



# The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of The State of Georgia

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From the Apartment of the Right Eminent Grand Commander

**Ditmar W. Chavez**

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 1**

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

**TO: Grand Commandery Officers, Past Grand Commanders and Constituent Commanderies.**

**Greetings:**

**BE IT HEREBY ORDERED:** That during the 2023-2024 Grand Commandery Year, the Grand Commandery of Georgia shall be organized into two Corps. The two Corps shall have three Divisions. 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 will have a Grand Commandery Officer assigned as Division Commander. The Division Commander assignments are as follows:

Division One: The Grand Warder, William T. White

Division Two: The Grand Sword Bearer, Alessandro V. Silva

Division Three: The Grand Standard Bearer, Michael H. Sampsell

Division Four: The Grand Junior Warden, Ryan C. Nealey

Division Five: The Grand Senior Warden, William W. Grist

Division Six: The Grand Captain General, Daniel C. Ricketts

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

**FIRST CORPS: Raymond G. Laird (25) 678-642-7367 dyebama@gmail.com**

**FIRST DIVISION: William T. White (37)**

Division Officers: **Bruce D. Mann (17) 229-246-3046 bmanncpa@yahoo.com**

**Timothy E. Crimmins (5) 229-881-2495 tiedcrm@gmail.com**

Crusader No. 17 (Bainbridge); Bethlehem No. 30 (Thomasville)

St. Paul No. 5 (Albany)

**SECOND DIVISION: Alessandro V. Silva (9) 404-273-0315 alexvds@live.com**

Division Officers: **James D. Reese (7) 912-659-4265 No Email Address**

**James R. Bennett (36) 912-337-0601 rustybenett038@gmail.com**

Palestine No. 7 (Savannah); St. Elmo No. 21 (Brunswick);

Malta No. 16 (Valdosta); Waycross No. 36 (Waycross); Coastal Plain No. 42 (Tifton)

**THIRD DIVISION: Michael H. Sampsell (26) 770-366-1800 mike@thesampsell.com**

Division Officers: **Jerry H. Purvis (2) 770-468-1073 jhp1861@gmail.com**

**Timothy K. Starling (3) 706-341-8284 tstar1960@aol.com**

St. Omer No. 2 (Macon); Plantagenet No. 12 (Milledgeville);

St. Peter No. 45 (Warner Robins); Ivanhoe No. 10 (Ft. Valley);

St. Aldemar No. 3 (Columbus); Ft. Benning No. 73 (Columbus)

**SECOND CORPS: Tyler W. Pledger (28) 706-506-2113 doc42884@aol.com**

**FOURTH DIVISION: Ryan C. Nealey (9) 706-889-6464 rcnealey@gmail.com**  
Division Officers: **Robert L. Hall, Jr. (26) 770-971-9856 robertjr.hall@att.net**  
**Eric S. Tress (40) 770-314-2752 estress1960@gmail.com**  
Constantine No. 26 (Marietta); Douglasville No. 40 (Douglasville)  
Coeur de Lion No. 4 (College Park); Atlanta No. 9 (Atlanta); Dekalb No. 38 (Decatur)  
Tancred No. 11 (Newnan); Alexius No. 22 (Lovejoy); Griffin No. 35 (Griffin)

**FIFTH DIVISION: William W. Grist (37) 706-633-0796 wwgrist1@gmail.com**  
Division Officers: **Brandon P. Simmons (37) 404-358-7394 bsimmons@etcmail.com**  
**James C. Durbin, Sr. (8) 706-409-0496 durbin1015@aol.com**  
Blue Ridge Mtn. No. 37 (McCaysville); Amicalola No. 41 (Jasper)  
Rome No. 8 (Rome); St. John's No. 19 (Dalton); Charles Martel No. 29 (Chickamauga)

**SIXTH DIVISION: Daniel C. Ricketts (26) 404-819-1850 sonneyles1@gmail.com**  
Division Officers: **Dale B. Cliett (1) 706-831-9273 cliettp@knology.net**  
**William E. Adams (25) 770-601-4509 weadamsjr@gmail.com**  
Philemon No. 33 (Toccoa); Arnold de Troye No. 31 (Buford); Pilgrim No. 15 (Gainesville)  
Georgia No. 1 (Augusta); Godfrey de Bouillon No. 14 (Elberton);  
St. Bernard No. 25 (Covington);

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That the Corps Commanders will 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 needs 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. (4) To promote programs of involvement that will enhance Templary.

#### **GRAND LIAISON OFFICERS**

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That Grand Liaison Officers are appointed by the Right Eminent Grand Commander. The Grand Liaison Officers will report to and represent the Grand Commander and or the Division Commander while on official business and will be afforded the respect and honors due a Grand Commandery Officer. Each Grand Liaison Officer will make one Official Visit to their Respective Commanderies in the Templar Year, assist the Division Commander in coordinating the Annual Divisional Inspection of their Respective Commanderies and Attend the Grand Commandery Conclave. The Grand Liaison Officers shall wear a red and green shoulder cord as recognition of their office.

#### **INSPECTIONS**

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That all Commanderies shall be inspected by March 1, 2024. Each Eminent Commander shall assemble the Sir Knights of his Commandery, on the assigned Divisional Inspection Date and at the assigned time, for the purpose of participating in their respective Annual Divisional Inspection. The Inspection shall be held in accordance with the Tactics and Customs of this Grand Jurisdiction and shall include a Tactics and Ritual School of Instruction facilitated by the appropriate Grand Commandery Custodians. The Eminent Commander shall see that each Sir Knight, in the line, is in full uniform in accordance with the Grand Commandery Code and the Grand Encampment Constitution. The 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:** At the Annual Divisional Inspection, each Recorder will furnish their assigned 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 by the Grand Inspecting Officer. All Grand Inspecting Officers MUST use the current Inspection Report form. All outdated Inspection Report forms will be rejected.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That as per the Grand Commandery Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations that the Treasurer and Recorder of each Constituent Commandery will 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.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That written proof of the last audit, showing date audited and a copy of tax form 990 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., the Molly S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust of Georgia, Inc. and the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. I would like for every Commandery in Georgia to work toward the goal of sending 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 cannot individually sponsor a Minister to join with another Commandery(s) and jointly send a minister to the Holy Land. I would like for our Grand Commandery to send a total of 10 ministers to the Holy Land in 2023.

### **FUNDRAISERS**

I encourage every Commandery to hold at least one fundraiser per year to support the Commanderies programs and the Charitable efforts of the Grand Commandery. Please support as many fundraisers as you can, either monetarily or by spending time participating in these worthwhile projects.

### **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. I encourage the full conferral of the Templar Orders. We rob much from our candidates and ourselves when we exemplify the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta in short form. When the Templar Orders are conferred, all candidates should be appropriately dressed in coat and tie.

### **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. Your knowledge, experience and dedication to the Order have afforded you this important trust. Changes have been made, so please use due diligence in the Committees, to which you have you been assigned.

**Respectfully ordered on this the 6th day of May in the year of our Lord 2023.**



Ditmar W. Chavez  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Attest:

*Mark A. Bradley*

Mark A. Bradley  
Eminent Grand Recorder