

Rite Notes

Membership and Recruiting

Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida

15 May 2009

As we have just completed a very successful Grand Conclave and our work is beginning for another year, let me reemphasize the Grand Commanders goal of furthering our outreach into the Blue Lodge , Shrine and Scottish Rite. Membership and retention can make an organization grow, be viable and a central part of our community, and our fraternity or with apathy it can bring destruction and failure to our beloved York Rite Bodies. This success or failure is up to you and each Companion and Sir Knight in your organization. We must work together, separately, as teams, by writing letters, taking time to speak to a brother one on one, making phone calls, whatever it takes to let others know what we are and who we are.

“EVERY CHRISTIAN MASON SHOULD BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR.” This is the message of our Most Eminent Grand Master and it must be the Guiding lesson of every Templar. We have a duty to ensure the continued success of Templar Masonry and this will occur only if each of us takes the personal responsibility to preserve it. Growing the business is the preeminent goal of the Grand Commandery; stemming the flow of losses is an unacceptable one.

Personal involvement and commitment are minimum requirements for a successful membership process. A knowledgeable and enthusiastic sales organization is equally important to insure that we are getting good results. We use the term “sales” because it perfectly describes our task at hand, selling membership in an organization whose prime mission is the Support and Defense of the Christian Religion. No other organization unites all denominations of Christians together for a common cause. Knowledgeable Knights make enthusiastic and successful salesmen because they know the quality of the product and the benefits of ownership. A Knight who is well versed in all aspects of Templary must also “walk to talk” if he expects to be a convincing salesman.

As we move into the next few years the Grand Commandery Membership Committee is redoubling its efforts to train and encourage Knights Templar leadership at all levels to implement the plan and the process necessary for success. Individual leadership commitment and accountability are keys to an effective program; but the real key is **You**; Membership recruiting and retention cannot be delegated to committees, or the sole responsibility of the leadership. We must live by this motto, “*If it is to be, it's up to me.*”

As Knights Templar, we have one foe that we must collectively vanquish, and that is apathy. The membership program of the Grand Commandery is an action program designed to perpetuate our organization and it will succeed if **all** members do their part. We read in Chapter 28 of the Book of Matthew where Jesus commissioned his disciples to “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and the son, and the Holy Ghost”. Your Grand Commandery Membership Committee would paraphrase this commission by asking

every Knight Templar to, “Go ye therefore and teach all Christian Masons, encouraging them to unite under the banner of Templary”. Our Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment puts it more eloquently “Every Christian Mason Should be a Knight Templar.

We cannot wish away our declining membership; we must be individually accountable for growing our business. Don’t wait for someone else to do what you can do now. Whether you have a weekend festival, a slow class (one degree per month or as one district does Chapter one month, Council degrees one month and the Commandery Orders the third month, providing the “light” to these new companions and SK’s are essential to the growth of the York Rite.

As we progress through this year, We will again suggest ways to approach others who are not York Rite members and ways in which we can be more successful at bring these individuals in to receive further light in Masonry. If you have suggestions and or concerns, please contact me and I will try to meet your needs.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, please let me know, with the date, time, location and contact person, and I will put it in the next newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone’s business.

Dist 3	October March	Tampa Tampa
Dist 5	Feb/Mar September 26	Eola, Orlando Eola, Orlando
Dist 6	March 12-13, 2010 October 2-3	Box Ranch, Stuart, (Outdoor) Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge
Dist 7	October 2009	Gainesville, Lake City, Jacksonville
Dist 9	February	Tallahassee
Dist 10	September March	Pensacola Pensacola/Mariana

If any of the above dates are incorrect or if you have any additional dates please let me know ASAP.

HENRY A. ADAMS
Eminent Grand Senior Warden
Chairman, Membership Committee

some excerpts , from [Guidelines for Membership](#), published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States and Grand Commandery of Florida.p.3, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006