



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



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

Companions and Sir Knights,

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 extols 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 is 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.

District	Date	Location	Knighted
1	19 Mar, 2011	Miami Chap/Council	(17)
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(Chap/Council Leesburg(Eola) [Orders] Chap/Council (Eola) Orders (Eola)	7
6	1-2 Apr 7-8 Oct	Fort Pierce YRB Melbourne YRB	36
7	28-30 Apr 20-22 Oct	Jacksonville YRB Jacksonville YRB	11
8	1,5,15,25,26 Feb 5,9,19,29,30 July	Gainesville Gainesville	4 8
9	12Feb(Chap/Council) 26 Feb(Orders) 20 Aug(Chap/Council) 22 Aug (Orders)	Mariana Tallahassee Tallahassee Tallahassee	3
10	2 April & 7 May 17 & 24 Sep	Pensacola Pensacola	7
2010 Knightings			165
2011 Knightings			97

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 Generalissimo
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

Hm Ph: 321-726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

E-mail: hadams1@aol.com