

## **Procedures and Practices/Uniform Wear Guidelines**

### **New Mexico Jurisdiction, John H. Reddin Province**

The purpose of this guide is to augment current Patriotic Degree directives and establish guidelines and policies applicable to the Patriotic Degree in the District of New Mexico. **The Patriotic Order is in the midst of transitioning to a new Fourth Degree uniform which necessitated revisions to the Fourth Degree Color Corps Drill Manual. The revised manual was published February 2, 2018 and these guidelines are additive and in compliance with the new manual.**

### **District Marshals**

District Marshals (DM) are appointed at the discretion of the Master of the Fourth Degree (MFD), New Mexico Jurisdiction. The number of DMs is determined by MFD based upon needs of the Patriotic Degree and the New Mexico district. Currently, there are five appointed DMs.

For the purposes of the Patriotic Degree, NM is divided into five geographic regions and each region is assigned to one DM. DM regions are:

#### **NM West, NM North, NM East, NM South and NM Central**

Currently, Patriotic assemblies in NM are assigned to DM regions as follows:

NM West – 686, 1801, 2218

NM North – 685, 688, 1982, 2337, 3478, 3560

NM East – 683, 1686, 2196, 2394

NM South – 684, 689, 1625, 1731, 1939, 2141, 2202, 2442, 3003, 3295, 3330

NM Central – 682, 687, 1905, 2324, 2733, 3186, 3227, 3282, 3309, 3463, 3732

Note: Distribution of assemblies within regions is subject to change.

One of the key roles of regional DMs is to serve as a liaison between FNs of Assemblies assigned to their respective regions and the MFD.

The MFD has delegated the authority to DMs to approve requests by assembly FNs in their region for Color Corps participation in events and keep the MFD advised. DMs will coordinate with other regional DMs regarding events needing multiple Color Corps member participation from assemblies in neighboring regions. DMs will also determine appropriateness of Color Corps participation in events requested. DMs should maintain a roster (name, phone #, email address) of color corps commanders in Assemblies assigned to their regions to facilitate timely call out notifications and sufficient color corps members are available for the tasking.

DMs will assist the MFD in ensuring that annual elections for Assembly officers are conducted by Assemblies in their regions at their first regular business meeting in the month of May. DMs will then coordinate and de-conflict dates for officer installation ceremonies beginning July 1 with the MFD and participate in said installation ceremonies. Combining officer installations of two assemblies is encouraged.

Every Patriotic district is required to conduct a minimum of two exemplifications each fraternal year; New Mexico conducts a minimum of **four** Patriotic exemplifications. The recruitment quota for new SK candidates in the District of New Mexico is set by Supreme – currently, 7% of the total district 4<sup>th</sup> Degree membership as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. MFD will coordinate with DMs to determine the need for a Patriotic Exemplification in their region and a proposed location. A minimum of **20** potential candidates is the desired number to hold a Patriotic exemplification. The MFD will have the final say in determining when and where each exemplification will be held and the number of potential candidates for a Patriotic exemplification will have a major bearing on its approval. Dialogue and coordination with other DMs on the scheduling of a Patriotic Exemplification is highly encouraged. The DM participating in the Patriotic Ceremonial exemplification team as the DM will be designated by the MFD; other DMs are encouraged to attend and assist him. In situations where there is more than one DM present for a major event involving participation of SKs and/or Color Corps from multiple assemblies, the DM of the region in which the event is occurring

shall be in charge of over-seeing the participation of the Fourth Degree. Other DMs may assist, if requested.

DMs are highly encouraged to have periodic communications with FNs in your region regarding the health and well-being of their assembly's color corps and to assist the MFD in helping resolve problems and issues. Each Patriotic Degree district is required by Supreme to establish at least one new assembly each fraternal year and regional DMs are in a position to advise the MFD of parishes where a new assembly could be started and to help facilitate the process. Effective communications is the key, primarily by phone, text or email. DMs may attend meetings of assemblies in their respective regions but understand that they cannot be compensated for mileage or lodging costs stemming from overnight stays. The MFD monthly newsletter for FNs and FCs is put out on the first of the month and DMs will be included in the distribution of the newsletter. DMs are expected to attend the annual state council convention, the state council organizational meeting and state council mid-year meeting as well as the biennial Fourth Degree District assembly meeting.

Participating in Assembly officer installation ceremonies must be a top priority for DMs as they play a key role in the ceremony. There is a three and half month window (July 1 to mid-October) in which 35 assemblies should schedule their ceremonies and regional DMs must coordinate installation dates with other DMs to avoid conflicts and work with the MFD in building an installation schedule. Once again, combining two assembly officer installations into one ceremony is encouraged. Former MFDs (FMFD) can conduct officer installation ceremonies on behalf of the MFD. Note that although it is highly desirable that assemblies conduct officer installation ceremonies, it is not mandatory.

### **The New Fourth Degree Uniform, Full Regalia and Regalia**

As noted above, the Patriotic Degree is in the midst of transitioning to a new uniform. Formally announced at the Supreme Convention in August of 2017, implementation of the new uniform experienced growing pains and an extensive

backlog of orders for the new outfit. As a result, the phase-out date for the traditional Full Regalia cape and chapeau was extended from June 30, 2018 until **June 30, 2019**. *After this date, to be a member of the color corps and eligible to participate in honor guard and color guard callouts, Sir Knights must wear the new Fourth Degree uniform. In addition, Sir Knights elected to the office of Faithful Navigator of their assembly are expected to acquire the new Fourth Degree uniform.*

The Supreme Knight gave the following guidance at the unveiling of the new uniform, to wit: *“We understand that some Fourth Degree members are fond of the old regalia. The cape and chapeau regalia will still be allowed, for a time, in those assemblies and districts that wish to use it, though the preference is for the new uniform.”* Accordingly, here in the District of New Mexico, color corps members participating in call-outs **as members of honor guards or color guards** for Rosaries, wakes, funeral Masses, rallies, processions, Patriotic exemplifications, March for Life events, state meetings, Mass entrance processions, etc., should continue to turn out in the **old Full Regalia**. This does not preclude SKs who possess new Fourth Degree uniforms from attending or observing these events; they are encouraged do so but without wearing their swords, white gloves and service baldrics. In the months ahead, when the occasion presents itself where **all** SKs participating in a color corps call-out event (to include the CCC and regional District Marshal) are in possession of the new Fourth Degree uniform, then that uniform shall be the attire for the event. In other words, *until further notice*, avoid mixing old Full Regalia with the new Fourth Degree uniform at color corps call-out events here in the District of New Mexico.

Effective with the announcement of the new Fourth Degree uniform, the requirement to acquire a black tuxedo to become a Sir Knight has been rescinded. A dark suit (black, navy blue or dark gray), long-sleeve white shirt, tie (necktie or bow tie), black shoes and socks are now the attire for a Patriotic candidate and Sir Knights. Candidates will receive the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree emblem pin and a social baldric when they are exemplified; wear of the emblem pin signifies you are a Sir Knight. SKs have the option of wearing the social baldric with the suit and if worn, it is

worn across the necktie. Wear of miniature past and former jewels of office will not be worn by Sir Knights when attired in the dark suit. Wear of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Degree jewels of office around the neck is authorized when attired in the dark suit but only if the wearer is currently serving in that office.

Current Sir Knights who possess black tuxedo **Regalia** may continue to wear this ensemble to Patriotic Degree functions (exemplifications, assembly officer installations, state convention/meeting banquets, etc.).

Wear of **Full Regalia** (Regalia with cape, chapeau, service baldric, sword and white gloves) is authorized until June 30, 2019. Sir Knights who choose to continue wearing Full Regalia as members of the color corps should do so in accordance with the existing Fourth Degree Color Corps Drill Manual – this means a pleated, white dress shirt with studs and cuff links, the black bow tie, black cummerbund.

#### **Guidance for wearing the New Fourth Degree uniform.**

- The social baldric is not authorized for wear with the new uniform. The service baldric is worn when carrying the sword performing color corps duties.

- A long-sleeve, white dress shirt with plain collar is worn with the Fourth Degree uniform – no button-down or tab collar, no French cuffs.

- Wear of name badges on the new Fourth Degree uniform is not permitted.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Degree emblem American flag pin is not authorized for wear with the new Fourth Degree uniform; only the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree pin (catalog #PG113) will be worn. We will continue to wear the flag pin when in Full Regalia. Mount the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree pin at the inside edge of the boutonniere slot on the left lapel of the blazer. When SK color corps members wearing Full Regalia are in formation with members attired in the new Fourth Degree uniform, then the standard 4<sup>th</sup> Degree lapel pin will be worn by all color corps participants.

- Do not button the bottom button when wearing the new Fourth Degree uniform blazer. Note that the breast pocket of the blue blazer is sewn shut and should not be opened.

- Wear a black leather belt with silver or gold buckle with the gray trousers. Suspenders (braces) may be worn as long as they don't show. No cuffs allowed on the trouser. Note that Lynch & Kelly now sells a white shirt in a wide variety of sizes that can be worn with the new uniform.

- Remove the Fourth Degree uniform black beret when entering Church unless the SK is a color corps member performing in honor guard processions. Those authorized to wear color patches behind the beret's 4<sup>th</sup> Degree emblem should make sure the flat edge of the patch is mounted on the beret facing up.

**The following guidance applies to District Marshals:**

- Wear of the District Marshal neck jewel and green patch behind the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree emblem on the black beret is authorized only while you are an incumbent in that position. If you are reimbursed for purchasing the DM jewel from the MFD's account, you will be expected to return it to the MFD when you no longer perform as a DM. If you have purchased this item and have not sought reimbursement, you may keep it as souvenirs or negotiate with your successor to purchase it from you.

- Black footwear for DMs: black lace-up shoes or shoe boots – no penny loafers or cowboy boots. The wear of shoes with hard leather heels is encouraged as their audible footsteps lend authority to your presence when directing Color Corps events.

- Wear the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree sword with black handle unless you are currently or have been a Faithful Navigator in which case you may wear the sword with white handle. Make sure service baldric size is appropriate for your height.

- Note that Sir Knights/Sir Knight candidates who are active law enforcement officers, firefighters or members of the U.S. armed forces on active duty may wear their Class A-equivalent uniforms in place of Regalia while being exemplified into the Patriotic Degree and afterwards as members of their assembly. Wear of the social baldric and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree emblem with these uniforms is not authorized.

The following guidance applies when in charge of Color Corps honor guards at Mass, rosary rallies or other Catholic religious events, etc.:

- Inspect the Full Regalia of Color Corps members who show-up to participate in these events. Dismiss SKs who are missing items (swords, bow tie, scabbard, service baldric, gloves), are wearing the wrong items (wingtip collar, long tie, athletic shoes, plain white short-sleeve shirt). An SK in Full Regalia or the new Fourth Degree uniform who requires a cane, walker or crutch to ambulate or who has an arm in a sling or visible cast or who is visibly limping may not participate in the honor guard entrance, Communion or exit processions. They may sit with honor guard members at the rear of the church.

- During the exchange of peace before Communion, SKs in Full Regalia who are standing with chapeau over heart should simply face and nod to each other and other Mass attendees while remaining in place.

- Before Mass begins, meet with the priest celebrating Mass and request that he, a concelebrating priest or a deacon be the ones to distribute the Body of Christ to honor guard members and do so at the front of the church before the altar.

- When approaching to receive the Eucharist, do so in two columns. Survey the congregation and if one side of the church has more attendees receiving Communion, delay advancing so as to keep the two columns of honor guard members abreast of each other. Whether wearing Full Regalia or the new, Fourth Degree uniform, approach with right hand over heart and left hand controlling sword. Receiving the Eucharist on the tongue is preferred; if both species are offered, take into consideration that those who forgo the Blood of Christ will be out of seating order when they return to their pews. SKs returning from communion should do so with hand over heart the other controlling the sword. Spouses may not join up with their husbands if they are participating in the honor guard in order to receive Communion jointly. When receiving the Eucharist at an outdoor event in which you retain possession of your chapeau and wear gloves, receive the Body of Christ directly on the tongue.

If you are attending Mass in your Sir Knight Regalia or new Fourth Degree uniform, you may serve as a Lector or Extraordinary Minister during Mass. Do **not** perform these functions wearing Full Regalia items or when equipped with your service baldric and sword when wearing the new Fourth Degree uniform as they unnecessarily encumber you, detract from the sanctity of the ministries you're performing and may draw unnecessary attention to you from the congregation.

Additional guidance will be provided as needed.