

Grand Constitution, Laws, &  
Regulations  
Of  
The Grand Commandery of  
Knights Templar of the State of  
Louisiana

To all Knights Templar within the Grand Jurisdiction of and holding  
allegiance to The Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana,  
Subordinate to:

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of The United States of  
America, and  
The Grand Lodge of Louisiana F&AM



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## Preamble

We, The Knights Templar of The Grand Jurisdiction of The Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana, subordinate to, and owing allegiance to, The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and The Grand Lodge of Louisiana F&AM, in order to secure unity and better government, and to increase the prosperity and influence of Templary, which is declared to comprise the Orders of Christian Knighthood known as the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, Order of Knight of Malta, and the Order of the Temple or Knight Templar, do ordain and establish this Grand Constitution.

## Our Mission Statement

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana is an organization of Christian Masons dedicated to improving our communities through Fraternity, Charity, Ritual, Education, and the rich heritage of Templary.

## Our Motto

“Duce Deo Ferro Commitante”

Translated as: God as My Leader and My Sword as My Companion, or God being the leader attended by the sword

# Article One: Organization

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## Section One: Name

- a. The name of this organization is The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana. It is a body of Knights Templar Masonry in which is inalienably vested the authority of government and supervision of Templar Masonry within the State of Louisiana, limited only by its Constitutional Obligations, and Allegiance to the Laws and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and The Grand Lodge of Louisiana F&AM.

## Section Two: Officers

The Officers of this Grand Commandery are composed as follows:

1. Right Eminent Grand Commander
2. Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
3. Eminent Grand Generalissimo
4. Eminent Grand Captain General
5. Eminent Grand Senior Warden
6. Eminent Grand Junior Warden
7. Eminent Grand Treasurer
8. Eminent Grand Recorder
9. Eminent Grand Prelate
10. Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
11. Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
12. Eminent Grand Warder
13. Eminent Grand Sentinel
14. Administrative officers as defined in Section Four

## Section Three: How Chosen

- a. The first eight officers listed above shall be elected by ballot at the annual Grand Conclave of this Grand Commandery. The remaining officers are appointed by the incoming Grand Commander upon his election, or as provided for hereinafter.

## Section Four: Administrative officers

- a. Administrative officers, consistent with Grand Encampment Law, which may, at his discretion, be appointed by the Grand Commander, are, but are not limited to, as follows:
  1. Grand Organist
  2. Grand Inspector General
  3. Grand Herald
  4. Division Commander

## Section Five: Duties of Grand Officers

The duties of the Grand officers of this Grand Commandery shall be as such as pertain to their respective stations, conforming as closely as is possible to those of the corresponding officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. The Grand Commander, at his discretion, may assign additional duties to his subordinate officers to assist in the smooth operation of his administration should the need arise. In addition to these general duties, certain station specific duties are hereinafter defined for specific officers.

### The Grand Commander

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

- a. To maintain a watchful supervision over all Constituent Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction, and to see that the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States along with the Grand Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Regulations, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana are duly and properly observed.
- b. To appoint all Committees and all officers not made elective, and to fill all vacancies of said officers if there is no right of succession, such appointees
  - a. to serve during his administration or until their successors have been elected or appointed and installed.
- c. He may issue dispensations to form new Commanderies within this Grand Jurisdiction.

- d. During any recess of the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana, to arrest any Charter or Dispensation of a Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction, or to place any Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction under probation under such conditions as he shall determine, until the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana. The Grand Commander shall report his action in full to the next annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana for its final actionable judgment.
- e. To visit and preside in any Constituent Commandery within his Grand Jurisdiction, and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the order may require, always adhering to the Constitution, Statutes, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and the Grand Constitution of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.
- f. To Grant Dispensations to Constituent Commanderies within this Grand Jurisdiction as required or needed.
- g. To appoint Grand Representatives to represent The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana within sister Jurisdictions. Said Grand Representatives serve at the pleasure of the Grand Commander, and may be removed or replaced at the sole discretion of the Grand Commander.
- h. To conduct official visitations for the purpose of inspection or evaluation of each Constituent Commandery within this Grand Jurisdiction, and to report said visitations to the Grand Commandery of Knights of the State of Louisiana at the next annual Conclave.
- i. In the event of the death of, resignation of, or removal of any elected Grand Line officer from Grand Junior Warden thru the Deputy Grand Commander inclusive, the Grand Commander has the power to advance each Grand Line officer one station and either appoint a new Grand Junior Warden, or call for the election and regular installation of the same by special Conclave.
- j. To call for an audit of all investments, monetary resources, and properties of this Grand Commandery or any of its Constituted Commanderies at any time.

### The Deputy Grand Commander

- a. To assist the Grand Commander in the Lawful execution of his duties. The Deputy Grand Commander of this Grand Commandery, in the event of the absence of the Grand Commander, or his inability to perform the duties of his office shall act as Grand Commander. In the event of the death,

resignation of, or permanent removal of the Sitting Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander shall advance to the office of Grand Commander and be regularly installed. In the event that this should happen, all other elected officers from Grand Junior Warden thru Grand Generalissimo inclusive shall succeed to the next station in line and a new Grand Junior Warden shall be elected or appointed and be regularly installed.

### The Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General

- a. In case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, The Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General shall assume the duties of their respective superiors. At all other times, they shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Grand Commander.

### The Grand Senior and Junior Wardens

- a. In case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, The Grand Senior and Junior Wardens shall assume the duties of their respective superiors. At all other times, they shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Grand Commander.

### The Grand Treasurer

- a. The Grand Treasurer shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution, Statutes, Laws, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana may require, or the Grand Commander may require that the Grand Treasurer be “bonded” in order to protect the Grand Commandery and the Grand Commander.

### The Grand Recorder

- a. It is the duty of the Grand Recorder to perform the following:
  1. To communicate annually to the Grand Master, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knight Templar of the United States of America, and to the Grand Recorder of each of the other Grand Commanderies, the roll of Grand Officers of this Grand Commandery, and such other matters as may give information on the condition of the order in our Grand Jurisdiction, or may conduce to the general good of the order.



2. To forward to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, on or before the first day of July of each year, the Annual Returns and Dues of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana on the prescribed forms.
3. To forward to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America within Thirty (30) days of the Annual Conclave, the roll of Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, and committee chairmen on the prescribed forms.
4. To be the trustee and guardian of the Master Ritual.
5. The Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana, or the Grand Commander may require that the Grand Recorder be “bonded” in order to protect the Grand Commandery, and the Grand Commander.

## Article Two: Committees

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### Section One: Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of This Grand Commandery, to be appointed by the Grand Commander are as follows:

- a. The Committee on Jurisprudence
  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 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.
- b. The Committee on Appeals and Grievances
  1. 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.

c. The Committee on Finance

1. The Committee on Finance shall receive the Audit Committee report sufficiently in advance of the convening of the Grand Conclave so that copies of such audit may be furnished the members of such Committee, the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder prior to the convening of such Conclave. It shall recommend such appropriations as may be necessary for the current expenses of the ensuing term of office of the Grand Commander.

d. The Committee on the State of the Order and Advancement

1. 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.

e. The Committee on Credentials and Registration

1. The Committee on Credentials shall, as directed by the Grand Commander, supervise the registration of knights at the Annual Conclave and shall report as soon as practicable after the opening of the Annual Conclave the names of the Member present entitled to participate in the proceedings thereof.

f. The Committee on Necrology

1. 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.

g. The American Masonic Fraternal Committee

1. The Grand Treasurer, upon recommendation of the American Fraternal Committee and concurrence of the Grand Commander, is authorized to disburse up to FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) as a reimbursement to Louisiana Commanderies for up to one-half of expenses incurred in activities of a patriotic and citizenship nature, whether in peacetime or in wartime.

2. Such Commanderies seeking reimbursement must submit the attached

completed form, also available at [www.louisianaknightstemplar.org](http://www.louisianaknightstemplar.org), along with copies of canceled checks or receipts for purchases made or other such documentation, to the Chairman of the American Masonic Fraternal Committee.

3. Each Commandery shall be limited to one request for reimbursement per Templar year.

4. The total amount of funds expended by the American Masonic Committee shall not exceed \$250, as recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery at its most recent Grand Conclave.

h. The Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee

1. A permanent Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment is hereby established as a separate, segregated account within the Grand Commandery of Louisiana for the purpose of creating an investment pool of funds whose earnings shall be used solely for the benefit of the Louisiana Holy Land Pilgrimage program.

2. In the event that the Holy Land Pilgrimage program be discontinued by the Grand Encampment, then the endowment shall be transferred as an endowment to the Education Fund of the Grand Commandery of Louisiana.

3. An award of the Grand Commandery of Louisiana is hereby created to be called the Knight of the Holy Land. It shall be awarded to any Knight or Commandery contributing \$1,000 to the said Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund. The jewel of the award shall be a Maltese cross and a Jerusalem cross hanging from a suitable ribbon.

4. If the representative of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana to represent the State in the Holy Land Pilgrimage is a Mason in good standing in his blue lodge, chapter, council, and commandery, and is a Sir Knight of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana that he, following his completion of his pilgrimage, be awarded a commemorative medal acknowledging the same. This commemorative medal shall be called the "Holy Land Service Medal", and may be worn on all uniforms of the Knights Templar and York Rite bodies for display.

Section Two: Composition of Standing & Special Committees

The composition of all standing & special committees of this Grand Commandery shall be constituted by Appointment of the Grand Commander.

# Article Three:

## Grand Representatives

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### Section One: Authorization

- a. The mutual exchange of representatives between this Grand Commandery and sister Grand Commanderies owing allegiance to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America with which we are in fraternal relations is authorized.

### Section Two: Selection and Replacement

- a. Grand Representatives are chosen by and serve at the pleasure of the Grand Commander. The Grand Commander may replace any Grand Representative who has been absent for three (3) consecutive Grand Conclaves without being excused by any sitting Grand Commander. The Grand Recorder shall report to the Grand Commander when any Grand Representative has accumulated three (3) consecutive unexcused absences.

## Article Four: Protocol & Titles

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### Section One: Protocol is Necessary

- a. To treat each Sir Knight and visitor with the proper respect
- b. To maintain uniformity and order
- c. To maintain our beautiful heritage
- d. To maintain the dignity of office

### Section Two: Precedence of Rank

- a. The Grand Commander
- b. The Deputy Grand Commander
- c. The Grand Generalissimo
- d. The Grand Captain General
- e. The Past Grand Commanders according to seniority of service
- f. The Grand Senior Warden
- g. The Grand Junior Warden
- h. The Grand Prelate
- i. The Grand Treasurer

- j. The Grand Recorder
- k. The Grand Standard Bearer
- l. The Grand Sword Bearer
- m. The Grand Warder
- n. The Grand Sentinel
- o. The Past Department Commanders
- p. The Administrative Officers

### Section Three: Titles

- a. The Honorary Title of the Grand Commander is “Right Eminent”, while the official title is “Grand Commander”.
- b. The Honorary Title of the Deputy Grand Commander is “Very Eminent”, while the official Title is “Deputy Grand Commander”.
- c. The Honorary Title of the Grand Generalissimo is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Generalissimo”.
- d. The Honorary Title of the Grand Captain General is “Eminent”, while the official title is “Grand Captain General”.
- e. The Honorary Title of the Grand Senior Warden is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Senior Warden”
- f. The Honorary Title of the Grand Junior Warden is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Junior Warden”.
- g. The Honorary Title of the Grand Treasurer is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Treasurer”.
- h. The Honorary Title of the Grand Recorder is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Recorder”.
- i. The Honorary Title of the Grand Prelate is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Prelate”.
- j. The Honorary Title of the Grand Standard Bearer is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Standard Bearer”.
- k. The Honorary Title of the Grand Sword Bearer is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Sword Bearer”.
- l. The Honorary Title of the Grand Warder is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Warder”.
- m. The Honorary Title of the Grand Sentinel is “Eminent”, while the official Title is “Grand Sentinel”.
- n. There are no Honorary Titles for Administrative officers, they are referred

to as “Sir Knight”. Example, Sir Knight John Smith Grand Inspector General.

- o. The Title of “Sir Knight” applies to all Knights Templar within this Grand Jurisdiction.
- p. All sitting and Past Grand Commanders, and Grand Encampment officers, of this Grand Commandery shall carry the Honorary Title of Right Eminent.

## Article Five: Conclaves

### Section One: Display of the Holy Bible

1. The Holy Bible Shall be displayed at all Grand Conclaves of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana and all Conclaves of each Constituent Commandery within this Grand Jurisdiction.
2. The Holy Bible should be placed on a stand, pedestal, or Altar in front of the station of the Prelate. 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 the Square and Compasses on the left thereon. Two crossed swords may also be displayed thereon.

### Section Two: Display of the National Flag of the United States of America

1. The National flag of the United States of America, shall be displayed, and the appropriate respect payed to our flag at all Grand Conclaves of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, and at all Constituent Commandery Conclaves, in the east to the right of the dais officers, in a place of Honor, of their respective Asylums, within this Grand Jurisdiction.

### Section Three: Time and Place

- a. The Grand Conclaves of this Grand Commandery shall be:
  1. Stated: which shall be held at such time and place as the Grand Commandery, and the Grand Commander shall determine.
  2. Special Grand Conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander, or in his absence, death, or disability, the next elected Grand Line Officer in

succession.

#### Section Four: Quorum

- a. A quorum of this Grand Commandery shall consist of at least nine (9) members present entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to convene the same, provided three (3) or more Constituent Commanderies are represented.

#### Section Five: Special Business

- a. No business shall be conducted at any Special Grand Conclave except that for which it was called.

#### Section Six: Notification

- a. When a special Grand Conclave is to be convened, an advance notice of thirty (30) days will be sent out to all Constituent Commanderies within this Grand Jurisdiction by the Grand Recorder.

#### Section Seven: Eligibility to Vote

- a. The members of this Grand Commandery are and shall be:
  1. The Eminent Commanders, Generalissimo, & Captain General of each Constituent Commandery of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.
  2. Each past Eminent Commander of a Constituent Commandery of the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana.
  3. All past Eminent Commanders from other Grand Jurisdictions holding allegiance to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, who have become members of Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, and have been elected to membership by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.
  4. In all of the above listed cases, such persons shall only be members, while they remain members currently affiliated of a Constituent Commandery of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana. Residence inside or outside this Grand Jurisdiction has no effect on membership.
  5. In addition, membership includes all Knights Templar who have been

elected as honorary members. To become or remain an honorary member, any Sir Knight must not be a member of a Constituent Commandery of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, but is a member of a Commandery or Priory in amity with the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. Honorary members may not vote, or hold office in the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.

- b. Only an Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, or Captain General of a Constituent Commandery of the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana may be represented by a proxy. The proxy must be a member of the same Constituent Commandery as the officer he represents and must not otherwise be entitled to be a member of this Grand Commandery. In no case can any member or proxy of this Grand Commandery be entitled to more than one vote therein.

## Article Six: Membership

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### Section One: Eligibility for Membership

- a. Anyone applying for membership must meet the following criteria:
  - 1. Must be an advocate of, and show preference for the Christian Trinitarian Religion.
  - 2. Must be a Master Mason in good standing in a "Symbolic or Craft" Lodge (Blue Lodge) chartered and recognized by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana F&AM.
  - 3. Must have received the Degrees of The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons from Mark Master through Royal Arch Mason inclusive, and be a companion in good standing with a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons recognized by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Louisiana.
  - 4. Must have received the Degrees of The Cryptic Council of Royal and Select Masters from Royal Master through Select Master inclusive, and be a companion in good standing with a Council of Royal and Select Masters recognized by the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Louisiana.
  - 5. Petitions for the Orders of Christian Knighthood or membership to any Constituent Commandery within this Grand Jurisdiction, may be received



and balloted upon at any regular stated, or special Conclave, at which such petitions are received by the Constituent Commandery, without dispensation from the Grand Commander.

6. Two or more petitions, whether for the Orders of Christian Knighthood, or for membership to a Constituent Commandery, regularly received, may be balloted upon at the same time. If such ballot is unanimously favorable, each petitioner shall be declared elected. In the appearance of a negative vote in such a group ballot, each petitioner must be balloted upon separately. Any Eminent Commander may order one additional re-ballot before the result of a ballot upon any separate petitioner has been announced, and before any member of the Constituent Commandery has left the Asylum.

#### Section Two: Plural Membership

- a. Plural membership may be held in two or more Constituent Commanderies of this Grand Jurisdiction, or in a Constituent Commandery in another Grand Jurisdiction, provided that the Constitution and or By-Laws of the other Grand Jurisdiction also permit such memberships. A petition for plural membership must be accompanied by a certificate or letter of good standing from the petitioner's home Commandery. The Sir Knight desiring the certificate or letter of good standing must request the same from his home Commandery in writing.

#### Section Three: Maintenance of Memberships

- a. All Knights Templar within the Grand Jurisdiction of and holding allegiance to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, must remain in good standing at all times with their respective Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, and Cryptic Councils. If any Sir Knight is suspended or expelled from his respective Symbolic Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter, or Cryptic Council, he is automatically suspended or expelled from Templary until said suspension or expulsion is lifted.

#### Section Four: Rights, Duties, and Limitations

- a. A plural member shall be entitled to all of the rights and privileges of full membership in all Constituent Commanderies of which he is a member. However, he may not serve as a Dais Officer in more than one (1) Commandery at a time. Loss of membership by action of any Constituent Commandery to which a Sir Knight belongs, shall result in loss of

membership in all Constituent Commanderies. A plural member may however, demit from any Constituent Commandery without loss of membership in any other Constituent Commandery to which he belongs.

#### Section Five: Perpetual Membership Law

- a. Perpetual Memberships are authorized in all Constituent Commanderies of this Grand Jurisdiction, subject to the following terms and conditions:
  1. Any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a particular Commandery of Knights Templar of this Grand Jurisdiction may become a perpetual member pursuant to the provisions of this section.
  2. The member desiring a perpetual membership shall apply to the recorder of his Commandery for such membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Commandery and shall tender therewith a minimum sum of (20) times the annual dues for his Commandery in effect at the time of the application, but in no event less than (20) times the minimum dues. The recorder shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same together with the full fee due, to the Grand Recorder, Grand Commandery Knights Templar. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Recorder certified he received the application.
  3. The perpetual membership fee may optionally be paid in five (5) equal annual installments. Use the multiplier of 4.52 X your Commandery dues at the time of application to determine your installment payment.

Example: On January 1, 1995 your Commandery dues are \$25.00.  
Multiply \$25.00 X 4.52 to determine that your annual fee will be \$113.00 for five (5) successive years.

When purchased under the five (5) year option, a membership becomes perpetual when the initial installment is paid and continues as such, provided each of the four remaining installments is paid by the last day of December in successive years. After enrolling under this option, a member may not revert to the single payment method, but may remit any or all unpaid installments provided no installment is past due.

Having enrolled under the installment option, a member may withdraw from

the Perpetual Membership program at any time. In so doing, he reverts to the membership status held before joining the program and shall remit dues to his Commandery for the current year and for successive years unless otherwise exempted.

Failure to pay any installment due by December 31 in the year due constitutes voluntary withdrawal from the program, and regular dues in his Commandery for the same year are payable.

After the initial payment, a member may revert formally to regular membership as outlined in this law, and subsequently re-enroll in the program in the same status held when he withdrew. In such circumstance, he shall resume paying the original installments until the fee has been paid in full.

4. The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Commandery recorder. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the perpetual membership fee is predicated. If the Grand Recorder determines that the minimum fee, tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, he shall have the power to correct the application and the Commandery recorder's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the applying recorder. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Recorder shall return the application and fee to the constituent Commandery recorder for correction and resubmittal. A copy of the completed and accepted perpetual membership application shall be furnished to his Commandery by the Grand Recorder. A certificate of perpetual membership shall be furnished to the applicant by the Grand Recorder. The provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Recorder to use computerized records.
5. After the perpetual membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Recorder to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for perpetual membership as of the date of application.
6. After the applicant's perpetual membership has been accepted by the Grand Recorder, the perpetual membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar as required by Grand Commandery Law. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted

perpetual membership accounts. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Commandery basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Commandery dues and per capita and any assessments in effect. The funds shall be accounted for separately, by the Grand Treasurer, from all other Grand Commandery funds. The funds shall be audited annually.

7. To protect your Commandery from future Grand Commandery per capita tax increases on Perpetual Members, the per capita tax will be replaced with a proportionate ratio payment. The proportionate ratio is fixed at the time an applicant becomes a Perpetual Member.

Example: If your Commandery dues are \$25.00, multiplying by 20 establishes a Perpetual Membership fee of \$500.00. At a 5% return your Commandery receives \$25.00 in interest, the same amount it would have received in dues. Using the example of

\$25.00 dues, and with the current per capita of \$9.80, this means that 9.80 parts of the interest earned,  $(9.80/25)$ , is proportionately distributed to Grand Commandery and the Commandery proportionately keep 15.20 parts of the \$25.00 earned interest,  $(15.20/25)$ . As this ratio is frozen at the time an applicant becomes a Perpetual Member, Grand Commandery per capita increase will not affect it. The Commandery continues to keep  $15.20/25$  of the money earned and returns  $9.80/25$  to the Grand Commandery in lieu of per capita tax. If the interest return is more than 5%, your Commandery and Grand Commandery would benefit in the same proportionate ratio as shown above. For example: Eight percent (8%) interest on the original \$500.00 Perpetual Membership fee would return \$40.00 and using the same ratio means that  $9.80/25$  of the \$40.00 (\$15.60) must be returned to Grand Commandery in lieu of the per capita tax, and your Commandery retains  $15.20/25$  (\$24.40) in lieu of the annual dues. This ratio  $(9.80/25 - 15.20/25)$  remains the same in perpetuity.

8. A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the Commandery of which he is a perpetual member. The Commandery recorder who shall denote that his dues have been paid in perpetuity shall issue a dues card.
9. The perpetual membership fee, less any amount required to supplement earned interest to pay the constituent Commandery the first year's dues and per capita, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. Principal

used to pay the first year's dues and per capita shall be recovered from excess earned interest. Until the original purchase price has been reinstated, annual earned interest equal in amount to the dues and per capita tax of the Commandery established as of the date of the purchase, shall be paid annually to the constituent Commandery. After the principal so used shall be recouped, the total amount of interest derived from the funds collectively invested, less administrative charges, shall be paid annually to each constituent Commandery on a pro-rated basis for each perpetual member prior to January 15 of the ensuing year. Administrative charges cover cost of operation of the program, including certificates, forms, accounting, auditing, and advisor fees.

10. When purchased under the five (5) year option, the same provisions as stated in Paragraph 9, shall apply with these exceptions. The perpetual membership fee, less any amount required to supplement earned interest to pay the constituent Commandery dues and per capita for each of the five (5) installment years, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. Further, when purchased under the five (5) year option, monetary amounts equating to the particular Commandery dues and per capita tax, established at time of purchase, only, shall be paid to the particular Commandery during the installment period. After the entire Perpetual Membership fee is paid in full, provisions of Paragraph 9 shall apply. In the event a Perpetual Member dies, demits, is suspended or expelled or withdraws from the program prior to making the fifth (5th) for final installment, only the earned interest, less administrative fees, shall be paid to the Particular Commandery if earned interest is less than the member's dues and per capita established at the time of purchase.
11. The Grand Recorder, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, shall, at the time of the annual interest distribution, submit a statement to the constituent Commandery for the amount of the proportionate ratio payment due to the Grand Commandery for each Perpetual Member computed as set forth in Paragraph 7 above. The constituent Commandery shall, during the member's lifetime and thereafter, pay to the Grand Commandery the amount of the proportionate ratio payment specified in the Grand Recorder's per capita statement.
12. The obtaining of perpetual membership on one Commandery by a plural member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Commanderies to which he belongs.

13. A Perpetual Member may transfer his Perpetual Membership to another Chapter, Council, or Commandery of which he is a plural member. If the Chapter, Council, or Commandery to which the Perpetual Membership is transferred has lower dues, including per capita tax, than the Chapter, Council, or Commandery from which the Perpetual Membership is transferred, the entire amount paid for the Perpetual Membership shall, nevertheless, be transferred. If the Chapter, Council, or Commandery to which the Perpetual Membership is transferred has higher dues, including per capita tax, than did the originating Chapter, Council, or Commandery at the time of purchase of the Perpetual membership, the member shall remit an amount equivalent to the difference between the original cost of the existing Perpetual Membership and the cost of a Perpetual Membership in the Chapter, Council or Commandery to which it is transferred, computed as of the date of the transfer. If the member wishes to retain his plural membership in the Chapter, Council, or Commandery from which he transfers his Perpetual Membership, he shall pay that Chapter, Council, or Commanderies regular dues and per capita tax for the year in which the transfer is made and any subsequent years so long as he retains his plural membership.
14. A perpetual Member may affiliate under the appropriate section/sections of Grand Commandery Law governing each of the constituent Commanderies. If the affiliation is within this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire perpetual membership fee he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Commandery to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire perpetual membership fee shall remain with the Commandery of which he was a perpetual member.
15. Any certificate of good standing issued to a perpetual member shall be endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member and the amount of the perpetual membership fee shall be transferred to the particular Commandery in Louisiana with which he affiliates.
16. If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled or demits and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state, his perpetual membership shall be deemed to also be restored.
17. If a Commandery consolidates, surrenders its charter or has its charter arrested, the funds credited to that Commandery in the perpetual membership fund shall follow the members according to the relevant sections of the Grand Commandery Law dealing with consolidations,

surrendering and arrest of charters.

18. A participant, at a future time, may add any amount to his perpetual membership fee through his local Commandery recorder.
19. Applications for perpetual membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, and the Grand Recorder shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.
20. Where perpetual members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Eminent Commander shall direct the Commandery recorder to report the names of such missing brethren to the Grand Commandery on the monthly membership report as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased perpetual membership, but this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the Commandery and Grand Commandery for that perpetual member as set forth in Paragraphs 8 and 9.
21. There shall be no cost to the Constituent Commandery for the administration of this program by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.

#### Section Six: 25- and 50-Year Membership Jewels

- a. The Grand Commandery of Louisiana does hereby create a jewel to be awarded to 25- and 50-year members substantially similar to the one promulgated in General Order 2018-09. The Grand Commandery shall make the 50-year jewel available to any 50-year member of this Grand Commandery no matter how many of those years of service have been earned in this Grand Commandery, free of charge, provided that the Grand Commander or, in his discretion, another elected officer of the Grand Commandery, shall personally present the jewel to the award recipient. The Grand Commandery, through the office of the Grand Recorder, shall make the 25-year jewel available to any 25-year member of this Grand Commandery no matter how many of those years of service have been earned in this Grand Commandery for a fee of no less than \$25 per jewel. Individual Commandery Recorders shall make a request for presentation of the 50-year jewel, or purchase of the 25-year jewel, through the office of the Grand Recorder.

# Article Seven:

## Constituent Commandery Guidelines & Requirements

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### Section One: Election of Officers

- a. Each Constituent Commandery within this Grand Jurisdiction will hold annual elections for the offices of Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, & Recorder. Elections are typically held not before the first day of November with installations performed no later than the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December during each calendar year. All other officers are to be appointed by the Eminent Commander.

### Section Two: Installation of Officers

- a. Each Constituent Commandery may choose as installing officer, any Sir Knight authorized to install officers of a Commandery as stated in the Constitution, Statutes, & Rules, of The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. Written notice of such selection must be provided to the Grand Commander before October 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. In the event a Constituent Commandery fails to make a selection as herein authorized, the Grand Commander shall select an installing officer on or before October 15<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year.

### Section Three: Quorum

- a. A quorum for conducting the business of a Commandery consists of five Sir Knights entitled to vote therein with at least one being the Commander, Captain General, or Generalissimo of that Commandery or otherwise authorized to open the same. Nine Sir Knights constitute a Commandery and are required to establish or open a Commandery or confer the Orders



of Knighthood.

#### Section Four: Order

- a. On or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, of each calendar year the Grand Commander shall designate the installing officer for each Constituent Commandery by written order, which will then be circulated to each Constituent Commandery.

#### Section Five: Report of Installing Officer

- a. The installing officers shall submit a written report on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January of the following calendar year to the Grand Commander, and the Grand Recorder, detailing each officer installed by him, and at which Constituent Commandery.

#### Section Six: Inspections

- a. Each Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction shall stand an annual inspection prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November in each calendar year, on a date and time to be fixed by the Constituent Commandery with the concurrence of the Inspector General.
- b. For good cause shown, the Grand Commander may authorize a school of instruction in lieu of an inspection for any Constituent Commandery. The Constituent Commandery requesting a school of Instruction must submit the request for same to the Grand Recorder and the Grand Commander in writing.

#### Section Seven: Report of Inspector General

- a. The Inspector General shall provide a written report detailing the results of the inspections performed on each Constituent Commandery to the Grand Commander no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January of the following calendar year.

#### Section Eight: By-Laws

- a. Each Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction shall provide to the Grand Commandery a copy of its by-laws fixing its time and place of meetings, amount of dues, and such other business as may apply to the

business of that Commandery.

#### Section Nine: Approval of Amendments

- a. During the recess of the Grand Commandery, Constituent Commandery by-laws or amendments to by-laws shall be submitted to the Grand Commander for his approval, and finally, to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana at its next annual Grand Conclave.

#### Section Ten: Annual Returns

- a. Each Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction shall make annual returns to the Grand Recorder, showing its officers and members, the Orders conferred, and the work done during the calendar year. This report along with all dues, per-capita tax, and assessments are due no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January of the following calendar year.

#### Section Eleven: Failure to Submit Returns

- a. Any Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction failing to make annual returns and pay its dues and assessments in any calendar year shall not be entitled to representation during the next annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.
- b. Any Constituent Commandery within this Grand Jurisdiction failing to make an annual return for two (2) consecutive years may, by vote of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, have its Charter revoked.

#### Section Twelve: Obligatory Observances

- a. Each Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction shall conduct the following annual observances. The recorder of each Constituent Commandery shall file a report of participation with the Grand Recorder for each observance.
  1. Christmas Observance
  2. Easter Observance
  3. Ascension Observance

# Article Eight:

## Amendments

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### Section One: Resolutions

- a. Any resolution to revise, amend, or repeal any part of this Grand Constitution must be made in writing and filed with the Grand Recorder no later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.
- b. The Grand Recorder shall, no later than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the opening of the Conclave of the Grand Commandery, give notice in writing to the Recorder of each Constituent Commandery of the final date for filing such resolution, which notice shall be read at the conclave of the Constituent Commandery next following its receipt.

### Section Two: Vote Required

- a. The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, by properly filed resolution as described in Article Ten, Section One of this Grand Constitution may, upon concurrence of two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present or represented by proxy at the annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, receive such resolutions to revise, amend, or repeal this Grand Constitution or any part thereof. Any properly received Resolutions must lay over for a period of one (1) year until the next regularly stated Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana at which time such resolutions will be voted upon.

### Section Three: Notice

- a. The Grand Recorder shall, no later than one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the opening of the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, give notice in writing of any properly received Resolutions to the recorder of each Constituent Commandery within this Grand Jurisdiction, at which such notice of said properly received Resolutions will be read in open Conclave at each Constituent Commandery following its receipt.

## Article Nine:

### Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Actions

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#### Section One: Code of Conduct

- a. All Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana shall conduct themselves, at all times, as gentlemen, demonstrating the highest standards of the Masonic fraternity, moral character, and the rich traditions of Christian Knightly conduct.

#### Section Two: Disciplinary Actions

- a. All Knights Templar within this Grand Jurisdiction are subject to the full extent of the disciplinary actions provided for under this Grand Constitution, and the Constitution, Statutes, and Rules of The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Handbook of Masonic Law, and the Grand Lodge of Louisiana F&AM.

## Article Ten: Visitation

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- a. Louisiana Sir Knights Templar, when traveling to other Grand Commanderies which are recognized as “Regular” by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana and with which this Grand Commandery has established fraternal relations may, with the consent of the host Commandery or Grand Commandery, visit a tiled communication in any Commandery recognized as Regular by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana within that jurisdiction and, during the course thereof, exercise knightly visitation with the Sir Knights who are recognized as Regular by that Grand Commandery.
- b. One who is a member of a Commandery under the jurisdiction of a Grand Commandery not in fraternal relations with the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana shall not be permitted to visit any of the Commanderies of Louisiana.

## Article Eleven: Repealing Clause

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- a. All former provisions of the laws of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana not included or provided for by this Governing device known as The Grand Constitution, Laws, & Regulations of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, are hereby specifically and collectively repealed and annulled, and shall have no further force or effect.

## Article Twelve: Unexpressed Law

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- a. In the absence of any specific provision of this Grand Constitution on any question, the Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and approved decisions of The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America in its most current form shall govern. In the absence of any specific provision of the afore mentioned means, the handbook of Masonic Law of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, Free and Accepted Masons, in its current form, shall govern.

# STANDARD REGULATIONS

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## Section One: Audit Committee

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- a. The Right Eminent Grand Commander shall, immediately after the installation of officers at each Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, appoint a Committee to audit 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 and all other fiscal matters of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.
- b. In choosing the committee and chairman of said Committee preference shall be given to those with financial backgrounds. The Committee shall not be comprised of any elected officer of the Grand Commandery or any person who had authority to authorize receipt or disbursement of any funds of the Grand Commandery or to make any entry in the books and accounts of the Grand Commandery for the period being audited,
- c. The Audit Committee shall timely complete their audit and report to the Committee on Finance to fulfill its responsibilities.

## Section Two: Amendment

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- a. The Standard Regulations may be amended, altered, or repealed and new ones adopted, when the requisite quorum is present, at any Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery, provided the proposition to amend, alter or repeal shall have received the sanction of a majority present at the time of its presentation, and shall have laid over from one session to another

of the same Grand Conclave, before it is finally acted upon, and then receives a favorable vote of two-thirds of those present. If there is not a session of the Grand Conclave subsequent to the introduction of the amendment, then it must lay over until the Annual Grand Communication when it may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present.

- b. All resolutions presented to the Grand Commandery to amend these Standard Regulations shall be properly signed and delivered in writing to the office of the Grand Recorder at least sixty days before the date of the Annual Grand Conclave provided that the Grand Commandery may receive such resolutions without such previous notice by a two-thirds favorable vote of the members present at any session of a Grand Conclave.

## Section Three:

### Grand Commandery Commandery 999

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- a. After three months shall have elapsed from the date of the forfeiture, or the acceptance of the surrender of the Charter of a Commandery, no member borne on its rolls shall be deemed in good standing until a certificate of good standing shall be issued to him by the Grand Recorder. Members not indebted to the Commandery at the time of forfeiture or surrender of the Charter shall automatically become members of Grand Commandery Commandery No. 999 and receive a dues card as evidence of good standing without charge; but all members indebted to the Commandery at such date shall be required to pay the amount of their indebtedness to the Grand Commandery Commandery No. 999, before being issued a dues card in said Commandery. The Grand Commander shall appoint the officers of Grand Commandery Commandery No. 999, except that the offices of Recorder and Treasurer shall be held by the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer respectively, and the elected Grand Commandery officers shall be *ex officio* members of the Grand Commandery Commandery No. 999, without payment of dues or assessments. All other members, in order to remain in good standing shall pay a fee, annually, equal to any assessments plus twice the current Grand Commandery Per Capita amount to the Grand Commandery Commandery No. 999 and shall be subject to discipline as

otherwise provided by law. A current dues card for said member in the Grand Commandery Commandery No. 999 will be issued annually upon payment of this annual fee. Such Commanderies shall further be subject to the rules of the Grand Encampment including, but not limited to, Section 176.5 regarding the conduct of the Commandery and retention of rank. [2022]

## Section Four: Other Perpetual Memberships

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- a. Additional Categories of Perpetual Memberships are authorized in Constituent Commanderies, subject to the following terms and conditions:
- b. Additional Categories listed below of Perpetual Membership Purchases all at a minimum cost of \$120.00 may be purchased with the accumulated interest being disbursed as follow 2/3 (66.67%) going to the Constituent Commandery and 1/3 (33.33%) going to the Grand Commandery.
  1. Honorary Perpetual – Living or deceased Sir Knight that is a member or honorary member of the Constituent Commandery
  2. Memorial Perpetual – Deceased Sir Knight that is a member of the Constituent Commandery
  3. Perpetual Memorial – Deceased person regardless of gender or residence or commandery membership

## Section Five: Uniform Law and Regulations

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### Section One: Uniformed Order

- a. The Order of Knights Templar is declared to be a uniformed order.

### Section Two: Full Dress Uniform

- a. The full-dress uniform of this Grand Jurisdiction is as specified in the Uniform Regulations and Specifications of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. All serving elected Grand Officers



of the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana and the elected officers of each Constituent Commandery, are required to own, or possess a full-dress uniform as specified in the Uniform Regulations and Specifications of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

### Section Three: Cap & Mantle

- a. This Grand Jurisdiction authorizes and approves the wearing of the Cap & Mantle in lieu of the full-dress uniform as prescribed in the Uniform Regulations and Specifications of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, for all Sir Knights of this Grand Jurisdiction except for those serving as officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.

### Section Four: Summer Uniform.

- a. This Grand Jurisdiction authorizes and approves the wearing of the summer uniform as prescribed by the Uniform Regulations and Specifications of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. The summer uniform is typically authorized for wear after Memorial Day until Labor Day each calendar year, however, this policy may be amended at the discretion of the Grand Commander.

### Section Five: Uniform Matters Not Covered Herein

- a. All matters not provided for in this section shall be governed by the Grand Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, the published uniform laws of this Grand Commandery, and the Constitution, Statutes, and Rules of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

### Section Six: Uniform Funds

- a. Constituent Commanderies are authorized by consent of the Commandery to convert any portion of existing uniform funds to general funds for the operation, maintenance, and charitable purposes as they may deem appropriate. Any Commandery wishing to convert these funds should first show evidence that they have complied with Section 62(c) and (d) of the Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies and Approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America and that the uniforms are in good repair. Upon showing such evidence the Grand

Commander may then authorize the conversion of such funds and shall have final authority in the decision.

*[Redesignated from Article Seven of the Constitution by Resolution 2023-3, adopted March 2, 2024.]*

## Section Six:

# Dues, Fees, & Assessments

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### Section One: Knighting Fees

- a. Each Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction shall pay to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana the sum of ten and no/100's dollars (\$10.00) for each Knight Templar created in this Grand Jurisdiction.

### Section Two: Dues & Assessments

- a. In addition, the following annual fees shall be paid by each Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.
  1. Twenty-Five and no/100's dollars (\$25.00) per member as per-capita tax.
  2. Three and no/100's dollars (\$3.00) per member for the Annual Grand Conclave [2024]
  3. One and no/100's dollars (\$1.00) per member for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, unless the member has "life sponsor" or higher status with the Knight Templar Eye Foundation.
  4. Additional assessments may be levied by the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana should the need arise.
  5. Additional assessments may be levied by the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar of the United States of America should the need arise.
- b. All Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana are exempt from paying any dues, fees, or assessments to the Grand Commandery of the State of Louisiana, for life. He will not be exempt from paying any additional assessments levied by The Grand Encampment of Knight Templar of the United States of America.

### Section Three: Fee for Dispensation and Charter

- a. The fee for a Dispensation and Charter for a new Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be one hundred and no/100's dollars (\$100.00) and must accompany the application for the dispensation.

### Section Four: Fees for the Orders of Christian Knighthood

- a. The fees for the Orders of Christian Knighthood known as the Illustrious Order of Red Cross, Order of Malta, and Order of Knight Templar, shall not be less than sixty and no/100's dollars (\$60.00) per applicant and must be paid before the Orders are conferred.

### Section Five: Exemption Clause

- b. Any Sir Knight who has held membership in a Commandery of Knights Templar owing allegiance to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America for a period of fifty (50) years, at least Twenty five (25) of which has been in a Constituent Commandery of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, shall be exempt from all fees, dues, and assessments of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, for the remainder of his life, excluding any fees or assessments as may be levied by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

*[Redesignated from Article Eight of the Constitution by Resolution 2023-3, adopted March 2, 2024. Prior Section 6, regarding appearing in public, deleted per Resolution 2023-4, adopted March 2, 2024.]*

## Section Seven: Travel

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The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and Grand Recorder shall be reimbursed for their expenses, for which printed receipts must be properly submitted, to attend the South-Central Department Conferences according to the following schedule:

**Hotel:** The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and Grand Recorder shall be reimbursed for hotel accommodations for the day prior to and the day of the Grand Encampment's portion of the South-Central Department Conferences.

**Air Fare:** The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand

Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and Grand Recorder shall be reimbursed for the cost of his ticket on the airline of his choosing but limited to business or coach fare.

**Transportation:** The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and Grand Recorder shall be reimbursed for the cost of his transportation, via shuttle service, cab, Uber, Lift Service or other contracted Ride Sharing Service to and from the airport.

**Vehicle Fuel:** Should any of the Grand Commandery Officers, the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and or the Grand Recorder choose to drive his personal vehicle to and from the South-Central Department Conference, he shall be reimbursed for the cost of the fuel used to drive directly to and from the South-Central Department Conference.

The vehicle owner shall begin the trip with a full tank of fuel and shall replace the fuel as needed during the trip and once he arrives at home, he shall fill the tank again. Payment for fuel purchased during the required travel and the final tank upon arriving home must be supported by printed receipts from the fuel source.

Should two or more Sir Knights travel together via private vehicle, only the vehicle's owner shall be reimbursed for fuel expenses.

**Meals:** The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and Grand Recorder shall be reimbursed for their meals purchased on the day prior to and the day of the Grand Encampment's portion of the South-Central Department Conferences.

*[Added per resolution 2024-1, March 2, 2024]*

## Section Eight: Complimentary Room and Board at Grand Conclave

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This Grand Commandery, in conjunction with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Louisiana and the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Louisiana, will extend the following courtesies to guests visiting our grand session:

- a. Three nights lodging plus banquet, reception, and luncheon tickets:

- i. The M.:E.: Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Louisiana, and his lady;
  - ii. The M.:I.: Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons or Louisiana, and his lady;
  - iii. The R.:E.: Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Louisiana, and his lady;
  
- b. Two nights lodging plus banquet, reception, and luncheon tickets:
  - i. The M.:W.: Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, and his lady;
  - ii. The M.:E.: Grand Master, Grand Encampment, or his personal representative;
  - iii. The M.:P.: General Grand Master, General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, or his personal representative;
  - iv. The M.:E.: General Grand High Priest, General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, or his personal representative;
  - v. The R.:E.: Department Commander, South Central Department, Grand Encampment;
  - vi. The M.:I.: Deputy General Grand Master, South Central Region, General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International
  - vii. The M.:E.: Deputy General Grand High Priest, South Central Region, General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International;
  
- c. No other complimentary rooms or meals will be provided.

*[Added per resolution 2024-4, March 2, 2024]*