



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida



15 May 2015

Membership Develop and Restorations

Companions and Sir Knights,

Companions and Sir Knights, last month we spoke about our successes in recruiting new members, however, our other concern is how many we are losing. Each of our York Rite Bodies have worked hard over the past four years bringing in 652 new Companions and Sir Knights but our NPD's are still our biggest concern.

When a member is suspended for non-payment of dues, there is still a chance that they may someday be restored to the York Rite fold. Most often his status is traceable to financial difficult (which is today understandable) and not to any dissatisfaction on his part. Accordingly, each York Rite Body should be alert to prevent such occurrences if possible. Additionally, they should regularly review those inactive members to determine whether they have made a financial comeback and are able to afford to become dues paying members again. If it is determined that a former member is indeed financially secure, he should be contacted immediately so that no time is lost in signing an application for Restoration.

When a York Rite member takes a demit and withdraws, with his dues paid to date, there is likewise no reason to ignore the fact that he too may be ready, willing and able to come back to Templary someday. The Commandery must be alert to the reasons for the demit. There may have been financial difficulties, or it may have been dissatisfaction to some aspect of the York Rite Body. It is extremely important that the three Bodies reviews the rolls of its former members at least annually to determine whether anyone is ready, willing and able to petition for Active membership.

All over the country, the York Rite officers are suffering from a mistaken belief that when a Templar takes a demit or is suspended for Non-payment of dues he is forever lost from York Rite. It is time to open our eyes to the fact that financial status for some former members may have changed for the better and they would be anxious to come back. We should take the initiative and interview those prospects for Restoration and Affiliation. There is no good reason to feel that it is inappropriate to discuss matters of Restoration or Affiliation with any one of our former members. Our York Rite Bodies should look forward to the day when these former members may be restored or affiliated.

No one knows just how many of our lost members, possessing attractive personalities, keen minds, strong bodies and Christian spirits, could be restored or affiliated. If we would only light a candle of love and search for them. How many of our demitted and suspended former members might be led back into the fold by a kind word or deed? We must show that we care enough to seek them out.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if each YR Body, at least annually, would declare a period for seeking Restorations and Affiliations, and set as its goal at least FIVE RESTORED AND/OR AFFILIATED members. Do you realize that this could amount to hundreds added to our rolls in Florida, and thousands added to our national rolls. This in itself would be a cause for celebration. The rewards would be far-reaching in every asylum, for if we are able to do the work that we have been called to do, we must be concerned with the "lost".

Do “fresh ideas” relative to reinstatement programs ever become transformed into a working plan with a defined objective in your York Rite Body? Do you need some “fresh ideas”.

1. Each YR Body appoints a Companion and Sir Knight to handle this special project. Not the Membership Chairman.
2. The appointed members and the Recorder work together in a spirit of cooperation.
3. Compile a list of those members who have been suspended or have demitted from the Body in the past 2-12 months.
4. The Commandery, Chapter and Council must be willing to jointly consider amnesty to all former members before contacting them. (This would be easier in the Chapter and Council than in the Commandery).
5. If all the York Rite Bodies cooperate(item #4 above), then the chairman and an informed team of Companions and Sir Knights must make a PERSONAL CONTACT with him, preferably in person. (Telephone contact is the second choice).
6. If personal finances are the problem, ask him if he can pay the per capita only.
7. If he agrees to be reinstated, make him feel welcome, and keep in contact with him.

So what’s the point on Restoration Ideas? Avoid knocking your head against the wall on restoration strategies. We are willing to compromise. Try something new. Perhaps a new “personal” approach will yield better results.

Finally, we are quickly approaching our Fall Festivals. There is still time to receive petitions for membership. Go to the Blue Lodges and speak to existing Masons about “further light” and great newly raised Masons with information about what we are all about.

We are have had a great year in 2014 with 204 new Knightings. Let us continue the good works, and in the next three months, our membership should swell. We must, however, keep our NPD’s as low as possible. Bring them back and put them to work.

With new leadership coming in May, the Fall dates may change, but the tentative dates for the Fall are needed to set the schedule. Please send the dates soon as possible.

West Palm Beach	9	Cocoa	
Fort Lauderdale	12	Melbourne	
Miami	6	Fort Pierce	6
Florida Keys		Jacksonville	1
Sarasota/Venice/Trinity		Fernandina	1
Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	1	St Augustine	
Everglades		Palatka	2
		Lake City	
Tampa (Ivanhoe)	1	Lawtey	
St Petersburg (Sunshine)	1	Gainesville	1
Clearwater (Springtime)	3	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	9
Orlando	4		

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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 72 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 (1), Clearwater (3), Manatee/Trinity (1), St Petersburg (1), Sarasoto/Trinity(1)	7
	3 & 10 October		
4	7 & 21March	Plant City	
5	13-14 Mar 13 Sep (Sanford), 14 Sep	Orlando (Eola) (4), Sanford (3), Lake Sumter (3) Eola	10
6	2-3 October	Melbourne	
7	28 March	Jacksonville(1), Palatka(1),Fernandina(1)	3
8	7, 17, 27-28 February	Gainesville (1), Palatka (1)	2
9	12-13 February	Tallahassee (3), Mariana (1)	4
10	11 April	Pensacola	9
	5 & 19 Sep		

	6-7 March	STATEWIDE CLASS, BOX RANCH- Ft Pierce (6), Miami (6), Fort Lauderdale (12), Sanford (2), W Palm Beach (9), Sebring (3)	38
TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS			204
TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS			72

Additionally: the following have completed the Chapter/Council only:

Tampa (1)	Pensacola (2)
Clearwater (1)	Fernandina (Chapter only)
Tallahassee (2)	Miami (1)

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