

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas
Office of the Grand Commander
Pearland, Texas
March 1, 2017

Circular Letter No. 1, Series 2016-2017

Subject: 164th Annual Conclave, Field Drill and Ritualistic Competition

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

164th Annual Conclave

All Sir Knights and their Ladies are invited to attend the 164th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, April 20th through 23rd, 2017, at South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center, League City, Texas.

Due to Easter falling on the third weekend in April 2017, the Annual Conclave is being held Friday, April 21, 2017. Registration forms and schedules are available on our website at www.yorkritetexas.org. Deadline for hotel rooms is March 20th. After that date the room prices will revert to the normal rate. The deadline to purchase meal tickets is April 10th. No tickets will be available for purchase at the Conclave.

Each Commandery is invited to participate in the Pass-In-Review of Commanderies on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at 11:00 am, following the Field Drill Competition. Commanderies are asked to bring their Beauceant, along with the pole and stand, for display at the Annual Conclave on Friday and for the Pass-In-Review on Saturday. Each Commandery participating in the Pass-In-Review will receive a commemorative streamer for permanent display on their Beauceant.

Field Drill Competition

Field Drill Competition of the Grand Commandery of Texas will be held in League City, Texas, Saturday, April 23, 2017, beginning at 7:00 am.

Notice

Commanderies entering Field Drill Teams in the competition must notify Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer, Sr., Chairman of the Field Drill Committee, 5138 Shady Oaks Ln, Friendswood, Texas 77546-3018.

Field Drill Rules

Field Drills will be conducted in accordance with the rules laid down by the Drill Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, which govern all Commandery functions outside the Asylum.

Class A Teams shall consist of 24 Knights, 4 Guides, 2 Platoon Leaders, and a Captain:
Total of 31 Knights

Class B Teams shall consist of 18 Knights, 2 Guides, and a Captain: Total of 21 Knights.

Class C Teams shall consist of 12 Knights, 2 Guides, and a Captain: Total of 15 Knights.

Class D Teams shall consist of 6 Knights, and a Captain: Total of 7 Knights.

Each Class A Team will be allowed to certify 4 extra Knights,
Each Class B Team will be allowed to certify 3 extra Knights,
Each Class C Team will be allowed to certify 2 extra Knights,
Each Class D Team will be allowed to certify 1 extra Knight,
as members of their respective Teams.

Drill Team Assistance

All teams entered in the competition and complying with all rules shall receive the following assistance toward paying for their expenses, to wit.

Participating Commanderies located within 100 miles of the conclave shall receive:

Class A - \$100.00 Class B - \$65.00 Class C - \$50.00 Class D - \$40.00

Participating Commanderies located more than 100 miles from the conclave, shall receive:

Class A - \$1,023.00 Class B - \$693.00 Class C - \$495.00 Class D - \$231.00

One drill bar or service bar will be awarded to each Sir Knight competing.

Ritualistic Competition

Each Commandery is cordially invited to participate in the Ritualistic Competition in the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross at League City on Saturday, April 22, 2017, beginning at 1:00 pm. The Competition will be held in the designated room at the South Shore Harbour Resort.

The officers in this year's competition will be: Sovereign Master, Prince Chancellor, Prince Master of the Palace, Companion Conductor, Master of Cavalry and Warder.

A candidate will be required for this competition and should be furnished by the competing team or will be furnished by the Committee on Templar Instruction, if necessary. The candidate will in no manner assist the competition team.

Please notify Sir Knight Tommy F. Chapman, 1313 Fannin St, Nederland, TX 77627-3432, Chairman of the Committee on Templar Instruction, of your intention to enter a Team in the Competition as soon as possible. The deadline for entering the Competition will be 7:00 pm, Thursday, April 20th, before the announcement of the portion of the ritual selected by the Grand Commander. However, advanced registration helps the committee make proper arrangements for the competing teams. Please direct all questions to Sir Knight Chapman.

Rules for Competition

The competition will be held in that portion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross as selected by the Grand Commander from the Ritual of the Grand Encampment printed in 1979 (Ritual), and the Manual of Asylum Ceremonies, Revised 2012 (Tactics).

Competing teams will consist of six (6) officers and may be filled by any member in good standing of the Commandery entering the competition. Any member may take any part of the selected portion of the Order. Each of the six (6) members may take any part of the

selected portion of the Order. One Sir Knight may fill the position of both Master of Cavalry and Warder or the parts may be filled by two Sir Knights. No member may compete on more than one team.

Judges will grade as follows:

One point off for each incorrect word.

One point off for each word omitted.

One point off for each word added or repeated in addition to those in the Ritual.

One point off for each failure to observe each rubric as set out in the selected portion of the Ritual.

(Example, if sword, belt or other items are at the station or place designated by the Ritual, it is to be used by the Knight exemplifying that portion of the work and is to be followed in its entirety. Any movements set forth in the rubric must be observed.)

One point off for each rubric out of proper sequence.

One point off for each word given as a prompt.

Once an error is made, it is graded. The immediate correction of each error will be graded as an additional error.

All Paraphernalia required in the competition will be furnished by the Host Commandery.

Ritualistic Competition Financial Assistance

Each Commandery appearing before the Committee on Templar Instruction and participating in the competition at the 164th Annual Conclave and complying with all rules, shall receive \$50.00 if the Commandery is located less than 100 miles from League City and \$100.00 if located more than 100 miles from League City. One ritual bar will be awarded to each Sir Knight participating in the competition, including the candidate.

1st Place will receive \$200.00

2nd Place will receive \$100.00

3rd Place will receive \$50.00

This Circular Letter 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,

John C. Elkinton

John C. Elkinton
Grand Commander

Attest:

Jerry N. Kirby

Jerry N. Kirby
Grand Recorder

