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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

OF

PENNSYLVANIA.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Resolutions, Decisions, and Forms.

PUBLISHED

By Authority of the Grand Commandery,
As per Resolution adopted at its Annual Session of June, 1868,

R. E. SIR H. STANLEY GOODWIN, G. Commander.

E. SIR ALFRED CREIGH, G. Recorder.

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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AS AMENDED AT READING, JUNE 23, A. D. 1860, A. O. 742.

ARTICLE I.

Of the State Grand Commandery.

SECTION I.—HOW CONSTITUTED.

The Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania is constituted as follows :

- I. The Right Eminent Grand Commander.
 - II. The Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander.
 - III. The Eminent Grand Generalissimo.
 - IV. " " Captain General.
 - V. " " Prelate.
 - VI. " " Senior Warden.
 - VII. " " Junior Warden.
 - VIII " " Treasurer.
 - IX. " " Recorder.
 - X. " " Standard Bearer.
 - XI. " " Sword Bearer.
 - XII. " " Warder.
 - XIII. " " Captain of the Guards (or Sentinel).
- Likewise,*
- XIV. All Past Grand Commanders (and Grand Masters).
 - XV. All Past Deputy Grand Commanders (and Deputy Grand Masters).
 - XVI. All Past Grand Generalissimos.
 - XVII. All Past Grand Captain Generals.

So long as they remain members of the Subordinate Commanderies under this State jurisdiction.

Likewise,

XVIII. The Eminent Commander.

XIX. " Generalissimo.

XX. " Captain General.

Of each chartered Subordinate Commandery working under this Grand Commsndery.

Likewise,

XXI. All Past Eminent Commsnders of the Subordinate Commanderies working under this State Grand Commsndery, so long as they remain members of Subordinate Commanderies under this jurisdiction.

Each of the individuals enumerated in this section shall be entitled, when present, to one vote.

No person shall be eligible to office in this State Grand Commandery unless he shall be at the time a member of some Subordinate Commandery, working under this Grand Commandery, and who has filled, or is at present time filling, one of the first three offices in his Commandery: *Provided*, That no person shall be eligible to either of the first four offices of the Grand Commandery, who is not a Past Eminent Commander, or Past Grand Master, of a Subordinate Commandery.

SECTION 2.—PROXIES.

Any officer specified in the first section, save and except Past Commanders, may appear and vote by proxy; said proxy being, at the time of service, a member of the same Subordinate Commandery as his principal, and producing a certificate of his appointment.

SECTION 3.—MEETINGS.

1. The annual conclave of the Grand Commandery shall be holden on the second Tuesday of June, in each and every year, and be opened at 8 o'clock P. M., and shall be held alternately east and west of the Alleghany Mountains, at such place as may be directed at the preceding meeting.

2. *Order of Business at Stated Meetings.*—The minutes of the proceedings of the last annual Conclave, and of any special Grand Conclaves, are to be read, unless dispensed with.

3. After the minutes are approved, the Grand Commander shall appoint a *Committee on Credentials*, composed of three Sir Knights, who shall report the names of the members present, as soon as practicable.

4. The following Standing Committees, each to consist of *three* Sir Knights, shall also be appointed, who shall report upon the several matters referred to them during the session of the Grand Commandery.

1. On the Doings of the Grand Officers.
2. On Dispensations and Charters.
3. On By-Laws.
4. On Finance.
5. On Grievances.
6. On Designating the next place of meeting.
7. On Unfinished Business.
8. On Mileage and Pay of Representatives.
9. On Landmarks
10. On Foreign Correspondence, which shall make report at as early a period during the next session as may be practicable. This Committee shall be appointed by the Grand Commander immediately after his installation.

The election of Grand Officers shall be held on the morning of the second day of the session, after 10 o'clock.

The Grand Commander shall exemplify, or cause to be exemplified, the work of the Orders during the meeting of the Grand Conclave.

Special Meetings.—Special meetings may be called by the Grand Commander, at his discretion. No business shall be transacted at the special meetings, save that which was specified in the original summons.

The several Grand Officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be duly elected and installed. All questions shall be determined by a majority of votes, except alterations of this Constitution, which shall require two-thirds present. The presiding officer, for the time being, shall have one vote. In case of the votes being equally divided, he shall also give the casting vote. No appeal shall lie to the Grand Commandery from the decision of the Grand Commander.

This Grand Commandery shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the Templar and Appendant Orders in this State; grant charters, decide appeals, and settle all controversies that may arise between Subordinate Commanderies; authorize a uniform ritual and work, and do all things

necessary to promote the good, well-being and perpetuation of Templar Masonry; but subordinate to the Grand Encampment of the United States, so long as this Grand Commandery shall be connected therewith.

SECTION IV.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

1st. *The Right Eminent Grand Commander* shall preside over all stated and special meetings, exercise a watchful supervision over all the Subordinate Commanderies, and see that all the constitutional enactments, rules and edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and of this State Grand Commandery, are duly and promptly observed. He shall have power, during the recess, to grant letters of dispensation to nine or more petitioners, possessing the constitutional qualifications, empowering them to form and open a Commandery; this dispensation to cease at the next annual meeting, or continue by order of the Grand Commandery.

No dispensation shall be issued, unless the petition shall be recommended by the nearest Commandery, and the petitioners give satisfactory evidence of good standing, of suitable place of meeting, of possessing or having ability to procure proper furniture and dress for the use of the Commandery, and of being competent to conduct intelligently the ceremonies, work and government of their Commandery.

He may visit and preside at any Commandery, and give such instructions and directions as the good of the institution may require; but always adhering to the ancient landmarks.

It is his duty, either in person or by proxy, to attend all meetings of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

2d. *The Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander.*

The Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, in the event of the death, removal, or physical incompetency of his superior, shall act as the Grand Commander. At all other times, he shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

It is his duty, either in person or by proxy, to attend all meetings of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

3d. *Eminent Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General.*

In the absence of their respective superiors, they shall severally act as Grand Commanders, in order according to rank. At all other times they shall perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Grand

Commander, or such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations.

4th. *Eminent Grand Recorder.*

The Recorder shall make an annual report to this Grand Commandery of the returns of the Subordinate Commanderies, showing their elected officers, the increase and numbers of each Subordinate, and the amount paid or due by each; also, such other matters as may conduce to the general good of the order.

He shall keep a true record of the proceedings of this Grand body, and receive and collect all moneys due to this Commandery, and pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer.

He shall mail to the Grand Master and Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States; also, to the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder of each State Grand Commandery; also, to the Eminent Commander and Recorder of each subordinate under this jurisdiction, copies of our annual proceedings; also, of all expulsions or rejections within this jurisdiction. Also, shall advise the Recorder of each Commandery within the State of every suspension or expulsion in any subordinate therein. Also, he shall open and keep in a suitable book a register of each Subordinate Commandery—showing the present and past officers and members of each; also, of all rejections, suspensions and expulsions.

5th. *Eminent Grand Treasurer.*

The Treasurer shall receive and keep in charge all the money and property of this Grand Commandery. He shall pay only such orders as may have been passed by vote of this Grand Commandery, signed by the Recorder and countersigned by the Grand Commander. He shall, at each annual or special meeting, present an accurate report of the state of the Treasury.

SECTION 5 — FEES, DUES AND FINANCES.

The revenue of the Grand Commandery shall be derived as follows

For every dispensation, to be paid before the same is issued,	\$90 00
When the charter is issued, the further sum of	10 00
(for the use of the Recorder.)	
For every Knight Templar, receiving either or both orders of Knighthood,	3 00
For annual dues,	1 00
For Grand Commandery diploma,	2 00

ARTICLE VII.

ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

Every proposed alteration or amendment of this Constitution, shall be made at the annual meeting, and shall require a majority of two-thirds of all present.

ARTICLE VIII.

SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

Subordinate Commanderies shall not confer the Orders of Knighthood upon any one but a Royal Arch Mason, nor for a less sum than twenty dollars.

Every application must be recommended by a member of the Commandery, and inclose the whole amount of fee.

Applicants for the Orders of Knighthood must reside within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery; or, if sojourners, they must have the consent of the Commandery nearest to their place of residence.

Every Commandery shall meet at least quarterly for business.

Each Commandery shall hold its annual election at the atated meeting in March, and the installation of officers shall take place on or before the second Tuesday of June.

No dispensation for constituting a Commandery of Knights Templar shall issue, except upon the petition of nine Sir Knights of the Order, which petition shall be recommended by the Commandery nearest to the place where such new Commandery is proposed to be established.

Every Commandery shall, before the 9th day of May in every year, transmit to the Grand Recorder, in such form as shall be furnished, its annual returns, accompanied by the fees and dues to the Grand Commandery.

Any Commandery neglecting or refusing to make its annual returns, accompanied by fees and dues, shall be notified thereof; and if, after three months' notice, it fails to pay, it shall be suspended until restored by the edict of the Grand Commander.

Any Commandery which shall have omitted to make its annual returns and payments on or before the second Tuesday of June, shall thereby be deprived of its representative in the Grand Commandery.

When a Commandery is disbanded, or dissolved, by neglecting to make its returns, or neglecting to pay its dues, or by unknighly conduct, or by the death or resignation of its members, it is the duty of

the last Commander and Recorder, within three months after its dissolution, to surrender to the Grand Recorder, the warrant, books and papers, jewels, furniture, and funds of such Commandery; and the last Commander is to transmit to the Grand Recorder an inventory thereof. No Sir Knight of such Commandery shall be admitted into any other Commandery, nor entitled to the benefits of Templar Masonry, until he shall have paid to the Grand Recorder all arrears due from him to such Commandery.

ARTICLE IX.

The Rules of Order and general regulations of the United States Grand Encampment shall govern the proceedings of this Grand Commandery.

ARTICLE X.

In all cases of degradation or suspension, an appeal shall lie to the Grand Commandery.

DECISIONS.

MADE BY R. E. SIR BENJAMIN PARKE, GRAND COMMANDER.

PETITIONERS.

1857, *July* 16.—In Masonry, by constitutional regulations in Pennsylvania, the petitioners for a *new* Lodge must “not be members of any Lodge” at the time of petitioning. In Knighthood there is no such law. Any Sir Knight, being a resident of this State, may be one of the petitioners for a new Commandery, and act in it, while it is under dispensation. When such new Commandery obtains a charter, the petitioner should withdraw from one or the other; though I know of no law *requiring* him to do so.

CONFERRING ORDERS.

1857, *August* 24.—There is no statute in our Order giving power to the Grand Commander to issue dispensations for conferring the Orders of Knighthood, out of the usual course, or waiving the provi-

sions of By-Laws. A reason for this may be that no such power is necessary to accomplish the object you seek. There is no law of our Order which prohibits conferring the Orders *at the time of the application*, with the unanimous consent of all the members present. Unless, therefore, your By-Laws prohibit it, you can confer the Orders at the time you desire.

MEMBERSHIP.

1857, *September 21*.—It is not necessary to a membership in a Commandery, that a Sir Knight should belong to either a Blue Lodge or Chapter in Masonry. Templarism, or Christian Masonic Knighthood, *as an organization*, is entirely independent of Masonry. Its only constitutional alliance therewith, is the requisition that the Orders of Knighthood shall not be conferred upon any but a Royal Arch Mason.

BALLOTING.

1857, *December 11*.—There is no law in Masonic Knighthood *prescribing or requiring the "ballot box,"* or even a "*ballot*," as the mode of ascertaining the opinions of the members of a Commandery, upon a proposition or petition for the Orders of Knighthood. Neither was there any such law in Masonry under the "*ancient charges*," which simply provided that the members "*are to signify their consent or dissent, in their own prudent way, either virtually or in form, but with unanimity.*" The Constitutions or regulations of Grand Lodges generally prescribe the "*ballot*," and general usages, in both Masonry and Knighthood, is in favor of the use of the "*ballot box*," with white and black balls; which, being so well understood and so convenient, I recommend to be used in our Commanderies, especially and in *all cases* when it is asked for by any member present. But if, when the applicant was proposed, unanimous *consent* was given by all the members present, no one expressing a *dissent*, or asking for a ballot, he was legally elected, and you were right in conferring the Orders upon him.

PAYMENT OF DUES.

1858, *April 6*.—The dues to be paid by the Subordinate Commanderies to the Grand Commandery, are the sum of *two dollars* (now \$3,) for each initiation, and the further sum of *one dollar* for every member of said Subordinate Commandery. The number of members are taken at the time the return is made. No difference between those made twelve months or twelve days before the return day. So, if any mem-

bers had withdrawn, or been suspended or degraded, at any time before the return day, they are not counted in the number of members for whom dues are to be paid.

OFFICERS UNDER DISPENSATION.

1858, *April 28*.—A petition for dispensation need not nominate officers, though it is usually done. The officers of a Commandery under dispensation are the appointment of the R. E. Grand Commander. The usage, in this State, has been for Commanderies under dispensation to adopt By-Laws and elect officers, to be named in their charter when granted. These By-Laws, together with all their proceedings, are returned to the next Grand Commandery. If they are *approved*, and a charter granted, the officers named therein, if present, are installed, and take their seats in the Grand Commandery as members thereof.

CHARGES AGAINST A SIR KNIGHT.

1858, *June 2*.—Neither charges preferred against a Sir Knight in a Masonic Lodge or Chapter of which he is a member, nor his suspension or expulsion therefrom, upon a trial of those charges, will, of *themselves*, without a trial by his Commandery, deprive him of membership therein; nor do I think the legal doctrine of "*res judicata*" can be admitted in its full extent, in regard to the judgment of such Lodge or Chapter, so as to preclude the necessity or bar the right of a full investigation by the Commandery, upon the merits of the case. The strong presumption in regard to the proceedings should probably be that the trial was regular and the judgment right; but as it might turn out there was a mistake, or that some extraneous or undue bias had influenced or colored the proceedings, they ought not to be considered conclusive. Every Sir Knight is entitled to a fair trial by his *peers in Knighthood*, the social and moral code of which is, that of the highest style of Christian morality, a conformity to the whole moral law and the precepts of Him who gave us the great central rule of moral action, "As ye would that men do to you, do ye even so to them."

MADE BY R. E. SIR WM. H. ALLEN, GRAND COMMANDER.

DUES AND FEES.

1860, *June 22*.—Commanderies *under dispensation* owe no annual dues to the Grand Commandery, but must pay the usual fees for per-

sons receiving the orders of **Knighthood** in them before receiving their charters.

MADE BY R. E. SIR CHR. F. KNAPP, GRAND COMMANDER.

HERMAN YERKES.

1860, *June 22*.—That Sir Herman Yerkes cannot visit Commanderies under this jurisdiction, until he shall be formally healed.

MADE BY R. E. SIR E. H. TURNER.

SUSPENDED SIR KNIGHTS.

1863, *June 10*.—That when a Sir Knight is suspended for non-payment of dues, the Grand Recorder being notified of it, the payment of his dues will restore him to good financial position in his Commandery; but to restore him to membership, he must make application in writing, which application shall take the usual course, and by a majority vote he shall be restored to membership.

RESOLUTIONS.

REPRESENTATIVE.

1857—*June 22*. *Resolved*, That hereafter no representative from any Commandery under this jurisdiction, unless their returns are made to the Grand Recorder, agreeably to the Constitution, shall be entitled to speak or vote in this Commandery.

MEMBERSHIP.

1858—*June 22* *Resolved*, That while this Grand Commandery recognizes the right of a Sir Knight, while a member of a Subordinate Commandery, to assist, with his name and presence, in the formation of another Commandery, *while under Dispensation*, without losing his membership in the former; yet, upon the reception of a warrant by the Second Commandery, the Sir Knight should ELECT in which Commandery he will maintain his membership.

DIPLOMAS.

1858—*June 22*. *Resolved*, That the Grand Recorder is hereby authorized to issue a Grand Commandery certificate to any Sir Knight,

upon the production and filing with him the certificate, in proper form, of the Subordinate Commandery to which such Sir Knight is attached, and on the payment of the usual fee.

PAY OF REPRESENTATIVES.

1858—*June 24. Resolved*, That hereafter this Grand Commandery will pay but ONE Representative from each Commandery, (together with the actual expenses of the Grand Officers, when in attendance on each annual Conclave).

P. GRAND COMMANDERS.

1859, *June 22.—Resolved*, That the necessary expenses of Past Grand Commanders, incurred in attending the meetings of the annual Conclave, be hereafter paid out of the funds of the Grand Commandery.

OFFICERS ENTITLED TO VOTE.

1862, *June 10.—Resolved*, That P. Grand Commanders Allen and Knapp be instructed to report whether an E. Commander, who is a Past Commander, is entitled to two votes; and, also, whether a Grand officer can cast a vote as such, and another for Past Eminent Commander, at the same time.

P. R. E. G. C. Allen made the following report on Masonic Law, which was affirmed by the vote of the Grand Commandery:

To the R. E. Grand Commander and Eminent Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania.

Two questions of law have been referred to the undersigned, and an opinion requested.

1st. Whether a Commander, voting as the representative of a Subordinate Commandery in this Grand Commandery, can lawfully cast another vote as a Past Commander.

2d. Whether an officer of this Grand Commandery, after voting as such, may lawfully cast another vote as Past Commander of a Subordinate Commandery.

The first section of the Constitution of this Grand Commandery contains a list of all the classes of persons who constitute this Grand Commandery. These are the Grand and Past Officers, the Commanders, Generalissimos and Captain Generals; and the Past Commanders of Subordinate Commanderies under this Grand Commandery.

It is expressly declared, that each of the *individuals* enumerated in this Section, shall be entitled, when present, to *one vote*.

As the word *individual* was evidently intended by the framers of the Constitution to apply to *persons* and not to *officers* as such, the undersigned are of

opinion that no officer or member of this Grand Commandery can lawfully cast more than one vote, except as holding one or more proxies for officers of his Commandery, or when the Grand Commander decides a tie vote.

The undersigned answer both questions in the negative.

The undersigned have found the Constitution so plain on these points, that they have deemed it unnecessary to fortify their opinion by referring to the usage of other Masonic bodies, all of which, it is believed, allow but one vote to one member.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. H. ALLEN,

C. F. KNAPP,

P. G. Commanders

Form of Petition for Dispensation to open a Commandery.

*To the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar of the State of Pennsylvania :*

The petition of the undersigned respectfully represent, that they are severally Knights of the Red Cross, Knights Templar, and Knights of Malta, residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That they are in good standing as Knights of those illustrious Orders, and among them there are, in their opinion, a competent number well qualified to form and open a Commandery of Knights Templar and the appendant Orders, and to properly discharge the various duties thereof, according to ancient usage. That they have a suitable place of meeting and ability to procure proper furniture and dress for conducting the ceremonies and work of a Commandery. Having the good of the Order at heart, and desirous to extend the benefits and blessings thereof to worthy companions, they pray for a DISPENSATION, empowering them to form, open and hold a regular Commandery of Knights Templar, and the appendant Orders, in the Town of _____ county of _____ and State of Pennsylvania, to be named _____ Commandery, subordinate to, under the jurisdiction of, and to be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Edicts of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and the general principles, landmarks and usages of the Order. And they beg leave respectfully to recommend Sir Knight _____ as the First Eminent Commander, Sir Knight _____ as the first Generalissimo, Sir Knight _____ as the first Captain General.

Dated at

A. D. 18

A. O. 7

Form of Demit.

To all Sir Knights of the illustrious Order of the Red Cross, and of the valiant and magnanimous Orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta, to whom these presents may come,

Greeting:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That Sir Knight _____ whose name appears in the margin of this DEMIT, is a Knight Templar, late a member of _____ Commandery, No. _____. That he is in good standing in the Order and free from all charges on the books; and as such, we courteously commend him to the fraternal regard of all valiant and magnanimous Sir Knights, wherever dispersed around the globe.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of our Commandery to be affixed, this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord 18 _____ and of the Order 7



ATTEST:

_____ Recorder.

_____ E. C.

Form of Dispensation to elect Officers out of the Warranted Time.

To all true and courteous Sir Knights; but more especially to the officers and members of _____ Commandery, No. _____ in the _____ of _____ *Greeting:*

KNOW YE, That wheress no regular election of the officers of the aforesaid Commandery, under its Charter and By-Laws, took place at the time and place as provided for in such By-Laws, to wit, for the annual election in March last: Now, THEREFORE, I, A. B., Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the high powers in me vested, do hereby grant and issue this, my especial Dispensation, unto our worthy Subordinate, the aforesaid _____ Commandery, No. _____, hereby authorizing the officers and members of such Commandery, at such time and place as may be by them appointed, to wit: at a regular meeting, to proceed and in due order elect suitable Sir Knights of their body and Commandery, to serve in the several offices provided for in their By-Laws; and the Sir Knights so elected, after being duly installed, to serve until the next annual election and installation of its officers, under the said By-Laws; all members to have due and timely notice of such meeting, and for the election aforesaid. And I hereby enjoin it upon the E. Commander and Recorder of such Commandery, to certify, under the seal of said Commandery, to our E. Grand Recorder, within six days after said election, the proceedings had under this Dispensation.

Given under my hand and seal, at _____, this _____ day of _____ A. D. 18 _____ A. O. 7

A. B., B. E. G. C., of G. C. of Pa.

Form of a Certificate for Proxy.

To the Grand Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania :

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That in consideration of the confidence I repose in the courtesy and magnanimity of our valiant Sir Knight _____, I have nominated and appointed, and by these presents do nominate and appoint the said Sir Knight _____, to be my proxy in the Grand Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania, then and there to represent me and to do every act and thing agreeably to the Constitution of the Grand Commandery, as fully and completely as I could do myself, were I personally present.

Witness my hand and seal this day of A. D. 18 A. O. 7

(Name,) _____

(Office,) _____

Form of Petition for the Orders of Knighthood.

*To the Eminent Commander, Officers and Sir Knights of Commandery, No.
of Knights Templar and the appendant Orders:*

I, the undersigned, hereby declare, that I am a Royal Arch Mason in good standing; a member of Chapter, No. under a charter from the Grand Chapter of ; that I have a firm and steadfast belief in the truth of the Christian religion, and the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, as revealed in the New Testament; and respectfully pray that I may be made in your Commandery a Knight of the Order of Knights Templar and appendant Orders, and become a member of your Commandery. Should my request be granted, I promise to conform to all the ceremonies, engagements, rules and statutes of your Order, as well as those of your Commandery.

Witness my hand, this day of A. D. 18

Recommended and vouched for on }
the honor of a Knight, by }

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