

# Old Dominion Commandery No. 11

<http://www.vayorkrite.org/kt/kt11.htm>  
**Commander's Orders – September 2008**  
CHARTERED  
DECEMBER 12, 1872 - ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

A.O. 890-891

*“Be Thou Faithful Unto Death  
And I Will Give Thee A Crown Of Life”*

A.D. 2008-2009

#### EMINENT COMMANDER

James M. Stevenson  
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#### GENERALISSIMO

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#### CAPTAIN GENERAL

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#### JUNIOR WARDEN

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#### RECORDER

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#### STANDARD BEARER

-- VACANT --

#### WORD BEARER

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#### WARDER

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#### SENTINEL

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#### MUSICIAN

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\* Past District Deputy Grand Commander

Sir Knights:

Thanks very much to all who provided support to the Commandery for the *Illustrious Order of the Red Cross* in August. It was well attended and the first time in several years that we've made the attempt to perform the Order in Full Form. The execution was outstanding and you should all be quite proud of the members and officers who stepped up to help grow our Commandery!

The candidates are ready to continue on to the *Order of Malta*, which will be conferred (in short form) at our next Stated Conclave on Wednesday, September 24 starting at 7:30 pm under the direction of ESK **David C. Morris, PC**. Refreshments preceding the Stated Conclave. We will be opening the Conclave in short form, as we have done in the past, to leave plenty of time for the Order conferral. We are also solidifying plans to hold the *Chamber of Reflection* and Full Form *Order of the Temple* on Saturday, November 1, 2008 starting at 9:00 am following the Official Visit of the Grand Commander, RESK **Jeffrey G. Burcham** on October 22.

Old Dominion Commandery has a long and memorable history with the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Because of this history, the officers of Old Dominion have worked with the management of the Memorial to arrive at an equitable solution regarding fees. After making several attempts at negotiation, we have not been able to come up with a solution that is in the best interests of both parties. While it may be unfortunate that we did not come to an agreement, it may provide us with an opportunity to reach forth and embrace another Masonic body and develop a new and stronger relationship.

Much discussion has arisen in recent months about the financial stability of the Commandery. The Memorial Association has increased our rent from \$50 a month to \$210 a month in the last several years. The doubling of our rent every three years (based on current projections) would require us to continue increasing our dues consistently over the next several years in order to keep up. Additionally, we incur a \$376 charge per year for our liability insurance policy. With the possibility of additional rent increases looming on the horizon as well as decreasing membership revenue, it has become evident that we may no longer be able to support our residency in the North Lodge Room. While the Memorial has been our home for a very long time and its beauty, history and grandeur is unsurpassed, I fear (with great sadness) that tradition may unfortunately need to yield to fiscal responsibility if our Commandery is to survive.

We cannot continually raise our dues for the sheer purpose of covering the rent, so the question must now be asked: What other option remains? Annually, our expenses for rent and insurance alone are almost \$3000. Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment have increased per-capita taxation on the subordinate Commanderies from \$2270 last year to \$3375 this year. We currently have 129 members based on the information I received at the beginning of the year. Of those 129 members, I am told that only around 105 are paying members (not LMIP, Honorary, etc.) Of the \$60 we will be charging for dues this year and going forward, the Commandery only receives \$35 per member in income (per Article II of the Commandery bylaws), for a total of \$3675. Assuming that we will be getting around \$450 from the Grand Commandery for LMIP refunds, we will only be taking in just over \$4000 (not including cash infusions from the investment accounts managed by the trustees, which run between \$1500 and \$1700, based on the behavior of the stock markets). As the assessments are now \$3375 and our rent and insurance cost around \$3000 for total raw expenses of \$6375 you can see where additional expenses such as refreshments and bulletin mailings will put us severely in the red. Liquidating our investments currently in the care of our Trustees for the sole purpose of covering the rent is not an option.

To add to non-financial issues, it has been noticed that the Memorial is no longer quite as accessible as it used to be, with more limited hours, locked doors, and a recent attempt at a practice night failed one Sunday evening, due to the fact that the Memorial was completely locked down with no security guards to let us in – something which has changed in recent years since I was Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. One alternative proposal that has risen above the rest is that the Commandery move to the Kena Shrine facility in Fairfax. Rent has been quoted at \$75 per month and we will be covered under Kena's umbrella insurance policy, for a total annual expense of \$900. Additional benefits to being a sound financial decision, is that the Kena "Anek" facility provides easier access for senior members without the need for steps, large amounts of storage space for our Order Paraphernalia, a complete kitchen and dining facility, restrooms, and plans by the Shrine to upgrade the building with new ceiling tiles, carpet, etc. To this end, following the Order of Malta, the members present will commence final discussion and balloting on the following bylaws change for *Article I* which currently reads as follows:

The Stated Conclaves of Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 shall be held at George Washington Masonic National Memorial located at Alexandria, VA on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

To this:

The Stated Conclaves of Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 shall be held at the Kena Shrine facility located at 9001 Arlington Blvd, in Fairfax, VA on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

First reading of this change occurred at our July Stated Conclave, per the Statutes. A decision will be reached this month. Also per Statutes, a majority of the members present is required to pass the bylaws change.

Courteously,  
Sir Knight James M. Stevenson  
Eminent Commander 2008-2009/890-891

#### NOTIFICATION

ESK **Frank Dunaway, PC**, will be moving down to Florida with his wife Connie and will no longer be able to serve in the capacity of trustee. That being the case, we will be holding elections for a new trustee to complete the balance of ESK Dunaway's term through 2010 at our Stated Conclave on October 22, 2008, during the Grand Commander's visit.

**GUARDS**

Jason W. Lotz, PC  
David C. Morris, PC  
Mark W. Underwood, DGC

**PRELATE**

Thomas G. Little, PC  
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**PRELATE EMERITUS**

Robert D. McMarlin, KCT, PGC  
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**TRUSTEES**

Mark W. Underwood, DGC 2008  
George D. Gilbreath, KTCH, KCT \* 2009  
Vacant – TBD October 22, 2008 2010

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE CHAIRMAN**

George D. Gilbreath, KTCH, KCT \*

**EYE FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN**

Keith R. Butler

**EDUCATION FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN**

Mark W. Underwood, DGC

**RITUAL AND TACTICS**

George D. Gilbreath, KTCH, KCT \*

**ORDER MASTERS**

**Order of Red Cross**

George D. Gilbreath, KTCH, KCT \*  
(240) 361-3145

**Order of Malta**

David C. Morris, PC  
(703) 978-4441

**Order of the Temple**

F. J. Pepper \*  
(703) 823-2311

**LIVING PAST COMMANDERS**

Harold E. Hodge 1962  
Robert D. McMarlin, KCT, PGC 1968  
Jason W. Snyder \* 1971  
Richard L. Parler 1973  
Abner F. Teague 1982  
Ervin S. Becker \* 1985  
George D. Gilbreath, KTCH, KCT \* 1987  
Carl R. Gagliardi \* 1988  
Walter P. Benesch 1990  
Granville C. Canard, Jr. 1993  
Frank R. Dunaway Jr. \* 1995  
George D. Seghers 1996  
Mark W. Underwood, DGC 1997  
F. J. Pepper \* 1998  
Pablo A. Rocha 1999  
Matthew T. Szramoski \* 2000  
Matthew T. Szramoski \* 2001  
Douglas J. Snow 2002  
David C. Morris 2003  
John Shroeder, Jr. 2004  
Mark F. Arbeen 2005  
Jason W. Lotz 2006  
Thomas G. Little 2007  
\* Past District Deputy Grand Commander

**GRAND COMMANDER OF VIRGINIA**

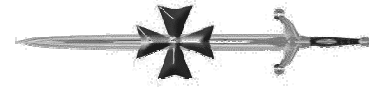
Jeffrey G. Burcham  
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**DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER**

John W. Bullach, Jr., PC  
(Arlington Commandery No. 29)  
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**DISTRICT INSTRUCTOR**

George R. Bierman, PC  
(Arlington Commandery No. 29)  
georgeb@earthlink.net



“Be Thou Faithful Unto Death And I Will Give Thee A Crown Of Life”  
- Revelation 2:10

**ARE YOUR DUES OVERDUE?**

Please check your dues card. If it does not read “December 31, 2008,” then it is out of date. You can upgrade your card by sending in your dues to our Recorder, ESK **Carl R. Gagliardi**. Or, better yet, come out to the next Stated Conclave and pay in person, then stay for the fellowship. Applying for a Life Membership in Perpetuity is also welcome and helps your Commandery into the future!



**MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

Membership Committee – EVERY Sir Knight is a member of THIS Committee!  
Don’t replace yourself, CLONE YOURSELF.

"EVERY CHRISTIAN MASON SHOULD BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR"

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Thursday, September 25, 2008** – Stated Conclave – Piedmont Commandery No. 26 (Fourth Thursdays)  
Manasseh Lodge No. 182  
9810 Cockrell Rd., Manassas, VA  
Dinner at 6:30PM and Conclave at 7:30pm

**Friday, October 3, 2008** – Stated Conclave – Arlington Commandery No. 29 (First Fridays)  
Arlington Centennial-Glebe Lodge No. 81  
1 South George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA  
Dinner at 6:30PM and Conclave at 7:30pm

**Wednesday, October 22, 2008** – Stated Conclave – Old Dominion Commandery No. 11  
George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA – North Lodge Room  
Dinner at 6:30PM and Conclave at 7:30pm  
**\* Official Visit of the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Commonwealth of Virginia  
Sir Knight Jeffrey Glen Burcham**

**Stated Conclaves of Old Dominion Commandery No. 11  
are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month unless otherwise listed**

**2008-2009 Stated Conclaves of the Asylum:**

23 April 2008	22 October 2008 *
28 May 2008	19 November 2008 **
25 June 2008	17 December 2008 ***
23 July 2008	28 January 2009
27 August 2008	25 February 2009
<b>24 September 2008</b>	25 March 2009

\* October Stated Conclave is scheduled visit of Grand Commander to Old Dominion Commandery No. 11

\*\* November Stated Conclave is expected to be changed for Thanksgiving Under Special Dispensation (which, in 2008, would normally fall on November 26)

\*\*\* December Stated Conclave is expected to be changed for Christmas Under Special Dispensation (which, in 2008, would normally fall on December 24)