

Proposed Amendments to the Grand Constitution & Bylaws

To be read at the Semi-Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

March 31, 2023

Proposed Amendment #1

Article XXI – FEES AND DUES IN CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES – Section 1 - **FEES FOR ORDERS**

Currently:

Section 1. No Constituent Commandery shall confer the Orders of Knighthood for a less sum than forty dollars, at least thirty dollars of which, in compliance with Section 134 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, shall be paid before the Order of the Red Cross is actually conferred, and any balance shall be paid before the Order of the Temple is conferred.

Proposed:

Section 1. No Constituent Commandery shall confer the Orders of Knighthood for no a less a sum than forty dollars, at least ~~thirty dollars~~ forty dollars (\$40.00) of which, ~~in compliance with Section 134 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar,~~ shall be paid before the Order of the Red Cross is actually conferred, and any balance shall be paid before the Order of the Temple is conferred.

Reason for change: To bring into compliance with current Section 134 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar: Section 134. Each Grand Commandery may fix the minimum fee for the Orders, but in no case shall it be less than Forty Dollars (\$40.00), which shall be paid before the Order of the Red Cross is conferred. (1970, p. 324-325)

Proposed Amendment #2

ARTICLE XXI – ALLOTMENT TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND – Section 5

Currently:

Section 5. One-tenth of the fees paid by each successful candidate for the Orders shall be allotted and paid into a Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund shall be administered by a Committee of three Trustees, one of whom shall be elected each year at the time of its annual election of officers and who shall serve for a term of three years. No member of the Board of Trustees shall be over age 75. In addition to the money deposited in it in accordance with Section 4 above, the Permanent Fund shall be the repository of all donations, bequests, gifts, etc. other than those specifically to be held by the Life Membership Fund. Each year the Treasurer may (but is not required to) transfer to the general funds of the Commandery an amount equal to the dividends and interest realized by the Fund in that year. Additional Funds may be transferred to the Commandery's general funds only after there has appeared in the monthly notice of a pending Conclave a specific dollar amount to be transferred and then only if at the Conclave next following the notice there is a two-thirds vote in favor of such a transfer made by those members of the Commandery present.

Proposed:

Section 5. One-tenth of the fees paid by each successful candidate for the Orders shall be allotted and paid into a Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund shall be administered by a Committee of three Trustees, one of whom shall be elected each year at the time of its annual election of officers and who shall serve for a term of

three years. ~~No member of the Board of Trustees shall be over age 75.~~ In addition to the money deposited in it ~~as stated above in accordance with Section 4 above~~, the Permanent Fund shall be the repository of all donations, bequests, gifts, etc. other than those specifically to be held by the Life Membership Fund. Each year the Treasurer may (but is not required to) transfer to the general funds of the Commandery an amount equal to the dividends and interest realized by the Fund in that year. Additional Funds may be transferred to the Commandery's general funds only after there has appeared in the monthly notice of a pending Conclave a specific dollar amount to be transferred and then only if at the Conclave next following the notice there is a two-thirds vote in favor of such a transfer made by those members of the Commandery present.

Reason for change: With people living longer and healthier lives, the feeling that some members can contribute past age 75, and there are usually at least three members, it is felt to be unnecessary to discriminate based on age.

Proposed Amendment #3

ARTICLE XXI – FEES FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP – Section 2

Currently:

Section 2. Fees for Life Membership or exemption from dues shall be a fixed sum equal to at least the amount of fifteen times the sum required as annual dues, and in no case to be less than sixty dollars. Life Membership or exemption from the payment of dues shall not be given as a favor, as a compliment, or for services rendered the Order, or for any fact or reason other than the payment in cash of a fixed sum of money lawfully established by By-Law which must apply alike to all members.

Proposed:

Section 2. Fees for Life Membership or exemption from dues shall be a fixed sum equal to at least the amount of fifteen times the sum required as annual dues, ~~and in no case to be less than sixty dollars.~~ Life Membership or exemption from the payment of dues shall not be given as a favor, as a compliment, or for services rendered the Order, or for any fact or reason other than the payment in cash of a fixed sum of money lawfully established Bylaw which must apply alike to all members.

Reason for change: Wording no longer needed as no commandery should have dues less than \$4.00 at this time.

Proposed Amendment #4

ARTICLE XXV – FISCAL YEAR

Currently:

The fiscal year of the corporation shall commence on the first day of November and end on the thirty-first day of October of the following calendar year.

Proposed:

The fiscal year of the corporation shall commence on the first day of ~~November~~ September and end on the thirty-first day of ~~October~~ August of the following calendar year.

Reason for change: This change brings us in line with the filing date of the Grand Commandery with the IRS.