



**From the Desk of the Grand Commander
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May 23, 2010

TO: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; Past Grand Officers; Division Commanders; Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania:

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER ONE

GREETINGS:

Sir Knights:

Membership

The Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania has been blessed with 157 years of history and tradition, if that history and tradition is to continue every individual Pennsylvania Templar must get off their laurels and become an active recruiter. Membership is a **ME** thing, not a **WE** thing. Read your charters, constituent Commanderies exist for the purpose of promoting the order and Confer the Orders of Templary.

Sadly, in 2009 -10, the number Knightings into the Christian Order of Knights Templar fell well below the number of Sir Knights lost due to the will of the GREAT CAPTAIN of our SALVATION. HE called to his Heavenly Asylum, two hundred seventeen (217) Pennsylvania Sir Knights.

The Order of the Temple was conferred upon one hundred sixty-nine (169) candidates, twenty-four (24) were affiliated, and twenty-three (23) were reinstated. We lost one-hundred eight-seven (187) due to suspension, and one hundred fifty (150) demitted. Sixty-three (63) of whom were members of Mount Vernon Commandery No. 73 which ceased operations in 2009. The Commanderies in the vicinity of now closed Mt. Vernon in Hazelton MUST not allow that to stand. The members MUST go to those demitted Sir Knights and convince them to rejoin with their Fraters to insure Templary survives in the Northeast Section.

As of January 1, 2010, Pennsylvania has a total of 5889 Knight Templars, with a mean age of 69.49 years. Restated, 46.9%, (1750) of Templars in Pennsylvania are 71 years or older, while 12.5% only (740) are 51 years or younger.

To promote our survival, SK and Brother Thomas Sturgeon, RWGM has granted permission to solicit and recruit men for our Christian Order from the ranks of the good men in our fraternity.

We must, if we are to prevail, recruit men for Templary by explaining the process goes through Blue Lodge and Chapter. RWGM Sturgeon has given us permission to develop a four (4) part petition, (similar in layout to our present three (3) part petition), with the addition of a generic petition for Blue Lodge.

Knight Templar Eye Foundation

The Knight Templar Eye Foundation remains the primary charitable vehicle for Templary in the United States. Proudly for the 2009-10 campaign recently concluded, Pennsylvania was the leading contributor, with total contributions in excess of \$330,000, (over \$100, 000 clear of second place Tennessee), or more \$56.00 per capita, which greatly exceeded our goal of \$10.00 per capita. Unfortunately, despite the aggregate total, the secondary goal of 100% constituent commandery participation was not achieved.

Inspection Program

The Inspection Program will continue with only administrative changes. In an effort to ensure that inspections are conducted uniformly across the jurisdiction, there will be a second Training Session for Inspectors in conjunction with Annual Line Officer's Workshop in November 2010,, and again at the Annual Division Commander's Seminar in February 2011. In order to be an Inspector, participation at one is mandatory. In addition, either the Section Officer or the Division Commander will conduct inspection with the assistance of those Sir Knights as qualified above. The Inspector General will once again be Wilmer P. Quick, PDC, and the assistant will be Thomas J Reimensnyder, PC. The Inspection should **not** be considered the stated conclave program of the evening. There needs to be no more than five extra minutes taken for the Inspection, and that is to inspect the uniforms, everything else should be part of every stated Conclave routine as spelled out in the guidelines of the Grand Commandery.

Patriotic, Religious and Youth Related Programs

We are members of an “institution founded upon Christian religion and the practice of Christian virtues.” Every commandery should plan its programs to promote and participate in patriotic, religious and youth-related activities. This can be accomplished at stated meetings or special conclaves, attendance at church services and public appearances. Advent, Christmas, the Lenten Season, Easter and the Ascension are special opportunities.

The Gettysburg Memorial weekend is scheduled for September 18 and 19, 2010 at Gettysburg. This is a special time when we honor the memory of Sir Knights from Pennsylvania who have “entered the House not made with hands eternal in the Heavens.”

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, September 19 at 9:30 AM at the Friend to Friend monument. Every Knight Templar should make a sincere effort to be present to honor the memory of our fallen fraters.

Each section officer will conduct a sectional workshop before September 1, 2010. The section officer will be assisted by the division commanders in the respective section. Dais officers are expected to attend these workshops and all Sir Knights are encouraged to attend.

Delinquent Annual Returns and Audits

Annual Returns and Audits must be submitted on time as mandated by the Constitution, and any constituent Commandery which has not complied with this requirement by June 1, 2010, will be placed on probation for 90 days. If, at the end of that period, the reports are still delinquent, the Section Officer will be directed to arrest the Charter of any constituent still found to be delinquent.

Monthly Notices

As per Section No. 383, of the Constitution of the Grand Commandery, the Recorder of each constituent commandery will mail or E-Mail the monthly notice to the Elected Grand Officers **and** the Division Commanders in their section.

These notices are to include:

- Number of Members May 1, 2010 (As Reported in the Annual Return)
- Petitions Approval
- Deaths
- Suspensions
- Demits
- Number of Members (Month of Notice)

Conclave Procedures

As in previous years, pedestals and lecterns are to be removed from the dais, except in those asylums where they are permanently installed. In no event are they to be used as a resting place for rituals, as all work should be done from memory.

Veterans Bar and KYCH Bar

The Knights Templar recognition bar for Veterans will continue to be Permitted and is encouraged to be worn by any Veteran who served this country in any military capacity. This bar will be worn centered ½ inch above the jewels on the left breast pocket. The emblem of the Illustrious Knight of the Triangle may be worn on the right breast, centered 1 inch below the name tag.

In honor of those Sir Knights who have served as presiding officers in all our York Rite bodies, a Knight Templar Recognition of the Knight York Cross of Honor Bar, may be worn centered ½ inch above the jewels on the left breast pocket, or if worn with the Veterans Recognition Bar, to the left of it, and on the same plane.

The colors of the Knight Templar Recognition of the KYCH Bar correspond to the respective colors of the four York Rite bodies, blue, red, purple and white, and should be worn in that order, from right to left.

Award of Excellence Program

The incentive program of Sir Knight Leslie J. Loomis, known as the Award of Excellence, will continue, with only one modification. This change involves the Commander's message in each month's notice. This message should be Christian in theme and points will be added to the scoring of each Commandery for the award at the end of the Templar Year with the message being judged by the Elected Grand Officers. The criteria for this award are nothing more than the standard expectations of any Commandery in this jurisdiction. Those participating in the Grand Commander's Award of Excellence this past year experienced increased enthusiasm, attendance and new members.

In addition, I am reinstating the John Lewis Outstanding Commanders Award. This is an award to be presented to a commander for his exemplary service to his commandery this year. In order for a commander to receive this high honor, he must first be recommended by his home commandery and then the Division Commander. A grand commandery committee will then review the recommendations and present it to the Grand Commander.

Communications and Reporting

Effective following the June 2010 conclaves, constituent commanderies will no longer file either longhand or electronic monthly reports with the Grand Recorder's Office. All changes and/or new information will be filed directly on the Grand Encampment on-line database, York Rite Information System, YRIS. Each constituent commandery Recorder, or his designated YRIS Assistant, is therefore required to have a User I.D. and password before June 1, 2010. Richard Baker has been named YRIS Liaison and will be handling all YRIS issues. The Grand Recorder's Office will continue to provide YRIS assistance as requested, but will not enter constituent commander information, except on short term emergency situations.

Similarly, E-Mail communication and electronic distribution of Grand Encampment, Grand Officer, and/or other announcements and notifications is now standard operating procedure. Hard copies of announcements and/or other notifications will only be mailed to Past Grand Commanders and other limited and specifically authorized Sir Knights without an E-Mail account. The Recorder, or a designated assistant, of each constituent commandery must have E-Mail capability, and will be responsible for providing adequate copies of announcements, forms, etc. to the members of his constituent commandery. Announcements and notifications will be issued either as Word documents or Adobe pdf file E-Mail attachments.

IMPORTANT DATES

Workshops

Workshops are scheduled for Dais Officers, appointed Officers, and other interested Sir Knights, in the work of the Commandery, as follows;

June 3, 2010	Central Section Workshop	Harrisburg
July 10, 2010	Southeast Section Workshop	Coatesville
July 17, 2010	Central Section Workshop	Lock Haven
July 18, 2010	Central Section Workshop	Altoona
July 31, 2010	Northeast Section Workshop	Ashland
August 14, 2010	Northwest Section Workshop	Grove City
November 12-13	Line Officers Workshop	Elizabethtown

OTHER DATES

June 12, 2010	Testimonial – REGC	Pgh. Masonic Ctr.
June 19, 2010	Southeast Reception	Doylestown
June 26, 2010	Lewisburg Parade	Lewisburg
July 9-10, 2010	Council of Deliberation	Hershey
August 28, 2010	Tri-State Conferral	Maryland
September 18-19	Gettysburg Memorial Weekend	Gettysburg
October 23, 2010	Northeast Section Reception	Hazleton
November 20, 2010	Northwest Section Reception	Grove City
February 4-5, 2011	Division Commanders Seminar	Elizabethtown
March 19, 2011	Division No. 2 Reception	Pittsburgh
March 26, 2011	Central Division Reception	Four Bells
May 22-25, 2011	158 th Conclave	Southpointe

All preceding parts of this General Order, to this point, are to be read in full at the next stated conclave of each Commandery, and the entire General Order entered in full or attached to the records.

Only those portions of the Jurisdictional Assignments which pertain to your respective Section, Division, and Commandery are required to be read.

Given under our hand and seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania this day, May 20, in the year of our Lord 2010, A.O. 892.

S. Timothy Warco
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Attest: Douglas M. Rowe, Grand Recorder

JURISDICTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

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