

Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York



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General Order No. 1

To: The Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Commandery Officers, and All the Sir Knights of the constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York

Christian Greetings, Sir Knights;

The theme for the year 2017-1018 is " **Excellence in Templary**"

Many orders exist which use the word Chivalric to describe themselves. Some, realizing that the word is not likely to be fully understood by the general public, or perhaps, betraying some foreign origin, actually use the word *Knightly*. (Michael J. Stayt)

It is in these chivalric orders that our principles lie. We must first think about knighthood, both what it is, and why it is, then examining if it has relevance in our present day and future. The fundamental principles on which our orders stand are based on a monasticism Christianity and chivalry. The oldest religio-chivalic orders were Knights of Malta and Knights of Rhodes founded around 1048. These Knights were expected to demonstrate high morals, continuously striving for perfection.

'Excellence in Templary' will serve as a focus for enriching our programs and building on the strong bones of our commanderies, which has been the fabric of our existence for a very long time. Our challenge this year is to strive toward that same perfection, that excellence in all areas of our templar life, starting with our uniform, our programs, observances, the sword manual, our orders, patriotic endeavors, our work in our communities, spreading Christian care and love of our Lord and Savior etc. We should constantly look for new and innovative ways to achieve and maintain that which is worthy of being branded templary in its true and unadulterated form.

Sir Knights, I entreat you to evaluate your commanderies, by collecting data, and explore creative and innovative strategies to accomplish specific goals which are measurable and attainable. Over the past years our Grand Commandery has adopted a symposium to strengthen our Grand Line and Zone Officers. This year we have improved the syllabus to address the feed-back we got from the inspections. Working from the ground up gives each Sir

Knight a voice in the service and building of our membership .The Zone schools likewise. A structured common program is in place to ensure that all Sir Knights are exposed to the same education of tactics, and flexible enough to accommodate any concerns that need to be addressed on that day.

We will be asking all Commanderies to ensure that the Commander and at least the top officers are present at the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery as an obligation to the office they hold. This will ensure first hand communication between your grand body and your Commandery. We have moved into a world of technology and as such we must respond. Let us encourage the tech savvy Sir Knights in our commanderies to assist the Recorders, if necessary. Our website and social media is a very effective way to get information of events and special activities out. Make it a culture to showcase your work. This can only be a win win situation. For the past few years the Grand Commandery has been supporting the efforts of producing and preserving its history. Some commanderies need assistance in completing that task. A small committee has been formed to assist commanderies in retrieving and compiling this information with the goal of completion in 2018.

Finally, Sir Knights, let us be reminded that we are a Christian order and of such we are encouraged to have the teaching of our Lord and Savior at our conclaves .There are many creative ways this could be done. We are called to action, as all good Christians should be. We are called to excellence, as Knights should be. And in the words of our Grand Master, “all Christian freemasons should be a Knight Templar” .

Reception

This year the Grand Commander’s reception will be joint with The Grand Master of Cryptic Masons. The reception will be held at The West Hill Country Club, 121 Golf Link Road Middletown, NY 10940. For those who desire overnight accommodation there will be rooms available at The Comfort Inn and Suites by Choice Hotels, 20 Hatfield Lane, Goshen, New York 10924. There will be a Hospitality suite open prior to and after the event.

Symposium

The Grand Commandery Symposium will be held January 20, 2018 at the Schenectady Masonic Temple, 393 Princetown Rd., Schenectady, NY. Schedule and details will be sent at a later date. All Grand Line Officers and Zone Commanders are expected to attend. All other Knight Templars are encouraged to attend.

Charities: Let us not forget Charity. During Inspections and Zone schools of instruction throughout the State, let us not forget to mention our Templar charities the Educational Foundation, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, The Holy Land Pilgrimage, and St. Bernard’s Priory for the Endowment fund.

Inspection

This year we will again be encouraging commanderies to do less joint inspections. We have made good strides in that direction and have found that it has strengthened and motivated many commanderies. The opening and closing, along with the sword manual, should be the main focus for inspection. The ritual work should be recited and not read. This is a great opportunity to get the newer Sir Knights involved in the advancement of their Commandery.

The ritual work for 2017-1018 is:

Order of Red Cross...pg. 15 commencing with *"And now, Zerubbabel, we confer upon you"* and ending pg. 16 *"Companion Master of infantry: - Gird Companion Zerubbabel"*.

Order of Malta ...pg. 80 Banner of Birth, and Banner of Life commencing with *"This Order was founded at Jerusalem in the year."* and ending pg 81, *"and the second epoch in their history"*.

Order of the Temple...pg.149 The Flag commencing with *" Sir Knights, in concluding the ceremony of your Knighting"* and ending pg 150 *" Sir Knights:--Return Swords. Be Seated"*.

Grand Commanders's pin

This year the Grand Commander's pin will carry the theme " Excellence in Templary" as a reminder that we should strive for excellence in all our undertakings. The pins will be distributed to the commanderies and Grand Line Officers for sale to the Sir Knights. The cost per pin is a suggested five dollars. The proceeds will go into the Banner restoration and up-keep throughout the State, let us not forget to mention our Templar charities the Educational Foundation, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, The Holy Land Pilgrimage and St. Bernard's fund, a very worthwhile cause.

Easter Sunrise Service: The Easter Sunrise service for 2018 will be held in Alexandria, Virginia on Sunday, April 1, 2018. If you haven't had the chance to get down to the Washington, DC area for Easter Sunrise service you are missing out on a very enjoyable weekend. The weekend is spent meeting with Sir Knights from different states, touring the Nation's Capitol and ends Easter morning with all of us marching up Shooter's Hill for Easter service. SK Conrad Johnson, Grand Junior Warden, will have further information on where the hotel accommodations will be for this year, together with other information as it becomes available

Yours in Christ,

Sir Knight Stenrick B. Adams
Grand Commander
Knights Templar of the State of New York

The Commander of each Commandery is hereby ordered to read this General Order at the first Conclave after the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

Zone Schools 2017-2018

Zone	Host Commandery	Instr. Officer	ZSI Date	Location	Time
1 & 2	Bay Ridge No. 79	Yves Etienne	Sat., 10 14-17	GL, NYC	10:00 AM
3	Poughkeepsie	Yves Etienne	Sat. 10-21-17	Poughkeepsie	10:00 AM
4	St, George's No. 37	Yves Etienne	Sat.10-28-17	Scotia	10:00 AM
5 & 7	Norwich No. 46	Dennis Davis	Thurs., 10-12-17	Oxford	7:30 PM
6	Central City No. 25	Dennis Davis	Fri., 10-20-17	Liverpool	7:30 PM
8	Cyrene-Monroe No. 12	Dennis Davis	Sat., 11-18-17	Webster Lodge	1:00 PM
9	Lake Erie No. 20	Yves Etienne	Sat., 11-18-17	Lackawanna	10:00 AM

RESOURCE MATERIALS

Rituals	\$ 8.00
Tactics.....	\$ 15.00
Statutes and Regulations, State of New York	On Line Only
Installation Book	\$ 7.00
50 Year or more Certificate	\$ 5.00
50 Year Lapel Button (Green for Sir Knight)	\$ 12.00
50 Year Lapel Button (Red for Past Commander)	\$ 12.00
25 Year Certificate of Membership	\$ 5.00
25 Year Lapel Button (Green for Sir Knight)	\$ 12.00
25 Year Lapel Button (Red for Past Commander)	\$ 12.00
Past Commander Certificate	\$ 5.00
Honorary Past Commander Certificate	\$ 5.00
Meritorious Service Award	\$ 5.00

Send your order for the above materials with a **check or money order only** payable to the **Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, State of New York** to:

Sir Knight Steven L. Wing, Grand Recorder
4689 Route 39
Bliss, NY 14024-9712

Sales tax and shipping charges will be added when appropriate and required.