

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF LOUISIANA
ARTICLE I – DUES, FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Knighting Fee

Each Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction shall pay to the Grand Commandery Ten and No/100 (\$10.00) Dollars for each Knight Templar created therein.

Section 2. Dues and Assessments

In addition thereto, each Commandery shall pay annually to the Grand Commandery the following sums, to-wit:

- (a) Twenty-five and no/100 (\$25.00) per member as per capita tax. This amount may be increased two (\$2.00) dollars each year for 4 additional years, in the sole discretion of the Finance Committee;
- (b) Two (\$2.00) Dollars for Annual Conclave of Grand Commandery; and
- (c) Such assessments as may be levied by the Grand Commandery from time to time plus any assessments levied by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Section 3. Fee For Dispensation and Charter

The fee for a dispensation and charter for a new Commandery in this jurisdiction shall be One Hundred and No/100 (\$100.00) Dollars and shall be paid with the application for the dispensation.

Section 4. Fee for Orders

The fee for the Orders of Knighthood in the Constituent Commanderies of this jurisdiction shall not be less than Sixty and No/100 (\$60.00) Dollars. The entire fee must be paid before the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross is conferred.

Section 5. Perpetual Membership

Any Sir Knight shall have the option of substituting for annual dues the proportionate ratio payment provided for in the Perpetual Membership Law adopted by this Grand Commandery.

Section 6. Exemption

Any Sir Knight who has held membership in a Commandery of Knights Templar for a period of Fifty (50) years, at least twenty-five (25) years of which membership has been in a Constituent Commandery of Louisiana, shall be exempt from Grand Commandery and Constituent Commandery dues, fees and assessments or per capita tax for the remainder of his life; however, the Sir Knight shall not be exempt from such sums as may be required by the Grand Encampment of the United States of America.

ARTICLE II – UNIFORM REGULATIONS

Section 1. Uniformed Order

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

Section 2. Full Dress Uniform

The full dress uniform of this Grand Jurisdiction is as specified in the Uniform Regulations and Specifications of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Louisiana.

Section 3. Cap and Mantle

This Grand Jurisdiction approves and permits the use of the cap and mantle as an alternative to the full dress uniform of a Knight Templar. The cap and mantle shall conform to the regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Section 4. Officers Are Uniformed

Each and every officer of the Grand Commandery and of each Constituent Commandery must own or possess a Full Dress Templar Uniform or cap and mantle prior to his installation.

Section 5. Matters Not Covered Herein

All matters not herein above provided for by this Section shall be governed by the Constitution, Statutes and Rules of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

ARTICLE III – ANNUAL RETURNS

Section 1. Due Date

Each Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction shall make annual returns to the Grand Recorder, showing its officers and members and the Orders conferred and the work done during the year ending on the 31st day of January in the following year.

Section 2. Failure to Make Returns

A Commandery failing to make returns and pay its dues and assessments in any year shall not be entitled to representation in the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

Any Commandery in this jurisdiction which shall fail to make its returns and pay its dues and assessments to the Grand Commandery for two (2) years in succession may, by vote of the Grand Commandery, have its charter forfeited.

ARTICLE IV – INSPECTIONS

Section 1. Date

Each Constituent Commandery shall stand an annual inspection prior to November 30 on a date and at a time to be fixed by the Commandery with the concurrence of the Inspector General.

Section 2. School of Instruction

For good cause shown, the Grand Commander may authorize a school of instruction in lieu of inspection for any particular Commandery.

ARTICLE V – INSTALLING OFFICERS

Section 1. Designation

Each Constituent Commandery may designate as Installing Officer any one authorized to install officers of a Commandery as stated in the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, provided

that written notice of such selection is given to the Grand Commander before October 1st of each year.

In case a Commandery fails to make a selection as herein above authorized, the Grand Commander shall select an installing officer on or before the 15th day of October.

Section 2. Order

On or before the 15th day of October of each year, the Grand Commander shall designate the officer so selected for each Commandery in his order which shall be circulated to each Commandery.

Section 3. Report

The Installing Officer shall report to the Grand Commander the officers by him installed on or before January 10th of the following year.

ARTICLE VI – BALLOT

Section 1. Receiving Petitions

Petitions for the Orders or membership may be received and balloted upon at a stated or special conclave at which such petition or petitions are received in the Commandery, without dispensation from the Grand Commandery.

Section 2. Balloting

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

ARTICLE VII – BY-LAWS

Section 1. Contents

Each Constituent Commandery in his jurisdiction shall provide by-laws fixing its time of meeting, amount of dues and such other regulations as may apply to the business of that Commandery.

Section 2. Approval

During the recess of the Grand Commandery, by-laws or amendments to by-laws shall be submitted to the Grand Commander for his approval and, finally, to the Grand Commandery at its next annual conclave.

ARTICLE VIII – PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

Perpetual Memberships are encouraged and may be purchased outright or by installment in accordance with the Perpetual Membership Law adopted by this Grand Commandery.

ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

The standing committees of this Grand Commandery shall be appointed by the Grand Commander, as follows:

The Committee on Jurisprudence;

The Committee on Acts of Grand Officers;

The Committee on the State of the Order;

The Committee on Expenses of Representatives;
The Committee on Charters and Dispensations;
The Committee on Necrology;
The Committee on Credentials;
The Committee on Finance;
The Committee on Templar Advancement;
The Committee on Printing; and
The Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

Section 2. Composition of Standing Committees

The standing committees of this Grand Commandery shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) The Committee on Appeals and Grievances shall be composed of five (5) members of the Grand Commandery appointed by the outgoing Grand Commander.
- (b) The Committee on Printing shall be composed of the outgoing Grand Commander, the incoming Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder.
- (c) The Committee on Templar Advancement shall be composed of the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo, and the Grand Captain General.

(d) All other standing committees shall be composed of three (3) members of the Grand Commandery.

Section 3. Special Committees

The Grand Commander shall appoint such special committees as may be required from time to time for the convenience of his administration.

ARTICLE X – GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. Authorization

The mutual exchange of representatives between this Grand Commandery and sister Grand Commanderies with which we are in fraternal relations is authorized.

Section 2. Replacement

A Grand Commander may replace any representative who is absent for three (3) consecutive Grand Commandery conclaves without being formally excused by any Grand Commander. The Grand Recorder shall report to the Grand Commander when any representative has accumulated three consecutive unexcused absences.

ARTICLE XI – ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. Authorization

The appointment by the Grand Commander of the administrative officers deemed necessary for the proper administration of Grand Commandery affairs is authorized. This authorization includes an Inspector General, an Organist, an Associate Organist, Administrative Assistants to the Grand Commander and such other administrative officers as may be desirable.

Section 2. Limitations

The appointment of administrative officers must be consistent with Grand Encampment Law. Such administrative officers may be installed and may have rank within the limitations imposed by the Constitution, Statutes and Rules of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

ARTICLE XII – APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC

Section 1. Prohibition

Constituent Commanderies shall not appear in public, except as set forth hereinafter, without dispensation from the Grand Commander.

Section 2. Exceptions

Constituent Commanderies may appear in public without a dispensation for funerals, to attend religious services or to attend, upon invitation, the meetings or sponsored activities of other Masonic or Masonically-related bodies.

ARTICLE XIII – KNIGHT TEMPLAR PREREQUISITES

Section 1. Required Memberships

A candidate for membership in a Commandery of Knights Templar must be a member in good standing of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and a Council of Cryptic Masons.

Section 2. Maintenance of Prerequisite Membership

In order to continue his membership in a Constituent Commandery, the member must maintain his membership in the aforesaid prerequisite bodies.

ARTICLE XIV – PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Authorization

Plural membership may be held in any two (2) or more Constituent Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction, or in a Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction and in a Constituent Commandery in another Grand Jurisdiction, provided that the laws of the other Grand Jurisdiction also permit such memberships.

Section 2. Petition

A petition for plural membership must be accompanied by a certificate of good standing from the petitioner's Commandery. The certificate of good standing must be requested by the petitioner in writing.

Section 3. Rights, Duties and Limitations

A plural member shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of full membership in all Commanderies of which he is a member, provided however, that he may not be a dais officer in more than one Commandery at the same time. He shall be subject to all dues and assessments of all Commanderies. Loss of membership by action of either Commandery shall cause loss of membership in all Commanderies. A plural member may, however, demit from either Commandery.

ARTICLE XV – AMMENDMENTS

Section 1. Vote Required

The Grand Commandery, upon concurrence of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members present or represented by proxy

at an Annual Conclave, may revise, alter, amend or repeal this Constitution or any part thereof.

Section 2. Resolutions to Amend

Any resolution proposing to alter or amend this Constitution must be in writing and must be filed with the Grand Recorder no later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the Conclave at which the same is to be considered.

Section 3. Notice

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.

ARTICLE XVI – REPEALING CLAUSE

All former provisions of the Laws of this Grand Commandery not included or provided for herein are hereby specifically and collectively repealed and annulled and shall have no further force or effect.

ARTICLE XVII – UNEXPRESSED LAW

In the absence of any specific provision of this 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 aforesaid Constitution, Statutes, etc. of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Handbook of Masonic Law of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, Free and Accepted Masons, in its most current form shall govern.