



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida



15 March 2015

Open House Program

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we begin a new membership year, we have a big challenge. Let's do better in 2015. Last membership year, we achieved 204 knightings. In addition, to this we had 3 additional members who completed the Chapter and Council degrees. Our festivals began in February. Now is the time to begin to seek qualified Master Masons who would make good York Rite members. It's up to each of us to attend Blue Lodge meetings and when convenient, to speak to these new masons. We also, need to provide activities that will not only bring in new members but keep those members that we have. **Our biggest problem is NPD's. It should be easier to keep those that we have, than to constantly seek out and train new members.**

An "Open House" is a planned opportunity for your lodge brethren to learn about your Chapter, Council, Commandery and for you to spark interest in your York Rite Body. This program will be most successful as a joint program with other York Rite Appendant Bodies.

Key elements for a successful "Open House" Program include:

- Planning in advance (3-4 months minimum)
- Explanation of Program to Companions and Sir Knights of your York Rite Body.
- Providing your Companions with written invitations and explanations, for them to provide in turn, to Brethren of the Craft Lodges who they would be willing to recommend for membership in your York Rite Body.
- Follow-up on such invitations when they are issued, by telephone or by person, to ensure that potential Companions know you look forward to their attendance, (and attendance of their ladies).
- Careful planning and execution of the "Open House" event itself, to ensure it is informative and impressive.
- Follow-up with these Brethren who attend the "Open House", to encourage their applications for membership.

It is recommended the "Open House" program itself consists of:

- A dinner, complementary to invited guests (potential members) and their ladies.
- A speaker on the three bodies of the York Rite (history, lessons of the degrees, requirements for membership, etc.).

It is recommended that the speaker's after dinner presentation, be made in a Royal Arch Chapter room, set up as if ready for opening the Chapter, and officers of the Chapter in aprons, jewels and seated at their stations. This provides interesting visual images for the invited Brethrens and their ladies that can assist in explaining the purposes and lessons of the Chapter programs.

I need the dates of your district festivals for the spring period so they may be included below. With new leadership coming in May, the Fall dates may change, but the tentative dates for the Fall will be very helpful to set the schedule temporarily. Please send the dates soon as possible.

West Palm Beach	9	Cocoa	
Fort Lauderdale	11	Melbourne	
Miami	7	Fort Pierce	6
Florida Keys		Jacksonville	
Sarasota/Venice/Trinity		Fernandina	
Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	2	St Augustine	
Everglades		Palatka	1
		Lake City	
Tampa (Ivanhoe)	2	Lawtey	
St Petersburg (Sunshine)	2	Gainesville	1
Clearwater (Springtime)	2	Ocala	
Lakeland		Tallahassee	3
Plant City		Marianna	1
Sebring (Highlands)	3	Panama City	
Daytona (Halifax)		Fort Walton Beach	
Lake Sumter	3	Crestview	
Sanford	5	Pensacola	
Orlando	4		

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. Remember, if your new members are not in Y.R.I.S., they do not receive the Knight Templar Magazine.

First line signers should be included on all new companions on the monthly report, in line of OCCUPATION (Commandery).

As of this issue, we have 62 new knights, but we also have 3 York Rite Bodies that have brought in zero (0) members in the last two (2) years. If there is no interest in helping your Body grow, how do you expect to survive? LET US NOW BEGIN OUR PLANNING FOR OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR.

Please send me a roster or completed Data Sheets of each new member from your festival whether they were knighted or completed Chapter/Council. This includes all members, not just those belonging to your body.

We cannot excuse our declining membership and we must be individually accountable for growing our body. Don't wait for someone else to do what you can do now.

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	6-7 March	See Below	
2		Fort Myers	
3	7 & 14 March	Tampa (2), Clearwater (2), Manatee/Trinity (2), St Petersburg (2)	8
	3 & 10 October		
4	7 & 21 March	Plant City	
5	13-14 March	Orlando (Eola) (4), Sanford (3), Lake Sumter (3)	10
6	2-3 October	Melbourne	
7	28 March	Jacksonville	
8	7, 17, 27-28 February	Gainesville (1), Palatka (1)	2
9	12-13 February	Tallahassee (3), Mariana (1)	4
10	11 April	Pensacola	
	6-7 March	STATEWIDE CLASS, BOX RANCH- Ft Pierce (6), Miami (7), Fort Lauderdale (11), Sanford (2), W Palm Beach (9), Sebring (3)	38
TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS			204
TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS			62

Two (2) completed only Chapter and Council at Tallahassee and one (1) at Box Ranch.

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 festival, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

Henry A Adams

HENRY A. ADAMS, PGC

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., Beaderstadt, 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