

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas  
Office of the Grand Commander  
Spring, Texas May 2, 2011

General Order No. 1 Series 2011-2012

Subject: District Schools of Instruction, Annual Visitation, Blanket Dispensations, Grand Commandery Committee Meetings, Drill and Ritual Competition and the Annual Grand Conclave.

To: The Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Officers and Members of Constituent Commanderies of Texas.

Greetings:

In accordance with the provisions of the Statutes and Regulations of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas ("the Statutes"), the following conditions will be observed during the 2011-2012 Templar year.

The following Grand Officers will serve as the Personal Representatives of the Grand Commander in the following Districts:

District No. 1	H. David Moore	V.E. Deputy Grand Commander
District No. 2	H. Bart Henderson	E. Grand Generalissimo
District No. 3	Clarence J. Laney	E. Grand Warder
District No. 4	Jack M. Harper, II	E. Grand Standard Bearer
District No. 5	Richard D. Doss	E. Grand Sword Bearer
District No. 6	Robert M. Loflin	E. Grand Captain General
District No. 7	John C. Elkinton	E. Grand Junior Warden
District No. 8	Jerry L. Pingle	E. Grand Senior Warden
District No. 9	Gary Freedman	E. Grand Sentinel

The District Schools of Instruction will be during the months of May, June, July and August, 2011 on a date and time agreed upon by the Grand Officer assigned to the District and the host Commandery. The Grand Officers are to be respectful of Blue Lodge and Eastern Star installations when setting a date and time for the School. A formal or informal District Conclave should be held to discuss any upcoming events in the District.

The Grand Officer assigned to the District will notify the Commander and the Recorder of each Commandery in the District of the time and place of the School. Each Commandery, in the announcement of the School, will be reminded of Article 113 of the Statutes that reads: "At such Schools of Instruction it shall be the duty of all the officers of each Commandery situated in such District to attend at the time and place designated...and to participate in the work of such School."

The Grand Officer will schedule the dates of the Official Visitations to be made in September, October and November, 2011. Commanderies are reminded that our Statutes and Regulations require them, as a condition of being a Commandery, to not only be able to Open and Close the Commandery in full ritualistic form but to also confer the Order of the Temple in accordance with 1979 Ritual of The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America as amended by Knight Templar Drill Regulations and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas (1987). Although authorized by Article 110 of the Statutes, joint conclaves for the purpose of inspection will not be permitted this year.

All Commanderies are subject to the following penalties and/or bonuses at the Annual Inspection:

Opening and Closing:

- Charge twenty(20) points for each installed officer not filling his installed station substituted by a regular member of the Commandery being inspected.
- Charge thirty(30) points for each installed officer not filling his installed station substituted by a member of another Commandery.
- No penalty will be charged for any vacancy caused by death, hospitalization, or serious illness.

Order of the Temple:

- Charge twenty(20) points for each installed officer not filling his installed station substituted by a regular member of the Commandery being inspected.
- Charge thirty(30) points for each installed officer not filling his installed station substituted by a member of another Commandery.
- ANY Sir Knight from any Commandery may be a Hermit or a Guard without penalty.
- Any member of the Commandery being inspected may give the Remaining Attributes without penalty; however, if the installed Commander or Generalissimo of the Commandery being inspected gives the Attributes, a ten(10) point bonus will be given.

At the next Stated Conclave following receipt of this General Order, each Commander shall read aloud or cause to be read aloud Chapter 56, Article 344, 345, and 346 of the

Statutes regarding Merit Awards and Service Medals, and the Recorder shall note this event in the minutes.

Commanders are reminded that Article 111 of the Statutes requires that the Commander of each Commandery...cause the members of his Commandery to be notified to attend the visitation of the Grand Officer. All Sir Knights are strongly encouraged to visit other Commanderies, especially during the Official Visitation of the Grand Officer.

Each Commandery shall give the Salute to the Texas Flag immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag at all stated and called Conclaves as required in Article 350 of the Statutes.

A Blanket Dispensation is granted for Sir Knights to appear in public in uniform at:

- I. Community events (parades, dedications, leveling cornerstones, and ceremonies in connection with Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and any dignified public function where Templar Masonry will be promoted).
- II. Church services as a Commandery.
- III. Flag presentation ceremonies for any Masonic-related organization and for events to promote the Eye Foundation, the Holy Land Pilgrimage, or the Educational Foundation.

The 159<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas will be held in Houston, Texas April 20-23, 2012 at the DoubleTree Hotel Houston Airport, 15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, Texas, 77032.

Field Drill Competition will be held in the morning of Saturday, April 21, 2012, using the Grand Encampment Schedule for Class A, B, C, and D teams. Certain modifications may be made to the several drill schedules in order to better display the required movements within the available area. Entries should be sent to the Chairman of the Field Drill Committee (see Bulletin #1) ahead of time; however, entries will be accepted for the competition up to the Drill Captains meeting time on Friday, April 19, 2012.

Ritualistic Competition will be held in the afternoon of Saturday, April 21, 2012, in the Order of the Red Cross. The parts for the competition will be: Zerubbabel, Conductor, Warder, First Guard, Second Guard, and Persian Guard. The exact portion of the Order for competition will be presented and demonstrated to the Sir Knights by the Templar Instruction Committee on Friday evening, April 20, 2012, at a time to be determined. Entries should be sent to the Chairman of the Templar Instruction Committee (See Bulletin #1) ahead of time; however, entries will be accepted for the competition up to the meeting time on Friday, April 20, 2012.

The Chairman of each Committee shall notify the Grand Officers of all meetings of their Committee as soon as they are scheduled, but at least two weeks in advance. If possible, it is requested that any such meetings be held on a Saturday to facilitate the attendance of the Grand Officers at the Committee's meeting.

The mailing address, telephone numbers and email address of the Grand Recorder are:

Jerry N. Kirby  
P.O. Box 534  
Red Oak, TX 75154  
972-617-2370

972-576-3116                      Grand Commandery Office phone  
    Grand Commandery office email  
972-576-3132                      Grand Commandery office fax

The mailing address, telephone numbers and email address of the Grand Commander are:

Paul E. Wunsche  
17120 Theiss Mail Road  
Spring, Texas 77379  
(281)320-2509 home  
(281)814-2614 cell  
email: pewunsche@sbcglobal.net

This General Order is to be read aloud at the next Stated Conclave following its receipt and the action noted by the Recorder in the minutes with a copy attached thereto.

Fraternally,

*Paul E. Wunsche*

Paul E. Wunsche  
Grand Commander

Attest:

*Jerry N. Kirby*

Jerry N. Kirby  
Grand Recorder