

STATUTES AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS
TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI



ADOPTED AT THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SECOND ANNUAL CONCLAVE
MERIDIAN, MARCH 15, 2013

Revised to include all amendments up to and including March 15, 2013

REVISED AND APPROVED BY
Billy A. McNair, P.G.C., Jiles K. Grice, P.G.C. and Edward G. Holland, P.G.C.

COMPILED AND FORMATTED BY
Christopher M. Reid, P.E.C.

PREAMBLE, BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF MISSISSIPPI,

ADOPTED AT THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SECOND ANNUAL CONCLAVE HELD IN THE
CITY OF MERIDIAN MARCH 15, 2013

PREAMBLE

This Grand Commandery exists and holds authority by virtue of a Charter granted to it by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Accepting and adopting, as its basic law, the enactments of the Grand Encampment relative to Commanderies, both Grand and Constituent, and binding its officers and members, and the officers and members of the several Constituent Commanderies strictly to conform thereto, it hereby enacts the following

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

Repealing all of its laws heretofore enacted, adopted or approved.

SECTION 1 - This Grand Commandery shall be known and designated as the GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI.

SECTION 2 - The members are and shall be those prescribed by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, as follows:

- a) All its Past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past Grand Generalissimos and Past Grand Captains General, so long as they shall remain members of its Constituent Commanderies
- b) The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each of its Constituent Commanderies:

- c) Each Past Commander of its Constituent Commanderies and all such Past Commanders as may have demitted from other jurisdictions and have been elected to membership by the Grand Commandery so long as they remain members of its constituent Commanderies.
- d) All Knights Templar of other Grand Commanderies who have been elected honorary members. Such membership shall not confer the right to vote.

SECTION 3 - The officers shall be:

- A Grand Commander,
- A Deputy Grand Commander,
- A Grand Generalissimo,
- A Grand Captain General,
- A Grand Treasurer,
- A Grand Recorder,

All of whom shall be elected, and

- A Grand Senior Warden,
- A Grand Junior Warden,
- A Grand Prelate,
- A Grand Standard Bearer,
- A Grand Sword Bearer,
- A Grand Warder, and
- A Grand Sentinel,

all of whom shall be appointed by the Grand Commander.

TERM OF OFFICE

SECTION 4 - Grand Officers shall hold office until their successors shall have been duly elected or appointed and installed.

ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE

SECTION 5 - No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in a Grand Commandery, except that of Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at the time a member thereof.

TITLES

SECTION 6 - The honorary title of the Grand Commander is "Right Eminent," and his official title is "Grand Commander." The honorary title of the Deputy Grand Commander is "Very Eminent," and his official title is "Deputy Grand Commander." The honorary title of the remaining officers of a Grand Commandery is "Eminent."

The honorary title shall be used when an Officer is addressed and shall immediately precede the official title, thus: "Right Eminent Grand Commander, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Eminent Grand Senior Warden." When referring to an officer, the honorary title shall immediately follow the name, thus: "Sir Knight John Doe, Right Eminent Grand Commander; Sir Knight James Brown, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Knight Peter Roe, Eminent Grand Senior Warden." The official title shall be used by an Officer only when necessary to designate his rank or official station, thus: "I am Sir Knight John Jones, Grand Commander."

PRECEDENCE OF RANK

SECTION 7 - The precedence of rank shall be as follows:

- The Grand Commander,
- The Deputy Grand Commander,
- The Grand Generalissimo,
- The Grand Captain General,
- The Past Grand Commanders according to seniority of service,
- The Grand Senior Warden,
- The Grand Junior Warden,
- The Grand Prelate,
- The Grand Treasurer,
- The Grand Recorder,
- The Grand Standard Bearer,
- The Grand Sword Bearer,
- The Grand Warder,
- The Grand Sentinel.

CONCLAVES

SECTION 8 - The conclaves of the Grand Commandery shall be:

- a) *Stated*, which shall be held at least once each year.

- b) *Special*, which may be called by the Grand Commander, and he shall call such Conclave upon the written request of a majority of the Commanderies. No business shall be transacted at such conclaves save that specified by the Grand Commander or set out in the request.

SECTION 9 - The Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery shall be held each year at such time and place as shall be determined by vote thereof. (*Amended March 17, 1984*)

SECTION 9A – Repealed (*March 17, 1984*)

SECTION 10 - A Commandery that has not paid its dues to the Grand Commandery shall not be entitled to representation at its annual Conclave, and the Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General or other certified representative, as such, shall not have a seat, or vote.

The same shall be the case with any Commandery whose Charter is under arrest at the time of the stated annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

SECTION 11 - The Templar year commences on December 27th of each year, at which time the officers of Constituent Commanderies should be installed.

SECTION 12 - The fiscal year in the Grand Commandery shall begin January 1st and end December 31st of each year. Returns shall be in the hands of the Grand Recorder on or before February 1st, and dues shall be in his hands on or before February 28th.

SECTION 13 - For failure to have returns in by February 1st, a penalty of \$5.00 shall be assessed, and an additional penalty of \$2.50 per month, or fractional part thereof, until returns are received. No representation before this Grand Commandery shall be permitted until all dues and penalties have been paid in full.

SECTION 14 - If, for any reason, the Grand Recorder shall return to a Constituent Recorder, for correction, any return submitted, a period of fifteen days from the date of returning same shall be allowed to correct and return it to the Grand Recorder, and if such report is not corrected and back in the hands of the Grand Recorder within said fifteen days, then it shall be considered that such report was never filed and the penalties set out in Section 13 shall be inflicted, and no representation in this Grand Commandery shall be permitted until all dues and penalties inflicted shall have been paid in full.

VOTING

SECTION 15 - Each member of the Grand Commandery, as defined in Section 2, Parts A, B and C of the Statutes and Regulations, shall be entitled to one vote when present or duly represented in accordance with Section

16 of the Statutes and Regulations, except that the presiding officer shall vote only in the case of a tie, when he shall decide the issue. (*Amended March 17, 1989*)

SECTION 16 - The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of each Constituent Commandery, and they only, shall be entitled to be represented by proxy.

In the absence of any or all of them, or of their duly appointed proxies, the Commander, if present, (if not, then the duly elected and certified representative of a Commandery) shall act for those absent.

SECTION 17 - A representative must be a member in good standing of the Commandery which he represents, and acquires no permanent membership in the Grand Commandery by reason of his certificate of representation, which is temporary and good only during the Conclave for which issued.

DUTIES, POWERS, JURISDICTION AND LIMITATIONS

SECTION 18 - The duties, powers, jurisdiction and limitations of the Grand Commandery shall be those ordained and specified by the Grand Encampment.

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS FOR COMMANDERIES

SECTION 19 - A fee of One Hundred Dollars shall accompany every petition for a dispensation for a new Commandery. Should the petition be refused the fee shall be returned to the petitioners. If granted by the Grand Commandery, a dispensation or Charter shall be issued under the sign manual of the Grand Commander, countersigned by the Grand Recorder, who shall affix the seal of the Grand Commandery thereto. In case a dispensation is succeeded by a Charter, the fee first collected shall suffice for both. A dispensation granted by the Grand Commander shall be issued under his sign manual and official seal. The granting of a dispensation by the Grand Commander, or a Charter or dispensation by the Grand Commandery is legal notice to all Commanderies. A Commandery or other Templar organization, other than the Grand Commandery, cannot incorporate under the laws of the State.

SECTION 20 - Any Commandery under dispensation which fails to apply for a Charter at the next Grand Conclave thereby forfeits its dispensation.

PRECEDENCE

SECTION 21 - The several Commanderies shall be numbered and take rank according to the dates of their respective charters.

FEES AND REVENUES

SECTION 22 - The minimum amount to be paid by each petitioner for the Orders of Knighthood shall be forty (\$40.00) Dollars, all of which shall be paid in cash before the Order of Red Cross is conferred.

SECTION 23 - No Commandery shall fix the annual dues at less than \$6.00, or fee for life membership at less than \$150.00 in cash; except, when a member reaches his seventy second birthday and has been in good standing for an aggregate of twenty-five years, he may be exempted from all payment of dues when his Commandery makes proper application to the Grand Recorder's office and certificate is issued. *(Amended March 17, 1984)*

SECTION 23-A - The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi does hereby establish a Perpetual Membership Program to be financed and administered in the following manner:

A. General Specifications

1. This program shall be known as the "Perpetual Membership Plan" of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi, hereinafter referred to as "the plan".
2. This plan is to be operated and administered by a committee consisting of three Sir Knights appointed by the Right Eminent Grand Commander to serve as follows: one member to serve for three years, one member to serve for two years and one member to serve for one year, at the end of which all successive appointments are to be for three years, except for appointments to fill unexpired terms. The Right Eminent Grand Commander shall appoint one of the members to serve as Chairman of the Committee. The Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of this committee for advisory purposes only.
3. The Plan Committee is hereby empowered to invest all funds received by the Grand Commandery for this program. Investments are to be in government insured securities of maximum interest yield. The term of securities will be determined by the Plan Committee. All proceeds from the investments are to be returned to the members' Commandery, except 1% of the proceeds may be set aside for administrative costs when necessary.
4. Any matter not specifically covered by this regulation shall be resolved by a committee consisting of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer and the Plan Committee. The results of such meeting will be reported at the next Grand Commandery Conclave, and any changes resulting there from shall be subject to the vote of the members of the Grand Commandery.

B. Eligibility

1. Any constituent Commandery of Knights Templar may, by the vote of the members, participate in this plan, subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth.
2. Any Commandery member in good standing within this Grand Jurisdiction, who is a member in good standing of a Symbolic Masonic Lodge, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and a Council fo Royal and Select Masters, may become a participant in this plan and receive a "Perpetual Membership Certificate" and a "Perpetual Membership Card" by paying into the Plan an amount as set forth in the cost of the plan.

C. Cost of the Plan

1. The entire cost of a Perpetual Membership shall be paid by the participating member, or his Commandery, in accordance with the formula set forth herein.
2. The formula used to compute the cost will use the annual dues of the Constituent Commandery multiplied by fifteen (15). *(To prevent a loss in revenue, the Constituent Commandery should also collect, and retain for its own use, any current dues that may be payable at the time the application is submitted to the Commandery.)*
3. Upon receipt of an application for Perpetual Membership (form to be supplied by the Grand Recorder) and the payment of an amount computed from the above formula, the Constituent Commandery Recorder will transmit to the Chairman of the Plan Committee the payment plus the application. The application form should include the name of the applicant, the name and number of his Symbolic Lodge, the name and number of his Commandery, the name and number of his Council, the name and number of his Chapter, his birthday, the date when he became a Knight Templar, and the inclusive dates of any suspension for non-payment of dues. The chairman of the Plan Committee shall deposit any funds received, verily the above information with the Grand Recorder, verify the computation, and if all is correct, issue a Perpetual Membership Certificate effective the following January 1, and send it to the Commandery Recorder who will issue the Sir Knight a Perpetual Membership Card. Should there be a discrepancy in information or computation, it must be resolved prior to the issuance of the Certificate.

D. Administration

1. The administration of the Plan shall be vested in the Perpetual Membership Plan Committee and under the supervision of the Right Eminent Grand Commander. All moneys received shall be placed in trust in the name of the Constituent Commandery and all funds derived from the investment of moneys in trust shall be returned to the Constituent Commandery prior to January 15 of each year,

except that 1% of the interest on the above trust funds may be set aside as necessary for administrative costs.

2. The Plan Committee shall keep a complete record of all funds paid into a Commandery's Perpetual Membership Trust Fund, the amount of interest earned by the above funds, the payment of interest to the Commandery, and the name of the individual to whom the Perpetual Membership Certificate is issued. The Plan Committee shall make an annual report to the Grand Commandery at the Annual Conclave regarding the financial status of each account so established, together with the cost of administration of the Plan. The Plan Committee may operate jointly with equivalent committees of the other Grand York Rite Bodies of this Grand Jurisdiction, as appropriate.
3. The initial and future cost of the administration of the Plan will be paid on a pro rata basis by all participating Commanderies; expenses in excess of 1% of the interest on moneys in trust are subject to a vote of the members in attendance at an Annual Conclave.
4. Disposal of moneys in trust in the name of a Constituent Commandery shall not be made in any other manner except as herein designated.
5. No refund shall be made from the Plan to any person for any reason.

E. Change of Membership

1. Upon the holder of Perpetual Membership Certificate transferring to another Constituent Commandery within this Grand Jurisdiction, the Chairman of the Perpetual Membership Committee shall upon notice thereof cause to be transferred on the books of the Perpetual Membership Plan the moneys received from such Perpetual Membership to the credit of the Commandery transferred to, regardless of by whom such Perpetual Membership was purchased. If the transferor's new Commandery is not a participating Commandery in the Plan, such transfer of membership shall automatically establish an account in the new Commandery's name, and all interest is to be credited to the members new Commandery as herein provided.
2. The death of a holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate does not alter the payment of interest to the participating Commandery.
3. Upon the holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate demitting to a Commandery outside of this Grand Jurisdiction, or taking a demit and not affiliating with another Commandery, the moneys received for such Perpetual Membership shall remain in the account of the members Commandery prior to taking the demit.

4. Upon the holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate being suspended or expelled from the Symbolic Lodge, a Royal Arch Chapter, a Council of Royal and Select Masters the moneys received for such Perpetual Membership shall remain in the account of the member's Commandery prior to being suspended or expelled.
5. When two or more Commanderies consolidate, all moneys in the respective Perpetual Membership Plans of the Commanderies involved shall be transferred to the credit of such consolidated Commandery.
6. Upon the dissolution of a Commandery, holders of Perpetual Membership Certificates shall have such memberships transferred as provided in sub-paragraph 1 hereof. All funds received for Perpetual Memberships from deceased members of the dissolved Commandery, and all funds for Perpetual Memberships from members who do not transfer their perpetual memberships to another Commandery, shall remain in the Plan and be credited to the Grand Commandery, and all interest received from such moneys will be distributed on a pro rata basis with the remaining constituent Commanderies in the Plan. *(Amended March 15, 2013)*

SECTION 24 – Each constituent Commandery of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi shall pay to the Grand Commandery:

1. A fee for each Knight Templar created in the amount approved by the members of the Grand Commandery at an Annual Conclave. Said fee to be not less than twelve dollars (\$12.00)
2. Annual dues for each member as of December 31st, except those members duly exempted as provided for in Section 23 of the Statutes and Regulations in the amount approved by the members of the Grand Commandery at an Annual Conclave. Said annual dues to include, but not limited to, an amount equal to the annual dues per non-exempt member payable to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi; an amount equal to the annual dues per non-exempt member payable to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America; an amount equal to the annual assessment per exempt and non-exempt member, payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Incorporated (except those members exempted from this assessment by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation); an amount equal to one dollar (\$1.00) per exempt member payable to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi.

Further, should the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, at a Triennial Conclave, duly increase the amount payable per member by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi to the Grand Encampment for, but not limited to; annual dues and/or the annual assessment for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Incorporated, the amount of the increase payable to the Grand Encampment by

the Grand Commandery shall become a part of the annual dues payable by each constituent Commandery to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi, ipso facto. (*Amended March 16, 1990*)

VOW OF OFFICE

SECTION 25 - Each Officer of a Grand Commandery, before entering upon the exercise of the duties of his office, shall take the following vow, "*I, (A. B.), do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been chosen to the best of my ability.*"

GENERAL DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 26 - The duties of the Officers of a Grand Commandery shall be such as appertain to their respective stations, conforming as nearly as may be to those of the corresponding officers of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Commandery may require other service and the Grand Commander may assign to his subordinate Officers duties conformable to Templar law and usage. In addition to these general duties certain specific ones are hereinafter set out for specific Officers.

THE GRAND COMMANDER

SECTION 27 - The Grand Commander shall have the following specific powers and duties but the enumeration shall not be deemed a limitation thereof:

- a) To maintain a watchful supervision over all the Commanderies in his jurisdiction and to see that the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery are duly and promptly observed.
- b) To appoint all Committees and all Officers not made elective, and to fill all vacancies, such appointees to serve during his pleasure or until their successors have been elected and installed.
- c) To grant during any recess of the Grand Commandery Dispensations for the formation of new Commanderies. No Dispensation shall be issued unless the following requirements are met:
 1. A petition by nine or more duly qualified Knights Templar.
 2. The consent and recommendation of the nearest Commandery in that Jurisdiction, provided that if the new Commandery is to be located in a city having more than one Commandery, two of such

Commanderies must consent and recommend and provided further that if the Commanderies in such city have concurrent jurisdiction, then all the Commanderies therein stationed must consent and recommend. A dispensation when issued shall be in force until the next annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

- d) During any recess of the Grand Commandery to arrest the Charter or Dispensation of a Commandery or to suspend from his office any Officer of the Grand or of a Constituent Commandery, but in no case shall such suspension affect the standing in the Order of such Officer or his membership in the Commandery. The Grand Commander shall report his action in full to the next Conclave of the Grand Commandery for its final action.
- e) To visit and preside in any Commandery within his Jurisdiction and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the Order may require, always adhering to the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.
- f) To grant Dispensations to Constituent Commanderies:
 - 1. To hold Special Conclaves for the conferring of the Orders at places within their jurisdictions other than those named in their Charters, and
 - 2. To permit them to receive petitions and ballot thereon at the same Conclave or at Special Conclaves, after such notice as he may deem proper.
- g) To appoint Past Grand Commanders, Officers of the Grand Commandery, or Past Commanders of Constituent Commanderies to represent the Grand Commandery within sister jurisdictions, such appointee to be known as "Grand Representative" and to serve at the pleasure of the Grand Commander or until a successor is appointed.

THE DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER

SECTION 28 - The Deputy Grand Commander in the event of the absence of the Grand Commander or his inability to perform the duties of his office, shall act as Grand Commander. In the event of the death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent disability of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander shall succeed to the office and be regularly installed. At all other times he shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

THE GRAND GENERALISSIMO AND GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL

SECTION 29 - In case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall perform the duties of their respective superiors.

In case of the advancement, death, permanent removal from the Jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of office, or the permanent disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall severally succeed to the office of such superiors and be installed therein.

GRAND TREASURER

SECTION 30 - The Grand Treasurer shall have in charge all moneys belonging to the Grand Commandery. He shall render to the Grand Commandery, at its annual Conclave, or at such times as required by the Grand Commander, a true and correct account thereof. He shall payout no money, except on duly authorized order signed by the Grand Commander and attested by the Grand Recorder.

SECTION 31 - He shall give a good and sufficient bond, with surety, in such form and in such amount as the Grand Commandery, or Grand Commander, may from time to time require and approve, conditioned on the faithful discharge of all the duties of his office and the delivery of all funds, books and property in his hands to his successor when elected, installed and qualified to receive same, by having executed a like bond, which has been duly approved by the proper authority.

SECTION 32 - The premiums for all bonds of officers shall be paid by the Grand Commandery.

SECTION 33 - In every way, where capable of applying to the Treasury and Treasurer of the Grand Commandery, all provisions enacted relative to the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment, shall have full force and effect.

SECTION 34 - For his services, fully and faithfully rendered, he shall receive such compensation as the Grand Commandery, on recommendation of the Committee on Finance, shall from time to time determine.

GRAND RECORDER

SECTION 35 - His duties shall be those prescribed and specified in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, or elsewhere in the enactments of the Grand Encampment or Grand Commandery. He shall collect and receive all revenues, and deposit same to the account of the Grand Treasurer. He shall be custodian of the Charter, Seal, all Books of Records, Documents, Reports, Blanks and Library and other property of the Grand Commandery, and deliver them to his successor.

SECTION 36 - As soon after the stated Conclave as possible, he shall yearly edit, index and promulgate the printed proceedings, in co-operation with the Finance Committee, and shall see that the pages thereof are numbered in a manner to avoid confusion.

SECTION 37 - He shall send annually a copy of the printed proceedings, when issued, to each officer and permanent member of the Grand Commandery, and to the Recorder of each Constituent Commandery. He shall send copies specifically for the use of the Recorder and Commandery, and in addition three copies to the Grand Commanderies with which the Grand Commandery is in fraternal correspondence.

SECTION 38 - He shall compile from the reports of the Recorders the names of all Sir Knights who have died during the year, and print same along with each Commandery return.

SECTION 39 - He shall see to it that every Constituent Commandery has a seal, with the name and number engraved thereon, an impression of which shall be deposited with and preserved by the Grand Recorder.

SECTION 40 - At each annual Conclave, he shall render a complete detailed report of all acts and transactions with Constituent Commanderies, and report all Commanderies and officers thereof, who are delinquent in the performance of any duties, prescribed in the statutes and regulations, or required of them by the Grand Commander or Grand Recorder. He shall include in his annual report all customary data, and any other that may be authorized, with complete summaries and compilations from the returns of the Commanderies.

SECTION 41 - He shall prepare and send to the Recorder of each of the Constituent Commanderies, in due time, all the necessary report blanks, such as for Inspection, Installation, and the like, and for any and all official reports and returns, which they are required to make.

SECTION 42 - He shall yearly have printed all the amendments made by the Grand Encampment or Grand Commandery, and distribute them to all officers and members of the Grand Commandery, and a sufficient number to the Recorder of each of the Constituent Commanderies, to be used in keeping their copies of Templar Laws posted up to date.

SECTION 43 - In the annual printed proceedings, he shall each year publish all such amendments as may have been made either by the Grand Encampment or by the Grand Commandery, subsequent to any general revision or publication of Templar Laws.

SECTION 44 - In like manner as provided for the Grand Treasurer, he shall give a good and sufficient bond, conditioned for the full performance of his duties.

SECTION 45 - For his services, fully and faithfully rendered, he shall receive such compensation as the Grand Commandery shall from time to time determine.

THE REMAINING OFFICERS

SECTION 46 - The duties of the remaining officers, as well as those above specified, shall be of such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations, or assigned to them by the Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery, and conforming as near as may be to those of the corresponding officers of the Grand Encampment.

SECTION 47 - In the event of the absence, death or disability of the first four officers of the Grand Commandery, the ranking Past Grand Commander, according to seniority of service, shall assume the office and discharge the duties of Grand Commander.

TERM OF OFFICE

SECTION 48 - Grand Officers shall hold office until their successors shall have been duly elected or appointed and installed.

ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE

SECTION 49 - No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in a Grand Commandery, except that of Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at the time a member thereof.

VOW OF OFFICE

SECTION 50 - Each Officer of a Commandery, before entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office, shall take the following vow, viz: *"(A. B.), do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of this jurisdiction, and the By-Laws of this Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office in which I am about to be installed, to the best of my ability."*

INSTALLATION

SECTION 51 - The officers of a Commandery may be installed by any permanent member of the Grand Encampment, by any of the first four officers of the Grand Commandery, by the Commander, or by a Past Commander of any Commandery. The ceremony used shall be that prescribed by the Grand Encampment.

SECTION 52 - Before the installing officer shall administer the vow of office in a Commandery, he shall see that the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution, Statutes and regulations of the Grand Commandery, if under the jurisdiction of a Grand Commandery, the Rituals of the Red Cross, Knights Templar and the Order of Malta are in possession of the incoming Commander or properly accounted for.

SECTION 53 - A Commandery may hold a public installation in its own Asylum, but not elsewhere without a Dispensation from the Grand Master or the Grand Commander.

SECTION 54 - It is not necessary for an elected officer to be installed, as he holds over, by virtue of his former election and installation, until his successor is installed.

SECTION 55 - The officers to be installed cannot be represented by proxy.

EXPENSE OF MEMBERS

SECTION 56 - The Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, members of the Standing Committees and the Commander (or his proxy) of each Constituent Commandery, when returns shall have been made and dues to the Grand Commandery paid, shall be reimbursed for their attendance at the annual Conclave to the extent of their actual expenses for hotel and meals and mileage allowance as determined from time to time on recommendation of Finance Committee.

UNIFORM OF MEMBERS

SECTION 57 - All members of the Grand Commandery shall wear the prescribed uniform when attending the sessions of the Grand Commandery. In attending any Grand Commandery Devotional or Church services, they shall leave off their swords; and on all occasions in uncovering, they shall take the chapeau in the left hand and rest it on the right shoulder.

JURISDICTION

SECTION 58 - The jurisdiction of any Commandery located within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi shall be concurrent with all other Commanderies located within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Mississippi except a Commandery shall retain exclusive jurisdiction within the incorporated city limits in which the Commandery is located. *(Amended March 24, 1995)*

The petition of one who has been rejected cannot be renewed until the expiration of at least six months after such rejection, if still residing in the jurisdiction of the Commandery petitioned. If the petitioner applies to any other Commandery, his petition cannot be acted on at any time within three years after his rejection, without the consent

by unanimous ballot, of the Commandery by which he was rejected. A Commandery has penal jurisdiction over all Knights Templar within its jurisdiction. Orders may be conferred at the request of another Commandery.

SECTION 59 – Repealed.

STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 60 - The Standing Committees of the Grand Commandery shall be:

1. A Committee on Templar Jurisprudence
2. A Committee on Fraternal Correspondence
3. A Committee on Finance
4. A Committee on Education
5. A Committee on Credentials
6. A Committee on Necrology
7. A Committee on Perpetual Membership
8. A Committee on Internet

Each committee shall consist of three members, except the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence, which shall consist of one member and the Committee on Education, which shall consist of five members.

The Grand Commander shall appoint one member to each committee to serve for the term specified for that particular committee, to replace the member whose term is expiring.

The Grand Commander shall designate the Chairman of each committee. *(Amended May 13, 2011)*

TEMPLAR JURISPRUDENCE

SECTION 61 - The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence shall consist of three members, each member to serve a three year term. It shall consider all decisions upon questions of Templar Laws and usages reported by the Grand Commander and such other matters as may be referred to it by the Grand Conclave and its conclusions shall be reported to the Grand Conclave. It shall advise upon all questions of Templar Law and report upon all proposed amendments of the Constitution, Statutes, Regulations and Edicts. *(Amended March 17, 1984)*

FINANCE

SECTION 62 - The Committee on Finance shall consist of three members, each member to serve a three-year term. It shall examine the Auditor's report of the accounts of the Grand Commandery; examine the books and

vouchers of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, and such other Committees, Officers or members of the Grand Commandery, as may have possession of any funds or property of the Grand Commandery. This Committee shall audit the expense account of such officers, members of committees and others, as should be paid, recommend such appropriations as may be necessary to meet the current expenses of the ensuing Templar year. The Committee may require itemized statements and shall inquire particularly into the estimates for current expenses, and no appropriation shall be made without reference to the Committee on Finance and its report thereon. (*Amended March 17, 1984*)

SECTION 63 - The Grand Commander shall arrange each year for an audit of the Grand Recorder's Office and the Grand Treasurer's Office. This audit to be arranged with the same Certified Public Accountant making the annual audit of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., if possible; otherwise, as the Grand Commander may elect.

SECTION 64 - A Committee composed of the Grand Commander, Grand Recorder and Chairman of the Finance Committee shall have authority to convert so much of the funds of this Grand Body in the general fund as they may deem advisable into bonds or other first class securities.

SECTION 65 - All resolutions or motions carrying or making appropriations or donations shall be offered at the first session of the Grand Commandery in order to have consideration, as all such must be referred to the Finance Committee.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

SECTION 66 - The Educational Committee shall consist of five members, each member to serve a five-year term. The Grand Recorder shall serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the committee, but shall not be a member of the committee.

SECTION 67 - The Educational Loan Fund shall be administered by this Committee under such Rules and Regulations as may be adopted by the Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery.

OTHER COMMITTEES

SECTION 68 - The duties of all Committees, not otherwise specified, shall be those naturally suggested by their titles and analogous to those of similar Committees provided by the Grand Encampment for its government, so far as the same are applicable to the Grand Commandery.

ATTENDANCE AT TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE

SECTION 69 - A delegation, consisting of the first three officers of the Grand Commandery and the Grand Recorder, shall be allowed such traveling expenses and per diem to cover expenses in attending conclaves of the Grand Encampment as from time to time as recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery.

EASTER OBSERVANCE

SECTION 70 - Easter service is made obligatory on each Constituent Commandery, and each Commander thereof shall report to the Grand Commander the number of Sir Knights attending. If any Commandery shall fail to hold such service, it shall be the duty of the Grand Commander to reprimand such Commandery, unless the Commander thereof shall report a reason therefore that is satisfactory to the Grand Commander.

RITUALS

SECTION 71 - Each constituent Commandery shall have at least three rituals and may have as many rituals as is approved by that constituent Commandery. *(Amended March 27, 1992)*

SECTION 72 - The Commander shall be responsible for the Commandery and to the Grand Commandery for the proper registration, distribution and safekeeping of all rituals furnished to his constituent Commandery. *(Amended March 27, 1992)*

SECTION 73 - Repealed. *(March 27, 1992)*

SECTION 74 - Repealed. *(March 27, 1992)*

SECTION 75 - The Recorder shall maintain a registration list of the Sir Knights who receive rituals. Each Sir Knight who receives a ritual may be required to reimburse the Commandery the actual cost of providing the ritual. A Sir Knight may return the ritual at any time and the Commandery may elect to refund the cost thereof. *(Amended March 27, 1992)*

SECTION 76 - The Grand Recorder shall keep a list of the rituals sent to each Constituent Commandery. Each Commander of a constituent Commandery may be required by the Grand Commander to account for those rituals allocated to his constituent Commandery. *(Amended March 27, 1992)*

SECTION 77 - Each Sir Knight receiving a ritual is responsible to the Commander and the Commandery for its safekeeping and may be required by the Commander, with the approval of the Commandery and after due and proper notice, to produce or return the ritual within 30 days from the date of the notice. When requested to return the ritual, the Sir Knight returning the ritual will be refunded his cost, if any. *(Amended March 27, 1992)*

RITUALS OF GRAND OFFICERS

SECTION 78 - The elected and appointed Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery shall, if requested, each be furnished a Ritual. Each elected and appointed Grand Officer shall give a receipt to the Grand Recorder for the ritual received. Each appointed Grand Officer shall, at the next Annual Installation of Grand Officers, return to the Grand Recorder the ritual furnished for his use during his term in office. *(Amended March 27, 1992)*

BONDS

SECTION 79 - The Grand Commandery may enter into contract with a surety company authorized to do business in Mississippi for the issuance of a blanket surety bond covering the Grand Recorder and all members of his office staff. The premium therefore may be paid by the Grand Commandery.

SECTION 79-A - Any person who has attained the age of at least sixty-five (65) years and who has been a full-time salaried employee of the Grand Commandery for at least ten (10) consecutive years immediately preceding the date of retirement shall be entitled to a retirement payment from the Grand Commandery, payable monthly, for as long as such person shall live. The amount of annual benefits under the plan are to be determined as follows: The average annual salary earned during the final three (3) full years of employment multiplied by the total percentage product reached by multiplying the number of years covered service by two and fifty one hundredths (2.50%) per cent (2.50%), plus a base sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00); provided however, that the total amount of the retirement payment shall not exceed the sum of two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00) per year.

Termination of employment, either before or after entitlement to benefits may accrue, shall be at the election of the employee or Grand Chapter.

The plan shall be administered by a Grand Commandery Retirement Plan Committee composed of the following: the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder and Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Grand Commandery shall appropriate an amount annually that it deems sufficient to pay the retirement benefits for the ensuing year, based upon calculated estimates of the Retirement Plan Committee and recommended by the Finance Committee. *(Amended March 22, 1986)*

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 80 - The Grand Commandery, upon the concurrence of three-fourths of its members present at any stated Conclave, may revise, alter or amend its statutes and By-Laws. Provided, however, that any member intending to submit a motion relative to a change of the Statutes or By-Laws of the Grand Commandery, shall give notice thereof, in writing, to the Grand Commandery at the first session of its annual Conclave.

SECTION 81 - No resolution, committee report or recommendation of the Grand Commander (although adopted by the Grand Commandery) shall have the effect of amending any statute or by-law unless the same shall be in the form of an amendment setting out in full the section as amended; and no such resolution, committee report or recommendation of the Grand Commander, although adopted, shall have any binding force and effect after the next ensuing Conclave of the Grand Commandery, unless the same shall have been properly incorporated in the law.

PART II

BY-LAWS – CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

SECTION 82 - In accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the following "Uniform Code of By-Laws" is enacted for the use of all Commanderies, to take effect immediately and their present by-laws are hereby repealed.

SECTION 83 - In all matters not specifically mentioned herein, the general laws of the Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment shall govern, when they are directly or by natural inference and analogy pertinent and applicable thereto.

SECTION 84—

BY-LAWS OF _____ COMMANDERY NO. _____

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

ORGANIZATION NAME

SECTION 85 - This Commandery was created by a Charter, granted on the _____ day of _____ A. D., A. O. _____, by the Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar of Mississippi, and was constituted on the _____ day of _____ A. D., A. O. _____.

It shall be known and designated as _____ Commandery No. _____, K. T., stationed at _____ County of _____, Mississippi.

SECTION 86 - The members and officers shall be those provided for in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment. All Officers, except Guards, shall be elected by ballot, at the annual Conclave, which shall be the first stated Conclave in December of each year, or the Stated Conclave in November each year, as each constituent Commandery chooses. The Guards shall be appointed by the Commander in time for installation with the elective officers.

CONCLAVES

SECTION 87 - The stated conclaves shall occur on such dates as may be determined. The hour of opening from November 1st to March 31st shall be _____ P. M. From April 1st to October 31st _____ P. M.

SECTION 88 - Special Conclaves shall be governed by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, as follows: Special Conclaves may be called by the Commander, but no business shall be transacted other than the conferring of Orders, except that specified in the notice or summons.

SECTION 89 - Notice of all Special Conclaves, except for degree work and funerals, shall be sent to all members.

SECTION 90 - No Conclave shall be held on Sunday, except to attend funerals or religious services.

INSTALLATION, VOW, TENURE AND RESIGNATION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 91 - The Installation of Officers and their tenure shall be governed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment. The ceremonies prescribed by the Grand Encampment shall be observed.

SECTION 92 - The Installing Officer shall not proceed with the Installation until all the Rituals issued to the Commandery are in possession of the Commander, and he shall have given the Installing Officer his receipt therefore, describing each by number.

SECTION 93 - The Installing Officer shall not install any officer of the Commandery (except the Prelate) who is not equipped with his own regulation full dress Templar uniform.

VISITORS

SECTION 94 - Sir Knights desiring to visit the Commandery shall be governed by the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

SECTION 95 - A member of this Commandery may object to and prevent a Knight Templar from visiting and sitting in the Commandery when he belongs only as an honorary member.

SECTION 96 - All voluntary unaffiliated Knights Templar residing within the jurisdiction of this Commandery for six months are hereby excluded from the Asylum and from all processions, parades, funerals and gatherings of this Commandery.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

SECTION 97 - A Committee of three members shall be appointed at the annual meeting for the election of officers to audit the books of the Recorder and Treasurer; said committee shall examine the books and audit the same and report thereon at the next stated Conclave thereafter.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

SECTION 98 - The Commandery may, by resolution, authorize and the Commander then appoint, special committees to have in charge matters not otherwise provided for. Their duties shall in no way conflict with those of any other committee, or officer, and they shall be governed by and be amenable to all existing Templar Laws and Regulations.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 99 - Officers shall fully comply with the provisions of the Constitution, Statutes and Disciplinary Rules of the Grand Encampment.

COMMANDER

SECTION 100 - The Commander shall be custodian of the Charter, and all Bonds and Rituals, and must account for and deliver them to his successor at the time the latter is installed. Failure to do so shall constitute un-knightly conduct.

SECTION 101 - Upon written request of five members of the Commandery, stating the object of the meeting, it shall be the duty of the Commander to call a special Conclave.

SECTION 102 - He shall thoroughly learn all Templar Laws, and the duties of all officers and committees, and see that all strictly comply with and perform the same.

PAST COMMANDERS

SECTION 103 - The duties of rank and standing of Past Commanders are governed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment. In event of the absence, death or disability of the first three officers of a Commandery, the ranking Past Commander present shall assume the office and discharge the duties of Commander.

TREASURER

SECTION 104 - The Treasurer shall receive all moneys collected by the Recorder, collect all interest on deposits, and keep a just and true account thereof, pay none out except on order voted by the Commandery and signed by the Commander and Recorder. His books shall always be open for inspection of proper officers or committees. He shall report the condition of the Treasury at the stated annual Conclave for the election of officers.

RECORDER

SECTION 105 - The Recorder shall perform all the duties specified in the Constitution, Statutes and Disciplinary Rules, or elsewhere in the enactments of the Grand Encampment, Grand Commandery or this Commandery.

SECTION 106 - The Recorder, or any member of the Commandery, shall not accept, directly or indirectly, any commission on uniforms purchased or ordered for a Sir Knight, or on any supplies purchased or ordered for the Commandery; except, such as may be allowed by action of the Commandery and noted on its minutes, and a violation hereof shall be regarded as un-knightly conduct.

SECTION 107 - The Recorder shall mail notices of all Special Conclaves to all members at least three days prior to such Conclave, except for funerals and degree work.

SECTION 108 - For all moneys delivered by the Recorder to the Treasurer, a receipt must be taken.

SECTION 109 - The Recorder shall promptly answer all correspondence.

SECTION 110 - The Recorder shall be custodian of the Commandery Seal, Question Book, Burial Request Book and all Books of Record, and shall keep in the Asylum the proceedings of the Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery received by him from his predecessor, or from the Grand Recorder during his term of service, and deliver them, together with all other books, papers and property of which he is the custodian to his successor.

SECTION 111 - The Recorder shall notify all petitioners for the Orders or for membership, of the action of the Commandery thereon, within twenty four hours after the same is taken; and to all petitioners elected to receive the Orders, he shall embody in the notice the following: Unless a candidate elected to receive the Orders, shall present himself within twelve months after receiving notice of his election, it shall be void.

SECTION 112 - Notices of Regular Conclaves may state if petitions are to be reported and balloted upon.

SECTION 113 - For special assessments, notices must be sent to every member before they can be voted on.

SECTION 114 - The Recorder shall report and read in open Commandery, at the Stated Annual Conclave, the names of all members whose dues, or assessments, are then in arrears.

SECTION 115 - For the faithful and satisfactory discharge of all his duties, the Recorder shall receive such compensation as the Commandery shall from time to time determine.

SENTINEL

SECTION 116 - The station of the Sentinel is a very important one. He shall securely guard the entrance to the Asylum, strictly enforce quiet and order in the lobbies and ante-rooms, and let nothing occur in his department of the Asylum that can interfere with the solemnity and impressiveness of the work. He shall keep the property of the Commandery in good order, so that it be not injured, lost or mislaid; make the necessary preparations for all Conclaves and attend to such other duties as may be assigned to, or required of him by the Commander or Commandery. For the faithful and satisfactory discharge of his duties, he shall receive such compensation as the Commandery shall from time to time determine.

OTHER OFFICERS

SECTION 117 - The duties of the remaining officers shall be such as are traditionally appropriate to their several stations, or may be assigned to them by the Commander or Commandery. All officers shall thoroughly memorize their work and train themselves to render it in a natural and impressive manner without recourse to the Ritual, except where reading is called for in the Ritual. The Guards shall preferably use the Bible and not cards or leaflets.

SPECIAL ELECTION

SECTION 118 - Vacancies occurring in any elective office below Captain General, shall be governed by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, as follows: If a vacancy shall occur in any of the offices, except when there is a right of succession, the Grand Commander may authorize a special election to fill such vacancy upon written request to that effect by the Commandery.

ASYLUM

SECTION 119 - Basic laws of the Asylum shall be the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

SECTION 119-A – Any type building, so erected, and containing a Lodge Hall, complying with the guidelines and the specifications as set forth by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, and approved as such, would be considered a suitable building and asylum for the conferring of the Commandery Orders.

SECTION 120 - At no time, in any connection with any banquet, or other social function, shall the use of intoxicating liquors be permitted in the Asylum or Temple, or any room, or portions thereof.

ORDER OF KNIGHTHOOD

SECTION 121 - The jurisdiction, the eligibility and qualifications for the Orders of Knighthood, the petitions and balloting, the conferring of the Orders and the membership, and all such matters shall be governed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

CONFERRING THE ORDERS

SECTION 122 - An elected candidate must receive the Order of the Red Cross within one year from his election, or his election shall be void. He shall receive the Order of the Temple within one year after becoming a Companion of the Red Cross, or, failing to do so, he shall be barred from sitting in a Council of the Illustrious Order of Red Cross.

SECTION 123 - It is desirable that every candidate shall be clad in his own uniform when he is dubbed and created a Knight Templar, and so far as possible there shall be no deviation from this rule.

SECTION 124 - A Companion of the Red Cross, or a Knight of Malta is not subject to dues until he has received the Order of the Temple, but is always subject to discipline for unmasonic or un-knightly conduct.

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 125 - Rights, affiliations, demits and transfer certificates are governed by the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

SECTION 126 - A member in good standing desiring to join another Commandery in Mississippi, shall have the right to petition such other Commandery for membership. Should the Commandery so receiving his petition elect him to membership, they shall notify the Commandery in which the petitioner holds membership, requesting a certificate of transfer of membership, which if granted, shall be forwarded to the Commandery having elected said petitioner to membership, and not being in arrears, this shall complete his membership therein and he shall become subject to dues. In case of his rejection by the Commandery to which he has so applied his membership shall remain in his former Commandery: Provided, however, this section shall in no wise be construed as to impair the long established right of voluntary and absolute demission under the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. This certificate is not a "Withdrawal Card" as no such thing is recognized in Templar Law.

SECTION 127 - A member withdrawing from this Commandery and desiring to rejoin it, shall be subject to all the laws of affiliation.

SECTION 128-A - No petition for membership shall be received or acted upon, unless the petitioner produces satisfactory evidence that he is an affiliated Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason and Select Master, in good standing and that he honorably withdrew from the Commandery to which he last belonged, or is a member in good standing in a Commandery in Mississippi. *(Amended March 24, 1995)*

SECTION 128-B - A member in good standing in a Mississippi Commandery shall have the right to remain a member of a Mississippi Commandery and petition for membership and, if accepted, become and remain a plural member of a constituent or subordinate Commandery of the Grand Encampment outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi, provided the member remains in good standing in a Mississippi Commandery. *(Added March 24, 1995)*

SECTION 128-C - A member in good standing in a constituent or subordinate Commandery of the Grand Encampment outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi can remain a member of said constituent or subordinate Commandery and petition a Mississippi Commandery for membership and, if accepted, become and remain a plural member of said Mississippi Commandery, provided the member remains in good standing in his constituent or subordinate Commandery outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi. *(Added March 24, 1995)*

STANDING AND DISCIPLINE

SECTION 129 - Affiliation in Lodge, Chapter and Council is necessary to qualify a petitioner for membership. *(Amended March 17, 1984)*

SECTION 130 - Affiliation in Lodge, Chapter and Council is essential to membership in a Commandery to the extent that voluntary non-affiliation in Lodge, Chapter or Council, for six months, shall deprive a Knight Templar of his membership in the Commandery. *(Amended March 17, 1984)*

SECTION 131 - It is the duty of every Sir Knight to remain in good standing and affiliation in Lodge, Chapter and Council. If suspended or expelled from either, it is his knightly duty to at once inform the Commander or Recorder of the fact, and appear for hearing if summoned therefore. Likewise, if he demits or withdraws from Lodge, Chapter or Council, and desires to remain permanently unaffiliated therein, he must ask for a demit from the Commandery, on or before the expiration of six months, or becomes liable to suspension or expulsion under the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. His standing in the Commandery remains technically good, until charges of voluntary non-affiliation for six months in Lodge, Chapter or Council are preferred against him, and at any time

prior thereto, he is entitled to a demit, in accordance with the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. (*Amended March 17, 1984*)

SECTION 132 - It is the duty of every member to answer, on his honor as a Knight and Mason, all questions relative to his affiliation in either Lodge, Chapter or Council and produce his receipts for dues last paid therein or a certificate of good standing from the Secretary or Recorder thereof, whenever requested by the Commander or Recorder. Failure or refusal to comply with any of the above requirements shall constitute un-knightly conduct per se. (*Amended March 17, 1984*)

SECTION 133 - Certificates from Lodge, Chapter or Council showing suspension, expulsion or restoration of Sir Knights shall be made part of the minutes and records of the Commandery with a record as to the effect of same on the standing of the Sir Knights named therein. (*Amended March 17, 1984*)

SECTION 134 - A Sir Knight restored from suspension or expulsion to good standing in the Order, but not to membership in the Commandery, in accordance with the Statutes of the Grand Encampment and its Disciplinary Rules, shall receive a certificate from the Commandery stating the facts, but not the offense, and same shall be equivalent to a demit.

SECTION 135 - A Sir Knight under suspension from the Commandery, for any cause, loses all rights and privileges of Templar intercourse, but is always subject to further discipline for un-knightly conduct by the Commandery in whose jurisdiction the act complained of was committed.

FEES, DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

SECTION 136 - The amount to be paid by each petitioner for the Orders of Knighthood shall be _____ Dollars, which shall be paid in cash before the Order of Red Cross is conferred.

SECTION 137 - The annual dues shall be ___ Dollars. They shall be assessed, spread and posted by the Recorder on the first day of November of each year, and shall become due and payable at the Annual Conclave in December immediately following.

SECTION 138 - Notice thereof together with statement of unpaid dues and assessments, if any, shall be promptly mailed by the Recorder, and shall contain a copy of the Section pertaining to dues and assessments. It is the knightly duty of every member to pay his dues and assessments promptly, as above, and failure to do so is a dereliction of duty; but this Commandery, for good cause shown, may remit the dues of any member, provided, this shall not relieve the Commandery of the payment of dues to the Grand Commandery.

SECTION 139 - The Recorder shall, on or before the day of election of officers, notify every member of the Commandery of the amount of his dues, and request payment and should any member allow his dues to remain

unpaid on the said day of election, he shall not have the right to vote nor hold office. The Recorder shall notify such delinquent Sir Knight on or before January 10th, to appear at the February Stated Conclave to show cause why his dues have not been paid, and if he still refuses or neglects to pay, the Commandery shall suspend such delinquent at the first March Stated Conclave or remit his dues. If the Recorder fails to notify the delinquent to appear as required above, or if the Commandery fails to meet or act on the matter, as required above, then the Commander shall order the Recorder to notify said delinquent to appear at the next Stated Conclave, and if he fails to pay his dues at the next Conclave, then the Commandery shall suspend or remit his dues. Such suspension shall be absolute, and while it continues, all the Templar rights and privileges of the Sir Knight so suspended shall be abrogated, and no dues shall, from the date thereof until reinstatement, be charged against him.

SECTION 140 - Special Assessments duly authorized by resolution and voted by the Commandery, are due and payable at the time specified in the resolution, become past due or delinquent at the stated annual Conclave, next following their authorization and shall be treated in every manner the same as provided for annual dues.

SECTION 141 - Members knighted during the year, or members affiliated during the year shall pay pro rata dues and assessments for the remaining full months of the Templar year.

RESTORATION FROM SUSPENSION FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

SECTION 142 - When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled from his Commandery solely because of his suspension or expulsion from his Lodge, Chapter or Council, restoration in such Lodge, Chapter or Council shall entitle him to restoration in his Commandery on written application therefore and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave. When he has been suspended from his Commandery solely because of non-payment of dues to the Commandery, he may be restored to membership on written application therefore and a majority vote at a stated Conclave and payment of such part of his dues in arrears as the Commandery may require. *(Amended March 17, 1984)*

UNIFORM

SECTION 143 - The uniform of a Knight Templar and Knight of Malta shall be that prescribed by the Grand Commandery, as fully set forth in the Uniform Specifications.

SECTION 144 - No member of this Commandery shall sell, loan, give or hire the use of the uniform of any of the Orders of Masonic Knighthood, or any portion of such uniform, to any person, or persons, whomsoever, except it be a Sir Knight in good standing and membership, and then only to be used in lawful Conclave or assemblage of Sir Knights of the Order.

SECTION 145 - In attending any Devotional or Church service, Sir Knights shall leave off their swords.

SECTION 146 - On all occasions, in uncovering, Sir Knights shall take the Chapeau in the left hand and rest it on the right shoulder.

SECTION 147 - It shall be un-knightly conduct for a Knight Templar to appear in uniform, either dress or fatigue, in any place where intoxicating liquors are sold or unlawfully consumed.

TEMPLAR FUNERALS

SECTION 148 - Templar funerals shall be governed by the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

SECTION 149 - A Sir Knight under suspension in Lodge, Chapter or Council is not entitled to Templar Burial.
(Amended March 17, 1984)

PART III

UNIFORM SPECIFICATIONS

SECTION 150 - The uniform prescribed by the Grand Commandery of Mississippi shall consist of Belt, Sword, Baldric, Dress Uniform, Fatigue Uniform, Chapeau and Cap as hereinafter specified:

BELT

SECTION 151 - The belt to be of woven wire and red silk, one and three-quarters inches wide, with colors in parallel stripes, with four of silver and three of red. The red stripes to be of equal width and the silver stripes to be each three-eighths of an inch wide. The webbing to be mounted on a red leather belt, one and seven-eighths inches wide, lined with chamois skin. The belt to have three slings, one long and two short, on which hang the sword, each three-quarters of an inch wide and mounted on a red leather strap, seven-eighths of an inch wide, slings to be of the same material as the webbing of the belt, with two equal stripes of silver and one of red. The silver stripes each to be five-thirty-seconds of an inch wide. The slings to be suspended by metal clasps from a leather strap fastened on the inside of the belt and each sling to have lengthening buckles and heavy swivels at the lower ends. On the center sling to be placed a sword hook, the belt to have emblematic belt plate in front three inches long by two inches in width with Passion Cross and motto. The Belt for Commanders, Past Commanders, Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers are to be the same as described above except to be woven of gold wire and red silk, and the trimmings upon the belt to be gilt with Templar Cross in plate for Grand Officers instead of Passion Cross.

SWORD

SECTION 152 - The Sword shall be from thirty to forty inches in length, inclusive of helmet head, cross handle and metal scabbard, no guard chain.

- a) For Officers and Sir Knights below the rank of Commander, white metal scabbard suspended by three white metal rings. Hilt, white, ornamented with Passion Cross.
- b) For Commanders and Past Commanders the same. Scabbard and rings to be gold plated, the hilt to be ornamented with the Passion Cross.
- c) For the Grand Officers, above the rank of Grand Senior Warden and Past Grand Commanders, gold plated scabbard ornamented with the Templar Cross.

BALDRIC

SECTION 153 - The Baldric shall be five inches wide and shall be made of white silk, bordered with black velvet, one inch in width on either side, with a strip of gilt navy lace one-fourth of an inch wide at the inner edge of the black. On the front center of the Baldric a metal star of nine points enclosing the Passion Cross, surrounded by the motto IN HOC SIGNO VINCES. The star to be three and three-quarter inches in diameter. The Baldric to be worn from the right shoulder to the left hip, with the ends extending six inches below the point of intersection. To be lined with green silk with red Greek Cross and a plated hanger on hip. Officers wearing shoulder straps do not wear the Baldric.

TEMPLAR UNIFORM

SECTION 154 - From and after this date the following shall be the Templar Uniform for Sir Knights of this jurisdiction. But no Sir Knight who has already provided himself with a uniform, which practically corresponds with the specifications following, shall be required to procure another. No coat shall be construed as complying with these specifications except as hereinafter described.

UNIFORM IN DETAIL

SECTION 155 - FULL DRESS COAT: For Officers of the Grand Commandery, Past Grand Commanders, Commanders and Sir Knights: A double-breasted sack coat of light weight black cloth, of three buttons (two to button) semi form fitting with open collar and peaked lapels of three inches at the peak with not less than 3/8 lining of black material, sleeve lining to be of either plain black or white lining material. It shall have no outside pockets, but shall have two lower straight flaps, no openings, stitched on outside edges to give the appearance of pockets, and a left breast pocket welt to provide space for fastening a Commandery jewel of office and/or other permitted Commandery jewels. It shall have two inside breast pockets, one on each side. Edges of coat to be single stitched. Length of coat shall be one inch below wearer's inseam or crotch line. The sleeves to be finished with stitching to represent cuffs, three and one-half inches deep with three buttons on each cuff and with an appropriate cross in the center of the front of the cuffs, measuring from the top to the bottom and from side to side. Two belt hooks shall be provided for sword. Buttons shall be regulation Knights Templar size.

- a) For Grand Officers above the rank of Grand Senior Warden and for Past Grand Commanders, the Templar Cross in gold embroidery, one and one-half inches square.
- b) For Grand Officers below the rank of Captain General and for Commanders and Past Commanders the Passion Cross of red velvet one and one-half inches long with edges and rays of gold embroidery.
- c) For all Officers and Sir Knights below the rank of Commander the Passion Cross of red velvet one and one-half inches long.
- d) Trousers shall be of black matching material of standard military cut, without ornamentation.

- e) Shirt, plain white with turned-down collar.
- f) Necktie, black four-in-hand, without stick pin.
- g) Shoes, black

SHOULDER STRAPS

SECTION 156 - For Past Commanders, Officers of the Grand Commandery and Officers of Constituent Commanderies above the rank of Senior Warden, the shoulder straps shall be those prescribed by the regulations of the Grand Encampment.

CHAPEAU

SECTION 157 - Military style, reinforced gossamer body, covered with black silk plush, whole leather sweat band, satin lining, cork ventilator placed between chapeau body proper and the inside of sweat band. Chapeau trimmed with two black ostrich plumes, and one white ostrich top plume. The front and rear peaks of chapeau extending four and a half inches from head. Diagonally across the peaks both front and back a band of silver-plated wire lace, 15 lignes wide of vellum patters; in front a silver-plated flat tassel, on the left side a rosette oval in shape, five inches in height by four inches in width, composed of not less than thirty-three satin points in single fold, surmounting this so as to display said points; distance of one-half inch from edge, is laid one row of quilled black satin ribbon, in folds of from one-eighth to one-quarter inch in width, and on top of this is laid an oval black velvet rosette three and one-quarter inches in height by two and five-eighths inches in width, thus displaying the quilled satin ribbon around the edges of said velvet rosette to a distance of from three-eighths to one-quarter of an inch. The velvet edged with silver twisted lead and bright bullion. On the velvet oval shall be a Templar Cross, the upright arm three inches, the traverse arm two inches; all red silk velvet, bordered by No. 26 silver bullion embroidery one-quarter of an inch wide, leaving the velvet exposed in the center to the width of five-eighths of an inch.

GRAND OFFICERS

SECTION 160 - Chapeau of same design and quality as described above, to be described, with the following exceptions: The lace slashings to be gold plated wire 115 lignes wide of vellum wire pattern, in front a gilt or gold-plated tassel half-round in shape with bright bullion and dull head. The cross of the rosette to be a Templar Cross of red silk velvet bordered by a single row of twenty-six gilt or gold bullion embroidery, the said cross to be two and a half inches square.

COMMANDERS AND PAST COMMANDERS

Chapeau same as described for Grand Officers, except that in place of Templar Cross on the Rosette there shall be a Passion Cross, the upright arm three inches, the traverse arm to be two inches, or red silk velvet bordered by No. 2

gilt or gold bullion embroidery one-quarter inch wide, leaving the velvet exposed in the center to a width of five-eighths inch, said cross to have the point of intersection alternate rays of No. 26 and No. 27 gold or gilt bullion embroidery in rayed pattern.

SECTION 161 – The fatigue uniform prescribed by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Mississippi shall consist of uniform and cap as herein specified:

COAT

As prescribed in Section 155 as amended March 19, 1977

BELT

No belt to be worn with this uniform

SWORD

No sword to be worn with this uniform

BALDRIC

No baldric to be worn with this uniform.

SHOULDER STRAPS

As prescribed in Section 156

CAP

The cap shall be the pershing style or military garrison style of black broadcloth, lined, leather sweat band.

1. For Sir Knights, the cap will have black braid band, metal side buttons, silver lace front strap, silver bullion embroidered cross, drooping visor
2. For Eminent Commanders, Past Commanders, the cap will have a band of gilt or gold lace, gilt side buttons, gold bullion Templar cross, with drooping visor
3. For officers of the Grand Commandery the cap will have a band of gilt or gold lace, gilt side buttons, gold bullion embroidered Templar cross, with drooping visor
4. For Past Grand Commanders the cap will be supplied with rayon velvet band edged top and bottom with bullion, with hand gilt bullion embroidered vine leaf and berry design, with purple Templar cross, band of gilt or gold lace, gilt side buttons, with drooping visor

This uniform will only be used at regular Conclaves of a Commandery when no ritualistic work will be done and at the Annual Convocation of the Grand Commandery by direction of the Grand Commander. This uniform will never be worn in the presence of candidates for the Commandery Orders.