



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

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From the Apartment of the Right Eminent Grand Commander

**Tyler W. Pledger**

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 2024-2025 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, John T. Flener

Division Two: The Grand Sword Bearer, William T. White

Division Three: The Grand Standard Bearer, Alessandro V. Silva

Division Four: The Grand Junior Warden, Michael H. Sampsell

Division Five: The Grand Senior Warden, Ryan C. Nealey

Division Six: The Grand Captain General, William W. Grist

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

<b>FIRST CORPS:</b>	<b>Daniel C. Ricketts (26)</b>	<b>404-819-1850</b>	<a href="mailto:sonneyes1@gmail.com">sonneyes1@gmail.com</a>
<b>FIRST DIVISION:</b>	<b>John T. Flener, Jr. (42)</b>	<b>229-425-8770</b>	<a href="mailto:jtflener@gmail.com">jtflener@gmail.com</a>
Division Officers:	<b>Bruce D. Mann (17)</b>	<b>229-246-3046</b>	<a href="mailto:bmanncpa@yahoo.com">bmanncpa@yahoo.com</a>
	<b>Howard L. Maddox (42)</b>	<b>229-325-3720</b>	<a href="mailto:howardmaddox52@gmail.com">howardmaddox52@gmail.com</a>
	Crusader No. 17 (Bainbridge); Bethlehem No. 30 (Thomasville)		
	St. Paul No. 5 (Albany); Malta No 16 (Valdosta); Coastal Plain 42 (Tifton)		
<b>SECOND DIVISION:</b>	<b>William T. White (37)</b>	<b>478-997-1011</b>	<a href="mailto:whitevinga@av8rstuff.com">whitevinga@av8rstuff.com</a>
Division Officers:	<b>James D. Reese (7)</b>	<b>912-659-4265</b>	<i>No Email Address</i>
	<b>James R. Bennett (36)</b>	<b>912-337-0601</b>	<a href="mailto:rustybennett038@gmail.com">rustybennett038@gmail.com</a>
	Palestine No. 7 (Savannah); St. Elmo No. 21 (Brunswick)		
	Waycross No. 36 (Waycross)		
<b>THIRD DIVISION:</b>	<b>Alessandro V. Silva (9)</b>	<b>404-273-0315</b>	<a href="mailto:alexvds@live.com">alexvds@live.com</a>
Division Officers:	<b>Jerry H. Purvis (2)</b>	<b>770-468-1073</b>	<a href="mailto:jhp1861@gmail.com">jhp1861@gmail.com</a>
	<b>Roger W. Buterbaugh (3)</b>	<b>706-587-1910</b>	<a href="mailto:rogerwayne@hotmail.com">rogerwayne@hotmail.com</a>
	St. Omer No. 2 (Macon); Plantagenet No. 12 (Milledgeville);		
	Ivanhoe No. 10 (Ft. Valley); St. Aldemar No. 3 (Columbus);		
	Ft. Benning No. 73 (Columbus)		

**SECOND CORPS: Raymond G. Laird (25) 678-642-7367 [dvebama@gmail.com](mailto:dvebama@gmail.com)**

**FOURTH DIVISION: Michael H. Sampsell (26) 770-366-1800 [mike@thesampsell.com](mailto:mike@thesampsell.com)**

Division Officers: **Jeffery F. Hightower (35) 404-414-7240 [jfhightower@gmail.com](mailto:jfhightower@gmail.com)**

**Eric S. Tress (40) 770-314-2752 [estress1960@gmail.com](mailto:estress1960@gmail.com)**

**P. Brian Kelley (38) 404-790-0983 [bkelly567@aol.com](mailto:bkelly567@aol.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: Ryan C. Nealey (9) 706-889-6464 [rcnealey@gmail.com](mailto:rcnealey@gmail.com)**

Division Officers: **Brandon P. Simmons (37) 404-358-7394 [bsimmons@etcm.com](mailto:bsimmons@etcm.com)**

**Jimmy L. Densmore (19) 706-980-8423 [thejimdens@outlook.com](mailto:thejimdens@outlook.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: William W. Grist (37) 706-633-0796 [wwgrist1@gmail.com](mailto:wwgrist1@gmail.com)**

Division Officers: **Dale B. Cliett (1) 706-831-9273 [cliettp@knology.net](mailto:cliettp@knology.net)**

**William E. Adams, Jr. (25) 770-601-4509 [weadamsjr@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That all Grand Commandery Officers, exclusive of the Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Adjutant, and Grand Sentinel will submit to the Grand Recorder's office an annual report of all visitations made and activities engaged upon for the Grand Commandery no later than April 15, 2025.

### **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 Inspections 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, 2025. Each Eminent Commander shall assemble the Sir Knights of his Commandery, on a date and time selected by the Eminent Commander, for the purpose of participating in their Annual Tactics Inspection. This Inspection shall be held in accordance with the Tactics and Customs of this Grand Jurisdiction and shall include a full uniform Tactics Inspection by their assigned Grand Liaison Officer, serving as the Grand Inspecting Officer. 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. The assigned Grand Liaison Officer shall submit to the Grand Recorder a full report of the Tactics Inspection within ten (10) days of said inspection using the 2024-25 Commandery Tactics Inspection Report form. All outdated Inspection Report forms will be rejected.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** That each Eminent Commander shall assemble the Sir Knights of his Commandery, on the assigned Divisional Conclave Date and at the assigned time, for the purpose of participating in their respective Annual Divisional Conclave. The Divisional Conclave shall include a Tactics and Ritual School of Instruction facilitated by the appropriate Grand Commandery Custodians. Also at the Annual Divisional Conclave, each Recorder shall furnish their assigned Grand Inspecting Officer such information that will enable him to answer all questions on the Administrative Inspection Form. The completed Administrative Inspection Form shall then be forwarded to the Grand Recorder within ten (10) days after said Administrative Inspection. All assigned Grand Inspecting Officers MUST use the current Administrative 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 shall 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 shall be provided to the Grand Inspecting Officer at the Divisional Conclave.

### 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 Knights 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 partner with another Commandery(s) and jointly send a minister to the Holy Land. Our goal is for our Grand Commandery to send a total of 10 ministers to the Holy Land in 2025.

### FUNDRAISERS

I encourage every Commandery to hold at least one fundraiser per year to support the programs of the Commandery 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 been assigned.

**Respectfully ordered on this the 4th day of May in the year of our Lord 2024.**



Tyler W. Pledger  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Attest:

*Mark A. Bradley*

Mark A. Bradley  
Eminent Grand Recorder