

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Of the State of Louisiana

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GENERAL ORDER NO. 4
SERIES 2023-2024

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
29 MAY 2023

GENERAL ORDER NO. 4

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF AND HOLDING ALLEGIANCE TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF LOUISIANA:

Greetings:

Annual Inspection of Constituent Commanderies

Whereas the impressive ritual work exemplified in the orders is designed to create a lasting impression upon the mind and heart of each new Sir Knight,

And whereas the evaluation of the ritualistic skill of each constituent Commandery helps to ensure that the beauty and lasting symbolism of Templary is preserved and transmitted to future generations. That a properly conferred degree instills pride in all areas of Freemasonry and no less can be expected of the Commandery orders.

And whereas the provisions of Section Six of the Grand Constitution, Laws, & Regulations of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana as Adopted in 2019 and amended through 2022 states that the Constituent Commanderies of the Jurisdiction shall stand an annual inspection prior to the 30th day of November in each calendar year;

And whereas the purpose of Inspections is to recognize the excellent work that our brothers are accomplishing. To identify and recognize their success and not identify their failures or lack of abilities. To encourage more inclusiveness of our junior Sir Knights and to inspire individual Commanderies to participate in conferral of the orders where possible. That rewarding excellent work objectively is necessary in a volunteer organization and knowing what is required should produce better floor work, rituals, and increase brotherhood and fraternal competition amongst the brethren,

And whereas the process of inspections of the Constituent Commanderies would benefit from further clarification and guidance as to their procedures and expectations to better inform Constituent Commanderies and help better ensure their continued success,

I hereby order:

The Inspector General (or his Deputy in his stead) shall inspect each Commandery within his Jurisdiction with the following expectations:

1. The Inspector General cannot inspect his own Commandery.
2. Each Inspection will start promptly on the date(s) and time(s) mutually agreed upon with the Inspector General or his Deputy.
3. The Inspector General (or his Deputy) will send a "Notice of Inspection" courtesy letter or email to the Eminent Commander and/or Recorder prior to the inspection following their invitation.
 - a. The notice will confirm the date, time, and location of the upcoming inspection and include a copy of the Commandery Annual Inspection Form.
4. The Commandery Annual Inspection Form shall include the following information:
 - a. Examination of the minutes and records.
 - i. This is designed only to confirm their existence and order, not necessarily the details of their contents.
 - b. A brief report on membership efforts.
 - c. Point values assigned to the proficiency of Opening and Reception and the Order of the Temple.
 - d. Examination of military proficiency, sword drill and ritual and the bearing of the Commandery.
 - e. Examination of uniforms to see that they conform to the regulations of the Grand Commandery.
 - f. A record of the number present at each inspection and their respective office or station.
5. Combined inspections:
 - a. Combined inspections, while not ideal, are understandably necessary.
 - b. When multiple Commandery's put on the Order of the Temple as a Combined inspection, the Inspecting Officer must also inspect the other Commandery's minutes and records, etc.
 - c. To receive credit for Combined Inspections, at least three elected (3) officers of each Commandery involved (Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, or Recorder) must attend the Inspection.
 - d. To receive credit, members of each Commandery involved must participate in the Opening, Reception, and the Order of the Temple to receive credit for the Inspection.
6. Preceding or following the inspection, instruction may be provided by the Inspector General or his Deputy at his discretion.
7. The records to be inspected shall be from the date of the last inspection up to and including the date of current inspection.
8. This order will remain in effect until it's expiration.
9. This Order shall be read in all Constituent Commanderies at the first Stated Conclave following its receipt and be made a part of the minutes.

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 29th day of May, 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