

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
GRAND COMMANDERY
OF
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
AND THE
APPENDANT ORDERS
OF THE
STATE OF VERMONT



Amended June 4, 2007
Amended June 12, 2000
Amended June 7, 1999
Amended May 28, 1996
Amended June 5, 1995
Amended June 6, 1992
Amended June 5, 1989
Amended June 4, 1984
Amended May 24, 1982
Amended June 4, 1973
Amended May 29, 1972
Amended May 22, 1971
Amended May 25, 1969
Amended June 3, 1968
Amended June 5, 1967
Amended May 23, 1960
Amended May __, 1959
As Revised and Adopted June 6, 1955

GRAND COMMANDERY

NAME – AUTHORITY – POWERS

Art. 1. Name-Jurisdiction. This Grand Commandery shall be styled and known as the “Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders of the State of Vermont.” Its jurisdiction extends throughout the State of Vermont.

- (a). The Principal Administrative Office of this Grand Commandery shall be situate in the Town of Berlin, County of Washington, State of Vermont, wherein shall be kept all records of the Grand Commandery. (June 4, 2007, Pages 8 & 27)

Art. 2. Authority. It is the highest source of authority over the Orders of Knighthood, as conferred in Commanderies of Knights Templar in Vermont, and it may adopt regulations for its own government and that of all Commanderies in its jurisdiction, always to accord, however, with the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Resolutions, Ceremonies and Forms now or hereafter promulgated by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Art. 3. Powers and Duties. The Grand Commandery has the following powers, prerogatives and duties, but enumeration shall not be construed as a limitation thereof.

- (a). It shall review, at its annual conclave, all reports of its officers and committees, and may review the procedures of its Constituent Commanderies.
- (b). It has, within its jurisdiction, sole power to grant charters to new Commanderies, under limitations hereinafter stated, and to fix the fee therefore. It has the sole power to revoke, for cause, charters heretofore or hereafter granted.
- (c). It may require of its Commanderies adequate sums for its support.
- (d). It may censure, suspend or expel members of Commanderies, and members of the Grand Commandery, for violation of its statutes, laws and regulations.
- (e). It may prescribe regulations for the government of its Commanderies.
- (f). It may determine the territorial jurisdiction of its Commanderies and settle all controversies among them.
- (g). It shall keep close check on its financial officers and may require the same to be bonded. It may prescribe regulations to secure and preserve its finances and to insure punctuality, sound accounting practices and safe keeping of its funds and property.
- (h). It may prescribe regulations governing the granting of dispensations to new Commanderies.
- (i). It shall provide on or before July 1 of each year, for the payment of such dues to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar as such Grand Encampment may prescribe.
- (j). It may require members of its Commanderies to provide themselves with a Templar uniform, and may prescribe such uniforms and change the same from time to time in conformity with the Regulations of the Grand Encampment.

MEMBERSHIP – VOTING RIGHTS – PROXIES

Art. 4. Members – Who Are. The Grand Commandery shall consist of the following as members:

- (a). All duly installed Grand Officers
- (b). All its Past Grand Commanders, Deputy Grand Commanders, Grand Generalissimos and Grand Captains General, as long as they shall remain members of its Commanderies.
- (c). Past Commanders of its Commanderies and all Past Commanders in other jurisdictions who may have affiliated with a Vermont Commandery and may have been elected a member by the Grand Commandery, while remaining a member of a Commandery in Vermont.
- (d). The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of its Commanderies.
- (e). All Knights Templar of other Grand Commanderies who have been elected by this Grand Commandery as honorary members thereof, but such membership shall confer no voting rights.

Art. 5. Voting Rights. Each member, as defined in Article 4, except those named in sub-paragraph (e) shall have one vote each, regardless of the fact that they may hold more than one office in the Grand Commandery, either past or present, or hold an office in a Constituent Commandery, or the proxy of an office thereof. (1972, pg ??)

Art. 6. Proxies. No member shall be represented and vote by proxy, except those named in sub-paragraph (d) of Article 4 above. The holder of any proxy shall be a Commander or Past Commander, and a member of a Commandery in Vermont.

CONCLAVES – QUORUM – CONDUCT OF

Art. 7. Annual. The annual conclave shall be held in each year of such date, between May 25 and June 25, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and as such place as the Grand Commandery shall direct. At least fifteen days notice of such time and place shall be mailed by the Grand Recorder to all Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Committeemen and Constituent Commanderies.

Art. 8. Special. Special Conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander at such time and place as he may direct, and shall be called by him on the written request of a majority of the Commanderies stating the business to be transacted. Notice of such special meeting shall be mailed as provided in Article 7. No business shall be transacted at a special conclave except that stated in such notice.

Art. 9. Quorum. Six Grand Officers, Constitutional or Administrative, in person, and the representatives of three Constituent Commanderies, in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at an annual or special conclave.

Art. 10. Order of Business. At the Grand Commandery conclaves the order of business shall be as follows:

Opening
Reading of Minutes, if not dispensed with
Reception of Past Grand Commanders
Reception of Distinguished Visitors
Presentation of Motions, etc., in writing if requiring reference to a committee
Roll Call of Grand Representatives
Address of Grand Commander
Reports of Officers and Committees
Election and Installation of Officers
New Business
Appointment of Officers and Committees
Closing

At special conclaves the Grand Commander may vary the above order of business to suit the situation.

Art. 11. Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern deliberations.

Art. 12. Majority Vote Governs. Unless otherwise herein provided all matters presented shall be decided by show of hands and by the majority vote of those present and voting. If the vote is close, or if any member with plural voting rights so demands, a ballot shall be taken.

GRAND OFFICERS

Art. 13. Officers. The constitutional officers of the Grand Commandery shall be:

Grand Commander	Grand Senior Warden
Deputy Grand Commander	Grand Junior Warden
Grand Generalissimo	Grand Treasurer
Grand Captain General	Grand Recorder

Each of whom shall be elected, and the following who shall be appointed by the Grand Commander:

Grand Prelate	Grand Warder
Grand Standard Bearer	Grand Sentinel
Grand Sword Bearer	

In addition the following Administrative Officers may be appointed by the Grand Commander and need not be installed:

Grand Inspector	Grand Historian
Ass't Grand Inspector	Grand Organist

An Assistant Grand Treasurer and Assistant Grand Recorder may be appointed by the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder respectively with the approval of the Grand Commander (1971, pg 49) (1972, pg. 14) (1984, pg. 26)

Art. 14. Term. All Grand Officers, elected or appointed, shall serve until the next annual conclave, or until their successors are elected or appointed and installed.

- (a). No one shall serve more than one year in the same office of any one of the following offices, except to fill a vacancy created within the appointed term of office, so as to complete that then current term of office:

Grand Standard Bearer
Grand Sword Bearer
Grand Warder
Grand Sentinel (1984, pg. 26) (2000, pg. 18)

Art. 15. Election, Method of. Any elective officer may be nominated from the floor with very brief remarks. When only one name is presented, such officer may be elected by a show of hands. If more than one name appears, election shall be by ballot.

Art. 16. Precedence of Rank – Titles. Officers shall have precedence in rank in order listed in Article 13. The office of Grand Commander carries the honorary title of Right Eminent; that of Deputy Grand Commander, the honorary title of Very Eminent; and the balance, the honorary title of Eminent.

The Past Grand Commanders shall ceremonially rank next after the Grand Captain General according to their seniority of service, and their office carries the honorary title of Right Eminent.

The honorary title refers to the office and not the man. When referring to an officer, the proper salutation is “Sir Knight John Doe, Right Eminent Grand Commander, etc., never “Right Eminent John Doe, Grand Commander,” etc.

Art. 17. Eligibility. No one shall be elected or appointed an officer of this Grand Commandery except he then be a member in good standing in and a Commander or Past Commander of a Commandery in Vermont, except that occupants of the offices of Grand Prelate, Grand Historian and Grand Organist, or any of their assistants need not be a Commander or Past Commander. (2000, pg. 34)

Art. 18. Acceptance of Office – Vacancy. If any Grand Officer elected or appointed to any office, be not present and installed at the annual conclave, the Grand Recorder shall forthwith notify such person and demand to know, within thirty days, whether or not he accepts such office. If he does not accept, or if he fails to accept within the time stated, such office shall be vacant, except as to the first four, and may be filled by the Grand Commander, by appointment until the next annual conclave.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Art. 19. In General. The duties of officers shall be such as appertain to their respective stations, evidenced by the Statutes, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Commandery, and conforming, as nearly as may be, to those of corresponding officers of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Commandery may require their service and the Grand Commander may assign to his subordinate officers, duties conformable to the Templar law and usage.

Art. 20. Grand Commander. The Grand Commander shall have the following powers and duties, but enumeration shall not be construed a limitation thereof.

- (a). To maintain a watchful supervision over all Commanderies in his jurisdiction and see that the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment and the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery are duly and promptly observed.

- (b). To appoint all committees and other officers not elective, and to fill all vacancies, except as to the first four offices, such appointees to serve during his pleasure or until their successors are elected or appointed and installed.
- (c). During any recess of Grand Commandery, to arrest the charter or dispensation of any Commandery for just cause, and to suspend any officer of the Grand or Constituent Commandery, but such suspension shall not affect the standing of such officer as a member of the Order. The Grand Commander shall report his action in full to the next annual conclave.
- (d). To visit and preside in any Commandery within his jurisdiction, and to give such instructions as the good of the Order may require within existing laws and regulations.
- (e). To grant dispensations to Commanderies:
 - (1). To hold special conclaves for conferring of the Orders, or any of them, at places within their territorial jurisdiction other than that named in their charters.
 - (2). To permit Commanderies to receive petitions and ballot thereon at the same stated or special conclave after such notice as he may deem proper.
 - (3). To convene special conclaves to transact business when a stated conclave is not held or it seems not feasible to hold the same, and on such notice as he deems proper.
 - (4). To permit a Vermont Commandery to invade the jurisdiction of another Grand Commandery for the purpose of inter-jurisdictional visit and work, and *vice versa*, both subject to the approval of the other Grand Commander concerned.
- (f). To grant, during any recess of the Grand Commandery, a dispensation for the forming of a new Commandery, but only subject to the following conditions and requirements:
 - (1). A petition signed by nine or more Sir Knights in good standing or holding properly granted demits.
 - (2). The consent and recommendation of the nearest Commandery in the jurisdiction if the same is less than forty miles distant from the location of the proposed new Commandery.
 - (3). Such dispensation to expire with the next annual conclave unless the extended by the Grand Commandery.
- (g). To approve by-laws of Constituent Commanderies, when and as submitted and any proposals of changes therein.

Art. 21. Deputy Grand Commander. In the event of the temporary absence or disability of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander shall be Acting Grand Commander for the period involved. In the event of the death, permanent removal for this jurisdiction, or permanent disability of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander shall succeed to the office of Grand Commander. At all other times, he shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Commandery of the Grand Commander.

Art. 22. Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General. In the event of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall, in order of precedence, perform the duties of such superiors, and in the event of the advancement, death, permanent disability or permanent removal from its jurisdiction of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General shall severally, in order of precedence, succeed to the office of such superior.

Art. 23. Grand Treasurer. The Grand Treasurer shall:

- (a). Keep accurate accounts of all monies, funds and property of the Grand Commandery received by him from the Grand Recorder or from other sources, and report thereon to the Grand Commandery, annually or oftener if required.
- (b). Keep all cash funds in sound banks, approved by the Finance Committee, and make such investments of surplus funds as may be recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Trustees. He shall keep all securities in a safe deposit vault.
- (c). Promptly pay all orders for the payment of bills unless the same exceed budget appropriations or are, to his knowledge, in error.
- (d). Furnish corporate surety bond to the Grand Commandery, at the expense thereof, in such amount as the Grand Commander may require, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

Art 23.1. Assistant Grand Treasurer – Term – Duties. The Assistant Grand Treasurer shall serve during the pleasure of the Grand Treasurer. He shall discharge such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Commander. In the event of the temporary removal or disability of the Grand Treasurer, he shall become Acting Grand Treasurer for such period. In the event of the death, permanent removal or disability of the Grand Treasurer, he shall become Grand Treasurer and hold office as such until his successor is appointed or elected and installed. (1995, pg. 31)

Art. 24. Grand Recorder. The Grand Recorder shall:

- (a). Keep accurate records of the doings of the Grand Commandery, and cause the same to be printed annually and distributed.
- (b). Collect all monies due the Grand Commandery except on investments, and pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer.
- (c). Issue dispensations, general orders, and edicts as directed by the Grand Commander.
- (d). Keep check on all bills payable by the Grand Commandery and issue orders on the Grand Treasurer directing payment thereof, all as directed by the Grand Commander.
- (e). On or before July 1 each year, file with the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment such report as said Grand Encampment may require and draw an order on the Grand Treasurer to pay the Grand Encampment all dues and amounts required by it.
- (f). Furnish corporate surety bond to the Grand Commandery, at the expense thereof, in such amount as the Grand Commander may require for the faithful discharge of his duties.

Art. 25. Assistant Grand Recorder – Term – Duties. The Assistant Grand Recorder shall serve during the pleasure of the Grand Recorder. He shall discharge such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commander. In the event of the temporary removal or disability of the Grand Recorder, he shall become, Acting Grand Recorder for such period. In the event of the death, permanent removal or disability of the Grand Recorder, he shall become Grand Recorder and hold office as such until his successor is appointed or elected and installed.

Art. 26. Grand Inspectors. The Grand Inspector shall be or become proficient in the ritual and tactics of the Orders; shall, with the approval of the Grand Commander, fix the schedule of annual inspections, be present thereat and observe and correct the work. He shall give Constituent Commanderies instruction on request and the payment by such Commandery of his travel expense. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery.

The Assistant Grand Inspector shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Inspector, and, in the event of the absence or disability of the Grand Inspector, shall assume the duties of the Grand Inspector during the pleasure of the Grand Commander.

Art. 27. Vacancies. In case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall perform the duties of such respective superiors during such disability.

In case of the death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of office, or the permanent disability of their respective superiors, the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall severally succeed to the office of such superiors and be installed therein.

In case of the simultaneous and permanent disability of the first four Grand Officers, the ranking Past Grand Commander, according to seniority of service, available and able to serve, shall assume the office and discharge the duties of the Grand Commander and may fill all vacancies *pro tem* or until the next annual Grand Conclave.

COMMITTEES

Art. 28. Standing. The following standing committees, each consisting of three (3) members, unless otherwise provided shall be appointed by the Grand Commander at the close of each annual conclave:

Credentials- whose duty it shall be to determine the voting rights of members, pass upon the validity of proxies, and make up a list of eligible voters at each conclave and report the same to the Grand Commandery.

Jurisprudence – whose duties it shall be to consider the report on dispensations granted by the Grand Commander, except for a new Commandery; on decisions of the Grand Commander; on any all matters pertaining to Chivalric law and other subjects which may be referred to it; and to consider and report upon all matters pertaining to recognition of other Grand Commanderies.

Finance – whose duty it shall be to examine and report on the books, accounts and reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, and cause the same to be audited, in their discretion, and at the expense of the Grand Commandery by a competent accountant; prepare and report a budget of appropriations for the ensuing year; annually recommend the *per capita* for Grand Commandery support; and consider and recommend relative to financial matters and proposed investment of funds.

Recommendations – whose duty it shall be to receive and review any and all recommendations made by any past or present Grand Officer in their reports to the Grand Commandery and to prepare implementing resolutions or legislation, where deemed appropriate, for consideration by the Grand Commandery. (1999, pg. 34)

Dispensations and Charter – whose duty it shall be to consider and report on all dispensations for new Commanderies granted by the Grand Commander; on petitions for new charters; and all surrendering or lifting of charters; and on all territorial jurisdictional matters relative to Commanderies.

Grievances – whose duty it shall be to consider and report on all matters of controversy arising between Commanderies and/or individuals.

Educational Foundation – whose duty it shall be to have custody of all funds in the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, division of the Grand Commandery of Vermont; to administer the investment thereof including loaning the same to students, all under the regulations of the Grand Encampment, to collect monies due said Foundation, and report thereon to the Grand Encampment and the Grand Commandery as required. Each member of the committee shall serve for five (5) years, one (1) only being appointed annually to replace the member then retiring. The Grand Recorder shall be ex-officio a member and Secretary-Treasurer and administrative officer of this committee.

Necrology – whose duty it shall be, through its report, to pay due and proper respect to the memory of deceased Sir Knights.

Visitors – whose duty it shall be to welcome, accommodate and entertain visiting Sir Knights from other jurisdictions at Grand Commandery Conclaves, except as to presentation and introduction in such conclave.

Time and Place – whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon, with recommendations, all invitations for the holding of annual conclaves.

Triennial – whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon all matters pertaining to the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, and to strive for a large attendance of Vermont Sir Knights thereat.

Ritual and Tactics – whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon all matters pertaining to the ritual for the Orders of Knighthood and the tactical movements incident to the opening and closing of conclaves and the working of Orders in Commanderies.

Holy Land Pilgrimage – whose duty it shall be to administer the Holy Land Pilgrimage Program of the Grand Encampment within the jurisdiction of Vermont. (1995, pg. 30)

Art. 29. Special. The Grand Commander may appoint, or the Grand Commandery may designate, such special committees, as may seem needed to facilitate the affairs of the Grand Commandery, to serve during the pleasure of either and to perform such duties as may be assigned.

Art. 30. Term Except as provided in the Article 28, each Committee member shall serve for a term of one (1) year and until his successor is appointed.

Art. 31. Eligibility. Any Sir Knight, a member in good standing in any Commandery in Vermont is eligible for appointment to any committee.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

Art. 32. Grand Representatives – Appointments. The Grand Commander may nominate members of this Grand Commandery for appointment as Grand Representatives of other recognized Grand Commanderies near this Grand Commandery; and may appoint and commission Sir Knights of other recognized Grand Commanderies to be Grand Representatives of this Grand Commandery near such other Grand Commanderies, pursuant to nominations made by the other Grand Commanders thereof.

No Vermont Sir Knight shall be Grand Representative of more than one Grand Commandery at the same time.

Grand Representatives of other jurisdictions shall be received and welcomed as a delegation at each annual conclave.

If any Grand Representative in Vermont fails, without adequate excuse, to present himself at two successive annual conclaves, such failure may be deemed to create a vacancy.

FEES – DUES – Etc.

Art. 33. Fee for Dispensation – New Commandery. The fee for each dispensation to form and open a new Commandery shall be not less than One Hundred Dollars paid in advance to the Grand Recorder for the benefit of the Grand Commandery.

Art. 34. Fee for Charter. The fee paid for each new charter granted by the Grand Commandery shall be not less than twenty (20) Dollars paid to the Grand Recorder for the benefit of the Grand Commandery. The same fee shall be charged for the issuance of a duplicate charter unless waived by Grand Commandery.

Art. 35. Fee for Orders. No person shall be created a Knight Templar for less fee than forty (40) Dollars, which shall be paid before the Order of the Red Cross is conferred. (1971, pg. 48)

Art. 36. Support of Grand Commandery. Each Commandery shall pay annually to the Grand Commandery, for its support, such sum for each Knight Templar created, not less than four (4) Dollars, and such *per capita* levy and/or assessment, based on membership, as said Grand Commandery may vote.

FINANCE – FUNDS – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Art. 37. General – Grand Encampment – Grand Conclave – Permanent. In addition to the General Fund, in which shall be kept current funds of the Grand Commandery, there shall be the following separate funds, each kept segregated by the Grand Treasurer, invested and drawn upon only pursuant to vote of the Grand Commandery.

(1) Grand Encampment Fund, into which shall be paid \$667.00 each year to make a total of \$2,000.00 in three years. This fund shall each triennial be available on order of the Grand Commander to such of the first four Grand Commandery Officers (Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General) share and share alike, who attend such triennial up to a maximum of \$500.00 each or in such amounts as the Grand Commandery votes.

Any monies not expended shall be put back into the Grand Encampment Fund and monies budgeted over the next triennial will be adjusted to \$2,000.00 for each triennial. (1992, pg. 8)

(2) Grand Conclave Fund, into which shall be paid each year such sums as Grand Commandery may vote, either form General Fund or by way of *per capita* levy on Commanderies. Such fund shall be available each year, in such amounts as the Grand Commandery may vote, to assist the Host Commandery in entertaining the Grand Commandery and guests in annual conclave.

(3) Permanent Fund, consisting of funds now so allocated and such other monies as may be voted by Grand Commandery from its General Fund or from *per capita* levies. This fund shall be held in Trust and intact; shall be kept safely invested; and the income only used for general and/r charitable purposes. There shall be not withdrawals form the principal of this fund except on the three-fourths vote of Grand Commandery in annual conclave assembled, and then only if sixty (60) days prior notice has been mailed to each Commandery. (1967, pg. 55)

Art. 38. Property Management. The Grand Treasurer is the custodian of all monies, funds and investments, except the Knight's Templar Educational Foundation funds. The general management of all such monies, funds and investments together with any and all other property is invested in the first four officers as Trustees. The Grand Treasurer may invest funds in Vermont banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or its successor in amounts not to exceed the insurance coverage offered by that Corporation or its successor in any one bank, Grade A (or better) stocks and bonds or similar quality mutual funds, but as to stocks, bonds or mutual funds, only on approval of the Trustees acting on recommendation of the Finance Committee, or on a vote of the Grand Commandery. (1995, pg. 31)

DECISIONS – APPEALS

Art. 39. Of Grand Commander. Decisions of the Grand Commander shall have full force and effect until disapproved by the Grand Commandery.

During a conclave an appeal may be taken, except on points of order, for the decision of the Grand Commander to the assembled Grand Commandery.

Decisions made during recess shall be reported in full by the Grand Commander at the next conclave and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

An appeal lies to the Grand Encampment on a decision of the Grand Commander or action of the Grand Commandery, but only when such decision or action concerns the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Encampment.

Art. 40. From Decision of Commander. No appeal shall lie to a Commandery from a decision of its Commander, provided, however, that when such decision involves the construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes or Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or the Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, or the By-Laws of the Commandery, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commandery by any party in interest, but pending the appeal such decision of the Commander shall be in full force and effect.

CONTROVERSIES – JURISDICTION – APPEALS

Art. 41. Jurisdiction. The Grand Commandery shall have original and final jurisdiction in all controversies between Commanderies under its jurisdiction, and between members of different Commanderies, always subject to the right of appeal to Grand Encampment as provided in the regulations of that body; and shall have appellate and final jurisdiction in all controversies arising within any Constituent Commandery, as hereinafter provided.

Art. 42. Appeal – Controversies. An appeal in any matter of controversy between Commanderies or between members of different Commanderies may be presented by and through a petition in writing, clearly setting forth the grounds of controversy, addressed to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Vermont, and filed with the Grand Recorder at least twenty (20) days prior to an annual conclave.

Art. 43. Appeal – Trials. Any member, feeling himself aggrieved by a decision in any controversy of trial arising within any Commandery, may appeal to the Grand Commandery by notice, clearly setting forth the grounds of appeal, addressed to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Vermont, accompanied by a transcript of any trial proceedings held, and filed with the Grand Recorder at least twenty (20) days prior to an annual conclave.

ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD – SUCCESSION

Art. 44. Conferring. The rule of succession in conferring the Orders of Knighthood shall be: Red Cross, Knight of Malta, Knight Templar. The Order of Malta may be conferred in short form.

COMPENSATION

Art. 45. Grand Officers. No Grand Officer shall receive compensation for his services except such as may be voted, from time to time, by the Grand Commandery.

MILEAGE

Art. 46. Grand Officers – Committees. The officers of the Grand Commandery, Past Grand Commanders, and the senior representative of each Commandery, present in person, together with the Committees on Credentials and Finance, shall be entitled to such compensation for each mile traveled one-way as the Grand Commandery may vote, but no person shall receive more than one mileage. In case all Commandery representation is by proxy, the senior holder present shall be entitled to mileage.

UNIFORMS

Art. 47. Uniform – Requirements as to.

1. The purchase of a uniform by a candidate is optional with such candidate.
2. Each officer of a Constituent Commandery shall own and possess a dress uniform as prescribed by this Grand Commandery prior to his installation.
3. Each Constituent Commandery shall maintain a unit or units, equipped with full dress Templar uniforms, as prescribed by this Grand Commandery, to be worn at full form openings and the conferring of the Order of the Temple, to include Triangle Guard and Escort.
4. Each Constituent Commandery shall keep on hand such parts of a full dress uniform as are essential and appropriate to the ritual and tactics in conferring the Order of the Temple, and each candidate shall be knighted in such uniform.
5. No Commandery shall appear in public unless participants therein are clothed in Templar uniform prescribed by this Grand Commandery, except for church attendance and funerals, and except that a member of the armed forces of the United States may so appear when clothed in the uniform of his service.

Art. 48. Uniform – Full Dress. The full dress uniform for Grand and Past Grand Officers and for officers of Constituent Commanderies and Sir Knights, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be as directed by the Grand Encampment and according to the specifications printed in the ASYLUM TACTICS – Vermont.

Art. 49. Uniform- Optional

(a). Fatigue. Sir Knights may purchase and wear, at their option and instead of full dress uniform, a fatigue uniform, the Specifications of which are printed in ASYLUM TACTICS- Vermont. Such fatigue uniform may be worn by Grand and Constituent Commandery officers when “off duty”.

(b). Ceremonial Robes. In lieu of the regulation Templar Uniform, a Constituent Commandery may provide and use Ceremonial Robes conforming to the specifications printed in the ASYLUM TACTICS – Vermont. These Ceremonial Robes are to be used only in the asylum for conferring the ORDER OF THE TEMPLE and/or the opening and closing of a Commandery of Knights Templar, however, they may be used for public Commandery functions. (1982, pg 29 & 30) (1989, pg. 22) (1992, pg. 35)

(c). The Summer Uniform as specified by S.K. James Ward, MEGM, and S.K. Kenneth Jones, MEGM, is hereby authorized for wear as an optional uniform during the period from Memorial Day (4th Monday in May) until September 30th, inclusive, in the Grand Commandery of Vermont. (June 4, 2007, Page 8 and 27)

Art. 50. Uniform – Open Collar Coat. Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, Officers and Past Commanders of Commanderies, may at their option, wear the so-called open-collar dress coat, same to be made in the peak lapel style with two rows of buttons down the front, each row to have six buttons. Otherwise the coat to conform to the specifications for a full dress coat. Past Grand Commanders shall not be required to wear swords.

Art. 51. Dress at Grand Conclave. All members of the Grand Commandery, except Past Grand Commanders, when in attendance on Grand Conclaves, shall appear in full Templar uniform as defined in these Statutes and Regulations, unless excused therefrom by the Grand Commander.

CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

Art. 52. Officers – Titles. Commandery Officers shall be as follows:

Eminent Commander	Recorder
Generalissimo	Standard Bearer
Captain General	Sword Bearer
Senior Warden	Warder
Junior Warden	Sentinel
Prelate	Three Guards
Treasurer	

The order of rank and precedence shall be as above, except that Past Commanders, in order of seniority, rank next after the Captain General, in ceremonials.

The honorary title of the Commander is “Eminent” and his official title is “Commander”. The honorary title of all other officers and members is “Sir Knight”.

Art. 53. Conclaves – Annual – Special. Each Commandery shall hold stated conclaves at least once each month, except that the conclaves for June, July and/or August may be omitted if the Commandery so votes. All business shall be transacted at stated conclaves, except as otherwise dispensed by the Grand Commander.

Special conclaves for working the Orders may be called by the Commander on reasonable notice to resident members.

The annual conclave in each Commandery and the election of officers for the ensuing year shall be held in the month of April in each year.

Art. 54. Vacancies. In the temporary absence or disability of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall act as Commander for such temporary period. In case of like disability of both the Commander and Generalissimo, the Captain General shall act so. Resulting vacancies shall be filled pro-tem by the Acting Commander.

In cast the Commander dies, is permanently disabled, or removes from the Jurisdiction so as to preclude the performance of his duties, the Generalissimo becomes Commander and shall be so installed. In case of like permanent disability of both his superiors, the Captain General succeeds as above.

In case all the first three officers are simultaneously and permanently so disabled, their respective offices shall be vacant and the Grand Commander shall issue his dispensation authorizing a Past Commander available to convene a special conclave for an election to fill such vacancies and any others resulting therefrom.

Vacancy in any other office, below the rank of Captain General, shall be filled temporarily by the Commander or Acting Commander while such vacancy exists or until the next annual conclave, provided, however, that the Grand Commander may, if so requested by a vote of the Commandery, issue his dispensation to hold an election to fill a permanent disability vacancy in any of the first three offices, treasurer or recorder.

Art. 55. Jurisdiction – Territorial. The territorial jurisdiction of each Commandery over petitioners for the Orders shall be concurrent with each other Commandery in this jurisdiction, except that each Commandery shall have exclusive jurisdiction in the town or city within which the same is located.

Art. 56. Business – Transaction of. Business shall be transacted in Commanderies, other than conferring the Orders, only at stated conclave and when open on the Order of the Temple, unless otherwise dispensed by the Grand Commander.

Art. 57. Eligibility for Membership – Affiliations. No petition for the Orders of Knighthood shall be acted upon unless the petitioner be then a member in good standing in a Symbolic Lodge, a Royal Arch Chapter, and a Council of Royal and Select Masters, nor unless he has resided in the State for the twelve months last past and in the jurisdiction of the petitioned Commandery for the six months past, provided, however, that as to members of the armed forces of the United States, the only residence period required shall be the six months last past in the jurisdiction of the petitioned Commandery.

Qualifications for affiliation are the same as above, except that a petitioner may be elected without regard to his residence, and that he must present a demit form a regular Commandery with his petition. (1959, pg 13) (1960, pg. 45 & 46)

Art. 58. Receiving and Acting on Petitions. All petitions for the Orders of Knighthood or for affiliation shall be received only at a stated conclave. Such petitions shall lie over at least to the next stated conclave, unless, in emergency, otherwise permitted by dispensation of the Grand Commander. Each petition shall be referred to a committee of three members who shall thoroughly investigate the qualifications of the petitioner. No petitioner shall be elected to receive the Orders or to affiliate except upon the unanimous ballot of members present, and except at a stated conclave, unless otherwise dispensed by the Grand Commander.

A petition for the Order of Knighthood, when petitioner meets Symbolic Lodge membership and the residence requirements stated in Article 57, may be processed and acted upon before such petitioner shall have received the Chapter and/or Council degrees, but, in such cases, the Commander shall announce, and the Recorder's record shall show and state: "Ballot clear and petitioner elected to receive the Orders of Knighthood, but effective only when he shall have received his Chapter and/or Council (as the case may be) degrees." (1959, pg. 13) (1960, pg 45 & 46)

Art. 59. Rejected Petitioners. The petition of any applicant which is rejected shall not be again acted upon in a Vermont Commandery, until six months have elapsed after such rejection.

A rejecting Vermont Commandery shall retain sole jurisdiction over its rejected petitioners, while resident in Vermont, for a period of two years, unless such jurisdiction is waived by vote of the Commandery.

The above sole jurisdiction is lost when a rejected petitioner establishes a legal and Masonic residence out of Vermont.

Art. 60. Waivers of Jurisdiction. No Commandery shall entertain the petition of or confer the Orders upon any petitioner who resides within the jurisdiction of any other Commandery, without first obtaining a waiver of jurisdiction from such other Commandery. Applications for waivers from a Vermont Commandery to a Vermont Commandery shall be handled by direct communication between the Commanderies concerned. Applications for waivers from a Commandery in Vermont to a Commandery outside Vermont, and *vice versa*, shall be handled through the office of the Grand Recorder. Waivers may be granted over any or all of the Orders and by a majority vote of members present at any stated conclave.

Art. 61. Dual Membership. A Knight Templar may be an active member of two Constituent Commanderies within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery, but a petition for dual membership must be accompanied by a certificate of good standing issued by the Constituent Commandery of which petitioner is a member. A dual member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of full membership in both Constituent Commanderies and is subject to all dues and assessments of both Commanderies. Loss of active membership by action of either Constituent Commandery shall cause loss of membership in both Constituent Commanderies; provided, however, a dual member may demit from either Constituent Commandery. A Knight Templar owing allegiance to another Grand Jurisdiction may acquire a dual membership in a Vermont Constituent Commandery if the laws of the Grand Jurisdiction to which he owes allegiance permits dual membership, and a Knight Templar owing allegiance to this Grand Jurisdiction may acquire a dual membership in a Constituent Commandery of another Grand Jurisdiction if the latter Grand Jurisdiction permits such dual membership. (1973, pg. 15 & 16)

Art. 62. Members of Armed Forces – Waiver Not Required – When. No waiver of jurisdiction shall be required on the petition of a member of the armed forces of the United States who has been stationed in Vermont for at least six (6) months last prior to the date of such petition. Any such petition may be entertained by any Commandery in this jurisdiction.

Art. 63. Severance of Lodge, Chapter, or Council Membership – Effect. Voluntary severance of membership in Lodge, Chapter or Council by demit, continuing for six months, shall deprive a Knight Templar of his membership in the Commandery after due notice and trial on the sole question of severance.

When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled from his Lodge, Chapter or Council for any reason, he shall after due notice and trial, with respect to the fact of such suspension or expulsion only, be suspended or expelled, as the case may be, from his Commandery. (1959, pg. 13) (1960, pg. 45 & 46)

Art. 64. Restoration. Restoration for expulsion or suspension in a Commandery, except as herein otherwise provided, may be granted only on petition, signed by the petitioner, accompanied by the payment of all dues in arrears at the time of severance, unless the same are remitted, plus dues for the current year.

Except under dispensation from the Grand Commander, all petitions for restoration shall be received only at a stated conclave; shall be referred to a committee of three for investigation; and shall be voted on only at the next or a later conclave. The unanimous vote of members present shall be required to restore from expulsion, and a two-thirds ballot to restore from suspension.

If severance of membership in a Commandery is solely because of suspension for non-payment of dues in the Lodge, Chapter or Council, restoration may be effected by majority vote of members present at any stated conclave, but only if the Sir Knight has so requested in writing, and has satisfied the Commandery as to his restoration in Lodge, Chapter or Council (as the case may be), and as to arrearage in dues, if any. (1959, pg14) (1960, pg. 45 & 46)

Art. 65. Member's Failure to Keep Whereabouts Known. Any member who fails to keep the Recorder of his Commandery informed as to his correct mailing address and changes therein, and thereby permits his whereabouts to be and remain unknown for a period of two consecutive years, may, if delinquent, and investigation by the Recorder fails to reveal such whereabouts, be dropped from the membership roll of such Commandery on vote of a majority of the members thereof present and voted at any stated conclave, and thereafter shall stand and be reported as indefinitely suspended until reinstated by a like majority vote, which may be accompanied without petition and on motion of the Recorder when such member's whereabouts again become known.

Art. 66. Annual Dues. Each Commandery shall levy annual dues against its members in such sum as will provide ample funds for Commandery maintenance. In addition thereto, each Commandery shall collect from all its members such sums as the Grand Commandery may, from time to time, levy as *per capita* and/or assessments, for its support.

The dues and/or assessments against any member may be remitted by majority vote of members present at a stated conclave, but only on the ground of indigence.

The Commandery shall be relieved of the payment of Grand Commandery *per capita* and/or assessments on all members whose dues have been so remitted.

Art. 67. Uniform Committee in Commanderies. In each Commandery there shall be a Committee on Uniforms, appointed by the Commander at or immediately after each annual Conclave, whose duty it shall be to quietly but persistently persuade those members not possessing uniforms to purchase the same as soon as their financial condition warrants, to the end that each such Commandery, may at all times, be able to creditably appear in public, and that there may be an adequate backlog of suitable officer material, both old and young, to promote and continue the success of Chivalric Freemasonry in Vermont; to keep the field of available second-hand uniforms at all times thoroughly canvassed, and to assist and arrange in the purchase of what may be so available by prospective buyers; to keep in touch with uniform manufacturers, search out the most moderate prices offered by the same, keep such prices, with specifications, up-to-date; and do all in their power to keep their respective Commanderies at as high a uniform percentage as possible.

Art. 68. Change of Location. Any Commandery, with the approval of the Grand Commander, may change its meeting place within the town or city of its then location by majority vote at a stated conclave, after fifteen (15) days' written notice to resident members.

Any Commandery may change its meeting place to another town or city by:

- (a) majority vote at a stated conclave, after fifteen days' notice to all members;
- (b) obtaining approval of the Commandery nearest to the proposed new location, if within forty miles; and
- (c) obtaining the approval of the Grand Commander.

The Grand Commander may, when conditions (a) and (b) are satisfied, issue his dispensation authorizing such move until the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery.

Art. 69. Failure to Meet, Etc. – Forfeitures. If any Commandery shall fail to assemble at least once in any twelve months ended on May 1; or shall neglect to be represented in Grand Commandery annual conclave for two years in succession; or shall fail for two successive years to make its annual returns and pay its obligations to Grand Commandery, its charter may be lifted and declared forfeit by the Grand Commandery or may be suspended by the Grand Commander until the next annual conclave, unless sooner restored by him. In case of forfeiture of charter the same shall be returned to the Grand Recorder with all the records, jewels, regalia, furniture, money and other property of such Commandery, which shall become the sole property of the Grand Commandery.

Art. 70. Surrender of Charters. No Commandery may voluntarily surrender its charter unless and until its indebtedness is full paid and/or discharged; nor unless all members have been notified in writing of such proposed surrender at least fifteen (15) days prior to the stated conclave at which such proposal is to be considered. Action delayed until a later conclave shall require a new notice. A majority vote of members present shall control.

In case of voluntary surrender the charter, records, jewels, regalia, furniture, money and all other property of such surrendering Commandery shall be turned over to the Grand Recorder and shall become the sole property of the Grand Commandery, and the Recorder shall file with the Grand Recorder a certified copy of the notice to members, and of the minutes of the conclave so voting, together with a full list of members and the dues-standing of each.

Art. 71. Merger of Commanderies. When the best interest of Chivalric Freemasons so indicate, Commanderies may merge, subject to the approval of the Grand Commandery if it is shown:

- (a) that each Commandery has so voted by majority of members present at a stated conclave held pursuant to a prior fifteen (15) days' written notice to all members;
- (b) that the payment of all indebtedness of each Commandery is fully provided for.

On completion of a merger, the charter or charters no longer carrying authority shall be surrendered to the Grand Recorder.

ANNUAL RETURNS – PENALTY

Art. 72. Filed When. The Recorder of each Commandery shall file with the Grand Recorder on or before April 10 of each year, a report on blanks furnished therefore, giving all information called for therein. He shall also cause to be sent to the Grand Recorder on or before April 10 in each year a remittance in full for dues, *per capita*, assessments and any other indebtedness to Grand Commandery. A Commandery failing to cause its report and remittance to be filed as above, shall be assessed a penalty of five (5) percent multiplied by the number of months the report is late, that product being divided by 12 and the result being multiplied by the total amount due; and its delegates shall not be allowed to register at the Annual Conclave unless the Grand Commander shall waive such penalty for just cause. (1996, pg. 7 & 16)

Each Commandery Recorder is required to report to the Grand Recorder, as soon after the Commandery annual meeting as possible, and not later than May 10, a complete list of the elective and appointive officers for the ensuing year, on forms to be furnished for this purpose by the Grand Recorder. (1968, pg. 16 & 17) (1969, pg. 14 & 15)

Art. 73. Approval of By-Laws. Commandery by-laws hereafter drawn, revised or amended shall not be voted upon or adopted by the Commandery concerned until such by-laws, revision and/or amendment has been submitted to and approved by the Grand Commander. He may, if he so desires, refer all such matters to the Committee on Jurisprudence for opinion.

Art. 74. Financial Statements. At each annual Commandery inspection, the Commandery Recorder shall deliver to the Grand Inspector in duplicate, a summary of the financial condition of his Commandery as of the date of its last preceding annual conclave, on blanks furnished for that purpose. The Grand Inspector shall, at the conclusion of inspections, transmit one copy to the Grand Commander and the other to the Grand Recorder.

TRIALS – APPEALS

Art. 75. Unknightly Conduct. Commandery members accused or believed guilty of unknightly conduct, other than non-payment of dues, shall be brought to trial, shall be tried, and shall be penalized, under the rules and regulations hereinafter stated.

Any party feeling himself aggrieved in such trial, whether such party be the accused or a member of the trying Commandery, shall have the right of appeal to the Grand Commandery under regulations hereinafter stated, but the Commandery itself cannot, by vote or otherwise, appeal from its own action.

Art. 76. Unknightly Conduct – Procedure. Whenever a member of a Commandery or Sir Knight within this jurisdiction shall be accused of any Masonic offense, the procedure shall be according to the following rules:

1. The accusations shall be in writing, signed by a Knight Templar, and delivered to the Commander, who shall, if in his judgment the accusations are not frivolous, issue a citation to the accused to appear for trial, and shall deliver the accusations and citation to the Recorder, with order of service thereof. The Recorder shall thereupon serve such accusations, citation and order of service, or cause the same to be served, on the accused, by delivering to him, or causing to be delivered, an attested copy of the same, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the time appointed for trial, if he resides within ten (10) miles of the Commandery; and, if residing more than the ten (10) miles therefrom and within the state, by forwarding by mail such attested copy, at least twenty (20) days prior to time of trial. If the accused resides without the state and the place of his residence is known, by forwarding to him such an attested copy at least sixty (60) days prior to time of trial. If the residence of the accused is unknown, the Commandery shall proceed *ex parate*.

2. The trial shall be in a Commandery conclave, either stated or special, at which no visitors shall be admitted except counsel and witnesses. Resident members of the Commandery shall be notified to appear at such trial. Such notices shall be forwarded by mail; shall be signed by the Recorder; shall state the name of the accused and the offense charged, together with the date of trial; and shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope, properly addressed and stamped.
3. The accused may select any companion for his counsel. The witnesses, if Masons, shall testify on their honor as such. If the accused, accuser or the Commandery, shall desire the testimony of persons not Masons, the Commander shall appoint a committee to take their statements in writing, and the accused, his counsel, the accuser, and counsel for the Commandery, shall have the right to be present when such statements are taken, and shall, under the directions of such committee, have the right to interrogate the person so giving such statements. Hearsay evidence shall be excluded.
4. It shall be the duty of the Commander to see that the accused has a speedy and impartial trial.
5. The accused, while under charges, shall be debarred from voting and participating in the business of the Commandery.

At the trial the Commandery shall be opened on the highest Order to which the accused has attained, and the testimony and arguments shall there be submitted in the presence of the accused and accuser, if they shall desire to be present. This being done, the accused and accuser shall retire, and the Commandery shall then be opened in the Order of the Temple. The Commandery, shall, by ballot, determine the question of the guilt of the accused. If the accused is adjudged guilty, the Commandery shall then decide by ballot, the punishment to be inflicted, first, "shall the accused be expelled?", second if such vote is in the negative, "shall the accused be indefinitely suspended?", and third if both votes are negative, "shall the accused be suspended for a definite time?" If the latter vote is in the affirmative, the Commander shall decide and declare the length of such definite suspension. In case the Commandery shall fail to vote either expulsion or suspension, the punishment shall be reprimand, which shall be given or read by the Commander in open Commandery, and in the presence of the accused, when possible. A majority vote shall determine the question of guilt and/or punishment.

Art. 77. Suspension N.P.D. - Compulsory Trial. Any member of a Commandery who shall neglect or refuse to pay his dues, shall be brought to trial on charges under the following procedure:

- (a). The Recorder of each Commandery shall notify, in writing, each dues paying member on his roster, a reasonable time prior to the date when such member's dues are due and payable, and that they are so payable in advance. To all those in arrears at the end of six (6) months, and again at the end of nine (9) months, he shall mail to such member's last known address, a notice of such delinquency, clearly stating the Grand Commandery regulations require that charges for non-payment of dues must be preferred against him if his dues are not paid within one (1) year from their due date, unless remitted for indigence or extended as to time of payment, as hereinafter provided.
- (b). At the first stated conclave after the expiration of one (1) year from the date when dues are due and payable, the Recorder shall report to his Commandery, the names of all members then in arrears of dues and/or assessments and the amount thereof. The Commandery may then remit the dues and/or assessments of a member if he is indigent, or may extend the time of payment thereof for one (1) stated period, not more than one (1) year.

- (c). Immediately after such stated conclave the Recorder shall prefer charges for non-payment of dues and/or assessments against delinquents whose dues are not remitted or extended as above, and shall, by registered mail, send a copy of such charges to each such remaining delinquent with notice of trial thereon to be held no later than the next stated conclave, and requiring such members to appear and show cause, if any they have, why they should not be suspended.
- (d). At such trial the Commandery may remit or extend as above provided. Delinquency, as reported by the Recorder shall be *prima facie* evidence of guilt. The Commandery shall, after due consideration, vote by written ballot as to whether the member charged is “guilty” or “not guilty”. If the result is guilty by a majority of votes cast, the Commander shall declare the member charged to be indefinitely suspended from all the rights and privileges of a Knight Templar. The absence of the accused shall not delay such trial, unless he shall have asked, in writing for a delay. The Commandery may thereupon continue trial proceedings to a later date or not so continue as it sees fit.
- (e). Those whose dues and/or assessments are extended as above provided, and who do not pay within such extension period, shall be tried on charges, with proper notice and summons as above, at a stated conclave held within sixty (60) days of the termination of such extension period. One who has been guaranteed one extension of time shall not be granted another.
- (f). In the event of the remission of a member’s dues, or extension of time for the payment thereof, or his suspension after trial, the Recorder shall forthwith notify him of the action taken. In the case of extension, such notice shall call attention to the fact that trial on charges for non-payment will follow at once on the expiration of such extended time, and without further intervening notice, if payment is not made, and that a second extension cannot be granted.
- (g). Any Commandery, or any member thereof who is a party to the proceedings above directed, feeling aggrieved by any action taken hereunder, may appeal to the Grand Commandery. Such appeal shall be filed, within thirty (30) days of the happening appealed from, with the Recorder who shall forward the same, with a transcript of proceedings, to the Grand Recorder.
- (h). Any Commandery which fails to carry out the obligations imposed upon it, or any Recorder who so fails, shall thereby render itself and himself liable to discipline by the Grand Commandery.

APPEALS

Art. 78. Appeals – Procedure. Appeals to the Grand Commandery from the trial action of any Commandery shall be in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a). The appeals shall be in writing; shall state the grounds of appeal; and shall be filed with the Recorder within ten (10) days after trial.
- (b). If such appeal is filed by a Sir Knight other than the accused, the Commander shall forthwith issue a citation to the accused to appear and answer, if he so desires, at the next stated conclave of the Grand Commandery.
- (c). If the accused is not the appellant, the Recorder shall serve an attested copy of the appeal petition and citation on the accused as provided for the service of the original charges, citation and order. The Recorder shall then send the original appeal petition with an attested copy of citation and service, together with an attested copy of the full record of proceedings and trial appealed from, or so much thereof as is necessary to fully and fairly present the questions raised by the appeal, to the Grand Recorder. All appeal copies shall be attested over the signature of the

Recorder and the seal of the Commandery, and shall be furnished by the Commandery free of charge. When the accused is the appellant, the Recorder shall promptly forward the appeal petition and record of the case to the Grand Recorder.

- (d). Upon receipt of proper appeal, petition and case record, the Grand Recorder shall issue a notice, under the seal of the Grand Commandery, to the Commandery and the accused (if his address is known) containing a copy of the grounds of appeal and a statement of time when, and the place where, such appeal will be heard, requiring such parties to appear and prosecute or defend as the case may be. Such notices shall be forwarded by registered mail, receipt requested, to the Recorder of the Commandery and the accused. It is the duty of the Commander to see that all parties interested (other than the accused), are notified of the time and place of hearing.
- (e). Whenever the Grand Commandery shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a Commandery expelling or suspending a member, a two-thirds vote shall be required.

MISCELLANEOUS

Art. 79. Jewels – Grand Commandery – Custody. The jewels of Grand Commandery officers shall be in the general custody of the Grand Recorder, and he shall be responsible for their care and safekeeping. No jewels shall be furnished to any officer except upon the proper receipt of such officer whereupon he shall be responsible for the safekeeping and due return thereof to the Grand Recorder.

Art. 80. Rituals – Custody. The rituals used by the Grand Commandery, both the Grand Officers and Commanderies, are the property of the Grand Encampment.

Those assigned for Grand Officers shall be entrusted to the custody of the Grand Recorder who shall be responsible therefore unless and until receipted for by some proper officer.

All rituals assigned to and received by a Commandery shall be deemed to be in the custody of such Commandery which shall be responsible therefore. Before the issuance of any ritual to a Commandery officer, the Recorder of such Commandery shall demand and receive a proper receipt therefore in duplicate, one of which shall be delivered to the Grand Recorder by the 10th day of each May. Such receipt shall render the receptor liable for the cost of a new ritual in case he fails to return the ritual receipted for at the end of his term of service because of any lack of care on his part.

Art. 81. Vow of Office. Each officer of the Grand Commandery before entering upon the exercise of the duties of his office, shall take the following vow, *viz.*:

I, (A,B), do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been chosen to the best of my ability.

Art. 82. Fiscal and Membership Year. The fiscal year of the Grand Commandery shall end on April 30, and the membership year, in all Commanderies, on March 31 of each year. (1968, pg. 17) (1969, pg. 15)

Art. 83. Clerical Assistance to Grand Recorder. The Grand Recorder may employ clerical assistance in his office at the expense of the Grand Commandery. While the Grand Recorder holds a like position in other Vermont Grand Masonic Bodies, such expense shall be such *pro-rata* share of total clerical expense as the salary of the Grand Recorder bears to the total of his salaries in all such bodies.

Art. 84. Seals. The Grand Commandery and each Constituent Commandery shall have a seal of a design determined by the body with description thereof recorded in its minutes. Such Grand Commandery seal shall be affixed to all dispensations, commissions, edicts and other like documents. Such Commandery seal shall be affixed to all applications for dispensations, annual reports, inter-Commandery communications and other like papers.

Art. 85. Grand Encampment Regulations to Govern. Any of these Statutes and Regulations which now are, or hereafter may be, at variance with regulations promulgated at any time by the Grand Encampment of Knight Templar of the United States of America shall be superseded by such promulgated regulations, and the same shall prevail as regulatory in the Grand Commandery. Regulations of the Grand Encampment, now or hereafter promulgated, relative to any matters not specifically covered herein, shall prevail as the regulations of this Grand Commandery.

Art. 86. Amendment – How Accomplished. These Statutes and Regulations may be amended, revised or repealed but only under the following procedure:

- (a). A proposal of amendment, revision or repeal, reduced to form and in writing, by any member, or by any Commandery by vote, or recommend by a committee, and presented at an annual conclave.
- (b). Such proposal shall live over until the next, or a later annual conclave, provided, however, that such proposals may be acted upon and disposed of at the same conclave they are presented if the Grand Commandery unanimously votes so to do.
- (c). The adoption of any such proposal shall require a two-thirds vote of members present in person or by proxy and voting.

Art. 87. Repeal of Existing Regulations. All existing statutes and regulations, heretofore adopted by this Grand Commandery, are hereby repealed.

Art. 88. Effective Date. The foregoing Statutes and Regulations shall be effective from the date of their adoption.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of the State of Vermont, were adopted by said Grand Commandery, with no dissenting voice, at its 113th Annual Conclave, held in Middlebury, Vermont, on the 6th day of June 1955.

Attest,

Aaron H. Grout
Grand Recorder