



## RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting  
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida



15 November 2014

Companions and Sir Knights,

Our membership campaign has done well for the membership year 2014. As of now, we have knighted 199 new knights. A reminder that the Membership year for the Grand Commandery is 1 January to 31 December, while the membership for the Chapter and Council runs from Grand Session to Grand Session. This means that the Grand Chapter and grand Council can still count the new companions that will come in during the Spring festivals. Let us continue to work and have a great Spring Recruiting campaign. To bring to light some suggestions on the importance of membership and the importance of having all our Sir Knights and Companions participate in the campaign, let us review some suggestions. Even if we have not completed the festival season, it is not too early to begin organizing for the next. The Grand York Rite believes that manpower is our greatest asset. Membership and Retention are the key indices by which the progress of our Great Order is judged. A growing membership shows a healthy condition. It means that men are being attracted to becoming Companions and Knights Templar, and that our present members are anxious to retain their membership.

York Rite must have the strength that comes through increased manpower. As a blood transfusion injects new life into the body so does “new blood” of York Rite recruits furnish new life to the Chapter, Council and Commandery. Their impact quickens the whole structure of the York Rite. Securing candidates who are ready, willing and able to take an active part in the ranks in our Order is vital to our continued viability.

The Grand York Rite fully realizes that membership growth is a “grass roots” problem of superlative importance which must succeed at the local level, and with all the assistance that can be given by the Grand York Rite leadership. With this in mind, the Grand York Rite has taken two important steps in this direction:

1. The Grand Commander, Grand High Priest and Grand Illustrious Master has requested each Local Body, to appoint a membership committee. They have urged all concerned to stress the matter of recruiting and retention of our members at every opportunity. There are still a number of York Rite Bodies who have not complied, however, without a committee and a viable program it makes it more difficult to recruit new members.

2. The Grand York Rite has utilized a brochure published by the Grand Chapter, describing York Rite Masonry and Knights Templar. Participating in a strong cooperative effort with other York Rite Bodies to stimulate membership growth is highly recommended.

We all recognize membership growth and retention is the real life and purpose of 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 implemented with extraordinary zeal and diligence.

As we see, many York Rite Bodies are doing very well in their efforts and some are not doing well at all. The goal of the Grand Commander is an increase of 250, of the Grand High Priest is 10% of our membership or 400. These numbers can be reached if you attend you Blue Lodge meetings and if you seek our worthy brothers that would make good York Rite Members.

West Palm Beach	13	Cocoa	1
Fort Lauderdale	21	Melbourne	3
Miami	9	Fort Pierce	12
Florida Keys	0	Jacksonville	10
Sarasota (Manatee)	0	Fernandina	3
Sarasota (Trinity)	8	St Augustine	4
Everglades	0	Palatka	1
Fort Myers	13	Lake City	1
Tampa (Ivanhoe)	9	Lawtey	4
St Petersburg (Sunshine)	3	Gainesville	5
Clearwater (Springtime)	2	Ocala	2
Lakeland	3	Tallahassee	10
Plant City	5	Marianna	2
Sebring (Highlands)	1	Panama City	1
Daytona (Halifax)	1	Fort Walton Beach	4
Lake Sumter	2	Crestview	2
Sanford	4	Pensacola	11
Orlando	19		199

Finally, a reminder to each Secretary/Recorder, you must submit your changes in your MONTHLY REPORT to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, and Recorders must report all changes to YRIS. First line signers should be included on all new companions on the monthly report.

**As of this issue, we have knighted 199 new knights (compared to 128 this time last year, but we also have 3 York Rite Bodies that brought in zero (0) members in this year. Three(3) of these York Rite Bodies (YRB) brought in no new members last year as well. If there is no interest in helping your Body grow, how do you expect to survive. LET US NOW BEGIN OUR PLANNING FOR OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINNING 1 JULY, 2015**

**Please send me a roster or Data Sheet on each new Sir Knight, knighted at your festival. This includes all Sir Knights, not just those belonging to your body.**

**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.**

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	Feb, Apr 17, May	Miami (7), Ft Lauderdale (15), WPB (10)	32
	Oct 11		
2	Oct 12	Fort Myers	
	Nov 7-8	Venice(8), Ft Pierce(1), Clearwater(1),Ft Myers(13)	17

<b>3</b>	Mar 1 & 8	Tampa (5), St Petersburg (1), Clearwater (1), Trinity (5)	<b>12</b>
	June 20-21	Tampa-Ivanhoe (1), Clearwater (1), Miami (1)	<b>3</b>
	Oct 11	Tampa-Ivanhoe (3), St Pete (2), Sarasota (1)	<b>6</b>
<b>4</b>	Mar 29 (Orders)	Lakeland (3), Lake City (1)	<b>4</b>
	Aug 15-16	Plant City(5)	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	Mar 1, 15, 29	Sanford (1), Olivet (7)	<b>8</b>
	Sep 12-13	Eola (12), Sanford (4), Lake Sumter (4), Cocoa (1)	<b>21</b>
<b>6</b>	Apr 4-5	Fort Pierce (8), Melbourne (2)	<b>10</b>
	Oct 3-4	Fort Pierce (3), Melbourne (1)Miami(1)WPB(3)Jax(1)	<b>14</b>
<b>7</b>	Mar 8, 28, Apr 2	Jacksonville (8), Bradford (3), Crusader (1)	<b>12</b>
	Oct 10-11	Jacksonville (2), Crusader (2), St Augustine (4), Palatka (1)	<b>9</b>
<b>8</b>	Jan 18, 21, 25 Feb 1, 4, 8, 18, 22	Pilgrim (1)- in Jacksonville	<b>1</b>
	Jul 25-26	Gainesville (3), Halifax (1), Ocala (2)	<b>6</b>
	Sept 5	Gainesville (1)	<b>1</b>
	Oct 11	Lake City (1), Lawtey (1), Ft Walton (3), Tallahassee (2)	<b>7</b>
<b>9</b>	Jan 23 (Orders)	Tallahassee (6), Panama City (1)	<b>7</b>
	Jun 27-28	Tallahassee (8), Marianna (2)	<b>10</b>
<b>10</b>	Mar 29, Apr 12	Pensacola (6), Fort Walton (1)	<b>7</b>
	Sep 5-6	Pensacola (5), Crestview (2), Panama City (1)	<b>8</b>

TOTAL 2013 KNIGHTINGS	<b>128</b>
TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS	<b>199</b>

**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 determines the dates for the Fall festivals, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.**

*Henry A Adams*

**HENRY A. ADAMS, REPGC  
Chairman, Grand York Rite Membership Program**

**“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, also “New Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg 87-93, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006