



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 September, 2017

Began Planning Now

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we begin our new period of growth within the Florida Grand York Rite, I look forward to having the best year ever. This goal is achievable if the Officers of each York Rite Body begin to plan now for developing interest in what we do and what we stand for. We cannot achieve this goal if members in all three Bodies do not participate. Yes, many Officers and Sir Knights possess good leadership and planning skills to methodically organize and coordinate the conferral of our degrees and Orders on single and multiple candidates. What can we learn from them, and how do they effectively organize their activities.

A Positive Attitude

Many are in agreement that the success of any project begins with a positive attitude. Some refer to this as a “Can do” spirit. Leaders in any organization possess this trait, and display it frequently. It is a contagious spirit, and usually becomes a virtue of the entire leadership team.

If the Officers or members of a York Rite Body believe they may not be able to contribute to the goal then a reminder of an age-old quote might be appropriate:

*“If you keep on doing the things that you have been doing,
Then you will continue to get exactly what you’ve been getting.”*

Take Advantage of the Skills Available

We know that each YRB has Companions and Sir Knights possessing great skills and talents. Ask them to become part of this great Crusade even if they may not have attended a Stated Conclave recently. The use of their talents will make a significant difference. Don’t forget to include the ladies in the event planning, as they too will contribute to the overall success. In particular, the Chapters of the Social Order of the Beauceant have always supported the Knight Templars, and can always be counted on. Invite the Companions of local Chapters and Councils as the entire York Rite benefits from the effort.

An Effective Implementation Plan

Develop a new list of all the activities than will be needed to make the event a success. Start with reserving the Asylum for the event. A suggested “Check List” is included as a reminder, but please remember that this will be a “big event” requiring “Big Planning”.

Successful leaders experience goal attainment for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they have challenged and elevated their Officer team thinking and prepared a plan that emphasizes effectiveness more than efficiency. The following ideas, if implemented will help each Commander, High Priest and Ill. Master, ensure that his plan will increase in effectiveness.

Have you considered any of these things?

1. Send a letter on your Commandery stationery to each Officer expressing your support for the membership Crusade, and enlist his support. Tell him you are proud of him. Add a sense of urgency to your request.
2. During your next Officers Meeting secure a commitment from each of your elected and appointed Officers to get at least one petition. This sets a good example for other members. Encourage them to do the same. It also displays commitment to a common purpose among the leadership.
3. Write regular personal endorsements of the Crusade in your monthly newsletter. Request the chapter and council leaders do the same.
4. Consider establishing a unique Award for the Crusade, i.e., Most Knightings in Home Commandery, Highest Membership Gain, Most Restorations, etc. Offer special incentives, like free meals for two. Be creative.
5. Get more Committees involved! Review your Committee list, and get some inactive committees active. This spreads the leadership around and offers a chance for other Officers to show what they are made of.
6. Consider writing a letter to all of your Past Commanders. Share your plans with them, and enlist their support, and participation. They will assist you.
7. Meet regularly with your Chapter and Council leadership. Working together within the “Family of Masonry” increases cooperation exponentially.
8. Call or meet with the Deputy or Actives of the Scottish Rite, and seek their support. They might be willing to support a direct mail campaign for the Crusade, and encourage “Non-York Rite” Scottish Rite Masons to join. Perhaps you could arrange a York Rite conferral at their next Convocation in their auditorium?
9. Call or meet with the leadership of the Shrine Temples in your state and request consideration for a joint “Cold Sands” event with your York Rite Crusade Festivals. Request the Shrine help to sell the benefits of York Rite just as the York Rite should sell the benefits of Shrine membership.
10. Consider a York Rite Festival to honor the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Perhaps his junior Officers would join too if they were Non-York Rite Masons.
11. Assign each of your elected and appointed Officers of the Commandery, to become a “Crusade Speakers Bureau”. Request that they arrange invitations to Blue Lodges to present “York Rite Overview Programs” to promote our Christian Masonry heritage. Suggest three programs per month each.

Begin to Target New Members and Restorations

The “Crusade” targets both new Members and restorations. We know that the Symbolic Lodges provide us with the primary source for new Christian Masons. Templar membership committees should consider targeting Masons with current brochures that summarize Templary and its philanthropies.

Acquire a list of non-York Rite Masons from the Symbolic Lodge or even better (as a couple Districts have already done) Contact Grand Lodge, and in particular, MW Richard Lynn, Grand Secretary, and request a list of address labels for your Masonic District. I sent out 342 letters last week to all Masons raised in the last 3 years in our District (that were not York Rite). This will work. Ask for volunteers from the Chapters and Councils to assist, and try to include Masons that you personally know on your list.

Selling York Rite

The “One-on-One” sales technique has historically been the most effective. Prepare an updated membership roster, a description of its activities, family involvement, community projects, and the benefits of joining our Christian Masonic Order. Know something about our philanthropies. What were the benefits that inspired you to join? Share them. Also, provide recognition to the Sir Knights that are successful in gaining new members and restorations.

Today’s Relevance

A nationally known religious leader once said that if you put God first, everything else falls into place. How simple, and yet how profound. This is the spirit of Knight Templars today! There are many Masons that will enjoy and appreciate membership in this great Order. All you have to do is tell them what we stand for and ask them to join. Let’s show everyone that we are as good as we say we are!

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 199 CONFERRING ORDERS UPON APPLICANT NECESSARY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Until the Three Orders of Knighthood have been conferred upon an applicant, he is not possessed of the necessary qualifications for membership and therefore not subject to the payment of dues, but is subject to discipline by the Commandery for Unknightly conduct.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

Sponsors of a petition for membership by affiliation or for receiving the orders must be members of the Commandery to which the petition is presented. Honorary members, are not eligible. An individual does not become a member until all three orders are conferred. (1940, p. 63 & 341, No 6, Norris)
Video tape, DVD or any other form of video presentation of the Orders of Templary as depicted in the rituals of the Grand Encampment are not to be used in the conferral of said orders. They were produced for instructional purposes only. The conferral of any orders must be done by Sir Knights, in a Commandery Asylum. (2006, p. 69 & 151, No. 3, Fischer)

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 7 Oct 13 Oct	Box Ranch: Melbourne(2), Cocoa(2), WPB(2), Ft Pierce(6), Miami(5), Ft Laud(6), Ft Myers(5) Ft Pierce (Chapter/Council) Ft Pierce (Order of the Temple)	28
7	21-24 Mar 17 23 Sep 17	Jacksonville(6), St Augustine(1), Palatka(2) Jacksonville	9
8	7,11,21 Feb, 3-4 Mar 5 Aug	Gainesville (Cancelled) 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**

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