

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas
Office of the Grand Commander
Hillsboro, Texas
April 23, 2017

GENERAL ORDER NO. 1, SERIES 2017-2018

Subject: District Appointments, District Conclaves, Schools of Instruction and Statewide Makeup School 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 the 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 2017-2018 Templar year.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS:

I am 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: Clarence J. Laney, Eminent Grand Generalissimo
District No. 2: Justin C. Bauer, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
District No. 3: Gary E. Rock, Jr., Eminent Grand Sentinel
District No. 4: Gary H. Freedman, Eminent Grand Captain General
District No. 5: T. Chance Chapman, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
District No. 6: Ronnie W. Wilson, Eminent Grand Senior Warden
District No. 7: Richard R. Jernigan, Eminent Grand Junior Warden
District No. 8: Jason L. Lesikar, Eminent Grand Warder
District No. 9: Richard D. Doss, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander

DISTRICT CONCLAVES AND SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION:

The District Schools of Instruction will be held during the months of June, July, and August, 2017, 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.”***

For those who are unable to attend the School of Instruction in your district, the Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight Richard D. Doss will conduct a statewide makeup school in the Asylum of Waco Commandery No. 10, on Saturday, August 26, 2017, at 9am.

Registration will begin at 8am. Lunch will be served at Noon and the school should conclude by 3pm.

ANNUAL INSPECTION AND OFFICIAL VISITATION:

The Grand Officer will schedule the dates of the Official Visitations to be made in September, October, and November 2017. 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 the **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) or the alternate nine man opening ritual as adopted at the 161st Annual Grand Conclave (April 28th, 2014)**. 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 regulations. No penalties points will be assessed at this year's Annual Inspection.

Bonus points will be awarded as follows:

Opening and Closing:

- Only those Commanderies who perform the Full Form (18 man) Opening during Inspection can compete for the J.C. Kidd Plaque. However, if every Commandery in a District uses the Alternate 9 Man Opening for their Inspection, then every Commandery can compete for the J.C. Kidd Plaque.
- A Ten **(10)** point bonus will be awarded for each officer filling his installed station at the Annual Inspection of the Commandery.
- Commanderies will receive a Fifty **(50)** point bonus for ALL members present who completely fill out the Strategic Plan Survey and return to their Inspecting Grand Officer.
 - Commanderies will receive a Fifty **(50)** point bonus for ALL installed officers attending and filling their station in the Opening and Closing Ritual.
- Commanderies opting to use the Full Form (eighteen man) Opening and Closing ritual will receive a Fifty **(50)** point bonus. However, ALL 18 Sir Knights performing the Full Form Opening and Closing **MUST** be members of the Commandery to receive the 50 bonus points.

Order of the Temple:

- A Ten **(10)** point bonus will be awarded for each officer filling his installed station at the Annual Inspection of the Commandery.
- Commanderies will receive a Fifty **(50)** point bonus for ALL installed officers attending and filling their stations in the Order of the Temple.
- Commanderies will receive a Twenty **(20)** point bonus for having an actual candidate at the Annual Inspection of the Commandery.
- Any member of the Commandery being inspected may give the Remaining Attributes; however, if the installed Commander or Generalissimo of the Commandery being inspected gives the Remaining 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.*”

SALUTE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:

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**.

BLANKET DISPENSATIONS:

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.

165TH ANNUAL CONCLAVE:

The 165th Annual Conclave of The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas will be held in Waco, Texas, April 13 - 15, 2018 at the Waco Convention Center. Information regarding the 165th Annual Conclave, will be made available on our website.

Registration will open at Noon on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the Waco Convention Center. The business session of the Grand Commandery of Texas will be held on Friday, April 13, 2018, beginning at 8:30 am.

Field Drill Competition will be held in the morning of Saturday, April 14, 2018, 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 Thursday, April 12, 2018.

Ritualistic Competition will be held in the afternoon of Saturday, April 14, 2018, in the Order of the Red Cross. The parts for the competition will be: Sovereign Master, Prince Chancellor, Prince Master of the Palace, Companion Conductor, Persian Guard, Warder and Master of Cavalry. The exact portion of the Order for competition will be presented and demonstrated to the Sir Knights by the Templar Instruction Committee on Thursday evening, April 12, 2018, 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 Thursday, April 12, 2018.

The Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday Evening, April 14, 2018. The Annual Conclave will conclude on Sunday, April 15, 2018, with the Divine/Memorial Service at 8:30 am, followed by the Installation of the 2018-2019 Grand Commandery officers.

COMMITTEES:

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.

Committees will submit their preliminary reports in writing to the Grand Recorder by March 1, 2018.

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

Jerry N. Kirby
P.O. Box 354
Red Oak, TX 75154-0354
Home: (972) 617-2370
Grand Commandery Office Phone: (972) 576-3116
Grand Commandery Office Fax: (972) 576-3132
Grand Commandery Office Email: tx3star@att.net

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

Jack M. Harper II
714 Craig St.
Hillsboro, TX 76645
Cell: (210) 414-0052
Email: n7080f@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,

Jack M. Harper II

Jack M. Harper II
Grand Commander

Attest:

Jerry N. Kirby

Jerry N. Kirby
Grand Recorder

