



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

Selecting A Membership Team is Vital to Success

Companions and Sir Knights,

The Chairman should possess executive and salesmanship ability and have such standing amongst his peers that he can lead the membership team to success. It should be considered a position of honor to serve as Chairman and he should be willing to give sufficient time to do a good job. His selection as well as his acceptance should be based upon this single question: Can he lead us to success in this membership campaign?

1. The Commander should make this selection of the Chairman of the membership campaign only after conferring with his officers and past commanders, and it must have **Top Priority**. The Chairman should be the best equipped man in the whole Commandery for such a job, without reference to Commandery rank, attendance or any other consideration.
2. If his Campaign is large in scale, the Chairman should be authorized to appoint other members to the Campaign to assist him. These Sir Knights should have a sense of drive and dedication to the cause.
3. Next, the selection of those who are to participate as team members. A small team is often more effective than one which is too large.
4. Every Officer and Past Commander should be willing to make themselves available for appointment to any place on the membership team.
5. If a drill corps exists in the Commandery, its members are usually well equipped to serve, and should be considered along with every other member of the Commandery.
6. There should be complete cooperation with other Masonic Bodies, especially Blue Lodges. Regular planned and scheduled visits should be made to each of the Blue Lodges in the District. We must remember that this is where our candidates come from. We should not forget the Scottish Rite and the Shrine, since their membership committees can work hand-in-hand with us on a reciprocal relationship.
7. Before a Campaign begins, a membership team should make a careful survey of every qualified Christian Mason in the community, so that they might become a candidate for the Chapter, Council degrees or the Orders of Knighthood. Any helpful information about each prospect will assist those who call upon him. This prospect information should be continually updated to be part of a permanent membership solicitation record to be used by succeeding membership committees.
8. The campaign member in charge of a Blue Lodge should always obtain the names of Master Masons as they are raised, either by being in attendance himself or delegating another to be present.

In my travels to various Commanderies around the state, I find that by advertising the degree festivals outside of our district it becomes easier for a candidate to receive the degrees. We cannot hope to build our membership if we cannot provide weekend degree programs within a reasonable time period and distance. One or two Sir Knights should visit the other Commanderies within your District and discuss ways in which this can be accomplished. Each Commandery should provide the teams for two or three different degrees. If this cannot be accomplished within the district, pursue an neighboring district, until all degrees are filled. No candidate should have to drive 100 miles to attend the degrees. This is how we lose candidates. Finally, a set date and location each year should be established well in advance so candidates can properly plan. If Scottish Rite and the Shrine can do it, and they are successful, we should also.

**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	4
4	Lakeland	2		Inverness (Ocala)	1
	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 137: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

When nominations are permitted and more than one name is in nomination, the election shall be by ballot; if only one name is in nomination, the election may be by acclamation.

SECTION 139: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Any member in good standing is eligible to election to any office in the Commandery.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

An un-naturalized foreigner may be elected Commander. (1913, p. 49, No. 12, Melish, 1988 digest – 128)

Permanent removal from the jurisdiction does not affect a member's eligibility for Grand Commander office so long as he is a member of a constituent Commandery of that jurisdiction and otherwise qualified. (1913, p. 51-52, No. 14, Melish, 1988 digest - 314)

According to Templar law a Sir Knight in good standing is eligible to be elected from the floor for any office of the Commandery, but before he can be considered a Past Commander he would have to serve his full of office as Commander. He could not be elected, resign and then be considered a past Commander, whose rank gives him permanent membership in the Grand Commandery. (1961, p. 48, No. 17, Wieber, 1988 Digest – 308)

If the Grand Commandery Regulation 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 nominations. (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

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
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 1 & 2 Apr	Brevard (Degrees 1-3) West Palm Beach	
7		Jacksonville(4)	4
8	16 & 20 Feb, 1 & 11-12 Mar 6 Aug	Gainesville(1) Gainesville (3), Ocala (1)	1 4
9	23 Jan, 6 Feb	Tallahassee(7), Lake City(3), Mariana(4), Panama City(1), Crestview(1)	16
10	26 Mar, 9 Apr 3 Sep, 17 Sep	Pensacola(3), Crestview(4), Ft Walton(1) Pensacola	8
TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS			134
TOTAL 2016 KNIGHTINGS			64

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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