



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



Companions and Sir Knights

Last month I sent to you a letter that could be used, after revision for your own York Rite Body, to invite newly raised Masons to consider becoming York Rite Masons. The following letter is a follow-up letter that can be used to remind them of the previous letter and encourage them to consider York Rite. 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 _____,

By now you should be comfortable in lodge and gaining experience as a Master Mason. As the York Rite Mentor to our Lodge, feel free to ask me for any help you may need. I know it is not always easy being the “new guy”. The only conciliation I can offer is that we have all been in your position.

As beautiful and impressive as the Lodge ritual and degrees are, they are far from being everything Masonry has to offer. While the first three degrees teach the cardinal virtues upon which the entire structure of Freemasonry is based, there is more light in Masonry beyond the degree of Master Mason.

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to remind you of the opportunities waiting for you in _____ Commandery No _____ and the rest of York Rite. The Commandery meets on _____ at _____ pm in the _____ Masonic Temple. The Royal Arch Chapter _____ meets on _____ at _____ pm. and _____ Council of Royal and Select Masters meets on _____ at _____ pm in the _____ Masonic Temple.

Each of the York Rite degrees has its own special character and teaches important lessons in Masonry. However, the Commandery Orders are something set apart from anything you have experienced. They are very different in character. The first of the Orders is the Order of the Red Cross. It takes place during the time of the Babylonian captivity before the building of the Second Temple. At the end of the evening, a new order of knighthood has been created, dedicated to truth. At this point the stage is set for everything that is to follow in the next Orders. Before you are created a Knight of Malta, you will be invested with the Mediterranean Pass and learn the history of this Order of Knighthood. Finally, the Order of the Temple is conferred; the only true “Christian” Order. This Order is the longest, most impressive and involved in Masonry. It ask the candidate to examine his life in the light of his call to life of integrity, honor and service.

The Commandery actively supports three national philanthropies; The Knight Templar Eye Foundation, the Knight Templar Educational Fund and the Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian Ministers.

I hope you will consider the York Rite and specifically the Knights Templar. I am sure that our work will interest you and we would like for you to join with us. We have a lot of good work left to do and would welcome your help.

I would like to invite you and your lady to be our guests at _____. This will be a good opportunity to meet some of the York Rite members informally and have a great time in the bargain. As you are our guests, there will be no cost to you other than your time, which I hope will be richly rewarded with fellowship.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____.

With Highest Fraternal Regard,

“Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight 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.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>KNIGHTED</u>
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

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

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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

Hm Ph: 321-726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

E-mail: hadams1@aol.com