



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California

Resolution No. 2020 – 01

Grand Encampment Authorized Five Man Quorum

Whereas, in the *Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms and Approved Decisions of The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, 2019 Edition*, Section 66 was amended and currently states,

“A quorum of a Commandery consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the same. A Grand Commandery may by law provide for a lesser number for quorum purposes; provided that such number shall not be less than five.”, and

Whereas, there is a exigent and occasional necessity among smaller Commanderies in California to open and conduct essential business with a quorum of less than nine uniformed officers, such as, but not limited to: paying of bills, balloting on candidates to attend pending festivals, electing officers, requesting dispensations, authorizing signatories on bank checking accounts, transferring funds from investments to the Commandery checking account, purchasing a page in the annual souvenir program, voting on honorary life memberships for the Grand Commander before his reception, purchasing uniforms or uniform paraphernalia for new members, and

Whereas, the *Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California*, Section 362 (1) currently states,

“1. At all Conclaves there must be present a quorum of members, to wit: nine members entitled to vote therein, including an officer authorized to open the same.”, and

Whereas, the *Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California*, Section 516 only states that the officers must be in uniform for “Full Form openings”, to wit,

“Section 516, Every Commandery shall ensure that each Sir Knight participating as an Officer or Cast Member wears the approved necessary uniform with accessories at Full Form openings, Receptions, Installations and the conferring of the Order of the Temple.”, and

Whereas, the *Ritual of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America* permits the addition of ritual and tactics to the authorized minimum “Short Form” opening printed on pages 98-99, and

Whereas, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California is permitted by Grand Encampment to add ritual and tactics to the Grand Encampment’s “Short Form” opening to include: 1. a requirement that the minimum five officers be in uniform for the opening, 2. the giving of the signs, 3. the sounding of the assembly, 4. the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country, 5. And, a five man closing ritual would be needed to accompany the five man opening,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the *Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California*, Section 362 (1) be amended to state:

“1. At all Conclaves there must be present a quorum of members, to wit: nine members entitled to vote therein, or as otherwise permitted by the Constitution of Grand Encampment, including an officer authorized to open the same.”

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the *Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California*, Section 516 be amended to state that the officers must be in uniform for the Five Knight opening, to wit,

“Every Commandery shall ensure that each Sir Knight participating as an Officer or Cast Member wears the approved necessary uniform with accessories at Full Form openings, Five Knight openings, Receptions, Installations and the conferring of the Order of the Temple.”

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following attached ritual for a quorum of five (5) through eight (8) uniformed Sir Knights opening a Stated Conclave, conducting business, and closing the conclave be adopted for use in California. Under no circumstances may such a ritual be used for the conferring

of orders. Under no circumstances may such ritual be used if nine (9) or more uniformed Sir Knights are present.

Respectfully submitted,

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CALIFORNIA FIVE KNIGHT OPENING

[A Commandery must be opened in Full Form when nine (9) or more uniformed Sir Knights are present. When only five (5) through eight (8) uniformed Sir Knights are available to conduct necessary business at a Stated Conclave, the following ritual may be used to open the Stated Conclave, conduct business, and close the Stated Conclave. When but five (5) uniformed officers are present, their stations are: the Eminent Commander, Senior Warden, Warden, Prelate, and Sentinel.]

[Eminent Commander starts by standing in the East of the asylum facing West. All other uniformed Sir Knights are milling in the center of the Asylum.]

E.C.: *[Draws Sword]* **Sir Knight Warden:** S-2 (Swd) Ack S-1 (SwdDn) **Sound the assembly.**

[Warder carries sword & goes to his station.]

Wrdr.: **Sir Knights, Attention.** *[Returns Sword]*

[Remaining Officers and Sir Knights in uniform fall in line between the Senior and Junior Wardens' stations, facing East. Officers maintain elbow contact. Sir Knights NOT in uniform stand at attention on the sidelines.]

E.C.: **Officers,** S-3 (hand) Ack S-1 (SwdDn) **Take your stations.** *[Waits until officers in place]* **Sir Knight's... be seated.** *[Returns Sword & Sit Down in Commander's chair.]*

Sir Knight Senior Warden *[Stands]* S-2 (Swd) Ack S-3 (hand) **Are all present Knights Templar?**

[Sr. Warden checks Asylum without leaving station and reports.]

S.W.: S-2 (Swd) Ack S-3 (hand) **Eminent Commander: All present are Knights Templar.** *[Returns Sword and is seated]*

E.C.: **Sir Knight Warden:** S-2 (Swd) Ack S-3 (hand) **post the Sentinel, inform him that ...(name)... Commandery Number ..#.. of Knights Templar is about to be opened, and direct him to guard accordingly.**

*[Warder executes right face and retires to the anteroom **in front** of the Std.Br. & Swd.Br. stations, opens door.]*

Wrdr.: **Sir Knight Sentinel:** S-2 (Swd) Ack S-2 (Swd) ...*(name)*... **Commandery Number ..#.. of Knights Templar is about to be opened, take your post and guard accordingly.**

[Warder closes door and gives battery ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ which is answered, returns to his station same way ...in front, does a right face and reports.]

S-2 (Swd) **Eminent Commander:** Ack S-3 (hand) **The sentinel is at his post and the asylum is duly guarded.**

[Returns Sword and is seated]

E.C.: *[stands, draws sword]* **Sir Knights ... Attention. Un... Cover.**

Excellent Prelate *[rises bows]* Ack S-1 (SwdDn) **Lead our devotions.**

[Eminent Commander Orders Sword, and Uncovers]

Prelate.: *[Prayer, ending with Lord's Prayer]*

[Eminent Commander Re-Covers, Comes to Carry]

E.C.: **Sir Knights, Re... Cover.**

[Eminent Commander Returns Sword]

Sir Knights, Attend to Giving the signs.

[All Sir Knights present give the signs]

E.C.: **Waiving further ceremony, I now declare ...*(name)*... Commandery Number ..#.. opened for the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it; requiring all Knights present to govern themselves according to the sublime principles of this Magnanimous Order**

Prelate.: *[Without prompting, Prelate approaches and faces altar, opens Bible to Mathew Chapter 28, places Square & Compass on left page, places black cross on right page. Prelate takes one step back, hand salutes and remains facing the altar.]*

E.C.: *[draws sword]* **Sir Knight Warder:** S-2 (Swd) Ack S-1 (SwdDn) **Inform the Sentinel and direct him to guard accordingly.**

*[With sword at carry, Warder goes **behind** the Standard Bearer & Sword Bearer {if present} and **in front** of their chairs to the anteroom. Opens door.]*

Wrdr.: **Sir Knight Sentinel:** S-2 (Swd) Ack S-2 **The Commandery is now open. Take due notice and guard accordingly.**

[Warder closes door and gives battery ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ which is answered, returns to his station same way, does a right face and reports.]

S-2 (Swd) **Eminent Commander** Ack S-1 (SwdDn) **Your Order has been obeyed.**

E.C.: **Sir Knights, You will join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country. Draw ... Swords. Present... swords.**

[Pledge recited]

Carry... Swords. Return... Swords. Sir Knights... Be seated.

[E.C. Returns Sword and is seated. Recorder may remove sword & gloves.]

CALIFORNIA FIVE KNIGHT CLOSING

E.C.: *[seated]* **Sir Knight Warder:** *[Warder Rises, Draws Sword,]* S-1 (SwdDn) Ack S-3 (hand) **I am about to close this Commandery. See that the Sentinel is informed, and that he guards accordingly.**

[Warder does right face, retires to ante-room in front of the Swd.Br. & Std.Br. stations and opens door.]

Wrdr.: **Sir Knight Sentinel:** S-2 (Swd) Ack S-2 (Swd) **This Commandery of Knights Templar is about to be closed, take your post and guard accordingly.**

[Warder closes door and gives battery, ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ which is answered, returns to his station same way, does a right face and reports.]

Wrdr: S-1 (SwdDn) **Eminent Commander.** Ack S-3 (hand) **Your order has been obeyed.** *[Returns Sword and is seated]*

[E.C. Rises, Steps out, Draws Sword, comes to carry]

E.C.: **Commandery... Attention. Un... Cover.**

Excellent Prelate *[rises bows]* Ack S-1 (SwdDn) **Lead our devotions.**

[Eminent Commander Orders Sword, and Uncovers]

Prelate.: *[leads devotions]*

[Eminent Commander Re-Covers, Comes to Carry]

E.C.: **Re...Cover. I now declare ...(name) ... Commandery, Number ..#.. duly closed.**

Prelate.: *[Without Command, Prelate proceeds to front of altar, removes cross then jewels, closes the bible, and steps back.]*

E.C.: **Sir Knight Warder:** S-2 (Swd) Ack S-1 (SwdDn) **Inform the Sentinel.**

*[Warder executes right face and retires to the anteroom **behind** the Swd.Br. & Std.Br. {if present} and **in front** of their chairs and opens door.]*

Wrdr.: **Sir Knight Sentinel:** S-2 (Swd) Ack S-2 (Swd) **The Commandery is closed.**

[Warder closes door and gives battery ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ which is answered, returns to his station same way, does a right face and reports.]

Wrdr.: S-2 (Swd) **Eminent Commander:** Ack S- 1 (SwdDn) **The Sentinel is informed.**

E.C.: **Sir Knights, you are dismissed.**

[Eminent Commander Returns Sword]