



RITE NOTES

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

First Contact Letter to Newly Raised Masons

Companions and Sir Knights,

A couple years ago, I sent the following letter written below, to you, in the hopes that you would put it on your own letterhead and give the letter to all Newly Raised Masons. You could also include: a petition and a copy of the book “York Rite of Freemasonry”. This can easily be revised to meet your needs and the needs of your York Rite Bodies. We are all in this together. If we do not get the new members into the Chapter and Council, then the Commandery can’t exist. Please consider utilizing this letter or a similar letter to personally hand to newly raised Masons. Your YRB should have a Lodge Representative that can make the presentation and answer any questions.

Dear Brother,

I congratulate you on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason! Masonry, as you know it, is full of rich teachings and enigmatic symbolism. It is nearly impossible to receive and understand it all. I encourage you to attend lodge and witness every degree as often as you can, to better your understanding of what Masonry is about. Each and every time you attend, you will pick up something “new”. The teachings and symbolism we call “Truth” or “Light” is the beginning of your education. A wise man will always have a desire for the “light”, as you did when you became an Entered Apprentice, then more “Light” as a Fellowcraft, and the further Light as a Master Mason.

In the Blue Lodge, the ancient secrets and basic moral principles are only partly revealed. Even when the Master Mason Degree is completed, you are left with only a substitute “word”. The plan for the solution of your fraternal and spiritual problems will continue as you progress. Remember, *“Behold the Temple is not yet completed”* and later the Master’s Word is lost and a substitute is given *“until future generations shall find out the right”*. This means that there must be further “Light” and it is my duty to inform you, there is! Join the York Rite Body today and discover continuing “Light”.

From 1717, it was almost a century before the various groups in England were consolidated and the powers and prerogatives of the Grand Lodge were acknowledged and accepted. Still, the tradition that Masonry existed “From Time Immemorial” persisted. Changes and innovations were vigorously resisted. After years of negotiations and the testing of innumerable degrees that

clamored for Masonic approval, the Masons of England formed the United Grand Lodge of England on December 27, 1813. The United Grand Lodge of England definitely defined the elements of Ancient Craft Masonry and the General Laws and Regulations as “Pure Ancient Masonry”. Thus, consisting of three degrees and no more: Entered Apprentice; the Fellowcraft and the Master Mason (including the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch). The York Rite degrees are completed with the Knights Templar.

At that time only Past Masters of Blue Lodges were qualified to receive the Royal Arch Degree. It was then deemed that the Royal Arch degree was so important to Master Masons, who having received the Mark Master Degree, were then able to become (Honorary) Past Masters. Thus making them eligible to witness completion and dedication of King Solomon’s Temple and receive the “long lost Masters Word” in the Royal Arch Degree. The Royal Arch Chapters confer the Mark Master, Past Master and the Most Excellent Master Degrees.

The Royal Master and Select Master Degree in the Council are expressed beautifully and tell why the “Word” was lost and the secret of its preservation is needed and able to be recovered.

The Commandery of Knights Templar offers the Chivalic Orders of Christian Knighthood through the Order of the Red Cross, Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. These Orders as they are called, are most impressive and explain the Christian interpretation of Freemasonry. Discover for yourself, “Why every Christian Mason should be a Knights Templar”.

The York Rite provides, that further “Light” through the most beautiful Degrees and Orders of all Freemasonry be given by Royal Arch Chapters together with Council of Royal and Select Masters and Commanderies of Knights Templar.

You or any Master Mason, are entitled to petition a new member. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and welcome you as a Brother to our Fraternity. Please contact me at

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

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

New Membership by District 2016:

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 80 QUALIFICATIONS NOT TO BE CHANGED

Except as provided in Section 23 (j) 2, Petitions for Orders or for membership shall be acted upon at Stated Conclaves only. No petition may be balloted on in less than two weeks from presentation to the Commandery, provided that the Grand Master in case of Subordinate Commandery, and the Grand Commandery in case of a Constituent Commandery, may by dispensation authorize the presentation of and ballot upon such Petition at the Conclave, after such notice as he may deem proper. (1952, p 570-571)

A Grand Commandery may provide a by-law that the Petitions for the Orders or for membership may be received and balloted on at the Stated or Special Conclave at which such Petition or Petitions are read in the Commandery, without Dispensation from the Grand Commander. (1964, p. 259-265 &271)(1970, p. 195-196)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

Sections (46 (f) 2) and 80 specifically provide that notice be given of balloting on petitions at the same Conclave and at all Special Conclaves. This form and content of the notice to be given is not prescribed by statute, but these matters are at the discretion of the authority granting the Dispensation. It is better practice for the Dispensation to name the petitioners to be balloted upon, but the notice of the Conclave need not contain their names unless the Dispensation so directs. (1961, p.42, No.10 Weber, 1988 digest - 34)

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 will not receive the Knight Templar Magazine.

First line signers should be included on all new companions on the monthly report, in the 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.

New Membership by York Rite Body 2016

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	1-2 April	WPB(4), Mia(4), Ft Pierce(1), Ft Lauderdale(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(3), Melbourne(1), Brevard(5),	9
6	27 Jan, 12 Feb	Brevard (Degrees 1-3)	
	1&2 Apr	West Palm Beach	
7		Jacksonville(4)	4
8	16&20 Feb, 1&11-12 Mar	Gainesville(1)	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) Chap/Council
Miami (6) Chap/Council
Ft Lauderdale(3) Chap/Council
Sebring(1) Chap/Council
Eola (1) Chap only**

**Lakeland (1), Chap/Council
Manatee/Bradenton(1), Chap/Council
Pensacola (1), Chap/Council
Beach (1) Chap/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.

Henry A Adams

**HENRY A. ADAMS, PGC, 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, Baderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, also A New 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