



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



Companions and Sir Knights,

As a new York Rite year has begun and the new Right Eminent Grand Commander has set his priorities for the year, I continue to encourage each of you to look to the advancement of Templary in you communities and Districts. Your District Deputies and Grand Line will work hard for your benefit and the benefit of your bodies, it is your responsibility to assist your own YRB in increasing your membership, reducing NPD's and encouraging Perpetual membership for all your members.

We have often spoken of a membership campaign as the best way to improve the membership. Working as a team, in a organized and goal- driven manner is the best way to improve our YR Bodies. A membership campaign requires careful and exhaustive organized planning before being launched. A Commandery that rushes pell-mell into a membership campaign without prudent deliberation and a complete, detailed and well thought-out plan of action is apt to fail.

The first consideration of a membership campaign is to evaluate the situation, and adopt an overall plan - just like an architect would do before starting the erection of a building. The plan must run the gauntlet of hard analysis by Sir Knights with mature experience and skill in each local community. A Commandery should welcome suggested alterations of the proposed plan that would put it to the test of practicality.

Such a plan needs to contemplate the selection of the right men for the job. It should also include the indoctrination of those Sir Knights whose loyalty , zeal and stature in the community give convincing evidence of their willingness and capacity to participate. The plan needs to be placed in the hands of men who will give it the necessary time and attention to follow through until it is successfully concluded.

Before it begins there needs to be intensive preparatory work and complete understanding between everyone having any part in the work. A few hours spent in careful planning at the outset will save untold hours of effort for the entire team. As is modern business, organized planning will spell the difference between success and failure.

Many excellent plans have failed because the process of implementation was not rock-solid. In order to consider a membership campaign successful, it must have the process of implementation well defined, measurable (to see that it is meeting the goal) and a high level of accountability.

Our campaign last year was somewhat successful in that we Knighted 169 Sir Knights, and our deaths and NPD's were much lower than in the past years. Already this year, we have Knighted over 50% of the entire year of 2010. For this I want to thank all of you who continue to help us grow. Remember, NPD's are continuing to be our greatest problem in membership.

Finally, Perpetual membership is an important way in which each of you can guarantee the long term success and continuation of the York Rite of Florida. Perpetual membership will continue to benefit our Chapters, Councils and Commanderies long after we are gone. You can encourage your Companions and Sir Knights to

possibly become perpetual members of one body each year until all three are taken care of, and membership will be forever.

District	Date	Location	Knighted
1	19 Mar, 2011	Miami(17) Chap/Council	
2	8 Feb, 8 Mar, 12 Apr 10 May, 7 June 13 Sep, 11 & 25 Oct	Ft Myers YRB Chap/Council (11)	
3	5 & 12 Mar 1 & 8 Oct	Tampa Tampa	13
4	12 Feb, 12 Mar 30 Apr	Bartow, Lakeland- Winter Haven YRB	8
5	12 Mar 19 Mar 24 Sept 29 Oct	Sanford (Chapter / Council Leesburg(Eola) [Orders] Chapter/Council (Eola) Orders (Eola)	7
6	1-2 Apr 7-8 Oct	Fort Pierce YRB Melbourne YRB	36
7	28-30 Apr	Jacksonville YRB	11
8	1,5,15,25,26 Feb	Gainesville	4
9	12Feb(Chap/Council) 26 Feb(Orders)	Mariana Tallahassee	3
10	2 April & 7 May 17 & 24 Sep	Pensacola Pensacola	7
Total 2010 Knightings			165
Total 2011 Knightings			89

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

We have had a good Spring festival period. Let us finish the year strong and be in the black in membership.

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, 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*