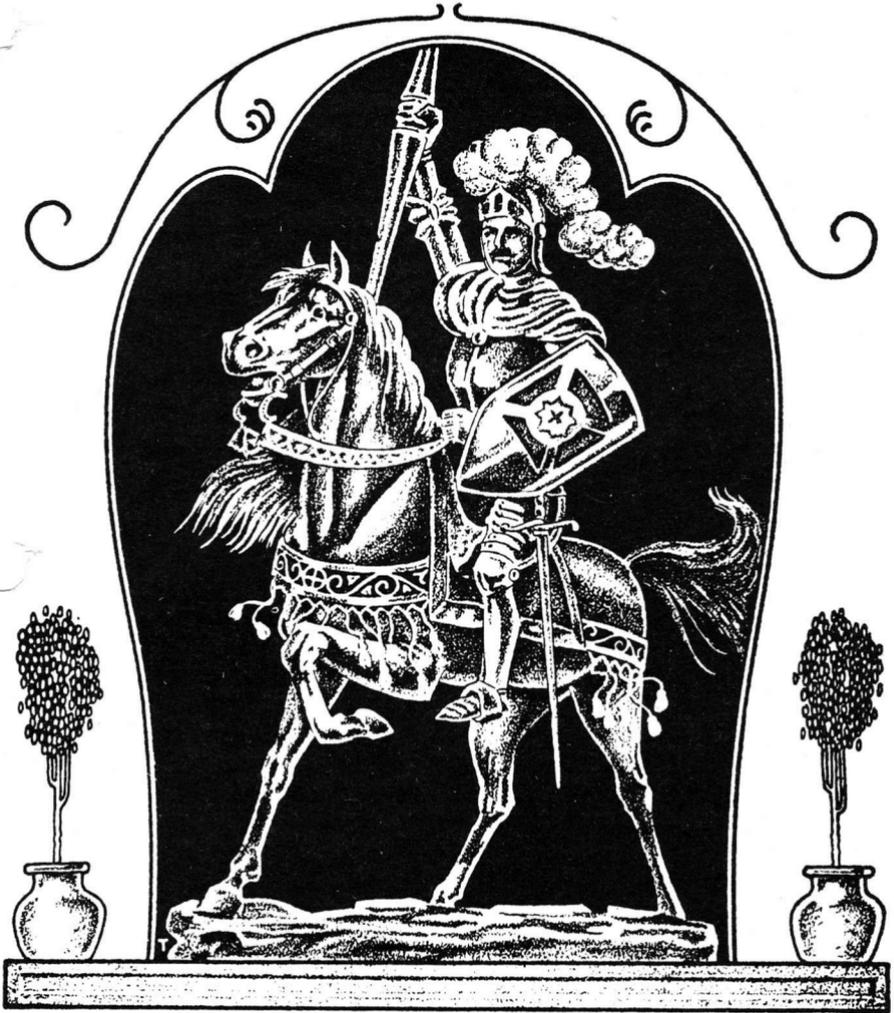


DIGEST
of the
Approved Decisions of the Grand Masters
of the
Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
of the
United States of America
1816 to 1988

DIGEST

Of the Approved Decisions of the Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, together with a Chronological History of the Establishment and Development of Templar Jurisprudence.



Compiled for the use and information of the Officers and Members
of the Grand Encampment, Grand Commanderies, Constituent
and Subordinate Commanderies

By

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DIGEST OF APPROVED DECISIONS of the GRAND MASTERS 1816 to 1988

AFFILIATION

Decision No. 1 [Statutes: Section 194]

A member of the Preceptory of Newfoundland may affiliate with a Commandery in Louisiana, on showing that he is in good standing in the prerequisite bodies. He may apply for membership by demit, or by certificate of good standing, with application to his Preceptory for a demit, or its equivalent, as provided by Section 194 of our Statutes. (*1958, p. 267, No. 5, Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

AMENDMENTS

Decision No. 2 [Constitution: Sections 3 and 41(b) and (d)]

When the Grand Encampment amends or revises its laws, the Statutes and Regulations of a Grand Commandery in conflict therewith should be promptly made to conform, regardless of any local requirement that amendments shall lie over for a year before action may be taken. (*1937, p. 330, No. 14, Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 3 [Constitution: Sections 29(e) and 85]

Proposed constitutional amendments, if properly filed, do not die with their proposer. They must be acted upon if the proposer is dead. (*1877, p. 72, No. 34, James Herron Hopkins, G.M.*)

Decision No. 4 [Constitution: Sections 3, 29(e) and 85]

On revision of the law, those parts not changed are construed as before. (*1901, pp. 59 and 160, No. 5, Reuben Hedley Lloyd, G.M.*)

Decision No. 5 [Constitution: Sections 2 and 85]

A Grand Commandery, as such, is not a member of the Grand Encampment, and it cannot propose amendments. (*1919, p. 311, No. 33, Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 6 [Constitution: Section 85]

When the Proceedings is silent on the number of votes cast on an amendment to the Constitution or Ritual requiring a majority of three-fourths to adopt, and no division is called for, upon the declaration of the Grand Master that "the amendment is adopted," it will be presumed that it had been legally adopted. (1922, p. 270, No. 5, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 7

The Grand Master may correct an obvious clerical error in the legislation adopted. Correction of clerical error must be by unanimous consent of the Grand Encampment. (1952, p. 156, No. 4, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

APPEALS**Decision No. 8 [Constitution: Sections 7, 39, 42 and 68]**

Appeals from Commanderies under Grand Jurisdiction go to the Grand Commandery and those under the Grand Encampment to that body. (1919, p. 293, No. 11, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 9 [Constitution: Section 68]

An aggrieved member of a Subordinate Commandery has a right to appeal to the Grand Encampment. (1829, p. 6, *Rev. Jonathan Nye, G.M.*)

Decision No. 10 [Constitution: Sections 41(c) and (g)]

A controversy in a Grand Commandery relative to the creation of a new Commandery cannot be appealed to the Grand Master. (1925, p. 414, No. 37, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC**Decision No. 11 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]**

Except for church and funeral occasions, public appearances are at the discretion of the Grand Commander. (1940, p. 277, No. 17, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 12 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

The word "public" as used in Templar laws authorizing a Commandery to appear in public (funeral occasions and religious services excepted) under a

Dispensation issued by the Grand Commander, should be construed to refer to any meeting place outside of the asylum of the Commandery.

Thus a visitation of a Commandery or its drill patrol in uniform to a Lodge or Chapter would constitute an appearance in public. (1925, p. 398, No. 14, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 13 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

The Grand Commander may give Dispensation to a Commandery to appear in full Templar dress in Lodge or Chapter. Such occasions are public appearances. (1937, p. 331, No. 15, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*; 1940, p. 339, No. 1, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 14 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

A visitation of an individual Sir Knight in uniform to a Lodge or Chapter for the purpose of an address is not a public appearance requiring a Dispensation.

Only in cases where a Commandery desires to visit a Lodge or Chapter is it necessary to secure a Dispensation. (1940, p. 275, No. 8 and p. 339 No. 1, *Mark Norris, G.M.*; 1946, p. 62, No. 2, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 15 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

There is no Templar prohibition upon the issuance by the Grand Commander of a Dispensation to a Commandery to appear in full Templar uniform in a parade held as a part of National Defense Day exercises. The issuance of Dispensation to appear in Templar uniform in public is a matter resting entirely in the discretion of the Grand Commander. The question of appropriateness of participation by a Commandery in a public parade is a matter determinable by each Grand Commander. (1925, p. 413, No. 36a, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 16 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

The Grand Commander need not issue a Dispensation to a Commandery permitting the boys of a Chapter of the Order of DeMolay to march on the street with a Commandery and attend divine services at church on Easter Sunday, as the Grand Commandery has no control over the Order of DeMolay, and therefore cannot issue a Dispensation for it to appear in public. No Dispensation is necessary for a Commandery to attend divine services or funerals. At other times it is solely for the Grand Commander to determine what he considers a proper occasion for a Commandery to appear in public in Templar uniform, and his decision is not subject to review. (1931, pp. 263 and 268, Nos. 5 and 10, *William Leslie Sharp, G.M.*)

Decision No. 17 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

It is entirely proper for a Grand Commander to grant a Dispensation for a Commandery to appear in uniform at a Blue Lodge public function with Chapter members, and put on a drill, form a triangle, receive the Grand Commander through the lines, and other strictly tactical maneuvers. (1937, p. 331, No. 15, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 18 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

The Grand Commander has authority to issue a Dispensation to a Commandery to hold a special service for the purpose of sponsoring a sacred oratorio, at which time a free-will offering will be taken for the benefit of the British War Sufferers. Entire proceeds to be devoted to this cause. The determination of what is a proper occasion for a Commandery to appear in public belongs to the Grand Commander. (1943, p. 367, No. 1, *Harry Gilmore Pollard, G.M.*)

Decision No. 19 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

- Attendance of the members of a Commandery in Templar uniform at the installation of an officer of the Social Order of the Beauceant in the asylum of Commandery is considered "public appearance" of the Commandery. (Any occasion is "public" to which the public is invited, regardless of where held.) (1928, p. 310, No. 9, *George William Vallery, G.M.*; 1937, p. 338, No. 23, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 20 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

The Grand Master, upon being advised that it is unlawful in the Republic of Mexico for any person to wear a uniform in public other than the military of the Republic or the police force of the municipalities therein, issued an edict directing the Commanderies of Mexico to refrain from any sort of public appearance. (1928, p. 316, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

Decision No. 21 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

The Grand Commander may issue a Dispensation to a Constituent Commandery to appear as escort at a religious pageant conducted under the auspices of several Protestant churches. (1952, p. 241, No. 22, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 22 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

A Dispensation to appear in Templar uniform as escort to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons at the laying of a cornerstone of a new Presbyterian church on Sunday, being closely allied with and being a religious service, was proper. (1955, p. 184, No. 1, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 23 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

A Dispensation from the Grand Commander is necessary for a Commandery to act as escort to the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. for the purpose of laying a cornerstone for a building of the University of Nevada, which was held on Sunday.

Whether or not the Grand Commander deemed it a proper occasion for a public appearance rests in his exclusive determination and judgment. He does not need permission of the Grand Master, nor is he accountable to him in either granting or refusing the Dispensation. (1958, p. 290, No. 27, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 24 [Constitution: Section 216]

A Knights Templar Drill Team may not put on a drill in public costumed in Malta Robes. Such a drill in public requires the prescribed Templar uniform. (1958, p. 293, No. 31, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

APPENDANT ORDERS**Decision No. 25** [Constitution: Section 1]

Whatever may have been the recognized or accepted practice in years gone by, there is now no warrant for the use of the words, "and Appendant Orders" in the title of a Commandery or in conjunction with any Templar body. (1925, p. 411, No. 34, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS**Decision No. 26** [Statutes: Section 237]

Appointive officers carry no past rank. A Commander of a Commandery U.D. is not a Past Commander when his term expires. (1904, p. 188, No. 1, *Henry Bates Stoddard, G.M.*)

ASSESSMENTS**Decision No. 27** [Constitution: Section 10]

Only the Grand Encampment is vested with the power to levy assessments on members without regard to purpose of such assessments. No grant of power is given Grand Commanderies to levy assessments on its members except for its support. (1949, p. 216, No. 10, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 28 [Constitution: Section 18½]

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation assessment applies to the entire membership. Those holding life membership in a Commandery are subject to the assessment, as are those excused from the payment of dues because of indigence, as no exception of any class of membership is provided in Section 18½ of the Constitution. If it is not paid by the member it must be paid either by the Grand Commandery or the Constituent Commandery out of its own treasury. (1958, p. 271, No. 11, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*; 1961, p. 45, No. 12, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Note: Section 18½ has since been amended to exempt the following from paying the assessment:

- a. Members whose dues have been remitted because of their inability to pay the same;
- b. Members who have purchased Life Sponsorship Certificates; and
- c. Members who are Patrons or Associate Patrons of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

BALLOT**Decision No. 29** [Constitution: Section 80; Statutes: Sections 180 through 185]

There is nothing in Templar law to prevent a Commandery from considering and balloting on two or more petitions, regularly presented, en masse.

If such a ballot is unanimous, each petitioner shall be declared elected; if not, there must be a re-ballot upon each petition separately. (1925, p. 413, No. 36, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 30 [Statutes: Section 184]

Where the word "ballot" is used in Templar law it means a secret ballot; when the language of the statute is by "vote," a show of hands is the proper procedure. (1937, p. 339, No. 23, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 31 [Statutes: Sections 183 and 187]

A visiting Templar has no right to vote upon a petition for membership in the Commandery, or upon any subject which affects the Commandery.

None but members of the Commandery have a right to cast a ballot. (1928, p. 311, No. 10, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

Decision No. 32 [Constitution: Section 23(j)2]

The Grand Master has authority to issue a Dispensation to receive a petition and ballot thereon at the same Stated Conclave, or at Special Conclaves, after such notice as he may deem proper. No authority exists to enact a by-law by which a Subordinate Commandery can accomplish such result without a Dispensation. (1952, P. 232, No. 15, Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.)

Note: Decision was amended to include Special Conclaves in accordance with amendment to Constitution in 1970.

Decision No. 33 [Statutes: Sections 180 and 182]

The report of the Investigating Committee of a Commandery upon a petition cannot be confined to the Commander and Recorder, but must be presented to the Commandery before the ballot is taken. (1952, p. 244, No. 26, Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.)

Decision No. 34 [Constitution: Sections 48(f)2 and 80]

Section 48(f)2 covers balloting on petitions "at the same Conclave or Special Conclaves," while Section 80 deals with the "same Conclave," only.

The above sections specifically provide that notice be given of balloting on petitions at the same Conclave and at all Special Conclaves. The form and content of the notice to be given is not prescribed by statute, but these matters are in the discretion of the authority granting the Dispensation. It is better practice for the Dispensation to name the petitioners to be balloted upon, but the notice of the Conclave need not contain their names unless the Dispensation so directs. (1961, p. 42, No. 10, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.)

BANNERS**Decision No. 35**

Banners should not be officially displayed in the asylum except as provision for their display is made in the Constitution, Statutes or Ritual of our Order. (1952, p. 244, No. 27, Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.)

BIBLE**Decision No. 36**

For Templar ceremonies or ritualistic work, any of the several translations of Bible or Testament used by the clergy may be used by Commanderies or Grand

Commanderies, and the option or choice may be individually exercised by the Prelate or Grand Prelate holding office at the time. (1970, P. 538, No. 6, *John Lawton Crofts, G.M.*)

BONDS

Decision No. 37 [Constitution: Section 75]

The intent of Section 75 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment is that Recorders and Treasurers of Commanderies shall be bonded, and that such bonding is intended to be mandatory. This provision, however, is not self-executing.

It is to be executed under such "regulations" as the Grand Commandery may enact for Constituent Commanderies of their several jurisdictions.

In cases where Grand Commanderies have failed to enact such regulations, the Grand Commander, under Sections 48(a) and (e) of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, has authority to require that Recorders and Treasurers be bonded, and under Section 48(d) has authority to enforce his order so requiring. (1937, p. 347, No. 4, *Mark Norris, Acting G.M.*)

BY-LAWS

Decision No. 38 [Statutes: Sections 155 and 168]

A Commandery U.D. cannot adopt By-Laws but it may prescribe rules for its government while under Dispensation. After being constituted, a Commandery may adopt By-Laws, revise or amend the same, subject to the approval of the Grand Encampment or Grand Commandery. (1925, p. 388, No. 3, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 39 [Constitution: Section 71; Statutes: Section 168]

Neither the Grand Commander nor the Grand Master can set aside the By-Laws of a Commandery that have been regularly adopted and which conform to the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. (1916, pp. 31 and 277, No. 3, *Arthur MacArthur, G.M.*; 1919, pp. 78, 79 and 325, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*; 1934, p. 219, *Andrew Davison Agnew, Acting G.M.*)

CANDIDATES

Decision No. 40 [Statutes: Section 177]

Any candidate who signs a petition for membership and agrees to the profession of faith therein, can become a member. (1916, p. 294, No. 23, *Arthur MacArthur, G.M.*)

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Decision No. 41 [Statutes: Section 177]

A petitioner for the Orders was elected to and received the same on the assumption that he was a member in good standing in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Actually, at the time of his petition and election he had been demitted from his Royal Arch Chapter. After the receipt of the Orders it was voted to reinstate him in the Chapter, but the same apparently was not legally accomplished. Under this state of facts, the Grand Master held that the Companion was illegally Knighted, and the defects in the Knighting never having been cured by healing, he never became a Knight Templar. (1925, p. 407, No. 28, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 42

Membership in a Scottish Chapter qualifies one to make application for membership in a Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment. (1961, p. 48, No. 18, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Decision No. 43

Membership in a Chapter chartered by the Grand Chapter of England qualifies one to make application for membership in a Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment. (1967, p. 151, No. 7, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

CHARGES

Decision No. 44 [Constitution: Section 71(a)]

If peaceful means will not cure the trouble in case of disobedience, a Commander may enforce his orders by bringing charges. (1877, p. 65, No. 31, *James Herron Hopkins, G.M.*)

CHARTER

Decision No. 45 [Constitution: Section 23]

A Commandery failing to enforce the law of the Grand Encampment or of the Grand Commandery of which it is a Subordinate, may have its Charter arrested. (1925, p. 400, No. 17, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 46

1. The disposition of property which was acquired by the Grand Commandery from a Commandery whose Charter had been arrested is entirely within the discretion of that Grand Commandery.

2. After a lapse of eight years or more, during which former members have been scattered or affiliated elsewhere, restoration of the old Charter and of the old Commandery Number would not be proper. (1955, pp. 280 and 281, No. 33, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 47

A Commandery chartered by the Grand Encampment comes under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery when formed in the same State or Territory. When the Grand Commandery is formed, it should issue Charters to all Commanderies within its territorial jurisdiction. However, as this matter pertains wholly to the internal affairs of the Grand Commandery, the order to issue Charters to its Constituent Commanderies should properly be made by its Grand Commander and not by the Grand Master. (1958, p. 270, No. 9, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 48 [Statutes: Section 218]

A true copy of a Commandery Charter rather than the original Charter will satisfy the requirements of Section 218 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment, subject to the following stipulations:

1. That the decision to copy and store the original Charter shall have been made by the Commandery in Stated Conclave.
2. That the true copy to be substituted shall carry in a margin or on the reverse side a certification by the Commander and Recorder that it is such.
3. That the Commandery records shall show in whose personal custody and in what safe place the original Charter is currently stored. (1970, p. 539, No. 7, *John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.*)

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Decision No. 49

It is not necessary to open the Commandery in Special Conclave in order to conduct Christmas Observance. The family and friends of the Sir Knights present may attend the Christmas service. (1937, p. 322, No. 5, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

COLOR

Decision No. 50

The Grand Master decided that on Templar stationery the proper color was royal purple for the Grand Encampment, bright red for Grand Commanderies and emerald green for Commanderies. (1925, p. 387, No. 1, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

COMMANDERS

Decision No. 51 [Constitution: Section 71(a)]

The Commander may enforce his orders in case of disobedience by bringing charges. (1877, p. 65, No. 31, *James Herron Hopkins, G.M.*)

Decision No. 52

The Commander may delegate officers and members to confer Orders under his supervision. (1919, p. 299, No. 21, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 53 [Constitution: Section 72]

One who succeeds to the office of Commander under Section 72 of the Constitution and who serves the remainder of the term of office would become a Past Commander and a permanent member of the Grand Commandery. (1949, p. 213, No. 4, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 54

Any quasi-Templar organization which is not specifically recognized by Templar Law must be subject to the approval, jurisdiction, direction and control of the Commander on behalf of his Commandery.

Note: The Commander cannot dissolve drill corps unless so authorized by the Commandery. (1952, p. 245, No. 28, *William Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 55

The Commander, elected and installed at the time the Commandery is constituted, and serving until the annual election of officers, acquires the rank of Past Commander. (1958, p. 284, No. 18, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 56 [Statutes: Section 235]

The phrase "term of service," as used in Section 235 of the Statutes, means the full term for which the officer was installed. It makes no difference how brief the term may be, provided the officer serves to the end of the term. (1952, p. 86, No. 21, *William Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*; 1961, p. 42, No. 9, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Decision No. 57

An officer who shows an utter lack of interest, doesn't attend and is an example of gross negligence, may be removed from his office by the Commander following a formal "decision" by the Commander finding unknighly conduct by

reason of nonfeasance, misfeasance and/or malfeasance in the performance of the duties of the office of the offending officer. There is no appeal to the Commandery from such a "decision," but such action by the Commander shall not affect the standing in the Order of such officer or his membership in the Commandery. Such removal may also be ordered by the Grand Commander, for the same reason and within the same limitations.

The authority to remove an officer for non-performance of official duties rises from the broad authority of the Grand Commander and the Commander, under the vertical axis of power and authority established by Templar laws, to govern his respective level of Templar jurisdiction. Such authority, when related to the duty of seeing that Templar laws are observed, and in the absence of arbitrary conduct by the presiding officer, is practically unlimited.

In the exercise of such authority, the Commander must always be concerned for the good of the Order, and such final step as removal of an officer should be taken as a last resort. It should be only rarely that an officer will not either respond to the needs of the office he has sworn to perform to the best of his ability or consent to resign voluntarily. Even then, the Commander should give written notice to the offending officer to appear at a time and place and justify his conduct, and a third member should be present at such hearing; also the Grand Commander should be informed.

While the Grand Commander of the jurisdiction and the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment have similar authority with regard to all officers within their areas of command, it seems best that problems be solved where they exist and not allowed to fester while waiting for action by some higher authority. The Commander has the tools to handle matters at the local level, and he should not expect or invite outside intervention to solve his own problems. (1970, p. 535, No. 4, *John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.*)

COMMANDERIES

Decision No. 58 [Statutes: Sections 162 and 163]

A Commandery chartered by a Grand Commandery should not be constituted until fully equipped with an asylum and the necessary number of uniformed Knights, and until it has complied with the laws of the Grand Encampment and of the Grand Commandery. (1922, pp. 283 and 284, No. 19 *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 59 [Constitution: Section 41(g); Statutes: Section 147]

Territorial jurisdiction of Commanderies is determined by the action of the Grand Commandery of the state, if there is one. If not, the jurisdiction of a Subordinate Commandery is half way to the next Commandery. (1847, p. 115, *Archibald Bull, G.M.*)

Decision No. 60 [Constitution: Section 68]

Appeals from Commanderies under Grand jurisdiction go to the Grand Commandery, those under the Grand Encampment to that body. (1919, p. 293, No. 11, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 61

In the absence of legislation by the Grand Commandery regulating the question, a Commandery may arrange entertainments for the purpose of raising funds to aid in sending a band and drill team to the Triennial Conclave, provided the entertainment is of such character as not to reflect upon the dignity of the Order. (1925, p. 412, No. 35, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 62

Until lawful information has been brought to the attention of a Commandery that a member has been suspended in Lodge or Chapter, he is entitled to be considered in good standing. Therefore, a Commandery cannot require its members to exhibit to the Recorder receipts for dues in Lodge and Chapter. (1919, p. 303, No. 30, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 63 RECEIVED

Four Sir Knights of Tampico Commandery No. 1 (a Subordinate Commandery) over eighty years of age, who have not been heard from for twenty years, and concerning whom diligent search and inquiry (including mailing of notice to the last known address) yields no information, should be dropped from the rolls by Tampico Commandery No. 1, and no further dues should be paid to the Grand Encampment on their behalf by such Subordinate Commandery. (1952, p. 248, No. 29, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 64

The Statutes of the Grand Encampment contain no provisions as to the right of Constituent Commanderies to own and transfer real estate. The transfer of title to real estate is governed by the statutes of the State in which it is located. (1961, p. 49, No. 19, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

COMMANDERIES U.D.**Decision No. 65**

A Commandery having once existed U.D. at Nashville, Tennessee, but having ceased to exist for years, could not be revived under the old Dispensation, but must proceed anew. (1844, p. 90, *James Madison Allen, G.M.*)

Decision No. 66 [Constitution: Section 48(c)1]

Nine signers are required on a petition for a Dispensation to form a new Commandery. (1919, p. 311, No. 32, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 67 [Statutes: Sections 150 and 168]

A Commandery U.D., if granted a Charter, can confer no Orders until it is constituted.

The members of a Commandery U.D. become members of the new Commandery. Officers are not named in a Charter. They are elected after the Commandery is constituted.

Between the granting of a Charter and the constituting of the Commandery no Orders may be conferred.

A Commandery U.D. cannot adopt By-Laws but it may prescribe rules for its government while under Dispensation. After being constituted, a Commandery may adopt By-Laws, revise and amend the same, subject to the approval of the Grand Encampment or Grand Commander. (1925, p. 388, No. 3, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 68 [Constitution: Section 48(a)]

The Grand Commander has the authority to refuse to constitute a Commandery under its charter when investigation reveals that the Commandery failed to comply with the statutes of the Grand Encampment while working under Dispensation (1922, p. 283, No. 19, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 69 [Constitution: Section 48(c)]

The Grand Commander names the first three officers in a Dispensation creating a new Commandery. (1922, p. 284, No. 20, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 70

A Commandery U.D. may issue demits and receive members by affiliation. (1958, p. 272, No. 12, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 71 [Constitution; Sections 157 and 158]

Officers of a Subordinate Commandery U.D. are not elective, but hold office until a charter is granted or until the next Triennial Conclave, unless they resign or are removed by the Grand Master. (1958, p. 296, No. 37, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 72

A Commandery U.D. cannot confer the title of Honorary Past Commander on any Sir Knight while said Commandery is still under Dispensation. It can only create such a title after the Commandery has been duly chartered and with the approval of the Grand Master in the case of Subordinate Commanderies. (1961, p. 53, No. 30, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

COMMANDERY NAME**Decision No. 73**

The name of a Subordinate Commandery can only be changed by action of the Grand Encampment. (1961, p. 45, No. 13c, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

CONCLAVES**Decision No. 74 [Statutes: Section 68]**

Where a Commandery By-Law provided a changed date for a stated Conclave, stated Conclaves should be so held. (1919, p. 320, No. 40, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 75 [Statutes: Section 201]

A voluntarily unaffiliated Knight who has remained such for six months has no right to attend sessions of the Commandery or take part in any of its activities. (1937, p. 345, No. 2 part 3, *Mark Norris, Acting G.M.*)

Decision No. 76

The law seems to be silent on the length of life of a demit, and I do not find where any decisions have been rendered by my predecessors.

A demit terminates the membership of a Knight; for as long as he carries the demit he remains unaffiliated. He does not have the right to visit a Commandery without being affiliated, in my opinion, except one time only, and that being dedicated on the idea that he must establish his identity as a Knight Templar and submit the demit for affiliation. A demitted Knight Templar has no right to be carrying a demit around all over the country and visiting Commanderies without having a sustaining membership from some Constituent Commandery. (1949, p. 212, No. 3b, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

To which the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence added:

... the question of his right to visit a Commandery is a separate question. It is not a right. It is a privilege. If any objection was made to any man visiting a Commandery, he may not be allowed to visit it, except on official business. Any Grand Commandery may prescribe a law under which an unaffiliated man holding a demit may hold the demit. (1949, p. 213, No. 3b, John Temple Rice, G.M.)

Decision No. 77

Grand Encampment laws are silent concerning whether a voluntarily unaffiliated (demitted) Knight Templar should be extended the privilege of visitation, although in his Decision No. 3 Grand Master Rice expressed the opinion that such privilege should not be granted indefinitely. A demitted member may be extended such privilege, though any member may deny it by objecting in accordance with Section 224 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

Regarding a Knight Templar who is involuntarily unaffiliated by reason of disciplinary action, either by expulsion or suspension, it is my decision that he not only has no "right" to be admitted, but also *should not be admitted* to a Templar assembly. Having been denied the privileges of membership by his Commandery, it seems obvious that these privileges should not be extended by any other Templar group. Further, it seems equally obvious that no Commandery may restore the privileges of active membership except the Commandery that imposed the discipline. Finally, having no membership, he may not propose any Templar action except his own restoration by regular petition to the Commandery of which he formerly was a member. (1970, p. 537, No. 5, John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.)

Decision No. 78

An affiliated Knight Templar may be admitted into the asylum of another Commandery, but such privilege may be denied by the objection of any member made to the Commandery or to the Commander, unless the visit is made in an official capacity (Section 224, Statutes of the Grand Encampment). Thus, no Knight Templar has a personal "right" to visit any Commandery other than that of which he is a member, though such privilege is rarely denied to any affiliated Knight Templar. (1970, p. 537, No. 5, John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.)

Decision No. 79 [Statutes: Section 166]

A Conclave at which a new Commandery is constituted is a Special Conclave of the Grand Commandery, not a Special Conclave of the new Commandery. (1919, p. 295, No. 14, Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.)

CONSTRUCTION

Decision No. 80 [Constitution: Sections 3 and 85]

A former law re-enacted takes with it former constructions and rulings relative to that law. (*1901, p. 59, No. 5, Reuben Hedley Lloyd, G.M.*)

Decision No. 81 [Statutes: Sections 210 through 213]

A request for decisions must be made through a Commander to a Grand Commander, or through a Grand Commander to the Grand Master. (*1919, p. 291, No. 4, Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 82 [Constitution: Section 3]

In various revisions of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment many of the original provisions have been brought forward verbatim and re-enacted by the revisions made. Provisions found in the Constitution and Statutes of 1910 and 1922 were carried forward without change into the 1934 revision. Such carrying forward without change constituted merely a re-enactment of the old provisions, and in all such cases rulings which have been made in reference to those re-enacted provisions would be applicable today. Where changes in the provisions have been made, the old ruling would not be applicable.

Decisions approved by the Grand Encampment prior to 1934 as to re-enacted provisions brought forward from previous Constitutions and Statutes would be applicable now unless they have been overruled by a later session.

Decisions, opinions and rulings made by the Grand Master are binding until overruled by the Grand Encampment. If approved by the Grand Encampment they become a part of the law of Grand Encampment. (*1940, p. 279, No. 35, Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 83 [Constitution: Sections 39, 42 and 68; Statutes: Section 210 through 213]

Inquiry regarding construction of legislation by a Grand Commandery or by Grand Encampment should initially be referred to the respective Grand Commander for reply, and resort should be had to the Grand Master only when a decision by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery is considered unsatisfactory. Attention is directed to Grand Encampment legislation covering correspondence (see Sections 210 through 213 of the Statutes). It will save time for all parties concerned, if inquiries which properly call for reply by the Grand Commander are forwarded to him, and not to the Grand Master, and, similarly, if requests for rulings on the part of the Grand Encampment are forwarded

directly to the Grand Master, and not to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment. (1952, p. 155, No. 3, Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.)

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Decision No. 84 [Statutes: Section 177]

The Council is not a prerequisite to membership in a Commandery, and a Sir Knight does not have to be a member of a Council before being eligible to visit a Commandery. (1958, p. 289, No. 23, Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.)

Decision No. 85 [Statutes: Section 177(a)]

A Subordinate Commandery cannot make Council degrees a prerequisite to membership in a Commandery as no such privilege was granted to Subordinate Commanderies by the Grand Encampment. (1961, p. 41, No. 7, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.)

Decision No. 86 [Statutes: Sections 177(a) and 193]

A Grand Commandery may enact legislation requiring membership in the Council of Royal and Select Masters in addition to the requirement of affiliation in Lodge and Chapter to qualify a petitioner for the Orders of Knighthood. (1964, pp. 82 and 255, No. 6, Paul Miller Moore, G.M.)

Decision No. 87 [Statutes: Sections 201 through 204]

If the Council prerequisite did not apply to the Knight Templar when he petitioned for the Orders, it can never be applied to him individually, and no resolution can be adopted under the authority of Section 79 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment which would apply such prerequisite to a Knight Templar retroactively. Since Council membership cannot be required of this Knight Templar, neither can it be required that he continue to be an active member of a Council of Royal and Select Masters if he becomes a member after becoming a Knight Templar.

If Council membership was prerequisite to Templar membership in the individual case, good standing in the Council as well as in Lodge and Chapter must support Templar membership. (1970, p. 543, No. 9, John Lawton Croft, G.M.)

Note: This decision voids 1961, p. 52, No. 27, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.

DEMIT

Decision No. 88 [Statutes: Section 192]

The status of a member as to the payment of dues should be determined as of the date the request for Demit was received by the Recorder. (1937, p. 335, No. 19, Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.)

Decision No. 89

There is no time limit on the validity of a Demit held by an unaffiliated Knight Templar while he is neither suspended nor expelled from the Order. (1949, p. 211, No. 3, John Temple Rice, G.M.)

Decision No. 90

Official information that a Demit has been granted may be substituted for the actual Demit by a Commandery in affiliating a Knight Templar.

(Having demitted from a Subordinate Commandery in Mexico, a Sir Knight's name appeared on the Annual Return of this Commandery as having demitted, but he was unable to receive a Certificate of Demit from the Mexico Commandery, and he desired to affiliate with a Commandery in Texas. The Grand Master did not grant the Demit; he merely ascertained from evidence of an official character that the Commandery had granted the Demit. The certificate only was lacking. As a precedent the rule should be applied with caution and only to analogous situations.) (1949, p. 217, No. 11, John Temple Rice, G.M.)

Decision No. 91 *RECORDED*

1. I am satisfied by official information that is a Knight Templar, and I have seen photocopies of his dues cards for the year 1966 issued by Chapter, Council, and Asian Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar, all of the jurisdiction of the Philippines.
2. I am satisfied by extended correspondence that Sir Knight 's inability to display dues cards for the years 1967 or 1968 is in no way attributable to his own failure or lack of desire to maintain current membership status.
3. You are hereby authorized to accept this communication in lieu of the "demit or its equivalent" as required by Section 191 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.
4. If Sir Knight becomes affiliated with your Commandery, and if subsequently you are advised that he had been suspended from Chapter or Council membership, you are requested to take no action under Section 202

until Sir Knight . . . has been advised of such action, and until you are satisfied that such suspension persists through willful act or neglect of Sir Knight . . . ; in other words, that you are satisfied that he has been properly advised of his obligations to the Chapter and Council and has willfully neglected to meet them. (1970, p. 540, No. 8, *John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.*)

Decision No. 92 [Statutes: Section 192]

Any member of a Commandery, including an officer, may Demit from the Commandery on the conditions set out in Section 192 of the Statutes. (1958, p. 300, No. 40, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 93

A member of a Subordinate Commandery, wishing a Demit to join a Commandery in the States, although his residence will remain where the Subordinate Commandery is located, is entitled to a Demit if he is not in arrears in dues and if no charges are pending against him. There is no residence requirement as to petition for affiliation and no waiver of jurisdiction is required. (1961, p. 45, No. 13, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

DISPENSATIONS

Decision No. 94

A Commandery may, upon invitation, visit another Commandery in the same jurisdiction for the purpose of conferring the Orders without obtaining a Dispensation therefor, assuming this involved no appearance of the Commandery upon the streets in uniform. (1925, p. 411, No. 33, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 95 [Constitution: Sections 41(b) and 48(f)]

The power to grant Dispensations given by Grand Encampment Constitution and Statutes cannot be limited by Grand Commandery laws. (1940, p. 290, No. 33, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 96 [Statutes: Section 217]

The Grand Commander has no authority to issue a Dispensation authorizing the removal of a Commandery from the city or town where it is located to another city or town. (1925, p. 39, No. 7, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*; 1946, p. 92, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Note: Constitution, Section 48(f)3 permits such a Dispensation where asylum has been destroyed or damaged to such an extent as to render it unfit for occupancy.

Decision No. 97 [Constitution: Section 71(a)]

The Grand Commander may not by Dispensation authorize a Commandery to change the date of its stated Conclave for reasons of emergency. (1916, p. 277, No. 3, *Arthur MacArthur, G.M.*)

Note: See note in connection with Decision No. 96.

Decision No. 98 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

A Dispensation to appear in public on National Defense Day is at the discretion of the Grand Commander. (1925, p. 413, No. 36a, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 99 [Statutes: Section 235]

The Grand Commander has no authority to grant a Dispensation to a Constituent Commandery authorizing it to elect a Sir Knight to the honor of Past Commander without first having gone through the chairs. (1946, p. 87, No. 15, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 100 [Constitution: Section 48(f)2]

The Grand Commander has no authority to grant a blanket Dispensation to all Commanderies in his jurisdiction to receive and ballot on petitions. (1949, p. 211, No. 2, *John Temple, Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 101 [Constitution: Section 48(f)1]

The Constitution of the Grand Encampment, Section 48(f)1, authorizes a Grand Commander to grant Dispensations to Constituent Commanderies: "To hold Special Conclaves for conferring of the Orders at places within their Jurisdictions other than those named in their Charters," and that this authority conferred upon the Grand Commander by the Grand Encampment cannot be taken from him by action of his Grand Commandery. (1949, p. 215, No. 6, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 102 [Constitution: Section 48(f)]

There is no authority for the granting of a Dispensation permitting the Stated Conclave of a Commandery at any date other than that specified in the By-Laws. (1952, p. 242, No. 23, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 103 [Constitution: Section 23(j)]

The Grand Master has no authority to grant a Dispensation to change a date of a stated Conclave which has been definitely fixed by the By-Laws of the Commandery. (1955, p. 276, No. 28, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 104

The Grand Commander of Maine was justified in granting a Dispensation to a Constituent Commandery to exchange visits with a Preceptory of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, provided similar approval was obtained from the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, and providing that the Conclave of the respective Commandery and Preceptory in which the Order of Knighthood was being conferred must be a Conclave of the Commandery or Preceptory which was being visited, and that it could not be a Conclave of the visiting Commandery or Preceptory, and also provided that the officers of the visiting Commandery or Preceptory should confer the Orders in their capacity of individual visitors and that the officers of the Commandery or Preceptory which was visited should be present throughout the ceremony. Whenever the Orders are thus conferred upon a candidate of a Commandery, the Dispensation should provide that the candidate must be obligated and participate in the secret work according to the Ritual of the Grand Encampment. (1952, p. 250, No. 31, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 105

It is beyond the power of both Grand Commanders and the Grand Master to authorize a Constituent Commandery of Michigan to hold a Conclave and confer the Orders in Illinois.

This does not mean that the officers and members of the former may not visit the latter Commandery and there fill the stations in conferring the Orders, as individual visitors, provided the officers of the visited Commandery are present. But it would be a Conclave of the resident Commandery, and the record of the work would appear in its minutes. (1958, p. 281, No. 15, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

DUES**Decision No. 106** [Constitution: Sections 10, 41(e) and (h); Statutes: Section 135]

The Grand Master was asked if it would be proper for a Commandery to enact a By-Law remitting the dues of its Past Commanders. Assuming that this was for the purpose of creating something in the similitude of life membership, he announced that such could not be done.

Past Commanders as a class may not be thus favored. The question asked of the Grand Master seemingly had no reference to the creation of life memberships. It was rather directed to the point as to whether, if such remissions were possible, the Commandery itself would be liable for per capita tax upon the members whose dues were remitted. We think this question should be answered in the same way the life membership was answered. (See 1925, p. 411, No. 34) Not only may the Commandery not remit the dues in such wise, but if it did, it would be liable for per capita tax upon the members so exempted. (1925, p. 407, No. 27, and p. 411, No. 34, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 107 [Statutes: Section 192]

The status of a member as to payment of dues should be determined as of the date the request for a Demit was received by the Recorder. (1937, p. 335, No. 19, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 108 [Statutes: Section 198]

Honorary memberships confer no rights or privileges and subjects no one to dues. (1880, p. 76, No. 49, *Vincent Lombard Hurlbut, G.M.*)

Decision No. 109

Dues do not accrue against a suspended Templar during the period of his suspension. (1925, p. 415, No. 40, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 110 [Constitution: Section 41(h)]

In regard to the question of whether Grand Encampment per capita is to be paid on ACTUAL membership or only on paying members, there are no exceptions provided for either. The amount due must be remitted annually to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment on the actual number of members borne on the rolls of the Commandery. (1934, p. 170, No. 6, *Perry Winslow Weidner, G.M.*)

Decision No. 111 [Constitution: Section 41(h)]

A Commandery U.D. in a Grand Commandery is a Constituent Commandery and the Grand Commandery is liable to pay Grand Encampment per capita tax on its members. Whether the Commandery U.D. is required to pay such tax to the Grand Commandery depends entirely on the laws of the Grand Commandery. (1940, p. 277, No. 19, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 112 [Statutes: Sections 133 and 134]

Classifications of membership cannot be created in connection with fees for the Orders of Knighthood or dues in Constituent or Subordinate Commanderies. (1952, p. 159, No. 6, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 113

The establishment of Senior and/or inactive memberships which would exempt a member from the payment of dues in a Constituent Commandery is not permissible.

The right of membership is under the exclusive control of the Grand Encampment, and is not subject to legislation by Grand Commandery. (1961, p. 54, No. 31, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Decision No. 114

A Subordinate Commandery cannot use the Grand Encampment Seal on its dues cards. (1961, p. 39, No. 3, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

DUAL MEMBERSHIP**Decision No. 115 [Statutes: Section 190]**

A member of Shanghai Commandery No. 1 (a Subordinate Commandery) was not prohibited from dual membership in a Preceptory at Bombay chartered by the Great Priory of England and Wales. The oath of the Bombay Preceptory was not in conflict with his obligations as a member of Shanghai Commandery. (1952, p. 231, No. 13, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 116 [Statutes: Section 190]

A member of Tokyo Commandery No. 1 (a Subordinate Commandery) may maintain his membership in that Commandery and also affiliate with and become a member of a Constituent Commandery on the mainland. To join the latter, he may apply for affiliation on a certificate of good standing issued by Tokyo Commandery No. 1. The certificate of good standing will not sever his membership in Tokyo Commandery. (1958, p. 288, No. 21, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 117 [Statutes: Section 190]

“Can a member of Bavaria Commandery No. 3, Munich, Germany, also become an active member of a Constituent Commandery of Kansas?”

This is permissible under our law. The case is controlled by the proviso in Section 190 of our Statutes, which permits dual membership in the case of Subordinate Commanderies – that is, a Knight Templar may be an active member of both a Subordinate Commandery and a Constituent Commandery at the same time. We have so held on a number of occasions. (1961, p. 51, No. 24, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Decision No. 118 [Statutes: Sections 190 and 191] **RECORDED**

"Can Sir Knight, who received the Orders of Knighthood in the Priory of Scotland, apply for membership in a Commandery of the Grand Commandery of Colorado without relinquishing his membership in or taking a Demit from the Priory of Scotland?"

Section 76 of the laws of the Grand Commandery of Colorado and Sections 190 and 191 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment are in effect – the Sir Knight cannot legally become a member of a Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Colorado unless he came in on a demit from the Priory of Scotland. (1961, p. 39, No. 2, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Note: This decision is not in conflict with Decision No. 115 (1952, p. 231 No. 13, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*) because Section 76 of the Grand Commandery of Colorado does not permit dual memberships.

Decision No. 119 [Constitution: Sections 18½, 35(c) and 190(i)]

1. Where a member holds dual membership in two Constituent Commanderies, he must pay the Eye Foundation assessment in each Constituent Commandery.

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2. If the member is a Life Sponsor, he is exempt from the payment of assessment wherever he may hold his membership. This is specifically provided for in Section 18½ of the Constitution. (This part of the decision was voided by action of the Grand Encampment in amending Section 18½ in 1973 concerning Life Sponsor.)

3. When a Past Commander in our Jurisdiction becomes a dual member in another Jurisdiction, he may become a member of the Grand Commandery in the second Jurisdiction by election thereto.

4. When a member holding dual membership loses the same in one Commandery, he loses it in both, and the Grand Recorder of one Jurisdiction where the sentence was imposed should notify the Grand Recorder of the other Jurisdiction of the results of the trial. Provided he may demit from one Commandery without affecting his membership in the other Commandery.

5. As a matter of policy, the notation "dual member" should be placed on all dues cards issued by Commanderies so that there will be sufficient identification of such dual memberships. (1967, p. 154, No. 14, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Decision No. 120 [Constitution: Section 18; Statutes: Section 104]

The funds of the Educational Foundation belong to the Grand Encampment, although entrusted for management to the Grand Commanderies. No Grand Commandery can dispose of any part of the same except as provided by the Grand Encampment. (1934, pp. 421-423, *Andrew Davison Agnew, Acting G.M.*; 1937, pp. 83-92, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*; 1940, pp. 350-352, 353 and 355, No. 25, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 121

The resolutions for the Educational Foundation require nine annual assessments on the membership of \$1.00 per capita, each annual assessment to be based on the membership of that particular year. Voluntary contributions or accretions of any kind will not release the Grand Commandery from the necessity of making nine annual assessments of \$1.00 per capita on the membership. (1934, pp. 211 and 215, No. 7, *Andrew Davison Agnew, Acting G.M.*; 1934, pp. 217 and 219, No. 10, *Andrew Davison Agnew, Acting G.M.*)

Decision No. 122 [Constitution: Section 18] *RECORDED*

Grants from Educational Loan Funds are required to be limited to "Loans for deserving students" and cannot be disbursed in gifts.

This is in accordance with the law that the full amount of assessed contributions made for the creation of the fund must be maintained and cannot be applied for any other purpose than the making of student loans. (1940, p. 288, No. 7, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 123 [Constitution: Section 18]

A Subordinate Division of the Educational Foundation must recognize the Grand Encampment Committee on the Educational Foundation as being in complete charge of all such funds and the supervising of all such work, and require the Subordinate Division to submit its reports and in all other ways recognize its status as a Subordinate Division of the Educational Foundation of the Grand Encampment. (1952, p. 238, No. 19, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 124 [Constitution: Section 18]

No portion of the assessment, gift, bequest, donation or earned income credited to the capital account can be withdrawn by any Division for any purpose other than for loans and investments. This does not affect the provision

for scholarships out of income for any current year and segregated in a separate fund during such current year before being credited to the capital account. (1955, p. 268, No. 23, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 125

Grand Encampment has no policy of bonding officers of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation. Although it is the owner of the funds in the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, since the States have been made custodian of the funds raised by them, the Grand Encampment looks only to the several Grand Commanderies for protection insofar as those funds are concerned. Consequently, whatever procedure is followed by the Grand Commandery in bonding its officers is a matter of their own choice. (1961, p. 51, No. 26, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Decision No. 126

Neither the Grand Commander nor the Grand Commandery has any authority to compel the Educational Foundation Committee of that Division to set up grants or scholarships.

The Grand Commander or a Grand Commandery has no authority or power to fix the operating budget of the Educational Foundation Committee in any Division. (1964, p. 80, No. 3, *Paul Miller Moore, G.M.*)

Decision No. 127

Grand Commandery Officers cannot be "ex-officio members" of the Educational Foundation Committee. Section 4 of the Rules, Regulations and Standard Practices for the governing of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation provides for the sole method for the appointment of such committee members. (1967, p. 152, No. 9, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

ELECTION

Decision No. 128 [Statutes: Section 139]

An unnaturalized foreigner may be elected Commander. (1913, p. 49, No. 2, *William Bromwell Melish, G.M.*)

Decision No. 129

An Eminent Commander is eligible to hold the office of Grand Commander. The election vacates the office of Eminent Commander until the Commandery's next annual election. (1880, p. 62, No. 6, *Vincent Lombard Hurlbut, G.M.*)

Decision No. 130 [Statutes: Sections 136 through 139]

If the Grand Commandery regulations or laws prohibit nominations of officers of the Grand Commandery, the Grand Commander can prevent nominations from being made from the floor; but, in the absence of such law prohibiting such nominations, nominations from the floor are permissible, and a member of the Grand Commandery has the right to request the privilege of the floor to make such nominations. (1961, p. 51, No. 25, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

ELIGIBILITY**Decision No. 131** [Constitution: Section 45]

Any member of the Grand Commandery residing in the Jurisdiction, in good standing, is eligible to hold office in a Grand Commandery. (1937, p. 341, No. 26, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Note: Section 129 of the Statutes permits a Sir Knight to reside outside the Jurisdiction.

Decision No. 132 [Constitution: Section 58]

Past Commanders of at least three Commanderies are needed to form a new Grand Commandery. (1877, p. 62, No. 28, *James Herron Hopkins, G.M.*)

EXPULSION**Decision No. 133** [Statutes: Section 202]

Knights expelled from a Lodge for un-Masonic conduct cannot be expelled from the Commandery merely on the order of the Commander. Notice, hearing and vote of the Commandery are required. (1925, p. 394, No. 9 and p. 414, No. 38, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*; 1928, p. 308, No. 4, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

Decision No. 134 [Statutes: Section 206]

A Knight Templar who is involuntarily unaffiliated by reason of disciplinary action, either by expulsion or suspension, has no "right" to be admitted and should not be admitted to any Templar assembly. Having been denied the privileges of membership by his Commandery, these privileges should not be extended by any other Templar group. Further, no Commandery may restore the privileges of active membership except the Commandery that imposed the

discipline. Finally, having no membership, he may not propose any Templar action except his own restoration by regular petition to the Commandery of which he formerly was a member. (1970, p. 537, No. 5, *John Lawton Crofts, Jr., G.M.*)

Note: Section 206 of the Statutes was amended in 1973 and eliminated "Restoration to Good Standing" for one who had been suspended or expelled for unknighly conduct.

EYE FOUNDATION

Decision No. 135 [Constitution: Section 3(f)]

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., which is one of the functions provided for by the laws of the Grand Encampment, should occupy the field exclusively and no other entities subordinate to the Grand Encampment could enter the field. (1961, p. 40, No. 5, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Decision No. 136

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., is a non-profit Maryland Corporation with full power under its Charter to conduct the business, incur indebtedness and borrow money on either short- or long-term basis, and to issue its promissory note therefor, pending receipt of the "assessment money" from the several Grand Commanderies on June 30. (1967, p. 151, No. 6, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

Decision No. 137

When a member holds dual membership in two Constituent Commanderies, he must pay the Eye Foundation assessment in each Constituent Commandery. (1967, p. 154, No. 14-2, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

Decision No. 138

No Grand Encampment law requires a fee for affiliation. Grand Commanderies may provide for such a fee, and if it does not legislate on the subject, a Commandery may do so. (1940, p. 288, No. 3, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 139 [Statutes: Sections 133 and 134]

Classifications of membership cannot be created in connection with fees for the Orders of Knighthood or dues in Constituent or Subordinate Commanderies. (1952, p. 159, No. 6, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

FLAG

Decision No. 140

Where the candidate is not a citizen of the United States, his answer to the charge of the United States Flag may be changed to an obligation that he should be loyal to the flag of his country and that in the event he does become a citizen of the United States his loyalty shall be transferred. ("or" omitted in the conferring of such Order — George William Vallery, G.M.) (1922, p. 282, No. 17, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.; 1928, p. 310, No. 8, George William Vallery, G.M.)

FUNERAL SERVICE

Decision No. 141 [Statutes: Section 205; Ceremony: p. 100]

The suspension of a Sir Knight deprives him of all rights and privileges of Knighthood as long as the judgment remains in force. Hence, such a Knight would not be entitled to a Templar funeral. The right to a Templar funeral exists only in the case of a Sir Knight in good standing.

It is discretionary with the Commandery to grant funeral honors for a unaffiliated Sir Knight or for a sojourner. (1940, No. 287, No. 22, Mark Norris, G.M.)

Decision No. 142 [Statutes: Section 220]

The funeral service adopted by the Grand Encampment shall be followed. A Grand Commandery does not have the authority or legal right to adopt and use a funeral service of its own choosing or composition. (1955, p. 199, No. 7, William Catron Gordon, G.M.)

Decision No. 143

In the question submitted, the Worshipful Master presiding at a Blue Lodge funeral service was a Past Commander with a Knight Templar escort. The question was whether the Worshipful Master should have appeared in his Commandery uniform, "minus sword and belt with an apron over the uniform."

The Worshipful Master in charge was properly attired in civilian dress as it was not a Knight Templar funeral. A Knight Templar should not appear in uniform without a belt, and an apron should not be worn over the uniform, except in a tiled Lodge. (1958, p. 273, No. 13, Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.)

Decision No. 144

It is not required that the Commander should hold a Conclave to "open" and "close" his Commandery in order to convene his members to conduct a funeral. (1964, pp. 79 and 255, No. 1, Paul Miller Moore, G.M.)

GRAND COMMANDER

see *DISPENSATIONS*

Decision No. 145 [Constitution: Section 48(e)]

The Grand Commander should be formally received whether he is in uniform or not.

Templar jewels may be worn with the fatigue uniform. (1937, p. 334, No. 18, Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.)

Decision No. 146 [Constitution: Section 39]

The decisions of a Grand Commander are law as soon as known. (1877, p. 65, No. 30, James Herron Hopkins, G.M.)

Decision No. 147 [Constitution: Section 48(d)]

The Grand Commander may remove a Commander from office and may forbid the installation of a duly-elected Commander though no charges are preferred against him. (1922, p. 291, No. 24, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.)

Decision No. 148 [Constitution: Sections 28(d) and 29(g)]

The Grand Commander may require the Treasurer and Recorder of a Constituent Commandery to be bonded, though the Grand Commandery has taken no action requiring it. (1937, p. 347, No. 4, Mark Norris, Acting G.M.)

Decision No. 149 [Constitution: Section 48(d)]

The Grand Commander may suspend any Grand Commandery officer. (1922, p. 291, No. 24, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.)

Decision No. 150 [Constitution: Section 68]

The Grand Commander may not by Dispensation authorize a Commandery to change the date of its Stated Conclave for reasons of emergency. (1916, p. 277, No. 3, Arthur MacArthur, G.M.)

Decision No. 151 [Statutes: Sections 110 and 172]

The Grand Commander cannot restore a Charter arrested by him. Such restoration can be made only by a vote of the Grand Commandery. (1901, pp. 68 and 160, No. 11, *Reuben Hedley Lloyd, G.M.*)

Decision No. 152 [Statutes: Sections 233 and 234]

The Grand Standard Bearer may resign and the Grand Commander may appoint his successor. (1910, p. 251, No. 21, *Henry Warren Rugg, G.M.*)

Decision No. 153 [Statutes: Section 234]

The Grand Commander may appoint a Grand Warder in succession to one dead. (1937, p. 342, No. 1, *Mark Norris, Acting G.M.*)

Decision No. 154 [Statutes: Section 215]

A Dispensation to appear in public on National Defense Day is at the discretion of the Grand Commander. (1925, p. 413, No. 36a, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 155 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50]

One who succeeds to the office of Grand Commander under Sections 49 and 50 of the Constitution and who serves the remainder of the term of office would become a Past Grand Commander and a permanent member of the Grand Encampment. (1949, p. 213, No. 4, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 156 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50; Statutes: Sections 235 and 236]

A Deputy Grand Commander who is elected Grand Commander, and thereafter resigns, or removes permanently from his jurisdiction before completing his term of office, would not acquire the rank of Past Grand Commander nor become a permanent member of the Grand Encampment. (1949, p. 214, No. 5, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Note: "or removes permanently, etc." is no longer valid without reservations.

Decision No. 157

Authority conferred upon the Grand Commander by the Grand Encampment cannot be taken from him by action of his Grand Commandery. (1940, p. 290, No. 33, *Mark Norris, G.M.*; 1949, p. 215, No. 6, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*; 1958, p. 282, No. 16, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 158 [Constitution: Section 48; Statutes: Section 130]

A Grand Commandery may not by resolution seek to replace the appointed chairman of a committee and provide for additional changes in the personnel of the committee without the approval, assent or action of the incumbent Grand Commander. (1955, p. 235, No. 10, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 159 [Constitution: Section 48]

The Grand Commander has the power to suggest, advocate or permit participation in any project or objective which is in keeping with the principles and purposes of Templary, and not at variance with existing Templar Law, especially supporting Chapters of the Order of DeMolay. (1955, p. 237, No. 13, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 160 [Constitution: Section 48(b)]

A vacancy in the office of Grand Captain General must be filled by appointment of the Grand Commander. (1955, p. 237, No. 14, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 161 [Constitution: Section 49]

The Grand Master under Section 49 of the Constitution, may determine whether a Grand Commander has permanently removed from the Jurisdiction, and whether such removal precludes him from the performance of the duties of his office. If he finds both of these facts in the affirmative, then the Grand Master should declare the office vacant. (1958, p. 268, No. 6, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 162 [Constitution: Section 48(b)]

The Grand Commander is authorized to appoint all committees, such appointees to serve during his pleasure or until their successors have been appointed. Such appointees, however, cannot serve beyond the term of the Grand Commander making the appointment, unless the law under which they hold provides for a longer term. A committee member, however, who has been appointed for a statutory term extending beyond that of the Grand Commander, cannot be removed before the expiration of his term, unless for cause shown. (1958, p. 268, No. 7, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 163 [Constitution: Section 48(d)]

The Grand Commander may suspend from office any officer of the Grand Commandery or of a Constituent Commandery for failure to comply with the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, or lawful orders

of the Grand Commander, but he must report his actions at the next Conclave of the Grand Commandery. (1964,, pp. 85 and 255, No. 9, Paul Miller Moore, G.M.)

Decision No. 164 [Constitution: Section 41(b)]

The statutes of the Grand Commanderies must conform to the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Encampment. (1874, pp. 55 and 56, No. 16, John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.)

Decision No. 165 [Constitution: Section 41(b)]

Grand Commandery statutes should be made to conform to Grand Encampment Constitution and Statutes at once, regardless of waiting intervals prescribed by Grand Commandery Statutes. (1937, p. 330, No. 14, Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.)

Decision No. 166 [Constitution: Section 3]

A Grand Commandery which fails to enforce the Grand Encampment laws may have its charter arrested. (1925, p. 400, No. 17, Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.)

Decision No. 167 [Constitution: Section 43]

A Grand Commandery cannot increase the prescribed number of Grand Commandery officers. It may appoint an officer to perform certain duties, designating them. (1922, p. 23 and 272, No. 6, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.)

Decision No. 168 [Constitution: Section 43]

A Grand Commandery may not create the office of Honorary Grand Commander. (1925, p. 411, No. 32, Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.)

Decision No. 169 [Constitution: Section 41(g)]

A Grand Commandery may assign concurrent jurisdiction between two or more Commanderies and may fix the limits of the jurisdiction of its Constituent Commanderies. (1919, p. 289, No. 2, and p. 300, No. 26, Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.)

Decision No. 170 [Constitution: Section 38]

A member of a Grand Commandery has but one vote, which is his individual right. (1874, p. 61, No. 29, John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.)

Decision No. 171 [Constitution: Section 41(e)]

If necessary for its support, a Grand Commandery may levy an assessment. (1913, p. 226, No. 15, *William Bromwell Melish, G.M.*)

Decision No. 172 [Constitution: Sections 41(b) and (e)]

A Grand Commandery may arrange for the reception and entertainment of members at Grand Commandery Conclaves. (1925, p. 410, No. 30, and p. 412, No. 35, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 173 [Constitution: Section 48(g)]

Grand Commanderies holding allegiance to the Grand Encampment may not exchange Representatives with Great Pories abroad. (1949, p. 211, No. 1, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 174 [Constitution: Section 72]

One who succeeds to the office of Commander under Section 72 of the Constitution and who serves the remainder of the term of office would become a st Commander and a permanent member of the Grand Commandery. (1949, p. 213, No. 4, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 175 [Constitution: Section 41(b)]

Laws of Grand Commanderies, which do not conflict with Grand Encampment law, do not require approval of the Grand Master. (1949, p. 219, No. 13, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 176

There is no precise ritualistic procedure to be used in convening the Grand Commandery. (1955, p. 196, No. 2, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 177

It would be improper and illegal to proceed on a matter of such importance as incorporating the Grand Commandery as a non-profit organization, based rely on the decision of the line officers, but it should be submitted to a special Conclave or to an Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. (1955, p. 275, No. 26, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 178 [Constitution: Section 41]

It is illegal to create an organization which is not directly subject to the Grand Commandery and which is formed for the purpose of giving "honors." (1967, p. 148, No. 1, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

Decision No. 179

A Grand Commandery cannot authorize nor participate in a plan with other York Rite Bodies to create an organization to be known as the "York Rite Honors Council" for the purpose of granting honors to members of York Rite Bodies, including Knights Templar. The power to grant and regulate Knights Templar honors and awards is exclusively within the province of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and no other organization, whether it includes other York Rite Bodies or not, can grant or regulate honors and awards to Knights Templar without express legislation by the Grand Encampment permitting the same to be done. (1967, p. 153, No. 10, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

GRAND ENCAMPMENT**Decision No. 180** [Constitution: Sections 3 and 41(b)]

Grand Commandery Statutes should be made to conform to Grand Encampment Constitution and Statutes at once, regardless of waiting intervals prescribed by Grand Commandery Statutes. (1937, p. 330, No. 14, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 181 [Statutes: Section 126]

In 1847 the Grand Encampment decided that when a Grand Commandery became extinct the Constituent Commanderies under its Jurisdiction came under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment. (1847, p. 14, *Archibald Bull, G.M.*)

Decision No. 182 [Constitution: Section 2]

A Grand Commandery, as such, is not a member of the Grand Encampment and it cannot propose amendments. (1919, p. 311, No. 33, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 183 [Constitution: Section 10; Statutes: Section 120]

A Grand Commandery having been organized, Subordinate Commanderies under charter from the Grand Encampment pay dues to the Grand Encampment only until the organization of the Grand Commandery. (1884, p. 90, *Robert Enoch Withers, G.M.*)

Decision No. 184 [Constitution: Section 8]

When a Grand Commander dies, his vote in the Grand Encampment dies with him. (1922, pp. 290 and 291, No. 23, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

✓ Decision No. 185 [Constitution: Sections 2(b) and 8]

When a Grand Commandery has no Grand Captain General, that office has no vote in the Grand Encampment. (1937, p. 340, No. 25, Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.)

✓ Decision No. 186 [Constitution: Section 3; Statutes: Section 232]

Rituals or part thereof can be printed only by the Grand Encampment. (1928, p. 312, No. 11, George William Vallery, G.M.)

Decision No. 187 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50]

One who succeeds to the office of Grand Commander under Sections 49 and 50 of the Constitution and who serves the remainder of the term of office would become a Past Grand Commander and a permanent member of the Grand Encampment. (1949, p. 213, No. 4, John Temple Rice, G.M.)

Decision No. 188 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50; Statutes: Sections 235 and 236]

A Deputy Grand Commander who is elected Grand Commander, and thereafter resigns, or removes permanently from his Jurisdiction before completing his term of office, would not acquire the rank of Past Grand Commander nor become a permanent member of the Grand Encampment. (1949, p. 214, No. 5, John Temple Rice, G.M.)

Note: "or removes permanently, etc." is no longer valid without reservations.

Decision No. 189

When the Grand Encampment, through its presiding officer, declares a law or amendment to be adopted, and there is no appeal from the Chair, it stands as a law until changed by the Grand Encampment. (1922, p. 270, No. 5, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.; 1958, p. 293, No. 33, Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.)

GRAND GENERALISSIMO

Decision No. 190 [Statutes: Section 235] ✓

A Grand Generalissimo of a Grand Commandery, having declined advancement and not having been re-elected as Grand Generalissimo, becomes a Past Grand Generalissimo and retains that rank. His shoulder straps are prescribed in Section 243(c) of the Grand Encampment Statutes. (1940, p. 291, No. 37, Mark Norris, G.M.)

Decision No. 191 [Constitution: Section 2(b); Statutes: Section 235]

A Grand Generalissimo is a "representative" member of the Grand Encampment only while actively serving in the office he holds by legal election and installation, and on completion of his term of office he is not a member of the Grand Encampment, and as such has no rights or privileges therein. A Grand Generalissimo having satisfactorily completed his term in that office retains the title of that office, and is a Past Grand Generalissimo. His status and rank would be above that of Past Commander. (1955, p. 78, No. 5, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

GRAND MASTER**Decision No. 192 [Constitution: Section 23(h)]**

The Grand Master may grant a Dispensation for a new Commandery without the recommendation of another Commandery. (1874, p. 53, No. 8, *John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.*)

Decision No. 193 [Constitution: Section 23]

The Grand Master has no authority to inaugurate the raising of funds for the universities of America. (1916, pp. 278 and 279, No. 5, *Arthur MacArthur, G.M.*)

Decision No. 194 [Constitution: Section 23]

The Grand Master has no authority to rule as to floor plans in reference to asylum tactics. Asylum tactics are optional. (1928, p. 307, Nos. 1 and 2, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

Decision No. 195 [Constitution: Section 23(l)]

The Grand Master's personal representatives have no authority other than to visit and report to him what conditions they found at the Commanderies visited. (1940, p. 342, No. 6, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 196 [Constitution: Section 23(h)]

The Grand Master has no jurisdiction to grant Dispensations in Canada. (1880, p. 69, No. 26, *Vincent Lombard Hurlbut, G.M.*)

Decision No. 197 [Statutes: Section 157]

The Grand Master appoints and may change the officers of a Commandery U.D. under his jurisdiction. (1874, p. 58, No. 20, *John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.*)

Decision No. 198 [Statutes: Section 155]

The Grand Master cannot authorize a Commandery U.D. to change its meeting night, that being fixed by rule of Commandery. (1910, p. 250, No. 19, *Henry Warren Rugg, G.M.*)

Decision No. 199 [Constitution: Section 23]

The Grand Master is vested with judicial power to interpret the laws of the Grand Encampment. He may modify the sentence of expulsion to definite suspension for a term agreeable to the evidence. (1958, p. 295, No. 36, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*; 1961, pp. 43-45, No. 11, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

GRAND RECORDER**Decision No. 200** [Constitution: Section 48(b)]

The Grand Commander has power to appoint a Grand Recorder to fill a vacancy caused by the death of an incumbent in that office. (1952, p. 243, No. 24, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 201 [Constitution: Sections 35 and 45]

A Sir Knight who never became a member of the Grand Commandery was never eligible for election and installation as Grand Recorder. (1955, p. 269, No. 24, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*; 1958, p. 292, No. 30, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 202 [Constitution: Section 46]

If a Grand Recorder dies during his term of office, it is necessary that his successor be installed in the office to fill out the unexpired term, as every officer of a Grand Commandery must take the oath of office and be installed before entering upon the duties of his office. (1955, p. 279, No. 32-2, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 203

A Commander of a Constituent Commandery can, during his term of office as such, be elected to serve as the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery but he can only hold office as long as he remains a member of the Grand Commandery. If he resigns as Commander of his Commandery before he legally becomes a Past Commander (has served to the end of his term of office) he would be ineligible to continue in office as Grand Recorder of a Grand Commandery, and a vacancy would occur. If he completes his full term of office, he

would become a member of the Grand Commandery and would be eligible for the office of Grand Recorder. (1955, p. 279, No. 32-3, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*; 1961, p. 41, No. 6, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE

Decision No. 204 [Constitution: Section 3; Statutes: Section 246]

The Grand Representative of a Grand Commandery near another Grand Commandery is not entitled to wear special shoulder straps. (1919, p. 292, No. 7, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 205

The Grand Representative of a Grand Commandery to or near a sister jurisdiction should be a member of the Grand Commandery of the sister jurisdiction near which representation is to be exercised. (1955, p. 279, No. 32-1, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 206 [Constitution: Section 48(g)]

Appointment of a Grand Representative shall be the exclusive province of the Grand Commandery from which he is the Grand Representative and Templar law requires that such Grand Representative shall be accorded full recognition without limitation as to length of term of his representation. (1967, p. 152, No. 8, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Decision No. 207 [Constitution: Sections 2(e) and 35(d); Statutes: Section 198]

Honorary membership confers no rights or privileges and subjects no one to dues. (1880, p. 76, No. 49, *Vincent Lombard Hurlbut, G.M.*)

Decision No. 208

It is not permissible for an Honorary Member to hold office in a Constituent Commandery of which he is an honorary member. (1964, pp. 82 and 255, Nos. 4 and 5, *Paul Miller Moore, G.M.*)

INSIGNIA

✓ Decision No. 209 [Statutes: Section 242]

There is no provision of the Grand Encampment law which authorizes Grand Trustees to wear special shoulder straps bearing the initials "G.T." (1946, pp. 61 and 242, No. 1, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

✓ Decision No. 210 [Constitution: Section 3; Statutes: Section 241]

The wearing on uniforms of hand-embroidered gold stars to designate assistant zone officers, and hand-embroidered silver stars to designate aides, on the left sleeve between the Passion Cross and the edge of the cuff, is without authorization and improper. (1955, pp. 199 and 200, No. 8, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

INSTALLATION

✓ Decision No. 211 [Statutes: Sections 143 through 145]

Installation is necessary to fill any Commandery office. (1931, p. 81, No. 7, *William Leslie Sharp, G.M.*)

✓ Decision No. 212 [Statutes: Sections 214 through 216]

The Grand Commander is vested with authority to issue a Dispensation for an Installation of Officers on a Sunday provided the Installation is held at a time when it does not conflict with the usual Sunday church service. Where the installation is held in a Masonic Building, the approval of the Grand Master of Masons shall first be obtained. (1967, pp. 153 and 154, No. 12, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

✓ Decision No. 213

The Installation of Officers is a "ceremony" as opposed to a "work"; thus, it is not necessary that the Commandery be "opened." Not being "opened," it is not necessary that it be "closed." There is a clear distinction between "work" and "ceremonies" such as installation of officers, attendance at divine services, parades and memorial services, etc. The one requires "opening" and "closing" and may not be performed on Sunday; the other is not subject to the same limitations.

If it is desired that "ceremonies" be combined in the same session with "work," it is recommended that the Commandery be closed before the "ceremonies" begin, in order to avoid the embarrassment of dismissing non-

members. Both the "closing" of a Commandery and the "opening" of a Commandery are ritualistic and private and may not be displayed to anyone who is not a Knight Templar. (1970, p. 533, No. 2, *John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.*)

INTOXICATING LIQUORS

Decision No. 214

There is nothing in the Constitution or Statutes of the Grand Encampment which prohibits a Grand Commandery enacting legislation forbidding Knights Templar from engaging in the business of dealing in wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages, and providing the penalty of suspension for a violation of the regulation, but the enactment of such a statute would not be retroactive so as to apply to any Knight created a Templar and who was engaged in such business when there was no such statute in effect. (1919, pp. 289 and 290, No. 3, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 215

The resolution introduced at the Triennial Conclave at Chicago in 1910, "prohibiting the serving of intoxicants at any Templar function," was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence which reported at the Denver Conclave in 1913 as follows:

"This resolution is not proposed as an amendment to the code, but as a declaration of principle. Your committee heartily approves the principle of the resolution, but, as a question of legislation, your committee is of the opinion that it is a matter for each Grand Jurisdiction to regulate for itself."

The report of the committee was approved. (1919, pp. 289 and 290, No. 3, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

JURISDICTION

see REJECTION OF PETITIONS, and RESIDENCE

✓ Decision No. 216 [Statutes: Section 147]

The jurisdiction of Commanderies is fixed by the Grand Commandery. If not so fixed, then by the Grand Encampment law, which is one-half the direction distance between asylums. (1919, pp. 300 and 301, No. 26, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

✓ Decision No. 217 [Constitution: Section 48(c)2]

A Grand Commandery may assign concurrent jurisdiction between two or more Commanderies. (1919, p. 289, No. 2, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 218 [Statutes: Sections 147 and 177]

Under the provisions of Section 147 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the territorial jurisdiction of a Grand Commandery is limited to the boundaries of the country, state, territory or district in which it is located and it cannot legally extend the jurisdiction of any of its Commanderies beyond its borders; hence, it follows that any such Commandery cannot legally receive an original petition of one whose domicile is in another Grand Jurisdiction. Moreover, neither can same be legally authorized by Dispensation, since the effect of such a Dispensation would set aside Section 147, as well as other provisions of our Constitution and Statutes. (1946, pp. 71-74 and 242, No. 8, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 219 [Statutes: Sections 147 and 177]

A bonafide resident of Panama City, Panama, cannot petition a Commandery New Orleans for the Orders.

The territorial jurisdiction of a Commandery in Louisiana cannot be extended into a foreign country. (1910, p. 246, No. 13, *Henry Warren Rugg, G.M.*; 1946, pp. 67 and 242, No. 5, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

✓ Decision No. 220 [Statutes: Sections 147 through 149 and 210]

Where a waiver of jurisdiction over a petitioner is requested by a Constituent Commandery in one State from a Constituent Commandery in another State, correspondence should be conducted directly between the two Constituent Commanderies regardless of the intervening boundary. However, where a waiver of jurisdiction over specifically-designated territory is requested, it must be granted by the Grand Commandery whose jurisdiction is to be waived. (1952, p. 229, No. 11, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

✓ Decision No. 221 [Statutes: Sections 87, 149 and 177(d)]

A nearby resident of the Province of Quebec, upon permission from the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, together with a waiver from the Canadian Preceptory within whose jurisdiction he resides, may be elected to receive the Orders of Knighthood in a New York Commandery. (1952, pp. 233 and 234, No. 16, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 222 [Constitution: Section 82]

A Commandery that is guilty of a violation of territorial jurisdiction shall after discovery, without delay, pay to the offended Commandery the fee received for the conferring of the Orders. (1955, p. 236, No. 11-A, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**Decision No. 223**

“Knights Templar” held as the proper name. (1874, p. 57, No. 18, *John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.*)

Note: Up until 1856 the name was “Knights Templars.”

LIFE MEMBERSHIP**Decision No. 224** [Statutes: Section 135]

A Commandery may not create Life Membership by remission of the dues of its Past Commanders as a class. There may be no creation of a favored class; whatever is provided in the matter of Life Membership should be applied to all who would seek to take advantage of the provision. (1925, p. 407, No. 27, and p. 411, No. 34, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 225 [Constitution: Section 10]

A Life Member of a Commandery may legally be suspended for the non-payment of a Grand Encampment assessment. (1925, p. 417, No. 44, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 226 [Statutes: Section 135]

Section 135 says: “Each Grand Commandery may determine whether or not its Constituent Commanderies may adopt By-Laws providing for Life Membership, but must prescribe the minimum conditions for such membership.”

Any law providing for Life Membership must include (a) continuous affiliation in Lodge and Chapter; (b) a monetary consideration; and (c) uniform application to all members of the Commandery. By uniform application, it does not mean that all members should pay an equal sum for Life Membership as this would discriminate against older members (1958, p. 273, No. 14, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*; 1961, p. 53, No. 29, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Decision No. 227 [Statutes: Section 135]

Life memberships in Subordinate Commanderies are not authorized by the laws of Grand Encampment and they cannot be issued. (1961, p. 52, No. 28a, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

LADIES' AUXILIARY

Decision No. 228

A Ladies' Auxiliary may have made and wear a small pin bearing the Cross and Crown emblem, with the words "Ladies' Auxiliary, Knights Templar" on the band encircling the emblem. (1961, p. 46, No. 14, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

LORD'S PRAYER

Decision No. 229

Lord's Prayer is to be read, "Forgive us our debts" – not "Forgive us our trespasses." (1940, p. 290, No. 32, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

MAIMS AND DEFECTS

Decision No. 230 [Statutes: Section 177(c)]

The question of the eligibility of a Royal Arch Mason to petition for the Orders, who has an artificial limb but is able to conform to the requirements of the ceremonies is one the Grand Commander or Commander of the Commandery can decide. (1919, p. 293, No. 9, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*; 1934, pp. 173 and 174, No. 8, *Perry Winslow Weidner, G.M.*)

Decision No. 231 [Statutes: Section 177(c)] *RECEIVED*

A totally deaf man is ineligible for Knighthood. (1922, pp. 269 and 270, No. 4, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 232 [Statutes: Section 177(c)] *RECEIVED*

A petitioner whose right hand is so badly maimed that he cannot grip a sword or take the libation with his right hand is disqualified. (1916, pp. 47 and 228, No. 19, *Arthur MacArthur, G.M.*; 1922, pp. 277 and 278, No. 11-B, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 233 [Statutes: Section 177(c)] **RECEIVED**

A candidate having a cork leg is ineligible. (1919, pp. 47 and 293, No. 9, *Lester Stewart Smith, G.M.*; 1934, p. 174, No. 8, *Perry Winslow Weidner, G.M.*)

Decision No. 234 [Statutes: Section 177(c)] **RECEIVED**

A petitioner whose arm has been amputated at the shoulder is ineligible to receive the Orders and under Section 177(c) of the Statutes neither the Grand Commander nor the Grand Master has authority to set aside this provision touching on these physical defects. (1949, p. 215, No. 7, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

MEMBERSHIP IN GOVERNMENT-SUPRESSED COMMANDERY

Decision No. 235

Re: When Castro overthrew the Government of Cuba, Templary along with all Masonry was outlawed under the communist regime.

A member of Havana Commandery is entitled to remain in good standing if he pays his annual dues to the Grand Encampment, directly or through a volunteer for this purpose. Such a member is entitled to receive a membership card from the Grand Recorder under the seal of the Grand Encampment, certifying that he is a member in good standing for the period for which his annual dues are paid. Any Officer or Past Commander, volunteering to assist in this work, should keep in touch with the Grand Recorder and should forthwith remit any dues collected together with the name and address of such member. In the meantime, a member of Havana Commandery in good standing may petition a Commandery at the place of his new residence to become affiliated with such other Commandery, but he is not required to do so in order to retain his membership in good standing. (1967, p. 150, No. 3, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

MEMBERSHIP IN LODGE AND CHAPTER

Decision No. 236 [Statutes: Section 202]

With respect to a Templar expelled from his Masonic Lodge because of gross un-Masonic conduct, such expulsion made it obligatory upon his Commandery to terminate his membership therein. However, such Templar could not be deprived of any rights and privileges without due notice and an opportunity to be heard in his own defense. The only defense available to him in such a case would be that he had not been excluded from his Lodge. (1928, p. 308, No. 4, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

NOTICE OF TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE

Decision No. 237 [Constitution: Section 85]

Notice of the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment should include only concrete proposals to revise or amend the Constitution, Statutes or Ritual of the Grand Encampment. Proposals must be made by one or more members of the Grand Encampment in their individual capacity. Memorials or statements of policy are not properly included. (1952, pp. 152 and 153, No. 1, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 238 ✓

There is no provision for an appeal from a decision by the Grand Master to be included in the official Notice of the Triennial Conclave (1952, p. 154, No. 2, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

OBJECTION

Decision No. 239 [Statutes: Sections 187 and 189]

A visiting Sir Knight has no right to object to the Order of the Red Cross being conferred upon a Royal Arch Mason who has been regularly elected to receive the Orders of the Commandery. (1928, p. 311, No. 10, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

Decision No. 240 [Statutes: Section 186]

An objection against an elected petitioner for the Orders who has not received the Order of Red Cross, is voided at the end of six months, but he may not petition another Commandery until the expiration of three years after such objection, unless the consent of the Commandery by which he was rejected is given by unanimous ballot, the objection being analogous to rejection by ballot, and governed by Section 186 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. (1949, p. 216, No. 8, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

OFFICERS

Decision No. 241 [Constitution: Section 64]

A Grand Commandery may not increase the number of its officers. The number is fixed by statute. (1922, p. 272, No. 6, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 242 [Constitution: Section 43]

A Grand Commandery may not name officers in addition to those named in Section 55. (1922, p. 272, No. 6, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*; 1925, pp. 396 and 397, No. 12, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 243 [Constitution: Section 43]

A Knight may be appointed Inspector General, but acquires no official status thereby. (1922, p. 272, No. 6, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*; 1937, pp. 320 and 321, No. 2, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 244 [Constitution: Sections 41, 43 and 55]

A Grand Commandery does not have power to create an additional office to be listed with or among the Constitutional offices set forth in Sections 43 and 55 of the Constitution.

A Grand Commandery does have implied power to create administrative offices to conduct the details of the work of the Grand Commandery, provided such administrative offices do not in any way impinge or encroach upon the Constitutional offices listed in Section 43, and provided such administrative offices are confined solely to the administrative work of the Grand Commandery. (1952, p. 163, No. 8, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 245 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50]

A Grand Captain General who permanently removes from the jurisdiction, and is so situated as to be precluded from the performance of the duties of his office, is ineligible to continue in office. If, however, despite his removal, he faithfully attends Conclaves and performs the duties of his office for the full period of his term, he is entitled to the rank of Past Grand Captain General. (1955, p. 238, No. 15, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Note: See Decision No. 247.

Decision No. 246 [Constitution: Section 49]

The Grand Master, under Section 49 of the Constitution, may determine whether a Grand Commander has permanently removed from the jurisdiction and whether such removal precludes him from the performance of the duties of his office. If he finds both of these facts in the affirmative, then the Grand Master should declare the office vacant. (1958, p. 268, No. 6, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 247 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50]

The removal of residence of a Grand Officer from the jurisdiction does not vacate his office, so long as he maintains his membership in a Constituent Commandery in the jurisdiction and performs the duties of his office. (*1958, p. 300, No. 39, Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 248 [Constitution: Section 46]

If a Grand Recorder dies during his term of office, it is necessary that his successor be installed in the office to fill out the unexpired term, as every officer of a Grand Commandery must take the oath of office and be installed before entering upon the duties of his office. (*1955, p. 279, No. 32-2, William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 249

An officer who shows an utter lack of interest, doesn't attend and is an example of gross negligence, may be removed from his office by the Commander following a formal "decision" by the Commander finding unknighly conduct by reason of nonfeasance, misfeasance, and/or malfeasance in the performance of the duties of the office of the offending officer. There is no appeal to the Commandery from such a "decision," but such action by the Commander shall not affect the standing in the Order of such officer or his membership in the Commandery. Such removal may also be ordered by the Grand Commander, for the same reason and within the same limitations.

The authority to remove an officer for non-performance of official duties rises from the broad authority of the Grand Commander and the Commander, under the vertical axis of power and authority established by Templar law, to govern his respective level of Templar jurisdiction. Such authority, when related to the duty of seeing that Templar laws are observed, and in the absence of arbitrary conduct by the presiding officer, is practically unlimited.

In the exercise of such authority, the Commander must always be concerned for the good of the Order, and such final step as removal of an officer should be taken as a last resort. It should be only rarely that an officer will not either respond to the needs of the office he has sworn to perform to the best of his ability or consent to resign voluntarily. Even then, the Commander should give written notice to the offending officer to appear at a time and place and justify his conduct, and a third member should be present at such hearing; also the Grand Commander should be informed.

While the Grand Commander of the jurisdiction and the Grand Master of Grand Encampment have similar authority with regard to all officers within their areas of command, it seems best that problems be solved where they exist and

not allowed to fester while waiting for action by some higher authority. The Commander has the tools to handle matters at the local level, and he should not expect or invite outside intervention to solve his own problems. (1970, p. 535, No. 4, *John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.*)

Decision No. 250

The holding of two elective offices by one member – in any Grand, Constituent or Subordinate Commandery – is clearly contrary to tradition, usage and the intent of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. (1973, p. 507, No. 1, *G. Wilbur Bell, G.M.*)

ORDERS

Decision No. 251 [Constitution: Section 48(c)2]

A Commandery U.D., if granted a charter, can confer no Orders until it is constituted. (1925, p. 388, No. 3, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 252 [Constitution: Section 48(c)2]

Between the granting of a charter and the constituting of the Commandery no Orders may be conferred. (1925, p. 388, No. 3, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 253

The Commander may delegate his authority to confer the Orders to any competent Sir Knight. (1919, p. 299, No. 21, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 254

Commanderies may form degree teams to confer Orders under the supervision of the officers. (1916, pp. 287 and 288, No. 18, *Arthur MacArthur, G.M.*)

✓ Decision No. 255 [Statutes: Sections 177(a), 193, 201 and 203]

The withdrawal of recognition by one Grand Lodge of another Grand Lodge does not affect the standing of Master Masons insofar as their prerequisite for the Orders of Knighthood is concerned. (1949, p. 216, No. 9, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 256

A man in the Coast Guard received the Order of the Temple in St. Andrews Preceptory, Hamilton, Bermuda, Great Priory of Scotland. He said that he never

received the Order of Malta and "asked" a Constituent Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina to confer the Order of Malta upon him. The North Carolina Commandery requested information as to how to proceed.

The Commandery in North Carolina cannot entertain the petition to confer the Order of Malta. The Preceptory may request the Commandery to confer the Order of Malta as a courtesy, or the petitioner may return to his Preceptory for the work. (1958, p. 269, No. 8, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 257

The question was asked: "Has an organization called 'The Crusaders,' organized under the auspices of the Shrine, the legal right as such organization to confer the Orders of Knighthood in a Commandery of Knights Templar?"

If a Commandery is opened in the Order of the Temple and the Commander is present, or in his absence the next duly-qualified officer is present, then the work of conferring the Order of the Temple under the supervision of such presiding officer could be conferred by any Sir Knight whom the Commander would select, provided that any duly-elected officer replaced in the cast would consent to such arrangement.

The Grand Encampment does not recognize any other organization except a duly-constituted Commandery as qualified to confer the Orders of Knighthood. Consequently, no organization under the auspices of the Shrine, or any other body which sees fit to call itself 'The Crusaders,' has the legal right as such organization, without the sponsorship of a duly-constituted Commandery of Knights Templar, under the circumstances above outlined, to confer the Orders of Knighthood, nor can such organization in its own name be empowered to do so by either the Grand Commandery or the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment.

Another thing to remember is, that when such organization qualifies to confer the Orders of Knighthood, the members participating in the ritualistic work must be dressed as Knights Templar, wearing uniforms legalized by the Grand Commandery of that jurisdiction and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. (1961, p. 47, No. 16, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

PAST COMMANDERS

Decision No. 258 [Constitution: Section 35(c)]

A Past Commander who has joined a Commandery in another jurisdiction does not thereby become a member of the Grand Commandery until elected thereto. (1910, p. 243, No. 6, *Henry Warren Rugg, G.M.*; 1919, p. 322, No. 42, No. 4, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 259 [Constitution: Section 35(c)]

A Past Commander of a Commandery of a Grand Jurisdiction moving to another Grand Jurisdiction and affiliating with a Constituent Commandery located therein retains his rank as a Past Commander. (1919, pp. 288 and 289, No. 1, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Note: See Decision No. 258 concerning becoming a member of the Grand Commandery.

✓ **Decision No. 260** [Constitution: Section 2(c)]

A Past Commander of a Constituent Commandery under a Grand Commandery cannot be denied the privilege of voting in the Grand Commandery. (1919, p. 323, No. 43, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

✓ **Decision No. 261** [Constitution: Section 72]

A Commander who removes from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office vacates his office and does not become a Past Commander. The Generalissimo who succeeds him and serves out the term becomes a Past Commander. (1937, p. 323, No. 6, *Andrew Davison Agne G.M.*)

Note: Decision was amended to include "precluding the performance of the duties of his office."

✓ **Decision No. 262** [Constitution: Sections 34(a) and (c)]

A Past Commander of a Constituent Commandery in one jurisdiction who demits to a Commandery in another jurisdiction may not maintain his status as a permanent member of the Grand Commandery of the first jurisdiction. (1952, p. 233, No. 14, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 263 [Statutes: Sections 235 and 236]

Legislation shortening the terms of Commanders of Constituent Commanderies in Texas in order to change the fiscal year did not deprive such Commanders of their status nor prevent them from becoming permanent members of the Grand Commandery. Sections 235 and 236 of the Statute requiring service for a "full term" as a condition precedent to becoming permanent members of the Grand Commandery, are satisfied if the Commanders served for "the full period provided by the Grand Commandery of Texas," even though such period was shorter than twelve months. (1952, p. 241, No. 21, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 264 [Statutes: Section 235]

The phrase "term of service," as used in Section 235 of the Statutes, means the full term for which the officer was installed. It makes no difference how brief the term may be, provided the officer serves to the end of the term. (1961, p. 42, No. 9, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

PAST DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDERS**Decision No. 265** [Constitution: Section 2]

The Constitution of the Grand Encampment describes who are members thereof, and does not include the Past Deputy Grand Commanders. They are not, therefore, members of the Grand Encampment and cannot vote therein. (1967, p. 154, No. 13, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

PAST GRAND COMMANDERS**Decision No. 266** [Constitution: Section 55]

The position of Past Grand Commanders on the staff of the Grand Commander is after the Grand Captain General. (1934, p. 217, No. 9, *Andrew Davison Agnew, Acting G.M.*)

Decision No. 267 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50; Statutes: Section 235]

Under the circumstances of death in a succession to the office of Grand Commander during the same term, both Sir Knights who served in that capacity merit the title of Past Grand Commander, and are to be recorded as such. (1955, p. 200, No. 9, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 268

A Past Grand Commander should be accorded the same courtesy and honors due him as are shown the Grand Commander, irrespective of whether he is in uniform or not. (1955, p. 267, No. 20, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 269 [Statutes: Sections 235 and 236]

One who has not completed the full term of office to which he was elected cannot be listed on the records as a Past Grand Commander. (1955, pp. 267 and 268, No. 22, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 270 [Constitution: Section 38]

A Past Grand Commander is entitled to only one vote in the Grand Commandery. (1958, p. 290, No. 24, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

PETITIONS✓ **Decision No. 271** [Constitution: Section 60; Statutes: Sections 166 and 171]

A petition for a new Commandery requires the signatures of nine petitioners. (1919, p. 311, No. 32, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

✓ **Decision No. 272** [Statutes: Section 203]

A Commandery has the undoubted right to appoint a committee to inquire into the character and conduct of a petitioner for reinstatement who has been suspended for non-payment of dues. (1937, p. 344, No. 2, *Mark Norris, Acting G.M.*)

✓ **Decision No. 273** [Constitution: Sections 34 and 41(g); Statutes: Section 177]

RECORDED
A resident of Arizona cannot petition Ivanhoe Commandery of Mexico City for the Orders. (1946, p. 68, No. 6, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

✓ **Decision No. 274** [Statutes: Section 178]

The form of petition for the Orders, approved and printed on page 117 of the Book of Constitution, 1949 Edition (see page 127 of 1967 Edition), is the proper and required one to be used in all jurisdictions. If space allows it is permissible to print or inscribe on the back of the form pertinent data which the Grand Recorder may desire for his records and convenience. (1955, p. 237, No. 12, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

PRECEPTORY MEMBERS**Decision No. 275** [Statutes: Sections 190(a) and 191(a)]

A Commandery holding allegiance to the Grand Encampment cannot confer the Order of the Red Cross upon a member of a Preceptory holding allegiance to the Great Priory of Ireland.

A Demit from a Great Priory submitted with a petition for affiliation with a Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment will not be honored unless the applicant for membership is affiliated in Lodge and Chapter,

and is first duly elected to receive and has conferred upon him the Order of the Red Cross. (1958, p. 285, No. 20 and p. 286, No. 25, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 276

When a Past Prior of a Preceptory visits a Commandery he retains that rank and should be recognized accordingly. It would correspond to the status of a Past Commander.

When a Past Prior affiliates with a chartered Commandery (which means that he shall have had the Order of the Red Cross), he retains the rank of a Past Prior, which corresponds to the rights and privileges of a Past Commander. (1964, pp. 79, 80 and 255, No. 2b and c, *Paul Miller Moore, G.M.*)

PRIZES FOR SECURING PETITIONS

Decision No. 277

There is no provision in the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment prohibiting prizes, such as certain jewelry, for securing petitions for the Order, and if the prizes offered did not amount to a lottery or gambling, and if no portion of the fees was remitted to the petitioner, such practice is not objectionable, so long as kept within reasonable bounds. (1958, p. 284, No. 19, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

PROBATION

✓ Decision No. 278 [Constitution: Section 48; Statutes: Section 176]

Probation as used in Sections 48 and 176, as amended in 1967, is hereby defined in the broad sense intended, to include whatever requirements or prohibitions the Grand Commander may deem necessary to be imposed in order to remedy whatever violation of Templar laws may have been committed by the Commandery, including but not limited to failure to hold a Conclave or to receive a single new member by knighting during twelve consecutive months.

It seems reasonable to assume that the Commandery under probation would be under close supervision of the Grand Commander or his personal Representative, that the probation being imposed by reason of certain faults would terminate when those faults are corrected, and that the purpose and terms of probation will always be of a constructive nature.

Finally, it should be understood that the Grand Commandery in Conclave having the right to revoke a Charter, has also the right to prescribe probationary terms before taking such final action. (1970, p. 534, No. 3, John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.)

PROTEST

see *OBJECTION*

PROXIES

RECORDED 11/6/2007
Decision No. 279 [Constitution: Sections 38 and 40]

The Constitution of the Grand Encampment, Sections 38 and 40, provides for the enactment of legislation by Grand Commanderies permitting proxy voting.

In the absence of any statutory enactment permitting it, the right does not exist. Each member of the Grand Commandery present is entitled to cast one vote in his own right and in addition may cast a vote for each legal proxy held by him. (1946, pp. 82 through 84, No. 12, Charles Noah Orr, G.M.)

Decision No. 280 [Constitution: Section 40]

Proxy voting in a Grand Commandery must be provided for by law; otherwise, it does not exist. (1934, p. 206, No. 3, Perry Winslow Weidner, G.M.)

Decision No. 281

Proxy voting construed and approved. (1913, pp. 45 and 47, No. 9, William Bromwell Melish, G.M.)

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

see *APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC*

QUALIFICATIONS

Decision No. 282 [Constitution: Section 35]

The qualifications of members of a Grand Commandery are fixed by the Grand Encampment. (1916, p. 275, No. 1, Arthur MacArthur, G.M.)

QUORUM

Decision No. 283 [Constitution: Sections 37 and 66]

A quorum consists of nine Knights of the Order entitled to vote therein. (1919, p. 296, No. 17, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*; 1940, p. 343, No. 10, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 284 [Constitution: Section 66]

A quorum in a Commandery U.D. may consist of one of the three officers named in the Dispensation and eight other members. (1874, p. 52, No. 6, *John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.*)

Note: See Decision No. 287.

Decision No. 285 [Statutes: Sections 138, 203, 206 and 217]

A quorum being present, a majority of those voting carries the election or the question put. (1874, p. 52, No. 4, *John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.*)

Decision No. 286 [Constitution: Section 66]

A quorum of a Commandery consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, together with an officer entitled to open the Commandery. (1919, p. 296, No. 17, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 287 [Constitution: Section 66]

A quorum in a Commandery U.D. may consist of one of the three officers named in the Dispensation and eight others not named. (1874, p. 52, No. 6, *John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.*)

Decision No. 288 [Constitution: Section 66]

The Grand Master has no authority to reduce the number required for a quorum from nine to five at business Conclaves in order to accommodate small Commanderies. (1946, p. 66, No. 4, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 289 [Constitution: Section 66]

Visitors cannot be counted to make up a quorum of nine. (1883, p. 39, No. 13, *Benjamin Dean, G.M.*)

RANK

Decision No. 290 [Constitution: Section 3; Statutes: Section 235]

Under Section 3 of the Constitution, the Grand Encampment exercises supreme legislative, judicial and executive power over the Orders, rituals, ceremonies, insignia of rank, shoulder straps and jewels of office. In subdivision (e) of said Section it is specifically provided "The decisions of the Grand Encampment are final, and no appeal lies therefrom."

The Constitution of the Grand Encampment defines the powers and duties of Grand Commanderies, names the officers thereof, designates their honorary and official titles, the precedence of rank, and prescribes their duties specifically and generally.

Nowhere does the Constitution delegate to the Grand Commandery any power to create any other officers or ranks than those established by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

Any attempt by a Grand Commandery to create a new rank or dignity and to confer on the designate the title of "Honorary Grand Commander" without specific authority by the Grand Encampment would be inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment. (1925, pp. 90 and 411, No. 32, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*; 1946, pp. 75-79, No. 9, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Note: "Honorary Past Grand Commander" is permitted by Section 237(a) with approval of the Grand Master.

Decision No. 291 [Statutes: Section 235]

A Grand Commandery may not create the rank of Honorary Grand Commander for one who has never served as Grand Commander. (1925, p. 411, No. 32, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 292 [Constitution: Section 62]

A Grand Commandery cannot establish a so-called civilian rank in its Commandery membership, thus dividing such membership into two classes, uniformed and civilian. (1925, p. 399, No. 15, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 293 [Statutes: Section 235]

The Eminent Commander of a Commandery merged with another Commandery is entitled to the rank of a Past Commander though he did not complete a full term of service. (1937, p. 321, No. 3 and p. 338, No. 21, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 294 [Statutes: Section 235]

A Past Commander retains his rank even if he affiliates with a Commandery in another state. (1919, pp. 288 and 289, No. 1, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 295 [Statutes: Section 235]

Where two Commanderies are consolidated the Commander that is retired by reason of consolidation of his Commandery with another is entitled to the rank of Past Commander, citing Decisions Numbered 3 and 21, Proc. 1937. (1943, p. 368, No. 2, *Harry Gilmore Pollard, G.M.*)

Decision No. 296 [Constitution: Section 72; Statutes: Section 236]

Only the Generalissimo who succeeds to the office of Commander and completes his term of service would be entitled to the rank of Past Commander in a case where the Commander vacated his office by permanent removal from the jurisdiction. (1937, p. 323, No. 6, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*; 1940, p. 275, No. 16, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 297 [Statutes: Section 235]

Appointive officers carry no past rank. On expiration of their term they are retired to the rank held at the time of appointment. (1904, pp. 87 and 188, No. 1, *Henry Bates Stoddard, G.M.*)

Decision No. 298 [Statutes: Sections 235 and 236]

A Sir Knight may not be elected Grand Commander, be installed, serve a part of the Annual Conclave, resign his office and upon the election of his successor be recognized as a Past Grand Commander. (1925, p. 401, No. 18, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 299 [Statutes: Sections 235 and 236]

If a Commander resigns and a new Commander is elected from the floor, without having gone through the chairs, and after having been elected to the office of the Commander immediately resigns and the legitimately-elected Commander is re-elected, the procedure is not regular, even if sanctioned by the Grand Commander. The title of Past Commander cannot be acquired by such a procedure. (1946, pp. 87 and 88, No. 15, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 300 [Statutes: Section 235] *RECORDED*

A Constituent Commandery has no authority to elect a member who has not been through the chairs to the title of Past Commander. (1946, pp. 87 and 88, No. 15, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

✓ **Decision No. 301** [Statutes: Section 235]

A Grand Generalissimo not re-elected becomes a Past Grand Generalissimo. (1940, p. 291, No. 37, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 302 [Constitution: Section 55]

Past Grand Commanders follow the Grand Captain General in the order of precedence. (1934, p. 217, No. 9, *Andrew Davison Agnew, Acting G.M.*)

✓ **Decision No. 303** [Constitution: Section 62]

There can be no civilian rank in a Commandery. (1925, p. 399, No. 15, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

✓ **Decision No. 304** [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50]

One who succeeds to the office of Grand Commander under Sections 49 and 50 of the Constitution and who serves the remainder of the term of office would become a Past Grand Commander and a permanent member of the Grand Encampment. (1949, pp. 213 and 214, No. 4, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 305 [Constitution: Section 72]

One who succeeds to the office of Commander under Section 72 of the Constitution and who serves the remainder of the term of office would become a Past Commander and a permanent member of the Grand Commandery. (1949, p. 213, No. 4, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 306

As to the proper protocol of precedence in rank to be recognized and accorded Grand Encampment Officers visiting Conclaves of Grand Commanderies, as there is no law of the Grand Encampment on the question, in general the application of precedence in rank at a Templar Conclave operates from the lowest to the highest, and not vice versa, the Grand Master, or his personal representative, being last. When officers or representatives of several Grand Commanderies are in attendance, recognition and reception should be based on seniority of state organizations, from the youngest to the oldest. (1955, pp. 238 and 239, No. 16, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 307

A Commander, elected and installed at the time the Commandery is constituted, and who serves until the annual election of officers, acquires the rank of Past Commander. (1958, p. 284, No. 18, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 308 [Statutes: Sections 235 and 236]

According to Templar law (Section 139) any Sir Knight in good standing is eligible to be elected from the floor to any office of the Commandery, but before he can be considered a Past Commander he would have to serve his full term of office as Commander. He could not be elected, resign, and then be considered a Past Commander whose rank gives him permanent membership in his Grand Commandery. (1961, p. 48, No. 17, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Decision No. 309 [Statutes: Section 237]

When the Commander of a Commandery U.D. goes out of office when the chartered Commandery is constituted, he has no official status or title. He has no permanent rank as a Past Commander. The reason for this is that the Commandery U.D. is a temporary organization and the officers thereof have no tenure but hold office at the pleasure of the appointing authority. It makes no difference how long he may have served, and there is no exception to this rule. (1964, pp. 79 and 255, No. 2a, *Paul Miller Moore, G.M.*)

RECEIPT FOR DUES**Decision No. 310**

A Commandery cannot require members to exhibit to the Recorder receipts for dues in Lodge and Chapter. (1919, pp. 303 and 304, No. 30, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

RECORDER**Decision No. 311** [Constitution: Section 75]

Grand Commanders have authority to require the Treasurer and Recorder to be bonded. (1937, p. 347, No. 4, *Mark Norris, Acting G.M.*)

RED CROSS**Decision No. 312** [Statutes: Sections 188 and 199]

Where a candidate has received the Red Cross, that Commandery may confer the remaining Orders, though the candidate has changed his residence. (1919, p. 298, No. 20, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

REJECTION OF PETITIONER

Decision No. 313 [Statutes: Sections 147, 177 and 186]

A Commandery retains no territorial jurisdiction over a Royal Arch Mason who has moved from his jurisdiction to that of another Commandery and becomes a bonafide resident thereof.

After having been rejected by a Commandery and thereafter moving to the territorial jurisdiction of another Commandery and residing therein for six months, the rejected man may petition the Commandery into whose jurisdiction he has removed, but such petition cannot be acted on within three years after his rejection without the consent by unanimous ballot of the Commandery by which he was previously rejected. (1925, p. 410, No. 31, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

REMOVAL

Decision No. 314 [Statutes: Section 129]

Moving out of jurisdiction forfeits no rights of membership. (1913, pp. 5 and 52, No. 14, *William Bromwell Melish, G.M.*)

Decision No. 315 [Constitution: Section 72; Statutes: Section 235]

Permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office by the Commander, vacates the office and entitles the Generalissimo to succeed. It also prevents the Commander so removing from becoming a Past Commander and from being a permanent member of the Grand Commandery. (1940, pp. 275 and 276, No. 16, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Note: "Precluding the performance of the duties of his office" has been added to the original decision in order to comply with Section 72.

Decision No. 316 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50]

Removal from a state disqualifies a Knight from holding office in the Grand Commandery of the state he has ceased to live in if such removal precludes the performance of the duties of office. (1880, pp. 71 and 72, No. 33, *Vincen Lombard Hurlbut, G.M.*)

Note: "Precludes the performance of the duties of office" has been added to the original decision in order to comply with Sections 49 and 50.

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE*see OFFICERS***REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM ROSTER****Decision No. 317** *RECEIVED*

Four Sir Knights of Tampico Commandery No. 1 (a Subordinate Commandery) over eighty years of age, who have not been heard from for twenty years, and concerning whom diligent search and inquiry (including mailing of notice to the last known address) yields no information, should be dropped from the rolls by Tampico Commandery No. 1 and no further dues should be paid to the Grand Encampment on their behalf by such Subordinate Commandery. (1952, p. 248, No. 29, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

RESIDENCE**Decision No. 318** [Statutes: Sections 177 and 178]

A government employee residing in the Canal Zone but claiming residence in Illinois can petition for the Orders in a Commandery located in his home locality in Illinois.

An employee of the government does not lose citizenship by being located away from his home. (1922, pp. 274 and 275, No. 8, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 319 [Statutes: Section 177]

Residence in a cantonment less than six months is not sufficient to allow a Commandery to confer Orders. (1919, pp. 321 and 322, No. 41, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Decision No. 320

One who belongs to a Lebanon Chapter and spends only two months of each year in New Jersey could qualify neither as a resident nor as a Sojourner to petition for the Orders of Knighthood. (1955, p. 278, No. 31, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 321

A member of a Subordinate Commandery, wishing a Demit to join a Commandery in the States, although his residence will remain where the

Subordinate Commandery is located, is entitled to a Demit if he is not in arrears in dues and if no charges are pending against him. There is no residence requirement as to petition for affiliation and no waiver of jurisdiction is required. (1961, p. 45, No. 13, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

RESTORATION TO GOOD STANDING

see EXPULSION

RESTORATION TO MEMBERSHIP

Decision No. 322 [Statutes: Section 206]

Section 206 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment provides that when a member is suspended or expelled for unknighly conduct, he may be restored to membership on petition if the ballot is unanimous. There is no such thing in Templar law as "automatic" restoration. The fact that the sentence of expulsion was reduced by the Grand Master to a fixed term did not change the requirement that in order to be restored to membership, Section 206 would have to be complied with. (1967, p. 149, No. 2, *Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.*)

Note: Part of the decision was deleted as it no longer was valid. See Decision No. 134.

RETURN OF FEE

Decision No. 323

In the absence of any regulation on the subject of returning the fees to a petitioner who failed to present himself for the Orders within twelve months after his election, the disposition of the money is a matter resting in the discretion of the Commandery.

The true rule and policy of Templary should be to decide each case upon the circumstances involved and allow the return of the money or insist upon its retention as the best fraternal judgment may indicate. (1925, p. 408, No. 29, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

RITUAL

Decision No. 324 [Constitution: Section 3; Statutes: Section 232]

It is not permissible for a Grand Commandery to reprint in whole or in part and distribute among its Constituent Commanderies, rituals printed and promulgated by the Grand Encampment.

Rituals are under the sole supervision and control of the Grand Encampment and may be published and issued by it alone. (1928, p. 312, No. 11, *George William Vallery, G.M.*; 1940, p. 281, No. 4, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 325 [Constitution: Section 3; Statutes: Section 231]

When the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Encampment are changed so as to affect the language of the Ritual, such action automatically changes the Ritual to conform thereto. (1922, p. 267, No. 1, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 326 [Statutes: Section 231]

Where there is a conflict, the Ritual governs over tactics. (1922, p. 281, No. 15, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 327 [Statutes: Sections 231 and 232]

Rituals or parts thereof can be printed only by the Grand Encampment. (1928, p. 312, No. 11, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

Decision No. 328 [Constitution: Section 3]

The full form opening is part of the Ritual. The Ritual is all secret work. It is not to be exemplified in the presence of anyone who is not a Knight Templar in good standing.

No Grand Commander is authorized to permit any of the ritualistic work to be exemplified except in the secrecy of the asylum. (1937, p. 346, No. 3, *Mark Norris, Acting G.M.*)

Decision No. 329

In the event of conflict between the Constitution and Ritual relative to the use of titles, the provisions of the Constitution control. (1949, p. 219, No. 12, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 330 [Statutes: Section 231]

There is no authority for a Grand Commandery to adopt an abbreviated form for the prescribed Full Form Opening, nor to adopt a special form for opening, in lieu of the Full Form Opening. (1952, p. 159, No. 7, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 331

The Master Ritual entrusted to the Grand Recorder of each Grand Commandery is confined to his personal custody at all times. Those who desire

to consult the Master Ritual must do so in the Grand Recorder's presence, and must not be allowed to "borrow" or remove the same at any time. No provision is made for entrusting a Master Ritual to a Subordinate Commandery because it is under the supervision of the Grand Master who is empowered to make such arrangements as may be deemed appropriate within his discretion. (1952, p. 230, No. 12, Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.)

(Subordinate Commanderies entitled to one copy by resolution adopted 1976, Kansas City.)

Decision No. 332

It is not possible for the Order of the Temple to be conferred in short form, and the Grand Master is without power to grant such requested Dispensation. (1955, p. 196, No. 3, William Catron Gordon, G.M.)

Note: Decision also prohibited Order of the Red Cross to be conferred in short form, but Constitution was amended in 1970.

Decision No. 333 *RECORDED*

A Grand Commandery by official action may dispense with the baldric and thereafter, unless the Grand Commandery has positively decreed otherwise, the recital of the explanation of the baldric is optional with the Constituent Commandery. (1955, p. 265, No. 18 and p. 275, No. 27-1, William Catron Gordon, G.M.; 1961, p. 46, No. 15, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.)

Decision No. 334

The Grand Encampment has sole and exclusive right to change, modify or amend the Ritual, and no other authority has any power to do so. (1961, p. 46, No. 15, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.)

Decision No. 335

The "ODE TO THE SK" is not essentially a part of the secret Ritual of the Grand Encampment. (1961, p. 49, No. 20, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.)

Decision No. 336

A Dispensation is not needed when the requirement of the Ritual is observed. (1961, p. 49, No. 21, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.)

Decision No. 337

All parts of the ritual are secret and no portion thereof can be exhibited or revealed to the public. To do so would be a serious offense against Templary. (1961, p. 50, No. 22, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.)

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

Decision No. 338

The existence of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the town where a Commandery is located is not required. (1919, p. 323, No. 44, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

SOJOURNER

Decision No. 339

When a Commandery accepts the petition of a Sojourner — a resident of another jurisdiction — and confers the Orders upon him without obtaining the consent of the Commandery having territorial jurisdiction, and pays the penalty provided by Section 82 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, the status of the Sojourner who was thus created a Knight Templar is that of an ipso facto member of the Commandery conferring the Orders. (1940, p. 283, No. 14 and p. 284, No. 18, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 340 [Constitution: Sections 34 and 82; Statutes: Section 177]

There is no authority in the law whereby a Commandery in New York can receive and act upon petitions of citizens of China temporarily sojourning in New York. Prior to 1934 when our Constitution and Statutes were revised, Section 112 of the old constitution authorized a Commandery to receive a petition from a Sojourner whose residence was located in the territorial jurisdiction of another country, state, district or territory. If the Commandery holding such territorial jurisdiction waived its jurisdiction the Commandery petitioned could act.

In 1934, Section 112 was modified and became Section 82 of the Constitution. The right to receive petitions from residents of another country, state, district or territory was eliminated. In another decision the Grand Master held that the right of a Sojourner to petition another Commandery was restricted to "another Commandery within the Grand Jurisdiction in which he had his domicile." (1946, pp. 71 through 74, No. 8, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 341 [Statutes: Section 177(d)]

An Army officer, a native of the Netherlands, stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, residing there from October 13, 1952, to February 17, 1953, purporting to have received his Blue Lodge and Chapter Degrees in the Netherlands, was not properly eligible to petition a Commandery for the Orders of Templary. (1955, p. 197, No. 4, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 342

One who belongs to a Lebanon Chapter and spends only two months of each year in New Jersey could qualify neither as a resident nor as a Sojourner to petition for the Orders of Knighthood. (1955, p. 278, No. 31, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES**Decision No. 343 [Constitution: Section 2]**

Section 2 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment describes who are members thereof, and does not include Past Commanders of any Subordinate Commandery. They are not, therefore, members of the Grand Encampment and cannot vote therein. (1961, p. 52, No. 28b, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

SUCCESSION IN OFFICE

see VACANCY

Decision No. 344 [Constitution: Sections 49 and 50]

If the Deputy Grand Commander dies, the Grand Generalissimo succeeds and should be installed; also the Grand Captain General succeeds the Grand Generalissimo and should be installed. The Grand Commandery may appoint any qualified Knight to be Grand Captain General. (1940, p. 278, No. 24, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 345 [Constitution: Section 48(b)]

In case of the death of the Grand Senior Warden of a Grand Commandery, the Grand Commander may fill the vacancy by appointment. (1940, p. 289, No. 21, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 346 [Constitution: Sections 72 and 76]

A Commander-elect having died without installation, it was held the old Commander should be held over, and there being no vacancy there was no right of succession. A Dispensation should be obtained to elect a successor. (1937, pp. 319 and 320, No. 1, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 347 [Constitution: Sections 72 and 76]

If a Captain General of a Constituent Commandery vacates his position, a Dispensation to elect his successor should be obtained from the Grand

Commander. If an election and installation of such a Captain General has been held without Dispensation, the Grand Commander can heal that which has been erroneously done by granting the Commander a Dispensation and then the Commandery may legally elect anyone it pleases as a Captain General. Election without Dispensation is invalid. (1940, p. 280, No. 36, Mark Norris, G.M.)

SUNDAY

Decision No. 348

The conferring of the Order of the Temple should not be undertaken on Sunday. (1919, p. 299, No. 22, Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.)

Decision No. 349 [Statutes: Section 216]

Templar business or secular activities are prohibited on Sunday, but religious or other non-business activities such as funerals, religious services and Templar displays in connection with religious services, or of a comparable nature, are not objectionable. (1952, p. 229, No. 10, Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.)

Decision No. 350 [Statutes: Section 216]

It is illegal to confer the Orders of Knighthood on Sunday. (1955, p. 240, No. 17-1, William Catron Gordon, G.M.)

Decision No. 351 [Statutes: Sections 215 and 216]

A Grand Commander is vested with authority to issue a Dispensation for an Installation of Officers on a Sunday provided the installation is held at a time when it does not conflict with the usual Sunday church service. Where the installation is held in a Masonic Building the approval of the Grand Master of Masons shall first be obtained. (1967, p. 153, No. 12, Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.)

Note: This decision voids 1955 decision, p. 236, No. 11b, William Catron Gordon, G.M.)

Decision No. 352

The Installation of Officers is a "ceremony," as opposed to "work." There is a clear distinction between "work" and "ceremonies," such as installation of officers, attendance at divine services, parades and memorial services, etc. The one requires "opening" and "closing" and may not be performed on Sunday; the other is not subject to the same limitations. (1970, p. 533, No. 2, John Lawton Crofts, Sr., G.M.)

SUSPENDED MEMBER**Decision No. 353**

A suspended member of Tampico Commandery No. 1 (a Subordinate Commandery) may not petition for the Orders of Knighthood in a Constituent Commandery of a Grand Commandery, but must obtain reinstatement in Tampico Commandery No. 1, under regular statutory procedure. (1952, p. 243, No. 25, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

Decision No. 354

A former member of a Commandery, suspended prior to the surrender of the Charter by the Commandery, is not entitled to a Demit, but can be reinstated to Good Standing by action of the Grand Commandery, governed by rules which would be applicable if his Commandery were still in existence; in such case, a majority vote of the Grand Commandery would be required. (1952, p. 249, No. 30, *Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.*)

SUSPENSION**Decision No. 355 [Statutes: Section 202]**

The so-called automatic suspension is not permitted in a Commandery. Section 202 of the Statutes must be followed. (1955, p. 277, No. 29, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

SUSPENSION IN LODGE OR CHAPTER

see MEMBERSHIP IN LODGE OR CHAPTER

TACTICS**Decision No. 356 [Constitution: Section 3; Statutes: Section 231]**

Ritual governs where there is a conflict with Tactics. (1922, p. 281, No. 15, *Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 357

A Grand Commandery need not submit its Manual of Tactics and Drill to the Grand Master or the Grand Encampment for approval before adoption, publication and use. The Manual must conform to the ceremonies and floor

movements indicated in the Ritual. (1955, p. 276, No. 27-2, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

TITLES

✓ Decision No. 358 [Constitution: Sections 31 and 54]

Titles are not preceded by the words "Sir Knight." They should be "Most Eminent Grand Master," "Most Eminent Past Grand Master," and the same with reference to officer and past officers in Grand Commanderies and Commanderies. "Sir Knight" applies to Knights who have no honorary title. (1925, pp. 390 and 391, No. 6, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Note: See Section 54 of the Constitution for a modification of this decision.

✓ Decision No. 359 [Constitution: Section 3(a)]

The Grand Encampment may alter or abolish Commandery titles. One who has such a title retains the same as long as the law prescribes. (1925, p. 387, No. 7 *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 360 [Statutes: Section 237(a)]

Those who have never served in the office may not be created honorary Grand Commander. (1925, p. 411, No. 32, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Note: Decision was modified to comply with 237(a).

TREASURER

Decision No. 361 [Constitution: Section 75]

Grand Commanders have authority to require the Treasurer to be bonded. (1937, p. 347, No. 4, *Mark Norris, Acting G.M.*)

TRIANGLE

Decision No. 362

There is no prescribed emblem to be used on the relics cover for the Triangle and none is necessary. (1937, p. 322, No. 4, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

UNIFORMS

Decision No. 363 [Constitution: Section 41(i)]

Each Grand Commandery has the authority to prescribe the uniform to be worn by the members of its own jurisdiction.

The Grand Encampment determines the kind of uniform to be worn by the members of its Subordinate Commanderies and those to be worn by the officers of the Grand Encampment. This includes the particular kind of belt that may be adopted. (1916, pp. 44, 45 and 286, No. 15, Arthur MacArthur, G.M.; 1922, p. 296, No. 25, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.)

Decision No. 364 [Constitution: Sections 41(b) and (i)]

A Grand Commandery has the right to enact a law to make membership in a Commandery contingent upon the possession of a uniform. (1934, p. 164, No. 1, Perry Winslow Weidner, G.M.)

Decision No. 365 [Constitution: Sections 41(i), 62 and 81]

A Commandery may not use any part of the fee paid for the Orders provide a uniform for the candidate. (1919, p. 295, No. 12, Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.)

Decision No. 366 [Constitution: Section 62]

A Commandery U.D. of the Grand Encampment must use the uniform prescribed by the Grand Encampment. (1910, p. 246, No. 12, Henry Warren Rugg, G.M.; 1916, p. 286, No. 15, Arthur MacArthur, G.M.)

Decision No. 367 [Constitution: Sections 3 and 41(i)]

Grand Commanderies have full power to prescribe uniforms except as to the insignia of rank and the jewel of office. (1922, p. 296, No. 25, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.; 1925, p. 390, No. 5, Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.)

Decision No. 368 [Constitution: Sections 41(i) and 62]

The Grand Commanderies of the various jurisdictions may adopt no uniforms adaptable to the climate, provided that the uniform referred to shall carry the insignia of rank by shoulder straps, jewels, etc., prescribed by the Grand Encampment and that the Commandery could appear on proper occasions in public in this new uniform. (1940, p. 285, No. 20, Mark Norris, G.M.)

Decision No. 369

A Grand Commandery may change uniforms, but uniforms used in public should be alike. (1940, pp. 285 and 286, No. 20, Mark Norris, G.M.)

Decision No. 370 [Statutes: Section 251(d) and (e)]

In tropical countries Prelate's robes may be made of light material to meet the exigencies of climate. (1940, p. 277, No. 23, Mark Norris, G.M.)

Decision No. 371 [Constitution: Section 41(i)] *RECEIVED*

A Grand Commandery may dispense with the baldric as a part of the uniform. (1922, pp. 281 and 282, No. 16, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.)

Decision No. 372 [Statutes: Section 250] *RECEIVED*

Members of Subordinate Commanderies under the immediate Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment are required to wear the baldric as a part of the Templar uniform. (1925, p. 406, No. 25, Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.)

Decision No. 373 [Constitution: Section 41(i)]

A Grand Commandery may prescribe uniform belts. (1922, p. 296, No. 25, Joseph Kyle Orr, G.M.)

Decision No. 374 [Statutes: Section 250]

A cape is not a uniform. (1934, p. 205, No. 1 and pp. 420 and 421, Perry Winslow Weidner, G.M.)

Decision No. 375 [Statutes: Section 257]

Templar jewels only should be worn on Templar uniforms. (1937, p. 325, No. 9, Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.)

Decision No. 376 [Constitution: Section 62; Statutes: Section 214]

A uniform is the property of the individual Templar and may be worn by him at pleasure. Dispensations are required only for public appearances of Commanderies. (1940, pp. 275, 339 and 340, No. 8, Mark Norris, G.M.)

Decision No. 377 [Statutes: Section 214 through 216]

No Dispensation is required for visitations of individual Templars to a Lodge or Chapter. It is only when the Commandery makes such an appearance that a

Dispensation must be secured. Wearing of apron over Templar Coat is not prohibited during such visit. (1940, p. 275, No. 8, and p. 339, No. 1, Mark Norris, G.M.; 1946, pp. 62 and 63, No. 2, Charles Noah Orr, G.M.)

Decision No. 378

Templars in Full Templar uniform may visit other Masonic Bodies for escort or other appropriate purposes. A Dispensation from the Grand Commander is required only in the event of an appearance by the Constituent Commandery as a unit, and is not required for one or more individual Sir Knights in uniform unless they are acting under the order or supervision of a Constituent Commandery or elected officer thereof, in which case they should be classified as a unit. (1952, p. 237, No. 18, Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M.)

Decision No. 379 [Constitution: Sections 41(i) and 62(c)]

1. Sir Knights who possess old style uniforms may retain them and not be required to purchase the new style; a Grand Commandery may sanction the continued use of a former type uniform, but it adopts only one as the dress uniform of the Grand Commandery.
2. A Grand Commandery by official action may dispense with, or eliminate, the baldric as a part of the official uniform.
3. Not applicable.
4. Every officer of a Commandery before installation shall own and possess a uniform. It is immaterial how he acquires it, whether by gift or purchase, but he cannot wear it on a temporary or loan basis.
5. If the term "tuxedo type" means a double breasted or sack coat, conforming generally to military style, it would be permitted, but the dress must conform to the traditions and practices of Templary, and sleeve crosses are required; shoulder straps and jewels of officers must be worn by officers. (1955, pp. 264-266, No. 18, William Catron Gordon, G.M.)

Regarding No. 4 above, by passage of an amendment to Section 62(c) of the Constitution at the 1976 Triennial Conclave, the words "shall own and possess" were changed to "shall possess."

Decision 380 [Statutes: Section 257]

The badge of the York Cross of Honour is not a Templar Jewel within the meaning of Section 257, and cannot be worn on the Templar uniform. (1955, p. 267, No. 21, William Catron Gordon, G.M.)

Decision No. 381 [Statutes: Section 246]

It is not obligatory that officers' shoulder straps be worn on the fatigue uniform. (1955, p. 275, No. 25, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

Decision No. 382 [Statutes: Section 257]

The authorized jewel of a Past Commanders' Association is within the purview of Section 257, and may properly be worn on the Templar uniform. The true test to be applied to Section 257 is whether the jewel is strictly a Templar jewel and generally recognized by Templar bodies as such. The Grand Encampment, in 1925, in passing on a Resolution of the Grand Commandery of California, recognized the authorized jewel of a Past Commanders' Association as being within the purview of Section 257, and proper to be worn on the Templar uniform. (1925, p. 402, No. 21, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*; 1958, p. 265, No. 1, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 383 [Statutes: Section 257]

The official jewel of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross is strictly a Templar jewel, and therefore may properly be worn on the Templar uniform. (1958, p. 267, No. 3, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 384

A Worshipful Master, presiding at a Blue Lodge funeral service, being a Past Commander with a Knight Templar escort, need not appear in his Commandery uniform, "minus sword and belt with an apron over the uniform." The Worshipful Master in charge was properly attired in civilian dress as it was not a Knight Templar funeral. A Knight Templar should not appear in uniform without a belt, and an apron should not be worn over the uniform, except in a tiled Lodge. (1958, p. 273, No. 13, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 385

A K.Y.C.H. Jewel on a Templar uniform, suspended from a cord around the neck, is prohibited. (1955, p. 267, No. 21, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*; 1958, p. 293, No. 32, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*; 1961, p. 50, No. 23, *Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.*)

Note: 1961 added "suspended from a cord around the neck."

Decision No. 386 [Statutes: Section 257]

The sequence in which jewels may be worn should be as follows: Meritorious Jewels, Badges of Commanderies, Malta Jewel and Red Cross Jewel, placed in order named. (1964, pp. 84, 85 and 255, No. 8, *Paul Miller Moore, G.M.*)

Decision No. 387

A Grand Commandery has the power by appropriate legislation to authorize Constituent Commanderies to terminate so-called "Uniform Funds" if the mandates of Section 62(c) and (d) are lawfully observed, and such legislation may provide for the disposition of such "Uniform Funds" for Templar projects to which the Grand Commandery may permit such funds to be transferred. (See 1952, p. 157, No. 5, Robert Brainerd Gaylord, G.M., which is in conflict with this decision.) (1967, p. 150, No. 4, Wilber Marion Brucker, G.M.)

VACANCY

see SUCCESSION IN OFFICE

Decision No. 388 [Constitution: Sections 48(b), 49 and 50]

A vacancy in the office of Deputy Grand Commander is filled by the Grand Generalissimo who should be installed therein. This creates a vacancy in the office of Grand Generalissimo to which the Grand Captain General succeeds and should be installed. A vacancy is thus created in the office of Grand Captain General and by provision of Section 48(b) of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, the Grand Commander is authorized to fill the vacancy by appointment. If such appointment should create any other vacancy or vacancies, such may be filled by the Grand Commander by appointment. All appointees should be installed. (1931, p. 265, No. 7, William Leslie Sharp, G.M.; 1937, p. 34, No. 17, Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.)

Decision No. 389 [Constitution: Sections 48(b) and 50]

A Grand Commander may appoint to fill vacancies in any Grand Commandery office where there is no right of succession. (1937, pp. 341 and 342, No. 1, Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.; 1961, p. 38, No. 1, Louis Henry Wieber, G.M.)

Decision No. 390 [Constitution: Sections 72 and 76]

One having been elected to the office of Captain General of a Commandery and having died before installation, there is a vacancy in that office. A Dispensation for a special election under such circumstances would be legal. (1931, p. 267, No. 8, William Leslie Sharp, G.M.)

Decision No. 391 [Constitution: Sections 72 and 76]

A Captain General having vacated his position, a Dispensation is required to elect his successor. Election without Dispensation is invalid. (1940, p. 280, No. 36, Mark Norris, G.M.)

Decision No. 392

In case of the permanent removal of the Commander from the jurisdiction and the Generalissimo succeeding to the office and being installed as Commander, only the Generalissimo who succeeds to the office of Commander and completes the term of service would be entitled to the rank of Past Commander. (1937, p. 323, No. 6, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*; 1940, p. 275, No. 16, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Decision No. 393 [Constitution: Sections 72 and 76; Statutes: Section 234]

A Dispensation, but no Special Conclave, is required to fill a vacancy in the office of Recorder of a Subordinate Commandery. (1916, p. 294, No. 24, *Arthur MacArthur, G.M.*)

Decision No. 394 [Constitution: Section 72; Statutes: Section 236]

Permanent removal from the Jurisdiction "precluding the performance of the duties of his office" vacates the office of a Commander and prevents his becoming a permanent member of his Grand Commandery. (1940, pp. 275 and 6, No. 6, *Mark Norris, G.M.*)

Note: Precluding, etc., was added to comply with Section 72.

Decision No. 395 [Constitution: Section 48(b)]

Vacancies on the Board of Trustees of the Permanent Fund of the Grand Encampment may be filled by appointment by the Grand Master effective until the next Triennial Conclave. (1928, p. 314, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

Decision No. 396 [Constitution: Section 48(b)]

The death of a Grand Standard Bearer creates a vacancy which the Grand Commander is authorized to fill, under Section 48(b). He shall serve during the pleasure of the Grand Commander. He may be regularly installed and serve the remainder of the term if the Grand Commander chooses. However, he may appoint him as Acting Grand Standard Bearer if he chooses, although this is not necessary. He would likewise have the power to call a meeting of the Grand Commandery for the purpose of electing an officer to fill the vacancy, but this is not contemplated, and probably not wise. He may also leave the station vacant until the next meeting of the Grand Commandery. (1958, p. 301, No. 41, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

VISITATION

Decision No. 397

A Commandery may, upon invitation, visit another Commandery in the same jurisdiction for the purpose of conferring the Orders without obtaining a Dispensation therefor, assuming this involved no appearance of the Commandery upon the streets in uniform. (1925, p. 411, No. 33, *Leonidas Perry Newby, G.M.*)

Decision No. 398

In presenting a dramatization of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross if candidates are brought in from Commanderies throughout the state, they must be qualified in their own separate Commanderies. (1946, pp. 69 through 71, No. 7, *Charles Noah Orr, G.M.*)

Decision No. 399 [Statutes: Sections 183, 187, 188 and 189]

- a. A visiting Sir Knight has no right to vote on a petition for membership in the Commandery or upon any subject which affects the Commandery.
- b. None but members of the Commandery have a right to cast a ballot.
- c. A visiting Sir Knight has no right to object to the Order of the Red Cross being conferred on a Royal Arch Mason who has been regularly elected to receive the Orders of the Commandery.
- d. It is the duty of the Eminent Commander to ascertain beyond any question of doubt that a Sir Knight who desires to visit the Commandery is in good standing.
- e. A Sir Knight should hold receipts showing that he is not delinquent in his dues to the Commandery to which he belongs. (1928, p. 311, No. 10, *George William Vallery, G.M.*)

Decision No. 400

The privilege of visitation by an unaffiliated Knight is governed by the Laws of the Grand Body to which the Commandery sought to be visited owes allegiance. (1949, p. 212, No. 3b, *John Temple Rice, G.M.*)

Decision No. 401 [Statutes: Section 223]

A visitor from a foreign Jurisdiction which does not recognize the Order of the Red Cross as a necessary prerequisite, may visit a Commandery under the

jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment by complying with Section 223 of the Statutes. (1958, p. 289, No. 22, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

Decision No. 402 [Statutes: Section 177]

The Council is not a prerequisite to membership in a Commandery and a Sir Knight does not have to be a member of a Council before being eligible to visit a Commandery. (1958, p. 289, No. 23, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

VISITATION BY GRAND MASTER OF MASONS

Decision No. 403

1. When the Grand Master of Masons visits a Commandery, or a Grand Commandery, he should be accorded the highest possible honors of a distinguished guest, and as such should be received through the lines at present swords, which is the highest civilian recognition of distinguished guests.

The Grand Master of Masons as such should not be received under the Arch of Steel, unless otherwise entitled to same, as that is a military recognition to which only certain Templar officers are entitled. (1955, p. 266, No. 19, *William Catron Gordon, G.M.*)

RECORDED

VOTES

Decision No. 404 [Constitution: Section 38]

A member of a Grand Commandery has but one vote, which is his individual right. (1874, p. 61, No. 29, *John Quincy Adams Fellows, G.M.*)

Decision No. 405 [Constitution: Section 38]

No vote accrues to the office of the Grand Captain General, he having died. (1937, p. 340, No. 25, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 406 [Constitution: Section 40]

Each Grand Commandery determines whether or not to allow proxy voting. (1934, p. 206, No. 3, *Perry Winslow Weidner, G.M.*)

Decision No. 407

A vote is by show of hands. Where a vote is called for, a ballot is not require
(1937, p. 339, No. 23, *Andrew Davison Agnew, G.M.*)

Decision No. 408 [Constitution: Section 38]

A Past Commander of a Constituent Commandery under a Grand Commandery cannot be denied the privilege of voting in the Grand Commandery.
(1919, p. 323, No. 43, *Lee Stewart Smith, G.M.*)

Note: See Decision No. 258 concerning becoming a member of the Grand Commandery if he is from another jurisdiction and has not been elected to the new Grand Commandery.

Decision No. 409 [Constitution: Section 38]

A Past Grand Commander is entitled to only one vote in the Grand Commandery. (1958, p. 290, No. 24, *Walter Allen DeLamater, G.M.*)

WILLS

· see *EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION*

TEMPLAR JURISPRUDENCE

HISTORICAL RECORD

of the institution, growth and development of the

JURISPRUDENCE

of the

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

APPENDIX

United States of America

1816 to 1976

For the use and benefit of those interested in a study of Templar Jurisprudence, its growth and development, this historical record has been compiled.

It may also serve as a handy reference to all material changes in the organic laws of the Grand Encampment, together with variations of the Proceedings when such changes may be found.

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The Constitution of the Grand Encampment

I.

It was adopted June 21, 1816.

It was amended as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Art. I, | Sec. 1, in 1826, 1841, 1850.
Sec. 2, in 1819, 1826, 1850, 1859, 1862.
Sec. 3, in 1853.
Sec. 8, in 1826, 1850.
Sec. 9, in 1826, 1829.
Sec. 10, in 1829. |
| Art. II, | Sec. 2, in 1841. |
| Art. III, | Sec. 2, in 1826.
Sec. 5, in 1853. |

(See reprint Vol. I, Appendix.)

II.

The constitution was entirely revised in 1856. (Vol. 2 Appendix.)

This constitution is divided into five articles.

Section 4 of Article I was amended in 1859 and again in 1862.

Article V, Section 1, was amended in proceedings of 1868, Appendix.

Article V, Section 2, No. 2, was amended in 1865. (See Appendix 390.)

Article V, Section 3, was amended in 1859. (1868, p. 391.)

III.

In the Proceedings of 1871 the constitution was republished with amendments to and including 1871 (1871 Appendix, pp. 1 to 31), and a list of amendments made in 1859, 1862, 1865 and 1867. Also in this 1871 proceedings were published the rules and edicts of 1859 to 1871. (1871 Appendix, pp. 37 to 45.)

Also were published decisions of Grand Masters Hubbard (1847-1859), French (1859-1865), Palmer (1865-1868), Gardner (1868-1871), and certain orders and edicts of Grand Master Fellows (1871), as well as the edict of 1862 establishing uniforms.

In the Proceedings of 1874, in the Appendix is a code of statutes said to be a digest of Templar law adopted in 1874. (Appendix pp. 1 to 29.)

The edict of 1862 as to uniforms (pp. 31 to 36) and amendments to the constitution adopted in 1874 and statutes, are found in the Appendix.

IV.

In the Proceedings of 1877 there is published in the Appendix the constitution as revised and adopted August 30, 1877.

V.

In the Proceedings of 1880 are found forms for constituting new Commanderies, installing officers of subordinate Commanderies, installing officers of Grand Commanderies, and Grand Encampment officers.

All in the Appendix.

VI.

In 1883 the Appendix published a supplement to decisions made in 1874, 1877, 1880 and 1883 made by Grand Master Drummond.

VII.

In 1886 same supplement was republished. (See Appendix, Proc. 1886.)

VIII.

In 1895 a revised constitution was presented. Article I was adopted and the remainder laid over until 1898. (1905, p. 197.)

IX.

In 1898 a new constitution was adopted. (See Appendix 1898.)

X.

In 1910 a new constitution was adopted and all prior laws, etc., are claimed to have been repealed. As a matter of fact, many old laws were re-enacted verbatim. (See 1910 Appendix.)

XI.

In 1927 a new edition of the above was issued with amendments to 1925 included. (1928, p. 148.)

XII.

In 1934 a new constitution was adopted. (1934, pp. 426 to 517.)

Previous legislation in conflict therewith was repealed.

XIII.

In 1937 and 1940 sessions of the Grand Conclave — a few minor amendments were adopted.

XIV.

Revised Constitutions were issued in 1943, 1946, 1949, 1955, 1958, 1961 and 1967.

Addendas to the Constitution were distributed following the Triennial Conclaves of 1970, 1973 and 1976.

XI

In 1933 a new edition of the book was issued with amendments to 1933 included (1933, p. 148).

XII

In 1934 a new constitution was adopted (1934, pp. 152 to 153). Previous laws and regulations therewith were repealed.

XIII

In 1935 and 1936 articles of the Fund Code - a few minor amendments were adopted.

XIV

Several amendments were made in 1937, 1940, 1942, 1948, 1951 and 1952. Amendments to the Constitution were distributed following the formation of the Commission in 1953 and 1954.

Historical Memoranda of Former Digests

Prior to the Grand Mastership of M.E. Sir William B. Hubbard (1847-1859), there were very few decisions on Templar law published.

In 1854 Grand Master Hubbard published a digest of his decisions up to 1853. Since then other digests have been published, each endeavoring to bring up to date the rulings on Templar law.

The decisions of Grand Masters Hubbard (1847-1859), French (1859-1865), Palmer (1865-1868), Gardner (1868-1871), are compiled in the Appendix to the Proceedings of 1871. In 1871 a committee was appointed to compile a digest of all published decisions of the Grand Encampment and of its Grand Masters. In 1874 this committee, instead of reporting a digest of decisions, presented a code of statutes manifestly based upon the decisions of previous Grand Masters. This was a code reduced to statutes of Templar law. It was not a digest. (See 1874, Appendix.)

This code was adopted and in 1883 a supplement to the above covering 1874, 1877, 1880 and 1883 was made in the form of a digest by Josiah H. Drummond of Maine. (1883 Appendix; 1886 Appendix republished; 1889 republished.)

In 1898 the Grand Encampment adopted a complete revision of its Constitution, code of statutes, etc. (See 1898 Appendix.)

In 1910 the Grand Encampment adopted a new Constitution and Laws, comprising three hundred and eleven sections, and repealed all laws theretofore enacted and not re-enacted. (1910 Appendix.) This included disciplinary rules, installations, and other forms.

In 1919 Appendix, there was published in the Proceedings an index of the decisions of Grand Masters Melish, MacArthur and Smith, and in 1922 a similar index was published in the decisions of Grand Master Orr. (1922 Appendix.)

None of these indices were digests. They were simply indexes, in no way stating the point decided.

In 1923 Past Grand Master Newby published a Digest of Decisions rendered since 1910. Grand Master Newby took the position that all previous laws and decisions had been totally repealed, and therefore he digested only the decisions from 1910 to 1922. The assumption made by Grand Master Newby was not well founded. Many of the provisions in the new code adopted in 1910 were simply taken bodily from the previously enacted law and were re-enacted in the new

code. The construction and the rulings on those provisions which continued in the new code unaltered still prevailed, and they have continued in the Templar laws ever since.

In 1934 the Grand Encampment completely revised the Constitution and enacted that "all statutes, laws and regulations heretofore enacted, adopted or approved in conflict herewith are hereby repealed."

In 1941 Sir Knight Fred C. Wright of St. Paul, Minnesota, then Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Minnesota, prepared a Digest of Decisions from 1910 up to and including 1940.

After completion of his term of office as Grand Master, Sir Knight Mark Norris, recognizing a need for a complete Digest of the approved Decisions of the Grand Masters, together with the history of the Constitution and its changes and development, started extensive research into such a compilation. Unfortunately, in 1942 he was stricken with illness prior to completing and shaping the material into any definite form.

In 1945 Sir Knight Charles N. Orr, Most Eminent Grand Master, delegated to Sir Knight Jewel P. Lightfoot, Past Grand Commander of Texas and member of the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence of the Grand Encampment, the responsibility for this Digest. It was completed October 1, 1946.

During the term of Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, an official request was relayed to Sir Knight Harrison C. Hartline, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, to review the earlier work for updating. The listings of Decisions made since Sir Knight Lightfoot's Digest of 1946 were placed in his hands for preparation and were then reviewed by Sir Knight Herbert D. Sledd, Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on Templar Jurisprudence. The project was completed May 2, 1977.

The present work includes a rearrangement of all the important decisions of the Grand Encampment still believed to be applicable.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

In 1922 the Grand Encampment launched the Knights Templar Educational Foundation with these words:

“We feel that the Grand Encampment can build no greater monument nor inaugurate a more worth-while movement than to put into effect a plan which will provide educational advantages for the youth of our beloved Country, thereby enabling them to become more useful members of society and better citizens of this Republic.”

Knights Templar may be proud that we were the first fraternal order to establish a program to assist needy young men and women to complete a higher education. The money was raised by transferring \$100,000.00 from our Permanent Fund, augmented by a levy upon each Knight Templar of one dollar per year for nine years. Loans have been made to individual students in the amount of over \$25 million. The Foundation maintains a revolving fund of approximately \$5.5 million, invested in student loans to the extent of approximately 80 percent. This proud record will stand up favorably when compared with any similar project anywhere.

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation publishes its general rules in a pamphlet called “Regulations and Standard Practice.” Among these — (1) “Loans may be granted for vocational, professional training, advanced degree or post graduate work upon written approval of the majority of the Division (State) Committee; (2) the maximum loan will be \$1,500.00 when one scholastic year is required to complete the course, \$1,500 per year when two scholastic years are required to complete the course, a maximum of \$3,000 to any one student; (3) loans shall be evidenced by a negotiable note and agreement for the amount loaned bearing interest at the minimum rate of 5% per annum from a time not later than the date of graduation or leaving college; (4) each applicant shall be carefully and thoroughly investigated by the Committee or Constituent Commandery Committee; (5) minimum repayments shall be 10% during the first year after the date of graduation, 20% during the second year, 30% during the third year, and 40% during the fourth year.”

The Grand Encampment Committee says “It is recommended and urged that each Constituent Commandery appoint a committee of not less than three from its membership, for the purpose of acting in a liaison capacity between the State Committee and the local Commandery. This committee should cooperate in all matters pertaining to the Foundation in their community. They should publicize the policies of the Foundation, furnish information on eligibility of applicants, and assist in making investigations.” To this official language, we would add these practical suggestions:

The local committee should be composed of members who have active and sympathetic contacts with young people within the Commandery jurisdiction, especially with DeMolay and other Masonic related groups. Information should go to school officials, our own members, and other Masonic bodies. The local committee should have in hand the basic application form and be ready to assist any worthy student in its preparation, and to make at the same time such primary local investigation as might be desired by the State Committee, thus expediting the loan process. In the event that repayment might later become delinquent, the local committee should assist the Division Committee as might be useful.

The Grand Encampment prints a "Guidelines for Making Student Loans" which is available without charge upon request from the Grand Recorder's office, Chicago.

Much remains to be done to publicize our Knights Templar Educational Foundation and to make its benefits known to institutions and to the public. The main thrust in this direction must come from the membership itself. Each Templar should become acquainted with the procedures for securing loans so that he is in a better position to answer questions and to refer reputable applications. The local Recorder is in the best position to furnish information. If more details are needed, write to the Chairman of the Committee on the Educational Foundation or to the office of the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment. (As of May 2, 1977)

(From "The New Charting the Course," a publication of the Grand Encampment.)

EYE FOUNDATION

A genuine concern for the needs of others is one of the basic characteristics of Templary — being Christian in nature, and stemming from the ancient Hospitallers or Knights of Malta. First in importance and national in scope is the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. This great project represents every Knight Templar of the United States and requires his attention and understanding.

(a) History and Operation of the K.T. Eye Foundation, Inc.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., was founded by action taken at the Triennial Conclave of 1955 and the organization was formed in 1957. The management of the Foundation is in the hands of its Board of Trustees. The Administration of the Eye Foundation is in the hands of the Executive Director. Each Grand Commandery should have an active, wide-awake and alert Eye Foundation Committee work with the Executive Director. Each Constituent Commandery should also have a vigorous committee to work with the state committee and with the Executive Director.

No paid solicitors have ever been employed. All funds are raised by voluntary contributions and the contributions received from contributing and cooperating Divisions — together with an annual assessment of each Knight Templar. No salaries are paid to anyone, except the necessary staff in the national office. No funds are used for the construction of hospital facilities. Hence, nearly all funds received are available for research or surgery. All contributions are tax-deductible. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation may be justly designated as one of the world's greatest humanitarian projects. Money has been allocated to research in college and university laboratories for the study of diseases causing blindness. Many thousands of cases have been processed. Millions have been expended for surgical and hospital expenses. Such figures as these lack substance until we remember that each of these thousands was a person — a fellow human — who lacked both personal resources and access to any publicly supported program which would enable him to have the surgical treatment to ward off or correct the actual condition of blindness, which has been certified by a medical specialist. Our files are full of testimonial letters, in every one of which the person brought from darkness to light by our efforts has expressed his glowing appreciation to God and His Christian Knights for their generous assistance. Surely this is doing the work of the Master.

(b) There should be a K.T. Eye Foundation Committee in every Commandery.

There should be within each Commandery a special K.T. Eye Foundation Committee composed of interested and dedicated Knights Templar. Such a

Committee is necessary for two reasons, (1) the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, already a proud success, may continue to grow and may touch persons in every community, and (2) Templars in every Commandery may experience the joy of useful service on a person-to-person basis which is always much more satisfactory than the simple contribution of money.

(c) Committee Functions.

1. *To become informed.* Full information on the operation of the K.T. Eye Foundation, in the form of brochures, etc., should be obtained through the Grand Commandery Committee. A set of forms should be obtained from the Grand Commandery Committee so that application may be forwarded with all dispatch.

2. *To inform others.* Our own Knights Templar should know the facts about what we have done and what we stand ready to do for persons without personal resources who face blindness. Doctors, surgeons and especially Ophthalmologists in every city, town and hamlet in the country should be informed by the Knights Templar and kept informed about the progress of our great charity. Where committees have been most active, they have appeared on scores of occasions before Blue Lodges and other Masonic bodies within their jurisdiction, before service clubs, professional societies, church organizations, industrial and business organizations. From this activity comes not only the reference of patients, but due recognition of the magnificent contribution being made by Templary.

3. *To assist those in need.* The application forms are not complicated; neither is the procedure. However, it is best that the forms be on hand and fully understood, as certain information is essential and is to be verified so that we can be sure that the need for our assistance is real and within our limitations. It is best that the forms be completed with the assistance of the local committeeman, who then, as the Knight Templar sponsor, may quickly satisfy himself that the incidental statements are true and that recourse to public assistance is not available. Not only is handling of the case expedited, but the personal participation of the committeeman shows the applicant, as well as the public, that we handle these cases with promptness and dispatch.

4. *To assist in raising funds.* The local committee should see that the persons and organizations who might wish to help the K.T. Eye Foundation are fully informed about the work. We receive additional contributions from:

(a) Voluntary contributions and memorial gifts. Many of our members have means and the habit of giving — a letter to every member or a reminder in the Commandery bulletin will be revealing. In many places, members habitually contribute as a memorial to deceased Templars. The solicitation of such memorials as a Commandery project, within its

membership, might well be a part of the memorial service if conducted separately, or at the next Conclave or in the next bulletin. Acknowledgment receipts are sent from the Eye Foundation for all contributions.

(b) *Wills and bequests.* Many persons, both within and outside Templary, are financially able and charitably inclined. They need to be told about the Knights Templar Eye Foundation so that at the appropriate time they may include our project in their Will. Certainly, every attorney and banker within our jurisdiction should be informed, together with all who might be inclined to recommend the K.T. Eye Foundation at the right time. No one can realize how much it means to drop a good word at the right time so that the individual may remember the K.T. Eye Foundation in his Will.

(c) *Life Sponsors.* Any Knight Templar may become a Life Sponsor of the Eye Foundation upon a single payment of \$30.00. A Life Sponsor card goes to the member together with a receipt, and he is relieved from the annual assessment. Two copies of the receipt go to the Grand Recorder one of which is forwarded to the Commandery, so that appropriate record may be made. Many Knights Templar are now Life Sponsors – many more would result if all could be informed.

(d) *Patrons and Associate Patrons.* Any individual not a member, or any small organization, whether Masonic or not, may join by contributions. A single donation of \$100, or more, entitles the individual or organization to classification as a Patron of the Eye Foundation, and \$50, or more, qualifies him or them as an Associate Patron, and a suitable certificate is sent in recognition of the gift. Members, too, may become Patrons or Associate Patrons which also relieves them of the annual assessment.

(e) *Grand and Coordinate bodies participation.* Our first full endorsement came from the Social Order of the Beauceant, which has associated with us for several years and has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to our funds. Such support shows how others throughout the country view the importance of our great humanitarian project.

(f) *Commandery fund raising.* In recognition of the obvious fact that those things done officially by our Commanderies need little supervision, local Commanderies are now permitted to raise money for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation by any or all usually accepted methods, providing only that (1) the decision to hold a particular program is made in a regular Conclave of the Commandery, and (2) and 100% of the net receipts are forwarded to the Eye Foundation office within thirty days afterward.

(g) *Voluntary Activities Campaign.* Each year, for a specified period, all Commanderies are asked to cooperate in a special drive to raise money for the Eye Foundation. Emphasis is placed on fund-raising activities rather

than personal contributions. Special recognition is given by the Grand Encampment to Grand, Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies reaching a specified level of participation.

The Grand Encampment feels that the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is doing such an outstanding job for humanity that every Knight Templar ought to become an enthusiastic booster. We ought to be talking to our friends more often about its wonderful work. Truly this is the work of our Savior. (As of May 2, 1977)

(From "The New Charting the Course," a publication of the Grand Encampment.)

Additional copies of the revised *Digest of Decisions* are available at \$5.00 each from the office of the Grand Recorder, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604.