

The Commander of each Commandery is ordered to read this general order at the first Conclave following receipt

Grand Commandery, Knights Templar

of the



State of New York

David E. Shire
Grand Commander
2011-2012

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General Order No. 1

Templar Plan 2011-2012

To the Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Commanders, and all Sir Knights of the Constituent
Commanderies of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, State of New York

Knightly Greetings:

Chivalry, Charity, and Camaraderie

I am deeply humbled, and greatly honored to serve as your Grand Commander for the ensuing year. Lady Carol and I pledge to serve this Grand Commandery to the best of our abilities. Our theme for this year is "Chivalry, Charity, and Camaraderie"! With this as our banner, we will travel as your ambassadors representing our Grand Commandery with dignity, Christian love, and brotherly friendship.

Sir Knights, we need to be beacons to the world displaying our belief in the promises of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ by exemplifying our lives in the spirit of Christian Love, and Charity to all mankind! When we are among the public making Templary visible, we need to

be ever mindful to watch our every word and action. Promote our Christian brotherly love for all by doing a good deed for someone each day, or offering assistance to a needy person. Be genuine, sincere, tolerant, and forgiving in all our relationships with our Families, Brother Masons, Neighbors, and all whom we come in contact with. We must let our light shine in order to attract good men to become Masons and Knights Templar! Our Ancient Templars, as well as our Contemporaries, knew these truths!

My goals for this year are simple:

1. To increase the Educational Fund by selling my pins in order to be able to give more scholarships to worthy youths and to continue supporting our Masonic Youth Organizations!
2. To continue to work to increase our Pilgrimage Fund to \$3000+ again this year by utilizing the existing collection boxes, and/or by my carrying our wooden collection box to as many Commandery Christmas Toasts, and other Commandery functions as possible.
3. To continue to work to increase our Endowment Fund by \$10,000 by establishing a Special Society similar to the RA Zerubabel Society.
4. To continue to support our Knight Templar Eye Foundation by requesting that each Commandery place a container out at each Conclave to collect loose change to add to our Eye Foundation's Fund.
5. To continue the awards program for the "Outstanding Commandery", and the Outstanding Zone Commander of the Year.

The Grand Line Officers

We will continue to strive to improve upon our communication amongst our Grand Officers, Zone Commanders, Deputy Zone Commanders, Commanders, Recorders, and all Sir Knights of our constituent Commanderies! We pledge our continual support and assistance in serving all the Commanderies in our jurisdiction! We stand ready to help all our Sir Knights.

Communications

To better inform all of the Sir Knights of our activities, we once again emphasize and promote the use of E-Mail, Newsletters, our Grand Commandery Website: grandcommanderyktny.org, Magazines, Trestle boards, and event schedules!! We need to increase their use, and encourage more electronic record keeping with hard copy backups. Our Grand Recorder, our NY Grand Commandery Web Master, and all Grand Line Officers are always willing to help with these. Don't hesitate to ask! We must continually emphasize our need to improve our communication with all our Sir Knights whether they be Grand Line Officers, Zone Commanders, Deputy Zone Commanders, Commanders, or member Sir Knights!!!!

Membership and its Retention

We all are well aware that without a growing membership all bodies of Masonry could disappear. All are experiencing losses and are barely holding their own. We as Knights Templar need to focus on membership growth and retention more than ever before. It is true that we have gained much exposure through the media, movies, and books by Dan Brown and others. We have a unique history, an impressive uniform and many dedicated men. There is no reason why we should not strive to become more VISIBLE in our communities, churches, lodges, chapters and councils. We need to get out and be seen in uniform for fund raisers, honor guards, parades, special presentations, and other activities. Each appearance increases the chance of attracting new members. Also, participation in these activities

continues to give our Sir Knights a reason to stay interested and remain as members. Always carry a petition for Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery to have available should you find a worthy man or brother desirous of joining us. Once we Knight them, we need to assign a mentor to each to assist them to acclimate and encourage their participation. If we plan meaningful meetings that start on time, have an interesting program, practice our tactics, and promote fellowship, this will happen. Even if you have a poor turnout and do not have nine to open your meeting, do not waste a moment! Have a practice or a history lesson followed by a discussion, etc. As Lady Carol and I traveled throughout the state and the northeast these past several years, we have seen that Commanderies with an active Lady's Auxiliary do better with retention. So look to your ladies for support!

Inspections

Inspections are a vehicle by which our constituent Commanderies may evaluate their performance of our ritual. In return these inspections also allow the Grand Commandery to observe and evaluate each constituent Commandery's performance of the requirements and standards which the Grand Encampment of the United States of America expects every Grand Commandery to maintain. Use of this tool should assist all in improving their work.

In addition, the inspections are the primary means of communication between our constituent Commanderies and the Grand Commander. Our old forms have been out of date for several years, but I still see some of them used for our inspections. We have had new Revised Inspection Forms for sometime now. I would request that all Recorders and Grand Line Officers procure these from our website at grandcommanderyktny.org or find it through the links at knightstemplar.org, and USE THEM!!!

Check our Red Book for this year's Inspection dates and locations for each of our constituent Commanderies!

Conferral of the Orders

The conferral of our Orders is the most essential activity to increasing membership. They should be conferred on a timely basis and well executed. We have had great success in the use of our Pilgrimages across the state in order to assist Commanderies that have difficulty with manpower and knowledgeable ritualists. But I must emphasize that we should strive to be ready to assist each Commandery to become more self sufficient in conferring the orders on their own whenever possible.

Seminars and Zone Schools of Instructions

We have had much success of late conducting these jointly. They are an extension of our ongoing Training Program, and are very important. I remind each Commander, line officers and all Sir knights to take advantage of these programs and urge your attendance at these events! They are designed to assist the officers of our Commanderies to better fulfill their goals and duties, but can be invaluable to all Sir Knights. It is our hope that these meetings will facilitate the exchange of ideas as well as bring new insights as to how we as Grand Line Officers may help you our constituent Commanderies and all Sir Knights to become more confident and productive in your work. Remember, your Grand Officers pledge to aide and assist all Sir Knights whenever asked. We are always here to help YOU!

2011-2012 Locations and Dates for these

Central Region: Zones 6 & 10 – Thursday, October 27, 2011
Malta Commandery No. 21 – PM Session – Begins at 7:30 PM
Endicott Masonic Lodge, 403 E. Main Street, Endicott, NY 13760-4925

Capital Region: Zone 5 – Saturday, November 12, 2011
Capital City Commandery No. 2 – AM Session – Begins at 10:00 AM
Albany Lodge, 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207-1904

Northern Region: Zone 9 – Friday, December 16, 2011
Central City Commandery No. 25 – PM Session – Begins at 7:30 PM
Masonic Lodge, 608 Oswego Street, Liverpool, NY 13088

Western Region: Zones 11 & 12 – Saturday, December 17, 2011
Batavia Commandery No. 34 – AM Session – Begins at 10:00 AM
Attica Masonic Lodge, 39 Main Street, Attica, NY 14011-1038

Mid-Hudson Region: Zones 3 & 4 – Thursday, November 17, 2011
Poughkeepsie Commandery No. 43 – PM Session – Begins at 7:00 PM
Poughkeepsie Masonic Temple, 32 Connon St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-3206

Metropolitan Region: Zones 1 & 2 – Saturday, January 14, 2012
Bay Ridge Commandery No. 79 – AM Session – Begins at 10:00 AM
Grand Masonic Lodge, 71 West 23rd St., NY, NY 10010-4102

Charities

As Knights Templar there are four charities that we support: The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, The Knight Templar Education Fund, the Pilgrimage Fund, and our Endowment Fund. As your Grand Commander, I urge your continual support of these with your liberal contributions! We thank you for your devotion to duty by allowing us to fulfill our obligation to help feed the hungry, cloth the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Let all see our good works!

Grand Commander's Reception

Niagara Commandery No. 64, Hugh de Payens Commandery 30, Lake Erie Commandery #20, Tancred Commandery #80, and Tonawanda Commandery #78 extend a cordial invitation to all Sir Knights, their Ladies, Brothers, Family and Friends to attend a casual attire Reception on October 15th, 2011 at 6 PM at Antonio's Restaurant, Banquet, and Conference Center located in the Quality Inn Niagara, 7708 Niagara Falls Blvd, Niagara Falls, NY 14304. Rooms are available at \$89 per night plus tax. Room reservations can be made directly to the hotel at 716-283-0621. The cost of the dinner is \$40 per person and the meal reservations can be made with Anthony Olivieri, 234 Aurora St, W. Seneca, NY 14224 or email at tonyjean89@aol.com.

Easter Sunrise Service

Once again the Grand Encampment will be organizing a West Coast Service and an Eastern Service with particulars being announced later. We will be going to Alexandria, VA., under the direction of Sir Knight Frederick Beitter.

The 199th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery

The 199th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of New York will be held at the Adam's Mark Buffalo Hotel, 120 Church Street, Buffalo, NY 14202, on September 14, 15, 16, 2012. Please mark your calendars to attend!

Conclusion

Finally, Sir Knights, let us advance with Chivalry, Charity and Camaraderie in our hearts giving kindness, charity, and brotherly love to all. These will be our sword and buckler as we fight against the foes who oppose the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ remembering always not to be ashamed to profess and preserve our faith in Him to all mankind!

Are WE having FUN yet?

Given under my hand and Seal of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of the State of New York, at Niagara Falls, New York, this 16th day of September, 2011.

In the name of our Lord and Savior;

Attest

David E. Shire

Steven L. Wing

David E. Shire
Grand Commander's
2011-2012

Steven L. Wing, PGC, KCT
Grand Recorder

Inspection Requirements

Grand Line Officers are directed to inspect the Commanderies of this jurisdiction on the dates listed in the Red Book. It will be their duty to inspect the following items: Paraphernalia, Equipment, Charter, Books of record and Treasurer-Recorders worksheet, Quarterly trestle boards and Annual returns. These are to be presented to the Inspecting Officer upon demand. He must also receive a copy of the most recent AUDIT REPORT!

Ritual Requirements

Each Commandery is expected to perform the opening and closing as per Tactics, including the Rehearsal of Duties and the **new revised** Sword Manual. In addition, they are to give the following Ritual:

From the 1979 edition of Grand Encampment

Order of Malta:

1. Pg. 75 starting with "Take up this sword....and ending on pg. 76 with "for the remission of sin"
2. Pg. 76 starting with "The cross is also the sign"....and ending with "be ever ready to defend it"

Order of The Temple:

1. Pg. 144 starting with “Pilgrim, I am about to confer...and ending on pg. 145 with “member of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple”

Exhibits A – H are found in the Roster of the Grand Commandery (Red Book)

Exhibit A	Officers for 2011-2012
Exhibit B	Standing Committees
Exhibit C	Special Committees
Exhibit D	Special Assignments
Exhibit E	Zone Commanders, Deputy Zone Commanders, and Commanderies

Exhibits F & G

Regional Seminars and Schools of instructions

See listed Schedule above

Exhibit H

Materials

Rituals.....	\$8.00
Tactics.....	\$15.00
Statutes and Regulations.....	on line only
Proceedings.....	\$8.00
Installation Book.....	\$7.00
50 Year or more Certificates.....	\$5.00
50 Year Lapel Button (Green for SK).....	\$12.00
50 Year Lapel Button (Red for PC).....	\$12.00
25 Year Certificate of Membership.....	\$5.00
25 Year Lapel Button (Green for SK).....	\$12.00
25 Year Lapel Button (Red for PC).....	\$12.00
Past Commanders Certificate.....	\$5.00
Honorary Past Commanders Certificate.....	\$5.00
Meritorious Service Award.....	\$5.00

Send orders for the above materials with check or money orders payable to Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of NY. Sales tax and shipping charge will be added when appropriate, and required.

To: Steven L. Wing, Grand Recorder
4689 Route 39, Bliss, New York 14024-9712

“Chivalry, Charity, and Camaraderie”

Remember: If it isn't FUN, why are we doing it?