



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

Assimilating New Templars Into Our Ranks

Companions and Sir Knights,

Over the past several months we have discussed, how to talk to prospective York Rite Members, what people want in an organization, even what drives them away from a group. Once we have their petition and elect them in our Bodies, what next?.

Assimilation of each new Templar should start when he is elected to become a member of our Order. Notification of his election should be given to him immediately. He should be congratulated by his Templar friends and assured of the wisdom of his course of action. He should be given the dates at once for receiving the degrees and the Orders of Knighthood. Some Past Commander or other highly qualified Sir Knight should be assigned by the Eminent Commander to act as his counselor from that time on. His advance to the Order of the Temple should be the signal for special notice to his Templar friends of the time of his Knighting.

The evening of the Knighting should become one that he will never forget. Here is the time and place when important and lasting impressions will be made. **If the work is done in a dignified and exalted manner, he will respond - as thousands have done before him - and become deeply impressed. If the work is done in a careless manner, he will be forever lost to our cause.**

The ritualistic work should be programmed in such a way that there be no lost motion or wasted time. Everything should be well timed. A stage manager should be selected whose sole job is to see that the work moves smoothly and without gaps. The ritualistic work deserves the assignment of the best and most talented ritualists available.

After all, it is the candidate who is the most important one to consider, and he is entitled to the best exemplification the Commandery can provide.

After his Knighting, the new Templar should be warmly welcomed by every Sir Knight in the Asylum, and made to feel at home at once. He should be given some small assignment - no matter how small - so that he will return to the Asylum at the very next Knighting, when he can live over again the beautiful work in which he has participated. From that time on his Mentor should give him instructions about the customs and traditions of the Order. He should take him under his wing until he is thoroughly oriented.

The **follow-up** process cements this fine relationship and secures his continued interest and involvement in the York Rite Bodies. If there is a drill corps in the Commandery, he should be invited to join. The sooner the newly knighted Templar learns how to handle his sward and tactics, the better member he will become. **The early days and weeks of membership will often be decisive as to whether the new Sir Knight will take an active interest in Templar activities, or become absorbed in other affairs and fail to come back.**

Many Commanderies, at the time of the Knighting, will present a new Templar with one or more of the following: A membership certificate, a Knight Templar Lapel pin, an up to date roster and a calender of upcoming events.

Most York Rite Bodies will have festivals, short of time classes or long classes beginning in the February-March time frame. It is never too early to begin our planning. So far, we have had a very successful year this year, and it would be great if we could surpass this year and grow even larger next year. But we need to look back last year and previous years and determine what we did right and what we didn't do so well. There is always grounds for improvement.

Negative leadership is very powerful. With some observation you can pick out the people around you who are negative leaders. It is like the story of the man I heard about who was a member of the Lodge for 40 years. He stood up and said "I am proud to say that I voted against everything that was brought up." These are usually negative leaders.

It is important that we keep our eyes and ears open- and to watch and to watch for negative leadership tendencies you may have. They can sneak in when you least expect them.

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	3	6	Cocoa	2
	Fort Lauderdale	8		Melbourne	2
	Miami	5		Fort Pierce	10
	Florida Keys	1	7	Jacksonville	6
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	8		St. Augustine	1
	Everglades			Palatka	2
	Fort Myers	13	8	Lake City	1
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	1		Middleburg	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	5		Gainesville	1
	Clearwater (Springtime)	2		Inverness (Ocala)	
4	Lakeland	1	9	Tallahassee	1
	Plant City	5		Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)	1		Panama City	1
5	Daytona (Halifax)	2	10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	4		Crestview	2
	Sanford	1		Pensacola	8
	Orlando	6			

**EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:
SECTION 203 NON-AFFILIATION IN LODGES OR CHAPTER**

When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled from his Commandery solely because of his suspension or expulsion from his Lodge or Chapter or Council where required, restoration in such Lodge or Chapter or Council shall entitle him restoration in his Commandery on written application therefore and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave.

When he has been suspended from his Commandery solely because of non-payment of dues to the Commandery, he may be restored to membership on written application therefore and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave and payment of such part of his dues in arrears as the Commandery may require.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

Assessments have the same standing as dues and a member is required to pay the same. (1916, p.118, No. 13, Smith)
When the Charter of a Commandery has been surrendered or arrested, a former member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues may apply for reinstatement on condition of good standing of the Grand Commandery having jurisdiction. (1919, p.59 & 303, No. 29, Smith)
When a member has been suspended or expelled due to action by his lodge, chapter or council and the member was a member of more than one Commandery he must apply first to his "original" or "home" Commandery before applying to any others. He would then need to reapply to each of the others. (2009, p. 71 & 77, No. 2, Koon)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2017:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	Slow class 13 Oct	WPB(2), Ft Lauderdale(6), Miami(5) Lake Worth (Order of the Temple)	13
2			
3	4-11 Mar 15 Oct	Tampa: Plant City(4), Ft Myers(3), St Pete(4), Trinity(3) Clearwater(2), Tampa(1), St Petersburg(1) Ft Myers(4) Trinity(5), Lakeland(1), Lake City(1)	14 15
4			
5	11 & 18 Mar Slow Class	Eola(Orlando) (6), Lake Sumter(4), Daytona(2), Sanford(1)	13
6	3-4 Mar 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)(4), Ft Laud.(2), Marathon(1), Ft Myers(1),Sebring(1), WPB(1)	28 1 10
7	21-24 Mar 23 Sep	Jacksonville(6), St Augustine(1), Palatka(2) Jacksonville (Cancelled)	9
8	7,11,21 Feb, 3-4 Mar 5 Aug	Gainesville (Cancelled) Gainesville(1) Gainesville Order of the Temple	1
9	28 Jan, 5 or 11 Feb	Tallahassee(1), Panama City(1) Crestview(1)	2
10	25 Mar, 8 Apr 9 Sep	Pensacola(3) Crestview(1), Pensacola(5)	3

TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS	109
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

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"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 A New Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg 31-43, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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