

# School of Instruction / 2018

Tactics or Ritual page and paragraph are in parentheses.

## Things all Sir Knights should be aware of:

- Wearing of jewels and badges (page 89)
- Holy Bible (page 45, para. 203)
- Always give the proper salutations upon entering or retiring from an Asylum. (page 8, para. 18)
- Commander is “Eminent Commander” not “Eminent” or Eminent Sir”. (page 7, para. 16)
- Always say “Sir Knight” as first part of title. (page 7, para. 13)
- Always call on an Officer by his title prior to saluting (with hand or sword). (page 9, para. 20a)
- When being addressed by a Senior Officer, arise, step one pace forward and salute with hand or sword. (page 9, para. 20b)
- When communicating with other Officers give a salute (with hand or sword) at the beginning and end.
- Knocks at the door are the same sequence as in Lodge. During the opening the Warder knocks after closing the door. When Conclave is open, he knocks before opening the door and after closing the door. When closing he knocks before opening the door.
- Speak loud and clear as possible (we are all getting older and want to hear your good work). When addressing a Candidate or another Sir Knight look them right in the eye for good communication.
- Remember the visiting Sir Knights. Make them as welcome as you would in your own home.
- Never, I repeat never talk or whisper when the Orders or the Full Form Opening are in progress. Give them the attention they deserve for their hard work.
- When an Officer is advancing to another station he is asked to make sure the Sir Knight replacing him is instructed to his duties and is proficient in the Ritual.
- As a Past Commander, you have just begun your duties to the Commandery. Your knowledge and enthusiasm is most valuable and needed in making your Commandery as success in years to come.

## Some things to be aware of when using the sword:

- Never talk through your sword or while saluting. Talk only when at attention. (demonstrate)
- Do not saw your sword when coming to carry swords. (demonstrate)
- Sword manual positions during the Full Form Opening. (page 62, para. 294)
- Parry Four positions (position of the hand is most important) (page 27 & 28, para. 90)
- Position of Sir Knights during the 5<sup>th</sup> Libation. (page 83, para. 465, plate #28) Sir Knights should be one pace (30 inches) from the triangle and shoulder to shoulder. Sir Knights at the base of the triangle should be in line with the Senior Warden, Candidate and the Junior Warden as shown on plate #28.
- During the 5<sup>th</sup> Libation at the command “Charge”, swords should be held with palms up and then as swords are raised turn the palms down. (page 29, para. 96)
- Cups are removed from the triangle during the 5<sup>th</sup> libation. (page 85, plate #26)
- When forming an “Arch of Steel”, come to present swords at the command “Cross” and then form the arch with the parry one position at the command “Swords”.
- When kneeling with the sword, the right hand should be resting on the sword with the left hand resting on the right hand. (page 30, picture)

## Things not to do:

- Never say anything with Chapeau removed. All commands are given while at attention.
- Commander does not turn to face the Generalissimo or the Captain General when giving commands. Always faces the Commandery. (page 10, para. 30)

- The United States Flag never moves unless we are at hand salute or have hand over heart. Active duty military and veterans are permitted to use hand salute when not in uniform.
- Never dip the United States Flag. (always straight up and proud) (page 8, para. 19d)

Things you can do to help yourself and others:

- Learn the 3 years of warfare guard so you can help other Commanderies. (Ritual page 124)
- Remember, when communicating the word, only the 1<sup>st</sup> Division crosses their arms.
- Correct Chapeau position on the floor. (page 30, picture)
- Practice returning sword without looking. (page 26, para. 85)
- Most important, do not be afraid to jump in and help. The Commandery will appreciate it and you will learn something to take home with you. Great way to get to know other Sir Knights.

Some things you should be aware of:

- When you become Commander make sure to keep the Sir Knights of the Commandery well informed. A well informed Commandery is a close-knit one.
- Remember, three things make a Commandery successful; good ritualistic work, education and fellowship before, during and especially after the Conclaves. Commanders make this happen!
- Commanders, when another Commandery has a function, make sure to give them the number of Sir Knights and Ladies that will be attending quickly and accurately. Knightly courtesy is of utmost importance at all times.
- Senior Warden / Junior Warden, when in charge you will give sword salute. (page 9, para. 25)
- All movements are by the most direct route unless otherwise directed. (page 10, para. 31)
- When leaving the Prelate's obligation scene the Sir Knights will move directly to the front and execute facing movements with the Sir Knight directly across from him at the command "march".
- During the first four libations the Wardens and Candidate form a triangle. Same as platform officers. (page 82, plate #27)
- Senior Warden assists the Candidate with the candle and wine cup during the libations.
- Junior Warden asks the Candidate for his hat and walking stick during the Hermit scenes. (does not touch)
- Correct pronunciation of "preparatory". ("pre-par'-a-tory")
- We never "run" Degrees, we "confer" Orders.
- We do not "assist" in anything, we "join". "Join" me in giving the pledge of allegiance for example.
- Candidates are not "Working Candidates", they are "Exemplar Candidates".
- All movements of the Platform Officers should be as a team when moving around the Asylum.
- Standard Guard moves as a team when posting and retiring the United States Flag. (page 68, para. 320 and page 86, para. 471)
- When a recess is called, the United States Flag remains in the East. (page 86, para. 471 note)

**What I have presented is just a small portion of the valuable information in the Ritual and Tactics. Read and study each thoroughly. It will make you a better and more informed Sir Knight.**

Please, if you have learned anything from this presentation take it back to your Commandery and share it with the other Sir Knights. Many of the items I have relayed to you this evening were passed on to me by other well informed Sir Knights. I give most credit to Sir Knight Oliver L. Cardwell, P.C. of Dayton Commandery #68 and Sir Knight Roscoe O. Rilling, P.C. of Dayton Commandery #68 and a Knight Templar Cross of Honour. Roscoe and Bud took me under their wings and gave me many valuable tips on how to become a better Sir Knight. I sincerely hope this does the same to you. Ish Sodi, S.K. Larry E. Fisher, K.C.T. and a K.Y.C.H. (937-750-0112)