



Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan

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Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan General Order No. 1

August 11, 2018

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 2018

CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE..... December 25, 2018

EASTER SUNDAY..... April 21, 2019

ASCENSION DAY..... May 30, 2019

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 2018-2019 " One Good Sir Knight at a Time"

Sir Knights, as we enter into a new year of Templary, it is my vision that Michigan Sir Knights will put others first, and share the gifts that God has given each of us. By putting others first, we all will receive the blessing and favor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we attend our Blue Lodges, Chapters and Councils, we must keep our focus to the center of our meeting room where rests the open Bible the Great Light of all of Freemasonry. There we should be examples of sincere friendship and brotherly love. When abroad and in the world, we should pay particular attention that our tongues and actions are pleasing to God the Father giver of all life.

We must not be so concerned about our numbers declining, but be concerned more about being the Best Sir Knight that each of us can be. By being true instruments of God, carrying each other's burdens and not becoming weary of doing good, we will make Templary, the most prestigious concordant body one may petition membership. Together we will reap a harvest and build this Grand Commandery "ONE GOOD SIR KNIGHT AT A TIME".

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 Class" A" Uniforms are not called for, until October 31st 2018 and again beginning April 1st 2019 until August 18th 2019.

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 presented 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 2019. 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, and 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 2019. 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 may receive this Award more than once. Nominations should be sent to Sir Knight Cortland C. Rule, PGC, 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 highly 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 2018-2019. Your cooperation with the Chairmen and their members is earnestly encouraged.

INSPECTIONS:

Contained within this General Order is the Inspection Schedule for the 2018-2019 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 inspected in the Order of the Temple, and either the Full Form Opening or the Ten Man Full Form Opening, during the Annual Inspection. It is recommended that the Order of the Temple shall be conferred on only one candidate on Inspection Day. Multiple candidates will be allowed with permission of the Grand Commander. 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 Darel Winslow, 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 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 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.

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 including all per capita 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 including all per capita. All other laws, rules, and regulations governing reinstatement shall apply. This amnesty shall continue through this Grand Commandery year and expire on August 18th 2019.

Quorum:

At the recently concluded Sixty-Seventh Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, Section 66 of the Constitution was amended to read: "A quorum of a Commandery consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the same. A Grand Commandery may provide for a lesser number for quorum purposes, provided that is not less than five."

By the authority vested in me as Grand Commander during the recess of the Grand Commandery, I hereby set the quorum for a Michigan Commandery to be five.

163rd ANNUAL CONCLAVE:

The 163rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Michigan will be held in the city of Bay City, Michigan on August 17th 2019. The Headquarters will be located at the Double Tree Hotel, 1 Wenonah Park Place, 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 15th, 2019 and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Michigan, on August 16th, 2019.

Respectfully Ordered:

Attested

SK Shawn M Bashore, KCT

SK Loren A. Winn KCT, PGC

Grand Commander

Grand Recorder