

Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem

Constitution

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Approved and Authorized by the Sovereign Council of the Order
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MMXXIV

Introduction

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem is an independent international Order of Chivalry. Until the year 1965 it had continued to function under the authority granted to it by the Royal Charter of King Ernest Augustus of Hanover (fifth son of King George III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Hanover).

In that year His late Majesty King Peter II of Yugoslavia deigned to accept election as its Grand Master. On 19 March 1965 King Peter II confirmed and extended his Royal Charter, which he had granted to the Order the previous year. Three years later, on 1 March 1968, as High Protector of the Order he promulgated the Constitution under which the Order continues to function.

In the years since this Constitution was initially adopted, it has been amended on eight separate occasions in accordance with its provisions, the most recent occasion being in 1995.

It should be noted that the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, presently operating under the Royal Charter and Constitution of King Peter II, is not associated in any way with any other Order of Chivalry. While sharing a common devotion to Saint John the Baptist, and to the spiritual heritage of those ancient Knights of Saint John who maintained the faith of Christ in the Holy Land and elsewhere, with the other Orders of Saint John who also exist by virtue of Royal Charters, the Hospitaller Order is not affiliated with them. These include the Sovereign Military Order of Saint John of Jerusalem (SMOM), the Balley Brandenburg des Ritterlichen Ordens Sankt Johannis vom Spital zu Jerusalem (Prussia, 1854), the Venerable Order of Saint John in the British Realm (Britain, 1888), the Johanniterorden in Sverige (Sweden, 1945), and the Johanniter Orde in Nederland (The Netherlands, 1946).

The Constitution of the Order takes the form of a Royal Decree issued by King Peter II. The following document is the authoritative version of the Constitution as approved by the Sovereign Council on 1 June 2024, voted upon and adopted by the Chapter General of the Order, and formally accepted for publication by the Sovereign Council on 3 September 2024.

Contents

The CONSTITUTION OF THE ORDER	5
PART THE FIRST	5
Article I. Foundation.	5
Article II. Juridical Personality.	6
Article III. Location.	6
Article IV. The Grand Master.	6
Article V. The Lieutenant of the Grand Master.	7
Article VI. The High Officers and the Grand Councilors.	7
PART THE SECOND	9
The Central Organization	9
Article VII. The Sovereign Council.	9
Article VIII. General Officers of the Order.	10
Article IX. Magistral Council or Grand Magistracy	11
Article X. Chapter General of the Order	12
Article XI. Court of Chivalry.	14
PART THE THIRD	15
The Internal Organization	15
Article XII. Grand Priors.	15
Article XIII. Grand Priors and Grand Priory Councils.	15
Article XIV. Grand Prelates.	16
Article XV. Chapters.	16
PART THE FOURTH	17
Qualifications, Grades, Categories, Investitures.	17
Article XVI. Qualifications.	17
Article XVII. Classes and Grades.	17
Article XVIII. Affiliates of Merit and Donats.	18
Article XIX. Investitures.	19
PART THE FIFTH	20
Arms, Mottoes, Badges, Diplomas and Brevets, Insignia, Robes and Uniforms.	20
Article XX. Arms	20
Article XXI. Mottoes.	21
Article XXII. Badge.	21

Article XXIII. Diplomas and Brevets.....	22
Article XXV XXIV. Insignia, Robes and Uniforms.....	22
Article XXV. Titles.	22
PART THE SIXTH	23
General.	23
Article XXVI. Non-Partisanship.....	23
Article XXVII. Statutes.	23
Article XXVIII. Regulations.	23
Article XXIX. Admission Fees, Passage Fees, and Annual Oblations.	24
Article XXX. Official Gazette.	24
Article XXXI. Adoption and Amendments.	25
Initial Adoption of the Constitution and of Subsequent Amendments	26

The CONSTITUTION OF THE ORDER

In this document, the pronoun “he” shall represent all genders.

PART THE FIRST

Foundation, Objectives and Purposes, Personality, Location, Sovereign Hierarchy.

Article I. Foundation.

Section 1.

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, also known as the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, exists under Our Royal Charter, issued 19 March 1964, and confirmed and extended 19 March 1965, as an Order of Chivalry under Our Royal Protection and Sovereignty and that Our successors, reigning Kings of Yugoslavia.

Section 2.

This Royal Charter conferred Chivalric status upon that organization which had existed and functioned in North America since 1881 as the “Knights of Saint John and Malta” and as the “Sovereign Order of Saint John and Malta” and as the “Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem in succession from that organization established in 1743 in Paris whose members claimed decent form elements of the ancient Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, founded in the Holy Land in A.D. 1059.

Section 3.

The Purposes of the Order are:

- A. To encourage the highest ideals of Christian chivalry and of all that makes for the moral and spiritual strengthening of mankind in accordance with the first great principle of the Order, embodied in the motto “Pro Fide”.
- B. For the relief of persons in sickness, distress, suffering, and danger, without distinction as to race, color, creed, or national origin, and the extension of the second great principle of the Order, embodied in the motto “Pro Utilitate Hominum”.
- C. To render aid to the sick and injured, and to promote such organizations as may be available at once in time of emergency or strife.
- D. To award medals, badges, or certificates of honor and merit for special acts or services in the cause of humanity, especially for protecting or saving life or property at imminent personal risk.
- E. To maintain the Mission of Saint John.
- F. To develop and maintain educational institutions, the purpose of which are:
 - i. *The instruction of persons in the Christian ethic, in the study of man, and, generally, in those things for the rescue and relief of the suffering and injured throughout the world, irrespective of race, class, or creed; and*
 - ii. *The instruction of persons for the purpose of effectively combining and*

utilizing individual efforts in the service of mankind.

- G. To form associations or organizations in furtherance of the general objectives and purposes of the Order.
- H. To receive and accept donations, endowments, gifts and bequests of money, lands, hereditaments, stocks, funds, shares, securities, and other assets whatsoever, and to borrow or raise money with or without security for any of the objects and purposes of the Order and either subject or not subject to any special trust or conditions.
- I. To maintain a Library and Museum,

Article II. Juridical Personality.

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, asserts its international and ecumenical character, and in its capacity as an independent International and Ecumenical Order of Chivalry, it staunchly advocates and defends the ideal of a free world and the rights of man as defined in the Universal Declaration of the United Nations.

Article III. Location.

The headquarters of this Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. shall be the residence of the Prince Grand Master unless he otherwise determines.

Article IV. The Grand Master.

Section 1.

The immediate government of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Articles set forth herein, is vested in the Prince Grand Master, whose tenure is for life.

Section 2.

The Prince Grand Master shall act as the Sovereign thereof and of its Grand Priories, Priories, and other Establishments, consistent with the ancient customs of the Order and with this Constitution.

Section 3.

The Prince Grand Master shall be the Chairman of the Sovereign Council and shall preside at all meetings thereof. Where by law a corporate president is required, the Prince Grand Master shall possess the same powers as the President of the Corporation. The Prince Grand Master shall sign all certificates, contracts, and other instruments of the Corporation.

Section 4.

Upon assuming his high office, the Prince Grand Master shall execute an oath of office in accordance with the Constitution of the said Order.

Section 5.

Upon the death or abdication of the Prince Grand Master, a new Grand Master shall be nominated by the Sovereign Council for election by the Chapter General of the Order. The office of Grand Master is entirely elective and not subject to transmission by inheritance.

Article V. The Lieutenant of the Grand Master.

Section 1.

Whenever the Prince Grand Master is prevented from performing his duties, he may, or if there is a vacancy in the office of Grand Master, the Sovereign Council may appoint a Lieutenant to act for him and discharge those of his duties which relate to his capacity as Chairman of the Sovereign Council or President of the Corporation.

Section 2.

All official acts and deeds of a Lieutenant of the Grand Master are subject to the sanction of the Prince Grand Master and the Sovereign Council of the Order.

Section 3.

Upon assuming his high office, a Lieutenant of the Grand Master, in the presence of the Prince Grand Master of the Sovereign Council, shall execute a prescribed oath of office.

Article VI. The High Officers and the Grand Councilors.

Section 1.

In addition to the Prince Grand Master or his Lieutenant, there may be the following High Officers of the Order: viz. the Grand Commander of the Order, the Grand Chancellor of the Order, the Grand Marshal, and the Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure, and there may be four Grand Councilors, all of the foregoing serving terms of office of six years. They may be re-appointed.

Section 2. THE GRAND COMMANDER OF THE ORDER

shall act as the personal deputy of the Prince Grand Master or Lieutenant of the Grand Master. He is responsible for the officers and organization of the Prince Grand Master's household. In addition, he oversees the hospitaller, charitable and educational work of the Order, and performs such other duties as are assigned to him by the Prince Grand Master. With the sanction of the Prince Grand Master and the Magistral Council, he may appoint such assistants as he may deem essential. The respective positions and duties of such assistants shall be as defined by the Prince Grand Master and the Magistral Council. All such assistants shall hold office during

the pleasure of the Prince Grand Master or until resignation or retirement.

Section 3. THE GRAND CHANCELLOR OF THE ORDER

shall serve as executive officer to the Prince Grand Master, responsible for the general administration of the Order in all areas except those specifically delegated to other High Officers of the Order. He shall have specific responsibility for the following areas, either directly or through subordinates:

The procedures for admission, registration, promotion and removal of members;

The maintenance of the Order Register;

The issuing of directives to the Order as required to promulgate Sovereign Council policy;

The giving of notice of Sovereign Council meetings, making arrangements for such meetings, and providing agenda and minutes for them; and

The maintenance of the records of the Order.

With the sanction of the Prince Grand Master and approval of the Magistral Council, he may appoint such assistants as he may deem essential. The respective positions and duties of such assistants shall be as defined by the Prince Grand Master and approved by the Magistral Council. All such assistants shall hold office during the pleasure of the Prince Grand Master or until resignation or retirement.

Section 4. THE GRAND MARSHAL

Under the direction of the Prince Grand Master shall receive and consider matters relating to armory, including heraldry and genealogy, and shall keep or cause to be kept records of the genealogies and arms of the members, and shall preside over the Order College of Arms and the Marshal's Court. He may nominate to the Prince Grand Master for appointment by the latter with sanction of the Magistral Council such heralds, pursuivants and assistants as he may deem essential. The respective positions and duties of such heralds, pursuivants and assistants shall be defined by the Prince Grand Master and approved by the Magistral Council. All such heralds, pursuivants and assistants shall hold office during the pleasure of the Prince Grand Master or until resignation or retirement. He shall also be responsible for all matters concerning the regalia, insignia, and ceremonial of the Order.

Section 5. THE GRAND RECEIVER OF THE COMMON ACCOUNT TREASURE.

He shall disburse the funds of the Sovereign Council in payment of the just demands against the Sovereign Council as may be provided by the budget or ordered by the Magistral Council, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the Magistral Council from time to time, as may be required of him, an account of all his transactions and the financial condition of the Order. With the sanction of the Prince Grand Master and the Magistral Council, he may appoint such assistants as he may deem essential.

The respective positions and duties of such assistants shall be as defined by the Prince Grand Master and approved by the Magistral Council. All such assistants shall hold office during the pleasure of the Prince Grand Master or until resignation or

retirement. He shall render an annual account to the Sovereign Council of the Order.

Section 6. GRAND COUNCILORS,

to the number of four, shall advise and assist the Prince Grand Master or the Lieutenant of the Grand Master.

PART THE SECOND

The Central Organization

Article VII. The Sovereign Council.

Section 1.

The members of the Sovereign council act as the legislative arm of the Order and implement the Constitution adopted or amended by the Chapter General. Where by law a corporate board of directors is required, the Sovereign Council shall possess the powers of the same. The Sovereign Council alone shall have the power to enact, amend, or repeal the Statutes and Regulations of the Order, under the general guidance of the Constitution.

Section 2.

The Sovereign Council shall consist of the following:

- A. The Royal Head of the Order, We, Peter II and Our successors, de jure and de facto reigning Kings of Yugoslavia, or as their representative a Prince of the Royal House, selected to act as Protector of the Order.
(Since Yugoslavia as a sovereign state no longer exists there are, therefore, no successors, who are de jure (in law) and de facto (in fact) reigning Kings of Yugoslavia. Our Order under King Peter's charter has never made a selection of a Prince of the Royal House to act as Protector of the Order nor does it seem likely that we would choose one.)
- B. The Prince Grand Master.
- C. The High Officers of the Order, including one to four Grand Councilors; and
- D. The Grand Priors of the Grand Priories.

Section 3.

A quorum shall consist of the Prince Grand Master or his Lieutenant and at least one-half of the combined total number of High Officers and Grand Councilors.

Section 4.

The Grand Master shall have two votes and the other members present each one vote only, even if they hold more than one office, each otherwise entitling them to a vote.

Section 5.

Each member of the Sovereign Council before assuming his high office shall execute

a prescribed oath of office.

Section 6.

The term of office of a member of the Sovereign Council shall be six years, and he may be re-appointed. A member's retirement during his term of office may be ordered by the Prince Grand Master with the approval of the Sovereign Council at seventy years of age or if he has ceased to function in his office.

Section 7.

The High Officers of the Order, including also the Grand Councilors, shall be appointed by nomination of the Prince Grand Master and confirmation of the Sovereign Council which may be done by ballot at a meeting of the Sovereign Council, or by mail or email vote.

Article VIII. General Officers of the Order.

Section 1.

The General Officers of the Order shall be appointed by the Prince Grand Master with the approval of the Magistral Council. They may include:

- A. *Grand Prelate of the Order;*
- B. *Secretary General;*
- C. *Treasurer General;*
- D. *Hospitaller General;*
- E. *Attorney General;*
- F. *Registrar General;*
- G. *Almoner General;*
- H. *Blanch Croix Juge d'Armes;*
- I. *Director General of Education;*
- J. *Director General of Insignia;*
- K. *Archivist of the Order;*
- L. *Editor General; and*
- M. *Pilgrimmaster.*

Section 2.

These officers shall perform duties as assigned them by the Prince Grand Master and approved by the Magistral Council. Any of the same officers of the order may or may not be filled by assignment of one of the Grand Councilors of the Sovereign Council.

Section 3.

The General Officers serve during the pleasure of the Prince Grand Master for a term of three years, and they may be re-appointed.

(Section number order corrected as current Article mis-numbered after Section 3.)

Section 4.

Any member of the Order may be appointed as General Officers. During their incumbency they will hold the rank of Knight Commander or Dame Commander, if

they do not already hold a high rank.

Article IX. Magistral Council or Grand Magistracy

Section 1.

The Magistral Council shall consist of the following, when all of these offices are occupied, or when vacancies exist in any of these offices, shall consist of whichever of these offices are occupied, at the time a Magistral Council is convened:

- B. A. The Prince Grand Master of the lieutenant of the Grand Master;
- C. B. The Grand Commander of the Order;
- D. C. The Grand Chancellor;
- E. D. The Grand Marshal;
- F. E. The Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure; and
- G. F. The Attorney General. (We currently do not have an Attorney General, who under Article VIII is a General Officer of the Order)

Section 2.

The Magistral Council shall assist the Prince Grand Master in the management of affairs and activities of the Order in the interim between meetings of the Sovereign Council; however, neither the Prince Grand Master nor the Magistral Council may perform any duty which is prohibited by law, and they are expressly forbidden from:

- A. Amending, altering, or repealing any article of this Constitution, or any provision thereof;
- B. Electing, appointing, or removing any member of the Sovereign Council, or any officer or director of such Council, except as provided by this Constitution;
- C. Amending any Articles of Incorporation of the Order or any unit thereof;
- D. Adopting any plan or merger, or adopting any plan of consolidation with another organization;
- E. Authorizing the sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Order;
- F. Authorizing the voluntary dissolution of the Order, or invoking any proceedings therefor;
- G. Adopting any plan for the distribution of the assets of the Order (Corporation); or
- H. Amending, altering, or repealing any resolutions of the Sovereign Council.

Section 3.

The Magistral Council is presided over by the Prince Grand Master or the Lieutenant of the Grand Master and a majority of the remaining members of the Magistral Council.

Section 4.

An act of the Magistral Council shall require the assent of a majority of the Magistral Council. The Grand Master shall have two votes at all times. All other members, including the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, shall have but one vote each, even if they should hold more than one office entitling them to membership in the Magistral Council.

Section 5.

The use of proxy voting procedures by members of the Magistral Council is permitted, except that no proxy shall be exercised by anyone not a member and not more than one proxy may be held by any one member.

Section 6.

In the case of absence or inability to act of any member of the Magistral Council or any person herein authorized to act in his place, the Magistral Council may temporarily delegate the power or duties of such officer to another qualified member of the Order, except as otherwise prohibited by this Constitution.

Section 7.

With the approval of the Prince Grand Master, the Magistral Council may appoint such other officers and agents as it shall deem necessary and expedient; these shall hold their offices of such term and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Magistral Council. Such officers and agents so appointed do not become members of the Magistral Council by virtue of such appointment.

Article X. Chapter General of the Order

Section 1.

The Chapter General of the Order is the Constitutional Assembly of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. It is a sacred body in that as the representative general assembly of the universal Order, it has the cardinal and inviolable purpose of promoting and protecting the interest and integrity of the entire membership of the Order.

Section 2.

The Chapter General is presided over by the Prince Grand Master. It is either called to order or consulted by mail to consider and approve amendments to the Constitution or to elect the Grand Master.

Section 3.

Meeting of the Chapter General may be held at such place as may be decided by the Prince Grand Master, or in the vacancy of that office, by the Lieutenant of the Grand Master.

Section 4.

No meeting of the Chapter General shall be held without written or printed notice stating the place, the day and the hour of the meeting, and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called; and such notice shall be delivered no less than thirty days before the date of the meeting by or at the direction of the Prince Grand Master or his Lieutenant. If mailed, such notices shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States or Royal Canadian mail, addressed to each member of the Chapter General at his address as it appears in the records of the Order, with first-class postage or, when applicable, air mail postage thereon prepaid. Since a physical meeting of the Chapter General is highly unlikely due to cost and distance, email or a videoconference may be considered as has been done in the past for members unable to attend meetings in person.

Section 5.

The promulgations of the Chapter General have binding effect and force when they have been signed by the Prince Grand Master or in the vacancy of that office the Lieutenant of the Grand Master unless the High Protector shall veto within sixty days such actions.

Section 6.

The following are members of the Chapter General by virtue of their office and dignity in the Order:

- A. The Prince Grand Master or, in the vacancy of that office, the Lieutenant of the Grand Master;
- B. Bailiffs Grand Cross who are actively serving, that is, holding an office which confers that rank of Bailiff. These would include:
 - i. Members of the Sovereign Council, including the Grand Councilors and the Grand Priors of Grand Priories;*
 - ii. Grand Bailiffs of Grand Priories;*
 - iii. Priors of Priories;*
 - iv. Bailiffs of Bailiwicks; and*
- C. Up to four Bailiffs Emeritus, i.e. those upon whom the rank has been permanently conferred for past service, nominated by the Prince Grand Master;
- D. Knight Commanders or Dame Commanders of Commanderies;

Section 7.

In addition to the foregoing, there shall be selected from each Grand Priory four Knights or Dames ; a Prelate or Chaplain (where applicable); two Companions; and one Jurat. Each of the foregoing shall be nominated by the Grand Prior of jurisdiction and approved by the Prince Grand Master or his Lieutenant, and while in good standing shall serve for the duration of the Chapter General unless he sooner resigns.

Section 8.

Over and above these, the Prince Grand Master, but no other officer, may with the sanction of the Magistral Council call to take part in the Chapter General other members of the Order who by reason of special qualifications are able to assist the

Chapter General in its deliberations.

Section 9.

Each member of the Chapter General of the Order, with the exception of the Prince Grand Master or the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, shall be entitled to nominate a member of at least equal rank, in writing under his hand and seal or in the case of emergency by telegram or facsimile, as a proxy to take in his absence or incapacity his place at any called meeting of the Chapter General; and each proxy duly so nominated shall be able to act in the place of the absent or incapacitated member who has nominated him.

Section 10.

Such proxies, while being in good standing, shall represent not more than one member of the Chapter General and only then by being themselves present at such called meeting at which they have been specifically designated to exercise such power of personal proxy.

Section 11.

Members of the Chapter General holding no less than one-half of the votes entitled to be cast, represented in person or by proxy, as above provided, shall constitute a quorum to do business.

Section 12.

The vote of a majority of the Chapter General and the assent of the Prince Grand Master, or the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, shall be necessary for the passage of any matter Voted upon.

Section 13.

The Chapter General may adopt its own procedures subject to the sanction of the Sovereign Council. Such may provide that in the election of the Grand Master the votes may be cast by mail ballot after nomination by the Sovereign Council.

Section 14.

The Chapter General alone shall have the power to enact, amend, or repeal any article of the Constitution and to elect the Grand Master of the Order.

Article XI. Court of Chivalry.

Section 1.

The Court of Chivalry is the juridical organ of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, the function of which is to hear and decide questions on all matters appropriately referred to it by the Prince Grand Master, and on the petition of one party in matters of honor concerning or between members of the Order.

Section 2.

The court of Chivalry shall be composed of a Justiciar, two Judge of Arms, a Protonotary, and a Judge Advocate. All of these shall be appointed from among the Bailiffs, Knights and Dames Grand Cross, Knight Commanders and Dame Commanders, or Knights and Dames by the Prince Grand Master by written instrument under his hand and seal, after consultation with the Magistral Council and with its sanction.

Section 3.

The members of the Court of Chivalry are to be learned in the law and selected because of their special competence in chivalric law. Their terms of office shall be for three years; they may, however, be re- appointed. The Justiciar shall act as president of the court, and shall by virtue of his office, and while holding that office, be a Bailiff of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.

Section 4.

Subject to the sanction of the Magistral Council, the Court of Chivalry shall determine its own procedures, and the Protonotary shall assure that its proceedings are properly recorded.

PART THE THIRD

The Internal Organization

Article XII. Grand Priories.

Section 1.

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, may be divided into national or international Grand Priories subordinate to the government of the Order. The Grand Priories may be further divided into Priories, Sub Priories, Bailiwicks, and Commanderies, as shall be provided in the Charter and Statutes (By-Laws) of each Grand Priory.

Section 2.

Individual members of the Order shall adhere to the Establishment of the Order within the boundaries of which they permanently reside and to no other jurisdiction unless specifically authorized to do so by the Prince Grand Master.

Section 3.

The Grand Priories of the Order shall be established and altered by the Sovereign Council.

Article XIII. Grand Priors and Grand Priory Councils.

A Grand Priory is governed by a Grand Prior and by a Grand Priory Council of which the Grand Prior is president. A Grand Prior, who must be a layman, shall be appointed by nomination of the Prince Grand Master and confirmation of the Sovereign Council: he shall hold office during the pleasure of the Prince Grand Master or for a term of office of six years unless re-appointed or unless he should sooner resign. The Grand Priory Council is the legislative authority of each such Grand Priory. The membership of the Grand Priory Council shall be established by statute.

Article XIV. Grand Prelates.

A Grand Priory may be spiritually guided by a Grand Prelate, who must be an ecclesiastic of episcopal or equivalent rank but who shall not be a member of the Grand priory Council of such Grand Priory.

Article XV. Chapters.

Section 1.

In any place not included within the jurisdiction of an active Grand Priory and where the Prince Grand Master deems it will best serve the objectives and purposes of the Order to do so, a Castellany or Chapter of the said Order may be established or constituted.

Section 2.

Such Castellanies or Chapters of the Order shall depend on the Prince Grand Master and may eventually be raised by the Prince Grand Master to the status of a Commandery, Bailiwick, Sub Priory, or Priory under the usual conditions.

Section 3.

Until such time as a Castellany or Chapter of the Order is raised to the status of a Commandery and also assigned to a Grand Priory, its constituency, or adherents, shall remain directly dependent upon the Prince Grand Master.

Section 4.

Castellanies or Chapters of the Order shall be under the complete authority of the Prince Grand Master, who shall have the power, if it be deemed in the interest of the Order, to establish or constitute, to amend, to dissolve, or to suspend in whole or in part the regulations (By-Laws) of any such Castellany or Chapter.

PART THE FOURTH

Qualifications, Grades, Categories, Investitures.

Article XVI. Qualifications.

All members of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem must:

1. Be professing Christians, one testimony of which is membership in a Christian denomination;
2. Comply with the requirements of the applicable Statutes and Regulations of the said Order as in effect from time to time;
3. Have performed, or be prepared to perform, good services for the Order and for its works, in accordance with the mottoes of the Order; and
4. Sign the membership roll and make the following Declaration of Adherence:

“I, (Name), do solemnly declare in the name of Jesus Christ that I will observe the Statutes, the lawful orders of the Grand Master and of the Sovereign Council, and the praiseworthy customs and traditions of the Order of Saint John, so far as is consistent with my duty to God and to my country; that I will do everything in my power to contribute to its glory, prosperity, solidarity, and utility; that I will combat everything prejudicial to its well-being and unity; that I will never act contrary to its dignity; and that I will conduct myself always as a Christian gentleman (or lady) of honor in accordance with the highest chivalric ideals, so help me God.”

Article XVII. Classes and Grades.

Section 1.

Members and Affiliates of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem are divided into Classes, Ranks, and Grades, as specified hereafter, the membership of which is indicated by the following letters placed after their names.

A. Class I: Knights and Dames of the Grand Cross and Prelates.

i. Grade IA.

Bailiffs Grand Cross

KH or DH

Prelate

PH

ii. Grade IB.

Knights Grand Cross

KH

Dames Grand Cross

DH

B. Class II: Knights, Dames, and Chaplains.

i. Grade IIA.

Knight Commanders

KH

Dame Commanders

DH

<i>Sub Prelate</i>	<i>SPH</i>
ii. <i>Grade IIB.</i>	
<i>Knights</i>	<i>KH</i>
<i>Dames</i>	<i>DH</i>
<i>Chaplains</i>	<i>ChH</i>
C. Class III: Companions and Assistant Chaplains	
<i>Companions</i>	<i>CH</i>
<i>Assistant Chaplains</i>	<i>AChH</i>
D. Class IV: Jurats and Deacons.	
<i>Jurats</i>	<i>JH</i>
<i>Deacons</i>	<i>Deach</i>
E. Class V: Members, Serving Brothers, and Serving Sisters.	
<i>Members</i>	<i>MH</i>
<i>Serving Brothers</i>	<i>SBH</i>
<i>Serving Sister</i>	<i>SSH</i>

Section 2.

Ecclesiastical members of the Order are those who are ordained ministers of the Christian religion, who are in major Holy Orders, or those who have taken solemn vows and live within a Community or Order of religious discipline of their denomination.

Those of episcopal or equivalent rank may be admitted to Class I, in which they are termed "Prelate".

Those who are admitted to, or promoted to, Class II are termed "Chaplain", unless they hold the ecclesiastical rank of Canon, Dean, or Protonotary, or the equivalent, in which case they may, at the discretion of the Prince Grand Master, be termed "Sub Prelate".

Those who are admitted to Class III are termed "Assistant Chaplain".

Those who are in minor Holy Orders may be admitted to Class IV as "Member" or to Class V as "Serving Brother" or "Serving Sister". Those admitted to Class IV who are in diaconal Orders may be termed "Deacon".

Article XVIII. Affiliates of Merit and Donats.

Section 1.

Persons who are not eligible to be made Members of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem if they have rendered conspicuous service or made valuable contributions to the Order, or if their association as affiliates would be to the benefit of the Order or its works, or if they have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of the education or welfare of humanity, may be attached to the Order as "Affiliates".

Section 2.

The following particular provisions apply to Affiliates.

They may be attached to any of the Classes specified hereafter.

Class I.

Grade IB

Knight Grand Cross of Merit KHM

Dame Grand Cross of Merit DHM

Class II.

Grade IIA.

Knight Commander of Merit KHM

Dame Commander of Merit DHM

Grade IIB.

Knight of Merit KHM

Dame of Merit DHM

Class III.

Grade IIIA.

Companion of Merit CHM

Companions of Merit shall be eligible for promotion to higher classes, as specified above, in recognition of further conspicuous acts or services to the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, or if their promotion be deemed by the Sovereign Council or the cognizant Grand Priory to be of benefit to the Order.

As they are not “Hospitallers” but rather “Affiliates”, they shall be distinguished by the letters “KHM”, “DHM”, or “CHM”, as appropriate, placed after their names.

Affiliates of Merit shall have no part in the government of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.

Persons who, from appreciation of the works of the Order have contributed to its funds, may be attached to it in Class V. They do not thereby become Members of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, but shall be termed “Donats”. They shall be distinguished by the letters “DonH” placed after their names.

Article XIX. Investitures.

Section 1.

A person who has been promoted to the class of Knight, Dame, or Chaplain in the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem shall, before entering into such class, be formally received and invested in the following manner:

- A. By the Prince Grand Master either in person or through Letters Patent; or
- B. By the Prince Grand Master's Letters Patent and his deputation of a High Officer of the Order or of a Grand Councilor to act for him in that capacity; or
- C. By the Prince Grand Master's Letters Patent and his deputation of the cognizant Grand Prior to act for him in that capacity. In this situation, such reception and investiture must be witnessed by two additional authorized Bailiffs of the Order, who shall participate as co opters to the receiving and investing Grand Prior.

Section 2.

At any such investiture, any person previously promoted to the rank of Knight or Dame, as for example by Letters Patent, who has not been dubbed chivalrically as such, may be given the accolade.

Section 3.

Other Members or Affiliates of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, shall be received and invested in a manner appropriate to the grade to which they are being admitted or attached, as established by statute.

PART THE FIFTH

Arms, Mottoes, Badges, Diplomas and Brevets, Insignia, Robes and Uniforms.

Article XX. Arms

Section 1.

The Arms of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, are: "Gules a Cross Argent throughout, in the first Quarter a Representation of the uncrowned Badge of the Order of the White Eagle Proper."

The Lesser Arms of the Order may be displayed: "The Arms of the Order, surmounted by the Sovereign Crown of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Proper."

Or more fully displayed" "The Arms of the Order, supported by the Badge of the Order Argent, the whole surmounted by the Sovereign Crown of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Proper.

The Full Arms of the Order may be displayed: "Gules a Cross Argent throughout, in the first Quarter a Representation of the Order of the White Eagle Proper, supported by the Badge of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, , in turn supported on the Breast of a double-headed Eagle Gules, langued and armed Or, the whole

surmounted by the Sovereign Crown of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Proper.”

Section 2.

The Grand Pories, Pories, Bailiwicks, Commanderies, and other Units of the Hospitaller order of Saint John of Jerusalem may be granted Arms by the Prince Grand Master with the approval of the Sovereign Council.

Section 3.

The Arms of the Officers of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem are as stated hereafter, the same which may be more fully elaborated and prescribed by Regulation.

A. The arms of the Prince Grand Master as used within the Order shall be A. quartered, first and fourth the Arms of the Order, second and third his own personal Arms, with a manateau Gules and surmounted by the Crown of a Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, unless he bears a higher crown.

B. The arms of the High Officers of the Order, the Grand Councilors of the Sovereign Council, and the Grand Priors as used within the Order shall be the personal Arms of those official with the Arms of the Order in chief, the shield surmounted by the Coronet of a European Count, unless such official bears a coronet or crown of higher rank.

Section 4.

The Arms of Bailiffs Grand Cross, of Knights and Dames Grand Cross, of Prelates, of Knights and Dames, of Chaplains, and of other members of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem shall be as prescribed by Regulations.

Article XXI. Mottoes.

Section 1.

The Mottoes of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem are: “Pro Fide” and “Pro Utilitate Hominum”.

Section 2.

A Grand Priory, with the sanction of the Magistral Council, may adopt an additional motto peculiar to itself.

Article XXII. Badge

The Badge of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem is a white Cross of eight points, unfimbriated and unembellished in its interspaces.

Article XXIII. Diplomas and Brevets.

Each Member, Affiliate, or Donat of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem shall receive an appropriate Diploma issued by the Sovereign Council. No Diploma shall be valid unless it has been:

- A. Duly authenticated, recorded, signed, and sealed by the Prince Grand Master; and
- B. Signed and sealed either by the Grand Chancellor of the Order, or the Grand Marshal, or by two members of the Sovereign Council; and
- C. Signed by the Grand Prior of jurisdiction.

Article XXV XXIV. Insignia, Robes and Uniforms.

The Insignia, Robe and Uniforms, both Service and Dress, of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem shall be as provided for by Statute or Regulation of the Order, and shall be worn only as therein prescribed.

Article XXV. Titles.

Section 1.

As an expression of Our support to the Order and its dignity, as Head of the Order, We are pleased to recognize the traditional styles and titles of official and members of the Order for use within the Order as appropriate:

- A. Of "Serene Highness" to the Prince Grand Master;
- B. Of "Excellency" to Bailiffs Grand Cross; and
- C. Of "Sir" to Knights, except whenever and wherever this may not be in accordance with the law or custom of their country of domicile.

Section 2.

It shall always be proper to address:

- A. The Prince Grand Master as "Grand Master";
- B. Bailiffs Grand Cross as "Bailiff";
- C. Knights as "Chevalier";
- D. Dames as "Dame";
- E. Companions and Members, if male, as "Esquire"; and
- F. All other members and affiliates as "Brother" or "Sister".

Section 3.

It shall always be proper to address any member, including ecclesiastics, or affiliate

by his or her highest personal or official title.

PART THE SIXTH

General.

Article XXVI. Non-Partisanship.

Section 1.

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, its Grand Magistracy, Grand Priories, Priories, and all other elements and units of it are chivalric, religious, educational, and humanitarian in their objectives and purposes, and shall not be concerned with any movement or manifestation of a politically partisan character.

Section 2.

The said Order, its units and members are also forbidden to be members of, or to actively participate in any way in the activities of, spurious orders or institutions which claim to be chivalric but are not recognized by sovereign states, by legitimate autocephalous churches possessing a fons honorum, or by the appropriate organ of the Confraternity of Chivalry established by Us.

Article XXVII. Statutes.

Section 1.

The Prince Grand Master, by and with the advice and consent of the Sovereign Council, shall have the power by instrument under his hand and seal to enact, rescind, or amend Statutes for all the purposes contemplated in, and for giving effect to, this Constitution, and otherwise as may be necessary for the conduct, control, and management of the affairs of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, but such Statutes may not be repugnant to any provision of this Constitution

Section 2.

All Statutes so promulgated shall be valid and binding upon all members and affiliates of the said Order, or personnel connected with its affairs or works.

Article XXVIII. Regulations.

Section 1.

The Prince Grand Master, upon recommendation of the Sovereign Council, shall have the power by instrument under his hand and seal to make, rescind, or amend Regulations, both General and Special, for the purposes contemplated in, and giving effect to, this Constitution, and otherwise as may be necessary for the conduct, control, and management of the affairs and activities of the Hospitaller Order of Saint

John of Jerusalem, but such Regulations, General or Special, shall not be repugnant to any provision of this Constitution, or to any Statute of the Order.

Section 2.

All Regulations, both General and Special, so made shall be binding upon all members and affiliates of the Order, or personnel connected with its affairs and works.

Article XXIX. Admission Fees, Passage Fees, and Annual Oblations.

Section 1.

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem requires that candidates for membership shall contribute certain Admission or Passage Fees to the Order.

Section 2.

Unless specifically exempted, annual Oblations shall be paid by all members of the Order who are under the age of seventy years, but such Oblations shall not be required of Pages and Damosels Serving Brothers and Sisters.

Section 3.

All monies received as Admission Fees, Passage Fees, or Oblations shall accrue to the Order, which shall rebate a proportion thereof to the appropriate Grand Pories, such proportions to be established from time to time by Regulation.

Section 4.

If in the judgement of the Grand Priory concerned, or for obvious reasons, a member cannot oblige himself or herself to the payment of Passage Fees or annual Oblations, the said Grand Priory may request, and the Sovereign Council may grant, or may establish a procedure to grant, and exemption to such member for a stated period from the payment of either or both, leaving the right to such members, however, to contribute whenever he or she may conveniently do so, in whatever form he or she may decide.

Article XXX. Official Gazette.

The Order may establish an Official Gazette in which all of the official acts of the Prince Grand Master, of the Magistral Council, and the Sovereign Council, as well as all attachment, admissions, promotions, resignations, and other significant items of interest are to be included. The Official Gazette may be combined with or included in a magazine or bulletin which may be published by the Order or by the Grand Priory, provided that copies of all such publications are filed with the Prince Grand Master.

Article XXXI. Adoption and Amendments.

If it be determined that the chivalric, religious, educational, or humanitarian objects and purposes of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem would be benefited by a change in this Constitution, upon the recommendations of the Prince Grand Master, but not by a Lieutenant of the Grand Master, and approval of the Sovereign Council, this Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the Chapter General.

Initial Adoption of the Constitution and of Subsequent Amendments

This Constitution, as above enumerated on pages one through eighteen, was duly approved and unanimously adopted at a properly called meeting of the Magistral (Ordinary) Council, the supreme governing authority of the SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM, KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS sometimes called of MALTA, convened in the City of Chicago, County of Cook, State of Illinois (U.S.A.), on the first day of March in the nineteen hundred and sixty-eight year of Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, and of the said Order the nine hundred and eighteenth; and, is hereby duly authenticated and approved as is evidenced by Our hand and the seal of the Order of St. John hereunto subscribed and affixed.

PETER II R
High Protector

WITNESSETH
James A. Jaxobs,
Lieutenant General, Secretary of the Grand Magistracy

Amendments recasting this Constitution, as above enscribed on pages one (1) through (19), duly approved and adopted at a properly called meeting of the Magistral Council convened in the City of New York, State of New York, on the first day of December in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Sixty- Nine, the same to be approved by members of the Chapter General.

PETER II R
Royal Head

WITNESSETH:
F. Vaino

A.L. Joquel II, Secretary General

Confirmation of approval by mail ballot of the Chapter General, (63 ayes, 18 nays) this thirteenth day of March in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventh-One.

Vladimir Eletsy, Secretary General

AMMENDMENTS

Amendments corrective of historical errors and grammatical corrections adopted September 11, 1970 and this date, June 23, 1973, approved and formally adopted by the Sovereign Council and Grand Master in accordance with Article 34 at a properly called meeting of the Sovereign Council convened in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California, on the twenty-third day of June in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Three.

Robert W. Formhals (Sanguszko) MM Prince Grand Master

WITNESSETH:

***Stanislav Bozic
Grand Chancellor of the Order***

Forest E. Barber Grand Marshal

Albert J.G. Wilson Grand Prior of Canada

***Alvin F. Germerhausen
Grand Prior of the Western States of America***

***James M. Edwards
Grand Chancellor of America for Grand Prior George H. Rumpel***

***Confirmation of approval by mail ballot of the Chapter General of the
Amendments adopted June 23, 1973 (49 ayes, 11 nays) this ninth day of
November in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy - Four.***

Langdon L. Charlesworth Secretary General

Amendments recasting this Constitutions, as above enscribed on pages one through twenty-one, duly approved and unanimously adopted at a properly called meeting of the Sovereign Council, convened in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, on the nineteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety - Five.

Flachslanden MM Prince Grand Master

WITNESSETH:

***Robert Vance
Grand Commander of the Order***

***Mervyn J. Richards
Grand Chancellor of the Order***

Hardwick Smith Johnson Grand Marshal

***Rudy W. Maich
Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure***

Confirmation of approval by mail ballot of the Chapter General of the Amended Constitution as approved and adopted on 19 May 1995 (48 ayes, 7 nays) the twelfth day of November in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred Ninety - Five.

Sarah Driver Blackburn Secretary General

Formal promulgation of the Amended Constitution of the Order as approved and adopted by the Sovereign Council on 19 May 1995, and approved and confirmed by the Chapter General of the Order, done unanimously at a properly called meeting of the Sovereign Council, convened in the City of Chicago, County of Cook, State of Illinois, on the eighteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety - Six.

Flachslanden MM Prince Grand Master

WITNESSETH:

***Bailiff Robert Vance
Grand Commander of the Order***

***Bailiff Mervyn Richards
Grand Chancellor of the Order***

***Bailiff Rudy Maich
Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure***

Bailiff Robert Devine Grand Councilor

Bailiff Ralph West Grand Prior of Canada

***Bailiff John Trout
Grand Prior of the Eastern States of America***

Amendments to this Constitution were duly approved via email by the Sovereign Council members listed below on the first day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

*H.E. Bailiff Christa Devine, DH
Lieutenant of the Grand Master*

*H.E. Bailiff Joanne Campbell, DH
Grand Chancellor*

*H.E. Bailiff Wendy Rollins, DH
Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure*

*H.E. Bailiff Rudy Maich, KH
Grand Marshal*

*H.E. Bailiff Rauno Mikkola, KH
Grand Councilor*

*H.E. Bailiff Lea Passoja-Mikkola, DH
Grand Councilor*

*H.E. Bailiff Mikko Rosendahl, KH
Grand Prior of the Baltic*

*H.E. Bailiff Maureen Habershtock, DH
Grand Prioress of Canada*

*H.E. Bailiff Anne Maich, DH
Grand Prioress of the United States of America*

Approval and adoption by e-mail ballot of the Amended Constitution by Chapter General (26 ayes, 0 nays and 1 spoiled ballot) was confirmed on the Third of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

*H.E. Bailiff Joanne Campbell, DH
Grand Chancellor*

Formal promulgation of the Amended Constitution of the Order as approved by the Sovereign Council on the 1st of June 2024, approved and confirmed by the Chapter General of the Order 2nd day of September 2024 takes effect on the third day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

***H.S.H. Bailiff Christa E. Devine, Grand Master
5 April 2025***