



FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

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March 21, 2021

TO: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; Past Grand Officers; Division Commanders; Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania:

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 7

Movement to Phase 1

Sir Knights:

I am directing that on May 1, 2021 the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of PA will move to Phase 1 as directed in Grand Encampment General Order No. 14 – Reopening Templary 2021 - Phased Opening Criteria.

The SK who will be Eminent Commander on May 1, 2021 of the constituent commandery will make a report to their Division Commander and Section Officer which Stated/Special Conclave that Commandery will implement within 10 days of the stated constituent commandery's stated April 2021 conclave.

I want to be clear – no officer or member is to be forced to attend an in-person conclave.

Phase 1 allows for a Stated/Special Conclave to be held in the following manner:

1. Meet in-person
2. Meet Virtual
3. Meet in a Hybrid method (partial in-person and partial virtual)

The Phased Opening Criteria document layouts out what can and cannot be done for each of the meeting types.

A reminder that if meeting virtually, no ritual work can be performed. If meeting hybrid, no ritual work can be done with video on and/or open microphones turned on.

If a PA Masonic District is not open as of May 1, 2021, then any Commandery located within that district must remain virtual.

Likewise, if a commandery meets in a Masonic Temple that is not open as of May 1, 2021, that commandery must meet virtually.

Additionally, there are other requirements in the document that spell out what other limitations there are for in-person conclaves. Such as, but not limited to - no food/snacks to be served before or after a conclave, no ladies present, and no one can attend a conclave that is not a Sir Knight.

Please be advised that as Sir Knights in this Grand Commandery we must follow the policies regarding COVID-19 procedures from the following:

1. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
2. The Grand Encampment of the United States of America
3. ALL Federal, state and local government authorities

A reminder that Grand Lodge requires ALL members attending a Masonic meeting- for a particular body - to fill out the COVID-19 release form. Each Commander needs to make sure that every Sir Knight fills out that form and that each Recorder retains that document for their records.

Although Phase 1 allows for the Order of Malta and Order of the Red Cross to be conferred, I am not permitting it at this time.

Sir Knights, the following guidelines are to be observed when working in the Asylum. It is recognized that our Asylums have different dimensions and thus these guidelines were created to meet every commandery's needs.

Drill and Tactic Guidelines to be Implemented May 1, 2021 for in-person conclaves

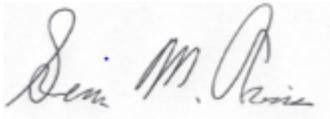
1. No forming of the lines and passing of the word.
2. Post flag in the east before the conclave.
3. No memorial cross, instead have moment of silence for deceased fraters.
4. Spacing of officers. (since every lodge room is different) - Spread them apart as far as possible. If you do not have room to be 6 feet apart, make it as far as possible by sitting on sidelines or put chairs on the floor and not on the dais.
5. No Full form opening, Commanderies must perform this modified short form until Phase 2 is cleared or stay virtual.
6. No conferral of Orders until Phase 2.
7. Rehearsal of duties can be done.
8. No Reception or Escort for Grand Officers if they visit.
9. No ballot box for voting on candidates. Temporary voice vote is allowed.

Sir Knights, this is our first step in the right direction. I am hopeful and confident that with the success of the vaccines, in the near future, our Grand Commandery will be able to move to Phase 2. Please wait for that order to come from the new Right Eminent Grand Commander.

This General Order is to be read in full at the next Stated Conclave and all Stated Conclaves prior to the deadline and entered in full in the records.

Given over my hand and seal of the Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Pennsylvania on March 21, 2021.

Yours in Templary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sean M. Tomasic". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sean M. Tomasic
Grand Commander

Attest:
Douglas M. Rowe
Grand Recorder