

\_\_\_\_ Commandery No \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_, GA  
By Laws

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

### **Article I**

Section 1. This Commandery is known and designated as \_\_\_\_\_  
Commandery No \_\_\_, Knights Templar, and is stationed in the City of \_\_\_\_\_,  
County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of Georgia, and being a constituent unit of the Grand  
Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia, is subservient to and obedient to the  
Rules and Regulations of the same, together with the rules and regulations of the Grand  
Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America; and recognizing the  
Constitutions and Statutes of said superior Bodies as governing and controlling this  
constituent Body, all allegiance to said governing Bodies is hereby guaranteed; and  
obedience of said governing Bodies is hereby acknowledged, in all particulars not  
herein set up.

### **Article II**

Section 1. The regular conclaves of the Commandery shall be held on the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of every month. The time of the meeting shall be \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.. If a  
regular Conclave falls on a federal holiday, the conclave is canceled for that month.

Section 2. The Commander is empowered to convene the Commandery in Special  
Conclave for the transaction of special business named in the call, and for no other, due  
notice having been previously given.

### **Article III**

Section 1. The Officers of this Commandery are Commander, Generalissimo, Captain  
General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Prelate, Treasurer, Recorder, Standard  
Bearer, Sword Bearer, and Warder, who shall be elected by ballot at the last stated  
Conclave in March of each year. The Sentinel and three Guards shall be appointed by  
the Commander on the day of election, if practicable; otherwise the appointments shall  
be announced at the next stated Conclave.

Section 2. All the Officers shall be installed as soon as possible after their election or  
appointment, and shall perform the duties of their respective offices, and remain in  
office until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 3. A Finance Committee of three, two of whom shall constitute a quorum, shall  
be appointed and organized by the Commander, and announcement made of same on  
election day, or at the first stated conclave after said election, to serve for one year.

This Committee shall audit the books of the Treasurer and Recorder, and report at the last stated Conclave in March. They shall perform additional and such other duties pertaining to the work of such committees, or for the general good of the Commandery, as may be required by action of the Commandery, or by the Eminent Commander in the administration of his duties.

#### **Article IV**

Section 1. The duties of the several officers of this Commandery are those traditionally pertaining to the government of the Order as provided by the Statutes of the Superior Bodies, attaching to the several offices.

#### **Article V**

Section 1. All petitions for the Orders of Knighthood shall be signed in hand writing by the applicant on a Petition Form, corresponding in Regulation to the form provided and adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, and by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar for the State of Georgia, and shall be signed also by hand by two members of this Commandery, who are in good standing as vouchers.

Section 2. The Petition shall be presented at a regular Conclave and referred to a committee of three members (not the vouchers) for investigation and report, which must be done at the next regular conclave unless further time for investigation is granted, except by dispensation.

Section 3. All applicants for membership in this Commandery, in addition to subscribing to the requirements of the Petition Form, and answering the questions therein propounded, shall state where he has resided for the past three years.

Section 3.5. A Knight Templar may be admitted as a dual member of any Constituent Commandery of this Grand Commandery and another Constituent Commandery of this Grand Commandery, a Subordinate Commandery of the Grand Encampment, a Constituent Commandery of another Grand Commandery if the laws of that Grand Commandery also permit such dual membership, or a Preceptory or Commandery under a recognized foreign Sovereign if the laws of that Jurisdiction also permit such dual membership. Such dual member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of full membership in both Commanderies except he cannot hold the officer of Eminent Commander or Treasurer in more than one Commandery at the same time, and he is subject to all dues and assessments of both Commanderies. Loss of active membership by action of either Commandery shall cause loss of membership in both Commanderies; provided, however, a dual members may demit from either Commandery. Such dual membership may be accomplished by certificate of good standing and petition for affiliation.

Section 4. A Petition which is favorably reported on by the committee may be withdrawn before action by the Commandery or when it appears that the Commandery has no jurisdiction over the petitioner.

Section 5. On balloting for election, one negative rejects. In case of an apparent negative, the Commander shall order another ballot before making any announcement. After the second regular and perfect ballot he shall announce the result. A massed ballot may be taken when more than one applicant; if a black cube appears, then separate ballots shall be taken.

Section 6. One clear ballot entitles the applicant to all the Orders conferred in this Commandery, except that objection may be made to the Commandery or Commander before the conferring of the Order of the Red Cross which would act in all respects as a negative and reject the applicant. If objection shall be made after the Red Cross is conferred then the objector shall prefer charges and trial shall proceed as per Disciplinary Laws.

Section 7. A candidate once rejected shall not be eligible to a second application until six months have elapsed from the date of his rejection; and no person who has been rejected by any other Commandery shall receive the Orders in this Commandery, without the consent of the Commandery which rejected him, until after three years from the time of his rejection.

Section 8. Application for affiliation shall be acted upon in the same manner as for Orders.

## Article VI

Section 1. The fees for the Orders of Red Cross, Malta, and Temple shall be \$\_\_\_\_.00 and must be paid before the conferring of the Order of the Red Cross. The fees for the Orders of Knighthood shall not be less than \$\_\_\_\_.00 and shall include a Life Sponsor to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. There shall be no fee required for affiliation; however, an affiliating Sir Knight shall be a Life Sponsor in the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, or shall pay such fee as necessary to become a Life Sponsor. If the affiliating Sir Knight is affiliating as a dual member, he shall pay such fee as necessary to become a Life Sponsor in the new Commandery in which he is affiliating.

Section 2. In no instance and under no circumstances shall the Orders be conferred upon an elected Companion without the fee for the Orders paid as provided; and said fee must not be remitted directly or indirectly.

Section 3. Each member, except such as are exempt under Grand Commandery Law, shall pay as annual dues to this Commandery a sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_.00) same to be due and payable in advance on the first day of January each year.

## **Article VII**

Section 1. All members of the Commandery shall be amenable to same for any unknightly conduct and may be tried for each offense and dealt with as a majority of the members present may determine, as provided by authority of the Superior Bodies, at the discretion of the Commandery.

## **Article VIII**

Section 1. The Proceedings of this Commandery shall be divulged to no one except members of this Order in good standing, and a violation of this Article shall subject the offender, if a member, to such punishment as the Commandery may inflict. Any visiting Knight violating this Article shall be forever excluded from this Commandery, and his Commandery notified of his unknightly conduct.

Section 2. The nature of a report on a Petition for membership in the Commandery shall not be recorded in the minutes; only the fact that the Committee reported shall be recorded.

## **Article IX**

Section 1. When a member is more than two years in arrears for dues, the Eminent Commander shall supervise and determine whether it is advisable to remit the dues of a delinquent member because of illness, infirmity, or financial inability, and shall recommend to the Commandery the remission of dues whenever he deems the same justified. If the Eminent Commander does not see fit to recommend the remission of dues of a delinquent member, he shall appoint a Committee of at least two members to make a personal call, if possible, upon such delinquent member with reference thereto. The report of such Committee shall be reviewed by the Eminent Commander, and shall be reported to the Commandery. The process of suspension shall be undertaken only after the foregoing preliminary requirements have been met.

Thereupon, the Eminent Commander shall see to it that the Recorder send either a certified or registered letter to the delinquent member at his last known address, giving official notice of intention to suspend such member, including the date and hour when the suspension proceedings will be brought before the Commandery for action. At the time when such suspension proceedings are brought before the Commandery, the Eminent Commander shall first inform the Commander of all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding such delinquent member and shall exhibit the return receipt of the certified or registered letter to the delinquent member, or the unclaimed certified or registered letter, before any action shall be taken by the Commandery.

When a member of a Commandery is summoned to show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues and fails to appear, the Commander cannot declare him suspended until the Commandery has so voted.

Section 2. A Sir Knight shall not be suspended or expelled from this Commandery, for other than non-payment of dues, except after trial on regular charges duly specifying his offenses, the accused being allowed full opportunity to make his defense as provided by Statutes.

Section 3. A Sir Knight indefinitely suspended or expelled shall be re-admitted only in the same manner as an unaffiliated Sir Knight, When suspended or expelled because of suspension or expulsion in Lodge or Chapter, and is afterwards restored in said bodies, he is entitled to restoration in the Commandery, provided notice of application for same shall be presented at a stated Conclave prior to the one at which such restoration is expected to be had.

Section 4. In the case of an Appeal, as provided under disciplinary rules after trial of a Sir Knight, the verdict of the Commandery shall not be made public until after a decision of the Grand Commandery.

## **Article X**

Section 1a. The Order of Knights Templar is declared to be a uniform order.

Section 1b. Each and every officer of a constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction is required to own and possess a regulation uniform prior to his installation.

Section 1c. Each constituent Commandery shall maintain a unit equipped with full Templar Uniforms as prescribed by this Grand Commandery, to be worn at full form openings and the conferring of the Order of the Temple.

Section 1d. Constituent Commanderies may give a uniform to any member thereof such terms and conditions as such Commanderies may desire.

Section 1e. A Commandery shall appear in public only in full dress uniform except for attendance at church services or funerals.

Section 2. All constituent Commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Georgia shall strictly observe the foregoing regulations and requirement and enforce obedience thereto.

Section 3. All statutes and regulations or parts thereof in conflict with any of the foregoing requirements are hereby expressly repealed.

## **Article XI**

Section 1. The Commander shall be ex-officio member of all committees authorized by this Commandery, unless otherwise specified and ordered, and shall see that all business delegated is looked after and transacted, or reported on, to the end that the

affairs of this Commandery be conducted with diligence and in accordance with business dignity.

Section 2. The Recorder shall carefully and faithfully keep the records and members' accounts, transact all the business of his office in an expeditious manner, and receive for his services such amount as the Commandery shall from time to time designate.

Section 3. The Sentinel shall receive for his services the sum of such amount as the Commandery shall from time to time designate.

Section 4. The Bonds, if required of the Treasurer and Recorder, shall be for amounts stipulated by action of the Commandery, as practicable and sufficient.

Section 5. The checking account shall be set up so that two signatures are required on each check before funds may be disbursed from the account. The Treasurer and Recorder shall not be required to be bonded.

## **Article XII**

Section 1. Amendments of these by laws or additions thereto must be presented in writing at a regular Conclave and approved and acted on at a subsequent regular Conclave for final adoption. Two-thirds of the members present and concurring shall be required for adoption. The Recorder shall send all such amendments to the Grand Recorder's Office for final approval.

Date of First Reading of these By Laws:

Date of Second Reading and Adoption of these By Laws:

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Eminent Commander

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Recorder

**(SEAL)**