Junior Past Grand Commander shall assume the Office and discharge the duties of the Grand Commander.

#### **TENURE OF OFFICE**

**Article XXXIII.** Elective Grand Commandery Officers shall hold office until their successors shall have been duly elected and installed. The Grand Prelate, if appointive, shall hold office during the Grand Commandery year or during the pleasure of the Grand Commander. A Grand Commandery may provide that other appointive constitutional officers shall be appointed to serve during the full Grand Commandery year or only during the Annual Conclave.

**Article XXXIV.** No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in this Grand Commandery, except that of Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at the time a member thereof.

**Article XXXV.** All questions shall be determined by a majority vote unless otherwise provided. The presiding Officer shall have no vote save in case of a tie.

## **PROXIES**

**Article XXXVI.** All members entitled to be represented by proxy shall on or before the first day of the meeting at which such proxy is to be used, file with the Grand Recorder his certificate designating the person who is authorized to act as such proxy, which said person must at the time of his appointment be a member of the Commandery to which his principal belongs.

## **APPEAL**

**Article XXXVII.** No appeal shall lie to the Grand Commandery from any decision of a Grand Commander except during a Conclave or on questions arising as to the construction or effect of the Constitution, Laws, or Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or of the Laws of the Grand Commandery.

**Article XXXVIII.** An appeal may be taken to the Grand Encampment from any decision or action of a Grand Commander, or of a Grand Commandery, on questions arising as to the construction or effect of the Constitution, Laws or Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

## **FINANCES**

**Article XXXIX** through **Article XLIV** deleted

**Article XLV.** All reports of Grand Officers containing accounts of the receipts or expenditures of the funds of the Grand Commandery and all action looking to the appropriation of its funds, shall be referred to the Committee on Finance for examination and no appropriation shall be made until after due consideration and report thereon by that Committee.

## **PREPAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

**Article XLVI.** It is hereby authorized by this Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Montana that a voluntary Pre-Paid Life Membership/Memorial Fund be established, and that any member of any Commandery in the State of Montana may purchase a life membership or contribute to the Memorial Fund.

Administrative procedures and policies shall be set forth in a separate document.

**Article XLVII.** The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder shall receive such salaries as are shown each year in the Budget submitted by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery at its Annual Conclave.

**Article XLVIII.** The Contingent Fund of the Grand Commander shall be fixed at such sum as is shown each year in the Budget submitted by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery at its Annual Conclave.

## **AMMENDMENTS**

**Article XLIX.** The Grand Commandery, upon concurrence of a majority of the members present at an annual Conclave, may revise or amend this Constitution, provided, that such revisions or amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Recorder at least 120 days prior to the opening of the annual Conclave. The revisions or amendments shall then be submitted by the Grand Recorder to the Jurisprudence Committee within 15 days for proper form and not contrary to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. The Jurisprudence Committee shall then return the proposals to the Grand Recorder within 40 days of receipt. The Grand Recorder shall then submit a copy of the proposed revisions or amendments to each constituent Commandery at least 60 days prior to the opening of the annual Conclave. The revisions or amendments shall lie over until the next annual Conclave. Final adoption shall require a three-fourth majority vote of the members present.

A Grand Commander's recommendation, if it has the effect of amending the Constitution shall be granted the same status as a resolution, and be subject to all the requirements and provisions governing the same.

## STATUTES

### COMMANDERIES - FORMATION

Sec.1. This Grand Commandery shall have exclusive power to establish new Commanderies within its jurisdiction and to ordain and prescribe regulations for their government not in conflict with the Constitution, Rituals, Code of Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Encampment.

### OF WHOM COMPOSED

Sec. 2. A Commandery consists of the following officers:

The Commander  
The Generalissimo  
The Captain General  
The Senior Warden  
The Junior Warden  
The Prelate  
The Treasurer  
The Recorder  
The Standard Bearer  
The Sword Bearer  
The Warder  
The Sentinel and Guards  
And of such Knights Templar as may be members thereof.

The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden and Junior Warden, Treasurer and Recorder shall be elected by ballot, and the remaining officers shall be elected or appointed by the Commander, as may be provided by the by-laws of the Commandery.

### TITLES

Sec. 3. The honorary title of the Commander of a Commandery is "Eminent" and the official title is "Commander".

The honorary title of all officers and members of the Order is "Sir Knight".

The honorary title shall be used in addressing or referring to an officer, and when so used shall immediately precede the official title, e.g.: "Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Captain General, Sir Knight Warder", etc.

The title of each and every Knight Templar, when addressed or referred to by either or both his Christian and Surnames is "Sir Knight", without any prefix thereto, and Sir Knights is the title to be applied to any assemblage of Knights Templar.

## CONCLAVES

Sec. 4 (A). The stated Conclaves of every Commandery within this jurisdiction shall be held at least quarterly, at such place and hour as may be specified in its Charter or designated in its by-laws.

(B). A Commandery that fails to hold a Conclave for twelve (12) consecutive months, or to knight a single candidate within such period, shall be placed on probation for the period of one year, and if there after it fails to hold a Conclave for the next twelve consecutive months or to knight a single candidate within such period, its Charter may be arrested.

Sec. 5. Special conclaves may be called by the Commander at his discretion, but no business shall be done at such called Conclaves except making arrangements for the funeral of a deceased Knight or the conferring of the Orders on a postulant previously elected, or that which is specified in the notice or summons.

Sec. 6. The valiant and magnanimous Order of Knights Templar being founded upon the Christian religion, and for the promotion of the Christian virtues, and a due observance thereof being incumbent on all regular Knights, it is hereby declared un-knightly for any Commandery to assemble in Conclave on the Christian Sabbath for any other purpose than that of assisting in paying of funeral honors to a deceased Knight or for the purpose of attending Worship.

Sec. 7 (A). A Knight Templar is a Mason upon whom the Orders of Red Cross, Knight of Malta and Knight Templar have been conferred by any organization recognized by the Grand Encampment as having authority to confer the same.

(B) A Commandery consists of at least three Knights Templar, hailing from three separate Commanderies, and acting under a lawful Warrant, or of nine or more Knights Templar acting under a lawful Dispensation or Charter.

(C). A Commandery has the exclusive right to receive Petitions from those within its territorial Jurisdiction possessing the necessary qualifications, to elect petitioners by unanimous vote only, and to confer the Orders upon them.

(D). Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of a Grand Commandery are styled "Constituent".

(E). Before a Commandery can be formed or opened, there are the following prerequisites:

- (1). At least three Knights Templar hailing from at least three separate Commanderies or at least nine Knights Templar residing in the proposed Territorial Jurisdiction.



(2). A lawful Warrant, which is:

1. A dispensation from the Grand Master, or a Dispensation or Charter from the Grand Encampment in a Country, State or Region where there is no Grand Commandery, or
2. A Dispensation from the Grand Commander, or a Dispensation or Charter from the Grand Commandery if the proposed location is in a country, state or geographical region where there is a Grand Commandery.

(F). A Commandery can assemble for the purpose of conducting business.

1. A quorum of Five (5) Sir Knights, but less than nine, is necessary to assemble and conduct business.

2. when assembling a Commandery for the purpose of conducting business, the "Knight Templar Opening - Short Form", found in the Asylum Ceremonies and Montana Tactics Ritual, requiring five Sir Knights, namely the Eminent Commander, Senior Warden, warden, Sentinel and Prelate, should be used while substituting the word "assembled" for the word "opened" of "open". (Added June 2020)

Sec. 8. At every Conclave all questions (except amendments to by-laws) shall be determined by a majority of votes, the presiding officer shall refrain from voting except in case of a tie, when he has the right to cast the deciding vote.

#### ALLEGIANCE

Sec. 9. All Commanderies within this jurisdiction must enroll themselves under this Grand Commandery, have their Charters endorsed or their Dispensations extended, and shall respect and obey its laws and regulations.

Sec. 10 There are no territorial limits of Commanderies over candidates for the Orders.

## SOJOURNERS

Sec. 11 (A) . "Sojourner" means one who is eligible to petition for the Orders of Knighthood who presents his petition to a Commandery having no territorial jurisdiction of the Petitioner.

(B) No Commandery may confer the Orders, or anyone of them, upon any Sojourner unless the consent of the Commandery having territorial jurisdiction is first obtained; provided, however, that it shall be lawful for any Commandery to receive the Petition of and confer the Orders upon any person belonging to the active Army, Navy, 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 who shall have been stationed within its Territorial Jurisdiction for at least Six Months prior to the presentation of his Petition. In the event of a violation of this Section the Commandery offending shall pay to the Commandery having Territorial Jurisdiction the fees received for such admission and be subject to such other penalties as may be provided by law.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sec. 12. The election of Officers of chartered Commanderies shall be held annually not earlier than the first Conclave in May, and not later than the first Conclave in June, and the Officers then elected shall be installed at an appropriate date after the annual Grand Conclave.

## TENURE OF OFFICE

Sec. 13. The several Officers shall hold and discharge the duties of their respective offices until their successors are duly installed.

## SUCCESSION TO OFFICE OF COMMANDER

Sec. 14. In case of the temporary absence, disability, removal, or mental or physical incapacity of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall act as Commander. In case of like disability of both Commander and Generalissimo, the Captain General shall act. In case of the death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent mental or physical disability of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of like disability of the Generalissimo or his advancement as above provided, the

Captain General shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of the like disability of the Captain General or his advancement as above provided, the office shall be vacant and the Grand Master in case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander in case of Constituent Commanderies shall issue a Dispensation for an election to fill the vacancy and any other that may occur in consequence thereof. In the case of like disability of all three officers, a Dispensation may be issued for a special election to fill the vacancy and any others that may result therefrom, pending which the Junior Past Commander able to serve shall act as Commander.

The Grand Master in Case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander in case of Constituent Commanderies, may vary this procedure for reasons he may deem sufficient, and may issue a Dispensation to fill the vacancy.

#### SPECIAL ELECTION

Sec. 15. If a vacancy shall occur in any of the offices, except when there is a right of succession, the Grand Commander, may authorize a special election to fill such vacancy upon written request to that effect by the Commandery.

#### VOW OF OFFICE

Sec. 16. The Officers of every Commandery, before entering upon the exercise of the duties of their respective offices, shall take the following vow, viz: "I, (A.B.) do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of this jurisdiction, and the By-Laws of this Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been chosen, to the best of my ability.

The Officers of the Grand Commandery shall omit from this vow the words "and the By-Laws of this Commandery".

#### THE COMMANDER

Sec. 17. The Commander has it in special charge to see that the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the Commandery are duly observed, as well as the Constitution, Laws, Rituals and Rules of the Grand Encampment and the Constitution, Statutes, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery. That accurate records are kept and just accounts rendered and that regular returns are made to the Grand Encampment or Grand Commandery annually, and that the dues are promptly paid.

Sec. 18. It is his duty, together with the Generalissimo and Captain General, to attend all Conclaves of the Grand Commandery; and it is the duty of these Officers to attend the Conclaves of their Commandery.

Sec. 19. In case of the absence, death, removal or the mental or physical incompetency of the Commander, the Generalissimo or Captain General shall severally act as Commander, according to rank. In case of the disability, from any cause of the Generalissimo, the Captain General shall succeed to the duties of the vacant post. At all other times they shall perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Commander of Commandery, or such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations.

#### THE TREASURER

Sec. 20. The Treasurer shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution, Statutes and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Commandery, and the By-Laws of the Commandery.

#### THE RECORDER

Sec. 21. It is of all Conclaves: the business to be the duty of the Recorder to give Notice of Special Conclaves shall state transacted.

Sec. 22. To issue Summons when directed by the Commander of the Commandery.

Sec. 23. To record correctly all transactions of the Commandery.

Sec. 24. To collect all dues and assessments and other moneys due to this Commandery, and promptly turn over the same to the Treasurer.

Sec. 25. To have in charge the Seal of the Commandery and affix it to all papers requiring the same.

Sec. 26. To submit his books for examination when required by the Commandery, and as to a Constituent Commandery when required by the Grand Commander.

Sec. 27. Of a Constituent Commandery, to report annually to the Grand Recorder the roll of Officers and such other information as may be prescribed by the Grand Commandery, and with said report remit the dues and fees due to the Grand Commandery, to transmit promptly to the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder copies of all By-Laws and Resolutions adopted by the Commandery.

Sec. 28. He shall promptly on the last day of each month notify the Grand Recorder of all changes in the membership, including orders conferred, affiliations, suspensions, demits, restorations in membership and deaths, giving names and dates of changes reported.

Sec 29. The Recorder shall also upon the first day of January of each year, make a return of the name and number of the Commandery, and the time of stated meetings with a list of Officers and Members, and of those Knights created during the year, together with the names of those Knights who have been admitted or demitted, or who have died; or been suspended or expelled, according to the form furnished from the office of the Grand Recorder, and shall without delay forward the same, duly certified and attested, with the dues, to the Grand Recorder. He shall also forward a list of the Officers-elect for the ensuing year immediately after such election to the Grand Recorder. For failure herein, the Commandery so offending shall be subject to knightly discipline.

#### THE REMAINING OFFICERS

Sec. 30. The duties of the remaining officers, as well as of those specified, shall be such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective positions, or allotted to them by the Grand Commandery.

#### FEES

Sec. 31. In each Commandery under this jurisdiction, the fee for the Orders of Companion of the Red Cross and Knight Templar, including the Knight of Malta, shall not be less than Forty Dollars (\$40.00), and no Commandery shall, under any pretense whatever, refund or remit, in any way whatsoever, directly, or indirectly, to any candidate, any portion of the fee for Orders conferred; and in case any Commandery shall do so, it shall as a penalty pay to the Grand Commandery, in addition to its regular dues, a sum equal to the amount remitted or refunded.

(a) The purchase of a uniform by a candidate shall be optional with the candidate.

(b) Each and every Officer of any Constituent Commandery, shall be required to own or possess a dress uniform prior to his installation.

(c) Each Constituent Commandery shall maintain a unit or units, equipped with full Templar uniforms, as prescribed by the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of

Montana, to be worn at full form openings and the conferring of the Order of the Temple.

#### ELIGIBILITY TO ORDERS

Sec. 32. Anyone:

(a) Who is a Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason and a Royal and Select Master, affiliated in Lodge, Chapter and Council or who is a Royal Arch Mason, and who has petitioned a Council 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 Degree of Select Master); and,

(b) Who is a firm believer in the Christian religion; and,

(c) Who is physically able to conform to the ceremonies of the order; and,

(d) Who, immediately prior to the date of his petition, has resided for at least one year within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery, and for at least six months within the jurisdiction of the Commandery to which the petition is addressed, or who is a sojourner on whom the Commandery having jurisdiction has waived such jurisdiction; or who is a member of the Active Army, Navy, Air Force, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the National Aeronautical Space Agency of the United States and has resided within the Jurisdiction of the Commandery petitioned for at least six months immediately prior to the date of his petition is eligible to petition for the Orders of Knighthood.

Sec. 33. Neither this Grand Commandery nor any Commandery of its obedience has the right to add to, take from, or change the qualifications of candidates for the Orders of Knighthood and membership in a Commandery as prescribed by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

#### ORDER OF SUCCESSION

Sec. 34. The Orders shall be conferred in the following succession: Red Cross, Knight of Malta and Knight Templar. The Order of Red Cross and/or the Order of Malta may be conferred in long, or short form.

#### PETITIONS

Sec. 35. Every petitioner for the Orders of Knighthood shall declare the Lodge in which the petitioner received the degrees, the Lodge in which he is affiliated, the

Chapter in which he received the Chapter Degrees, that Chapter in which he is affiliated, and the Council in which he has or will receive the Cryptic Degrees. He shall also give his full name, date of birth, residence and occupation, and state whether he has or has not been rejected by any Commandery and the facts as to his residence, showing qualifications as required by subdivision (d) of Section 32. The petitioner shall declare that he is a firm believer in the Christian religion; that he has read the petition and that he personally signed the same. It shall be accompanied by the fee required by the By-Laws of the Commandery.

Sec. 36. No petition can be received which is signed by more than one applicant.

Sec. 37. Each petition must be signed by two members of the Commandery, who shall vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the applicant and recommend his admission.

Sec. 38. A petition may be withdrawn, when there has been a favorable report by the Committee on Inquiry, and also when it shall appear that the Commandery has not jurisdiction over the petitioner.

#### PETITIONS ONLY AT STATED CONCLAVES

Sec. 39. Petitions for Orders or for membership shall be received and acted upon at stated Conclaves only. No petition may be balloted: on in less than two weeks from presentation to the Commandery; provided, that the Grand Commander may by dispensation authorize the presentation of and ballot upon such petition at the same Conclave.

#### REPORT ON PETITION

Sec. 40. A petition, whether for Orders or membership, shall be referred to a committee of three members of the Commandery, who shall report in writing as to whether the prayer of the petitioner should be granted. No ballot thereon shall be had until a report has been made. Only the fact of the report being made, and not its character, shall be entered on the minutes of the Commandery.

#### BALLOT

Sec. 41. Every member present when a ballot on a petition is taken is required to vote, unless excused by the Commander or Commandery before the balloting has commenced.

Sec. 42. The ballot upon a petition for the Orders or for membership must be unanimous and secret. The reason for casting a blackball cannot be disclosed or inquired into.

Sec. 43. A Commander may order one re-ballot before the result of the ballot has been announced, and before any member of the Commandery has left the Asylum.

Sec. 44. No ballot can be had upon a petition until after it has been referred to a committee of three members of the Commandery, and that committee has reported.

Sec. 45. An unfavorable report does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot.

#### REJECTION

Sec. 46. The petition of one who has been rejected cannot be renewed until the expiration of at least six months after such rejection, if still residing in the jurisdiction of the Commandery petitioned. If the petitioner applies to any other Commandery, his petition cannot be acted on at any time within three years after his rejection, without the consent by unanimous ballot, of the Commandery by which he was rejected.

#### NOT PROCEEDING AFTER ELECTION

Sec. 47. Failure of a candidate to present himself for the Orders within twelve months after receiving notice of his election voids the election, and the disposition of any fees paid or deposit made shall be determined according to the By-Laws of the Commandery and the Laws of the Grand Commandery.

One constituted a Companion of the Order of the Red Cross who fails to appear to receive the remaining Orders within one year after having received the Order of the Red Cross shall not be entitled to receive such remaining Orders unless by a favorable, secret and unanimous ballot of the Commandery.

#### OBJECTIONS TO CONFERRING ORDERS UPON CANDIDATES AFTER BALLOT

Sec. 48. A Member of a Commandery in good standing, whether or not present when the ballot was taken, may object to the conferring of the Order of the Red Cross upon an elected Candidate, and cannot be required to disclose his reason therefore. The objection may be made either in open Commandery or to the Commander, and is equivalent to rejection by ballot, and the Orders shall not be conferred. The fact that the objection was made, and not the name of the objector, shall be entered on the minutes, but such objection may be withdrawn before it has been so entered.

Sec. 49. Except as provided in Sec. 47, any Companion of the Order of the Red Cross ~~Or~~ Knight of Malta is entitled to receive the remaining Orders, unless found unworthy after trial on charges duly preferred. And no Member of a Commandery, whether present when the **ballot** was taken or not shall prevent or delay the conferring of the remaining



Order or Orders by a mere objection.

Sec. 50. Any Member of a Commandery who seek to prevent or delay the conferring of the remaining Order or Orders on any elected Candidate who shall have been Constituted a Companion of the Order of the Red Cross shall be required to prefer written charges against him, which shall be filed with the Recorder of the Commandery, and the Candidate shall be entitled to receive a copy of such charges and to be heard in person and by counsel, if the counsel is a Knight Templar. The remaining Orders cannot be conferred until such charges have been disposed of, either by withdrawal or determination according to the Disciplinary Rules of the Grand Encampment. Only the fact that charges have been preferred, and not the name of the objector or the nature of the charges, shall be entered on the Minutes. Before the commencement of the hearing and on the request of the complainants, such charges may be withdrawn by vote of the Commandery.

#### DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Sec. 51. A Commandery has the right to levy and collect such annual dues and per capita assessments as it may deem necessary to defray its expenses.

Sec. 52 (a). A Grand Commandery may fix the time at which members of its Constituent Commanderies shall pay annual dues. It may also prescribe the penalty for non-payment and fix the terms for restoration, but no member shall be deprived of his rights and privileges without due notice and an opportunity to be heard.

(b). The Eminent Commander shall supervise and determine whether it is advisable to remit the dues of a delinquent member because of illness, infirmity or financial inability, and shall recommend to his Commandery the remission of dues whenever he deems the same justified. If the Eminent Commander does not see fit to recommend the remission of dues of a delinquent member, he shall appoint a Committee of at least two members to make a personal call, if possible, upon such delinquent member with reference thereto. The report of such Committee shall be reviewed by the Eminent Commander, and shall be reported to the Commandery. The process of suspension shall be undertaken only after the foregoing preliminary requirements have been met.

Sec. 53 (a). Thereupon, the Eminent Commander shall see to it that the Recorder send either a certified or registered letter to the delinquent member at his last known address, giving official notice of intention to suspend such member, including the date and hour when the suspension proceedings will be brought before the Commandery for action. At the time when such suspension proceedings are brought before the Commandery, the Eminent Commander shall first inform the Commandery of all pertinent facts and circumstances

regarding such delinquent member and shall exhibit the return receipt of the certified or registered letter to the delinquent member, or the unclaimed certified or registered letter, before any action shall be taken by the Commandery.

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

Sec. 54. The suspension or expulsion of a Knight Templar by the Grand Commandery, by a Grand Commander or by a Lodge, Chapter or Council, deprives him of membership in the Commandery and of all of the rights and privileges of Knighthood so long as the judgment remains in force. In that event that the suspension or expulsion is by a Lodge, a Chapter, or a Council, a certificate from the Lodge, Chapter or Council should be filed with the Recorder of the Commandery and entered on the Minutes, together with a recital of the fact that the member is suspended or expelled by reason of suspension or expulsion by his Lodge, Chapter or Council together with the source of information. If a certificate of the facts cannot be obtained from the Secretary of the Lodge, Chapter or Council they may be provided by oral testimony.

Sec. 55. When the suspension or expulsion is made or confirmed by the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter or Grand Council, as the case may be, the Commandery cannot go behind the record or adjudicate upon the question of jurisdiction.

Sec. 56. When a member of a Commandery loses his good standing by suspension, expulsion or being stricken from the roll of his Lodge, Chapter or Council, and his suspension or expulsion by the Commandery is the result thereof, a certificate of restoration will restore him to good standing and membership in his Commandery.

Sec. 57. An acquittals, suspension or expulsion by a Lodge, Chapter or Council, does not deprive his Commandery of the right to try him for the same or other offenses committed either before or after his trial in the Lodge, Chapter or Council.

## DEIMITS

Sec. 58. A Member, upon written request presented in open Commandery, is entitled to a demit without a vote of the Commandery, provided he is not indebted to the Commandery, and no charges are pending against him. Unless the Commandery approves an inquiry to ascertain the reason for the demit being requested, such request severs his membership. Dues shall not be charged during the period the request is held in abeyance.

## DISCIPLINE

Sec. 59. The violation of Masonic or Templar Law, or the Code of Christian Ethics, shall subject a Knight to such punishment as his Commandery or the Grand Commandery shall determine, and the manner and circumstances of trial shall be those laid down in the "Forms for Templar Trials" by the Grand Encampment. And all the circumstances attendant thereon, including the effect of suspension or expulsion by Council, Chapter, or Lodge, and of appeals and restoration, shall be those contained in the Grand Encampment Code of Statutes,

When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled for unknighthly conduct, he may be restored to membership on petition if the ballot is unanimous.

## IMPROPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Sec. 60. The use of any device, symbol, card or other means for reference or in connection with the Order as a means of advertisement is hereby prohibited, and all Constituent Commanderies within the jurisdiction are hereby required to enforce this prohibition.

## APPEALS

Sec. 61. No appeal shall lie to the Commandery from a decision of the Commander. Upon questions involving the construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or the Statutes, Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, or the By-Laws of the Commandery, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commandery by a Constituent Commandery, but pending the decision of the appeal, such decision of the Commander shall be in full force and effect.

## SEALS

Sec. 62. Every chartered Commandery shall have a seal, giving the name and number thereof, an impression of which shall be deposited with the Grand Recorder.

## BURIAL

Sec. 63. Every Knight Templar who was in regular standing at the time of his death is entitled to be buried with the funeral honors of Knighthood. An unaffiliated Knight Templar is not entitled of right to such honors but a Commandery may grant them to him without breach of Knightly duty.

Upon the death of a Sir Knight entitled to funeral honors and upon his previous request or the request of his family, it is the duty of the Commander to convene his Commandery for the purpose of attending the ceremonies.

Funeral services of the Orders of Masonic Knighthood must be conducted as prescribed in the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America under the heading "'Funeral Service of the Orders of Masonic Knighthood'".

## ANOTHER COMMANDERY

Sec. 64. A Commandery may confer the orders upon a candidate elected to receive them by another Commandery, at the request of such other Commandery.

## NEW COMMANDERIES

Sec. 65. A petition for a dispensation for a new Commandery may be signed by any Knight Templar residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the proposed new Commandery. Petitioners who are members of a Commandery need not demit, but may secure from the Recorder of their respective Commanderies Certificates of Good Standing under the seal of the Commandery showing that the member has paid dues for at least three months beyond the date of the certificate. The Certificates of Good Standing of the petitioners or their demits shall be filed with the petition. After action upon the petition by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery, the Certificates and demits shall be filed with the Grand Recorder whether such action has been favorable or unfavorable. If the action is favorable; the Grand Recorder shall report the same to the Commandery issuing the Certificates of Good Standing. If the action is unfavorable, all demits which accompanied the petition shall be returned to the petitioners to whom they were issued, and all Certificates of Good Standing shall be cancelled and returned to the Commanderies which issued them.

Sec. 66. The petition and recommendation will be furnished by the Grand Recorder

Sec. 67. As soon as convenient after the Grand Commandery shall have granted a charter, the Grand Commander or his proxy shall convene the Knights of the new Commandery, open the same, and preside at an election of officer. Immediately thereafter he shall install the officers chosen, giving such instructions as he deems needful and proper; and shall require the Recorder forthwith to return to the Grand Recorder a roster of the elected officers, with the time of stated Conclaves, and a certificate of the fact of constitution, together with a list of members, to each Commandery to which any of the charter members belong.

#### COMMANDERIES UNDER DISPENSATION

Sec. 68. A Commandery under dispensation has the same jurisdiction and the same rights and powers as a chartered Commandery, except that it cannot enact by-laws; its officers cannot be elected or installed; nor can it appear, by its officers, in Grand Commandery; nor can they vote therein, even after a charter has been granted, until the Commandery has been constituted.

Sec. 69. Knights created in a Commandery under dispensation are members thereof, and sustain the same relation to it and the other Templars, as those knighted in chartered Commanderies.

Sec. 70. No Commandery can be constituted until it is provided with a suitable Asylum, properly furnished.

Sec. 71. The Grand Commander may issue his proxy to any Knight Templar in regular standing to constitute a subordinate Commandery which has received a charter.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 72. After a Dispensation is granted to form a new Commandery, the membership of the Knights who petitioned therefor remains in abeyance as to the older Commanderies to which they belonged, when signing the petition. They become active members of the Commandery while under dispensation, and when a Charter is granted, and the Commandery constituted, they continue to be members of the new Commandery and cease to be members of the old, except such as may have withdrawn before the Charter was granted and had their demits returned to the Commanderies which issued them.

#### PETITIONERS

Sec. 73. Petitioners for a new Commandery must file their demits with the Grand Recorder. Commanderies may, however, issue conditional demits to such petitioners, to become final only when the charter for the new Commandery has been granted, of which fact the Grand Recorder shall notify the Commanderies issuing them. And if a Charter be refused, the Grand Recorder shall cancel and return such conditional demits to the several Commanderies which issued them. In the meantime, such petitioners shall not be liable to the parent Commanderies for dues.

Sec. 74. Any signer of a petition for a Dispensation may dissolve his connection with such new Commandery before a Charter has been granted; end, thereupon, his conditional demit shall be cancelled and returned by the Grand Recorder to the Commandery which issued it and his membership revives in his old Commandery.

#### AMENDMENTS

Section 80: The Grand Commandery, upon the concurrence of a majority of its members present at the annual Conclave may revise, amend and alter these Statutes, subject only to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, provided, it shall be necessary that the proposed revisions or amendments be submitted in writing to the

Grand Recorder at least 120 days prior to the annual Conclave. The proposed revisions or amendments shall then be submitted by the Grand Recorder to the Jurisprudence Committee within 15 days for proper form. The Jurisprudence Committee shall then return the proposals to the Grand Recorder within 40 days of receipt. The Grand Recorder shall then submit a copy of the proposed revisions or amendments to each constituent Commandery at least 60 days prior to the opening of the annual Conclave. If the revisions or amendments are adopted at the annual Conclave they shall become a part of these Statutes.

A Grand Commander's recommendation, if it has the effect of amending these Statutes shall be granted the same status as a proposed revision or amendment, and be subject to all the requirements and provisions governing the same.

BY-LAWS

**Sec. 1.** The By-Laws of this Grand Commandery shall be analogous to the Grand Encampment, except as hereinafter provided.

A. The Grand Commandery shall be convened at the time appointed for each Conclave; immediately thereafter the proceedings of the last Conclave shall be read, unless dispensed with; and at the resumption of business at each succeeding sitting the minutes shall, in like manner, be read.

B. Pending the preparation of the report of the Committee on Credentials, or immediately after its presentation, the Grand Commander may read his annual address, and the reports of the several Grand Officers may be made.

C. The Grand Commander shall appoint the following committees for the Conclave:

- a. A Committee on Address of the Grand Commander and Reports of Grand Officers, consisting of three Knights;
- b. A Committee on Necrology; and,
- c. A Committee on Unfinished Business, consisting of three Knights;

to which committees all subjects may be referred that the Grand Commander deems proper, and they shall make report thereon.

D. The Grand Commander may appoint such other committees as he may deem expedient.

E. The Grand Commander shall, immediately after installation, appoint:

- a. A Committee on Templar Jurisprudence, consisting of three Knights;
- b. A Committee on Appeals and Grievances, consisting of three Knights;
- c. A Committee on Finance, consisting of three Knights;
- d. A Committee on Correspondence, consisting of three Knights;
- e. A Triennial Committee, consisting of three Knights;

- f. A Committee on Policy and General Purposes, consisting of three Knights;
- g. A Committee on Credentials, consisting of Three Knights;
- h. A Committee on Chartered Commanderies and Commanderies Under Dispensation, consisting of three Knights (except that five Knights may be appointed if necessary to expedite the work to be done);

which committees shall report at as early a period during the next Annual Conclave as may be practicable. (See Sec. 14A for Standing Committees).

**Sec. 2** (a) Commanderies shall not appear in public without a Dispensation except upon funeral occasions or to attend religious services, or to attend upon invitation the meetings or sponsored activities of other Masonic or Masonic-related bodies.

(b) The determination of what is a proper occasion for a Commandery to appear in public belongs to the Grand Master as to Subordinate Commanderies, and to the Grand Commander as to Constituent Commanderies.

(c) No Commandery or Grand Commandery shall hold a Conclave or perform any Templar work on Sunday, except for the purpose of conducting funerals, attending religious services or conducting practice or tactical or other drills for instruction.

#### INSTRUCTORS

**Sec. 4.** The Grand Commander may appoint an Instructor for each Commandery, who shall qualify himself in the tactics and ritual.

Sec. 3, 5, 6 Deleted

#### DRILL REGULATIONS and ASYLUM TACTICS

Sec. 7. The Drill Regulations and Tactics of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America are hereby adopted to be used exclusively by this Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies for all Asylum Tactics and Ceremonies, and for all outside drills, ceremonies, and exercises, to the end that uniformity may prevail.

#### DUAL MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 8. AS the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America in Section 190 (a) provide for Dual Membership, both as to any Grand Jurisdiction allowing Dual Membership and also as to two



separate Grand Jurisdictions where both allow Dual Membership, BE IT RESOLVED That the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Montana allow Dual Membership as to two Montana Commanderies and also as to a Montana Commandery and a Commandery in another Grand Jurisdiction which allows Dual Membership; PROVIDED, That loss of good standing in either Commandery of Dual Membership shall cause loss of membership in both Commanderies; PROVIDED, However, a Dual Member may demit from either Commandery.

#### RESOLUTIONS

BT IT RESOLVED, That Constituent Commanderies observe "The Ascension" by attending Divine Service in a body at the Church of their choice, or at some suitable place.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Recorder of each Commandery of Montana be required to have in his possession available for the use of the Officers, the following:

1. The Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Montana, with Amendments thereto.

2. A copy of the Constitution and Statutes and General Digest of Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

#### UNIFORMS

The Dress Uniform of a Knight Templar shall consist of the following articles:

Chapeau with plumes (two black, one white)  
Black Dress Coat of Lapel Style with  
lay-down collar  
Black Trousers  
White Shirt  
Black Four-in-hand Tie  
Black Hose  
Black Shoes  
Sword and Scabbard  
Malta Jewel  
Military Service Ribbon

All uniforms bought in the future to be of the new regulation type adopted by the Grand Encampment and the wearing of the present uniform be left optional to those who now have the stand-up collar style, or type;

#### DEFINITIONS

A Commandery consists of at least three Knights Templar, hailing from three separate Commanderies, and acting under a lawful Warrant, or nine or more Knights Templar acting under a lawful Dispensation or Charter.

A Commandery has the exclusive right to receive Petitions from those within its Territorial Jurisdiction possessing the necessary qualifications, to elect petitioners by unanimous vote only, and to confer the Orders upon them.

Before a Commandery can be formed or opened, there are the following prerequisites:

- (a)
  1. At least three Knights Templar hailing from at least three separate Commanderies, or
  2. At least nine Knights Templar residing in the proposed Territorial Jurisdiction.
- (b) A lawful Warrant, which is:
  1. A Dispensation from the Grand Encampment in a Country, State or Region where there is no Grand Commandery, or
  2. A Dispensation from the Grand Commander, or a Dispensation or Charter from the Grand Commandery if the proposed location is in a Country, State or Geographical Region where there is a Grand Commandery.

## STANDING RESOLUTIONS

1967

### DISPLAY OF THE HOLY BIBLE

THE HOLY BIBLE shall be displayed at all Conclaves of the Grand Encampment, the Grand Commanderies and all Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies, on a stand, pedestal, or small Altar in front of the Prelate's station on the floor of the Asylum, to the left (south) of the United States Flag; it shall be placed with the top to the East, opened to the Gospel of St. Mathew, Chapter XXVIII, with a small wooden Passion Cross displayed on the right and square and compasses displayed on the left thereon.

Two crossed swords may also be displayed 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 Alter shall be covered with a black or white cloth Cover; on the front of which a red Passion Cross may be embroidered. (1967-1982, pg 245)

### OFFICIAL EMBLEM

At the Annual Conclave of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Montana held June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003 in Kalispell, Montana this OFFICIAL EMBLEM was adopted.

### COOPERATION

The Right Eminent Grand Commander should make every effort to coordinate with the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and the Most Illustrious Grand Master in the appointment of the following committees: Finance, Jurisprudence, York Rite Coordination, Credentials, Unfinished Business, Membership, Triennial and By-Laws.

2008

The 2008 Grand Commandery of Montana Conclave approved the following:

1. The Military Service Ribbon be made an official part of the uniform of those in this Jurisdiction authorized to wear it.
2. As an alternative to the chapeau, garrison caps are allowed to be used in Constituent Commanderies. The Constituent Commandery will have to decide which will

be used, they cannot be mixed. The uniform head gear for the Grand Commandery will remain the chapeau.

3. Knights Templar of this jurisdiction will, in accordance with Section 9, Title 4 of the US Code, give and hold the hand salute during the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Giving Constituent Commanderies the option to Kneel or not during ritual work, at the discretion of the Eminent Commander.

