

Rite Notes
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 July 2009

**The Importance of Manpower in the
Advancement of Templary**

The summer is now upon us and our fall festivals are ramping up. We need to contact the prospective members that will participate in the festivals. Blue lodges are now dark . Go to the Lodge Secretary and ask for the phone numbers and addresses of those newly raised brothers who have or may have the desire to reach out for new light in their Christian lives. Remember, every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar. Write the letters, call them on the phone. Contact them by whatever means you have. Being dark for the summer, makes it more difficult but certainly not impossible. Being dark for the summer (both our York Rite Bodies and the Blue Lodges) means that one or two individuals can do the job. It will take all Companions and Sir Knights to spread the word, to show the light, and to bring this light to others.

The Grand Commandery of Florida, believes that manpower is Templary's greatest asset. Membership and retention are the key indices by which the progress of our great Order of Knighthood is judged. A growing membership shows a healthy condition. It means that men are being attracted to become Companions and Knights Templar, and that our present members are anxious to retain their membership.

Templary must have the strength that (1) comes from increased membership, and (2) that extolls our strong Christian beliefs. As a blood transfusion injects new life into the body, so does the "new blood" of Templar recruits furnish new life to the Chapter, Council and the Commandery. Their impact to whole structure of the York Rite Bodies. Securing candidates who are ready, willing and able to take an active part in the ranks of our Order is vital to our continued visibility.

Your Grand Commandery fully realizes that the membership growth is a "grass roots" problem of super importance which must succeed at the local level, with assistance, when necessary from the Grand Bodies. With this in mind, the Grand Commandery has taken two important steps in this direction.

(1) The Grand Commander has requested that each Eminent Commander establish a membership committee, comprising members of each of the Bodies. He is urging each of these committees to stress the matter of recruiting and retaining members at every opportunity.

(2) The Grand Commandery, membership chairman publishes this newsletter monthly to assist the local Bodies in ways of approaching, identifying and recruiting new Companions and Sir Knights. Participating in a strong cooperate effort with other York Rite bodies to stimulate membership growth in highly recommended.

We recognize membership growth and retention is the life and purpose of all Masonic bodies. If we are to continue the good works of Christian Masonry, it must be up to every individual to accept the challenge Never underestimate the value and power of the ordinary being implanted with extraordinary zeal and diligence.

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.

As of the end of May, we have Knighted 69 new Companions and Sir Knights. Seven districts will have festivals in August, September and October. Lets get to work during this dark period and began the process of bringing new brothers into our bodies. However, of more importance, we must keep those members that we currently have.

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, 2009	Box Ranch, Stuart (Outdoor degree) Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge
Dist 7	October 2009	Gainesville, Jacksonville
Dist 9	August 8 & 15, 2009	Tallahassee
Dist 10	September March	Pensacola Pensacola/Mariana

If any of the above dates are incorrect or if there are any additional dates please let me know, I will include them next time.

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

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