



Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan

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Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan General Order No. 1

August 12, 2017

To all Knights Templar Owing Allegiance to the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan:

To be read at the foot of the lines at the first Stated Conclave following receipt.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE:

HOSPITALER SUNDAY..... ..October 2017

CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE..... December 25, 2017

EASTER SUNDAY.....April 1, 2018

ASCENSION DAY.....May 13, 2018

Every constituent Commandery is required to observe the above four services, or in the alternative, by attending church in a body. If the above dates are not practical for your Commandery, alternate dates may be used. Easter Sunrise Services will be held in Battle Creek, Port Huron, Holly at Great Lakes National Cemetery, and Grand Rapids. Watch the Michigan Supplement of the Knights Templar Magazine for more information.

GRAND COMMANDER'S THEME 2017-2018: U.N.I.T.Y.

When I first petitioned to join my Lodge I'll admit that I wasn't quite sure of what I was getting into. It didn't take long for me to realize that there was nothing to fear. I was taken under the wings of many fine men who became my mentors. The friendships I developed made a lasting impression, that I have carried throughout my Masonic Career. Many of these Brothers guided me on my journey through the York Rite. Many of them are gone now, but the lessons that they taught me, like UNITY and loyalty are not forgotten. If we are going to make our Commanderies, Grand Commandery and the York Rite strong again we must unite like we once did and all must work for the common good.

Our first commitment is to our own Commandery. We must encourage our new Knights to take an active part in their Commandery. Not everyone wants to go through the line and become Commander. Find out what talents they possess. Some might want to Drill, serve on a Committee or maybe they are happy to cook a meal or provide snacks for the Knights. The main thing is to get and keep them active. Most importantly find a Recorder and Treasurer who have the time and really want to do the job properly. As our Commanderies get stronger we must do more to embrace the Battalion concept. Not all Commanderies will prosper at the same level and some will need help as they progress. If we work within our Battalions and make them stronger, Grand Commandery can only benefit. We may never reach the glory days of years gone by, but we can improve in the years to come if we all work together.

This Order was founded by seven Knights and look what they started years ago. We joined this Order because it was something as Christians we believed in. Let those values lead us on to deeds of **CHARITY** and **PURE BENEFICENCE** as we help each member become a valued Knight of this Grand Commandery.

DISPENSATIONS:

Michigan Commandery No. 59, K.T. U.D. is continued by dispensation for the current Templar year. All provisions shall be complied with, as found in Sec. 536 (1) of the Michigan Templar Laws.

Dispensation is hereby granted to all Constituent Commanderies to visit a Lodge, Chapter, or Council in Templar uniform (without sword and chapeau) and to form an Honor Guard in full Templar uniform for the public installation of Officers of any Masonic or Masonic affiliated body.

Dispensation is also granted for all Constituent Commanderies to drill upon the streets of this Grand Jurisdiction, in support of patriotic and civic activities. Summer Uniforms will be allowed, as of this date, for parades and all functions where the Full Dress Uniforms are not called for, until October 31st 2017 and again beginning April 1st 2018 until August 18th 2018.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR:

The Grand Encampment of the USA presents this award to recognize a Sir Knight who has given service far above the call of duty and beyond what is normally expected of a Sir Knight. Since the Grand Commandery of Michigan has less than 5,000 members, only one award per year can be given to a Sir Knight of the Grand Commandery of Michigan. The Council of each Constituent Commandery may nominate a Sir Knight for this award. Any Sir Knight who meets the qualifications is eligible with the exception that no present or past Grand Officer of the Grand Commandery is eligible for the award. Nominations should reach the Grand Commander no later than (NLT) April 1st 2018. Sir Knights previously nominated and not selected must be resubmitted to be considered this year. Presentation of this award will be at the Round Table Banquet.

MERITORIOUS AWARD:

This award is intended to recognize any Sir Knight who has been a member of a Constituent Commandery for at least five years, who is not a current Officer of a Constituent Commandery including: Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden, and has never gained permanent membership in the Grand Commandery as a Past Commander, but who has rendered highly distinguished service to his Commandery and Templary. Only five Meritorious Awards are authorized to be awarded each Templar year. The Grand Commander must receive recommendations no later than (NLT) April 1st 2018. The Grand Commandery Meritorious Award Committee will select the recipients and presentations of this award will be presented at the Round Table Banquet by the Deputy Grand Commander. Each Constituent Commandery has a deserving Sir Knight, please nominate him.

GRAND COMMANDER'S SERVICE AWARD:

This award is intended to recognize long and dedicated service by a Sir Knight of a Constituent Commandery. Each Constituent Commandery is authorized one award per year. Any Sir Knight of the Constituent Commandery is eligible and shall be nominated by the recommendation of the Council of his Commandery. A Sir Knight who has previously received this award is just as eligible to receive it as any other member of the Commandery. Nominations should be sent to Sir Knight Cortland C. Rule, PGC, the Chairman of the committee. Nominations should be received by the Chairman prior to your Commandery Inspection, so that it can be presented at a public ceremony, which is encouraged. Sir Knights, make the nomination of your candidate a high priority this year. Let's have 100% participation.

GRAND COMMANDERY COMMITTEES:

In accordance with Section 521(f1) of the Laws of Templar Masonry of the Grand Commandery of Michigan. Standing Committees and Special Committees have been appointed. These appointments are delineated in the Grand Commandery Directory 2017-2018. Your cooperation with the Chairmen and their members is earnestly encouraged.

INSPECTIONS:

Contained within this General Order is the Inspection Schedule for the 2017-2018 Commandery Year. Pursuant to Section 509 subsection (1) of the Laws of Templar Masonry for the Grand Commandery of Michigan this schedule does hereby become a part of General Order No. 1. Each Constituent Commandery will be independently inspected in the Order of the Temple, and either the Full Form Opening or the 10 man Full Form Opening, during it's Annual Inspection. The Order of the Temple shall be conferred on only one candidate on Inspection Day. It is mandatory that the Grand Commander or his Personal Representative inspect each Constituent Commandery and the Outpost annually. (All Personal Representatives shall be given the same courtesies as the Grand Commander). The Outpost records shall be inspected by the Grand Commander or his Personal Representative (a dinner for the Sir Knights and Ladies is recommended).

YORK RITE AND ALL-ORDER SCHEDULING:

Each Constituent Commandery must contact Sir Knight Shawn M. Bashore, VEDGC Chairman of the York Rite Cooperation Committee before scheduling York Rite Festivals, Commandery Two or Three Order Days, and other similar events. As a general rule, Constituent Commanderies should consider Knighting candidates in their home Commandery, if the candidates have received the preliminary Orders at a Festival.

MEMBERSHIP:

Councils of Constituent Commanderies are charged to provide direction in increasing the membership through their individual Commandery Membership Committee. They are directed to make changes in the makeup of the Committee if there appears to be no progress and the Commandery remains stagnant or loses ground with respect to membership. The Grand Commandery will continue to make this program our number one priority for the foreseeable future. You are directed to implement the programs forthcoming during the year from the Grand Committee Membership Committee and it's Chairman Sir Knight Gary Leach PC.

FORGOTTEN OR INACTIVE SIR KNIGHTS PROGRAM:

Councils of Constituent Commanderies are charged to be proactive in getting activity back into our Asylum. Emphasis needs to be placed on inviting inactive Sir Knights to attend and participate in our activities once more. Have assigned mentors make personal contact with these Sir Knights to invite them to the Commandery activities, whether it is an Order, dinner, or planned social event of the Commandery.

And give them something to do, whether as part of an escort or assisting with an event. Give them a part to learn and hold practices so they may feel comfortable with it.

AMNESTY:

By virtue of the power vested in me as Grand Commander. I declare an amnesty for all members who are two (2) or more years delinquent in dues. The paying of their current years dues shall bring them up to date with respect to their dues. Furthermore, amnesty is granted to any Sir Knight formerly suspended from good standing by virtue of non-payment of dues provided he re-applies to his former Commandery and pays the current years prorated dues. All other laws, rules, and regulations governing reinstatement shall apply. This amnesty shall continue through this Grand Commandery year and expire on August 18th 2018.

162nd ANNUAL CONCLAVE:

The 162nd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Michigan will be held in the city of Bay City, Michigan on August 11th 2018. The Headquarters will be located at the Double Tree Hotel, 1 Wenonah Park Pl, Bay City, MI 48708 (989) 891-6000. Housing, drill and other pertinent information will be provided well in advance of the Annual Conclave. The Annual Conclave will be held in conjunction with the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan, on August 9th, 2018 and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Michigan, on August 10th, 2018.

Respectfully Ordered:

Attest:

Michael Whiting

SK Michael Whiting, KCT

Grand Commander

SK Loren A. Winn KCT, PGC

Grand Recorder