



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 June 2016

A Commander's Checklist for Success

Companions and Sir Knights,

I Successful leaders experience goal attainment for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they have challenged and elevated their Officer team thinking and prepared a plan that emphasizes effectiveness more than efficiency. The following ideas, if implemented will help each Commander, High Priest and Ill. Master, ensure that his plan will increase in effectiveness.

Have you considered any of these things?

1. Send a letter on your Commandery stationery to each Officer expressing your support for the membership Crusade, and enlist his support. Tell him you are proud of him. Add a bit of urgency to your request.
2. During your next Officers Meeting secure a commitment from each of your elected and appointed Officers to get at least one petition. This sets a good example for other members. Encourage them to do the same. It also displays commitment to a common purpose among the leadership.
3. Write regular personal endorsements of the Crusade in your monthly newsletter. Request the chapter and council leaders do the same.
4. Consider establishing a unique Award for the Crusade, i.e., Most Knightings in your own Home Commandery, Highest Membership Gain, Most Restorations, etc. Offer special incentives, like free meals for two. Be creative.
5. Get more Committees involved! Review your Committee list, and get some inactive committees active. This spreads the leadership around and offers a chance for other Officers to show what they are made of.
6. Consider writing a letter to all of your Past Commanders. Share your plans with them, and enlist their support, and participation. They will assist you.

7. Meet regularly with your Chapter and Council leadership. Working together within the “Family of Masonry” increases cooperation exponentially.

8. Call or meet with the Deputy or Actives of the Scottish Rite, and seek their support. They might be willing to support a direct mail campaign for the Crusade, and encourage “Non-York Rite” Scottish Rite Masons to join. Perhaps you could arrange a York Rite conferral at their next Convocation in their auditorium?

9. Call or meet with the leadership of the Shrine Temples in your state. Request consideration for a joint “Cold Sands” event with your York Rite Crusade Festivals. Request the Shrine help to sell the benefits of York Rite just as the York Rite should sell the benefits of Shrine membership.

10. Consider a York Rite Festival to honor the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Perhaps his junior Officers would join too if they were Non-York Rite Masons.

11. Assign each of your elected and appointed Officers of the Commandery, to become a Crusade Speakers Bureau”. Request that they arrange invitations to Blue Lodges to present “York Rite Overview Programs” to promote our Christian Masonry heritage. Suggest three programs per month each.

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 136: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Each Grand Commandery may determine whether nominations may be made at elections of its Officers and at elections of Officers of its Constituent Commanderies.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

If the Grand Commandery regulations or laws prohibit nominations from the floor for officers of the Grand Commandery, the Grand Commander can prevent nominations from being made from the floor; but in the absence of such law prohibiting such nominations, nominations from the floor are permissible, and a member of the Grand Commandery has the right to request the privilege of the floor to make such nomination. (1961, p. 51, No. 25, Wieber, 1988 digest-130)

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), Miami(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	

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
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	Lakeland	(1) Chap/Council
Miami	(6) Chap/Council	Manatee/Bradenton	(1) Chap/Council
Ft Lauderdale	(3) Chap/Council	Pensacola	(1) Chap/Council
Sebring	(1) Chap/Council	Beach	(1) Chap/Council
Eola	(1) Chap 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.

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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, Beaderstadt, 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

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