



Rite Notes
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 January 2011



Companions and Sir Knights,
A message from the Grand Master

If You ask, They will come! *This derivative is from the famous line from "A Field of Dreams" carries a simple but simple but effective message about membership recruiting and retention. You need only to take the time to ask that potential member or dormant member to actively participate in Templary and they will come!*

"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 insure the continued success of Templar Masonry and this will occur only if each of us take the personal responsibility to preserve it. The Grand Encampment Membership Committee has developed, revised and updated its membership materials. Growing the business is the preeminent goal of the Grand Encampment; 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 this 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 the talk" if he expects to be a convincing salesman.

As we move into the 21st Century, the Grand Encampment 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 Encampment 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, the Son, and the Holy Ghost". Your Grand Encampment 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 Grand Master 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 somebody else to do what you can do **now**.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, Short of Time or Slow Classes, 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. Let me know the 2011 dates for future inclusion.

District	Date	Location	Knighted
1	19 Mar, 2011	Miami Chap/Council	
2	8 Feb, 8 Mar, 12 Apr 10 May, 7 June 20 Sep, 11 & 25 Oct	Ft Myers YRB Chap/Council	
3	5 & 12 Feb 1 & 8 Oct	Tampa Tampa	
4	12 Feb, 12 Mar 30 Apr	Bartow, Lakeland- Winter Haven YRB	
5	12 Mar 18 Mar	Sanford (Chapter / Council Eola [Orders]	
6	1-2 Apr 7-8 Oct	Fort Pierce YRB Melbourne YRB	
7			
8			
9			
10	2 & 30 Apr 17 & 24 Sep	Pensacola Pensacola	
Total 2010 Knightings			165
Total 2011 Knightings			

If any of the above dates are incorrect OR if you have dates or numbers that should be changed, please let me know.

Henry A Adams

HENRY A. ADAMS
Eminent Grand Captain General
Chairman, Membership Committee

“Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar”

*some excerpts, from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, p3 and Grand Commandery of Florida,, Beaderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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