



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



Companions and Sir Knights

Each of us has heard of the old “trap doors” created by building architects of the past. They were hinged platforms hidden in inconspicuous locations within the floor, and with the slightest tug of a pin, chain or rope, the person standing on the “trap door” would disappear from sight, and fall into a pre-determined chamber. They may have become prisoners and faced cruel torture, but generally were never seen again.

Are Chapters, Councils and Commanderies ready to properly introduce these new Companions and Sir Knights to our history and our heritage? Will this information stimulate these new Sir Knights to return to the Asylum, and want to become actively engaged in our travels, or will they fall through the “trap door” never to be heard from again.

Recruiting new members for any fraternity is hard work. It requires time, and resources committed to a single purpose. But new Sir Knights can be lost in a heartbeat if they are not properly and personally welcomed and assimilated into the fraternity by its leadership. After the knighting, but before they return home, they need to be given a “new member packet” with their name on it by the Eminent Commander. What information should be contained in the information packet?

The answer to what should be contained in this packet of information is endless, but here are a few suggestions that should be mandatory:

1. A personal letter of congratulations and welcome to the new Sir Knights signed by the Eminent Commander preferably on Commandery stationary. This letter should contain information on Stated Meetings, and invite him to attend the next one. A letter from the Grand Commander would be ideal if logistically possible.
2. A list of the Officers of the local Chapter, Council and Commandery along with their addresses both telephone and “cell phone” numbers and e-mail addresses. Include the names of their spouses.
3. A summary of special activities of that Commandery that may have become traditions and part of its local heritage: annual events, Quarterly events, Special Holiday events and planned events. Mention activities like trips, picnics, cookouts, festivals, parades and celebrations, that include the ladies and the entire family. Encourage them to attend and bring a friend.
4. History of your local York Rite Bodies: the dates of their Charters, the size of its membership, how many live out of state, how long have you met in the current building, interesting stories from your history, Public or Fraternal leaders (past and present) that are proud members. Include the ladies as they too may have assumed key leadership roles in selected organizations. This is a time to promote your long history.
5. List the names of any Masonic “Youth Groups” that may meet locally, and the names of the leaders along with their telephone numbers. Many new Sir Knights may have children or grandchildren who might fit the age criteria to belong. If not, at least give them a summary of the purpose of the organization. Informational brochures are available locally for DeMolay, Jobs Daughters, and Order of the Rainbow Girls.

6.A History of the glorious Knights Templar, and its evolution into the fraternity we now belong. The Grand Encampment Office publishes a list of the information that is currently available. It is distributed to each Grand Recorder and to the Officers of each Grand Commandery.

7.A summary of the Philanthropies of each of the Bodies.

8.A description of the Knights Templar Education Foundation describing the scholarship program available to qualifying students.

9.A Commandery or York Rite dues card with the new Sir Knights name on it.

As you know, we now live in an information age. People are busy, live in the fast lane, and are pressed for time. They want to participate in organizations if it is worth their time, and experience a sense of fulfillment by belonging. The sharing of information and knowledge is critical to making new Knights Templar and their family feels welcomed in a new fraternal order.

Think about it. It's the right thing to do. You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Perhaps you'll be starting a new tradition, but you will have eliminated the invisible "trap door". You will also be displaying leadership, and retaining new members. Don't talk about it, just do it! Don't take a vote, just do it! Take charge. Make it happen.

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(see Dist 6)	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 6, Sunshine 210 Venice 1, Plant City 1	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)Orlando 7, Sanford 2, Eustis 1	6 (Knighted in Lakeland)
6	30 & 31 Mar 12-13 Oct	Ft Pierce 14, Melb 1, Cocoa 1, WPB 1 Ft Pierce 5, Hialeah 6, Sanford 2, Palm Beach 2, Ft Lauderdale 6	17 21
7	12, 14, 28 Apr 8-10 Nov	Jacksonville 5, Lawtey 1 Jacksonville	6
8	7, 11, 21, 24 & 25 Feb	Gainesville	2

	21,27,28 July	Gainesville(5),Ocala(3) Eustis(2),Bradford(1)Palatka(2)	13
9	7 Apr & 12 Apr.	Tallahassee 7, Mariana 1	8
10	31 Mar	Pensacola 8, Crestview 1	9
	14 Apr	Pensacola (Commandery)	
Total 2011 Knightings			199
Total 2012 Knightings			126

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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