

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
and Appendant Orders
of Massachusetts & Rhode Island



Grand Commander's Award
2022-2023

Grand Commander's Award

For Outstanding Leadership
and Chivalrous Effort!

Created: April 1, 2022

By order of: S.K. Peter Archie Mooradian – Grand Commander

Long Range Planning Committee:

S.K. Eugene B. Nichols – Chairman
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Pause and Consider

Congratulations! You are about to embark on a journey that may lead your commandery to new heights; to bravely lead those who will follow; and to take the lesson's taught in Blue Lodge and add a chivalric twist. This is your opportunity to lead your Commandery to new levels!

While the Commander of a Commandery is the only one qualified to apply and to achieve this award, he cannot do it alone. The requirements can only be met through the combined efforts of the entire Commandery. YOU provide the leadership and incentive to inspire and stimulate the members of your Commandery.

This award will challenge you to perform not only the activities required by the Grand Encampment's Constitutions and Statutes, Grand Commandery's Constitutions and Bylaws and your local By-laws, but also to plan and execute beyond the bare minimums, and to build your team into one that is proud to be a member of a Christian based Masonic Organization. The members of your Commandery will be proud to talk about the wonderful work your Commandery does in this coveted and ancient branch of Freemasonry.

We hope that you will qualify for this coveted award. To help you in your efforts, guidelines have been suggested on the following pages.



Grand Commandery Office

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4 Steps to Success

1. TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

1. Plan your year! (See attached sample term plan); and
2. Share your plan with the officers and members of your Commandery and the Division Commander for review.

2. Within 14 Days of Installation – Send to your Division Commander:

1. Letter of intent to qualify for this award;
2. Your Name, mailing address, email, Commandery name and phone number;
3. Copy of your program plan; and
4. Any other information you deem important.

3. EXECUTION

1. Work the Plan! (review the plan monthly)
2. Follow up with Secretary and Treasurer on a monthly basis to see that reports are filed; including annual reports and 990;
3. Follow up on all requests from the Grand Recorder and Grand Commandery; and
4. Do not work it alone. Remember to work with your members; they want to help!

4. RECAP LETTER AND ARTIFACTS (within 30 days of the end of the term):

1. Submit the following to the Division Commander for review:
 1. Follow up letter summarizing how you met the requirements of this award;
 2. Term Plan;
 3. Recap of all activities completed;
 4. Copy of filed 990;
 5. Copy of Audit Report(s);
 6. Copy of Annual Report; and
 7. Copy of Commandery By-Laws.

5. **The Division Commander will review and forward with his recommendation to the Grand Commander for final approval.**

Plan your year!

1. Create Term Program (See “Sample Term Program”)

1. Start with the basics:
 1. Meeting Nights
 2. Rehearsals
 3. Planned Conferrals of the Orders
 4. Your Commandery annual/traditional events
 5. Grand Commandery scheduled events
2. Review the Required Activities and add in as needed.
3. Review Optional Activities and add in as you see fit.
4. Always better to add a few extra activities and remove them later than to run short from the beginning.
5. Now share this plan with your officers and other members who might be interested for feedback.
 1. Let’s get as many invested in the year’s plan as possible. (Build the excitement!)

2. Administration (Seeing all reports are properly kept)

1. Monthly Reports Filed
 1. Secretary
 2. Treasurer
2. Annual Reports Filed
 1. Secretary
 2. Treasurer
 3. Auditor(s)
 4. 990
3. By-Laws
 1. When were they last reviewed?
 2. Are they up to date at Grand Commandery?
4. Check you have copies of:
 1. Grand Encampment Constitution and Statutes
 2. Grand Commandery Constitutions and Regulations

3. Positive Membership Growth – What’s your goal?

1. New Candidates
2. Membership Retention
3. Bringing back “rusty” Sir Knights

REQUIRED CATEGORIES

1. ANNUAL AND SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY: It is the duty of the Commander, the Generalissimo, and the Captain General to attend Conclaves of the Grand Commandery. Attendance by at least 2 of the dais officers each communication.
2. ATTENDANCE AT EXEMPLIFICATION: All installed officers of the Commandery are required to attend an Exemplification. [The Instructor-Inspector may excuse up to 4 officers with good and sufficient reason.]
3. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN INSPECTION(S): Every Commandery must hold its own inspection or participate in a multi-Commandery or Division Inspection. All installed officers are expected to participate unless excused by the Division Commander.
4. GRAND COMMANDERY REQUIREMENTS FULFILLED:
 - a. Number of meetings as required by your By-laws (4 minimum)
 - b. Secretary's reports (meeting and annual)
 - c. Treasurer's Report (annual)
 - d. Audit Report
 - e. 990 filed
5. SCHOOL OF THE KNIGHT: Every Commandery should hold or participate in a School of the Knight. It may be used as an opportunity to introduce non-knights to the floorwork of Templar Masonry.
6. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES (CHRISTMAS, EASTER, ASCENSION, OR OTHER CHURCH SERVICE): Develop a program for the purpose of celebrating the Christian way of life through holding your own Christmas, Easter or Ascension Service; or participate in said service in your Division, community or with Grand Commandery or Grand Encampment.
7. MEMBERSHIP: A plan must be established in writing which will address the following:
 - a. Renewal of current members who rarely come to Commandery;
 - b. Retention of the currently active members;
 - c. Revival of those members who have demitted or left the commandery, and recruiting of prospective members who meet the principles of membership;
 - d. Support of Chapter/Council as pipeline to your Commandery; and
 - e. Objectives should be established for all the above areas, with reporting of the achievement of those objectives at year-end.
8. PROGRAM TO AVOID SUSPENSIONS AND DEMITS: Describe in detail your Commandery's program to avoid suspensions for non-payment of dues and demits. In each instance where a suspension or demit has occurred, you must show that every effort has been made to prevent said action.

9. FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITIES and/or YOUR COMMANDERY ARMORY OR BUILDING: Develop a plan raise at least \$5.00 per Sir Knight to support one or more of the following:
- a. Knights Templar Eye Foundation;
 - b. Knights Templar Educational Foundation;
 - c. Other York Charities; or
 - d. Donation to your Armory or Building.
10. YOUTH PROGRAM SUPPORT (DeMolay/Rainbow/Scouting): The support may be to any of any of these youth organizations. It may be in the form of adult leadership, sponsorship of the Chapter, Assembly or Troop, scholarship contribution or program, Leadership Conference sponsorship, Conclave or Grand Assembly involvement, or other active service to these young people. Personal attendance by commandery members is encouraged. Describe your program, naming individual commandery representatives and listing their specific activities.
11. WIDOW AND ELDER OR SENIOR MEMBER CONTACT: A committee should be established to develop and maintain a current list of all widows and elder or senior members of the commandery (age 80 and older is recommended). The list should included shut-ins, those with illnesses, and wellness check-ins are topics which should be discussed to ascertain if they are in need. Holidays, birthdays and certainly harsh weather are times when contact would be most appreciated. Invitations to Commandery events should be offered, including offering rides to and from events.
12. PERFORM (Participate in?) AT LEAST ONE SET OF ORDERS: The Commandery must host or participate in each of the Orders during its Templar year.

OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

(Minimum of 6 out of 12 Required)

1. SENDING A CHRISTIAN MINISTER ON A HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: Sponsor a local Christian Minister to the Holy Land for a Biblical Study and Historical/Cultural Immersion Experience.
2. YORK RITE PROMOTION PROGRAM: Develop a program to educate prospective members on the York Rite and the Knights Templar.
 - a. Festive Board
 - b. LOI/Lodge Speaking about Commandery
 - c. Support
3. FAMILY/LADIES SOCIAL PROGRAMS: Develop and execute a program around Masonic Family activities. These may include Ladies' Nights, Father and Son Night, Family Nights, Holiday Parties, Family Picnics, Field Days, Mystery Rides, or other functions designed for family participation.
4. PARTICIPATION IN HONOR GUARD: Have one or more members participate in the Grand Commandery Honor Guard, or have 4 or more members of your commandery act as an honor guard for a local group.
 - a. At lodge events (installations, special meetings);
 - b. At public events; or
 - c. Funerals
5. SPEAKERS PROGRAM: Develop a speaker's program within your commandery to educate your members on topics such as:
 - a. What it means to be a Knight's Templar today.
 - b. The history of Templary
 - c. Etc.
6. VISIT ALL THE COMMANDERIES WITHIN YOUR DIVISION: Develop a plan to visit each of the other commanderies within your Division. At least 4 officers/members must be present at each visit. Make it memorable and build relationships with the other Commanderies. At least one of the top three officers must be present at each visit.
7. VISIT AT LEAST ONE COMMANDERY OUTSIDE YOUR DIVISION: Visit at least one Commandery outside of your division. Invite them to reciprocate on one of your special nights. At least 4 officers/members should be present for each visit.
8. PARADE PARTICIPATION: Participate in a local parade. Invite as many Sir Knights as you can and don't forget to request dispensation.
9. ASSIST OTHER COMMANDERIES WITH THE ORDERS: Assist another Commandery by providing at least 3 officers to perform in any of the Orders needed.

10. REVIEW /IMPROVE COMMANDERY FINANCIAL STATUS: Develop a plan to review and improve (if necessary) the financial status of your Commandery. Describe areas for improvement and actions taken to improve.
11. NEW MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN 2 NON-MEETING EVENTS: Develop a program to include newer members in 2 non-meeting events to build on the social bond created during the orders.
12. COMMANDERY DIAS OFFICER ESSAYS: The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General, shall each write his own essay, relative to their thoughts on the Knights Templar. The points to be addressed are:
 - a. The benefits of being a Knight Templar;
 - b. What are the untapped (or best) ways we can introduce the masonic fraternity to the York Rite and to Templary;
 - c. What do we need to focus on to improve Masonry in general and the York Rite in particular;
 - d. How was this year a success;
 - e. Any recommendations for improvement to this program; and
 - f. How does Commandery fit in “making good men better”.

Sample Term Program		
<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal • Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual Mtg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal • Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Installation of Officers • GC Annual Convocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal • Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○
<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal • Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christmas Observance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal • Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal • Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○
<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal • Meeting • Rehearsal for Annual Inspection • GC Semi Annual Convocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Observance • Rehearsal • Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appoint Nominating Committee • Inspection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal • Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elections • Ascension Day Obs.
<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting(?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Event? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Event?

Required Events:

- Grand Commandery Annual/Semi-Annual Mtgs
- Attend Exemplification.
- Annual Inspection
- School of the Knight
- Religious Observances
- Membership Program
- Fund Raising Event(s)
 - Grand Encampment Charities
 - Local Masonic Charities
- Masonic Building Improvement Program
- Youth Program Support
- Widow/Older Member Contact
- 1 Set of Orders
 - Order of Red Cross
 - Order of Malta
 - Order of the Temple

Optional Events:

- Send a Christian Minister on a Holy Land Pilgrimage
- York Rite Promotion Program
- Family/Ladies Social Program
- Participation in Honor Guard
- Speaker's Programs
- Visit Commanderies within your Division
- Visit Commanderies outside your Division
- Parade Participation
- Assist other Commanderies with the Orders
- New Member Participation in 2 non-meeting events.

Other:

- Your Commandery Annual Events
- Community Service Program
- Service Committee Activity
- Past Commanders' Night
- Step-up Night
- Pilgrimage to Masonic Home

