

**The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas  
Office of the Grand Commander  
Houston, Texas May 14, 2013**

General Order No. 1 Series 2013-2014

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 following conditions will be observed during the 2013-2014 Templar year.

I am very proud to present the following Grand Officers, who will serve as the Personal Representatives of the Grand Commander in the following Districts:

District No. 1: Jerry Pingle, E.: Grand Generalissimo  
District No. 2: Clarence Laney, E.: Grand Standard Bearer  
District No. 3: Richard Jernigan, E.: Grand Sentinel  
District No. 4: Robert Loflin, V.:E.: Deputy Grand Commander  
District No. 5: John Elkinton, E.: Grand Generalissimo  
District No. 6: Gary Freedman, E.: Grand Sword Bearer  
District No. 7: Jack Harper, E.: Grand Senior Warden  
District No. 8: Ronnie Wilson, E.: Grand Warder  
District No. 9: Richard Doss, E.: Grand Junior Warden

The District Schools of Instruction will be during the months of June, July and August, and September, 2013, 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 and Regulations** 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 August, September, October and November, 2013. 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 and Regulations**, joint conclaves for the purpose of inspection will not be permitted.

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 twenty **(20)** 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 and Regulations**, 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 and Regulations** 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 and Regulations.**

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 Templar Masonry, the Eye Foundation, the Holy Land Pilgrimage, or the Educational Foundation.

The 161<sup>st</sup> Grand Conclave of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas will be held in Houston, Texas, April 25 - 28, 2014 at the Marriott Westchase Hotel, 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, TX 77042. Information regarding the 161<sup>st</sup> Grand Conclave, including some special incentives, will be upcoming.

Field Drill Competition will be held in the morning of Saturday, April 26, 2014, using a revised schedule for Class A, B, C, and D teams and which will be made available at a later date. 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 25, 2014.

Ritualistic Competition will be held in the afternoon of Saturday, April 26, 2014, in the Order of the Malta. The parts for the competition will be announced at a later date. 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 25, 2014, 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 25, 2014.

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

Home: (972) 617-2370  
Grand Commandery Office Phone: (972) 576-3116  
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The mailing address, telephone numbers and email address of the Grand Commander are:

H. Bart Henderson  
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EMail: [hbhBlackBart@msn.com](mailto:hbhBlackBart@msn.com)

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,

*H. Bart Henderson*

H. Bart Henderson  
Grand Commander

Attest:

*Jerry N. Kirby*

Jerry N. Kirby  
Grand Recorder