



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 February 2016

A Recommended Grand Commandery Membership Committee

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we begin our new period of growth within the Florida Grand York Rite, I look forward to having the best year ever. This goal is achievable if the Officers of each York Rite Body begin to plan now for developing interest in what we do and what we stand for. We cannot achieve this goal if members in all three Bodies do not participate. Yes, many Officers and Sir Knights possess good leadership and planning skills to methodically organize and coordinate the conferral of our Degrees and Orders on single and multiple candidates. What can we learn from them, and how do they effectively organize their activities.

1. A membership program shall become integril to the long range Plan of each Grand Commander or Constituent Commander.
2. All Commandery Officers should be appointed *ex-officio* members of their Commandery Membership Committee.
3. The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior and Junior Wardens are assigned specific functional responsibilities to assist the committee.

- * Grand Commander: Chairman of the Board
 - * Key enabler - empowers the team
 - * Key enforces - holds the team accountable
- * Deputy Grand Commander- is responsible for **Enthusiasm/Recognition/Accounting/Reporting**
 - * Motivation
 - * Positive attitude
 - * Commitment
 - * Awards/Trophies/Banners
- * Generalissimo: is responsible for:
Retention/NPD's/Amnesty/ Assimilation of New Members
 - * New member packet
 - * Attendance incentives
 - * Participation, personal interest and engagement
 - * Drill Corps
 - * Fellowship - Communicate your own enthusiasm

- * Captain General- is responsible for;
 - Training and Workshops**
 - * Leadership
 - * Continuity
 - * Ritual/Tactics
 - * Retention and recruiting techniques
- * Senior Warden; is responsible for;
 - Publicity/Lectures/ and Presentations**
 - * Communications
 - * Education
 - * Philanthropies
 - * Videos
 - * Leverage local media
- * Junior Warden; is responsible for;
 - Recruiting/Acquisition, Restorations and Affiliations**
 - * Networking internally and externally
 - * Honor Guards
 - * Pride Committee

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

DIST	LOCATION	#	DIST	LOCATION	#
1	West Palm Beach		6	Cocoa	
	Fort Lauderdale			Melbourne	
	Miami			Fort Pierce	
	Florida Keys		7	Jacksonville	
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity			Duval	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Everglades			St. Augustine	
	Fort Myers		Palatka		
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)		8	Lake City	3
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Lawtey	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Gainesville	
4	Lakeland			Inverness (Ocala)	
	Plant City		9	Tallahassee	7
	Sebring (Highlands)			Marianna	4
5	Daytona (Halifax)			Panama City	1
	Lake Sumter		10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Sanford			Crestview	
	Orlando			Pensacola	

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 71. THE COMMANDER; It is the duty of the Commander:

(a) Of a Constituent Commandery, to see that the Officers and Members of his Commandery duly observe the BY-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Commandery, the Constitution, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

(b) Of Subordinate Commanderies, to see that the Officers and Members of his Commandery duly observe the By-Laws, Rules, Regulations of the Commandery, and the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER

The Commander may delegate officers and members to confer Orders under his supervision. (1919, p.55 & 299 No 21 Smith, 1988 digest - 52 and 253)

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, No. 15, Orr, 1988 digest 99 & 299)

NEW ITEM: As an incentive to recruit new members, and as a way to honor all those who will be knighted during the Bicentennial year, the Grand Encampment will issue a new Bicentennial Order of Malta jewel to be sent to each new member knight (free of charge) between 15 August 2015 and 31 December 2016. This jewel will be issued with a membership card as soon as the knight is entered into YRIS. A duplicate jewel (slightly different) may be purchased by other knights from SK Henry Adams.

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 are beginning our new year. Last year, we also have 5 York Rite Bodies that have brought in *zero* (0) members in the last year. If there is no interest in helping your York Rite Body grow, how do you expect to survive? LET US NOW BEGIN OUR PLANNING FOR OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP YEAR. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR ANTICIPATED DATE FOR 2016.

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			
2			
3	5&12 Mar	Tampa	
4	6&27 Feb, 2 Apr	Lakeland	
5	12&19 Mar	Eola	
6	27 Jan, 12 Feb	Brevard (Degrees 1-3)	
	1&2 Apr	West Palm Beach	
7			
8	16&20 Feb, 1&11-12 Mar	Gainesville	
9	23 Jan, 6 Feb	Tallahassee(7) Lake City(3), Mariana(4), Panama City(1)	15
10	26 Mar, 9 Apr	Pensacola	
	3 Sep, 17 Sep	Pensacola	
TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS			134
TOTAL 2016 KNIGHTINGS			15

Crestview (1) Chapter/Council
Miami (5) Chapter/Council
Ft Lauderdale(3) Chapter/Council

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.

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HENRY A. ADAMS, KYGCH, KCT
Chairman, Grand York Rite Membership Program

ÆEvery 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 ÆNew Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg75-77, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006