



## **RITE NOTES**

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

# **A Guide to Membership Retention**

1. A Commander must have well planned and implemented programs for promoting attendance and participation in order to:
  - a. Retain its membership
  - b. Reinstate demitted and suspended members
  - c. Get new members
2. Well planned programs mean:
  - a. Planning and organizing
  - b. Leadership training - education
  - c. Motivation - Positive attitude
  - d. Unanimity - Working together
  - e. Implementation plans
  - f. Communication up and down
  - g. Review and follow-up
3. What do you want to do:

Plan and implement programs to promote attendance and participation in my Chapter, Council and Commandery
4. Now what:
  - a. Assemble Officers and Committeemen to plan and implement a process to promote attendance and participation
  - b. Do not take "NO" for an answer
  - c. Attendance by the Chapter, Council and Commandery Officers is mandatory
5. DO IT NOW!
  - a. Establish the enthusiasm, motivation and commitment
  - b. Select a convenient time and location
  - c. Prepare an agenda and assemble brochures, pamphlets, written instructions, teaching aids, etc.
  - d. Give adequate notice, in writing, to all attendees. Include a brief description of the purpose of the meeting, the agenda, curriculum and other pertinent materials
  - e. Require, in writing, a positive commitment from the designated attendees to attend the meeting and implement the process
6. Implement the process
  - a. Communicate the plan(s) to the York Rite Body, then execute
  - b. Measure your progress to determine if progress is being made
  - c. Constantly "check your pulse" - get feedback from your members

**New Membership by District for 2017:**

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

**EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:**

**SECTION 194 Continuous Affiliation**

If a member wishes to change his membership and be continuously affiliated, he may file his Petition with the Commandery in which he desires membership and with it a Certificate of Good Standing from the Recorder of his Commandery under the Seal there of showing that his dues have been paid three months in advance, and shall file a written application to his Commandery for a Demit. If he is elected to membership in the Commandery petitioned, the Recorder thereof shall immediately forward said Application for a Demit to the Commandery for which it is addresses, and where the Demit is received, it shall be filed with the Petition, and the Sir Knights name shall be entered as a member of the Commnadery petitioned as of even date with the Demit. If the Petitioner is rejected, the Certificate of Good Standing and Application shall be returned to him. (1916, p. 407)

**DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:**

A Commandery under dispensation may receive and ballot upon petitions for affiliation. (1913, p.40-41, p. 53-54, No. 5 & 16, Melish)

A Templar may move his membership from one Commandery to another in one of two ways. He may follow the procedures of Section 194 and remain continuously affiliated or he may request a demit, severing his affiliation, and present the demit in his petition for affiliation in a new Commandery. (1940, p.68 &344, No. 29, Norris)

A member of the Preceptory of Newfoundland may affiliate with a Commandery in Louisiana, on showing that he is in good standing in the prerequisite bodies. (1958, p. 231 & 267, No. 5, DeLamater 1988, Digest - 1)

## 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
<b>TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS</b>			<b>69</b>
<b>TOTAL 2016 KNIGHTINGS (May 2015-May 2016)</b>			<b>85</b>

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*

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**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, Beaderstadt, 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