

# Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York



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## General Order No. 1

To:

The Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Commandery Officers, and All the Sir Knights of the constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York

### *“Remembering our past, Looking to the future”*

Knighly Greetings:

Sir Knights, the theme for the 2016-2017 year is Remembering our past, Looking to the future.

This Grand Commandery and the Knights Templar have a very rich past. From the founding of the Order by Hugh de Payens back around 1188 and through the crusades, to 1814 with DeWitt Clinton as the first Grand Commander (Thrice Illustrious Grand Master) of New York, then to the period which was called the Golden Age of Fraternalism (1870-1910) right to our present the Knights Templars played an important part in the everyday lives of countless members. Looking at old pictures one can see Knights on horseback in parades with a large contingent of Sir Knights marching proudly wearing the regalia of the time. Yes, we have much to be proud of when it comes to our Order both, our past and present. With this rich history, we must always “Remember our Past”

However, if we want to continue as a successful organization we must also, “Look to the future”. This past year we saw an increase in membership of Sir Knights in New York State. This is certainly an accomplishment any fraternal organization should be proud of when many others are facing downturns in membership. All of us from the Grand Commandery to the individual Commandery must look into retaining those new members. Membership retention is a very important part in the success of any fraternal organization, and I feel this can be done by asking what our new members are looking for. We need to change with the times and in doing so, make sure we stay within the by-laws of Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery. I’m sure if we went back to the Grand Commandery during the “Golden age of Fraternalism” we would have

seen a much different Grand Commandery. During that 106 year period Grand Commandery has changed and evolved to what it is today. We need to continue this by seeing what our new younger members want. After all, they are the future leaders of our Order and will continue to carry the torch long after we are gone. This change I talk about is not anything drastic, such as becoming more involved with the internet and current ways of communication. Last year the Officer's training manual was put on disc and given to every Commandery. A few years ago a website was created for our Grand Commandery and information is available to every member who visits the site. We need to look into improving our website and using the space available to add to it. Another change which we can look at is Facebook. Individual Commanderies can start a Facebook page and let others know they exist. We already have a few Commanderies with Facebook pages and I commend you for it. There are also many opportunities to get our families involved in activities. Examples can be having families getting together during meeting nights especially in locations that have kitchens and dining areas where everyone can socialize and continue to do so while the Sir Knights attend the evenings meeting. During my time going up the line and Inspecting Commanderies throughout New York State, I noticed so many places I visited had large areas in their meeting places where such functions could take place. This can perhaps work in our favor and draw families out to socialize with others giving everyone that friendship and mutual support we all look for in a fraternity.

And, of course, we should become more involved in our communities. This can be done through Patriotic and Civic functions such as attending parades and letting others know we exist. This will allow continued interest in what Templary has to offer and continue to recruit new members into this valiant and magnanimous order of Knights Templar.

Finally, as was done last year we will once again hold a Grand Commander's Symposium for the training of all Grand Line Officers, Zone Commanders and any Sir Knight interested in learning more about our order. I look forward to seeing as many Sir Knights throughout New York during my year. May the blessings of God and our blessed redeemer guide every one of us.

Courteously,  
Sir Knight Richard Kerimoglu  
Grand Commander  
Knights Templar State of New York

**Reception:** The Grand Commander's Reception will be held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Kuhl's Highland House located at 512 Highland Avenue ext. in Middletown, NY. There will be a hospitality suite prior to and after the reception. For those wishing overnight accommodations there will be rooms available at the Microtel 19 Crystal Run Crossing Middletown, NY. A continental breakfast will be available on Sunday morning.

**Grand Commander's Symposium:** This will be held on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at the Albany Masonic Temple located at 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY. Our immediate past Grand Commander SK Fred Beitter is chairing this event.

**Membership:** I feel that in order to attract new members we need to make our order appealing to all new members. This includes wearing our uniforms to all Templar functions and meetings and making ourselves seen. Also, let others know about Chivalric Masonry.

**Inspections:** This year we will again go back to basics. Opening closing and the sword manual will be closely graded especially the work of the lines. No Commandery can be expected to do ritual work if they cannot open in full form. The following will be the Ritual requirement during Inspections for the 2016-2017 year:

Order of the Red Cross: page 36, Founding the New Order beginning with "S.M: Princes and Rulers, to perpetuate..." ending on page 37 with "Princes and Rulers, arise, and witness this Vow."

Order of Malta: page 85 The Banner of St. John

Order of Temple: page 156, Ode to the Skull.

**Charities:** Let us not forget Charity. During Inspections and Zone schools of instruction throughout the State, let us not forget to mention our Templar charities the Educational Foundation, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, The Holy Land Pilgrimage and St. Bernard's Priory.

**Grand Commander's Pin:** This year a beautiful Grand Commander's pin is available for \$5.00. The Inspecting Officers will have them available for sale during Inspections. All of the money collected for these pins will go toward our Banner fund to help restore and keep in good repair our historic Banner and Beauceant .

**Long Range Planning:** The Grand Generalissimo, along with the Captain General, will continue to add to our future with their planning and preparation.

**Schools of Instruction:** The red book will include all inspections and schools along with information for the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** The Easter Sunrise service for 2017 will be held in Alexandria Virginia on Sunday, April, 16<sup>th</sup> 2017. If you haven't had the chance to get down to the Washington, DC area for Easter Sunrise service you are missing out on a very enjoyable weekend. The weekend is spent meeting with Sir Knights from different states, touring the Nation's Capitol and ends Easter morning with all of us marching up Shooter's Hill for Easter service. SK John B. Covell Grand

Junior Warden will have further information on where the hotel accommodations will be for this year together with other information will be as it becomes available.

## Zone Schools 2016-2017

Zone 1 and Zone 2—Saturday, October, 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Columbian Commandery No. 1  
10am. 71 W.23<sup>rd</sup> Street. NYC

Zone 3-- Thursday, November 10, 2016, 7:30 pm, at New Windsor Masonic Temple New Windsor

Zone4-- Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:00 am at Capital City Commandery No. 2,  
Albany

Zone 5--Friday, November 4, 2016 at Otsego No. 76, Cooperstown

Zone 6--Friday, October 7, 2016 at Central City No. 25, Liverpool

Zone 7--Thursday, October 27 at Malta No. 21, Endicott

Zone 8--Saturday, October 15 at Saygoyewatha No. 17, 10:00 am

Zone 9--Monday, November 21 at Hugh de Payens-Tancred No 30