



Rite Notes
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 April 2012



“Assimilating New Templars Into Our Ranks”

Companions and Sir Knights,

Over the past several months we have discussed, how to talk to prospective York Rite Members, what people want in an organization, even what drives them away from a group. Once we have their petition and elect them in our Bodies, what next?.

Assimilation of each new Templar should start when he is elected to become a member of our Order. Notification of his election should be given to him immediately. He should be congratulated by his Templar friends and assured of the wisdom of his course of action. He should be given the dates at once for receiving the degrees and the Orders of Knighthood. Some Past Commander or other highly qualified Sir Knight should be assigned by the Eminent Commander to act as his counselor from that time on. His advance to the Order of the Temple should be the signal for special notice to his Templar friends of the time of his Knighting.

The evening of the Knighting should become one that he will never forget. Here is the time and place when important and lasting impressions will be made. **If the work is done in a dignified and exalted manner, he will respond - as thousands have done before him - and become deeply impressed. If the work is done in a careless manner, he will be forever lost to our cause.**

The ritualistic work should be programmed in such a way that there be no lost motion or wasted time. Everything should be well timed. A “stage manager” should be selected whose sole job is to see that the work moves smoothly and without gaps. The ritualistic work deserves the assignment of the best and most talented ritualists available.

After all, it is the candidate who is the most important one to consider, and he is entitled to the best exemplification the Commandery can provide.

After his Knighting, the new Templar should be warmly welcomed by every Sir Knight in the Asylum, and made to “feel at home” at once. He should be given some small assignment - no matter how small - so that he will return to the Asylum at the very next Knighting, when he can live over again the beautiful work in which he has participated. From that time on his Mentor should give him instructions about the customs and traditions of the Order. He should “take him under his wing” until he is thoroughly oriented.

The **follow-up** process cements this fine relationship and secures his continued interest and involvement in the York Rite Bodies. If there is a drill corps in the Commandery, he should be invited to join. The sooner the newly knighted Templar learns how to handle his sward and tactics, the better member he will become. **The early days and weeks of membership will often be decisive as to whether the new Sir Knight will take an active interest in Templar activities, or become absorbed in other affairs and fail to come back.**

Many Commanderies, at the time of the Knighting, will present a new Templar with one or more of the following: A membership certificate, a Knight Templar Lapel pin, an up to date roster and a calender of upcoming events.

Most York Rite Bodies will have festivals, short of time classes or long classes beginning in the February-March time frame. It is never too early to begin our planning. So far, we have had a very successful

year this year, and it would be great if we could surpass this year and grow even larger next year. But we need to look back last year and previous years and determine what we did right and what we didn't do so well. There is always grounds for improvement.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, 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.

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	7 Apr, 5 May 15 Sept, 29 Sept	Miami Chapter/Council	
2	14 Feb, 13 Mar, 10 Apr 8 May, 8 Jun, 25 Sep, 23 Oct	Ft Myers	
3	3 & 10 March 6 & 13 Oct	Tampa-Ivanhoe Tampa-Ivanhoe	5
4	25 Feb/31 Mar	Chap/Council(25) Orders(31th) Lakeland 4, Plant City 3, C-water 1	9 (1 Knighted in Tampa)
5	3 Mar 10 Mar 8 Sept 22 Sep	Chapter/Council Orders Chapter/Council (Eola) Orders (Eola)	6 (Knighted in Lakeland)
6	30 & 31 Mar 12-13 Oct	Ft Pierce 14, Melb 1, Cocoa 1, WPB 1 Ft Pierce	17
7	12, 14, 28 Apr 18, 20, 27 Oct	Jacksonville Jacksonville	
8	7, 11, 21, 24 & 25 Feb	Gainesville	2
9	7 Apr & 12 Apr.	Tallahassee 7, Mariana 1	8
10	31 Mar 14 Apr	Pensacola 8, Crestview 1 Pensacola (Commandery)	9
Total 2011 Knightings			199
Total 2012 Knightings			56

If any of the above dates are incorrect OR if you have dates or numbers that should be changed, please let me know. Also, as soon as your area determine the dates for the Spring and Fall festivals, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

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