



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 July 2015



The Necessity of Action to Strengthen Reinstatement York Rite Manpower

Companions and Sir Knights,

No York Rite Body can rest on its laurels or past accomplishments. We are living in a different era that demands modern techniques. **Unless a York Rite Body is alert and anxious to succeed. It will not attract new members.**

The purpose of this newsletter is to suggest a definite plan:

- a. Recruit Christian Masons to become Knights Templar
- b. Re-activate the interest of our present members, and
- c. Restore and reinstate former members

No institution in all Christendom has any more vital mission than our loyal cadre of Knights Templar, Founded upon the Christian religion and the practices of Christian virtues, Templary should attract all Christian Masons to join our ranks. Too often York Rite members take for granted that we do very little to attract new members or hold the interest of present members. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is imperative that every York Rite member takes a personal responsibility for growth and retention. We have a place for Masons and their best interest lie with us.

The invitation to Blue Lodge Masons should come from York Rite Masons. Ye should not be smug or stand idly by and assume that Blue Lodge Masons will storm our doors to join, simply because our cause is noble, even though we have something they need. We should be the ones to initiate to selective process, by extending an individual invitation to each Mason. If he becomes sufficiently interested, he will find a way to accomplish it.

The objectives of York Rite Masonry are the same as they have always been, but times have changed. Our whole approach to the problem of membership must be reviewed to keep abreast of the times. Old clichés such as “we have always done it that way” must yield to up-to-date methods of the 21st Century in which we live. Our whole scheme of life has changed, and we must adapt ourselves to the fast-paced age in which we live. We need not sacrifice any of our principles, but we do need to alter our methods if we would attract new recruits and grow.

This necessitates a sense of urgency and a realistic approach to the whole manpower problem. In these times of boundless choice and world-class quality products and services, men need to be continuously “sold” on the most essential things in life in life, and York Rite is no exception. We need to create new ways to win men to our banner. We need not become undignified; we do need to adopt an “approach” that will get successful results. In short, it is vital that we modernize our thinking in recruiting members for York Rite. It is also absolutely necessary that we readjust our attitude with respect to holding the interest of our present members.

There is no substitute for all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SEC 35, MEMBERSHIP: The members of a Grand Commandery are and shall be:

- (a) The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each of its Constituent Commanderies.**
- (b) Each Past Commander of its Constituent Commanderies.**
- (c) All Past Commanders from other Jurisdictions who have become of Constituent Commanderies of such Grand Commandery and have been elected to membership by the Grand Commandery.**

In all above listed cases, such persons shall only be members while they remain members, currently affiliated, of a Constituent Commandery in the Grand Commandery. Residence inside or outside the jurisdiction has no effect on membership.

In addition, the members include all Knights Templar who have been elected as honorary members. To become or remain an honorary member one must not be a member of a Constituent Commandery under the Grand Commandery, but is a member of a Commandery or Priory under the governance of the Grand Encampment or a Great Priory in amity with the Grand Encampment. Honorary members do not have the right to vote or hold office.

A Grand Commandery has no power to change, enlarge or restrict membership as defined by the laws of the Grand Encampment. (2012)

Decision by the Grand Master:

A Past Commander of a Commandery of a Grand Jurisdiction moving to another Grand Jurisdiction and affiliating with a Constituent Commandery located therein retains his rank as a Past Commander regardless of whether he becomes a member of the Grand Commandery or not. (1919, pp 288-289, No.1, Smith 1988 digest -259 & 294)

The Eminent Commander of a Constituent Commandery merged with another Commandery is entitled to the rank of Past Commander though he did not complete a full term of service. (1937, p 37 & 337. No 21, Agnew, 1988 digest -293)

The Grand Commander has no authority to grant a Dispensation to a Constituent Commandery authorizing it to elect a Sir Knight to the honor of Past Commander that has not served in the office. To become a Past Commander the Sir Knight must serve through the end of the term. The resignation of the Commander followed by the election and installation of a successor who then resigns to be replaced by the original commander does not give the intermediate Commander past rank. (1946, p 87 & 242, Orr, 1988 digest 99 & 299)

“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	
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

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	
	3 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
	14-17 Oct	Jacksonville	
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 2015	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)	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, 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