

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Of the State of Louisiana



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**GENERAL ORDER NO. 2
SERIES 2023-2024**

**Shreveport, LOUISIANA
31 MARCH 2023**

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, the Constituent Commanderies within the jurisdiction of and holding allegiance to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Louisiana and to whom it may concern:

GREETINGS:

Pursuant to Section 48(b) of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Grand Commander of this Grand Commandery has the power and duty "to appoint all Committees and Officers not made elective, and to fill all vacancies, such appointees to serve during his pleasure or until their successors have been elected or appointed and installed.

In conformity with that law, General Order No. 1 Series 2021-2022 appointed various knights to various committees of our Grand Commandery. All too often knights are appointed to committees and the duties of that committee are not set forth or otherwise made known to the members, causing the members of the committee great distress. Accordingly, this General Order is issued in an effort to clarify the expectations and duties of those committees.

Therefore, by the authority vested in me as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana and pursuant to the laws governing the same:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Standing Committees of the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana, as a minimum, shall faithfully execute the following specific duties and timely submit, unless otherwise specified, an annual report to the Grand Commandery for inclusion in the preliminary proceedings of the annual conclave:

1. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall consider all decisions upon questions of Templar Laws and usage reported by the Grand Commander and such other matters as may be referred to it by him or the Grand Commandery, and its conclusions shall be reported to the Grand Commandery or Grand Commander, as the case may be. The Committee, when called upon, shall give opinions on general orders, and on the legislative, judicial and executive functions of the Grand Commandery and the Constituent Commanderies, and on the prerogatives, powers and duties of the officers and members thereof.

2. The Committee on the State of the Order and Advancement shall make a report to the Grand Commander and Grand Commandery on the state of Templary in our Grand Jurisdiction, including any recommendations for improvement of the same. It shall recommend to the Grand Commandery and/or Grand Commander a comprehensive plan of long-range goals as it may deem prudent for our Grand Commandery to strive toward and shall recommend such actions as necessary and/or expedient to advance Templary in our Grand Commandery towards those goals. Such a plan and recommendation shall examine the areas of finance and membership in particular, but in no event shall it be limited to those two areas. Such a plan shall also examine prior year plans and any progress towards achieving the goals set forth therein.

3. The Committee on Necrology shall report at each Annual Conclave the death of each member of the Grand Commandery occurring since the last Triennial Conclave, with a suitable Memorial to the Templar dead.

4. The Committee on Credentials and Registration shall, as directed by the Grand Commander, supervise the registration of knights at the Annual Conclave, validate and issue ballots to those authorized or their allowed proxies, and shall report as soon as practicable after the opening of the Annual Conclave if a quorum is present for the conduct of business and the names of the Members present entitled to participate in the proceedings thereof. The Committee shall submit a final report for inclusion in the printing of the proceedings.

5. The Committee on Finance carefully review the books, accounts and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Recorder, and of such Committees, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery as may have custody of any funds or property of the Grand Commandery in advance of the convening of the Grand Conclave. The Committee shall recommend an annual budget for such appropriations and necessary expenses for the ensuing term of office of the Grand Commander. The Committee shall report its review and proposed budget to the Grand Commandery for approval.

6. The Committee on Appeals and Grievances shall examine all appeals and complaints before the Grand Commandery or any other matter referred to them by the Grand Commander, and report thereon, and recommend such action to the Grand Commandery as, to them, shall seem fit and proper.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Special Committees of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana as a minimum, shall faithfully execute the following specific duties and timely submit, unless otherwise specified, an annual report to the Grand Commandery for inclusion in the preliminary proceedings of the annual conclave.

1. The Membership Committee shall work with and implement those membership development initiatives and activities advanced by the Grand Encampment's Committee on Membership to recruit, retain, restore and relate of our members and provide any reports required to GEKT, as well as an annual report to the Grand Commandery for inclusion in the preliminary proceeding of the Annual Conclave. It shall ensure the establishment of a membership committee in every constituent commandery in the state, which function it will be to make contact with every newly raised Master Mason in the state of Louisiana and every non-York Rite Mason to encourage membership in the York Rite Bodies and ultimately become a Knights Templar. The members of the committee shall visit commanderies in their respective areas at least once during the year.

2. The Education Foundation Committee shall work with and under The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America Knights Templar Educational Foundation Regulations. It shall invest its funds through the Grand Encampment Educational Foundation, and shall provide an accounting of same to the Grand Commander or his designee whenever directed. It shall receive applications for grants and, in its discretion and subject to approval of the Grand Commander, shall pay out such awards as it may deem advisable. As provided by the Regulations the Grand Recorder shall be Secretary-Treasurer and shall be a non-voting member of the Committee.

3. The Committee on Knights Templar Eye Foundation shall set a Grand Commandery goal for the Grand Encampment Annual Voluntary Campaign then make use of fundraising projects within constituent Commanderies and this Grand Commandery to achieve that goal. The Committee shall also prepare such awards as may be suitable to recognize constituent Commanderies for exemplary work in this area such as recognizing each Commandery with a campaign productivity that equals or exceeds an average of \$10.00 per member, First, Second and Third Place Constituent Commanderies based upon per capita results, and First, Second and Third Place Constituent Commanderies based upon "dollar returns," i.e. those turning in the three largest amounts of campaign funds, irrespective of per capita averages.
4. The Committee on Public Relations shall formulate and devise a plan to publicize Templary and our Grand Commandery. As part of those duties, it shall solicit appropriate articles and pictures and cause the same to be published in the Louisiana supplement of the Knight Templar Magazine. Additionally, it is the particular duty of this committee to discover when any Festival will be held anywhere in Louisiana and timely provide the Grand Recorder with the details so he may put on the Web Calendar and send notice to all Commanderies. Likewise discover if any details change for a Festival and timely communicate this to the Grand Recorder.
5. The Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage shall implement procedures for selection of attendees on the Holy Land Pilgrimage, shall adopt guidelines for fund-raising for the program, shall lead fundraising for the program, and shall publicize the program. The Committee shall coordinate with the Finance Committee for establishing investment strategies and goals for the Holy Land Endowment Fund.
6. The Committee on Perpetual Membership shall establish a category of membership known as perpetual membership and shall recommend policies and procedures to the Grand Commander for the management of funds placed in its care by the Grand Commandery.
7. The Committee on DeMolay and Youth shall make recommendations to the Grand Commandery and Grand Commander on the best policies and procedures to advance Templar support of all masonic youth organizations, but especially the DeMolay.
8. The Committee on Annual Conclave Arrangements shall make suitable arrangements for the annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery and secure suitable hotel accommodations for the Officers and Members thereof.
9. The American Masonic Fraternal Committee shall foster and supervise activities of a patriotic and citizenship nature, whether in peacetime or in wartime, and shall present its recommendations for civic responsibility by Knights Templar individually and collectively, compatible with the patriotic principles of Templary. An allowance of \$250 shall be made annually for the Committee to disburse as a reimbursement to Commanderies for expenses incurred in the above-noted activities and/or to purchase suitable awards to be presented at the Grand Commandery Annual Conclave each year by said committee for exemplary service in these activities.
10. The Education Committee shall be in charge of researching and publicizing appropriate Knight Templary educational programs, both current, historic, and esoteric for the edification of all Sir Knights to be presented during regular meetings of the constituent commanderies of the Grand Commandery. The committee shall coordinate with the Eminent Commander and Recorder of each constituent Commandery.
11. The Correspondence Committee shall provide relevant correspondence from foreign Jurisdictions, as they pertain to the Grand Commandery on Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, to the Grand Recorder for distribution to the constituent Commanderies. Advise and recommend to the Grand Commander of any nominations needed for Representatives of other Grand Commanderies near the Grand Commandery of Louisiana. Communicate directly with each Representative approved by

another Grand Commandery to be their Representative to the Grand Commandery of Louisiana to encourage regular communication with their counterpart and the Grand Commandery they represent. Coordinate with the Representatives of other Grand Commanderies near the Grand Commandery of Louisiana to assist them in communicating with the other Grand Commanderies and collect their reports of their communications for inclusion with the Committees final report which shall be timely submitted for inclusion in the printing of the preliminary proceedings.

12. The Hospitality and Banquet Committee shall be in charge of arranging for, overseeing, supplying and staffing the hospitality room at the Annual Grand Conclave. It shall also oversee arrangements for the Grand Banquet during the Grand Conclave, the Ladies Luncheon, and any special activities for the ladies during the Grand Conclave.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Division Commanders are the personal representative of the Grand Commander within their respective Divisions and shall be afforded and treated with such regard, respect and attention as a DDGM of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F&AM. They shall offer support to and communications with the constituent Commanderies within their respective Divisions, as will tend to achieve the goals of Templary; contact regularly, the sitting principal officers (Eminent Commander, Generalissimo & Captain General); visit Commanderies at least twice a year; make regular monthly reports to the Grand Commander; share and cross-feed actionable ideas to stimulate interest and growth; and conduct necessary correspondence with the various Constituent Commanderies.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Committees and all Division Commanders shall perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the Grand Commander and in any event shall work at the direction and discretion of the Grand Commander, who may at any time direct that the duties set forth herein may change.

PROCLAMATION

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this General Order be read in open Commandery at the first stated Conclave held after its receipt and the officers and members shall be governed accordingly.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana at Shreveport in The Great State of Louisiana on the 31st day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three, AO 905.



DEU DUCE FERRO
COMITANTE

By Order Of:

John C. Sharlow
Grand Commander

Attest:

Joe Dan Gibbs
Grand Recorder