



## RITE NOTES

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

### **Organized Planning Before Launching a Membership Campaign**

Companions and Sir Knights,

A membership campaign requires careful and exhaustive organized planning before being launched. An organization that rushes pell-mell into a membership campaign without prudent deliberation and a complete, detailed and well thought-out plan of action is apt to fail.

The first consideration of a membership campaign is to evaluate the situation, and adapt an overall plan - just like an architect would do before starting the erection of a building. The plan must run the gauntlet of hard analysis by members of the group with mature experience and skill in each local community you wish to reach. A York Rite Body should welcome suggested alterations of the proposed plan that would put to the test of practicality.

Such a plan needs to contemplate the selection of the right men for the job. It should also include the indoctrination of those Companions and Sir Knights whose loyalty, zeal and stature in the community give convincing evidence of their willingness and capacity to participate. The plan needs to be placed in the hands of men who will give it the necessary time and attention to follow through until it is successfully concluded.

Before it begins there must be intensive preparatory work and complete understanding between everyone having any part in the work. A few hours spent in careful planning at the outset will save untold hours of effort for the entire team. As is modern business, organized planning will spell the difference between success and failure.

Many excellent plans have failed because the process of implementation was not rock-solid. In order to consider a membership campaign successful, it must have the process of implementation well defined, measurable (to see that it is meeting the goal), and a high level of accountability.

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

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

**EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:**

**SECTION 79. SUCCESSION TO THE OFFICE OF COMMANDER:**

The Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred only upon candidates who possess the qualifications for membership fixed by the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. Such qualifications, when defined, shall not be changed by Grand Commanderies or Commanderies; provided, that any Grand Commandery may, by proper enactment and, by at least a two-thirds vote, require the Cryptic Degrees as prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood in its Constituent Commanderies. (1958, p. 313-319)

**DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:**

-Where the word "ballot" is used in Templar law it means a secret ballot; when the language of the statute is by "vote", a show of hands is the proper procedure. (1937, p. 39 & 339 No. 23 Agnew, 1988 Digest- 30 & 407)

-A Subordinate Commandery cannot make Council degrees a prerequisite to membership in a Commandery as no such privilege was granted to Subordinate Commanderies by the Grand Encampment. (1961, p. 41, No. 7 Weber, 1988 Digest- 85)

-If the Council prerequisite did not apply to the Knight Templar when he petitioned for the Orders, it can never be applied to him individually, and no resolution can be adopted under the authority of Section 79 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, which would apply such prerequisite to a Knight Templar retroactively. Since Council membership cannot be required of this Knight Templar, neither can it be required that he continue to be an active member of a Council of Royal and Select Masters if he becomes a member after becoming a Knight Templar.

If Council membership was prerequisite to Knight Templar membership in the individual case, good standing in the Council as well as in the Lodge and Chapter must support Templar membership. (1970, p. 142 & 543, No. 9, Crofts, 1988 Digest-87)

**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).**

**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	1-2 April	WPB(4),Mia(4)Ft P. (1) Ft Laud.(4)	13
2			
3	5&12 Mar	Tampa(2)	2
4	6&27 Feb, 2 Apr	Lakeland(2), Plant City(3), Sebring(2)	7
5	12&19 Mar	Eola( 4 ), Melb.(1), Brevard (4),	9
6	27 Jan, 12 Feb	Brevard (Degrees 1-3)	
	1&2 Apr	West Palm Beach	
7		Jacksonville	4
8	16&20 Feb, 1&11-12 Mar	Gainesville	1
9	23 Jan, 6 Feb	Tallahassee(7) Lake City(3), Mariana(4), Panama City(1)Crestview(1)	16
10	26 Mar, 9 Apr	Pensacola(3),Crestview(4) Ft Walton(1)	8
	3 Sep, 17 Sep	Pensacola	

TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS	134
TOTAL 2016 KNIGHTINGS	60

**Crestview (1) Chapter/Council**      **Lakeland (1), Chapter/Council**  
**Miami (6) Chapter/Council**      **Manatee/Bradenton(1), Chap/Council**  
**Ft Lauderdale(3) Chapter/Council**      **Pensacola (1), Chap/Council**  
**Sebring(1) Chapter/Council**      **Beach (1) Chap/Council**  
**Eola (1) 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, KYGCH, KCT**

**Chairman, Grand York Rite Membership Program**

**AEvery 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 ANew 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

Hm Ph: 321 726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

E-mail: hadams1@aol.com