



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



Companions and Sir Knights,

As we approach our festivals, and new Sir Knights being conferred, I would like to provide some information that you can copy and give to them as an introduction to your Commandery. It is simply, as you can see, information that the Sir Knights need but we seldom provide. Continue to work on new petitions and keep working on bringing back our lost brethren. We need them back in our ranks so NPD doesn't occur. Finally, as you complete your festival, I ask that the District Deputy Grand Commander, report to me the number knighted. If any of the above dates are incorrect OR if you have dates or numbers that should be changed, please let me know.

District	Date	Location	Knighted
1	19 Mar, 2011	Miami Chap/Council	
2	8 Feb, 8 Mar, 12 Apr 10 May, 7 June 13 Sep, 11 & 25 Oct	Ft Myers YRB Chap/Council	
3	5 & 12 Mar 1 & 8 Oct	Tampa Tampa	13
4	12 Feb, 12 Mar 30 Apr	Bartow, Lakeland- Winter Haven YRB	
5	12 Mar 26 Mar	Sanford (Chapter / Council Eola [Orders]	
6	1-2 Apr 7-8 Oct	Fort Pierce YRB Melbourne YRB	
7	28-30 Apr	Jacksonville YRB	
8	1,5,15,25,26 Feb	Gainesville	
9	12 Feb(Chap/Council) 26 Feb(Orders)	Mariana Tallahassee	
10	2 & 30 Apr 17 & 24 Sep	Pensacola Pensacola	
Total 2010 Knightings			165
Total 2011 Knightings			

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

## ***A Guide for the Newly Created Knight***

1. **CONCLAVES:** *Commanderies have **conclaves**, not meetings: and the rooms in which these conclaves are held are referred to as an “Asylum”, not a lodge room. Stated conclaves are held once each month according to the by-laws of the local (constituent) Commandery. The Annual Conclave is held once each year for the election of officers for the ensuing year. Special Conclaves are held as scheduled to confer the Orders (Red Cross, Malta, and Order of the Temple). A Grand Commandery is the governing body of the state jurisdiction and meets annually. The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America is the primary governing body of the Order and meets on a triennial basis.*
2. **OFFICERS:** *The officers within a Commandery consists of a: Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Prelate, Treasurer, Recorder, Standard Bearer, Warder, Sword Bearer, and Sentinel.*
3. **UNIFORMS:** *The dress uniform for a Sir Knight is a black CPO style coat, worn with plain black trousers, tie, shoes and socks. Headgear is a black chapeau with white or black/white plume. Officers and members wear silver trimmed emblems. Current dais officers wear shoulder boards of green, past commanders wear shoulder boards of red. The Past Grand Commanders and Grand Encampment Officers wear purple. The complete uniform is normally worn at Order conferrals, special observances, parades and Grand Conclaves. The consumption of alcoholic beverages while in uniform is not permissible. Shoulder cordons come in a variety of colors and are awarded to members who bring new candidates into the Order. Please refer to the rules and regulations of the Grand Commandery of Florida, governing the proper wearing of the uniform and accouterments. It is recommended that the chapeau be stored covered, dry, and hanging upside down in order to extend the life and appearance of the plum.*
4. **Practices:** *The work of the Commandery consists of both ritual and tactics. The regular exercising of each will improve the execution of the work. Ritualistic work consists of the drama portions of the three Orders. Tactical work consists of both asylum tactics, such as the “full form” opening and field drills, either exhibition or competition. Participation in all aspects of the work can be exciting and fun.*
5. **PROTOCOL:**
  - a. *A Commandery confers Orders, not degrees.*
  - b. *The presiding officer refers to himself as “Commander” and uses this title below his signature of documents; however, is properly addressed and referred to by his honorary title of “Eminent Commander”.*
  - c. *A Commandery always opens in “short form” or “full form”; the later is never referred to as “long form”.*
  - d. *When speaking of one Sir Knight, use the singular “Knight Templar”, and when speaking of two or more. Sir Knights, use the plural “Knights Templar”. The word is always “Templar” for both singular and plural. Never use Templars.*

# **Knights Templar Philanthropies**

## **The Knights Templar Eye Foundation**

*As a Knights Templar, one has many opportunities to help others who are less fortunate. One way is through the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The Eye is a great humanitarian charity whose purpose is to provide research, to discover new remedies and cures for the many eye diseases that currently exist.*

*Questions or comments regarding the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, inc, can send e-mail to [ktef@knightstemplar.org](mailto:ktef@knightstemplar.org).*

## **The Knights Templar Educational Foundation**

*The Knights Templar Educational Foundation, the first of its kind, was organized in 1922. Since then, more than \$32 million dollars has been loaned to students to complete their last two years of college. This financial assistance is given without regard to race, color, creed, age, or Masonic affiliation.*

*In recent years, some Grand Commanderies have also been offering scholarship grants to students who are members of Masonic related youth groups.*

## **The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage**

*In addition to many religious observances throughout the year, the Grand Encampment/Grand Commandery of Florida sponsors an annual "Holy Land Pilgrimage". The purpose of the pilgrimage is to send a Christian Minister to the Holy Land to enhance his ministry. Each jurisdiction raises funds to send these ministers, expenses paid, on these trips. Masonic membership is not required, and the Minister can be male or female.*

# **Reference Information, Materials & Reading**

## **KNIGHTS TEMPLAR:**

1. *A capsule Chronicle of Templary*
2. *Highlights of Templar History – by William Mosley Brown*
3. *The York Rite of Freemasonry – by Frederick G. Speidel*
4. *Drill Regulations or School of the Knight and Squad (excerpts)*
5. *Manual of Public Ceremonies*
6. **A Pilgrims Path** – by John Robinson
7. **Born in Blood** – by John Robinson
8. **Dungeon, Fire and Sword** – by John J. Robinson

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## **FREEMASONRY:**

1. *Leadership Materials:*  
*Masonic Renewal Committee of North America*  
*Lake Falls Professional Bldg*  
*6115 Falls Road*  
*Baltimore, Maryland 21209*  
*Ph: 800-336-6529*  
*Fax: 410-377-0591*
2. *Membership:*  
*The Masonic Service Association of the USA*  
*8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203*  
*Silver Springs, Maryland 20910-4785*  
*Ph: 301-588-4010*  
*Fax: 301-608-3457*

## *A Prayer for the New Member*

*O God, our Father, whose command is overall and whose love never Faileth, Let us be aware of Thy Holy Presence and obedient to Thy Will. Encourage us in our endeavors to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when Truth and Right are in jeopardy.*

*Empower these Sir Knights with the revitalized desire to go forth and grow our organization. Open all our minds to creative new ways of recruitment and retention to better fill the ranks of Templary in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Help us accept these responsibilities with strong hearts and cheerful minds, and let our uniforms remind each of us of our dedication to duty and of service to the Great Captain of our Salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

***Amen***

*“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, intro. 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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