



TRINITY COMMANDERY # 1

BY-LAWS

By-Laws of Trinity Commandery # 1
Knights Templar
Manchester, NH

ARTICLE I – Meetings

Section 1. The Commandery shall assemble on the fourth Wednesday in February, April and September, and on the second Wednesday in November at an hour not earlier than six o'clock P.M., to be determined at the previous conclave, and also upon such special occasions as may be ordered by the Commander.

Section 2. The Annual Conclave shall coincide with the stated conclave in April.

Section 3. The Eminent Commander may call special conclaves whenever in his judgment the interests of the Commandery require.

ARTICLE II – Officers of the Commandery

Section 1. The officers shall consist of a Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Recorder, Prelate, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, Warder, three Captains of Guards, Armorer and Sentinel. The first seven enumerated officers shall be chosen annually at the stated conclave in April by written ballot; the others shall be appointed by the Commander. The Commander may appoint such other officers as may from time to time be chosen at his will and pleasure. The offices of Treasurer and Secretary may be held by the same Sir Knight.

Section 2. The officers shall be installed as soon as may be convenient after their election or appointment, and shall hold their offices until their successors are installed.

Section 3. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Eminent Commander, the powers and duties devolve upon the Generalissimo, and if there be no Generalissimo, upon the Captain General. When there is a vacancy of an elected officer, the Commandery shall request the Grand Commander to authorize a new election, and if such request is granted, the vacancy shall be filled at the next stated conclave. When a vacancy occurs in an appointive office, it shall be filled by the appointment of the Commander.

Section 4. The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General shall constitute a Standing Committee whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer and Recorder and report at the Annual Conclave; to examine all bills against the Commandery, and if approved, at least two of the committee shall sign them before the Commander signs his order or warrant for payment by the Treasurer. They shall also examine and decide all excuses for breach of these By-Laws, and transact generally the financial affairs of the Commandery.

ARTICLE III – Duties of Officers

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Commander to convene all conclaves of the Commandery, and when present, to preside at all such assemblies; to instruct the officers and members generally in the mysteries of the Order; to dispense justice, reward merit, encourage truth, and diffuse the sublime principles of universal benevolence.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Generalissimo to assist the Commander in his various duties, to receive his orders on all occasions, and see them duly executed; and, in the absence of the Commander, to assume his duties.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Captain General to proclaim the orders of the Commander, assist him in council, and preside in the Commandery in the absence of his superiors.

Section 4. The Prelate shall perform the various duties incumbent on chaplains, and such others as appertain to his office.

Section 5. The Wardens shall prepare the candidate, accompany him through the ceremonies, and introduce him into the Commandery. They shall also examine any visitors.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall receive the revenues from the Recorder, and shall pay out no money except upon the warrant or order of the Commander attested by the Recorder, and in pursuance of an appropriation voted by the Commandery, and/or the Standing Committee, invest from time to time all such moneys as may come to his hands belonging to the Commandery in such way as he may judge most to the interest of the Commandery, and shall render to the Commandery annually a true and perfect account of his doings in this respect, together with an account of all moneys received and earning thereof accrued from investments, and the amounts disbursed by him. He shall keep a just account of all moneys he receives and pays; exhibit the same when required, and deliver to his successor in office within thirty days after the election all property of the Commandery remaining in his possession.

Section 7. The Recorder shall issue all notifications ordered by the Eminent Commander; he shall keep a true record of all transactions of the Commandery, collect all the revenues and pay them to the Treasurer; prepare an official statement of his account with the Commandery, and deliver it to the Standing Committee on Finance at least one week next preceding the annual conclave in April.

Section 8. The Standard Bearer shall display, support, and protect the banners of the Order.

Section 9. The Sword Bearer shall assist in the protection of the banners of the Order; watch all signals from the Eminent Commander, and see his orders duly executed.

Section 10. The Warder shall see the Commandery duly guarded and the Sentinels at their respective posts; shall communicate to the Commander all petitions and reports for admission and favors, and return his answers accordingly.

Section 11. The Guards shall challenge with spirit, examine with caution, admonish with candor, relieve with alacrity, protect with fidelity, and defend with valor the respective posts.

Section 12. The Armorer, if appointed, shall have charge of all the furniture, regalia, and arms of the Commandery; see that they are kept in good order and fit for use. At the annual election of officers he shall make a return in writing to the Standing Committee of the articles in his department.

Section 13. The Sentinel shall guard with vigilance the avenues of the Asylum; give the alarm when necessary, and discharge such other duties as may be required of him by the Commander.

ARTICLE IV – Membership

Section 1. Every candidate for the Orders shall make application in writing, enclosing a fee that is from time to time determined by vote of the Commandery, which is not less than the amount required by the Grand Encampment, declaring the Lodge, Chapter and Council in which he received the degrees, or the Chapter and Council to which he has applied for the degrees. That he is a firm believer in the Christian religion, and stating whether he has or has not been rejected by any Commandery; which application shall be signed by him in person, giving his full name, age, residence, and occupation; and the petition shall be signed by two vouchers and recommenders who are members of this Commandery, certifying to his good moral character and respectability. No candidate shall receive the Orders of the Commandery until he has first received the Royal Arch Degree and Select Master Degree.

Section 2. The election of an applicant must be by unanimous ballot, and at a stated conclave called for that purpose. Any Sir Knight may request a secret ballot be taken. The Eminent Commander may, upon good cause shown, order one re-ballot before the result of the ballot has been recorded, and before any member of the Commandery has left the Asylum. Every member present when a ballot is taken is required to vote, unless excused by the Commander before the balloting has commenced. In case of rejection the Recorder shall immediately notify the three nearest Commanderies and the Grand Recorder of the name of the individual and his residence, and return the fee to the applicant. When an applicant is rejected no member shall question another with respect to his vote, declare his own, or complain of the result.

Section 3. Sir Knights who have received the Orders in other Commanderies may become members of this, if unanimously elected, by paying the Commandery a fee that is from time to time determined by vote of the Commandery.

Section 4. Knights Templar who have been eminently useful to the institution and to this Commandery in particular, may be admitted honorary members by being proposed and balloted for at a Stated Conclave and receiving a unanimous vote in their favor.

Section 5. When any member willfully neglects to pay his dues for one year, after three months notice in writing shall have been given him by the Recorder to pay the same, cases of poverty excepted, or satisfactory excuse offered to the Standing Committee, after due notice and at least the next stated conclave thereafter, he shall be suspended from membership.

Section 6. All committees, except the Standing Committee, shall report their doings at the next conclave after their appointment. All necessary expenses of committees shall be defrayed by the Commandery.

ARTICLE V – Miscellaneous

Section 1. Any Sir Knight who is not a member of Trinity Commandery, shall be allowed to visit this Commandery after being properly avouched for, unless objected to by the members present.

Section 2. The uniform of the Sir Knight when on duty, and on all formal occasions, shall be that allowed by the Grand Encampment of the United States or as modified by the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire, known as the black uniform.

Section 3. No assessment shall be levied, except at stated conclaves, notice thereof having been inserted in the call for the same.

ARTICLE VI – General Rules

Section 1. The orders of the Commander shall be implicitly obeyed. He shall be addressed by the Sir Knights by the title of “Eminent Commander.”

Section 2. All questions shall be determined by the vote of a majority of the members present, unless otherwise specially ordered; the Commander having the deciding vote.

Section 3. The members shall address each other, when on duty, by the title of Sir Knight, and shall at all times observe the most kind and courteous behavior towards each other.

Section 4. Should grievances unhappily occur among the members, it shall be the duty of the Commander, upon application of the party aggrieved, or of any three members, to convene the Commandery; when a careful, patient and impartial investigation of the cause of complaint shall be made, and the decision by the Commander shall be final, except in cases of expulsion or indefinite suspension.

ARTICLE VIII – Dues and Fees

Section 1. Each member, except honorary members, or those specially excepted, shall pay dues that are from time to time determined by vote of the Commandery.

Section 2. The Treasurer and Recorder shall be paid such sums for services as the Commander and the Standing Committee may direct.

Section 3. The Treasurer and Recorder shall be exempt from dues.

ARTICLE IX – Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to the By-Laws shall be presented in writing at a stated conclave, lie over one month before a vote shall be taken thereon, and a two-thirds vote of the members present shall be necessary for the adoption of any amendment. The By-Laws shall never be suspended except by the unanimous vote of the members present.