

Grand Commandery Knights Templar Of Michigan

Daniel E Stewart

R. E. Grand Commander
1375 Palmer Ave.
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(231) 343-1918
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General Order #1 – 2022-23
September 1, 2022

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 Observances:

Hospitaller Sunday	October 2022
Christmas Observance	December 2022
Easter Sunday	April 9, 2023
Ascension Day	May 18, 2023

Every constituent Commandery is required to observe the above four services, or in the alternative by attending church or other service as a body. This function may be by the individual Commandery or as a part of a Battalion observance as appropriate. Commanders are to ensure that appropriate dates are chosen, and the Knights and Ladies receive timely notice thereof. Easter Sunrise services will be held in Battle Creek, Port Huron, Grand Rapids and Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Michigan will again attend the Grand Encampment service for Easter Sunrise in April of 2023, held at the George Washington Masonic memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.

Grand Commander's Theme 2022 – 23: “Mentors and Father Figures”

While we move forward in our Templar careers, we may sometimes forget to thank those that helped us along the way directly or indirectly. People that have made a lasting impact upon us. It is with this in mind that I will be continuing and reinstating some of the programs of previous Grand Commanders. Some that I will include, but not limited to;

Spur Charm – PGC Winslow’s inclusion of the Spur Presentation during the Order of the Temple as a reminder of continued Service.

Maltese Cross Pin – PDC Winn’s lapel pin for the top line signer as an indication of mentoring a new Sir Knight.

100% Life Sponsor KTEF – PGC Paquet’s goal will be extended to this year in hope that we will see the benefits in helping others.

In addition, PGC Rule’s “Fishing for Whatever” and PGC Porritt’s “What’s in it for me?” have brought forth a place for my two projects for the year:

- 1) Special Committee on Templar Research and Education Promotion – With the assistance of SK Brandon Mullins PC OC and SK Christopher Potts PC, we will be



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making a greater effort to provide a place for educational opportunities including: promotion of the Templar Scholar Program, research assistance, and streamlining access to educational materials.

- 2) Grand Commandery Brass Band – For those that know me, know that I love music. I wanted to share that within the Asylums of Michigan and beyond with the presence of appropriate music. We will start with a quartet and build from there. “How Firm a Foundation” was a theme I had began my years in the Grand Commandery Officer Line, and I plan on using that as a basis for our musical endeavors.

It is my hope that during this Chivalric Year that each Commandery will select a Sir Knight from their ranks that has been a long-standing positive influence with mentoring new Sir Knights and recognize them during their Annual Inspections, and consider tendering a nomination for the Meritorious Award or Grand Commander’s Service Award.

Philanthropies:

Through your efforts, we support three philanthropies: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Holy Land Pilgrimage, and the Education Foundation. I would like to challenge all the Commanderies and all the Sir Knights in the state to a 100% donation rate for the eye foundation. Over the years, many individuals have donated to this fine organization, and your donation is greatly appreciated, but we have never had all the Sir Knights and all the Commanderies contribute. It’s amazing how as little as five dollars can add up. Let’s make a difference to eradicate childhood diseases and provide a better quality of life for countless others.

Holy Land Pilgrimage, consider donating to, or saving funds as a Commandery, to sponsor a Minister in your local area for this wonderful opportunity to walk where Jesus walked and experience firsthand the words in the bible. Everyone who has ever taken this pilgrimage has come back with a new perspective. Because of this, we reach many in faith through our simple effort of sending one.

The Education Foundation, the fund was created in 1922 for the purpose of assisting worthy students to secure an education, thereby enabling them to become productive members of society. The foundation provides scholarships for vocational, technical, undergraduate, and postgraduate study. If you know of anyone who is worthy of this scholarship, encourage them to download an application from our website at kt-mi.org. While we use the profits generated from our portfolio to provide these scholarships, if you are so inclined to contribute to grow the portfolio, your contribution is always appreciated.



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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 Michigan Templar Law.

Dispensation is hereby granted to all Constituent Commanderies to visit any Masonic Organization such as Lodge, Chapter, Council, or any other Masonic Affiliated Organization in Full Templar Uniform to form an Honor Guard for the public Installation of Officers.

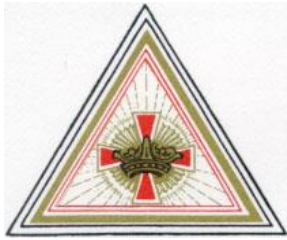
Wearing of the Summer Uniform in Michigan will end October 31, 2022 and may resume April 1, 2023 through August 19, 2023.

Knights Templar Cross of Honor:

The Grand Encampment of the USA presents this award to recognize a Sir Knight who has given service 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 this jurisdiction. The Council of each constituent commander may nominate a Sir Knight for this award. Any Sir Knight who is felt to meet the qualifications of **“exceptional service rendered to the Order, far beyond the call of duty, and beyond the service usually expected on an officer or member”** is eligible with the exception that no present or past elected Grand Officer of the Grand Commandery is eligible for this award. Nominations should reach the Grand Commander no later than (NLT) April 1st, 2023. 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 during the 167th Annual Conclave.

Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Award:

The Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Award is a distinct honor that recognizes the outstanding contributions of Michigan Sir Knights to their commandery, the Grand Commandery, Masonry or the community. Each year, a commandery has the option to select one of its Sir Knights for this honor. There are no restrictions on the number of years the awardee has been a member of Commandery, nor with regard to the office the awardee currently holds or has held in the past. A commandery may elect not to make an award within a given year, yet it is highly encouraged that each commandery take the opportunity to recognize Sir Knights that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. A completed award form should be submitted at least 60 days before the desired presentation date. Send nominations to SK Cortland C. Rule, PGC, Chairman. A copy of the nomination form will be considered an official attachment to this General Order.



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Grand Commanders 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 his Commandery. Nominations should be received by the Chair of the Awards Committee prior to your Commandery inspection, so that it can be presented at a public ceremony. Send nominations to SK Cortland C. Rule, PGC, Chairman.

Grand Commandery Committees:

In accordance with Section 521(1) of the Laws of Templar Masonry of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, Standing Committees and Special Committees have been appointed. All appointments are delineated in the Grand Commandery Directory 2022-2023. Your cooperation with committee chairman and their committeemen is appreciated.

Inspections:

Pursuant to Section 509 (1) of the Michigan Laws of Templar Masonry, each Constituent Commandery shall be visited and inspected by the Grand Commander or his personal representative, complete a report, forward said report to the Inspector General and the results shall be reported at the next Annual Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery. The inspection shall consist of looking at the financial books, minutes, By-Laws, facility and equipment, the Full Form or 10 Man Full Form Opening and, where able, performance of the Order of the Temple. It is preferred to have only one candidate for the Order of the Temple, however, if more are to be present, a dispensation is to be requested and in the hands of the Grand Commander at least two weeks prior to the inspection.

Reminder-Section 176 of the Constitution and Statues of the Grand Encampment; A Commandery that fails to hold a Conclave for twelve consecutive months, or to Knight a single candidate within such period, shall be placed on probation for the period of one year, and if thereafter it fails to hold a Conclave for the next twelve consecutive months or to Knight a single candidate within such period, its Charter may be arrested.

York Rite and All-Order Day Scheduling:

Any Constituent Commandery considering scheduling a York Rite Festival, Commandery Two or Three Order Day, and/or other similar events is to coordinate their effort with SK Jay Kennedy, VEDGC.



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Membership:

The Grand Encampment has issued General Order #5 focused on Recruitment, Retention, and Restoration. Each Constituent Commandery is charged, through their Membership Committee, to provide programming targeted to bring in new members, retain current members and to restoring those we have lost. You are encouraged to bring innovative ideas and implement programs that will achieve this goal. Assign mentors to Sir Knights or new Sir Knights. Arrange to pick up and bring back home elderly Sir Knights who wish to attend but are no longer able to drive themselves. Plan a festival or Membership Day, hold an Awards or Recognition Dinner for the Sir Knights or ladies. Take a portion of your time to practice the opening, closing, Reception of Grand Officers or any of the Orders. It won't happen without making it happen. If you find an idea or program that works, share it with other Commanderies and the Grand Commandery Membership Committee. Together, let's increase our state membership by at least 10%. This is one of the Grand Commandery's top priorities. Let's make it happen.

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 hereby declare amnesty, subject to the following requirements, for all members who are two (2) or more years delinquent in their dues. Paying of their current year's dues shall bring them up to date and they shall be considered a member in "good standing." 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 year's dues. Requirements: The Sir Knight applying for reinstatement must submit a letter requesting reinstatement, include the required fees and, at the first Conclave after receipt, the request shall be read and voted on by the Sir Knights present. A simple majority shall constitute favorability. All other laws, rules and regulations governing reinstatement shall apply. This amnesty shall continue through this Grand Commandery year ending on August 19, 2023.



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167th Annual Conclave:

The 167th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Michigan will be held in the city of Bay City, Michigan on August 19th, 2023. 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 17th, 2023 and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Michigan, on August 18th, 2023.

Respectfully Ordered:

Attested:

Daniel E. Stewart

Loren A. Winn

Daniel E. Stewart, KCT
Grand Commander

Loren A. Winn, PDC
Grand Recorder

Attachment A: Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Award nomination form