

**LAWS & REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS  
TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**ARTICLE I**

**COMMANDERY OFFICERS**

Every Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction shall be composed of the following:

- 1. - Commander**
- 2. - Generalissimo**
- 3. - Captain General**
- 4. - Senior Warden**
- 5. - Junior Warden**
- 6. - Prelate**
- 7. - Treasurer**
- 8. - Recorder**
- 9. - Standard Bearer**
- 10. - Sword Bearer**
- 11. - Warder**
- 12. - Sentinel**
- 13. - Three Guards**

The first three, together with the Treasurer and Recorder shall be elected by a majority of the ballots cast at the final stated conclave of the calendar year. The remainder of the officers may be elected or appointed by the Commander-elect as may be provided by the Commandery By-Laws, all of whom must be installed not later than the next Stated Conclave. The office of Sentinel may be filled by any Sir Knight in good standing in a New Jersey Commandery.

Every Constituent Commandery shall have at least three Trustees, each of whom shall serve for a term of three years, with their terms overlapping so that one Trustee will be elected each year at the Annual Conclave. In the event of the death, resignation or removal of a Trustee from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of his duties, the Commander shall appoint a Sir Knight to serve until the next Annual Conclave, when the balance of the unexpired term shall be filled by election.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **UNIFORMS**

No petitioner for the Orders of Knighthood in a Constituent Commandery shall be required to provide himself with a uniform as described in Article III of these Laws before receiving the Order of the Temple. However any Sir Knight elected or appointed to Commandery office must provide himself with such Templar uniform prior to his installation, and must retain possession during his incumbency in office. Each Constituent Commandery must provide sufficient uniformed or robed Knights for the forming of the lines, Prelate's Escort and Triangle Guard.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **UNIFORM REGULATIONS**

Templar uniforms for members of New Jersey Commanderies shall be as specified in the Uniform Regulations for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of New Jersey

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **REVENUE**

Every Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction shall remit to the Grand Commandery with its annual returns, the amount of \$ 25.00 for each Sir Knight created during the calendar year.

Each Constituent Commandery shall remit annually toward the support of the Grand Commandery, the sum of \$12.50 for (2020), \$12.75 for (2021), \$13.00 for (2022), \$13.25 for (2023), \$13.50 for (2024) for each of its members, together with an amount equal to all Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery of N.J. per-capita dues and assessments. (Revised 3/2020)

Each Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction shall remit to the Grand Commandery with its annual returns, the sum of \$0.25 per member to be deposited in the 175th Anniversary Fund, to be accumulated over the years in a separate investment account, and used in the year 2035.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **ANNUAL RETURNS**

Every Constituent Commandery shall file an annual return on the forms provided by the Grand Recorder, setting forth the status of the Commandery as of the end of the calendar year. This return must be filed with the Grand Recorder on or before the 31st day of January.

For filing a return after the prescribed 31st day of January, there shall be levied against the Commandery a fine of \$5.00 for each day or fraction thereof.

A fiduciary report of the financial standing of the Commandery shall be prepared on the form provided by the Grand Commandery and submitted to the Grand Recorder with the annual return. Said financial report is separately subject to the same level of fine as a late annual return. Both these reports must be filed in the forms provided by the Grand Recorder.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **VOTING**

All Grand Commandery and Constituent Commandery elections may be by voice vote, provided there be unanimous consent of all voting members present. In the event there are two or more candidates for any elective office, Trustee or Director of the Endowment Fund, such elections shall be conducted by paper ballot.

All candidates for Elected Office in this Grand Commandery must declare their candidacy for a specific office, in writing and signed by them, with the Grand Recorder prior to the December 31<sup>st</sup> immediately preceding the State Conclave; no electronic form or communication will be acceptable for this purpose.

Postmarks shall determine timeliness of a declaration, and the ruling of the Grand Commander on validity is final. If, and only if, no valid declaration for an elected office is received prior to the deadline, declarations may be received on the day of the Stated Conclave prior to the closing on nominations by the presiding officer.

At the Stated Conclave, the Grand Commander shall announce, or caused to have announced, all elected offices together with the names of all declared candidates. Nominations shall then be opened, if needed, for any office for which there is no declared candidate.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **VACANCIES**

Except as provided by the Constitution of Grand Encampment, all vacancies in Grand Commandery elective offices caused by death, permanent disability or permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of the office, shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Commander. A vacancy in a Constituent Commandery elective office or Trustee shall be filled as prescribed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **GRAND REPRESENTATIVES**

A Member of a New Jersey Commandery may accept a commission from the Grand Commander of another recognized Grand Commandery to serve as that Grand Commandery's representative. His title shall be "Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of Near the Grand Commandery of New Jersey". In accepting such appointment, it is his implied duty to establish contact with the proper officer in the jurisdiction he represents, preferably the Grand Recorder or New Jersey's Grand Representative in that Grand Commandery, keeping him informed of matters of Templar interest taking place in New Jersey. Wherever possible, he should attend the Grand Commandery Conclaves in the jurisdiction he represents, as well as those in New Jersey.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **PAST GRAND COMMANDER'S JEWEL**

At the close of the Annual Conclave, an Official Past Grand Commander's jewel, with the appropriate purple cord, shall be presented to the outgoing Grand Commander. This jewel shall be and remain the property of the Grand Commander receiving it. All previously presented Past Grand Commander's jewels shall remain the property of those Past Grand Commanders who may have received them.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **TEMPLAR VETERAN RIBBON**

All Knights Templar who are on active duty with or honorably discharged or retired from the armed services of the United States of America, are hereby authorized to wear the Knight Templar Veteran's ribbon on their uniform.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **STAFF OFFICERS**

The Grand Commander may appoint staff officers for specific duties not involving the administration of the Grand Commandery. Their titles, numbers and duties are as follows:

Associate Grand Prelates (not to exceed six or the number of administrative divisions established) who, in the absence of the Grand Prelate, perform such duties as may be appropriate to the occasion and established Templar usage.

Grand Instructor General with Deputy Instructors General (not to exceed six or the number of administrative divisions established) whose duties it shall be to provide instruction to the Constituent Commanderies regarding the military tactics and floor work associated with full form openings and reception of Grand Officers and Distinguished Guests.

The Deputy Instructors General will annually review, assess, and critique the proficiency of the Constituent Commanderies assigned to them in those tactics and floor work, as well as review the various books, records, and operational procedures of said Commanderies, and report in writing to the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, and the Grand Instructor General on their findings.

The Grand Instructor General, with the assistance of the Grand Commander, will design the form of that report.

Grand Inspector General with Adjutant Inspectors General (not to exceed six or the number of administrative divisions established) whose duty it shall be to inspect and instruct the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction on the Uniform Regulations of this Grand Commandery, Templar protocol, and the physical aspects of the Asylum that do not relate to the tactics and floor work.

The Adjutants will annually review, assess, and critique the compliance in these areas of the Commanderies assigned to them, and report in writing to the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, and the Grand Instructor General on their findings.

The Grand Inspector General, with the assistance of the Grand Commander, will design the form of that report.

The Grand Commander's Aide (or Aide-de-Camp), Grand Historian, Grand Marshal, Grand Organist and Grand Soloist, whose duties shall be appropriate to their office, and as may be assigned by the Grand Commander.

Three (3) Grand Outer Guards, whose duty shall be to assist the Grand Marshal and Grand Sentinel in the performance of their duties at the Stated and Emergent Conclaves of this Grand Commandery, at all other times they are serve as the Aide to the Dais Officer assigned to them in the performance of that Officer's respective duties. At the discretion of the Grand Commander, each Dais Officer may select his own Aide while serving as a Dais Officer.

Any other Officers as the Grand Commander for the time being shall determine as necessary for the efficient operation of this Grand Commandery. The precedence of such offices shall be lower than any offices specified in the Constitution or Laws of this Grand Commandery.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **COLOR GUARD**

The Grand Commander may, at his own discretion, recognize the service to this Grand Commandery of any Sir Knight within its jurisdiction, without regard as to rank or honors received, where such service does not rise to the level of service that might be recognized and honored by any award or honor of the Grand Encampment.

Said Sir Knight shall be awarded a white and black shoulder cord, to be presented by the Grand Commander with proper ceremonies.

The cord shall be worn on the left shoulder for as long as the Sir Knight remains a member of a Commandery of this Grand Commandery.

These Sir Knights shall be designated as permanent members of the Color Guard, that body of valiant Knights who defended the Beauseant from all foes, never retreated, and never allowed the Beauseant to fall into enemy hands.

Up to five such awards may be given in the first year of this award; thereafter, no more than two awards may be given in any Templar Year.

## ARTICLE XIII

### THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER OF THE SWORD

The Illustrious Master of the Sword is an Honorary Medal authorized by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. It is to be awarded by Constituent Commanderies of twenty five members or more to a Sir Knight who has five years or more of continued service from the date of his Knighting, who has demonstrated exceptional and dedicated service to their Commandery. Additional nominations may be made for each additional twenty five members or portion thereof. Acceptance of the Illustrious Master of the Sword Award is contingent upon the payment of one hundred and twenty five dollars by the nominee or other party to the Grand Commandery of New Jersey Endowment Fund. The jewel shall be worn on the left breast pocket of the Knight Templar Uniform. It shall consist of a copper or bronze metal gold plated casting in the form of an oval sixty three millimeters high by fifty millimeters wide. It shall have a border or bezel of gold plated metal two and one half millimeters wide with etched or cast diagonal slashing. The center shall be of red cloisonné enamel with three swords, two crossed in an X pattern, the third centered vertically at the intersection of the other two. The pommels and hilts of the swords finished in yellow cloisonné enamel, the blades and grips of white cloisonné enamel outlined in silver. The words Master of centered horizontally on the left side of the sword intersection; and the words the Sword centered horizontally on the right side of the sword in gothic script, three and one half millimeters in height, etched or cast in gold metal. The jewel shall be fixed to the uniform by two ten millimeter spur and nail posts with military style butterfly clutch back attachments centered twelve millimeters from each end.



## ARTICLE XIV

### THE MATRIARCH OF THE TEMPLE

The Matriarch of the Temple is an award that any Sir Knight can present to his Lady. It goes hand in hand with our “Illustrious Master of the Sword” award. It may be presented to any lady, by a Knights Templar, that he feels has shown, with her dedication and support of Templary, that she be recognized as a special Lady. Acceptance of the award is contingent upon the payment of one hundred and twenty five dollars to the Grand Commandery Endowment Fund. The jewel shall consist of a copper or bronze or metal casting with gold plating in the form of a circle thirty three millimeters in diameter. It shall have an outer ring of three and one half millimeters wide of blue cloisonné with the word “Matriarch” (at the top) and “of the Temple across the bottom in gold plated material; an inner circle of twenty six millimeters in diameter of white cloisonné enamel with a heart twenty two millimeters high by twenty two millimeters wide of red cloisonné enamel with the letters “NJ” in gold metallic centered above it; a five pointed gold metallic crown eight millimeters wide and seven millimeters high near the bottom of the heart with a white cloisonné enamel “Passion Cross” eleven millimeters high and nine millimeters in width inside the crown at an angle of fifteen degrees. The jewel may be worn attached to a garment by a single spur and nail post with a military butterfly clutch attachment or suspended from a thirty six millimeter wide by seventy six centimeters long blue ribbon for optional neck wear.



## ARTICLE XV

### COMMITTEES

The Standing Committees of this Grand Commandery, their membership and duties shall be as hereinafter described.

#### **The Standing Committees:**

**Membership**

**York Rite**

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation**

**Knights Templar Educational Foundation**

**Patriotic and Civic Affairs**

**Templar Religious Activities**

**Public Relations**

**Annual Conclave and Templar Festival**

**Asylum Tactics**

**Templar Jurisprudence**

**Finance**

**Necrology**

**Doings of Grand Officers**

**By-Laws**

The Chairman of each Standing Committee upon his appointment shall prepare an agenda for his Committee for the ensuing year; organize such Committee for effective performance, and report fully and in writing, his Committee's accomplishments to the Grand Commander, the Grand Recorder and Committee on Doings of Grand Officers, not later than January 10th of each year.

The Grand Commander may appoint Special Committees to perform specified tasks not within the purview of the Standing Committees. Such Special Committees shall terminate on completion of their assignments, and not later than the end of the Templar year in which they were created.

**Membership Committee** shall gather all available information on methods of obtaining new members, and shall pursue membership programs based on the most effective methods of the times. The Deputy Grand Commander shall be Chairman of this Committee.

**The York Rite Committee** shall actively assist in promoting and coordinating York Rite Masonry, and to that end shall work in close collaboration with the Membership Committee. The Deputy Grand Commander shall be Chairman of this Committee.

**The Knights Templar Eye Foundation Committee** shall promote knowledge of this Foundation and its operations, not only in the Masonic community, but also among the general public. To this end, this Committee shall collaborate with the Public Relations Committee in the dissemination of information, and with the Director of the Foundation to insure prompt processing of applications for assistance. The Grand Senior Warden shall be a member of this Committee.

**The Knights Templar Educational Foundation Committee** shall manage the funds of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation allocated to this Grand Commandery; make student loans and obtain repayment thereof under the rules and regulations prescribed by Grand Encampment's Educational Foundation Committee, and to make the availability of loans to deserving students known to educational institutions and potential applicants. It shall be composed of 5 members, appointed for five-year terms so that one new member shall be appointed each year. The Grand Commander in office shall make appointments to fill any vacancies for the unexpired portion of the term and may replace any member of the Committee for cause, reporting his action to the Grand Commandery. The Committee shall elect one of its members to serve as Chairman.

**The Patriotic and Civic Activities Committee** shall adopt measures to promote active participation by all local Masonic bodies in patriotic activities of a public nature, and in appropriate community activities. To this end, it shall collaborate closely with the Public Relations Committee. The Grand Junior Warden shall be Chairman of this Committee.

**The Templar Religious Activities Committee** shall promote the religious aspects of Templary, with particular regard to established Templar observances, including the Easter Sunrise Service, Ascension Day and Statewide Church services, and the Christmas Observance. Close association shall be maintained with the Public Relations Committee. The Grand Senior Warden shall be Chairman of this Committee and the Grand Prelate shall be a member thereof.

**The Public Relations Committee** shall operate in close collaboration with all Grand Commandery Committees and Constituent Commanderies for the purpose of obtaining desirable publicity for Templary or other Masonic activities. To this end, it should establish friendly relations with all useful media of public communication.

**The Annual Conclave and Templar Festival Committee** shall make all arrangements for the orderly conduct of these events. The Grand Captain General shall be Chairman of this Committee.

**The Asylum Tactics Committee** shall develop and recommend to the Grand Commandery, drill regulations and asylum tactics for full form openings, reception of Grand Officers and Distinguished Guests, and floor work for the Orders of Templary, not inconsistent with the ceremonies and floor movements indicated by the rituals of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Inspector General and Grand Instructor General, if such officers are appointed, shall be members of this Committee.

**The Templar Jurisprudence Committee** shall investigate and make recommendations relative to interpretations of the Constitution. Laws and Regulations; amendments to the same, matters concerning charters and dispensations, and all other questions arising in the field of Templar Jurisprudence.

**The Finance Committee** shall prepare and supervise compliance with the annual budget of the Grand Commandery, and audit the financial records of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Directors of the Endowment Fund and the Knights Templar Educational Foundation Committee.

**The Necrology Committee** shall perform the usual duties pertaining to a Necrology Committee.

**The Committee on Doings of Grand Officers**

shall serve as an advisory council to the Grand Commander, with particular regard to the performance of duties of Grand Commandery Officers and committees. It shall investigate suspected nonfeasance, malfeasance and misfeasance and may require officers and committees to appear before it in this connection. This Committee shall be composed of qualified Past Grand Commanders.

**The Committee on By-Laws** shall review all proposed changes to the bylaws of Constituent Commanderies on behalf of the Grand Commander. Proposed changes shall be prepared in triplicate and forwarded to the Chairman of this Committee. After review, the Committee will forward same to the Grand Commander with its recommendation. Copies are distributed to, and retained by the originating Commandery, the Grand Recorder and the By-Laws Committee.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

A petition for membership by affiliation in a Constituent Commandery having been rejected does not have to lie over for six months before making another application for membership. The Templar standing of the petitioner is not affected by such rejection, and he may make application at once to the same or another Commandery.

For a Sir Knight to be eligible to run for the officer of Commander, he must have been elected, installed, and served a full year as a Dais Officer of a Commandery of this Grand Commandery.

For a Sir Knight to re-affiliate with the Commandery from which he demitted, he must make the usual application for affiliation, and submit his demit as if he were affiliating with another Commandery. The application then follows the usual course.

All amendments to this Constitution, Laws and Regulations shall be printed and distributed by the Grand Recorder to all Grand Commandery Officers, Past Grand Commanders and Recorders of Constituent Commanderies, so that all copies may be kept up to date.

The proper officer to pass the ballot box when voting on candidates is the Junior Warden; however, it may be done by any person the Commander may designate.

When casting a ballot, the glove shall be removed from the right hand to eliminate the possibility of a mistake in selection of the ballot. The proper salute before balloting is the hand salute, not the Penal Sign.

A Commandery may attend church in full Templar uniform without a dispensation from the Grand Commander. It may enter the church "covered" or "uncovered" and with swords drawn or sheathed, at the option of the church authorities where the service is held.

No Constituent Commandery may relocate without the consent of the Grand Commander. And such relocation proposed must be approved by a majority of members present at a Stated Conclave, due and timely notice of the proposed relocation having been given.

On the evening of the Annual Conclave, the Recorder of a Constituent Commandery shall place a box on his desk wherein any member may place nominations for any or all elective offices, which nominations shall be read for the information of the members before proceeding with the election. However any member who receives a majority of the votes cast, shall be declared elected whether previously nominated or not.

Public installation of officers may be held in the Asylum of a Constituent Commandery, if approved by a vote of the Commandery, and no dispensation is necessary.

At every Stated Conclave of a Constituent Commandery, a portion of Templar laws shall be read aloud. This should include from time to time, appropriate sections from the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Commandery, and the By-Laws of the Commandery. The proper time to read Templar Law is immediately before closing the Commandery. No business or announcements shall be made after Templar Law has been read.

As the baldric is no longer a part of the present Templar dress uniform, recitation of the explanation of the baldric in the Order of the Temple is optional with the Commandery conferring the Order.

Constituent Commanderies are governed by the calendar year. The Grand Commandery is governed by the Templar year.

The Cap and Mantle, as prescribed in the Uniform Regulations, may be worn in lieu of the Templar uniform when visiting other Commanderies and other Commandery functions.

The Holy Bible is not to be opened until the Prelate steps down from the Dais as a part of the opening of the Conclave.

Due and timely notice means written notice, not verbal or electronic notice, at least 30 days prior to a meeting.

Any Commandery by-laws to the contrary, the proper procedure for any and all amendments to a Commandery's by-laws requires a written amendment signed by at least three (3) members of that Commandery, to be read at a Conclave, to then be published to all the members of the Commandery, to then be read at a second Conclave, and then voted on at a third Conclave, with the date of the vote announced in the Commandery's meeting notice.

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Laws and Regulations shall be made in the manner prescribed for amendments to the Constitution of this Grand Commandery