



Ordo Templi Orientis United States Grand Lodge Annual Report

Anno IVxvi

Fiscal Year 2008

(March 2008 - February 2009)

✿ *Mysteria Mystica Maxima*

✿ *Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica*

*Annual Report of the
United States Grand Lodge
of Ordo Templi Orientis
Fiscal Year 2008*

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.) is an international religious and magical initiatory fraternity open to both men and women. O.T.O. was founded in Germany and England in the early part of the 20th century, and was incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in California in 1979. It is currently organized in 30 countries, with Grand Lodges in the United States, England, and Australia, and 155 official bodies worldwide. Ordo Templi Orientis is the first of the traditional esoteric fraternities to accept the Law of Thelema, the religious revelation obtained by Aleister Crowley in 1904. It still operates by the original charters, constitutions, documents and principles established during its formative years.

The U.S. Grand Lodge of O.T.O. and M.:M.:M.: (U.S.G.L.), also known as Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A., or O.T.O. U.S.A. (<http://oto-usa.org>), is a duly chartered Grand Lodge and National Section of Ordo Templi Orientis, chartered by Ordo Templi Orientis International Headquarters on March 30, 1996. It is a tax-exempt, non-profit religious organization incorporated on June 20, 1996 under the laws of the State of California. O.T.O. U.S.A. was incorporated for the purpose of the preservation and advancement of the religious tenets, doctrines, principles, teachings, traditions and rites of Ordo Templi Orientis, and all its funds are irrevocably dedicated to furthering that purpose..

U.S.G.L. is the most populous and active national section of O.T.O., with 57 local bodies in 27 states as of February 2009. Each local O.T.O. body interfacing with the public in the United States is designated as a Camp, Oasis, or Lodge, depending on its size and level of activities. Although there is often much interrelating between local bodies, each operates independently yet answers directly to the national government of U.S.G.L.

Specific local bodies (Oases and Lodges) provide ceremonial initiation into the first series of degrees of O.T.O. Most local bodies also regularly perform an O.T.O. ritual called the Gnostic Mass. This ritual is described in our system as “the central ritual of the O.T.O. both public and private”, and is presented under the auspices of the Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica, the Gnostic Catholic Church, which is the ecclesiastical aspect of O.T.O.

Most local bodies also offer public classes, workshops and book studies that usually cover a wide range of Thelemic and esoteric/occult subject matter. Some of these may include various aspects of the theory and practice of Thelema, Qabalah, Yoga, Ceremonial Magick, Hermetic Science, Tarot, Astrology, Alchemy, Mythology, Comparative Religion, and the history and structure of O.T.O., as well as various Thelemic celebrations, rituals, rites and holidays that assist and support the development of Thelemic community.

This fiscal year, we experienced a drop in overall membership of about 300 members, or about 20% of our total membership (including Full Members and Minervals). This is almost entirely the result of a one-time inactivation of a large number of members who had not paid their dues in some time. This inactivation was the result of a change in policy that tightened up the inactivation grace period afforded to members who are not dues-current. This reduction in membership reflects a more accurate count of active membership, rather than an actual decline in active membership.

We have continued to develop the programs and services offered to our members as set forth in our 2007 strategic plan. The progress of three ad hoc committees is of particular note:

The Education Committee is in various stages of development of 12 class modules, has developed a list of experienced and knowledgeable guest lecturers willing to travel around the country to offer classes, and has assembled a graphics library which can be used as a resource for development of local course materials.

The Profess House Committee has gathered members with experience in finance, property management, hotel and hospitality, fundraising, and has made contact with members involved in real estate development; has assembled a collection of archival documents and correspondence pertinent to Profess House development and operation, has prepared a list of property tax policies pertaining to religious organizations in various states, and has begun to examine criteria for Profess Houses and operational models, and to develop potential funding strategies.

The Mediation Committee has developed the first four modules of a six-module series on mediation of disputes between members.

We held our annual joint meeting of governing bodies (which included a full convocation of the Senate per the strategic plan) on July 13, 2008 e.v. in Southern California. This year, our annual joint meeting of governing bodies will take place at our seventh biennial national convention (NOTOCON) in Seattle, Washington, which is scheduled for August 7-9.

In the following paragraphs, you will see our Statements of Mission, Program, Vision, and Values. These statements were developed as part of our 2007 strategic planning process, incorporating principles from the original constitutions, documents and principles developed during the founding and initial growth of Ordo Templi Orientis. They form the basic plan from which our strategic plan was built, and offer a concise view of the direction we have charted for the near future of U.S.G.L.

Love is the law, love under will.

Fraternally,



Sabazius X°
National Grand Master General
Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A.

*M*ission Statement

Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A. is the U.S. Grand Lodge (National Section) of Ordo Templi Orientis, a hierarchical, religious membership organization. Our mission is to effect and promote the doctrines and practices of the philosophical and religious system known as Thelema, with particular emphasis on cultivating the ideals of individual liberty, self-discipline, self-knowledge, and universal brotherhood. To this end, we conduct sacramental and initiatory rites, offer guidance and instruction to our members, organize social events, and engage in educational and community service activities at locations throughout the United States.

*P*rogram Statement

1. To create, maintain, and promote a structured society of men and women within the United States of America, who are united by their acceptance of the Law of Thelema, by a common interest in Magick, Yoga, and Hermetic Science, by the common experience of ceremonial initiation and sacramental ritual, by common pledges of fidelity, cooperation, and mutual aid, and by certain common ideals, namely: individual liberty; self-discipline; self-knowledge; universal brotherhood; and opposition to tyranny, superstition, and oppression.
2. To manage and govern this society in substantial conformance with the principles set forth in the writings of Aleister Crowley and other historical leaders of Ordo Templi Orientis, with the approval and under the authorization of the International Headquarters of Ordo Templi Orientis, and in such a way as to ensure its continued survival and promote its continual growth and advancement.
3. To provide certain benefits to the members of this society, including, but not limited to: participation in sacramental rituals; social community and entertainment; pastoral guidance and mediation of disputes; instruction in Hermetic Science, Yoga, and Magick; and opportunities for creative expression, community service, and development of beneficial social and professional relationships.
4. To preserve and advance the principles and practices of the religious, philosophical, and magical system of Thelema, and to promote the principles of individual liberty and universal brotherhood.
5. To conserve and manage books, documents, and other properties of historical or practical value which it may possess.
6. To establish physical centers of activity for the society in diverse locations throughout the United States of America.

*V*alues Statement

1. We support the liberty of the individual and the cultivation of self-respect, self-knowledge, self-discipline, and self-responsibility.
2. We affirm the bonds of fraternity and expect fidelity, frankness, cooperation, mutual aid, and good faith among our members.
3. We value hospitality in our community and promote peace, tolerance, truth, and respect to the Order within our temples and precincts.
4. We advocate the principles of Scientific Religion and Universal Brotherhood, and oppose tyranny, superstition, and oppression.
5. We accept and uphold the Law of Thelema as promulgated in the Book of the Law and the writings of the Prophet of the Aeon, Aleister Crowley.

*V*ision Statement

1. We envision OTO USA as a model religious and fraternal order of occult initiates, and a leading proponent of Thelemic thought and culture within the United States.
2. We will maintain a physical presence near every major population center in the country, from which we will offer services in support of our mission to our members and to the public.
3. We will uphold the highest standards of excellence and effectiveness in the practice and dissemination of our religious, spiritual, magical, and ethical teachings.
4. We will espouse and defend the principle of individual liberty while cultivating strong fraternal bonds within our ranks.
5. We will foster harmonious and constructive relationships with the academic, business, civil, and greater social communities within which we operate.

Initiations

Minerval	180
I°	105
II°	61
III°	42
IV°	16
Perfect Initiate	13
Knight of the East and West	8
V°	6
Knight of the Red Eagle	4
VI°	4
Grand Inquisitor Commander	4
Prince of the Royal Secret	0
VII°	4

Initiators

New Initiators	12
Attrition	15
Total Initiators	160
<i>Change from last fiscal year (%)</i>	-1.84

Local Bodies

Local Bodies as of 28 February 2009	57
Camps	11
Change from FY07	2
Oases	23
Change from FY07	-2
Lodges	10
Change from FY07	0
Chapters	13
Change from FY07	1
New	5
Closed	4
<i>Change from last fiscal year (%)</i>	1.8

E.G.C.

Gnostic Masses reported (Oases and Lodges only, per criteria)*	603
<i>Change from last fiscal year (%)</i>	-19.3
Gnostic Masses reported (including Camps)*	643
Baptisms reported	42
Confirmations reported	23
Deacon Ordinations reported	6
Priest Ordinations reported	2
Priestess Ordinations reported	0
Weddings reported (including 1 from 2007 not reported until 2008)	2
Bishop Consecrations reported	4

* Data still missing from 4 local bodies (9.1%)

Classes

Total number of classes offered*	908
<i>Change from last fiscal year (%)</i> *	-17.3

Grand Lodge Events

Annual joint meetings of governing and administrative bodies:	11-13 July 2008, Golden Lotus Oasis, Laguna Hills, CA
Electoral College Meetings:	19 April 2008 at LVX Lodge, Los Angeles, CA 12 July 2008 at Golden Lotus Oasis, Laguna Hills, CA 18 October 2008 at Tahuti Lodge, New York, NY 10 January 2009 (on-line)
Women's Symposium:	14-16 November 2008 at 418 Lodge, Sacramento, CA
Kaaba Colloquium Workshops:	24-25 May 2008, Thelesis Lodge, Philadelphia, PA also sponsored by Tahuti Lodge 25-26 October 2008, NOX Oasis, Salt Lake City, UT

Initiator Training

Initiator Training sessions:	30 August 2008 at Onnophris Oasis, Indianapolis, IN 9 November 2008 at Set Triumphant, Orlando, FL 6 December 2008 at Knights Templar Oasis, Salem, MA 7 December 2008 at Horizon Oasis, Seattle, WA 18 January 2009 at Blazing Star Oasis, Berkeley, CA
Advanced Initiator Training sessions:	28-29 June 2008 at Sekhet-Maat Lodge, Portland, OR 14-15 Mar 2009 at Knights Templar Oasis, Salem, MA

Publications

U.S.G.L.:	<i>Agape</i> <i>The Eucharist</i> <i>The Pelican</i>
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Local Body (twelve local bodies with active, regular publications):

418 Lodge	<i>Cheth</i>	Blue Equinox Oasis	<i>Blue Equinox Journal</i>
Heru-Behutet Oasis	<i>Talons</i>	Heru-Behutet Oasis	<i>Talons</i>
Sekhet-Maat Lodge	<i>Lion & Serpent</i>	Horizon Oasis	<i>Sky's Embrace</i>
Scarlet Woman Lodge	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	Onnophris Oasis	<i>The Old Hoosier Thelemite</i>
Thelema Lodge	<i>Thelema Community Calendar</i>	Sekhet Bast Ra Oasis	<i>Ophiuchus</i>
Thelesis Lodge	<i>Behutet</i>	Xanadu Oasis	<i>Dead Souls Scrolls</i>

Library

Number of Titles*	1,441
Number of Titles Acquired this Year*	46
Status of Lending Program:	Fully activated for lodge masters and members of the VI° and above

We always welcome literary donations; Grand Lodge has an Amazon.com Wish List and also accepts donations directly from members and friends.

* Estimated based on proportioned partial data. Some local body reporting data (roughly 40%) were lost due to one-time problems with encryption software

Membership

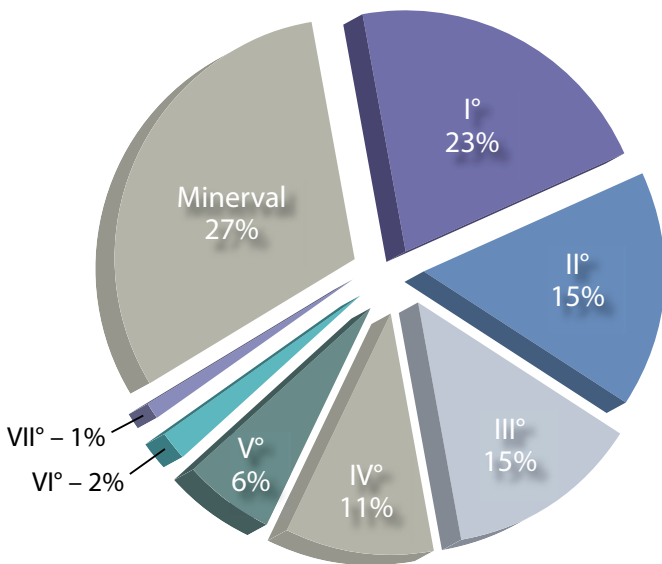
Active members as of Feb 29 2008*	1,212
Minervals	310
Full members	902
Active members change from last year	- 301 (-20%)
Active membership change from U.S.G.L. founding	129 (12%)
New U.S.G.L membership	206
Number of new Minervals†	180
Re-admissions (<i>requiring Executive approval</i>)	2
Reactivations (<i>not requiring Executive approval</i>)	22
Moved to U.S.G.L jurisdiction	2
Attrition:	507
Moved from U.S.G.L. jurisdiction	2
Inactivated‡	493
Demitted Minervals	231
Inactivated full members	262
Resigned	9
Expelled	0
Deceased	3
Bad Reports	2
Bad Reports lifted	0
Suspensions	0

* Includes full members and Minervals.

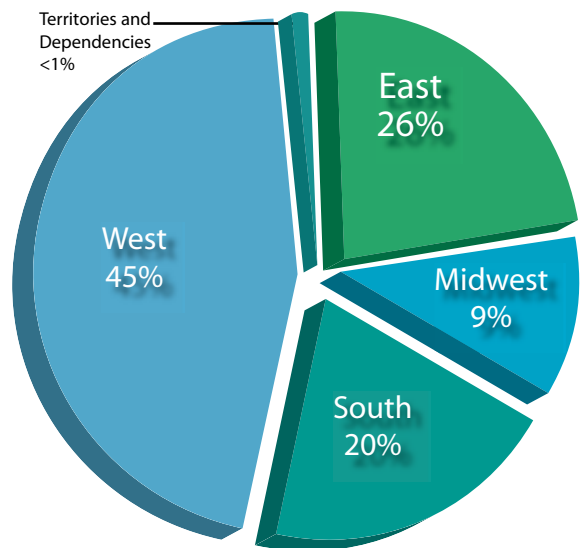
† Includes Minervals performed in FY07 but not reported until FY08.

‡ One time adjustment due to change in criteria for inactive status. Grace period for dues payment was shortened.

USGL Membership by Degree
(as of February 28, 2009 e.v.)



USGL Membership by Region
(as of February 28, 2009 e.v.)



Region Key

- West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY.
- East: CT, DC, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, PR, RI.
- South: AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA.
- Midwest: IA, IL, KS, MN, MO, NE, WI

Finances

Income:

Dues.....	\$44,635
Initiation Fees.....	26,518
Conference Fees.....	18,634
Training Fees.....	3,182
Donations.....	2,808
Sales.....	2,635
Other.....	296
Total Income.....	\$98,708

Expenses:

Administration.....	\$20,488
Program Expenses.....	46,254
Local Development.....	36,977
Conferences.....	3,963
Agape.....	1,901
Internet.....	1,800
Quartermaster.....	1,231
Initiations.....	297
Prison Ministry.....	85
Local Body Subsidies.....	24,978
Total Expenses.....	\$91,720

Net Income for year ending February 28, 2009.....\$6,988

Assets:

General Fund.....	\$17,531
Temples & Regalia.....	17,390
Archives.....	13,225
Building Fund.....	5,282
Real Estate.....	5,000
Office Equipment.....	4,502
Inventory.....	2,839
Receivables.....	1,236
Total Assets.....	\$67,005

Liabilities:

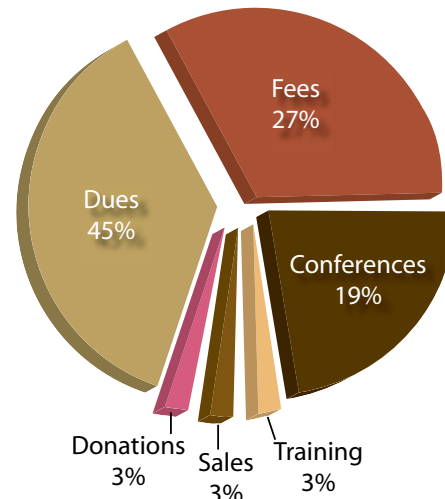
Accounts Payable.....	4,996
Net Assets.....	\$62,009

Detailed membership data and financial statements are available upon request from the Grand Treasurer General.

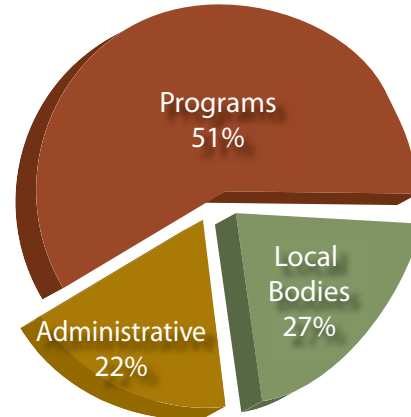
Ordo Templi Orientis USA is a non-profit religious organization, tax-exempt under IRS Code 501(c)3.

Donations, gifts, and bequests are fully tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

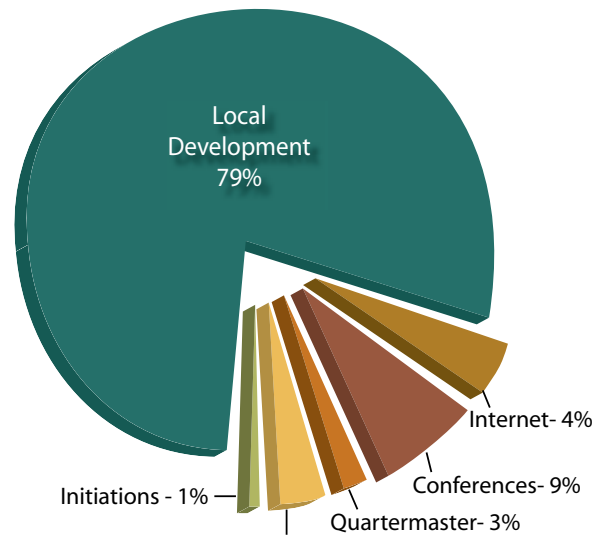
USGL Sources of Income
(March 2008 – February 2009 e.v.)



USGL Expenses
(March 2008 – February 2009 e.v.)



USGL Program Expenditures
(March 2008 – February 2009 e.v.)



Contact Information

Corporate Headquarters:

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U.S. Grand Lodge Committees:

Conference Committee
Education Committee
E.G.C. Clergy Training Committee
Finance Committee
Initiation Training Program Committee
Kaaba Committee
Mediation Training Development Committee
Profess House Development Committee
Public Relations and Media Outreach Committee

U.S. local body contact information:

<http://oto-usa.org/bodies.html>