



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 June 2017

Ideas For Membership

As we approach our Spring Degree festivals, let us look at ways that we can not only perform our different degrees in a manner in which the candidates will return to their Blue Lodges and speak to others about what their impressions and experiences were, but in a way that we may draw others into our way of thinking and our belief that York Rite is the way to continue our Masonic education.

Do Afresh ideas@ relative to membership programs ever become transformed into a working plan with a defined objective in our Commandery? Do you need some fresh ideas?

Ideas for membership; Never underestimate the value and power of the ordinary being implemented with extraordinary zeal and diligence.

1. Name a class in honor of a well-liked or influential local lodge member.
2. Perform at least one of the Degrees or Orders in special costumes that are not normally used.
3. Do one of the Degrees or Orders in a special or historical location.
4. Confer some of the work in a Temple that may not have a York Rite Body established there. Bring the mountain to Mohammed.
5. Everyone likes a dealBConsider reducing or eliminating the fee, or include one year dues free of charge.
6. Honor the Afirst line signers@ locally! Have a dinner for them or give them free dues for a year also.
7. Establish a joint one-day class with the Shrine, and work to establish new members for each organization.

8. Exchange mailing lists with a nearby Scottish Rite Valley, and work to establish new members for each organization.
9. Provide good speakers for Blue Lodges, but send someone not from the local area.
10. Provide a Knights Templar program for an Eastern Star Chapter dresses in Templar uniform. Let the ladies talk Templary to their husbands.
11. Establish purely social events for the Commandery. The list is endless of possible social functions. The point is to build camaraderie and the family of Templary without the *Abusiness@* of the Order directing the agenda. Dinners, picnics, going to a dinner theater etc. It=s all up to your imagination.

Companions and Sir Knights, the ideas are endless, but they must be put into practice.

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

New Membership by District for 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			Inverness (Ocala)	
	Plant City	4	9	Tallahassee	1
	Sebring (Highlands)			Marianna	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	2		10	Panama City
	Lake Sumter	4	Fort Walton Beach		
	Sanford	1	Crestview		
	Orlando	6	Pensacola		3

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 193 Affiliation in Lodge and Chapter Necessary Also Council if Required

Affiliation in Lodge and Chapter, and if required by the Grand Commandery of which the Commandery petitioned is constituent, also the Council is necessary to qualify a Petitioner for membership. (1958, p.5)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

A petitioner for the Orders was elected to and received the same on the assumption that he was a member in good standing in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Actually, at the time of his petition and election he had been demitted from his Royal Arch Chapter. After the receipt of the Orders it was voted to reinstate him in the Chapter, but the same apparently was not legally accomplished. Under this state of facts, the Grand Master held that the Companion was illegally Knighted and the defects in the Knighting never having been cured by healing, he never became a Knight Templar. (1925, p. 85 & 407 No. 28, Newby, 1988 digest - 41)
The withdrawal of recognition by one Grand Lodge of another Grand Lodge does not affect the standing of Master Masons insofar as their prerequisite for the Orders for Knighthood is concerned. (1949, p.81 & 216, No.9, Rice, 1988 digest - 255)
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.)
A Grand Commandery may enact legislation requiring membership in the Council of Royal and Select masters in addition to the requirement of affiliation in Lodge and Chapter to qualify a petitioner for the Orders of Knighthood. (1964, p. 82 & 255, No. 6, Moore, 1988 digest - 86)
Membership in a Chapter chartered by the Grand Chapter of England and Wales qualifies one to make application for membership in a Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment. (1967, p. 151, No. 7 Brucker, 1988 Digest - 43)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2017:

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: Melbourne(2), Cocoa(2), WPB(2), Ft Pierce(6), Miami(5), Ft Laud(6), Ft Myers(5)	28
	7 Oct	Ft Pierce (Chapter/Council)	
	13 Oct	Ft Pierce (Order of the Temple)	
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

TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS	69
TOTAL 2016 KNIGHTINGS (May 2015-May 2016)	85

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. 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**

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, Baderstadt, 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

Hm Ph: 321 726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

E-mail: hadams1@aol.com