

Rite Notes
 Membership and Recruiting
 Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
 17 December 2011



Companions and Sir Knights,

This is not the regular membership newsletter that you are used to receiving. I just want to thank everyone involved in our York Rite Bodies for a great year in recruiting new members. I waited an extra two days because I wanted to include District 1 in the final numbers. Today, they conferred the Orders on 16 Candidates which brings our total for the year to 199. Last year we had 165.

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.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>KNIGHTED</u>
1	19 Mar	Miami (17) Chapter/Council	
	29 Oct	Chapter/Council (13)	
	17 Dec	Miami, Orders Miami (13) Melita (3)	16
2	8 Feb, 8 Mar, 12 Apr 10 May, 7 June 13 Sep, 11 & 25 Oct	Ft Myers (11) Chapter/Council	
3	5 & 12 Mar 1 & 8 Oct	Tampa Tampa Ivanhoe 7, Spgtime 1 Sunshine 6, Trinity 4 Lakeland 4, Ft Myers 10	13 32
4	12 Feb, 12 Mar	Bartow, Lakeland- Winter Haven	8
5	12 Mar 19 Mar 24 Sept 29 Oct	Sanford Chapter/Council Leesburg (Eola) Orders Chapter/Council (Eola) Orders (Eola) Orlando 1, Eustis 2, Sanford 5 Daytona Beach 2	7 10

DISTRICT DATE LOCATION KNIGHTED

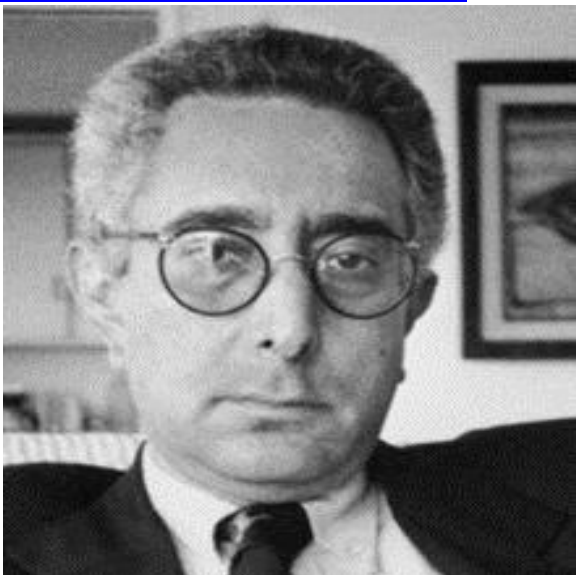
<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>KNIGHTED</u>
6	1 & 2 Apr	Ft Pierce	36
	7 & 8 Oct	Melbourne Ft Pierce 6, Melbourne 4 Brevard 3	13
7	28-30 Apr	Jacksonville	11
	20-22 Oct	Jacksonville 4 Crusader 4, St Augustine 4	12
8	1,5,15,25 & 26 Feb	Gainesville	4
	5,9,19,29 & 30 July	Gainesville	8
9	12 Feb	Mariana Chapter/Council	
	26 Feb	Tallahassee Orders	3
	20-22 Aug	Tallahassee	6
10	2 Apr & 7 May	Pensacola	7
	17 & 24 Sep	Pensacola	13
		Pensacola 6, St Elmo 4 Crestview 3	
Total 2010 Knightings			165
Total 2011 Knightings			199

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

Finally, I seldom forward things that I receive on the internet but this came in last year and I think that it is appropriate

May each of you have a wonderful Christmas and New Years. Please be careful, and we will resume next year.

[Ben Stein discusses Christmas](#)



The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary.
My confession:

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. **And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are: Christmas trees. It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu . If people want a creche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.**

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship Nick and Jessica and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where Nick and Jessica came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding Katrina) Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events...terrorists attack, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found recently) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we

believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing?

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

My Best Regards.

Honestly and respectfully,

Ben Stein

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, reprint from Aug 2009, 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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