



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



Companions and Sir Knights

A couple years ago, I sent the following letter to you in the hopes that you would put in on your own letterhead, and give it to all **Newly Raised Masons (you could also include a petition, and a copy of the book York Rite of Freemasonry)** This can easily be revised to meet your needs and the needs of your York Rite Bodies. We are all in this together. If we do not get them into the Chapter and Council, then the Commandery is not possible. Please consider this or a similar letter and personally hand it to each newly raised Mason. Your YRB should have a Lodge Representative that can make the presentation.

**Dear Brother,**

**I congratulate you on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason! Masonry, as you know, is full of rich teachings and enigmatic symbolism: it is nearly impossible to receive and understand it all. I encourage you to attend lodge and witness every degree as often as you can. Each and every time you attend, you will pick up something “new” which may have escaped your notice from the time before. The teachings and symbolism we call “Truth” or “Light”. A wise man will always have a desire for the “light”, as you did when you became an Entered Apprentice, then more “Light” as a Fellowcraft, and the further Light as a Master Mason.**

**In the Blue Lodge, the ancient secrets and basic moral principles are only partly revealed. Even when the Master Mason Degree is completed, you are left with only a substitute “word” or plan for the solution of your fraternal and spiritual problems. Remember, “Behold the Temple is not yet completed” and later the Master’s Word is lost, and a substitute is given “until future generations shall find out the right”. This means that there must be further “Light”. And it is my duty to inform you there is! Join the York Rite today, and discover, further “Light”.**

**From 1717, it was almost a century before the various groups in England were consolidated and the powers and prerogatives of the Grand Lodge were acknowledged and accepted. Still, the Tradition that Masonry existed “From Time Immemorial” persisted. Changes and innovations were vigorously resisted. After years of negotiations and the testing of innumerable degrees that clamored for Masonic approval, the Masons of England formed the United Grand Lodge of England, December 27, 1813, and definitely defined the elements of Ancient Craft Masonry and the General Laws and Regulations as “Pure ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, those of Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch.” The York System in completed in the Knights Templar.**

**At that time, only Past Masters of Blue Lodges were qualified to receive the Royal Arch Degree. It was then deemed that this degree was so important, Master Masons, who having received the Mark Master Degree, were then able to become (Honorary) Past Masters, thus making them eligible to witness completion and dedication of King Solomon’s Temple, and receive the “long lost Masters Word” in the Royal Arch Degree. The Royal Arch Chapters confer the Mark Master, Past Master and the Most Excellent Master Degrees.**

**The Royal Master and Select Master Degree in the Council are beautiful in expressing why the**

**“Word” was lost and the secret of its preservation and recovery.**

**The Commandery of Knights Templar offers the Chivalic Orders of Christian Knighthood through the Order of the Red Cross, Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. These Orders as they are called, are most impressive and explain the Christian interpretation of Freemasonry. Discover for yourself, “Why every Christian Mason should be a Knights Templar”.**

**The York Rite provides that further “Light” through the most beautiful degrees and Orders of all Freemasonry given by Royal Arch Chapters, together with Councils of Royal and Select Masters and Commanderies of Knights Templar**

**You or any Master Mason is entitled to petition. I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future and again welcome you as a Brother to our Fraternity. Please contact me at Phone \_\_\_\_\_, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_**

**Sincerely and Fraternally yours,**

**“ Every Christian Mason Should Be a Knights Templar”**

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.**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>KNIGHTED</b>
1	7 Apr, 5 May 15 Sept, 29 Sept	Miami(7), Maleta(2) Chapter/Council	9
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 25 Aug, 8 Sept 22 Sep	Chapter/Council Orders Chapter/Council (Sanford) 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 8-10 Nov	Jacksonville 5, Lawtey 1 Jacksonville	6
8	7, 11, 21, 24 & 25 Feb 21, 27, 28 July	Gainesville Gainesville(5), Ocala(3) Eustis(2), Bradford(1) Palatka(2)	2 13
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	84

**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

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander  
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,, Baderstadt, 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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