



## **RITE NOTES**

Membership and Recruiting  
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida  
15 April 2017

No Mason can fully appreciate the depth of the work of Masonry until he has participated in the work of the Orders of Knighthood! No seeker of truth will ever be able to experience anything more impressive and inspiring than the Orders of the temple. Every Christian Mason owes it to himself to put the *ACap Stone@* over his York Rite Masonry.

### **Ten Reasons Why You Should Be A Knight Templar**

1. The Commandery offers you a grand opportunity to improve in every walk of life through the study and work in the progressively expanding light of pure Freemasonry.
2. It is the mightiest non-theological Christian organization in the world. It stands for the noblest principles in individual life and the highest standards of good government.
3. It is founded and draws its inspiration from the Christian Religion and the faithful practice of Christian Virtues.
4. As a vigorous Christian command, we wage war unceasingly in the defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian Religion.
5. It teaches and assists you to *Alet your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven@.*
6. Its work presents an advance and liberal education to all mankind designed to bring forth their finest character and works to be shared without limit with one another.
7. It gives you the richest of fraternal fellowship, peaceful freedom of mind and a deep understanding of character enabling you to live in harmony with God and with benefit of your Country.
8. It bases all its teachings upon the fundamental truth, thereby adding greatly to your understanding of the symbolic significance of the first three degrees of Freemasonry.
9. In mastering the exalted lessons of Knights Templar you learn by taking a full active part in the beautiful work of each Order of Knighthood. Templary has no special class for the portrayal of its truths.
10. Templary extends to you the privilege of sharing its priceless heritage from the past as Defenders of the Faith and ennobles your life through participation with the Sir Knights in the work of Freemasonry=s greatest Order

### **A Brief History of the Knights Templar**

The fraternity of Free and Accepted is the largest, oldest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. Thousands of books have been written about it. Yet, to most people of the world, the Masonic Fraternity remains a mystery. The term *AKnights Templar@* describes the members of the Commandery, which exists as the final stage in the York Rite of Freemasonry. The first three degrees of Freemasonry are a basic requirement for joining York Rite.

Modern day Knights Templar trace their origins to the medieval time of 1118 AD, when they were called *APoor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon.@* These ancient Templars were a military and religious order founded in Jerusalem during the Crusades. The founders were Hugh de Payens and Geoffrey de saint-Omer, knights who established a religious community to protect pilgrims in the Holy land. Baldwin II, Latin King of Jerusalem, gave them a dwelling on the ancient site of King Solomon=s Temple.

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux drew up the Order's rules, which included the notion of fighting the enemies of God under vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The Templars, segregated into knights, chaplains, sergeants, and craftsmen, were organized under a Grand Master and General Council and were responsible only to the pope and not to secular rulers. Wearing a white cloak with a Red Cross, they attracted many nobles and soon became an expert military force and a powerful and wealthy order. In Europe their churches were often round instead of rectangular, and their Commanderies served as banks. After 1291, when the crusading forces were driven from Palestine, the Templars' main activity became banking & the lending of money (even to kings) & their enormous landholdings and financial strength aroused great hostility among rulers and clergy alike.

Philip IV of France, sorely in need of money, charged the Templars with heresy and immorality in 1307. The Templars were arrested and put on trial, and confessions were extracted only by torture. Similar attacks were mounted against the order in Spain and England by papal bull at the Council of Vienne in 1312. When Grand Master, Jockes de Molay, and other leaders of the Templars retracted their forced confessions and declared their innocence and the innocence of the order, Philip had them burned at the stake in Paris on March 18, 1314.

The Templars' holdings were dispersed, some going to the Knights Hospitalers and some to secular rulers, although Philip received none. The guilt of the Templars was hotly debated down to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most modern scholars, however, believe that the charges against them were fabricated.

In modern times, the warlike spirit of the Order has passed away; replaced by a spirit of refined moral chivalry, which prompts all of its members to be ever ready to defend the weak, the innocent, the helpless and the oppressed. In a brother's cause we are to do all that may be demanded by manhood and fraternity. These convictions become a reality by the charitable deeds resulting from the Knights Templar Eye and Educational Foundations and the Holy Land Pilgrimage

**We cannot wish away our declining membership; we must be individually accountable for growing our business. Don't wait for someone else to do what you can do now.**

**New Membership by York Rite Body 2017:**

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

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In my travels to various Commanderies throughout the South East, 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 a 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.**

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	Slow class		
2			
3	4-11 Mar	Tampa: Plant City(4), Ft Myers(3), St Pete(4), Trinity(3)	14
4			
5	11 & 18 Mar	Eola (Orlando) (6), Lake Sumter(4), Daytona(2) Sanford(1) Slow Class	
6	3-4 Mar 17	Box Ranch: Melb(2), Cocoa(2), WPB(2), Ft Pierce(6), Miami(5), Ft Laud(6), Ft Myers(5)	28
7	21-24 Mar 17	Jacksonville(6), St Augustine(1), Palatka(2)	9
8	7,11,21 Feb, 3-4 Mar	Gainesville (Cancelled)	
9	28 Jan, 5 or 11 Feb	Tallahassee (1), Panama City (1)	2
10	25 Mar, 8 Apr	Pensacola (3)	3
<b>TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS</b>			<b>69</b>
<b>TOTAL 2016 KNIGHTINGS (May 2015-May 2016)</b>			<b>85</b>

**EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:**

**SECTION 190(b) Membership**

Plural membership may be in any subordinate Commandery and any Constituent Commandery whose Grand Commandery laws so provide, in two Commanderies in the same jurisdiction if the laws of the Grand Commandery so provide, or in two Commanderies in separate jurisdictions if the laws of both Grand Commanderies so provide. (1964, p. 18 & 449)(1970, 193-195)(1991 Pages 106-109)

**DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:**

A Subordinate Commandery may accept as one of its members, a member of a Constitute Commandery without the permission of the Constitute Commandery. (1940, p. 65 & 288, No. 9, Norris)

A member of Shangha Commandery 1 (a Subordinate Commandery) was not prohibited from duel membership in a Commandery at Bombay chartered by the Great Priory of England and Wales. The oath of the Bombay Commandery was not in conflict with his obligations as a member of Shanghi Commandery. (1952, p.78 & 231, No. 13, Gaylord, 1988 digest - 115)

When a member holding duel membership loses the same in one Commandery, he loses it in both, and the Grand Recorder of one Jurisdiction where the sentence was imposed should notify the Grand Recorder of the other jurisdiction of the results of the trial. Provided he may demit from one Commandery without affecting his membership in the other Commandery. (1967, p. 154, No. 14 part 4, Brucker, 1988 digest - 119)

A member of a Subordinate Commandery, wishing to join a Commandery in the States, although his residence will remain where the Subordinate Commandery is located, is entitled to a Demit if he is not in arrears in dues and if no charges are pending against him. There is no residence requirement as to petition for affiliation and no waiver of jurisdiction is required. (1961, p. 45, No.13, Wieber, 1988 digest - 93 & 321)

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.

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**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.**

Fraternally,

*Henry A Adams*

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

**PS** As many of you know I was hacked a few weeks ago and lost my address book, including my newsletter emails. If you know of any that would like to be on the list, that was lost or interested in being added to the list, please have them email me and send their phone as I am rebuilding my phone also.

### **Every 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 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

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