

GRAND COMMANDERY, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
From The Apartment of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Doyle R. Hatfield
GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 1
for the Templar Year of 2016-2017

THIS ORDER SHALL BE READ AT THE HEAD OF THE LINES IN EACH
COMMANDERY AT THE NEXT STATED CONCLAVE AFTER ITS RECEPTION
AND SHALL BE MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES THEREOF.

TO: Constituent Commanderies
Grand Commandery Officers
Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders

Greetings,

BE IT HEREBY ORDERED: That during the 2016-2017 Grand Commandery Year, the Grand Commandery of Georgia shall be organized into two Corps. The two Corps shall be grouped into three Divisions each with the First Corps containing Divisions One, Two, and Three and the Second Corps containing Divisions Four, Five, and Six.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the First Corps shall be assigned to the Eminent Grand Generalissimo and the Second Corps shall be assigned to the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That each Division shall have a Grand Commandery Officer assigned as Division Commander. The assignments shall be as follows:

Division One: The Grand Warder - Tommy T. Marshall
Division Two: The Grand Sword Bearer - Robert L. Head, Jr.
Division Three: The Grand Standard Bearer - Carl J. Gamel
Division Four: The Grand Junior Warden - Mark S. Johnson
Division Five: The Grand Senior Warden - Brandon S. Yarbrough
Division Six: The Grand Captain General – Steve A. Kirk

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That all Commanderies will be assigned to Divisions as follows:

FIRST CORPS	Charles R. Beasley (4)	404-313-4466
First Division	Tommy T. Marshall (36)	912-282-4493
Division Officers:	Bruce D. Mann (17)	229-246-3046
	Timothy E. Crimmins (5)	229-881-2495

St. Paul No. 5 (Albany) Bethlehem No. 30 (Thomasville)
Crusader No. 17 (Bainbridge) Mt. Calvary No. 28 (Moultrie)

Second Division	Robert L. Head, Jr. (11)	706-905-7730
Division Officers:	James D Reese (7)	912-659-4265
	Robert R. Bennett	912-337-0601

Palestine No. 7 (Savannah) Malta No. 16 (Valdosta) St. Elmo No. 26 (Brunswick)
Waycross No. 36 (Waycross) Coastal Plain No. 42 (Tifton)

Third Division	Carl J. Gamel (40)	404-435-6754
Division Officers:	Jerry H. Purvis (43)	770-468-1073
	Richard D. Brogdon (3)	706-587-1601

St. Omer No. 2 (Macon) Plantagenet No. 12 (Milledgeville) Ivanhoe No. 10 (Ft. Valley)
St. Aldemar No. 3 (Columbus) St. Peter No. 45 (Warner Robins)

SECOND CORPS

Drewey W. Hendry, Sr. (25) 770-366-7136

Fourth Division

Mark S. Johnson (22) 770-306-8708

Division Officers:

Jan M. Giddens (26) 678-232-4115

Jan Masskant, Jr. (9) 404-579-1235

Gary A. Palmer (4) 404-326-9675

Coeur de Lion No. 4 (College Park) Constantine No. 26 (Marietta)

Atlanta No. 9 (Atlanta) Griffin No. 35 (Griffin) Douglasville No. 40 (Douglasville)

DeKalb No. 38 (Decatur) Alexius No. 22 (Lovejoy) Tancred No. 11 (Newnan)

Fifth Division

Brandon S Yarbrough (35) 404-473-1872

Division Officers:

William T. White (37) 478-997-1011

Terry M. Childers (19) 706-625-4336

Rome No. 8 (Rome) St. Johns No.19 (Dalton) Amicalola No. 41 (Jasper)

Charles Martel No. 29 (Chickamauga) Blue Ridge Mt. No. 37 (McCaysville)

Sixth Division

Steve A. Kirk (41) 706-692-6581

Division Officers:

Joseph R. Bush (31) 628-308-0344

Michael R. Sosebee (33) 706-599-3485

Georgia No.1 (Augusta) Philemon No.33 (Toccoa)

St. Bernard No. 25 (Covington) Godfrey de Bouillon No.14 (Athens)

Arnold de Troye No.31 (Buford) Pilgrim No.15 (Gainesville)

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Corps Commanders shall Command, Assist, and supervise their respective Divisions.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Division Commanders shall (1) Maintain direct communication with the Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Corps Commander and the Eminent Grand Recorder's Office with respect to each Commandery in his Division, as to ritual, opening, tactics, armory, regalia, programs, and/or any special need or assistance; (2) visit each Commandery in his respective Division as often as needed, but at least once during the Commandery year; and (3) Represent the Grand Commander when requested to do so.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Division Commanders will conduct at least two (2) Inspections in their Division during the Templar year and will assist all other Grand Inspecting Officers assigned by the Right Eminent Grand Commander in their respective Divisions.

GRAND LIAISON OFFICERS

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That one or more Grand Liaison Officers will be appointed by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, from recommendations by the Division Commanders, to assist the Division Commanders with their assigned duties. The Grand Liaison Officers will report to and represent the Division Commander while on official business and will be afforded the respect and honors due a Grand Commandery Officer. The Grand Liaison Officers shall wear a red shoulder cord as recognition of their office.

INSPECTIONS

All Commanderies shall be inspected by March 1, 2017. It is the duty and obligation of each Grand Inspecting Officer to be fair, objective, and impartial in inspecting a Commandery.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Eminent Commander shall assemble the Sir Knights of his Commandery, on the assigned Inspection Date, for the purpose of holding their Annual Inspection. The Inspection shall be held in accordance with the Tactics and Customs of this Grand Jurisdiction. The Eminent Commander shall see that each Sir Knight in the line is in full uniform. The full uniform consists of a chapeau, white shirt, black tie, black coat, black trousers, black shoes, black socks, sword and belt. The wearing of this uniform symbolizes us as the Christian Soldiers within the Masonic Fraternity and we should each take personal pride in wearing it as a statement of who we are and what we represent.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Recorder will furnish the Grand Inspecting Officer such information that will enable him to answer all questions on the Inspection Form. The completed Inspection Form will be forwarded to the Office of the Grand Recorder within ten (10) days after the Inspection.

BONDS

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Grand Commandery Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations require that the Treasurer and Recorder of each Constituent Commandery be bonded, unless the Commandery By-laws require more than one signature on a voucher or check before any monies are disbursed. The Grand Inspecting Officer will verify if either method is in order.

AUDIT

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That written proof of the last audit, showing date audited, will be provided to the Grand Inspecting Officer.

CHARITIES

It is my hope and prayer that each Sir Knight, within this Grand Jurisdiction, shall continue to contribute to our charities as liberally as his ability permits. Let us continue our efforts to support the Grand Encampment's Knight Templar Eye Foundation Inc., and the Molly S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust of Georgia Inc. This year it is my goal to have every Commandery in Georgia send a Minister to the Holy Land. I know it is difficult for some Commanderies to accomplish this feat alone. I therefore encourage each Commandery that can't individually sponsor a Minister to join with another Commandery(s) and jointly send a minister to the Holy Land. I firmly believe that if we can provide each community with a minister, who has experienced a trip to the Holy Land that each community will return the favor many times by positively supporting our fund raisers and potential new Sir Knights. So PLEASE implement or revive the program whereby funds are annually set aside to sponsor a Minister and then use those funds at the appropriate time to sponsor your selected Minister.

FUND RAISERS

Please support as many Fund Raisers as you can, either monetarily or by spending time participating in these worthwhile projects. Any ideas for future fund raisers will be well received by your Grand York Rite Officers.

FESTIVALS

All Commanderies participating in York Rite Festivals, where all the York Rite Degrees/Orders are conferred, are encouraged to confer the Templar Orders on a separate date when possible. When the Templar Orders are conferred, all candidates should be appropriately dressed in coat and tie.

MEMBERSHIP

The Masonic Fraternity as a whole is suffering from a decline in membership. Our beloved Christian Order unfortunately is not exempt from this decline. As a Christian Knight, we should always keep a watchful eye for a worthy candidate to become a member of our Christian Order. As Christian Knights, we have the best selling point in all of Masonry, the belief in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In our daily walk through life, we should each act as a disciple of our Lord and Savior. Each day we should each act in a manner that demonstrates the true value of our Christian Order, so others will want to be a part of our Magnanimous Order.

COMMITTEES

The successful completion of our many projects rests solely on the dedicated work of the members appointed to the various Committees. I have appointed those Sir Knights that I feel will excel in the tasks at hand. Some changes have been made, so please use due diligence in the Committees, to which you have been assigned.

APPRECIATION

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation and thanks for your showing me your trust and faith in electing me to the great honor of serving you as your Grand Commander for this upcoming year. I will do everything in my power, with the assistance of our Lord and Savior, to see that we make this Templar Year as good, if not better, than any Templar Year before. Together Sir Knights is the only way we can make this happen. Please do not hesitate in letting me know if there is anything that I can do for you this upcoming year. Life is not perfect. And as far as I know there has only been one perfect one. The one we all want to keep in our hearts and minds for not only this Templar Year but for the rest of our lives.

Sir Knights, I am not the best orator and my use of words are simple. But, I want to express the gratitude and appreciation, which I have for each and every Fellow Sir Knight in this Grand Jurisdiction. This is indeed a great honor to be permitted to serve you as your Right Eminent Grand Commander. You have shown confidence in me by electing me to the highest Office of Christian Masonry in Georgia. I pledge my loyalty, devotion, and Christian Honor; that I will, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties of the Office of Right Eminent Grand Commander of Georgia. I especially want to thank the members of St. Aldemar Commandery Number 3 for allowing me to join their ranks of Knighthood. I solicit each of your prayers, council, guidance and recommendations throughout this Templar year.

Finally, let us all remember that we are Christian Soldiers of Christ. Let us act as such before God and Man. My hope is that God may continue to richly bless each and every one of us.

All Sir Knights of Georgia shall take due notice and govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this Magnanimous Order.

Respectfully ordered on this the 3rd day of May in the year of our Lord 2016.

Doyle R. Hatfield
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Right Eminent Grand Commandery, KT,
of the State of Georgia

Attest:

Wade Smith
Eminent Grand Recorder

