



Indiana Supplement

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Knight Templar aprons are legal, but not yet in Indiana

By SK Ed Fodrea KCT
Grand Commander

MINNEAPOLIS – The resolution on Templar Aprons has been approved by the Grand Encampment at the Triennial

But I have to inform you that you will have to wait to wear them in Indiana until this is brought up for legislation at the next Grand Conclave and it is received and approved, or until a Grand Commander's written Resolution is received, since this is not in our uniform regulations as of yet.

So, despite the vote at the Triennial, at this time the triangular Knight Templar apron may NOT be worn in Indiana.

Photos exist from the 1850s showing large groups of Sir Knights wearing the uniform of those days: tail coats over black, triangular aprons with a skull and crossbones displayed thereon, then a wide, white sash over the right shoulder, which supported the sword. Their chapeaux were quite similar to what we wear today.

In one of the lodge room anterooms in the George Washington National Masonic Memorial there is a life-size portrait of a standing Marquis de Lafayette. Under a long, open coat he is wearing the jewel of a Knights Templar prelate and a black, triangular

apron with a square and compass thereon, but he wears neither sword nor chapeau.

At some point in the 19th century, aprons fell out of fashion and then were removed from the list of what is acceptable on a Knight Templar uniform. This occurred about the same time we stopped wearing formal civilian coats with sashes and aprons and started wearing Union Civil War surplus military uniforms, obtained cheap from uniform manufacturers who were desperately trying to get rid of them. Someone must have decided an apron, despite our Masonic affiliation, didn't belong on a "real" military uniform.

Regardless, some men continued to wear their aprons into the 20th century. Plus, a few Masonic supply houses continued to display the aprons in their catalogs, which kept the image alive in our minds.

Let's face it, those triangular aprons look cool, and maybe more so because they were outlawed.

This year, Sir Knights from two states proposed readopting the black Templar apron, and also adopting a new white triangular apron. The proposal carried handily at the Triennial.

But what passed may not be as straightforward as it seems:

First, as I said above, no Hoosier Sir Knight may wear an apron on his uniform until the decision is made by the Grand Commandery of Indiana to adopt it.

Second, the apron is not a substitute for a uniform; in fact, it may be worn ONLY atop a full uniform.

Third, the black triangular apron with skull and crossbones may be worn ONLY within the Asylum, not in public.

Fourth, a white triangular apron featuring the Cross and Crown was also approved, and MAY be worn outside the Asylum. A suggestion has been made that the aprons could be manufactured double-faced; white on one side and black on the other.

Please be patient Sir Knights; there will be legislation or a decision about aprons, and I am sure they will be on the horizon in the future.