



## RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting  
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida  
15 January 2018

# "A Trap Door" At the base of the Triangle

Companions and Sir Knights,

Each of us has heard of the old *Atrap doors* created by building architects of the past. They were hinged platforms hidden in inconspicuous locations within the floor, and with the slightest tug of a pin, chain or rope, the person standing on the *Atrap door* would disappear from sight, and fall into a pre-determined chamber. They may have become prisoners and faced cruel torture, but generally were never seen again.

Are Chapters, Councils and Commanderies ready to properly introduce these new Companions and Sir Knights to our history and our heritage? Will this information stimulate these new Sir Knights to return to the Asylum, and want to become actively engaged in our travels, or will they fall through the *Atrap door* never to be heard from again.

Recruiting new members for any fraternity is hard work. It requires time, and resources committed to a single purpose. But new Sir Knights can be lost in a heartbeat if they are not properly and personally welcomed and assimilated into the fraternity by its leadership. After the knighting, but before they return home, they need to be given a *Anew member packet* with their name on it by the Eminent Commander. What information should be contained in the information packet?

The answer to what should be contained in this packet of information is endless, but here are a few suggestions that should be mandatory:

1. A personal letter of congratulations and welcome to the new Sir Knights signed by the Eminent Commander preferably on Commandery stationary. This letter should contain information on Stated Meetings, and invite him to attend the next one. A letter from the Grand Commander would be ideal if logistically possible.
2. A list of the Officers of the local Chapter, Council and Commandery along with their addresses both telephone and *Acell phone* numbers and e-mail addresses. Include the names of their spouses.
3. A summary of special activities of that Commandery that may have become traditions and part of its local heritage: annual events, Quarterly events, Special Holiday events and planned events. Mention activities like trips, picnics, cookouts, festivals, parades and celebrations, that include the ladies and the entire family. Encourage them to attend and bring a friend.
4. History of your local York Rite Bodies: the dates of their Charters, the size of its membership, how many live out of state, how long have you met in the current building, interesting stories from you history, Public or Fraternal leaders (past and present) that are proud members. Include the ladies as they too may have

assumed key leadership roles in selected organizations. This is a time to promote your long history.

5. List the names of any Masonic AYouth Groups@ that may meet locally, and the names of the leaders along with their telephone numbers. Many new Sir Knights may have children or grandchildren who might fit the age criteria to belong. If not, at least give them a summary of the purpose of the organization. Informational brochures are available locally for DeMolay, Jobs Daughters, and Order of the Rainbow Girls.
6. A History of the glorious Knights Templar, and its evolution into the fraternity we now belong. The Grand Encampment Office publishes a list of the information that is currently available. It is distributed to each Grand Recorder and to the Officers of each Grand Commandery.
7. A summary of the Philanthropies of each of the Bodies.
8. A description of the Knights Templar Education Foundation describing the scholarship program available to qualifying students.
9. As you know, we now live in an information age. People are busy, live in the fast lane, and are pressed for time. They want to participate in organizations if it is worth their time, and experience a sense of fulfillment by belonging. The sharing of information and knowledge is critical to making new Knights Templar and their family feels welcomed in a new fraternal order.
10. Think about it. It=s the right thing to do. You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Perhaps you=ll be starting a new tradition, but you will have eliminated the invisible Atrap door@. You will also be displaying leadership, and retaining new members. Don=t talk about it, just do it! Don=t take a vote, just do it! Take charge. Make it happen.
11. A Commandery or York Rite dues card with the new Sir Knights name on it.

**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 204 SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FOR UNKNIGHTLY CONDUCT**

**SECTION 204.** Acquittal, suspension or expulsion by a Lodge or Chapter or Council where required, on a charge of un-Masonic conduct does not deprive a Commandery of the right to try a member thereof of the same or other offences committed either before or after his trial in the Lodge, Chapter or Council.

**DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:**

When a member holding dual membership loses the same in one Commandery, he loses it in both, and the Grand Recorder of one jurisdiction where the sentence was imposed should notify the Grand Recorder of the other jurisdiction of the results of the trial. Provided he may demit from one Commandery without affecting his membership in the other Commandery. (1867, p. 154, No.14 part 4, 1988 digest - 110)
If the Council prerequisite did not apply to the Knight Templar when he petitioned for the Orders, it can never be applied to him individually, and no resolution can be adopted under the authority of Section 79 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, which would apply such prerequisite to a Knight Templar retroactively. Since Council membership cannot be required of this Knight Templar, neither can it be required that he continue to be an active member of a Council of Royal and Select Masters if he becomes a member after becoming a Knight Templar.
If Council membership was prerequisite to Knight Templar membership in the individual case, good standing in the Council as well as in the Lodge and Chapter must support Templar membership. (1970, p. 142 & 543, No. 9, Crofts, 1988 digest - 87)

**New Membership by York Rite Body 2017- 2018:**

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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Chairman, Grand York Rite Membership Program

**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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