



RITE NOTES

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

The Importance of Manpower in the Advancement of Templary

Companions and Sir Knights,

Our membership campaign has done well for the membership year 2017. As of now, we have knighted 69 new knights. A reminder that the Membership year for the Grand Commandery is 1 January to 31 December, while the membership for the Chapter and Council runs from Grand Session to Grand Session. This means that the Grand Chapter and grand Council can still count the new companions that will come in during the Spring festivals. Let us continue to work and have a great Spring Recruiting campaign. To bring to light some suggestions on the importance of membership and the importance of having all our Sir Knights and Companions participate in the campaign, let us review some suggestions. Even if we have not completed the festival season, it is not too early to begin organizing for the next. The Grand York Rite believes that manpower is our greatest asset. Membership and Retention are the key indices by which the progress of our Great Order is judged. A growing membership shows a healthy condition. It means that men are being attracted to becoming Companions and Knights Templar, and that our present members are anxious to retain their membership.

York Rite must have the strength that comes through increased manpower. As a blood transfusion injects new life into the body so does **Anew blood@** of York Rite recruits furnish new life to the Chapter, Council and Commandery. Their impact quickens the whole structure of the York Rite. Securing candidates who are ready, willing and able to take an active part in the ranks in our Order is vital to our continued viability.

The Grand York Rite fully realizes that membership growth is a **Agrass roots@** problem of superlative importance which must succeed at the local level, and with all the assistance that can be given by the Grand York Rite leadership. With this in mind, the Grand York Rite has taken two important steps in this direction:

1. The Grand Commander, Grand High Priest and Grand Illustrious Master has requested each Local Body, to appoint a membership committee. They have urged all concerned to stress the matter of recruiting and retention of our members at every opportunity. There are still a number of York Rite Bodies who have not complied, however, without a committee and a viable program it makes it more difficult to recruit new members.

2. The Grand York Rite has utilized a brochure published by the Grand Chapter, describing York Rite Masonry and Knights Templar. Participating in a strong cooperative effort with other York Rite Bodies to stimulate membership growth is highly recommended.

We all recognize membership growth and retention is the real life and purpose of Masonic Bodies. If we are to continue the good works of Christian Masonry, it must be up to every individual to accept the challenge. Never underestimate the value and power of the ordinary being implemented with extraordinary zeal and diligence.

As we see, many York Rite Bodies are doing very well in their efforts and some are not doing well at all. The goal of the Grand Commander is an increase of 250, of the Grand High Priest is 10% of our membership or 400. These numbers can be reached if you attend you Blue Lodge meetings and if you seek our worthy brothers that would make good York Rite Members.

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 195 ELECTION VOIDED BY FAILURE TO RECEIVE ORDERS

Failure of a candidate to present himself for the Orders within twelve months after receiving his first written notice to appear for the conferring of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross voids his election, and the disposition of any fees paid or any deposit made shall be determined according to the Laws of the Grand Commandery if the election was by a Constituent Commandery, and according to the Laws of Grand Encampment if the election was by a Subordinate Commandery. (1952, p. 544)

One Constituted a Companion of the Order of the Red Cross who fails to appear to receive the remaining Orders within one year after having received the Order of the Red Cross shall not be entitled to receive such remaining Orders unless by a favorable, secret and unanimous ballot of the Commandery.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

A candidate elected to receive the orders and who does not receive the Order of the Red Cross must be elected to receive the remaining orders if more than a year has passed but the Commandery where he was elected and received the Red Cross retains jurisdiction to do so although the companion has relocated his residence to another jurisdiction. Waiver from the jurisdiction is not necessary. (1919, p.54 & 297, No. 20, Smith, 1988 digest - 312)

If a petitioner has not received the orders with twelve months after being elected to membership in a Commandery, that Commandery loses jurisdiction over the petitioner and he may petition another Commandery without reference to the prior petition. (1925, p. 54 & 389, No. 4, Newby)

A Grand Commandery law providing that a petitioner who has not received the orders within six months of election shall forfeit his fees unless he shall present good cause for the failure, is void. Whatever the condition may be regarding civil law and the fair treatment of a Brother Freemason, nevertheless the Grand Encampment law controls. (1925, p.28 & 409, No. 29, Newby. 1988 Digest - 323)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2017:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	Slow class		
	13 Oct	Lake Worth (Order of the Temple)	
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
	23 Sept 17	Jacksonville	
8	7,11,21 Feb, 3-4 Mar	Gainesville (Cancelled)	
	5 Aug	Gainesville Order of the Temple	
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

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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

Hm Ph: 321 726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

E-mail: hadams1@aol.com