

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date July 3, 2023

Originating Body(s) Pilgrim Commandery No. 7

City/State/Zip Gainesville, FL 32635

Officer(s) Sir Knight Thomas E. Metcalfe Jr, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer

TO: Grand Chapter _____ Grand Council _____ Grand Commandery X

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery 37.301. Dress Uniforms.

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.)

c) Past District Deputy Grand Commanders shall be entitled to wear an authorized solid red bar directly above the left breast pocket welt and to the right of any other Templar meritorious ribbons.

(continued on reverse)

Identification of amended Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery 37.301. Dress Uniforms.

NEW LANGUAGE

c) **Current and** Past District Deputy Grand Commanders shall be entitled to wear an authorized solid red bar directly above the left breast pocket welt and to the right of any other Templar meritorious ribbons.

(continued on reverse)

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date) <u>7/5/23 CEX</u>	
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date) _____	
Presented to Grand Chapter	(Date) _____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Council	(Date) _____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery	(Date) _____	Result _____

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED

(continued from front)

NEW LANGUAGE

(continued from front)

EXPLANATION

Fixes missing language in Constitution as to current District Deputy Grand Commanders wearing same equivalent solid bar as Past District Deputy Grand Commanders. This brings uniform into conformity with current Florida Knight Templar custom.

[Use continuation sheet(s) if needed]

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JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date July 3, 2023

Originating Body(s) Pilgrim Commandery No. 7

City/State/Zip Gainesville, FL 32635

Officer(s) Sir Knight Thomas E. Metcalfe Jr, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer

TO: Grand Chapter _____ Grand Council _____ Grand Commandery X

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery 37.301. Dress Uniforms.

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.)

d) Braided shoulder cords (also called "fourrageres" or "aiguilletes") shall be worn as follows:

(1) Current Inspector General – Yellow

(2) Current District Instructors – White

(3) Past Grand Officers (other than Past Grand Commander) – Alternate rows of Red and Gold

(continued on reverse)

Identification of amended Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery 37.301. Dress Uniforms.

NEW LANGUAGE

(d) Current and Past Inspectors General shall be entitled to wear an authorized solid yellow bar directly above the left breast pocket welt and to the right of any other Templar meritorious ribbons.

(e) Current and Past District Instructors shall be entitled to wear an authorized solid white bar directly above the left breast pocket welt and to the right of any other Templar meritorious ribbons.

(continued on reverse)

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date) <u>7/5/23</u>	<u>CEH</u>
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date) _____	
Presented to Grand Chapter	(Date) _____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Council	(Date) _____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery	(Date) _____	Result _____

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED

(continued from front)

(4) Any braided cord will be worn under the arm with plain cords outside the arm as specified in the Manual of Public Ceremonies.

e) The Black Dress Uniform must be worn when performing the Jesse E. Ramsdell Trophy Competition and the Richard John Carr Trophy Competition by all officers (with the exception of the Prelate who may wear a Prelate's Robe) involved in performing the Commandery Opening Competitions.

NEW LANGUAGE

(continued from front)

(f) Past Grand Officers (other than Past Grand Commander) shall be entitled to wear an authorized red and yellow bar and to the right of any other Templar meritorious ribbons.

g) The Black Dress Uniform must be worn when performing the Jesse E. Ramsdell Trophy Competition and the Richard John Carr Trophy Competition by all officers (with the exception of the Prelate who may wear a Prelate's Robe) involved in performing the Commandery Opening Competitions.

EXPLANATION

Removes the previous section (d) description and requirements of braided shoulder cords worn on uniform, and replaces with new language adopting an equivalent solid bar in its place. This brings uniform into conformity with current Florida Knight Templar custom.

[Use continuation sheet(s) if needed]

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date July 6, 2023

Originating Body(s) Sir Knight Marvin W. Gerhard

City/State/Zip Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Officer(s) Right Eminent Past Grand Commander

TO: Grand Chapter _____ Grand Council _____ Grand Commandery X

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery Article II, Grand Officers, Members and Titles, Section 1, Grand Officers, page 2

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.)

NEW

Identification of amended Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery Article II, Grand Officers, Members and Titles, Section 1, Grand Officers, page 2

NEW LANGUAGE

NEW WORDING IN BOLD

Add **The Grand Musician** to the end of the list

RATIONALE: *Corrects an omission.*

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder

(Date) 7/6/2023 CEG

Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder

(Date) _____

Presented to Grand Chapter

(Date) _____ Result _____

Presented to Grand Council

(Date) _____ Result _____

Presented to Grand Commandery

(Date) _____ Result _____

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date July 6, 2023

Originating Body(s) Sir Knight Marvin W. Gerhard

City/State/Zip Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Officer(s) Right Eminent Past Grand Commander

TO: Grand Chapter _____ Grand Council _____ Grand Commandery X

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery Article IV, Grand Officers, Election and Qualifications, Section 1, Qualification for Grand Office, page 6

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.)

No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Commandery, save that of Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at that time a permanent member thereof; moreover, before assuming the duties of such office, he must be willing to assume the "Vow of Office," as prescribed by the Grand Encampment.

Identification of amended Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery Article IV, Grand Officers, Election and Qualifications, Section 1, Qualification for Grand Office, page 6

NEW LANGUAGE

NEW WORDING IN BOLD

No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Commandery, save that of Grand Prelate **and Grand Musician**, unless he shall be at that time a permanent member thereof; moreover, before assuming the duties of such office, he must be willing to assume the "Vow of Office," as prescribed by the Grand Encampment.

RATIONALE: *Corrects an omission.*

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date)	<u>7/6/2023</u>	<u>CEG</u>
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date)	_____	_____
Presented to Grand Chapter	(Date)	_____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Council	(Date)	_____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery	(Date)	_____	Result _____

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date: November 30, 2023

Originator(s) James W. Hogg, PDDGC, Dist. 2
City/State/Zip: 33906

Originator(s) Steven Q. Steele, Past Grand Reecorder
City/State/Zip: 33852

Officer(s)

TO: Grand Chapter___ Grand Council___ Grand Commandery X___

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter

Grand Council

Grand Commandery: Chapter 45 Amendment, Section 45.01, Notice and Procedure

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.) is underlined

Identification of language to be amended: Chapter 45 Amendment, Section 45.01 as follows:

CHAPTER 45 Amendment

45.01. Notice and Procedure.

These Regulations may be amended, revised, or changed by Resolution, which must be presented to the Grand Recorder by December 1st of each year. The Grand Recorder shall give each Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Officer, District Deputy Grand Commander, and Recorder of Constituent Commandery 120 days notice of same (by providing each with a copy of such proposal); and present the Resolution at the next Annual Conclave for adoption. A majority of not less than two-thirds of the qualified members, present and voting, shall be

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) 11/30/23 CEX

PAGE 1

Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____

Presented to Grand Chapter (date) _____ Result _____

Presented to Grand Council (date) _____ Result _____

Presented to Grand Commandery (date) _____ Result _____

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

required to adopt the Resolution. Recorders shall read such Resolutions at a Stated Conclave of their Constituent Commandery prior to the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery; and the Constituent Commandery may instruct its representatives regarding its pleasure thereon. [2003]

Grand Chapter

Grand Council

Grand Commandery: Chapter 45 Amendments, Section 45.01 Notice and Procedure

NEW LANGUAGE is Underlined

CHAPTER 45 Amendment

45.01. Notice and Procedure.

These Regulations may be amended, revised, or changed by Resolution, which must be presented to the Grand Recorder by February 1st of each year. The Grand Recorder shall give said amendment to each Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Officer, District Deputy Grand Commander, and Recorder of Constituent Commandery so that said amendment shall reach each Grand Commandery Officer, each Past Grand Commander, each District Deputy Grand Commander, and the Recorders of all Constituent Commanderies by March 1st of each year (by providing each with a copy of such proposal); and present the Resolution at the next Annual Conclave for adoption. A majority of not less than two-thirds of the qualified members, present and voting, shall be required to adopt the Resolution. Recorders shall read such Resolutions at a Stated Conclave of their Constituent Commandery prior to the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery; and the Constituent Commandery may instruct its representatives regarding its pleasure thereon. [2003]

DISCUSSION:

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result_____
Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result_____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result_____

PAGE 2

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

This is a “housekeeping” resolution designed to bring into coordination with ALL THREE Florida Grand York Rite Bodies identical deadline dates for the submittal of resolutions to amend the three respective Constitutions and Regulations, and the later distribution to constituent bodies and others as specified within the three respective Constitutions and Regulations. The goal is to streamline the receipt and disbursement of legislation to one set of common dates to make the job of the Grand Secretary/Recorder less burdensome in following the constitution, rules, and regulations concerning “Amendments.”

DISCUSSION AND LEGAL ANALYSIS:

This is a “housekeeping” resolution designed to bring into coordination with ALL THREE Florida Grand York Rite Bodies identical deadline dates for the submittal of resolutions to amend the three respective Constitutions and Regulations, and the later distribution to constituent bodies and others as specified within the three respective Constitutions and Regulations. The goal is to streamline the receipt and disbursement of legislation to one set of common dates to make the job of the Grand Secretary/Recorder less burdensome in following the constitution, rules, and regulations concerning “Amendments.”

IMPORTANT: THIS IS A RESOLUTION FORMALLY BEING PRESENTED TO OVERTURN THE NEGATIVE SECOND VOTE TAKEN AT THE LAST GRAND CONCLAVE ON RESOLUTION #2023-04, BECAUSE IT WAS IN VIOLATION OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY’S CONSTITUTION, AND REINSTATE THE FIRST VOTE THAT WAS PROPERLY TAKEN ON THE FLOOR TO ORIGINALLY APPROVE.

THE LEGAL ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION FOLLOWS THIS PAGE THREE AS PAGES # 4 TO 9, TO WIT, AS FOLLOWS:

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Council (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date) _____ Result _____

PAGE 3

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

A] What happened at the 2023 Grand Conclave:

Because of the manner in which the legislative resolutions (#'s 2023-03 and 2023-04) were handled, the members of Grand Commandery were disenfranchised by the outcome of the second vote on these resolutions, which we assert was taken in violation of the Grand Commandery of Florida's Constitution.

On the first ballot, Resolutions # 2023-03 and #2023-04 were approved. On the second ballot taken, both resolutions were defeated.

B] Legal analysis:

The Grand Constitution of the Grand Commandery of Florida states as follows below, as concerns who is considered a member of the Grand Commandery and entitled to a vote therein. Please note that Article II, Section 2 includes Past Commanders of Florida Commanderies (holders of the "white" ballot cards) as members of this Grand Commandery. This is highlighted below *in bold italics*.

ARTICLE II

Grand Officers, Members, and Titles

Section 2. Members.

This Grand Commandery is and shall be composed of the following members:

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result_____

PAGE 4

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

- a) All Past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past Grand Generalissimos, and Past Grand Captains General.
- b) The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction.
- c) The Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery.
- d) All Past Commanders of its Constituent Commanderies.**
- e) All Past Commanders who may have Demitted from another jurisdiction and who shall have been elected to membership in this Grand Commandery, after having presented satisfactory proof of their former membership in a Grand Commandery; together with proof of their rank in same; or who have become Dual Members of a Florida Constituent Commandery.
- f) All Knights Templar of other Grand Commanderies who have been elected Honorary Members. Such Honorary Membership may be conferred by majority vote of this Grand Commandery upon distinguished Chivalric Masons regardless of affiliation, but shall not confer the right to vote.
- g) Membership in this Grand Commandery is contingent upon a sustained membership in a Constituent Commandery hereof.

Further, it specifies in Article II, Section 3, the following below concerning proxies. Please note that a Past Commander of a Florida Commandery, who is also carrying a proxy, is entitled to two votes, consisting of his proxy vote AND his personal vote. That provision is highlighted below ***in bold italics***. Note the conforming language in Article III, Section 5, Paragraph 1 (a), which is also highlighted further below ***in bold italics***.

Section 3. Proxies.

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.
Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result_____.
Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result_____.
Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result_____.

PAGE 5

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

a) Proxies shall be held to be lawful in the Grand Commandery of Florida. ***Any voting member of this Grand Commandery may be designated by one or more of the three Principal Officers of the Commandery to which he belongs, to act as his or their proxy.*** No person may act or vote for another unless he shall present to the Grand Recorder, or Committee on Returns and Credentials, a Proxy duly signed by the absentee voting member, and attested by the seal of the Commandery which is being so represented. ***Pursuant to this, the representative will be entitled to cast his own vote plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy, as provided above.***

b) Should it become necessary for a Sir Knight carrying a Proxy to prove he is in good standing, the Committee on Returns and Credentials is required to accept as proof a good standing voucher from the Grand Recorder, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, whereupon ballots must be issued.

Further, we reproduce "Article III, Grand Conclaves, Section 5. Votes and Manner of Voting" below, where it further describes the manner of voting as follows:

Section 5. Votes and Manner of Voting.

a) Each member of the Grand Commandery present, in person or a proxy for a Constituent Commandery representative, will be entitled to cast his own vote plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy as prescribed above.

b) All questions before the Annual Conclave, unless otherwise provided by Grand Encampment Law, shall be decided by a majority vote of those present. Affirmative votes are to be signified by verified voters extending the sword arm; Negative votes are to be signified by verified voters extending the bridle arm. In case of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote.

HOWEVER, for the purposes of voting on legislation to change the Constitution, Rules and regulations, which is the provision we are mainly concerned with, is Article X Amendments. You will note that these resolutions must be passed by a two-thirds vote. That provision is

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Council (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date) _____ Result _____

PAGE 6

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

highlighted below ***in bold italics*** at the end of Chapter 45 Amendment, 45.01 Notice and Procedure. We reproduce Chapter 45 Amendment, 45.01 Notice and Procedure in its entirety below:

CHAPTER 45 Amendment

45.01. Notice and Procedure.

These Regulations may be amended, revised, or changed by Resolution, which must be presented to the Grand Recorder by December 1st of each year. The Grand Recorder shall give each Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Officer, District Deputy Grand Commander, and Recorder of Constituent Commandery 120 days notice of same (by providing each with a copy of such proposal); and present the Resolution at the next Annual Conclave for adoption. ***A majority of not less than two-thirds of the qualified members, present and voting, shall be required to adopt the Resolution.*** Recorders shall read such Resolutions at a Stated Conclave of their Constituent Commandery prior to the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery; and the Constituent Commandery may instruct its representatives regarding its pleasure thereon. [2003]

Please take note that nowhere in any of the Constitutional provisions does it say that Past Commanders are not entitled to vote on amendments to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery. (That is, prohibiting those holding "white" ballot cards from voting on these resolutions.) To reiterate: The text we have highlighted above ***in bold italics*** is the provision in Chapter 45 Amendments, 45.01, that governs both the first and the second round of balloting on the resolutions, where we assert that the second round of balloting was in violation of the Grand Commandery's Constitution.

To summarize our position, based on the above facts: "[T]he "Grand Commandery," as specified above in ***bold italics*** in Chapter 45 Amendment, 45.01 Notice and Procedure reproduced above, consists of its members. Its members are described in Article II, Section 2, also as reproduced

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Council (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date) _____ Result _____

PAGE 7

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

above. Its members include Past Commanders of this Grand Commandery (who were holders of the “white” ballot cards) – See Article II, Section 2 (d).

Note: Should you find it necessary to review the entire Florida Grand Commandery Constitution, here’s the link: https://flgyr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/KT_Constitution_Laws_Regs_2022.pdf. Or: To get there on the flgyr web site without the above link: Go to flgyr.org and click on “Grand Commandery” at the top right, then on the next page click “Commandery” at the left in the grey menu box at top of page, then under the heading “general forms and files,” it is the sixth link down.

C} Our position concerning this issue:

We maintain that the **first** set of votes on these two resolutions presented were properly balloted upon in accordance with our Grand Constitution. The Grand Commander then declared Resolutions # 2023-03 and 2023-04 adopted.

When Past Department Commander Robert Burleson later stood up and complained that Past Commanders (holders of the “white” voting cards) had no vote respecting the adoption or rejection of these resolutions to change the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, this was an erroneous position on his part. We maintain that the second set of votes on the two resolutions, per the demand of Robert Burleson, was irregular and in violation of our Constitution, rendering that second set of votes “*void ab initio*,” thereby confirming that the first set of votes were properly and legally handled.

D} Adoption of this resolution will accomplish the following result:

Consequently, adoption of this resolution by the voting members of Grand Commandery will confirm that Resolution # 2023-04 was properly balloted upon on the first vote undertaken, that this was indeed the legal outcome of the original balloting before Past Department Commander Burleson demanded the second vote, and that this resolution voids the second

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Council (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date) _____ Result _____

PAGE 8

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

vote that was taken in violation of this Grand Commandery's Constitution, rendering the first
vote taken as legally binding.

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result_____
Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result_____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result_____

PAGE 9

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date: November 30, 2023

Originator(s) James W. Hogg, PDDGC, Dist. 2
City/State/Zip: 33906

Originator(s) Steven Q. Steele, Past Grand Recorder
City/State/Zip: 33852

Officer(s)

TO: Grand Chapter___ Grand Council___ Grand Commandery X___

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter

Grand Council

Grand Commandery: Article X Amendments, Section 1, Amendment

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.) is underlined

Identification of language to be amended: Article X, Amendments, Section 1, as follows:

ARTICLE X Amendments

Section 1, Amendment.

Amendments to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery shall be made in the following manner:

- Each proposed amendment shall recite in detail the section number and full title of the section proposed to be amended.
- Each proposed amendment shall be filed with the Grand Recorder in writing not later than December 1st of each year.

1

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) 11/30/23 CSJ

PAGE

Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____

Presented to Grand Chapter (date) _____ Result _____

Presented to Grand Council (date) _____ Result _____

Presented to Grand Commandery (date) _____ Result _____

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

The Grand Recorder shall have same duplicated and a copy mailed or e-mailed to each Grand Commandery Officer, each Past Grand Commander, each District Deputy Grand Commander, and the Recorders of all Constituent Commanderies at least forty-five days prior to the next Annual Conclave. Said proposed amendment shall be read at the next Stated Conclave of each Constituent Commandery, and after consideration, the Commandery may instruct its delegates as to how they shall vote on the subject. Any proposed amendment so made shall be read and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. Said Committee shall report thereon, and, if the amendment is carried by a two-thirds vote of the Grand Commandery, the same shall be declared adopted.

Grand Chapter

Grand Council

Grand Commandery: Article X Amendments

NEW LANGUAGE is Underlined

ARTICLE X Amendments

Section 1. Amendment.

Amendments to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery shall be made in the following manner:

- Each proposed amendment shall recite in detail the section number and full title of the section proposed to be amended.
- Each proposed amendment shall be filed with the Grand Recorder in writing not later than February 1st of each year.

The Grand Recorder shall have same duplicated and a copy mailed or e-mailed to each Grand Commandery Officer, each Past Grand Commander, each District Deputy Grand Commander, and the Recorders of all Constituent Commanderies so that said amendment shall reach each Grand Commandery Officer, each Past Grand

2

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.

PAGE

Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____

Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result_____

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Commander, each District Deputy Grand Commander, and the Recorders of all Constituent Commanderies by March 1st of each year. Said proposed amendment shall be read at the next Stated Conclave of each Constituent Commandery, and after consideration, the Commandery may instruct its delegates as to how they shall vote on the subject. Any proposed amendment so made shall be read and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. Said Committee shall report thereon, and, if the amendment is carried by a two-thirds vote of the Grand Commandery, the same shall be declared adopted.

DISCUSSION AND LEGAL ANALYSIS:

This is a “housekeeping” resolution designed to bring into coordination with ALL THREE Florida Grand York Rite Bodies identical deadline dates for the submittal of resolutions to amend the three respective Constitutions and Regulations, and the later distribution to constituent bodies and others as specified within the three respective Constitutions and Regulations. The goal is to streamline the receipt and disbursement of legislation to one set of common dates to make the job of the Grand Secretary/Recorder less burdensome in following the constitution, rules, and regulations concerning “Amendments.”

IMPORTANT: THIS IS A RESOLUTION FORMALLY BEING PRESENTED TO OVERTURN THE NEGATIVE SECOND VOTE TAKEN AT THE LAST GRAND CONCLAVE ON RESOLUTION #2023-03, BECAUSE IT WAS IN VIOLATION OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY’S CONSTITUTION, AND REINSTATE THE FIRST VOTE THAT WAS PROPERLY TAKEN ON THE FLOOR TO ORIGINALLY APPROVE.

THE LEGAL ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION FOLLOWS THIS PAGE THREE AS PAGES # 4 TO 9, TO WIT, AS FOLLOWS:

3

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.	PAGE
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____	
Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____	Result_____
Presented to Grand Council (date)_____	Result_____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____	Result_____

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

A] What happened at the 2023 Grand Conclave:

Because of the manner in which the legislative resolutions (#'s 2023-03 and 2023-04) were handled, the members of Grand Commandery were disenfranchised by the outcome of the second vote on these resolutions, which we assert was taken in violation of the Grand Commandery of Florida's Constitution.

On the first ballot, Resolutions # 2023-03 and #2023-04 were approved. On the second ballot taken, both resolutions were defeated.

B] Legal analysis:

The Grand Constitution of the Grand Commandery of Florida states as follows below, as concerns who is considered a member of the Grand Commandery and entitled to a vote therein. Please note that Article II, Section 2 includes Past Commanders of Florida Commanderies (holders of the "white" ballot cards) as members of this Grand Commandery. This is highlighted below *in bold italics*.

ARTICLE II Grand Officers, Members, and Titles

Section 2. Members.

This Grand Commandery is and shall be composed of the following members:

- a) All Past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past Grand Generalissimos, and Past Grand Captains General.

4

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.

PAGE

Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____

Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result_____

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

- b) The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction.
- c) The Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery.
- d) All Past Commanders of its Constituent Commanderies.**
- e) All Past Commanders who may have Demitted from another jurisdiction and who shall have been elected to membership in this Grand Commandery, after having presented satisfactory proof of their former membership in a Grand Commandery; together with proof of their rank in same; or who have become Dual Members of a Florida Constituent Commandery.
- f) All Knights Templar of other Grand Commanderies who have been elected Honorary Members. Such Honorary Membership may be conferred by majority vote of this Grand Commandery upon distinguished Chivalric Masons regardless of affiliation, but shall not confer the right to vote.
- g) Membership in this Grand Commandery is contingent upon a sustained membership in a Constituent Commandery hereof.

Further, it specifies in Article II, Section 3, the following below concerning proxies. Please note that a Past Commander of a Florida Commandery, who is also carrying a proxy, is entitled to two votes, consisting of his proxy vote AND his personal vote. That provision is highlighted below ***in bold italics***. Note the conforming language in Article III, Section 5, Paragraph 1 (a), which is also highlighted further below ***in bold italics***.

Section 3. Proxies.

- a) Proxies shall be held to be lawful in the Grand Commandery of Florida. ***Any voting member of this Grand Commandery may be designated by one or more of the three Principal Officers of the Commandery to which he belongs, to act as his or their proxy.*** No person may act or vote for another unless he shall present to the Grand

5

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____ .
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Council (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date) _____ Result _____

PAGE

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Recorder, or Committee on Returns and Credentials, a Proxy duly signed by the absentee voting member, and attested by the seal of the Commandery which is being so represented. ***Pursuant to this, the representative will be entitled to cast his own vote plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy, as provided above.***

b) Should it become necessary for a Sir Knight carrying a Proxy to prove he is in good standing, the Committee on Returns and Credentials is required to accept as proof a good standing voucher from the Grand Recorder, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, whereupon ballots must be issued.

Further, we reproduce "Article III, Grand Conclaves, Section 5. Votes and Manner of Voting" below, where it further describes the manner of voting as follows:

Section 5. Votes and Manner of Voting.

a) ***Each member of the Grand Commandery present, in person or a proxy for a Constituent Commandery representative, will be entitled to cast his own vote plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy as prescribed above.***

b) All questions before the Annual Conclave, unless otherwise provided by Grand Encampment Law, shall be decided by a majority vote of those present. Affirmative votes are to be signified by verified voters extending the sword arm; Negative votes are to be signified by verified voters extending the bridle arm. In case of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote.

HOWEVER, for the purposes of voting on legislation to change the Constitution, Rules and regulations, which is the provision we are mainly concerned with, is Article X Amendments. You will note that these resolutions must be passed by a two-thirds vote. That provision is highlighted below ***in bold italics*** at the end of Article X. We reproduce Article X Amendments in its entirety below:

6

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date) _____
Presented to Grand Chapter (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Council (date) _____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date) _____ Result _____

PAGE

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

ARTICLE X Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery shall be made in the following manner:

- Each proposed amendment shall recite in detail the section number and full title of the section proposed to be amended.
- Each proposed amendment shall be filed with the Grand Recorder in writing not later than December 1st of each year.

The Grand Recorder shall have same duplicated and a copy mailed or e-mailed to each Grand Commandery Officer, each Past Grand Commander, each District Deputy Grand Commander, and the Recorders of all Constituent Commanderies at least forty-five days prior to the next Annual Conclave. Said proposed amendment shall be read at the next Stated Conclave of each Constituent Commandery, and after consideration, the Commandery may instruct its delegates as to how they shall vote on the subject. Any proposed amendment so made shall be read and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. Said Committee shall report thereon, and, ***if the amendment is carried by a two-thirds vote of the Grand Commandery, the same shall be declared adopted.***

Please take note that nowhere in any of the Constitutional provisions does it say that Past Commanders are not entitled to vote on amendments to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery. (That is, prohibiting those holding “white” ballot cards from voting on these resolutions.) To reiterate: The text we have highlighted above ***in bold italics*** is the provision in Article X that governs both the first and the second round of balloting on the resolutions, where we assert that the second round of balloting was in violation of the Grand Commandery’s Constitution.

To summarize our position, based on the above facts: “[T]he “Grand Commandery,” as specified in the last sentence of Article X Amendments reproduced above, consists of its members. Its members are described in Article II, Section 2, also as reproduced above. Its members include

7

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.
Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result _____

PAGE

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Past Commanders of this Grand Commandery (who were holders of the “white” ballot cards) – See Article II, Section 2 (d).

Note: Should you find it necessary to review the entire Florida Grand Commandery Constitution, here's the link: https://flgyr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/KT_Constitution_Laws_Regs_2022.pdf . Or: To get there on the flgyr web site without the above link: Go to flgyr.org and click on “Grand Commandery” at the top right, then on the next page click “Commandery” at the left in the grey menu box at top of page, then under the heading “general forms and files,” it is the sixth link down.

C} Our position concerning this issue:

We maintain that the first set of votes on these two resolutions presented were properly balloted upon in accordance with our Grand Constitution. The Grand Commander then declared Resolutions # 2023-03 and 2023-04 adopted.

When Past Department Commander Robert Burleson later stood up and complained that Past Commanders (holders of the “white” voting cards) had no vote respecting the adoption or rejection of these resolutions to change the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, this was an erroneous position on his part. We maintain that the second set of votes on the resolutions, per the demand of Robert Burleson, was irregular and in violation of our Constitution, rendering that second set of votes “void *ab initio*,” thereby confirming that the first set of votes were properly and legally handled.

D] Adoption of this resolution will authorize the following result:

Consequently, adoption of this resolution by the voting members of Grand Commandery will confirm that Resolution # 2023-03 was properly balloted upon on the first vote undertaken, that this was indeed the legal outcome of the original balloting undertaken before Past Department Commander Burleson demanded the second vote, and that this resolution voids

8

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.

PAGE

Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____

Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result_____

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

the second vote that was taken in violation of this Grand Commandery's Constitution,
rendering the first vote taken as legally binding.

9

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____.

PAGE

Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder (date)_____

Presented to Grand Chapter (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Council (date)_____ Result_____

Presented to Grand Commandery (date)_____ Result_____

(continued on reverse)

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date July 1, 2023

Originating Body(s) Sir Knight Adam M. Bryan

City/State/Zip Bell, FL 32619

Officer(s) Right Eminent Past Grand Commander

TO: Grand Chapter _____ Grand Council _____ Grand Commandery X

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery Article II, Section 3, Proxies, page 3

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.)

Proxies shall be held to be lawful in the Grand Commandery of Florida. Any voting member of this Grand Commandery may be designated by one or more of the three Principal Officers of the Commandery to which he belongs, to act as his or their proxy. No person may act or vote for another unless he shall present to the Grand Recorder or Committee on Returns and Credentials, a Proxy duly signed by the absentee voting member, and attested by the seal of the Commandery which is being so represented. Pursuant to this, the representative will be entitled to cast his own vote plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy, as provided above.

Identification of amended Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery Article II, Section 3, Proxies, page 3

NEW LANGUAGE

STRIKETHROUGHS ARE DELETIONS / NEW WORDING IN BOLD

Proxies shall be held to be lawful in the Grand Commandery of Florida. Any voting member of this Grand Commandery may be designated by one or more of the three Principal Officers of the Commandery to which he belongs, to act as his or their proxy. No person may act or vote for another unless he shall present to the Grand Recorder or Committee on Returns and Credentials, a Proxy duly signed by the absentee voting member, and attested by the seal of the Commandery which is being so represented. Pursuant to this, the representative will be entitled to cast his own vote ~~plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy~~, as provided above. **[NOTE, per GEKT: A member can have but one vote in his own right. (1913, pp 45 and 47, No. 9, Melish, 1988 digest – 281)]**

REASON: *Brings this section into conformity with GEKT Regulations.*

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date)	<u>10/3/23</u>	
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date)	<u>10/10/23</u>	
Presented to Grand Chapter	(Date)	_____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Council	(Date)	_____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery	(Date)	_____	Result _____

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date July 1, 2023

Originating Body(s) Sir Knight Adam M. Bryan

City/State/Zip Bell, FL 32619

Officer(s) Right Eminent Past Grand Commander

TO: Grand Chapter _____ Grand Council _____ Grand Commandery X

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery Article III, Section 5, Votes and Manner of Voting, subsection (a), page 5

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.)

- a) Each member of the Grand Commandery present, in person or a proxy for a Constituent Commandery representative, will be entitled to cast his own vote-plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy as prescribed above.

Identification of amended Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery Article III, Section 5, Votes and Manner of Voting, subsection (a), page 5

NEW LANGUAGE

STRIKETHROUGHS ARE DELETIONS / NEW WORDING IN BOLD

- a) Each member of the Grand Commandery present, in person or a proxy for a Constituent Commandery representative, will be entitled to cast his own vote ~~plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy as prescribed above.~~ **[NOTE, per GEKT: A member can have but one vote in his own right. (1913, pp 45 and 47, No. 9, Melish, 1988 digest – 281)]**

REASON: Brings this section into conformity with GEKT Regulations.

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder

(Date) 10/3/23

Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder

(Date) 10/10/23

Presented to Grand Chapter

(Date) _____

Result _____

Presented to Grand Council

(Date) _____

Result _____

Presented to Grand Commandery

(Date) _____

Result _____

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Florida

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons • The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons • The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

Date November 28, 2023

Originating Body(s) Pilgrim Commandery No. 7

City/State/Zip Gainesville, FL 32635

Officer(s) Sir Knight Thomas E. Metcalfe Jr, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer

TO: Grand Chapter _____ Grand Council _____ Grand Commandery X

Regulation to be amended (Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.)

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery _____

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED (deleted, changed, etc.)

(continued on reverse)

Identification of amended Article, Section, Page, Paragraph, Line, etc.

Grand Chapter _____

Grand Council _____

Grand Commandery 13.01 Standing Committees. (n) Committee on Work -- [adding new section]

NEW LANGUAGE

(4) A. The Committee on Work shall issue card certificates of proficiency to qualified Sir Knights in good standing in a constituent Commandery when in the judgment of the Committee the proficiency of said Sir Knight is such as to meet the standards as set forth in this section and as further defined by said Committee. It shall also be the responsibility of this Committee to maintain a list of all those Knights Templar who have received cards of proficiency by date and category of card and to report that list at each annual Convention for inclusion in the Proceedings.

(continued on reverse)

Received by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date) <u>11/28/23</u>	
Circulated by Grand Secretary/Recorder	(Date) <u>12/5/23</u>	
Presented to Grand Chapter	(Date) _____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Council	(Date) _____	Result _____
Presented to Grand Commandery	(Date) _____	Result _____

LANGUAGE TO BE AMENDED

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C. The Committee on Work shall issue a Green card certificate of proficiency, with the following additions, to a Sir Knight when proficient in the following esoteric work of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross:

- D. The Committee on Work shall issue a Black card certificate of proficiency, with the following additions, to a Sir Knight when proficient in the following esoteric work of the Order of Malta:

Page 2

JOINT (SINGLE) RESOLUTION FORM

NEW LANGUAGE *(continued)*

a. It shall be bordered in white for proficiency in the Historical lectures of the five Banner Guards.

b. It shall contain the Banner of St. John on the left front face for proficiency in the Marshal, Knight at Table in West, and Banners of St. John and Malta parts.

c. It shall contain the Maltese Cross on the right front face for knowing the Prior's part.

E. The Committee on Work shall issue a White card certificate of proficiency, with the following additions, to a Sir Knight when proficient in the following esoteric work of the Order of the Temple:

a. It shall be bordered in gold for proficiency in both the Junior and Senior Wardens' parts.

b. It shall contain a black Passion cross on the left front face for proficiency in the Prelate's part (excepting those which must be read).

c. It shall contain a Cross and Crown emblem on the right front face for proficiency in the Commander's part.

EXPLANATION

The Grand Commandery has been the only body within the York Rite for many years without qualifications to recognize and award Sir Knights for proficiency for ritual work in the Orders.

This resolution will empower the Committee on Work to furnish and record proficiency cards in a manner similar to the other Grand Bodies, with the criteria selected from the most essential parts from each Order.