

The commander of each Commandery is hereby ordered to read this General Order at the first Conclave following receipt:

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 Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York

CHRISTIAN GREETINGS, SIR KNIGHTS,
The Theme for the Year 2018-2019 is :

TEMPLAR SERVICE

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his Life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:26-28) NIV

Can we do any less than make our own lives a fitting example of that of Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation? As our medieval namesakes dedicated their lives to the service of God protecting pilgrims on dangerous Holy Land roads, so should it be for us to be fitting models of service to God, country, family, community, and Masonry.

Excellence in Templary remains the over-arching objective for the coming year as I am certain that the Grand Line is similarly dedicated to that pursuit. Indeed, the achievement of excellence is a never-ending journey. This year's theme of being of service is but one of many of the attributes of the pursuit of Templar Excellence. We as Christian Masons have become Knights Templar for various reasons, but hopefully all of us are motivated above all else by the desire to serve our Lord. Also, each must determine ways we can provide the greatest service in the secular world: working behind the scene in Masonry, by volunteer work in our church or communities, by participating in political and civil activities, and by being role models within our families.

As such, I offer you SERVICE:

S – SUPPORTING OUR CHARITIES
E – ENTHUSIASM – WILLINGLY ASSISTING WHEN ASKED
R – RESPONSIBILITY – BEING ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR BEHAVIOR
V – VOLUNTEERING – AND LIVING A VISION
I – INTEGRITY – KEEPING OUR WORD
C – CARING ABOUT ONE ANOTHER
E – ENLIGHTENMENT –ACHIEVING SPIRITUAL AND MENTAL GROWTH

Of course these are the qualities that identify us as Masons and Knights Templar. Additionally it has been frequently noted that being visible and active in our communities attracts similarly inclined men to want to know about Masonry and Templary.

As we recall those Medieval Knights, I am reminded of a portion of the public Rededication Ceremony where noting the Templar's humble beginnings, the Grand Generalissimo claims "their faith in God and the success of their arms enabled them to grow into a main pillar of the Crusades". The Grand Captain General continues: "Since their time countless Masons have joined in the ranks of those Soldiers of Christ, serving to defend the faith with exemplary and unselfish service. Though the warfare and weapons have changed, we pray that the faith in Jesus Christ and our need to serve Him are the same."

As Knights Templar we have a duty to serve when and where needed. The Grand Line Officers from the Grand Commander to the Grand Sentinel are your servants not your overlords. Commanders of constituent Commanderies, you also are the servants of those who elected you. We must humble ourselves, difficult as that may be, in order to be real leaders. We can all find opportunities to be of service in uniform and out. We don't cease to be Templars when we leaved the asylum ad take off our swords. From the highest to the most recently dubbed Knights, we should strive to serve God and our fellow man.

GRAND COMMANDER'S RECEPTION

DeMolay Commandery No. 22 invites you to attend the Grand Commander's Reception on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, 199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY. A social hour and cash bar are at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm.

Should you require overnight accommodations, reservations are to be made directly with the Woodcliff prior to October 17th by calling 585-248-4810. A hospitality room will be available prior to and after the dinner. The reservation form can be found on the Grand Commandery web page.

THE COMMANDER'S PIN

The Grand Commander's pin is available for a suggested price of \$5.00. They will be available at my Reception, the Symposium in January and Inspecting Officers will also have them available during inspections. This year all money obtained from their sale will be split between the renovation of the recently found Cross and Crown Sign and the Education Foundation.

SYMPOSIUM

The Frederick A. Beitter Symposium will be held on Jaunuary19, 2019 at the Albany Masonic Temple, 67 Corning Place Albany, NY. All Grand Line Officers, Zone Commanders and Recorders are expected to attend. Other Knights, particularly those considering joining the Grand Line, are encouraged to attend. There will be a general meeting, followed by breakout sessions for the Grand Line Officers, the Recorders and Zone Commanders. The Grand Line Officer's session will feature a presentation of their duties and responsibilities.

INSPECTIONS

Again this year, the main focus of each inspection will be the opening and closing along with the sword manual. The work of the Recorder and the Treasurer should also be carefully reviewed as their work is essential to the success of their Commandery. Inspecting officers will be expected to present the Grand Commander's Message, demonstrate correct tactics when necessary and enthusiastically promote our charities.

The ritual requirements should be recited from memory by any Commandery member, not read.. The work this year will be:

ORDER OF THE RED CROSS – P. 34, starting with “O Princes and Rulers, and ending with “GOD OF TRUTH”.

ORDER OF MALTA- p. 86-87, starting with “And now my Brother “and endng with ...to live forever.”

ORDER OF THE TEMPLE- p. 123, starting with “Pilgrim, Thou hast...and ending with “Thy defense and consolation.”

CHARITIES

Striving for excellence in Templary includes enthusiastically supporting our various charities. Every Sir Knight should feel the responsibility to donate to at least one of our programs. We are all steward of these important charities and as such we should contribute to the wellbeing of our own Grand Commandery and its chosen charitable causes such as the Educational Foundation, the Holy Land Pilgrimage, and St. Bernard's Priory Endowment Program, along with The Grand Encampment Eye Foundation. This program provides grants for research into childhood eye disease. A reminder to Inspecting officers, please promote these important charities during your inspection visits.

MEMBERSHIP

It is the task and responsibility of each and every one of us to further the growth of Templary in our state. This begs the questions: What are we doing to attract good men and masons to Templary? What do we offer the current generation of young men to join our ranks and remain? Seek out good men to join your symbolic lodge, men who should go on to become Knights Templar. Visit local symbolic lodges and Royal Arch Chapters, and encourage Templar membership. Be a personal model for Templary.

Your efforts to secure petitioners for knighthood will be recognized. As a first line signer for three or more successful petitions you will become eligible for a membership shoulder cord the color of which represents the aggregate number you have secured. You will be recognized by being presented with your shoulder cord at Grand Conclave.

Equal in importance with gaining new knights is the retention of our current members. Do we mostly practice opening and closing with abundant arguments over the correct tactics? Or do we offer an interesting program about Templary? Do we make new knights feel welcome and encourage them to take part in your commandery's activities? Because of the critical importance of retention I am requesting that each commandery make contact with any member who is taking a demit or being dropped for non-payment of dues. Also, I am asking that the Recorder send me the name of every such member before he is dropped so I can personally contact him or them.

The Grand Encampment also has an award system in which a membership jewel will be granted to first line signers of 10 petitioners or restorations or a combination of the above. Recorders will be responsible for certifying the validity of those knighted or restored.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The 2019 Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the George Washington National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia on Sunday, April 21, 2019. This is a wonderful time to visit our Nation's Capital, Arlington National Cemetery, or the George Washington National Memorial and then join with the Grand Line marching up Shooter's Hill for the Easter Service. More information will be available from the Junior Grand Warden, S.K. John Scott, as we come closer to the Easter Season.

Courteously in His Holy Name,
S.K. David A. Hardy, Grand Commander
Grand Commandery State of New York

ZONE SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION AND SEMINARS – 2018-2019

SK Dennis Davis, GG and SK David Barkstedt, GCG

Zone 1-December 1 @ Nassau, Oyster Bay 10 AM

Zone 2-January 26, 2019 @ Columbia 1, Grand Lodge, NYC 10AM

Zone 3-October 4 @ Cyprus 67, Middletown, 7:30 PM

Zone 4-October 19 @ Capital City 2, Albany, 7:30 PM

Zone 5 & 7- January 5, 2019 @ Norwich 46, Oxford, 11:00 AM -Lunch

Zone 6-November 16 @ Central City 25 Liverpool, 7:30 PM

Zone 8- November 7 @ Fairport/Flower City #476 by Cyrene-Monroe 12, Fairport, 7:30 PM

Zone 9- November 8 @ Batavia, Attica, 7:30 PM-Dinner