

**THE UNITED GRAND COMMANDERY  
MASONIC KNIGHTS TEMPLAR – P.H.A.  
JURISDICTION OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**4301 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19140  
(215) 329-2139**

**OFFICE OF**

**Most Eminent Sir Larry O. Grant No. 1  
Most Eminent Grand Commander**

**September 2, 2023**

**GENERAL ORDER NUMBER ONE**

Right Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Eminent Grand Captain General, Eminent Grand Prelate, Eminent Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, Eminent Elected, and Appointed Grand Commandery Officers, Past Most Eminent Grand Commanders, Past Eminent Grand Commanders Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos, Captain Generals, Past Eminent Commanders and Sir Knights of all Subordinate Commanderies owing allegiance to the United Grand Commandery, Masonic Knights Templar – Prince Hall Affiliated, Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania,

Greetings:

The Annual Grand Conclave of the United Grand Commandery, Masonic Knights Templar – Prince Hall Affiliated, Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania held at the Crowne Plaza, 260 Mall Boulevard, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406. On Saturday, August 5, 2023, through Sunday, August 6, 2023. The Sir Knights assembled nominated and elected me to serve this United Grand Commandery as Most Eminent Grand Commander. For this I am eternally grateful. And with the blessing of almighty God, it will be a pleasure to serve this Grand Body to the best of my ability.

By the authority Vested in me as the Most Eminent Grand Commander. I Most Eminent Sir Larry O. Grant do hereby direct that this General Order Number one be read aloud in its entirety by all Subordinate Commanders and the Mandates contained herein are adhered to and used as a reference.

## MANDATES

### **Mandate No. 1 – Executive Meeting:**

The Executive Meeting will be held Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Rose of Sharon Lodge No.39, 319 N. 9<sup>th</sup>. Street Darby, PA 11.00AM. All Elected and Appointed Grand Commandery Officers, Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos, Captain Generals and Prelates are required to attend. In the event any Grand Commandery Officers is unable to attend please contact the Eminent Grand Recorder, Sir Thomas Williams, No. 1 at telephone number (215) 495 – 0774; if any of the above mentioned subordinate Commandery officers are unable to attend, please contact your Divisional Commander. All Past Most Eminent Grand Commanders and Past Grand Commanders are invited to attend.

### **Mandate No. 2 – Quarterly Financial Returns:**

Quarterly Financial Returns are required and shall be paid on or before their due dates. Commanderies are expected to prepare their financial reports in a timely manner and are to pay Quarterly Taxes for each non-exempt Sir Knight on their membership roll. A copy of your membership roster must be submitted with Financial Returns.

### PER CAPITA TAX

A. GENERAL FUND	@\$3.00 / QRT.	\$12.00
B. CHARITY FUND	@\$2.00 / QRT.	\$ 8.00
C. ACTIVITY TAX	@\$ .75 / QRT	\$ 3.00
D. EDUCATION/TRAINING TAX	@\$ .75 / QRT...	\$ 3.00
E. OFFICE/EQUIPMENT TAX	@\$ .75 / QRT	\$ 3.00
TOTAL	\$7.25 / QRT	\$ 29.00

QUARTERLY STATUS AND FINANCIAL REPORT DUE AS FOLLOWS:

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| a. FIRST QUARTER ( August through October )    | November 5, 2023 |
| b. SECOND QUARTER ( November through January ) | February 5, 2024 |
| c. THIRD QUARTER ( February through April )    | May5, 2024       |
| d. FOURTH QUARTER ( May through July )         | August 5,2024    |

**Mandate No.3 – Special Assignments:**

**The Right Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Michael C. Stewart No. 1:**

Will oversee the operations of 4301 N, Broad St. Office.

Work with the Grand Lecture on certain projects.

Will oversee the Registration and Credentials Committee.

He shall Preside over the By-Laws Committee / and Charity. Committee

**The Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Sir Kevin M. Small No. 1.**

Will oversee all appointed Grand Commandery officers. Except for the State

Divisional Commander, Divisional Commanders, State Grand Lecturer and

Divisional Lecturers. He will oversee the annual Banquet / Military Ball, He serves

as a member of the Charity Committee.

**The Eminent Grand Captain General, Sir Demetrus Hellams Sr. No.15.**

Will oversee the Eastern Divisional Council Meetings, / School of Instruction and

Seminar along with State Divisional Commander Sir Calvin Johnson No. 17 and

State Grand Lecturer Lee Roberson No. 1. He served as a member of the Charity

Committee.

**The Eminent Grand Prelate, Sir Marc Spearman No 1.**

Will oversee the Festive day Service and the Memorial Service with the assistance

of the Grand Lecturer Lee Roberson. And all Prelates of subordinate

Commanderies. He serves as a member of the charity Committee.

**The Eminent Grand Senior Warden, Sir Calvin Boyce Jr. No. 14**

Will oversee the James M. Thornton/James Sheppard Jr. Educational Awards

Committee and serves as a member of the charity committee.

**The Eminent Grand Junior Warden Sir Agoi V. Obima No2.**

Will oversee the ways and means Committee. He serves as a member of the

Charity Committee.

## **Mandate No 4 – By-Laws**

Each Commandery and the Eastern Divisional Council are ordered to submit copies of their By-Laws to the United Grand Commandery. Commanderies are to submit copies via their respective Divisional Commander. The Eastern Divisional Council is to submit their copies to the State Divisional Commander Sir. Calvin Johnson No. 17.

If a Commandery or the Eastern Divisional Council cannot find their By-Laws they are to reconstruct another set of By-Laws and submit through the aforementioned individual to the Eminent Grand Recorder, Sir Thomas Williams, No. 1, sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Grand Conclave for review and approval of the Jurisprudence Committee.

## **Mandate No 5 - Eastern Divisional Council Meetings**

All Eminent Commanders , Generalissimos, Captain Generals, Prelates, Senior and Junior Wardens of the Subordinate Commanderies are expected to attend the Eastern Divisional Council Meetings and school of instruction, which are held every First Saturday of the month, at the Rose of Sharon Lodge No. 39, 319 N. 9<sup>th</sup>. Street, Darby, PA 12pm.

This is not just for the officers, the Eminent Commanders of every Commandery are expected to encourage **EVERY SIR KNIGHT** to come out and bring their questions. All Elected and Appointed Grand Commandery Officers are expected to attend these meetings. An attendance record will be kept and periodically reviewed for compliance.

## **Mandate No.5a – Social Affairs on the day of Eastern Divisional Council Meeting.**

Commanderies and Cyrene Courts may have Banquets, Social Affairs, Fund Raisers, etc. On the first Saturday of the month or Saturday when the Eastern Divisional Council meets, provided the Social Affair starts at 5pm. or later.

## **Mandate No. 6 – Retain, Reclaim, Recruit and Revitalize.**

For this Templar year the United Grand Commandery will emphasize the need to retain and reclaim our Sir Knights. Therefore, it is imperative that each Commandery develops and initiates programs and activities, which will generate and encourage enthusiasm. Our collective goal must be to retain all our Sir Knights and more importantly, get them involved in meaningful programs and activities.

To reclaim our lost Sir Knights, we must take the initiative, reach out and extend our hand of Brotherly Love and encouragement. Those individuals return to the fold. Regarding revitalization, we will examine ways to revitalize Cyrene No. 9 in the western area.

### **Mandate No.7 – Non-Religious Functions During “Holy Week”**

It is hereby ordered that under no circumstances will any Commandery, Sword Club, unit, adopted or affiliated body obedience to the United Grand Commandery, Masonic Knights Templar – P.H.A., Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania sponsor, convene or participate in non-religious social events during the observance of Holy Week, commencing at 12:01 A.M. Palm Sunday,

### **Mandate No. 8 Recognition of Festive Days**

It is hereby ordered that under no circumstances will any Commandery, Sword Club, unit, adopted or affiliated body obedience to the United Grand Commandery, Masonic Knights Templar – P.H.A., Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania sponsor, convene or participate in any event on the date when a Grand Body of the Prince Hall Family is in observance of their Festive day or convening an Annual Session. This order will be strictly enforced.

### **Mandate N. 9 State Divisional Commander and Divisional Commanders.**

The Divisional Commanders and the Divisional Lecturers will rate the Commanderies assigned to them to see how each Commandery is progressing. These ratings will determine the Commandery of the year, Eminent Commander of the year. And the Sir Knight of the Year. These awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet/Military Ball. The Divisional Commanders will report to the State Divisional Commander Sir Calvin Johnson, No. 17 whether the Commanderies had submitted their Quarterly Financial Returns in a timely manner in addition to their rating reports.

### **Dispensations**

All requests for Dispensations are to be submitted directly to your Divisional Commander sixty (60) days prior to the date of the activity (degree work, church service, out of state visitation, change of meeting, banquet, social activity, etc.) All Dates for social events including tickets, programs, flyers, and souvenir journals are to be approved prior to and after printing. When inviting the Most Eminent

Grand Commander and/or the Most Worshipful Grand Master proper protocol must be adhered to. All questions are to be directed to your Divisional Commander.

### **Mandate No. 10 State Grand Lecturer**

The State Grand Lecturer Lee Robinson No 1 will be responsible for all instructions pertaining to the authorized ritual of the United Grand Commandery He will supervise all Divisional Lecturers and will ascertain that none but the authorized ritual of the United Grand Commandery is used. He will also formulate a competent team, through tryouts of Masonic Knights Templar to perform the Annual Memorial Service and the Passion Night Play. He will work in conjunction with the Eminent Grand Captain General Sir Demetrius Hellams No. 1 in organizing subjects to be presented, discussed and illustrated at the School of Instruction.

### **MANDATE No. 11 – Chain of Command**

To facilitate administrative and operational efficiency throughout the jurisdiction, all matters concerning the Constitution, Laws, Mandates of the United Grand Commandery, Masonic Knights Templar – P.H.A., the following chain of command is herewith instituted: any questions, issues or concerns beginning with a Sir Knight first directed to the Eminent Commander, then to the Divisional Commander, then to the State Divisional Commander and finally to the Most Eminent Grand Commander. The official response to the question, issue or. Concerns will be in the reverse order. This process will insure conformity and consistency within the Jurisdiction.

On all issues or concerns regarding the Authorized Ritual for the Templar Degrees, prepared for and by the authority of the United Grand Commandery, Masonic Knights Templar – P.H.A., and other related Grand Commandery ceremonies will follow the enacted chain of command any questions, issues or concerns beginning with a Sir Knight is first directed to the Eminent Commander, then to the Divisional Lecturer, then to the State Grand Lecturer and finally to the Most Eminent Grand Commander. The official response to the question, issue or concern will be in the reverse order. Thus informing and/or educating all parties involved.

Regarding the chain of command process, responses should be resolved at the first level provided all parties are satisfied with the findings/conclusions. On more complex/difficult unresolved issues, the process should continue until correctly

resolved. Under no circumstance will the United Grand Commandery permit the above mentioned process to be abrogated.

**If at the end of this process no one owing allegiance to the United Grand Commandery, will contact or send correspondence to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, regarding grievances. Without first contacting Most Eminent Grand Commander in righting.**

### **Mandate No. 12 – Alcoholic Beverages**

Sir Knights under all circumstances, are prohibited from imbibing or exhibiting Alcoholic Beverages while attired or regaled as a Masonic Knights Templar. This is inclusive of our Full dress or Fatigue Uniforms, Jewels/Badges/Banners/Pins/Buttons or Name Plates that may identify a Masonic Knights Templar. Prohibited Beverages include Beer, Wine, or Liquid containing any percentage of alcohol. This mandate is applicable to any and all Sir Knight's owing allegiance to the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, and extends itself into any Jurisdiction we may be visiting or find ourselves therein associated.

**Sir Knights, take heed and govern yourselves accordingly.**

### **Mandate No 13 –Funeral Service & Degree Work**

Eminent Commanders shall be responsible for organizing their Commandery's Funeral Team. The designated Funeral Team will demonstrate its proficiency to the Divisional Lecturer. The dress for the Funeral Service shall be Fatigue Uniform with white gloves. Full Dress Uniform shall be worn to a Funeral only when deemed necessary by the Most Eminent Grand Commander, due and timely notice shall be given.

All subordinate Commanderies are directed to notify the Divisional Lecturer of their rehearsals for degree work, including dates, places and times. Under no circumstances will rituals be used during the opening/closing ceremonies, funeral ceremony and the conferring of orders.

### **Mandate No 14 – Submission of Checks**

Any Commandery or individual who submits a check to the office of the Eminent Grand Recorder and said check must be return to the sender for any reason he or the Commandery will be required to pay the amount of the check and any additional fees that are incurred. You shall also be required to submit all future

transactions in one of the following methods: (1) Certified Check, (2) Bank Money Order, (3) Postal Money Order.

### **Mandate 15 – Recommendations, Resolutions and By-Law Changes.**

All Recommendations, and By-Law Changes shall be submitted and in the hands of the Jurisprudence Committee at least Sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the Annual Grand Conclave.

### **Mandate No. 16 – Dress Code for Banquets**

Winter Dress for Banquets – Fatigue Uniform, White Shirt, Long Black Tie, Black Trousers, Black Socks, Black Shoes, Shoulder Bars, Office Jewel, Red and Malta Cross Jewels, Veteran Pin (Optional) and Name Plate (Optional)

Bow Tie, Black Trousers, Black Socks, Black Shoes, Shoulder Bars, Office Jewel, Red and Malta Cross Jewels, Veteran Pin (Optional) and Name Plate (Optional)

### **Mandate No. 17 – Deceased Sir Knights**

When a death occurs within a Commandery, you are directed to employ the following procedure:

1. Upon receiving notice that a Sir Knight has Passed, the Eminent Commander with his Cabinet will visit the family to secure the following information:
  - (a) Ascertain whether or not the family wants the Knight Templar Funeral Service preformed?
  - (b) Date, Time and Place of Funeral.
  - (c) Consult with the Worshipful Master, Minister and Funeral Director on Arrangements.
2. Inform the Divisional Lecturer and Divisional Commander via telephone of these facts. The official claim form must be properly filled out and the Death Certificate must accompany the claim form.
3. Should the death occur within the active ranks of the United Grand Commandery, the Eminent Commander will immediately notify the Most Eminent Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder.



**Mandate No.18 – Most Royal Grand Chief Engineer and the Deputy Grand Chief Engineers**

The Most Royal Grand Chief Engineer Sir Quinton O. Mason and the Deputy Grand Chief Engineers Sir Jacob F. Howard III, Sir Derrick L. Holmes are to wear Full Dress Uniform when representing the United Grand Commandery or the Most Royal Grand Court of Cyrene with the following exceptions.

- A. Cyrene School of Instructions Meetings.
- B. Eastern Divisional Council Meetings
- C. Subordinate Royal Court Meetings.
- D. Subordinate Commandery Meetings.
- E. Most Royal Grand Court Luncheons and Banquets.
- F. Celebration of the Christmas Toast and all other all other Events, Functions and Occasions, where the Most Eminent Grand Commander considers the Full Dress Uniform unnecessary.

**Mandate No. 18a – Most Royal Grand Chief Engineer and Deputies.**

The Most Royal Grand Court Chief Engineer and the Deputy Grand Chief Engineers are required to attend a minimum of six (6) of their Subordinate Commandery's Conclave's annually.

**Mandate No. 18b – Engineers' Council**

The President of the Engineers' Council shall schedule the entire Engineers' Council Meetings for the year following the consultation with the Most Royal Grand Chief Engineer who will then inform the Most Eminent Grand Commander. The Engineers do not have to pay dues to the Engineers' Council.

**Mandate No. 18c Engineers**

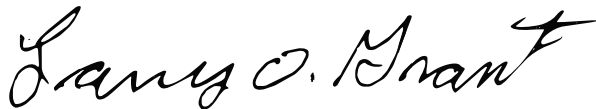
All Engineers, who are in good Financial Standing with their Subordinate Commanderies, are permitted to voluntarily pay dues in their respective Subordinate Royal Courts of Cyrene unless they are exempted from dues, specifically, those Royal Courts under the auspices of the Most Royal Grand Court of Cyrene (Accepted and Adopted Body of the United Grand Commandery, Masonic Knights Templar – P.H.A., Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania). The said Engineer Shall be entitled to vote and have voice in the Royal Court collecting his dues. If the said Engineer shall become unfinancial in his Court, he shall forfeit the previously specified right to vote and voice his opinions.

All Royal Engineers (those who served in the East with a Royal Commandress) and Past Royal Engineers shall be entitled to vote and have voice in the Annual Session of the Most Royal Grand Court of Cyrene, provided they pay dues in their Royal Courts, unless they are exempted from dues and register for the Annual Session of the Most Royal Grand Court of Cyrene. The Most Grand Chief Engineer, the Deputy Grand Chief Engineers and the past Most Royal Grand Chief shall be entitled to vote and have voice in the Annual Session of the Most Royal Grand Court of Cyrene. They are exempted from Registration Fees of the Most Royal Grand Court of Cyrene provided they register for the Annual Grand Conclave of the United Grand Commandery.

### **Dates to Remember**

Christmas Toast Monday, December 25, 2023 Time and Location TBA.  
Passion Night Service Friday, March 29, 2024 Time and Location TBA.  
Ascension Day Service Thursday, May 9, 2024. Time and Location. TBA.  
Annual Grand Conclave Saturday and Sunday, August 3 – 4, 2024. Time and Location TBA.

Yours in Knightly Courtesy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry O. Grant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "L".

Most Eminent Sir Larry O. Grant No. 1  
Most Eminent Grand Commander