

VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT

Visit the Virginia Grand Commandery Official Website at:
<http://users.sitestar.net/~mfulcher/GCVA.htm>
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GRAND COMMANDERY DRILL COMMITTEE

Sir Knights, we strongly believe that Knight Templar drill team competition is one of the best ways to promote camaraderie, enjoy the thrills of competition, and improve Asylum floor work. A full description of all the drill movements is in the Drill Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, which has a list price of \$2.50 on the Grand Encampment web site page of available materials. The following link will take you directly to the complete listing:
<http://www.knightstemplar.org/materials.html>

Everyone can participate in this activity by marching, coaching, or supporting a team. It is the best way to build confidence in the basic skills used not only in Asylum floor work but events such as the annual Religious Freedom Day Parade in Fredericksburg, the Grand Commandery of Virginia Marching Unit for the Easter Sunrise Service at the George

Washington Masonic National Memorial, and for Grand Commandery participation in the Family Day Parade at the Masonic Home of Virginia.

Sir Knights, because this activity has so much to offer we are making changes in Virginia to make it easier to establish a team. Our Grand Commandery is establishing a Virginia Class E Team this chivalric year. It will consist of five Sir Knights: a Captain and four Marchers. The team members must have membership in a Virginia Commandery. They do not need to belong to the same Commandery. The Drill Competition at the next Grand Conclave of Virginia will be held on Saturday morning, May 5, 2007. Further details will be put on the Drill Team Information section of the Virginia Grand Commandery web site as they become available. See:
<http://virginiaknightstemplar.org>

Beyond the Grand Commandery of Virginia, drill competition is held at Grand Encampment Triennials. Drill Teams from

across the country participate in ardent competition. There are Class A, B, C, and D Teams consisting of 31, 21, 15, and 7 Sir Knights respectively. Since 1997, a Drill Team from Bayard Commandery No. 15 has represented Virginia at Triennial Competition. The most recent Triennial in Houston, Texas, was no exception. Team members trained and practiced for two hours nearly every week for several months. Mrs. Eva K. Longworth worked diligently to raise funds to help defray the costs incurred by the team members. Her efforts made it possible to go to Houston and compete. The whole enterprise was both challenging and exciting. There were two Class A teams, four Class B teams, six Class C teams, and 15 Class D teams in competition. The picture below of the Bayard Class D team members was taken just minutes before the personal inspection and drill competition. From the left are Sir Knights Robert L. Price, Jr., Arthur C. Price, Jr., John M. Chambliss, Jr., Frederick S. Koziol, Charles G. Steele, III, Stephen E. Smith, O. Max Leach, and myself. When it

was all over on 12 August 2006 the Bayard Team, commanded by SK John Chambliss, placed sixth. The next Triennial will be held in Roanoke, Virginia, in 2009. This is even more reason to build a working knowledge and the skills necessary for competitive drill now. Get involved. Encourage others. Recruit more valiant and magnanimous Knights.

Remember, everyone can participate. We need more committee members, judges, and score keepers. Our teams need coaches, instructors, and organizers. We remain firmly convinced that drill teams will help build Templary. The Committee thanks the Grand Commandery for its support of competitive drill.

Please contact me for any Drill Team related matters.

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