

NOTICE OF CONCLAVE



GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Office of the Grand Recorder  
3 Sugar Creek Center Boulevard, Suite 410  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

June 17, 2024

*To the Officers and Members of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.*

Greetings:

You are hereby notified to attend the Sixty-Ninth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar to be held at The Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah commencing on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024, at 8:00 A.M.

**MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 2. Its members are and shall be:

- a) All Past Grand Commanders of Grand Commanderies;
- b) The Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo, and the Grand Captain General of each of the Grand Commanderies;
- c) The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each of the Subordinate Commanderies;
- d) The Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment;
- e) All Knights Templar from other sovereign Grand Jurisdictions who, at any Triennial Conclave, have been elected honorary members. Such election, however, shall not confer the right to vote.
- f) If not otherwise a member of the Grand Encampment, any Knight Templar having membership in a Commandery under the authority of the Grand Encampment who has served as Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment for a for a period of time necessary to obtain permanent rank. Such persons will have status as honorary members of Grand Encampment. (2015) (2011, p unassigned)

### CONDUCT OF CONCLAVES

SECTION 8. At all Conclaves each voting member shall be entitled to one vote.

### PROXIES

SECTION 9. The members named in paragraphs (b) and (c) of Section 2 may be represented by proxies belonging to the same bodies. A proxy does not by virtue of such appointment become a member of the Grand Encampment. He shall before acting, produce acceptable evidence of his written appointment. Each member present in person or by proxy shall have only one vote.

NOTE: It is necessary that credentials and proxies of those specified in paragraphs (b) and (c) above be executed and filed at the time of registration with the Committee on Credentials. This Committee will be prepared to receive credential and proxy forms starting Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., in the assigned area at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah, concluding Monday, August 19, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. (Blank credential and proxy forms have been distributed by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment to the Grand Recorders of the Grand Commanderies and the Recorders of the Subordinate Commanderies for this purpose.)

### STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 93. The Standing Committees of the Grand Encampment shall be:

- 1) A Committee on Templar Jurisprudence.
- 2) A Committee on Finance.
- 3) A Committee on Foreign Relations.
- 4) A Committee on Printing.
- 5) A Committee on Religious Activities.
- 6) A Committee on Necrology.
- 7) A Committee on Triennial Conclave.
- 8) A Committee on The Educational Foundation.
- 9) A Committee on The Knights Templar Eye Foundation.
- 10) A Committee on Drill Regulations.
- 11) A Committee on Triennial Conclave Expense.
- 12) A Committee on Ritualistic Matters.
- 13) A Committee on Membership.
- 14) A Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities.
- 15) A Committee on Public Relations.
- 16) A Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage
- 17) A Committee on Electronic Communications

These Committees shall perform such duties as the Constitution and Statutes prescribe and be subject at all times to the directions of the Grand Encampment and the Grand Master.

### TIME AND PLACE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SECTION 94. The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence shall meet at the place designated for holding the Triennial Conclave on the Thursday morning preceding the time fixed for the Conclave; provided, however, that the Grand Master or the Chairman of the Committee may call such Committee to meet at some other convenient time or place. (See below.)

SECTION 96. All Standing Committees except those for which express provision is made herein shall meet on the call of the Chairman of such committee at the place where the Triennial Conclave is held and at the time of the holding of such Conclave provided that other meetings of such Committees may be held at other times and places with the approval of the Grand Master.

NOTE: The following Committees will meet at times and places designated, at The Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation Trustees, Friday, August 16, 2024, 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Committee on Finance, Saturday, August 17, 2024, 11:30 PM. to 2:30 P.M.

Committee on Educational Foundation, Saturday, August 17, 2024, 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Committee on Templar Jurisprudence, Sunday August 18, 2024, 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

NOTE: Other Committees, including Special Committees and the Conclave Committees of the Grand Encampment, will meet Saturday, August 17, 2024, and/or during the sessions at time designated by the respective Chairman or the Grand Master, or on other days and times so designated in the Committee rooms at the Little America Hotel.

### PAYMENT OF MILEAGE AND PER DIEM TO OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SECTION 114. All Officers of the Grand Encampment, Past Grand Masters, and Members of the Standing Committees shall be allowed mileage expense and per diem for attendance at the Triennial Conclaves. The Rates of one-way mileage and per diem for the number of days present at the official program of the Conclave shall be determined by the Grand Master each triennium.

Actual expenses when approved by the Grand Master shall be allowed Members of any Standing Committee for attendance upon meetings called in the interim.

NOTE: Mileage shall be paid at the rate of \$0.50 per mile one way and per diem for the number of days present at the official program of the Conclave at the rate of \$50 per day as determined by the Grand Master.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT THE  
LITTLE AMERICA HOTEL

ASSIGNED ROOMS WILL BE POSTED AT REGISTRATION

Thursday, August 15, 2024  
Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. .... 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Friday, August 16, 2024  
Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. .... 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Registration ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Hospitality ..... 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Vendors ..... 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Drill Practice, Judges & Captains Meeting ..... 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Saturday, August 17, 2024  
Drill Team Inspections & Competition ..... 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
KTEF Office ..... 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Vendors ..... 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Registration ..... 9:00 AM – NOON  
Grand Recorder's Office ..... 9:00 AM – NOON  
Hospitality ..... 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Finance Committee ..... 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
Registration ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Credentails ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Grand Recorder's Office ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Knights Templar Educational Foundation ..... 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Sunday, August 18, 2024  
Divine Service ..... 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM  
KTEF Office ..... 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Vendors ..... 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Hospitality ..... 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Registration ..... 9:00 AM – NOON  
Grand Recorder's Office ..... 9:00 AM – NOON  
Jurisprudence Committee ..... 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
Credentails ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Grand Recorder's Office ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Registration ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Credentails ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Grand Master's Reception (Ticketed Event) ..... 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Monday, August 19, 2024

Registration ..... 7:30 AM – NOON  
Grand Recorder's Office ..... 7:30 AM – NOON  
Credentails ..... 7:30 AM – NOON  
First Business Session (Open) ..... 8:00 AM – NOON  
KTEF Office ..... 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Vendors ..... 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Hospitality ..... 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Men's Lunch (On you own) ..... NOON – 1:00 PM  
Ladies Lunch (Ticket Required) ..... NOON – 2:00 PM  
Registration ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Credentails ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Grand Recorder's Office ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Second Business Session (Tiled) ..... 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
State and Department Dinners ..... 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Grand Master's Family Dinner (By Invitation) ..... 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Registration ..... 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
Grand Recorder's Office ..... 7:30 AM – NOON  
KTEF Office ..... 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Vendors ..... 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Third Business Session (Tiled) ..... 8:00 AM – NOON  
Hospitality ..... 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Men's Lunch (On you own) ..... NOON – 1:00 PM  
Private Ladies Lunch (By Invitation) ..... NOON – 2:00 PM  
Fourth Business Session (Tiled) ..... 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Grand Master's Banquet (Ticketed Event) ..... 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

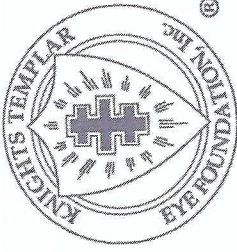
Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Grand Recorder's Office ..... 7:30 AM – NOON  
Installation of Officers 69th Triennial ..... 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM  
KTEF Reorganization (Trustees Only) ..... 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Grand Master's Family Dinner (By Invitation) ..... 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

NOTICE

TO ALL OFFICERS, AIDES,  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS,  
GRAND COMMANDERY COORDINATORS,  
AND JURISDICTIONAL DEPUTIES  
OF THE COLLEGE OF HONORS  
FOR THE 69TH TRIENNIUM

The Grand Master's personal representatives  
and all other appointees serve at the  
pleasure of the Grand Master and as such said  
appointments expire with the term of the  
Grand Master on Wednesday, August 21, 2024.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION, INC.  
NOTICE OF TRIENNIAL MEETING

To all members of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. a Maryland Corporation:  
You are hereby notified that the Triennial and Annual Meeting of the Knights Templar  
Eye Foundation, Inc., will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, commencing at 10 a.m.  
at The Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City.

By Direction of the Board of Trustees.

*David J. Kussman*

David Joseph Kussman  
President

Attest:

*Lawrence E. Tucker*

Lawrence E. Tucker  
Secretary

**GRAND MASTER'S DECISION**

**Kussman Decision No. 1, Series 2022-2024**

**EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION**  
**April 20, 2022**

QUESTION PRESENTED:

Was the trial and expulsion of Duane L. Vaught by St. George Commandery #76, Ohio, a valid proceeding?

RATIONALE:

Section 209 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America requires all trials to be conducted in accordance with the Disciplinary Rules adopted by the Grand Encampment.

Sections 3, 83, 96, and 97 of the Disciplinary Rules address the Exclusive Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment and the authority of the Grand Master in such cases.

Sections 2 and 23 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America addresses the authority of the Grand Encampment and the Grand Master.

DECISION:

The Grand Encampment had exclusive jurisdiction to try Duane L. Vaught making the actions of St. George Commandery #76, OH, invalid.

Therefore, I, David J. Kussman, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, do vacate all actions of St. George Commandery #76, OH, against Duane L. Vaught *ab initio*.

*Decision of David Joseph Kussman, GCT, GM, April 20, 2022*

**Proposed Amendment 2024-01**

**Proposed by Sir Knight Barry E. Newell, D.G.C. (Idaho)**  
**And Sir Knight E. Jeffrey Craig, P.G.C. (Washington)**

**GRAND COMMANDERY CONCLAVE**

Whereas, we are a Christian knighthood;

Whereas, Easter weekend is a time of religious observance of the Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;

Whereas, the scheduling of events, such as the Conclave of a Grand Commandery, during Easter weekend can negatively impact a Sir Knights ability to participate in religious and family activities including the Grand Encampment Easter Observance;

Whereas, the Grand Encampment already has rules governing Templar work on certain days;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Section 216 of the *Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA* **be amended to read as follows:**

**Section 216.** No Commandery or Grand Commandery shall hold a Conclave or perform any Templar work on Sunday, except for the purpose of conducting funerals, attending religious services, or conducting practice or tactical or other drills for instruction. (1952, p 548) (1970, p. 331-332)

No Grand Commandery shall hold a Conclave or perform any Templar work on the Thursday, Friday, or Saturday preceding the Grand Encampment Easter Observance.

Added words are underlined.

Respectfully submitted,

Berry E. Newell, D.G.C. (Idaho)  
E. Jeffrey Craig, P.G.C. (Washington)

**Proposed Amendment 2024-02**

**Proposed by Sir Knight Richard L. Ganion, G.C. (Ohio)  
And Sir Knight Gerald G. Pugh, P.G.C. (Ohio)  
And Sir Knight Martin R. Trent, P.G.C. (Ohio)**

**RITUAL**

**Proposed Resolution:**

A Knight of Malta (candidate for the Order of the Temple) may be present in the asylum and witness the opening of a Commandery prior to his conferral of the Order of the Temple (knighting) on the same date.

**References:**

1. Norris Decision No. 3 (1937): "The full form opening is part of the Ritual. The Ritual is all secret work. It is not to be exemplified in the presence of anyone who is not a Knight Templar in good standing. No Grand Commandery is authorized to permit any of the ritualistic work to be exemplified except in the secrecy of the asylum."
2. Wieber Decision No. 22 (1961): "All parts of the Ritual are secret and no portion thereof can be exhibited or revealed to the public. To do so would be a serious offense against Templary."
3. Crofts Decision No. 2 (1970): "Both the "closing" of a Commandery and the "opening" of a Commandery are ritualistic and private and may not be displayed to anyone who is not a Knight Templar."
4. Wieber Decision No. 15 (1961): "The Grand Encampment has sole and exclusive right to change, modify or amend the Ritual, and no other authority has any power to do so."

**Background:**

Commanderies in Ohio are inspected annually. The inspection includes a review of the Full Form Opening and Order of the Temple on the same day. In many cases, to most effectively manage time, Commanderies prefer to open in Full Form and then follow immediately with the Order of the Temple. In accordance with references 1 - 3) above, the Knight of Malta candidate for the Order of the Temple on that day is prohibited from being in the asylum for the opening. With our focus on membership, we should be as welcoming as possible to our candidates and not exclude them in any way on the "big day" when they are to be knighted. It is also an opportunity to showcase the impressive grandeur of the Full Form Opening to spur the candidate's interest in becoming active in Templary.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Ganion, G.C. (Ohio)  
Gerald G. Pugh, P.G.C. (Ohio)  
Martin R. Trent, P.G.C. (Ohio)

**Proposed Amendment 2024-03**

**Proposed by Sir Knight Glen M. Cunningham, P.G.C.  
(Massachusetts & Rhode Island)**

**LIMITING DUES ASSESSMENTS TO ONE PER PHYSICAL MEMBER**

Whereas it would be fair and equitable to limit dues assessments to be based on one assessment per physical member rather than an assessment per membership.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Section 10 of the Grand Encampment Constitution be amended to clarify and indicate that the assessment levied by Grand Encampment should be on a per-physical member basis.

**Current Section 10:**

**Section 10.** It may levy and collect fees for Dispensations and Charters issued to Grand and Subordinate Commanderies; may levy a fee for each Knight Templar created by Subordinate Commanderies; may levy annual per capita dues upon Grand and Subordinate Commanderies; and may also levy assessments upon Grand and Subordinate Commanderies based upon the membership therein.

**Section 10 proposed:**

**Section 10.** It may levy and collect fees for Dispensations and Charters issued to Grand and Subordinate Commanderies; may levy a fee for each Knight Templar created by Subordinate Commanderies; may levy annual per capita dues upon Grand and Subordinate Commanderies; and may also levy assessments upon Grand and Subordinate Commanderies based upon the membership therein. Membership will be calculated on a per-person basis for each Grand Commandery. With each person being counted once regardless of the number of individual memberships they may hold within that Grand Commandery.

This proposal is rooted in the principles of fairness and aims to rectify the lack of proportional benefits and burdens associated with members holding multiple memberships within the organization. The fundamental premise of this proposal is the promotion of fairness within the organization's dues assessment system. Currently, members holding multiple memberships do not gain additional benefits such as extra votes or representation within Grand Encampment, nor do they incur additional burdens to Grand Encampment that warrant a cumulative dues assessment. The proposed change seeks to align financial obligations with individual contributions while addressing the minimal administrative challenges associated with multiple memberships. Members holding multiple memberships do not enjoy proportional benefits in terms of voting rights or representations within Grand Encampment. Regardless of the number of memberships held, each member is entitled to the same voting power and representation, no additional benefit accrues at the level of Grand Encampment. The current dues assessment structure fails to reflect this lack of additional benefits for multiple memberships.

Under the current system, members holding multiple memberships are subject to a cumulative dues assessment for each membership. However, this approach does not align with the lack of additional burdens imposed on the organization by members with multiple affiliations. The proposed change ensures that financial burdens are commensurate with the actual costs incurred by the organization for each physical member. The administrative burden associated with multiple memberships is minimal, primarily consisting of the issuance of additional dues cards and electronic record storage. This can be efficiently addressed by redesigning the dues card to indicate the list of commanderies to which a member belongs. Such a redesign minimizes administrative costs, promotes sustainability, and maintains accurate records without necessitating an increased dues assessment for members with multiple affiliations. The proposed limitation of dues assessments to one per physical member aligns with the organization's commitment to equitable treatment of its members. It falls squarely within the constitutional authority granted to the organization to establish rules and regulations governing its internal affairs. The change is consistent with principles of fairness and does not infringe upon the organization's governing documents. In conclusion, the proposed limitation of dues assessments to one per physical member is a principled adjustment that promotes fairness by aligning financial obligations with individual contributions. Members holding multiple memberships do not receive additional benefits or create additional burdens for the organization, justifying a more equitable dues assessment system. The proposed change also addresses minimal administrative challenges through a simple redesign of dues cards, ensuring accuracy and efficiency.

We respectfully submit this proposal for your consideration and urge the adoption of the proposed change in the dues assessment system.

Added words and punctuation are underlined.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen M. Cunningham, P.G.C. (Massachusetts & Rhode Island)

## Proposed Amendment 2024-04

Proposed by Sir Knight Arthur A. Hebbeler, P.G.C. (Maryland)

### RITUAL – SHORT FORM – ORDER OF MALTA

WHEREAS, the Orders of Knighthood are Christian in basis, and

WHEREAS, the Full Form of the Order of Malta has the following question on page 76, lines 10-12 [2019 edition]:

*Prior: My Brother, do you believe that the Savior died on the Cross for the remission of sin?  
Candidate: I do.*

WHEREAS, this important declaration of the Christian faith has been omitted from the Short Form of the Order of Malta for many years, and

WHEREAS, there have been resolutions to add a declaration of faith to the petition for the Orders of Knighthood which have been found lacking in acceptance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following be added to the Short Form of the Order of Malta on page 62, immediately following line 2 and prior to the presentation of the Malta jewel [2019 edition]:

*Prior: My Brother, do you believe that the Savior died on the Cross for the remission of sin?  
Candidate: I do.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such change be implemented upon acceptance of this resolution by printed addendum page or pen-and-ink change by the holder of any edition of the official Ritual of our Order in lieu of return and exchange of the current Ritual books, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the printed text of the official Ritual of our Order be corrected prior to the next printing of the official Ritual of our Order.

Respectfully and courteously submitted,

Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, P.G.C. (Maryland)

### ADDITIONAL NOTICE

Section 29 of the Constitution requires the Grand Recorder to give notice of Triennial Conclaves two months in advance of the time fixed for any Conclave and shall set out all proposed amendments to the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals.

A document submitted by Sir Knight Gregg Hall, P.G.C. (California) was received in the Grand Encampment office on September 12, 2023. It contained the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of California as a model for a presentation of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

A document submitted by Robert O. Finley, P.G.C. (Wyoming), Howard P. Hill, G.C.G. (Wyoming), Richard N. Lewis, P.G.C. (Wyoming), and Christopher P. Schroeder, G.C. (Wyoming) was received in the Grand Encampment office on April 3, 2024. It contained a recitation of actions taken at the 2022 Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Wyoming.

As neither of the above referenced documents fall within the scope of the NOTICE OF CONCLAVE, they are referenced here as receipt of said documents only.