



RULES and REGULATIONS
St. John's Commandery
No. 20, Knights Templar

SPRINGFIELD
MISSOURI



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Brief History of the Order.

Darius founded the "Knights of the East," afterwards known, on account of the color on their banners, as the "Knights of the Red Cross," and formed one of the appendant Orders of the Temple.

The historical circumstances connected with the Order will be found in Josephus, and in the third and fourth chapters of 1st Esdras.

"Sir Knights of St. John, of Jerusalem," were founded in 1048, and in 1209 were called "Knights of Rhodes," and in 1530 Emperor Charles V bestowed upon them the Island of Malta, and they have ever since been known as the "Knights of Malta." The color of their uniform is black. This is also one of the appendant Orders of the Temple

"Knights Templar" or "Knights of the Temple," whose uniform was white, was founded for the rescue of our Savior's tomb from the Moslems and they captured Jerusalem in 1099, and bound themselves to keep the way open for pilgrims to the Holy City, and they were then called the "Poor Fellow Soldiers of Jesus Christ."

In 1118 Baldwin I, King of Jerusalem, gave them a Chapel on the site of the old Temple, whence they were called the "Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon," and chose Hugh de Payens as their leader, under the title of "Master of the Temple." In 1128 they received their first regulations from the Pope, drawn up by St. Bernard, and continued to be governed by the noblest and bravest

Knights of which the Chivalry of Christendom could boast.

After the burning at the stake of Jacques de Molay, the Grand Masters were generally selected from among the most influential noblemen of France, until 1838, when the office passed to Sir Sidney Smith, of England.

Baldwin Commandery, of England, was established at Bristol, by the Knights who returned from Palestine with Richard I, from which, with Commanderies at Bath and York, was derived the material of the Order in this country.

The first grand encampment of the United States was formed by a convention of eight encampments, June 22, 1816, with the Honorable and Sir DeWitt Clinton as first Grand Master.

The first Grand Commandery for the State of Missouri was formed by representation from St. Louis Commandery, No. 1, and the Commanderies at Lexington and Weston, December 5, 1859, with Sir George W. Belt as the first Right Eminent Grand Commander.

Under a dispensation dated April 1, 1872, granted by Right Eminent F. M. Tufts, Grand Commander of Missouri, the following Sir Knights: Sir Fred King, Eminent Commander; Sir Washington Galland, Generalissimo; Sir Charles H. Evans, Captain General; and Sirs P. S. Sinclair, James, B. Stockton, F. J. Underwood, A. O. Fairchild, Allen McDowell, J. K. Tuttle, and other Sir Knights, organized SAINT JOHN'S COMMANDERY May 14, A. O. 754, A. D. 1872, and from the Grand Commandery of the State at its annual assembly in St. Louis, October 24, A. O. 754, A. D. 1872, this Commandery received its Charter.

BY-LAWS
ST. JOHN'S COMMANDERY NO. 20
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
SPRINGFIELD, MO.

ARTICLE I.

Name.

Section 1. This Commandery shall be known as St. John's Commandery No. 20, Knights Templar, and Appendant Orders, stationed at Springfield, Missouri, U. S. A.

ARTICLE II.

Officers and Elections.

Section 1. The officers shall be: Commander; Generalissimo; Captain General; Senior Warden; Junior Warden; Prelate; Treasurer; Recorder; Standard Bearer; Sword Bearer; Warder; Sentinel. To which may be added three Guards and an Organist.

Section 2. The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Prelate, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected by ballot at the first stated conclave in December of each year. A majority of all votes present shall be necessary to a choice, and no blank ballot shall be counted. The Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, Warder, Sentinel, Guards and Organist shall be appointed by the Commander elect.

Section 3. All elected and appointed officers, when installed, shall hold their offices for a period of one year, or until their successors are elected or appointed and installed.

Section 4. The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General shall constitute a Board of Trus-

tees, and their duties shall be as hereinafter provided.

Section 5. The installation of officers shall take place at the first conclave in January, unless otherwise directed by the Commandery.

ARTICLE III.

Conclaves.

Section 1. The stated conclaves of this Commandery shall be held on the fourth Monday of each month, except the month of December, in which month they shall be held on the first Tuesday and fourth Monday; provided that stated conclaves of July and August may be omitted by the affirmative vote of a majority of those present at the regular conclave in June.

Section 2. Special Conclaves may be called by the Commander, or in his absence, by the next officer in rank, but no business shall be transacted at such special conclave, except as may be named in the notice of such conclave.

Section 3. The hour of stated conclaves shall be 7:30 p. m.

ARTICLE IV.

Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The several officers of this Commandery shall perform the duties of their respective stations as indicated in the several charges, and as handed down by the usages and traditions of the Order; and when this Article is silent, or in conflict, the Consti-

tution and Laws of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and the Grand Commandery of Missouri shall prevail.

Section 2. The Treasurer, in addition to the duties contemplated in Section 1 of this Article, shall annually, at the first stated conclave in January, or when required by the Commander, present a detailed statement of all receipts and expenditures, and the amount of money remaining in his hands. He shall receive in charge the funds of the Commandery, and shall deposit same in the name of the Commandery in some bank or trust company, to be designated by the Commandery. He shall keep a just and accurate account of the same, pay all warrants issued by the Commandery, to the person mentioned in said warrant or order, when duly signed by the Recorder and Commander and attested by the seal.

Section 3. The Recorder, in addition to the duties contemplated by Section 1 of this Article, shall, at the first stated conclave in January of each year, submit an annual report, embracing the financial condition of the Commandery, the receipts and expenditures, a synopsis of the work done, together with such other information as may be of interest to the members, and submit his books and accounts for examination when required by the Commandery. He shall keep a proper record of the proceedings of the Commandery, and keep an accurate account with the individual members, and Grand Commandery; receive all moneys due the Commandery, and pay the same over promptly each month to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor. He shall show on the records of each stated conclave, the funds received

since the previous conclave, and the net balance on hand at each conclave.

Section 4. The Treasurer and Recorder, immediately after installation each year, shall execute separate bonds to the Commandery for the faithful discharge of their respective duties, the amount thereof to be specified by the Trustees, and the said bonds to be approved by the Trustees.

Section 5. The Sentinel shall perform such duties as are required by the traditions of the Order. He shall be custodian of the paraphernalia, regalia and jewels of the Commandery; he shall see that the property is kept in a suitable place and in good condition. He shall see that the working paraphernalia is in proper place when wanted, and for his services shall receive the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) for each regular or special conclave which he may attend, and One Dollar (\$1.00) additional for each conclave which he may attend where there is work in the Red Cross, Temple or Malta Degrees.

Section 6. The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General shall constitute a standing committee to adjust all differences arising between members, or to bring them before the Commandery for adjudication, and shall act as a relief committee.

Section 7. The Trustees shall have special charge of the property and financial interests of the Commandery, and pass upon all bills, claims or demands against the Commandery. They shall constitute a supply and uniform committee. They shall contract for all uniforms, and such contract shall not be awarded to any manufacturer or dealer, until after a

fair competition of not less than two competitors. Said contract must be ratified by the Commandery before it shall become binding. They shall also perform such other duties as may be ordered by the Commandery.

Section 8. The incoming Commander each year shall appoint an Auditing Committee who shall, during the month of January, audit the books of the Treasurer and Recorder, and report promptly to the Commandery.

Section 9. The Commander, and in his absence the officer next in rank and entitled to exercise the powers and duties of the Commander, shall have power in case of sickness and death of any member of the Commandery and when in his opinion it is necessary, or when desired by members of the family of the sick or deceased member, to appoint suitable guards and watches, and to order the attendance of such guards and watches from among the members of the Commandery, upon such sick or deceased member and any member failing to obey such orders, without sufficient excuse, shall be deemed guilty of conduct unbecoming a Knight Templar and shall be subjected to such charges, trials and penalties as may be provided by the conditions of the Grand Encampment, or the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri, for conduct unbecoming a Knight Templar.

Section 10. The Recorder shall receive a fee of Three Dollars (\$3.00) for each regular conclave which he shall attend and a fee of One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) for each special conclave which

he shall attend except those called for drill or funeral duty.

Section 11. The Recorder, on the death of any member of this Commandery shall set aside a page of the records as a memorial page, on which shall be inscribed a passion cross, and a complete Masonic record of the deceased, giving his age, date of his reception of the order of the Red Cross, Knight Templar and Knight of Malta. Also any official position he may have held in the Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council or Commandery, together with the name of the Lodge and Chapter of which he was a member at the time of his death.

ARTICLE V.

Fees and Dues

Section 1. The fees for the Orders of the Red Cross, Knights Templar and Knights of Malta shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) payable Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) accompanying the petition and Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) before the order of the Temple is conferred. The sum shall include a Templar uniform, consisting of Templar dress coat, sword, sword case, belt, baldric, chapeaux, fatigue cap and suit case, as prescribed by the Grand Commandery, to each individual candidate, and the Commandery shall not, on any pretext whatever, refund or remit in any way, directly or indirectly, to any candidate, any portion of the fees.

Section 2. Any companion Royal Arch Mason, having been elected to receive the orders, and failing to present himself to receive the same within twelve

(12) months after receiving notice of his election, it shall be void.

Section 3. The annual dues of this Commandery shall be Three Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3.50) payable in advance on January 1st of each year, and shall become delinquent on December 31st of the same year.

ARTICLE VI.

Life Membership.

Section 1. Any member of this Commandery may at any time, purchase a life membership, exempting him from further payment of dues, upon the payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) in cash; or, when he has paid dues to this Commandery for twenty-five (25) consecutive years, he may secure such life membership on payment of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) in cash; Provided, that he shall not be in arrears at the time of taking out said life membership.

Section 2. Nothing hereinafter contained shall be construed to prevent a life member from taking his dimitt; but when a dimitt is granted to a Life Member it is agreed and accepted by him that he voluntarily relinquishes all his rights and interests in the payment made therefor.

ARTICLE VII.

Petitions.

Section 1. All petitions for the Orders, and all applications for membership, shall be made at a stated Conclave, in writing, signed by the petitioner

or applicant, and recommended by two members of this Commandery. Such petition shall be in form as prescribed by the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri. Each petition or application, if received shall be referred to a special committee of three to be appointed by the Commander, who shall faithfully investigate the character of the person signing the same and report thereon in writing as soon as practicable; Provided, that no report shall be made upon such petition or application in less than two weeks from the date of its presentation.

Section 2. No petition for the orders shall be received, unless the petitioner shall have resided one year within the state, six months of which shall be within the jurisdiction of this Commandery.

Section 3. No petition of a rejected applicant for orders shall be received until six months have elapsed from the date of his rejection, except that a rejected applicant for membership may re-petition at any stated conclave.

Section 4. A member in good standing, upon payment of his dues, shall be permitted to dimit by application in writing.

Section 5. A ballot shall be taken on each petition for the orders or membership, and a unanimous favorable ballot shall be necessary to elect. In balloting on a petition, if only one black ball appears, the Commander may direct that another ballot be taken, before any member of the Commandery has left the Asylum; but if on the second ballot one black ball again appears, the candidate shall be declared rejected.

Section 6. Petitions for membership must be accompanied by a dimit or certificate of good standing from the Commandery to which the petitioner formerly belonged, and a fee of \$2.00. No fee shall be required, however, if the dimit has been in force for less than twelve months.

Section 7. Before acting on any petition by dimit, the applicant must visit the Temple in full Templar uniform, and be inspected by the Captain General, who shall report to the Temple the condition of the applicants uniform and equipment.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of each member of this Commandery to deposit with the Recorder the address of his Blue Lodge and Chapter membership.

ARTICLE VIII.

Trials. Penalties.

Section 1. The manner and form of trials and appeals shall be as provided by the Grand Commandery of Missouri. When a Knight Templar is on trial for unknighly conduct, it shall require a three-fourths vote to establish guilt, and a majority vote to fix the penalty. The penalty for unknighly conduct shall be expulsion, indefinite suspension, definite suspension, or reprimand. When a Knight Templar has been expelled or suspended for unknighly conduct he may be restored to good standing and membership upon petition and unanimous ballot. A majority ballot shall restore him to good standing in the order, but not to membership in this Commandery.

Section 2. When a member is suspended or expelled in his Blue Lodge or Chapter, he shall be

thereby suspended or expelled by this Commandery.

Section 3. Whenever a member shall neglect to pay his dues after the same become delinquent, the Recorder, by order of the Commander, shall notify each member in writing to appear at a stated conclave of the Commandery and show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues. Should the member fail to appear and show cause, he may be suspended by a majority vote of the Commandery. Such vote shall be by paper ballot. The Recorder shall serve such notice to appear and show cause ten days before the conclave, at which the member is to appear by registered letter addressed to the last known address of such delinquent. But should the residence of the member be unknown, or if he does not reside within the city of Springfield, Mo., such notice shall be sent to the last known post office address of such member, twenty days before the date of the trial at which he is required to appear. Payment of dues before halloot shall stop all proceedings, and if paid within one year after suspension it shall restore to membership without further action. If paid after one year from date of suspension it shall require a petition and majority vote to restore to membership.

ARTICLE IX.

Uniforms, Drills and Inspection.

Section 1. The uniform of this Commandery shall be such as is prescribed by the Grand Commandery laws.

Section 2. The price of uniforms to the Commandery, including coats, shall not exceed Fifty-two Dollars (\$52 00). All uniforms shall be of the same style, quality, kind of goods, swords, etc. and of the same price as fixed by the Trustees. No member shall be allowed accessories, except as rank may entitle, nor shall members be permitted to pay for any extras to uniform.

Section 3. Every member of this Commandery must be absolute owner, and in possession of, the regulation uniform and equipment, and must keep himself so supplied while he remains a member. Failing to do so he shall be suspended, and shall remain suspended until he complies with this by-law.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Commander to order an inspection and drill of the members of this Commandery at least four times in each year, and oftener if he shall deem it necessary. He may designate that the inspection and drill shall be in full uniform and every member must attend unless excused by the Commander.

ARTICLE X.

Miscellaneous.

Section 1. This Commandery may elect Sir Knights of other Templar bodies to honorary membership. Such election, however, does not confer the right to vote, or any rank or standing therein, but shall be purely complimentary.

Section 2. No moneys shall be appropriated out of the Treasury of this Commandery for other than

regular Commandery purposes except by a two-thirds vote of all of the members present, and all motions and resolutions so appropriating money, except for Commandery purposes, shall lay over one regular conclave.

Section 3. Any member may dimit from this Commandery by making application therefor in writing, and paying all dues against him. Neither of the first three officers, who shall have been elected and installed, can resign or dimit during the term for which they have been elected.

Section 4. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any stated conclave by a two-thirds vote of all the members present, provided such alteration or amendment shall have been presented in writing, and read at a stated conclave at least four weeks prior to the date upon which action is to be taken. The said amendments or alterations, however, shall not become operative until approved by the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri.

Section 5. All by-laws heretofore adopted by this Commandery are hereby repealed.

Order of Business.

Section 1. At every conclave of this Commandery, it shall be opened in one of the Orders.

Section 2. The following shall be the order of business:

1. Reading of unapproved minutes.
2. Unfinished business.
3. Report of committees on petitions.
4. Balloting.
5. Petitions presented.
6. Reports of standing committees
7. Reports of select committees
8. Motions and resolutions in writing.
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Conferring Orders.

Section 3. All committees shall, unless otherwise ordered, be appointed by the Commander.

Section 4. Every member desiring to speak shall rise and address the Commander as "Eminent Sir" and throughout his remarks shall deport himself in a knightly manner.

Section 5. While a member is speaking, no one will be permitted to enter or leave the Asylum, and all present shall conduct themselves with knightly decorum.

Section 6. No member shall vote on a question in which he is personally interested.

Section 7. A motion to reconsider shall not be entertained, except when moved and seconded by members who voted with the majority, and then only when made at the same conclave, or before the action of the Commandery has gone into effect.

Section 8. Every motion, when required, shall be reduced to writing.

Section 9. All reports of committees must be in writing and signed by a majority of the committee.

Section 10. In all respects, where the same do not conflict with the by-laws of this Commandery, or the usages or the laws of the Order, the general rules of deliberative bodies shall be applicable in Commandery proceedings.

Section 11. Every member of this Commandery shall appear at the conclaves in uniform, unless specially excused by the Commander.

Statistical Table 1872-1913

Commander	Year	Knighted	On Dmmt	Reinstated	Total	Suspended	Dmited	Died	Total	Gain	Loss	Total Members
U. D. , April 1st.....	1872	11	2		13				1	1	11	20
Fred King.....	1873	12	1		13			1	1	8		31
F. J. Underwood.....	1874	8	1		9			1	1	7	2	39
Job Newton.....	1875	5	1		5		7		7			37
B F Lawson.....	1876	3	1		4				1	4		41
W A Hall.....	1877	2	1		2		1		1	1		42
W A Hall.....	1878	4	1		5		2		2	5		47
W A Hall.....	1879	3	1		4		2		9	2		49
W A Hall.....	1880	8	1		9		9		9	5		49
W A Hall.....	1881	3	4		7		2		2	4		54
E. D. Parce.....	1882	6			6		1		2	4		55
W. A Hall.....	1883	8	3		11	1	1		10	1		57
W. A Hall.....	1884	0	3		3	2	1		3	7		58
W. A Thorns.....	1885	9			9		1		2	7		65
W. A Hall.....	1886	8	6		14	4	1		16	4	2	67
W. A Hall.....	1887	2	2		4		1		0	4		76
W. A Hall.....	1888	7	4		11		1		2	9		80
W T Bigbee.....	1889	11			11		4		7	4		90
H. L. Bosworth.....	1890	8	4		12		2		2	10		105
H. L. Bosworth.....	1891	12	3	1	16		1		1	15		105
E. S. Finch.....	1892	11	7		18		4		4	14		119
H W. Diggins.....	1893	7	9		16	3	5	2	10	6		125

Commander	Year	Knighted	On Dmmt	Reinstated	Total	Suspended	Dmited	Died	Total	Gain	Loss	Total Members
H. E Nearing.....	1894	5	3		8	7	6		13		5	120
J. R Groves.....	1895	12	1		13	8	3	1	4	9	3	129
J T. Neville.....	1896	3	3		6	8	4	2	9			126
A A. Marzetti.....	1897	6	2		8	4	2	1	8			126
A A. Marzetti.....	1898	0	2	1	3	2	4	2	8	5		121
P. A. Day.....	1899	10	1		11	19	1	2	22	11		110
R. E Lee.....	1900	5	3		9	1	6	2	9			110
J. F. Carnack.....	1901	10	2	3	15	7	7	1	8	7		117
Bert S Lee.....	1902	12	3	3	18	1	1	2	3	15		133
Ely Paxson.....	1903	13	2	1	16	11	3	1	15	1		134
H. B. Schafer.....	1904	17	2	6	25	1	3	1	5	20		154
Geo. Arnold.....	1905	14	3	2	19	6	9	3	18	14		168
M. V. Aushman.....	1906	14	2	3	19	4	9	3	5	25		169
J. L. Heckenlively.....	1907	19	9	2	30	1	2	2	5	15		194
D. B. Farnsworth.....	1908	13	7	1	20	3	2	5	5	15		209
D T. Kizer.....	1909	17	1	1	19	4	3	5	12	7		216
Fred Platte, Jr.....	1910	21	2	2	25	1	1	2	3	22		238
C. H Young.....	1911	23	4	2	29	12	4	3	19	10		248
A. C. Dally.....	1912	23	4	3	30	1	5	4	4	20		268
A. C Dally.....	1913	42	8	3	53			2	2	51		319