



RITE NOTES

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

RETENTION IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT

Companions and Sir Knights,

Just as important as obtaining a new member, is the retention of present members. In the past several years, we have witnessed an increase in demits and suspensions. This trend denotes a loosening of Knightly ties and should be a matter of serious concern to every Officer, Companion and Sir Knight in every York Rite Body in the state. An application for a demit is a storm signal. Should a demit application received by the Commandery, the Eminent Commander should move swiftly to determine the motive of the Companion and Templar submitting it.

The Companion or Sir Knight who moves to new location may be a former officer or a dedicated Companion or Sir Knight who is only awaiting a call from the York Rite Body in his new location. Personal interviews to determine the cause for the application are essential and may prevent further applications in the future. If the applicant intends to move to another city where a York Rite Body exists, encourage the applicant transfer rather than demit, and then facilitate his successful transfer. If there are no YR Bodies in his new location, encourage him to keep his membership in his home Commandery, as thousands have done before. Often, he will reconsider and council his application for demit. The responsibility rest solely on the Commanders of the Commanderies in the new, as well as the old location. There is absolutely no need to lose any member when he moves to another location. It is our responsibility to see that this doesn't happen.

Let us remember that an application for a demit has taken the same vow we have taken, and we must treat him with the same dignity and respect that will effectively and firmly remind him of his allegiance to our Cause. If it is found that the Companion and Sir Knight is ill or financially unable to keep up his dues, then ways and means should be found by the Commandery to retain such member by remitting the dues, or even paying them out of a charitable fund for a reasonable time.

As for suspensions for non-payment of dues - this may originate in the Blue Lodge, Chapter or Council. Under Templar law, it is necessary to start suspension proceedings if a Sir Knight is suspended from other bodies. Of course, the member may become delinquent in his dues to the Commandery, which likewise entails similar proceedings.

However, long before any of the foregoing events occur, an alert Officer or member can learn about such impending difficulty. In the early stages, it is possible to do a great deal more than after written notices have been served by registered mail and embarrassment has occurred. The ingenuity of a good Secretary/Recorder is almost priceless in this field of suspensions for non-payment of dues.

No suspensions for non-payment of dues should become final until the Eminent Commander, Illustrious Master and High Priest is willing to take personal responsibility for certifying that everything humanly possible has been done to prevent such a suspension. Let us recall the phrase about “going the distance of forty miles, to relieve the distress of a worthy Companion and Sir Knight.

There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

New Membership by District for 2018:

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 205. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FOR UNKNIGHTLY CONDUCT

SECTION 205. Suspension or expulsion of a Knight Templar by the Grand Encampment, by a Grand Commandery, or by a Commandery deprives him of membership in the Commandery and all rights and privileges of Knighthood so long as the judgement remains in force.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

The suspension of a Sir Knight deprives him of all rights and privileges of knighthood as long as the judgement remains in force. Hence, such a Knight would not be entitled to a Templar funeral. The right to a Templar Funeral exists only in the case of a Sir Knight in good standing.

It is discretionary with the Commandery to grant the funeral honors for an unaffiliated Sir Knight or for a sojourner. (1949, p. 67 & 287, No. 22, Norris, 1988 digest B 141)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2018:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	14 & 21 Apr	Tampa	
4			
5	10& 17 Mar	Eola, Orlando	
6	13-14 Apr	Ft Pierce	
7	18-21 Mar	Jacksonville	
8			
9	Orders TBA	Tallahassee	
10	31 Mar & 14 Apr	Pensacola	

TOTAL 2018 KNIGHTINGS	
TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS (May 2016-May 2017)	109

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

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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