



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting

Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida

15 June 2015



Ideas for Commandery Reinstatement

Companions and Sir Knights,

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

Ideas for Reinstatement.

1. Each York Rite Body should appoint a Companion or Sir Knight to handle this special project. Not the Membership Chairman.
2. The appointed Companion and/or Sir Knight should work with the Secretary/Recorder in a spirit of cooperation.
3. Compile a list of those members who have been suspended or have demitted from the York Rite Body in the past 2-15 years.
4. The Chapter, Council and Commandery must be willing to jointly consider granting amnesty to all former members before contacting them.
5. If all the York Rite Bodies cooperate (Item #4 above), the Chairman and an informed team of Companions and Sir Knights must make a **personal** contact with him, preferably in person, (Telephone contact is a second choice.)
6. If personal finances are the problem, ascertain 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.

Companions and Sir Knights, avoid knocking your head against the same brick wall on restoration strategies. Be willing to compromise and change. Try something new. Perhaps a new “personal” approach will yield better results.

In addition to restoring Companions and Sir Knights, we must also consider our own membership development. Each of our Commanderies brought in at least one (1) new member last year, however, 2015 is a new year. As you see below, the first half of our Membership Year (2015), twelve (12) commanderies failed to knight any new members. I would like to quote a section of the Grand Encampment Constitution related to the recruitment of new knights:

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

Section 176: “A Commandery that fails to hold a Conclave for twelve consecutive months or to knight a single candidate within such period, shall be placed on probation for the period of one year, and if thereafter it fails to hold a Conclave for the next twelve consecutive months or to knight a single candidate within such period its Charter may be arrested. (1967, p. 84-86)”

Decision by the Grand Master:

“Probation is used in Sections 48 and 178 as amended in 1967, is hereby defined in the broad sense intended, to include whatever requirements of probations the Grand Commander may deem necessary to be imposed in order to remedy whatever violation of Templar laws may have been committed by the Commandery, included but not limited to failure to hold a Conclave or to receive a single new member by knighting during the twelve consecutive months.

It seems reasonable to assume that the Commandery under Probation would be under close supervision of the Grand Commander or his personal representative, that the probation being imposed by reason of certain faults would terminate when these faults are corrected and that the purpose and terms of probation will always be of constructive nature.

Finally, it should be understood that the Grand Commandery in Conclave having the right to revoke a Charter, has also the right to prescribe probationary terms before taking such final action. (1970, p.142 & 533, No. 3, 1988 digest -278)”

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 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 installed 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	2*
Fort Lauderdale	12	Melbourne	
Miami	6	Fort Pierce	6
Florida Keys		Jacksonville	1
Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	1	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		

*Cocoa, 1 affiliated, 1 Knighted in 2013

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 Mar	See Below	
	17 Oct (Orders)	Miami	
2		Fort Myers	
3	7 & 14 Mar	Tampa (1), Clearwater (3), Manatee/Trinity (1), St Petersburg (1), Sarasoto/Trinity(1)	7
	3 & 10 Oct		
4	7 & 21 Mar	Plant City	
	No date scheduled		
5	13-14 Mar	Orlando (Eola) (4), Sanford (3), Lake Sumter (3)	10
	12 Sep (Sanford), 19 Sep	Eola	
6	2-3 Oct	Melbourne	
	26-27 Aug, 19 Sep	Cocoa, Eola	
7	28 Mar	Jacksonville(1), Palatka(1),Fernandina(1)	3
8	7, 17, 27-28 February	Gainesville (1), Palatka (1)	2
	7, 11, 21, 31 Jul, 1 Aug	Gainesville	
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
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TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS			204
TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS			72

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

Tampa (1)

Clearwater (1)

Tallahassee (2)

Miami (1)

Pensacola (2)

Fernandina (Chapter only)

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, 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*