



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida



15 December 2014

Companions and Sir Knights,

My fellow Companions and Sir Knights, as we approach the end of our Masonic year, Kate and I would like to wish you and your families, a most glorious Christmas, holiday season and Happy New Year. Although this is not a newsletter but a note to improve membership, I have included an article by Ben Stein that I wanted to share with you. May each of you be blessed this season, and we will begin anew in January.

My confession:

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees, Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If people want a crib, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her: "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said: "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the

gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events... terrorists attack, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said okay. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said okay.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said okay.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with, "we reap what we sow."

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing yet?

Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

Pass it on if you think it has merit.

If not, then just discard it... no one will know you did. But if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in.

My Best Regards,

Honestly and respectfully,

Ben Stein"

West Palm Beach	13	Cocoa	1
Fort Lauderdale	20	Melbourne	3
Miami	9	Fort Pierce	12
Florida Keys	0	Jacksonville	10
Sarasota/Venice	4	Fernandina	3
Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	3	St Augustine	4
Everglades	0	Palatka	1
Fort Myers	16	Lake City	2
Tampa (Ivanhoe)	9	Lawtey	4
St Petersburg (Sunshine)	3	Gainesville	5
Clearwater (Springtime)	3	Ocala	2
Lakeland	4	Tallahassee	10
Plant City	5	Marianna	2
Sebring (Highlands)	1	Panama City	2
Daytona (Halifax)	1	Fort Walton Beach	4
Lake Sumter	2	Crestview	2
Sanford	4	Pensacola	12
Orlando	19		195

The numbers above may not be totally correct. I have asked for a response from all Sec/Recorders for verification, but as yet 6 YRB's have not responded. I can only be as accurate as the information I receive.

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 204 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 JAN, 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	22
	Nov 7-8	Sarasota(4), Ft Pierce(1), Clearwater(1), Ft Myers(16)	

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
3	Mar 1-8	Tampa (5), St Petersburg (1), Clearwater (1), Trinity (3)	10
	June 20-21	Tampa (1), Clearwater (1), Miami (1)	3
	Oct 11	Tampa (3), St Petersburg (2), Sarasota (1)	6
4	Mar 29 (Orders)	Lakeland (3), Lake City (1)	4
	Aug 15-16	Plant City(5)Lakeland(1)	6
5	Mar 1, 15, 29	Sanford (1), Orlando (7)	8
	Sep 12-13	Orlando (12), Sanford (4), Lake Sumter (4), Cocoa (1)	21
6	Apr 4-5	Fort Pierce (8), Melbourne (2)	10
	Oct 3-4	Fort Pierce(3), Melbourne(1), Miami(1), WPB(3), Jacksonville(1), Ft Lauderdale(5)	14
7	Mar 8, 28, Apr 2	Jacksonville (8), Lawtey (3), Fernandina (1)	12
	Oct 10-11	Jacksonville (2), Fernandina (2), St Augustine (4), Palatka (1)	9
8	Jan 18, 21, 25 Feb 1, 4, 8, 18, 22	Pilgrim (1)- in Jacksonville	1
	Jul 25-26	Gainesville (3), Daytona(1), Ocala (2)	6
	Sept 5	Gainesville (1)	1
	Oct 11	Lake City (1), Lawtey (1), Ft Walton (3), Tallahassee (2)	7
9	Jan 23 (Orders)	Tallahassee (6), Panama City (1)	7
	Jun 27-28	Tallahassee (8), Marianna (2)	10
10	Mar 29, Apr 12	Pensacola (6), Fort Walton (1)	7
	Sep 5-6	Pensacola (5), Crestview (2), Panama City (1)	8
TOTAL 2013 KNIGHTINGS			128
TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS			204

In addition to the above numbers, three individuals have completed the Chapter and Council degrees. These include, one (1) from Plant City, One(1) Sarasota/Venice, and one(1) from St Petersburg.

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

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