



Section III

CODE
for
CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES
of
THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF WASHINGTON

2008

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CODE
for
CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES
of
THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF WASHINGTON

1.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Code for Constituent Commanderies in this jurisdiction is to set out the code and laws for the formation, powers, management and operation of Constituent Commanderies.

2.0 FORMATION OF CONSTITUENT COMMANDERY

2.1 Petitions for Dispensation

Any Knight Templar residing within the jurisdiction of the proposed new Commandery may sign a petition for a dispensation for a new Commandery. Petitioners who are members of a Commandery need not demit, but may secure from the Recorder of their respective Commanderies Certificates of Good Standing under the seal of the Commandery showing that the member has paid his dues for at least three months beyond the date of the Certificate. The Certificate of Good Standing of the Petitioners or their respective Demits shall be filed with the Petition. After action by the Grand Commander, the Certificates and Demits shall be filed with the Grand Recorder whether such action by the Grand Commander notwithstanding the favorable or unfavorable action of the Grand Commander. If the action was favorable, the Grand Recorder will issue a Certificate of Good Standing. If such action by the Grand Commander is unfavorable, all Demits that accompanied the Petition shall be returned to the Petitioners to whom they were issued, and all certificates of Good standing shall be cancelled and returned to the respective Commanderies that issued them.

2.2 Petitioners Status During Dispensation

2.2.1 After Dispensation is granted, the membership of the petitioners in their respective Commanderies is in abeyance, they

become Active Members of the Commandery under Dispensation and are not required to pay dues to their own respective Commanderies while members of the Commandery under Dispensation. If a Charter is refused, the Petitioners resume membership in their respective Commanderies.

2.2.2 Petitioner May Sever Any Petitioner for a Dispensation for a new Commandery may sever his connection with such new Commandery at any time before a charter is granted by notice to the Grand Recorder, and a new Commandery and his Certificate of Good Standing or Demit shall be returned and his former status is resumed.

2.2.3 New Petition After Refusal When a Dispensation for a new Commandery has been refused, only a new petition can revive the matter.

3.0 Organization

3.1 Rights & Powers A Commandery under Dispensation has the same rights and powers as a Chartered except that it cannot enact By-Laws, but may prescribe such Rules as are necessary for its governance, and it cannot be represented in the Grand Commandery.

3.2 By-Laws and Seal. (054) Chartered Constituent Commanderies shall adopt By-Laws and a Seal. An impression of the Seal shall be deposited with the Grand Recorder.

3.3 Powers (054(b) A Chartered Constituent Commandery has full power and authority to enact By-Laws for its own government that are not in conflict with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment or the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery and such By-Laws shall become effective when approved by the Grand Commander unless rejected by the Grand Commandery at its Annual Conclave.

3.3.1 Reading at Grand Conclave (054(c) Any By-Law or amendment thereof must first be read at a Stated Conclave and then lay over at least four (4) weeks until a subsequent Stated Conclave at which time it may be voted on. If passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present, then three (3) copies of the proposed By-Law or amendment, with the seal of the Commandery affixed thereto and signed by the Commander and Recorder and also showing the date of the first reading and the date of passage, shall be sent to the Grand Commander for his approval. If approved by the Grand Commander, he shall forward three (3) copies to the Grand Recorder who shall attest his signature thereto, affix the Seal of the Grand Commandery, keep one (1) copy for his file, return one (1) copy to the Grand Commander and return the third copy to the Constituent Commandery. This approval is subject to review by the Grand Commandery at its next Annual Conclave.

3.3.2 Amendment Laid Over (054d) When an Amendment is offered and is laid over it may be amended and adopted.

3.3.3 Grand Commandery Amendments (054(e) When the Grand Commandery amends its Constitution and/or By-Laws and Regulations, such amendment becomes binding upon the Constituent Commanderies and they shall amend their By-Laws to conform therewith.

3.4. Relationship with Concordant York Rite Bodies: (054.1) The Grand Commandery authorizes participation by Constituent Commandery in the York Rite Association with a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and/or a Council of Royal and Select Masters which meet(s) at the same hour on the same day of the month at the same location, provided:

(a) That all provisions of this code remain in effect, except as specifically modified below.

b) That the Association Meetings shall be closed by ritualistically by that participating bodies on a rotating schedule and that the months in which the Association shall be opened by participating Commandery shall be stated in the by-laws of such Commandery.

(c) That when another body opens a meeting of the Association, after that body has been declared open, the Eminent Commander will declare the Commandery open, without the use of signs or words.

(d) That, business of all participating bodies will be conducted in common; except, that in the event of an objection by a Knight Templar to balloting on petitions for the Orders by all present, such petitions shall be considered only by members of the Commandery. During the conduct of business, all presiding officers will be in the East and each shall occupy the chair when matters of business peculiar to his own body are being transacted.

(e) That a single set of minutes for association will be maintained, except that a separate agenda shall be prepared and laid up among the archives of the Commandery relating to those matters which have required that all companions who have not received the Order of the Temple be excused.

(f) That a descriptive name shall be given to such Association.

4.0 GRAND COMMANDERY FEES AND DUES

(055) The fees and dues chargeable by and payable to this Grand Commandery shall be as follows:

- (a) Fee for forming a Commandery under Dispensation or Charter \$100.00
- (b) For each Knight Templar created----- 3.00

(c) Annual dues for each Knight Templar borne on the rolls at the time the Annual returns are made to the Grand Commander, shall be \$5.00 plus Grand Encampment Per Capita dues per member.

(d) In addition, each Constituent Commandery within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington is assessed and shall pay for each of its Sir Knights born upon its rolls, commencing with the calendar year 1956, the sum of -----\$1.00

In addition to the annual dues as specified in paragraph (c) herein before, and shall continue to be assessed, and pay each year thereafter so long as the assessment of \$1.00 levied by the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, for the purpose of Maintaining the "Knights Templar Eye Foundation," is effective or remains in force and effect. Each Constituent Commandery, in its Annual returns, commencing with the year 1975, and each year thereafter, shall pay said sum, or assessments, so due, on or before the first day of March of each year, with the amount of the Grand Commandery's dues and fees as herein fixed and established, and as required by Section 069 of the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery. The sums so paid by the Constituent Commanderies of this Grand Commandery, for the purpose of complying with the law of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, shall be carried in, or credited to the General fund of this Grand Commandery, and commencing as of July 1, 1957, and thereafter, not later than July 1st of each year, this Grand Commandery shall, at the time its annual report is submitted to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America the sum of \$1.00 for each Sir Knight so assessed, and as shown upon the annual report of each Constituent Commandery as submitted; it shall be the duty of each Constituent Commandery within this Grand Commandery to collect, or provide, by any means or method it may see fit to employ, said annual assessment of \$1.00; and each Constituent Commander is hereby authorized to amend its By-Laws in order to make provision for the payment of this assessment by increasing the annual dues of its Sir Knights, or in any other manner that will enable it to pay said assessment; that any By-Laws which any Constituent Commandery has heretofore adopted looking to that end is hereby now ratified and approved.

(e) For each Chartered Commandery upon the rolls of the Grand Commandery the sum of three dollars (\$3.00) will be submitted with the annual returns to the Grand Recorder. This money is for the sole purpose of funding the annual reception for the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington. On request this fund will be available to the reception committee upon approval of the Grand Commander.

(f) For each Knights Templar borne on the rolls of a Chartered Commandery, one (\$1.00) dollar will be assessed annually for ten (10) Years or until Twenty Five Thousand (\$25,000.00) dollars has been

collected, which ever comes first for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund, except indigent and fifty year members. The interest only used to send Ministers to the Holy Land or such other charity as selected by this Grand Commandery starting the year 1992.

5.0 COMMANDERY FEES FOR ORDERS

Order of Knighthood Basic Fee (056). The basic fee for the Orders of Knighthood shall not be less than Forty Dollars (\$40.00), and in addition to said basic fee such other fees as are fixed in Section 061, subsection (j) and (l) for the establishment, maintenance and care of the Armory or uniforms provided in Section (061) Where two or more Constituent Commanderies, stationed in the same municipality, have concurrent jurisdiction, then all of said Commanderies therein must maintain at least the same basic fee. Such basic fee shall be fixed by said Commanderies within ninety (90) days after the adoption of this Resolution and Amendment to the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery. If such Commanderies are unable to voluntarily agree as to basic fee, then the agreement of a majority of such Commanderies in reference thereto shall be, and become, the established basic fee for all of said Constituent Commanderies having concurrent jurisdiction in the same city or municipality, and each such Constituent Commandery shall be bound to collect such basic fee thereafter. If a majority of such Constituent Commanderies cannot and do not agree as to the amount of such basic fee within said time of ninety (90) days, then the Grand Commander of this Grand Commandery shall, subject to the action and approval of this Grand Commandery at its next Grand Conclave, fix and establish said basic fee upon written application of any or more of the Constituent Commanderies at interest, and after such hearing had thereon as the Grand Commander may deem proper. Should any Constituent Commandery, during the interim between the fixing of the basic fee by the Grand Commander and the approval thereof by this Grand Commandery, collect a lesser fee than established and fixed by the Grand Commander and approved by the Grand Commandery, then any such Commandery shall as a penalty, pay to the Grand Commandery the difference between the lesser amount collected and that as fixed by the Grand Commander and approved by the Grand Commandery. Any Commandery refunding or remitting directly or indirectly any portion of the fees provided for in this section shall, as a penalty, pay to the Grand Commandery, in addition to its regular dues, a sum equal to the amount remitted or refunded.

6.0 QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (057). A petitioner for the Orders must be a member in good standing in a Lodge of Master Masons under the jurisdiction of, or recognized by, the Grand Lodge of Washington. He must also be a member of, or have petitioned for the Degrees, in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and a Council of Royal and Select Masters, under the jurisdiction of, or recognized by, the Grand Chapter and the Grand Council of Washington, respectively, PROVIDED, that the Orders shall not be conferred upon him until he shall have become a member in good standing in said Chapter and Council.

7.0 RECORDER'S MONTHLY REPORT

(058) That the Grand Commandery of Washington now requires that a monthly report of knightings, etc., be sent to the Grand Recorder by the Recorder of each Constituent Commandery, in conformity with Grand Encampment regulations.

8.0 CONCURRENT JURISDICTION

(059). Every Chartered Commandery in this State shall hold Concurrent Jurisdiction within this Grand Commandery.

9.0 DUAL MEMBERSHIP

(060). Dual Membership is authorized within this Grand Jurisdiction and/or in conjunction with other Grand Commanderies whose laws so provide.

10.0 UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

(061) (a) The Order of Knights Templar is declared to be a Uniformed Order.

(061)(b) No member of this Grand Commandery or of its Constituent Commanderies shall be eligible for election, appointment or installation as an officer in either the Grand Commandery or its Constituent Commanderies, who is not the owner of, or In possession of a regulation Knight Templar Dress uniform of the type and style as defined in Section 082 and 084 of the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and Chapter 19 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United State of America.

(061)(c) Each Constituent Commandery shall maintain a unity or units equipped with full Templar uniforms, as defined and prescribed in the preceding Sections herein, which shall be worn by such unity or units at all Full Form Openings, conferring the Order of the Temple, at all public installations, or at any public appearance or appearances when such unit or units appear in a body after authority therefore so to do has been duly granted, if required.

(061)(d) Sir Knights are prohibited from taking part in Knights Templar parades funeral services, church services, or any public appearance or appearances in a body, until authority so to do has been obtained, or in the Full Form Opening and ritualistic work when conferring the Order of the Temple, unless in full Templar uniform.

(061)(e) The purchase of a uniform by a petitioner for the Orders shall be optional with the petitioner, provided, however, that any Constituent Commandery or Commanderies, of this Jurisdiction, may if they so desire, enact By-Laws requiring its petitioners for the Orders of Knighthood to own or have ordered through the

Commandery the required Knight Templar Uniform before receiving the Order of the Temple.

(061)(f) The Order of the Temple can be conferred only by officers and Sir Knights properly and completely clothed in full Templar uniform such As defined and prescribed in the preceding Sections herein. This shall apply to all who take part in conferring the Order of the Temple regardless of how minute such participation may be. Provided, however, that if any Constituent Commandery elects to provide and use ceremonial robes in conferring the Order authorized by the Grand Commander.

(061)(g) It shall be the duty of each Constituent Commandery, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington, to provide what shall be termed an "Armory." The Armory shall consist of uniforms and equipment which shall be the property of the Commandery. It shall be located in a room near the Asylum, or in some other secure place or building that shall contain lockers or other suitable storage space to adequately care for the uniforms and equipment. The uniforms shall be of various sizes so that when required to appear in uniform a Sir Knight may draw upon the Armory for the temporary use of proper and sufficient equipment to perform such Templar service as he may be called upon to do.

(061)(h) The Armory shall be supervised by a committee consisting of the Commander, Generalissimo, Captain eneral, Recorder and Treasurer of each Commandery. They shall see that proper and sufficient funds are allocated and used for the purchase, maintenance, repair and care of uniforms and equipment. They shall be responsible for the presence of the number of uniforms prescribed by this Section. For this the committee and the Constituent Commandery are accountable to the Grand Commandery.

(061)(i) The uniforms, equipment and account books relating thereto Shall be subject to inspection by the Grand Commander or a Sir Knight delegated by him for that purpose, and a report thereon made to the Grand Commandery.

(061)(j) The fees for the Orders in each Constituent Commandery shall be increased by the amount of \$25.00, which increased amount shall be used to establish and maintain the Armory, in what shall be known as the Armory or Uniform Fund of each Constituent Commandery. As rapidly as a sufficient amount accrues to the Armory fund a complete uniform shall be purchased. This uniform becomes the property of the Constituent Commandery.

(061)(k) Uniforms shall be accumulated until each Constituent Commandery acquires, owns and possesses uniforms to equal ten percent (10%) of its total membership. Any Constituent Commandery may, at its own election exceed the amount of such uniforms as prescribed herein.

(061)(l) After a Constituent Commandery has acquired the minimum number of uniforms which it must have n its Armory, and available as herein prescribed, it may, at its own election, reduce the increased fees

as herein prescribed for the Orders, except that it shall continue to collect a minimum of \$10.00 from each petitioner for the Orders, and which said amounts shall be collected, allocated and spent for maintenance, repair, alterations and care of uniforms and equipment.

(061)(m) A petitioner for the Orders desiring to purchase his own uniform, and who does so prior to being knighted, may do so and will be excused from the payment of any portion of the fee intended for supplying uniforms for the Armory.

(061)(n) A petitioner for the Orders, or a Sir Knight, subsequent to his Knighting, may purchase a uniform from the supply of uniforms in the Armory at a fair price consistent with the condition of the uniform at the time of purchase; and when doing so his Uniform Fund fee of \$25.00, if previously paid, may be applied toward the purchase price of said uniform.

(061)(o) Sir Knights may wear, as an alternate uniform, for the general conduct of business of the asylum and for the conferral of the Order of the Temple, the Cap and Mantle in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. When forming ranks for public ceremonies, parades, etc., they shall form two units, one in Class A uniform and one in Cap and Mantle uniform.

(061)(p) Sir Knights may wear the 5/8" Maltese Cross to be worn only under the Mantle on the lapel or pocket of the jacket or coat that is worn under the mantle.

11.0 WHAT DUES MAY BE REMITTED

(062) (a) Commanderies may by resolution, remit the accrued dues of any member, when his means will not permit, him to contribute to its support, and the annual dues of all members of Constituent Commanderies serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, or other perilous branch of the Government service, during a war, in which the United States is a party, shall be remitted during the continuation of such a war, and during the service only in Services of the United States of America, or other perilous branch of government service, and all Chartered Commanderies are authorized to and shall remit the dues of such members so serving. As to the remission of the annual dues of all members of Constituent Commanderies so serving in the United States Armed Forces, or other perilous branch of government service, the period during which such dues are remitted shall not be charged against the right of such members to be elected to life membership in the Constituent Commanderies, as provided for life memberships in the succeeding Sections 063 and 064, Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery. Likewise, payment of such annual dues so remitted as to such members of Constituent Commanderies shall not be required of such members as a condition to being elected to life membership continuously for the period as mentioned in the succeeding Sections 063 and 064.

The provisions in this paragraph contained shall apply not only to

subsequent service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, or other perilous service in time of war, but the rights and privileges herein contained shall also be for the benefit of and applicable to the service of such members in any previous service in time of war, and during the period in which dues have been so remitted.

(062)(b) No Commandery shall pay any Grand Commandery Assessment or per capita tax upon any of its Fifty (50) year members, nor shall any such member be liable for these charges.

12.0 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

(063) (a) Any member of a Constituent Commandery may be elected to life membership provided he has paid dues continuously for a period of not less than Thirty (30) years to said Commandery.

(063)(b) Life Memberships may be granted to an actual member of the Commandery, provided however, that where such life memberships are granted, said life members shall pay their Grand Commandery dues and all special assessments levied by the Grand Commandery of which he may be a member.

(063)(c) A member of any Constituent Commandery may become a Life Member on the payment of the following minimum schedule and be thereby exempt from all dues except such special assessments as may be levied by the Grand Commandery or the Commandery of which he may be a member.

Age 21 to 24 inclusive, 24 times the annual dues payable
24 to 29 inclusive, 22 times the annual dues payable
30 to 34 inclusive, 20 times the annual dues payable
35 to 39 inclusive, 18 times the annual dues payable
40 to 44 inclusive, 16 times the annual dues payable
45 to 49 inclusive, 14 times the annual dues payable
50 to 54 inclusive, 12 times the annual dues payable
55 to 59 inclusive, 10 times the annual dues payable
60 to 64 inclusive, 8 times the annual dues payable
65 and over, 6 times the annual dues payable

(063)(d) The Constituent Commanderies adopting a Life Membership Plan Shall create a Life Membership Fund in which there shall be deposited all monies received for Life Memberships. All monies deposited in this Fund shall be placed at interest and such interest may be transferred to the general funds of the Commandery each year, and no part of the principal shall be used except by unanimous consent of all members present after due notice has been given of such proposal; provided however, that any action taken by the Commandery ending to lessen the principal of said Fund must be submitted to and be approved by the Grand Commandery before such action can become effective.

(063)(e) No Life Memberships heretofore issued shall be invalidated by reason of this rule.

(064) The Grand Commandery joins with the other York Rite Bodies in Grand Jurisdiction of Washington to establish a Life Membership/Memorial Program under the corporate laws of the State of Washington. The Life

Membership/ Memorial Foundation shall be administered by a Board of Trustees elected from each Grand York Rite Bodies consisting of three (3) elected Trustees and the Grand Commander as per the By-Laws of the Foundation. The first year three (3) trustees are to be elected for one (1) year, one (1) for two (2) years, one (1) for three (3) years and thereafter one (1) for three (3) years. Provisions of the Grand Commandery's participation are as follows:

(064)(A) No Commandery shall adopt any Life Membership Plan except the Plan adopted by the Grand Commandery in May of 1986.

(064)(B) Life membership plans existing in the Commandery prior to May 1986, may continue to operate as before and may be amended, with the amendment becoming effective upon approval of the Grand Commander. No amendment shall deprive the holder of any life membership invested legal rights there under.

(064)(C) Any member in good standing of this Jurisdiction may purchase a life membership through the Life Membership/Memorial Program and thereby be relieved from further payment of dues, but not assessments.

(064)(D) A Commandery may collect and retain from each applicant for a life membership, in addition to the price thereof, his regular dues for the first year of enrollment in the Life Membership/Memorial Program.

(064)(E) The Commandery member paying the required fee of 15 times the Commandery dues shall receive a Life Membership Certificate. However, in no event shall the fee be less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). Also, he shall receive annually, a paid up dues card.

(064)(F) The holder of a life membership certificate may voluntary transfer to another Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction, whereupon the Secretary of the Memorial fund shall cause to be transferred on the books of the Life Membership/Memorial Fund, to the credit of the new Commandery, the fees for the holder's life membership.

(064)(G) The holder of a life membership certificate in a Commandery which becomes dissolved shall, upon affiliation with another Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction, have his life membership transferred in the same manner as for a voluntary transfer.

(064)(H) All money in the Life Membership/Memorial fund to the credit of two or more Commanderies which consolidate shall be combined to the credit of the consolidated Commandery.

(064)(I) A holder's life membership rights shall not be transferred if he demits to any other Grand Jurisdiction. The fees paid for his life membership shall remain in the Life Membership/Memorial Fund to the credit of his former Commandery.

(064)(J) The holder of a life membership certificate is subject to all the laws, rules and regulations as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Commandery of Washington and loss of membership by suspension or expulsion shall automatically abrogate his life membership and any claim to any portion of any monies paid for such life membership. The Commandery of which he was last a member shall continue to receive the income from such funds.

(064)(K) A Commandery shall adopt a scale of prices which, at its option, may be larger than the minimum as specified here-in-under.

(064)(L) An applicant may at his option, in order to enlarge the account of his Commandery or as a memorial, contribute a larger sum than is required.

(064)(M) The Recorder of each Constituent Commandery shall forward to the Secretary of the Memorial fund the name of each life member and the fees for same. The Memorial Fund Secretary will record this name and the amount of the fee in a permanent record for the Life Membership/Memorial Foundation.

(064)(N) The interest earnings from the Life Membership/Memorial Fund will be distributed by the Foundation to the participating York Rite Body based on their Fund share. As per the Foundations By-Laws, a percentage of the earnings will be retained to manage the Fund, not to exceed 1%.

(064)(O). A life membership may be granted or awarded to an actual member of a Commandery upon payment of the required fee by the Commandery or any person.

13.0 SUSPENSION AND RESTORATION

(065) Commanderies may in their By-Laws fix the amount of dues for which a member may be suspended, and fix the terms of his restoration.

14.0 DISPOSAL OF PETITION QUESTIONS

(066) Questions propounded to and signed by the Candidate, after having answered their purpose, may be destroyed.

15.0 UNFERMENTED WINE PERMITTED

(067) Unfermented wine is entirely appropriate in ritualistic work.

16.0 NOMINATIONS

(068). The Grand Commandery and the Constituent Commanderies may make nominations for office at elections and where more than one (1) name is placed in nomination, the election shall be by ballot. Where only one name is in nomination, the election may be by acclamation.

17.0 ANNUAL RETURNS OF COMMANDERIES

(069) Each Commandery under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery shall make out and send to the Grand Recorder of this Grand Commandery annually, upon blanks to be furnished by him, a typewritten report of the work done during the preceding year, showing the creations, affiliations, reinstatements, demits, suspensions and those dropped for non-payment of dues, non-affiliations in Lodge or Chapter, expulsions and deaths. This report shall be made and forwarded on or before the first day of March of each year, the amount of the Grand Commandery's dues and fees, and if not in the hands of the Grand Recorder by the first of March, the said Commandery shall be required to pay, as a penalty, Five dollars (\$5.00) for each day's delinquency. And until such returns are so

made and the dues and such penalty (if any) have been paid, the Commandery so in default shall be subject to discipline.

18. CHARTER AMENDMENT BY GRAND COMMANDERY

(094) This Grand Commandery, for the good of the order, shall have the power to amend the Charter of any Constituent Commandery within its jurisdiction, substituting or changing another or different place for holding its Conclaves, and upon the adoption of an appropriate motion or resolution to this effect, amending the Charter of any Constituent Commandery, the same shall immediately remove such Constituent Commandery from the City, Town, or Municipality, named in its Charter to the place to which such Commandery is removed.