

Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

State of Ohio and Jurisdiction

MICHAEL I. BESS

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
P.O. Box 20217
Cleveland, OH. 44120-0217
(H) 216-451-7898 (C) 216-509-6800
EMAIL: Mibess220@gmail.com.

BEN T. JOHNSON

Eminent Grand Generalissimo
1835 W. 57th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
(H) 317-475-0797 (C) 317-289-7726
EMAIL: Ben.Gwen4355@gmail.com.

BRYON C. REED

Eminent Grand Captain General
267 Wesley Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
(H) 440-864-2425 (C) 440-506-4941
EMAIL: 8CREED329@gmail.com.

S.K. MELVIN L. RUSSELL

Right Eminent Grand Commander

3432 Euclid Heights Blvd.
Cleveland Hts. ,OH 44118
216-440-4195

EMAIL, MRuss72650@aol.com



From the Office of
R.E.G.C.

DARYLE COBB

Eminent Grand Treasurer
P.O. BOX 1265
Columbus, OH 43216
614-306-4906
EMAIL, Darylecobb@aol.com

RAYMOND BLAIR

Eminent Grand Recorder
14617 Corridon Avenue
Maple Heights, OH 44137
216-780-3391
EMAIL, Blair98PM19@aol.com

AARON E. RAY

Eminent Grand CCFC
568 Vinewood Avenue
Tallmadge, OH 44278
330-633-4056
EMAIL, Aray3911@aol.com

THEME: CHIVALRIC MASONRY IN ACTION

May 1, 2015

To the VEDGC, SK Michael I. Bess, all Elected and Appointed Grand Commandery Officers Past and Present, all Past Right Eminent Grand Commanders, Past Eminent Commanders, Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos, Captain Generals, Officers and Sir Knights of all subordinate Knight Templar Commanderies owing allegiance to the P.H. Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Ohio and Jurisdiction,

Greetings Sir Knights,

The following Edicts and Directives are now issued and immediately in full force until otherwise revoked:

EDICT MLR 2015-1

It has come to my attention, that we have Knights Templar Commanderies subordinate to this Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Ohio, who are not reading and acting upon the communications being sent to them from this Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Ohio and its several departments in a due and timely manner. Let me remind each of you that these communications are designed to keep you abreast of the progress of the Grand Commandery and its various programs. Some of these communications also contain specific information necessary for and pertinent to the operation of your Commandery and Sir Knights.

Therefore, effective immediately, it is **MY ORDER** that all communications coming from the Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Ohio and its departments are to be read in their entirety and acted upon accordingly. These communications are to receive precedent over all other communications coming to the local Commandery. The Eminent Commander of said Commandery has the duty and responsibility to see that his Commandery is in full compliance with these instructions as he will be held responsible for any non-compliance. Sir Knights, it is our intent to keep each of the Commanderies subordinate to the Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Ohio, informed on all that we are doing, that we all may be in agreement and on one accord. To insure this is done, communications will be sent to the Recorders and Eminent Commanders simultaneously. I rest assured that each of you will support and comply with this Edict. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

EDICT MLR 2015-2

It is **MY ORDER** that no social functions be scheduled or held on the constitutional dates of the Grand Masonic Bodies of the State of Ohio. I.E. Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Amaranth Grand Chapter OES PHA, Most Excellent P.H. Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, P.H. Grand Court of Heroines of Jericho, Most Illustrious P.H. Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, P.H. Grand Court of Ladies of the Circle of Perfection, Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, David V. Moore Grand Guild of Heroines of Templar Crusades PHA, Ohio Council of Deliberation PHA, Grand Assembly of Ladies of the Golden Circle PHA, Alpha Priory of Knights of the York Cross of Honour PHA, Hannibal Tabernacle of Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priest, Most Venerable Grand Chapter Order of Pythagorans and Grand Girls Assembly. No dispensation will be issued from this office in derogation of this Edict. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

EDICT MLR 2015-3

It is **MY ORDER** that no social functions be scheduled or held on the dates during Holy Week. It is also **MY ORDER** that each Commandery will observe the following Christian Holidays: Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and Ascension Day. The Local Guild of Heroines of Templar Crusades should be invited and may work in conjunction with the Commandery during the celebration of these days. A report or copy of the program shall be submitted to the Eminent Grand Lecturer of your District and to the Right Eminent Grand Commander within 30 days of the affair. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

EDICT MLR 2015-4

Whereas it is incumbent upon the Right Eminent Grand Commander to have a watchful supervision over the affairs of the Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the direction of all subordinate Commanderies, and whereas he is empowered to delegate and / or assign some of these supervisory powers to his official Representatives, therefore, the Eminent Grand Lecturers of the North, South and Indiana and their Assistants shall serve as the Official representatives of the Right Eminent Grand Commander while performing inspections within their respective districts. When on official duty, it is **MY ORDER** that the Eminent Grand Lecturer be afforded every token of respect which is due the Right Eminent Grand Commander. When not on official visitation, the Eminent Grand Lecturers are still empowered to instruct and correct any imperfections of the performance of the Commandery Officers or Operations. During inspections, the Eminent Grand Lecturers will cause the Commanderies to show proficiency in their ritualistic opening and drill tactics. Full Dress uniform shall be the dress code of all inspections. This is Class A, B or C uniforms. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

EDICT MLR 2015-4

It is **MY ORDER** that all Eminent Commanders owing allegiance to this Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar shall be in possession of a Class A uniform as defined in the Statutes and Tactics Manuals adopted by this Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

EDICT MLR 2015-5

In an effort to assist in improving the attendance at the regular conclaves, a new Fatigue Dress has been instituted which has been adopted by this Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar. It is **MY ORDER** that the Sir Knights adhere to the dress code adopted by this Grand Commandery consisting of the normal Class A, B or C dress and the new Fatigue Dress. The new Fatigue dress is used only during a standard Conclave meeting and for rehearsals of ritualistic work. It is not acceptable during Eminent Grand Lecturer inspections, conferring of the orders or Christian Holiday observances. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

EDICT MLR 2015-6

We as Knights Templars are required to support our local Guild of Heroines of Templar Crusades. It is also our duty to assist in the leadership of the Guild as the male counsel and guardian. All too often there is no fresh male representation and the current Royal Advisor may serve 2 to 3 terms before another Sir Knight joins the Guild. Therefore it is **MY ORDER** that the Eminent Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General petition and join their local Guild to assist in their growth. This is an opportunity for these officers to see how the Guild operates and functions in conjunction with the Commandery. It is also **MY ORDER** that the local Commandery put forth their best efforts to support their local Guild in performing all of the Guild's programs.

DIRECTIVE MLR 2015-1

In order to become more proficient in the ritualistic work, it is **MY DIRECTIVE** that each Commandery shall rehearse and open in Long Form under the direction of the Captain General or a designated Sir Knight. Commanderies shall also rehearse and practice at each Conclave meeting the marching maneuvers and drill tactics of the Asylum in accordance to the instructions instructed in the Tactics Manual adopted by this Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar. This Directive shall be adhered to without any exceptions.

DIRECTIVE MLR 2015-2

It is **MY DIRECTIVE** that all Commanderies and Guilds shall pay respect to the greatness of our Country and the sacrifices that have been made to preserve our way of life by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country after opening the Commandery or Guild in due form. Be sure that a United States flag is placed in the Northeast corner of the Asylum prior to the opening. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

DIRECTIVE MLR 2015-3

It is **MY DIRECTIVE** that all dispensations will require a written request sent to the office of the Right Eminent Grand Commander under the seal of the Commandery affixed thereon and accompanied with the proper fees, dates, times and event. The fee for Ritualistic work is \$5.00. This is for performing meetings out of time or out of place, performing honor guards for fallen Sir Knights, performing in other Masonic parades or color guards or conferring of degrees out of time and out of place or any non-scheduled event where the Sir Knights must be regaled. This also includes cancelling a meeting due to uncontrollable circumstances. When cancelling a meeting, a new date should be placed on the dispensation to make up for the cancelled meeting. The fee for non-ritualistic events such as banquets, raffles or fundraisers is \$10.00. In the event that a verbal dispensation is requested, the fee will be \$15.00. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

DIRECTIVE MLR 2015-4

It is **MY DIRECTIVE** that these Edicts and Directives be read at every Commandery stated conclave during the months of May, June, July, September and October 2015. Failure to read and adhere to any of this correspondence may result in disciplinary action against the Eminent Commander and / or the Commandery. Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal of the Right Eminent Grand Commander at Cleveland Heights, Ohio this first day of May, 2015 A.D. A.O. 897

Yours Under the Sign of the Cross

Melvin L. Russell
Right Eminent Grand Commander 2015-2017