

2015-2016 Grand Commandery Committee Expectations

For the Accounts and Finance Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Completing the external CPA review of all Grand Commandery accounts
2. Establishing a five-year budget cycle
3. Establishing a Relief Fund of at least \$100,000 which can make direct grants or provide loans to worthy, distressed Sir Knights (to include any necessary By-Laws to enact and manage such a fund)

For the Appendant and Concordant (was York Rite) Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Coordinated calendars with the Grand Lodge, other Grand York Rite Bodies, the Scottish Rite, and any honorary/invitation bodies associated with these groups
2. Establishing traveling degree teams from each York Rite body to confer the Fellow Craft degree at the invitation of Worshipful Masters of subordinate lodges
3. Improving support and participation in the Festival of the Child event

For the Civic and Patriotic Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Increased participation in Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans' Day events throughout the state
2. Coordinate a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery
3. Identifying opportunities for civic involvement (other parades, festivals, fairs, etc.) and creating a master calendar and contact list for such events throughout the state

For the Correspondence Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Initiating communication with Mid-Atlantic Department Grand Commanderies to identify programs or activities that have shown promise in increasing participation by Knights and their families
2. Initiating communication with other Grand Commanderies to share what we are doing regarding the New Knight Training Program and other membership-oriented initiatives and seeking their feedback and ideas

For the Credentials Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Working with the Credentials Committees of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council to develop a simple one-stop process for registration and check in at Grand Sessions
2. Working with the Grand Recorder for a method to generate and certify proxies and credentials

For the Doings of Grand Officers Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Review the whole concept of "Doings of the Grand Officers" and determine if the purpose of the committee is consistent with the needs of the Grand Commandery in the 21st Century

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2. Prepare recommendation for the Semi-Annual Conclave as to whether or not this committee is necessary, and if so, how it might better be used to collect information from the Grand Officers and share with the Grand Commandery and Constituent Commanderies

For the Education and Training (New Knight, other ed) Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Create a single manual or notebook for Sir Knights to use as a training and refresher tool for the New Knight Training Program
2. Identify and train at least two knights from the Eastern Shore, two knights from Western Maryland, and two knights from Baltimore/Central/Southern Maryland to assume teaching and leadership duties for the New Knight Training Program
3. Conduct at least one New Knight Training Program before July 1, 2016
4. Promote other methods of education (reading, research, etc.) through multiple communications channels (print, web site, etc.)

For the Educational Foundation Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Prepare electronic versions of the scholarship applications that can be easily accessed from our Grand Commandery web site
2. Prepare a bylaw change to move the deadline for applications to April 1, with presentations to be made at the May Semi-Annual Conclave and recipients to be invited to the Annual Sessions Awards Banquet for recognition
3. Promote the scholarship program across the Maryland Masonic Family, as it is one of the few which is open to upper division undergraduates and graduate students

For the Eye Foundation Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Promoting 100% Life Sponsorships within our Constituent Commanderies
2. Assist in the fund raising for an endowed chair for the KTEF at the Wilmer Eye Institute

For the Grievance Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Establish guidelines for the issues which are appropriate to be brought forward to the Grievance Committee and how such will be addressed

For the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Promote the sponsorship of pilgrim ministers from our Constituent Commanderies
2. Recommendations regarding the budgeting by the Grand Commandery for sponsoring one pilgrim minister each year and a process for application and selection of that minister

For the Jurisprudence and By-Laws Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. A review and recommendation on the attached resolution to change the fatigue cap for the Grand Commandery, and its use in lieu of the chapeau for non-dais officers

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2. A review and recommendation on the attached Dispensation for the creation of a Research Priory in the Grand Commandery of Maryland
3. A review of the current uniform regulations and the preparation of a uniform manual, with diagrams and images, to properly define the uniforms, the proper placement of all insignia, and how they are to be worn
4. Obtain copies of all Constituent Commandery by-laws and review the same for compliance with Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery statutes

For the Masonic Relations Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Evaluate the goals and purposes of the committee, and determine if there is a need for this committee in light of the work of the Appendant and Concordant Bodies (formerly York Rite) Committee, and if so, what the role of this committee should be

For the Membership Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. How we might improve our outreach to new Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons that they may become aware of the York Rite in general and Knights Templar in particular
2. How we might improve Knights Templar involvement in the many Craft Lodges in Maryland
3. How we can assist Constituent Commanderies in keeping new Knights engaged and active without forcing them into officer positions, as well as reconnecting with inactive Knights to reconnect them with their Commanderies

For the Religious Observance Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Develop a sample liturgy/order of worship which can be used by any Commandery for the each of the observances (Christmas (with toasts), Holy Week (in lieu of Good Friday), Easter, and Ascension)
2. Using the model of the Toast to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, develop a similar Toast to the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery and the Grand Master of Masons in Maryland. Provide the drafts to me by the Grand Conclave, so that I can forward the M. W. Grand Master the toast and ask for his response that we can include in a mailing to all Commanderies in November for their use in their December observances

For the Ritual Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Review the attached recommended evaluation forms for the Orders of Red Cross and Malta, and make recommendations as to any changes which we should make for the 2015-16 Inspection Cycle
2. Prepare an updated Tactics Manual for the conferral of the Orders

For the Sessions Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

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1. Review the original intent and purpose of this committee, and prepare a recommendation for the Semi-Annual Conclave if the committee should be continued, and if so, what the specific purpose and duties the committee should perform for the work of the Grand Commandery
2. Review current policies and bylaws which prevent multi-year contracts for Grand Sessions, and if a change is deemed advisable to permit such, work with your Grand Chapter and Grand Council counterparts to prepare and propose appropriate bylaws changes for consideration at the 2016 Semi-Annual Sessions

For the Unfinished Business Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Working with the Grand Recorder and Committee on Jurisprudence and Bylaws, ensure all items presented at the Annual Conclave are addressed at the subsequent Semi-Annual Conclave, and those items carried over from the Semi-Annual Conclave are addressed at the subsequent Annual Conclave.

For the Youth Relations Committee, I am asking the following issue(s) be addressed:

1. Identify concrete ways, other than financial support, the Grand Commandery and our Constituent Commanderies, can increase support for and to our Youth Organizations
2. Develop a proposal whereby every DeMolay, at the age of 18, receives financial support (if needed) to petition the Craft Lodge nearest his home or with which he has a personal connection, as well as financial support to petition the York Rite bodies after completing his proficiency as a Master Mason